



The Pavilion, Newport Road, Woughton-on-the-Green,
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Chairman
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View from the July 2009

Guys as we prepare for the new season ahead I wanted to give you a round up of last season. It is difficult to know how I will report back everything succinctly such has been the success for the club both on and off the pitch. I will however do my best!!

Without doubt last season was the most successful season for the club, the pinnacle being the promotion of the 1st X1 as champions to the South League.

I thanked many people at the outstanding end of season dinner, this continues to grow and become more successful, and rightly become the focus for both the men's and ladies club to celebrate the season's achievement in style. I reiterated those thanks in my report for the AGM but suffice to say there are many to applaud for the success and development the club achieved last season.

Playing Report

1st X1 Champions!!!

2nd X1 2nd

3rd X1 3rd

4th X1 2nd

Badgers Champions!!!!

Bucks Cup 1st X1 Champions

Bucks Youth Games Champions

Bucks Vets Cup Champions

Juniors

More juniors in a range of Bucks County sides across the age ranges than ever before.

Bucks junior sides won the U13, U14 and U15 south league with the U15's going on to become National Champions. As a club we are major supporters of Bucks Hockey, Kevin Mayles leads much of the organisation of the junior sides with Ben Woodford being one of the age group coaches and Doug Spencer and Jason Wilkes doing a huge amount of coaching at JDC and JRPC centers for Bucks. For my sins I have also become Vice President of Bucks Hockey.

I am very grateful to Doug Spencer, Jason Wilkes, Jon Thorne, Paul Davis, Helen Hobbs and Sean Scannell for their excellent work with the junior section we have made some fantastic strides again. It is fantastic to see the level of county representation and the increasing numbers in our juniors section which now number over 70.

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All this would not be possible without the support of sponsors and I am really grateful to Phil Sandford for organizing the Mirka sponsorship which has enabled us to purchase new junior kit.

On a less positive note I am sorry to advise that we will be without the services of James Cox, our outstanding young county goalkeeper for a little while. James is having a major operation on his back in September and will be out for a while. We wish James a very successful operation and a speedy recovery. I know that he and the Cox family will remain closely involved in the club this season and I would like to place on record the gratitude of both the men's and ladies clubs for their fantastic support of Milton Keynes Hockey.

Club House Communication

We are conscious that the website is still not quite where we need it to be and we have therefore looked around the hockey and sporting community to learn from what we think is best in class. To this end we have engaged with an outside agency to develop a brand new website. I am hopeful that this will be up and running in September. We owe Matt Paul a huge debt of gratitude for his work over many years on the website and as a small recognition of our appreciation Matt was made a life member at our AGM back in May.

Please make sure that you sign up to this new site when ready and mark sure all your details are held on the club membership list by checking with your respective skippers.

Can I also make another plea to sign up to the club email group? Its really easy just send a blank email to MKHC-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Club Developments

Huge amounts of work are going on behind the scenes to finalise an agreement with the council and allow us to move forward with some fantastic developments at Woughton but we need your support through this period. We are in tricky negotiations with the council and every ounce of revenue is important to the Sports club so please support the club by using the bar facilities and let us know any ideas for improvement. During the last few weeks discussions have also taken place with MK Dons Sports and Education Trust we will keep you posted on developments.

Grounds

All the goals were repaired and some new ones purchased by the Hockey clubs for use at the festival so we are in decent state now. The pitches are scheduled to be cleaned over the next couple of months to prevent the build up of algae, as some of you will know the timing of this is very important!

We hope this season to also provide some temporary pitch shelters by utilizing the gazebos we purchased for the Festival. We will trial this but this will mean setting up and taking down the gazebos on a Saturday morning and then after the last game.

Can I remind players and spectators not to take food or glasses onto the pitch (plastic ones are available on request from the bar) and please keep your footwear clean before entering the astro and indeed afterwards when entering the club.

I am waiting for the final agreement on items we can salvage from the National Hockey Stadium as soon as this is received we will set about organising working parties and transport.

