

Presidents Report: 2022

Welcome to all on our presentation and final games.

What a season we have had...issues with rain, floods, covid, flu. But in spite of all this we are still passionate about our hockey and providing a wonderful competition to all players who belong to our club and our Hunter Association.

We have an amazing group of parents and players who have contributed to our club and I wish to thank them, and also:

- Committee
- Coaches/managers
- Umpires
- Setting up for competition on Saturdays. Eg. Nathan and Ron,
- Canteen: Pauline
- Grade Co-ordinators for junior hockey.
- Line marking by Jamie, Vince, Nick, Lindsay

Twilight competition.

- Junior competition: run by Lindsay and provided excellent coaching and preseason game play.
- Senior mixed competition with 8 teams. An excellent start to the season.

Winter Competition:

Juniors: We thank our junior co-ordinators:

- Minkey: run by Myself, Jane with assistance from Lucy Brown and Gemma Casement.
- Vince and Alex: C grade
- Lindsay: B Grade
- Cathy: A grade.

We experienced the effects of covid, flu and a smaller number of juniors playing in some grades. Despite this our goal is always to provide a competition where players enjoy their game as well as learn new skills. I believe we achieved this through the hard work and dedication of our coaches and committee and the cooperation of parents.

Seniors:

The senior competition experienced the same situation as our juniors in regards to weather and sickness effecting our competition this season. Despite this, players enjoyed competitive games even though teams were sometimes short, the hockey was of a good standard and I believe players enjoyed playing even when it was raining.

A huge thank you to our umpires, which I believe were of a high standard and we are fortunate to have the services of Ian, Lindsay and myself to regularly umpire the games.

Representative Hockey:

The Hunter Hockey Association, of which we are part, participated at State Championships this year.

- Under 15 girls: played in Parkes in May and **won their division**.
- Under 15 boys: played in Grafton and were competitive, enjoyed a good competition.
- Under 13 boys: played in Central Coast, made the finals of their division.
- Masters' women: played in Tamworth and were competitive.
- Maitland Junior Carnival: we had three teams represented in this.

Achievements

- Each season our committee aims to provide equipment and services to enhance the growth of our players in numbers and skill. This year we have purchased:
 - two new aluminium goals, which are light weight and easy to move around. These were made by locally by a friend of the club.
 - 4 crates plus balls for our A grade competition.
 - Executive committee jackets and shirt for visibility.
- School coaching clinics: an initiative to bring hockey into schools. Through the efforts of Cathy, Juliet, Sean and Jane.
- Goalie clinics: A wonderful initiative by Sean to develop our juniors in the position of goal keeping. Our club has developed some wonderful goalies over past seasons and are now playing in our senior competition and in the Newcastle competition.

- Hockey Development clinic: At the beginning of the season, we held a (free) U15 clinic run by Australian player Kate Jenner, funded by a Grant.
- We installed a cashless payment system in our canteen.
- We worked with Junior League to improve change room access for our players, with renovations soon underway ready for next year.
- We got the temporary access ramp built (with help from our sponsor, Johnsons Earthmoving). We have applied for a grant to build a permanent ramp closer to our Clubhouse, and met onsite with our local member Kate Washington to gain support for this application.

Future Goals

- We are now turning our thoughts and aims to develop a turf for the Nelson Bay area. This will be a long-term project but a worthwhile one as it will enable hockey to grow in the area and provide a better experience for new and experienced players. It will also help overcome the issues of rain and maintenance of our fields. We will soon be asking our hockey community to volunteer to come on board and form a committee of people to help make this happen.
- We plan in the future to promote hockey by increasing our presence in local schools. By running a 6 to 8 week program in our schools enables us to teach skills, connect with kids and hopefully bring more players into the club.
- Next year with their will be international games on at Newy complex and we will be encouraging a club trip to the event.

Special Mention

Pauline, has been a faithful club member who has worked in our canteen for all the years I have been involved in the club...and that's 14 years. Our Club is blessed with the best canteen food anywhere in the region! Pauline has been a player, coach, committee member, canteen administrator, Hockey Mum, and Hockey Grandmum! This year she will be retiring and we will greatly miss her on Saturdays. I know her heart will always be with our hockey club and her passion for the game has not diminished. Her time now will be focused on her family and her health and her home. Thankyou Pauline.

Conclusion

We have a wonderful club and I am so proud of the efforts of our members who have contributed to the running of our local competition. Thankyou all,

Cathy Churchill
NBHC President