Club Kit

Club kit is available from the Dare2wear website please see link below. Lets get in our orders quickly particularly for club socks and training tops. Club shorts will be ordered once order quantities are sufficient on the site.

Juniors socks, sticks, shin pads, stick bags are all available at excellent prices and can be personalised with your name or initials. Please no excuses this year particularly on the sock and shorts front otherwise I am going to set Mr Anderson on you!!

<http://www.dare2wear.org.uk/mkhc.htm>

Fundraising / Social

Yes its getting tougher but we still are having some success. Every pound matters so if you have any ideas or leads get one of the committee involved. We have prepared sponsorship packs and can tailor a package to suit every budget. We have had some success already this year but we have more to do. Howdens have come through with an initial £250 and the Carrington Arms with a similar amount as website sponsors for three year deal £650 in total.

We have also just received grant funding from Sport England for a 3 year Summer Hockey School programme with funding of around £9k fantastic effort from Martin Salisbury. Well done mate!!

We need another effort on the 200 club that we kicked off and rolled over last season. Please do you bit here? We will send details round shortly. 1st and 2nd team squads this is particularly important for you individually.

Sincere thanks to Jace and Karen once again for their outstanding effort with all the social events.

This season's calendar is already well underway:

- 5th Sept - Men's Club day 2pm till 4pm, then in the afternoon/evening the "Welcome back social" with BBQ.
- 3rd Oct - a month later sees the start of the League, so time for another party!
- 31st Oct - The Halloween party!
- 21st Nov - Race night, never dull, and always some big winners!
- 12th / 19th Dec - Xmas Social, the one date that is not quite final yet :-)
- 13th Feb - Valentines Date!
- 13th March - The last bash before the end!
- 3rd April - End of season dinner - Booked this year at the Jury's Inn, in Central Milton Keynes. (the plan is to start selling tickets just before Xmas0

Selection

Our current selection policy is as follows:

1) Selection meetings will be held regularly and each player discussed using the following criteria to ensure that he is playing for the appropriate side. The criteria, in particular order are as follows:

- Playing ability
- Availability
- Attendance at training
- Payment of match fees and subscriptions
- Involvement and support of wider club activities

- Development needs for juniors making the transition to senior hockey
- Fitness

2) Every effort will be made to be as accommodating, reasonable and as objective as possible to allow for an individual's particular circumstances but ultimately the selection criteria will be used by the selection committee to make a final arbitration in the event of a dispute.

3) It is incumbent upon every player to meet as many of the criteria as possible. To ensure that nothing is missed we intend to keep weekly records of attendance training and fitness and overall availability so that should any selection question arise we can make as objective a decision as possible.

4) It is imperative that you provide your availability to the captain you play for on a Saturday for the next 4 weeks on a rolling basis.

We are doing our very best but we will make mistakes but Mike Anderson Club Captain and I are always available to discuss and review.

Indoor Hockey

We are quite well advanced in bringing back indoor hockey to Milton Keynes we have been working with Milton Keynes College and have identified an excellent facility at the Bletchley courtside that is ready for use maybe this side of Xmas.

Kevin Mayles has also submitted a grant funding bid to cover development of indoor hockey covering two sites for three years including coaching we will update you on this as progress is made.

It is appropriate at this time to thank Kevin for his outstanding support of the Hockey club and Sports club over the last year. He has led and driven many projects and his support at training and on match days was instrumental to the 1st team achieving promotion. Unfortunately Kevin has been out of action for some time and whilst his medical issues are now well understood and under control we are unlikely to see him playing any form of hockey this side of Xmas. Kevin remains fully committed to the club and a key part of the management team of both the Hockey and Sports club.

Coaching/Training

I am delighted to confirm that Kali will continue his coaching at the club and will now support the 1st team on match days. Much thought has also gone into the clubs training and coaching schedules and these have now been mapped out for the season. This planning includes the type of formation we will play and principles we will adopt in our style of play. Much of this is in line with England hockey's core skills plan.

Fitness training is now into its four week and takes place on a Monday evening 7.45pm at the club with Simon our fitness trainer.

Wednesday coaching is now into its third week and follows this schedule:

7pm - 9.30pm	2 nd X1 starting
7.30pm - 8pm	Badgers
8.00 - 9.30pm	3rds to Samurai
7.30 - 10pm	1 st Team squad

Festival 2009

This year turned out to be our largest and most successful festival on record. My sincere thanks to Jason for marshalling the troops and for the support of Lizanne, Anita, Barbara and Karen in the organisation, and management of the event. Outstanding work everyone and a vital contribution to

club funds. This year we made several capital investments as well that will support both clubs and the sports club.

Ladies Club

The ladies club has made great strides in the last six months under the Lizanne's leadership. ClubsFirst has been achieved, a new committee and a revitalized coaching and junior structure. Well done ladies!!

Last Seasons achievements

- ENGLAND HOCKEY TEAM OF THE YEAR
- Pitch is now in a better and more consistent state. New dividers and goals
- Improved coaching throughout the club
- Continued communication programme through email, Website and newsletter
- Expansion of Sponsorship Programme
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- Increased Social activities and events
- Supported Sports club in negotiations with Council
- Invested in :
 - Coaching
 - Umpiring
 - Child Protection & Diversity training
 - Ist Aid
 - Kit - Dare2wear Website
- Driven the improvement of the club house through the sports club:
 - Redecoration, lounge
 - Blinds, Curtains and Flooring
 - Security

5 year Strategy

So what have we achieved against our 5 year strategy laid out two years ago?

- Vision:
 - To be the **leading** club in Bucks by end 2008/9 season
 - To have **achieved** Clubs 1st Accreditation by end 2007/8 season
 - To be **renowned** in the county as a professionally managed Club
 - To be a **great** social club that communicates well and promotes sport
 - To have **expanded** Junior section by 20% by end 2008/9 season
- How:
 - Engage top quality coaching support
 - Work together to get Clubs 1st and embed process within the club
 - Investment in training and development across the club
 - Forge School / club partnership links
 - Improve communication through web, email, newsletters
 - Lead development of Sports Club Facility
 - Work closer with MK Ladies
 - Enhanced promotion through press and media

I am pleased to say we have achieved all our goals well ahead of time; the challenge now is to maintain these achievements and strive for even greater success!!

Priorities for 2009 -2010 season

- Resolve Sports Club Issues
- Appoint High Performance Coach
- Continue Sponsorship development
- Continue to develop on MK Festival success
- Ensure 2nd and or 3rd team promotion
- Develop Merger with Ladies
- Add more support into junior section coaching
- Improve use of email and website
- Continue Re-launch Vets side through occasional matches
- Reinvigorate Club – Schools partnerships
- Hockey summer training camp launch 2009-2010
- Set up Indoor hockey facility
- Expand juniors by another 10 percent
- Continue ground development e.g. new goals, pitch shelters

Progress has already been made on many fronts!!

This season's committee

Chairman	Mark Ling
Vice Chairman	Lizanne Muller
Treasurer	Tim Cusk
Secretary	Stuart Riches
Fixtures Secretary	Ian Knox
Club Captain	Mike Anderson
Social Secretary	Jason Wilkes
Director Junior Section	Doug Spencer
Junior Co-ordinator/ Child Protection	Helen Hobbs
1st X1 Captain	Ben Woodford
2 nd X1 Captain	David Stone
3rd X1 Captain	Nick Lygo Baker
4 th X1 Captain	Rod Murray
Samurai	Sean Scannel
Badger	TBA



We still need a captain for the badgers and some one to drive the sponsorship and grant application process that Martin Salisbury has managed so ably for the last few years. We also need more support for Sports Club issues please let me know if you are able to assist.

We also need to keep recruiting new players particularly goalkeepers!! Please market your club!!

Finally remember a new Chairman and Treasurer will be needed as Tim Cusk and I take well earned sabbaticals!!

I am on off shortly on vacation but look forward to seeing you all early in September.

Best regards

Mark

Chairman

Milton Keynes Hockey Club