

## Chairman's Report 2019-20 Season

### Positives

- L2 promoted (highest league position in 20 years); M1 and L1 with strong performances in higher division. M2 managed to stay up in a tricky division.
- Ian Wilson did a sterling job with the M5 after a tricky start, encouraging a number of new younger players into the squad. John Rice developed the youngsters well within the M3, and the M4 continued to enjoy their hockey!
- Imogen Pemble selected for Performance Centre a year early.
- Approx. 36 juniors in Academy Centres – even more in Development Centres (around 50 in total from OSHC involved in pathway).
- **Daniel Bridges won England Hockey Rising Star of the Year.**
- Vets still performing strongly with highly successful joint Masters' Over 40s and Over 50s, and this year the Over 60s making it to National QFs (losing to eventual winners Cheshire).
- Excellent Junior Coaching set-up – Sunday mornings seeing much higher retention rates, with excellent team management and coaching set up now in place. U16 Girls won their Tier 2 group, but then sadly Covid19 stopped any finals; U14 Boys were also as impressive with an unbeaten season. U18 Boys were beaten by eventual Tier 3 winners Rugby & EW HC.
- Off the pitch, the social scene has improved with regular events – Quiz, Bake-off, Christmas social and several “informal” gatherings as well as the annual dinner and the OSA dinner – this will be built upon this season as well.
- Very strong sponsorship support from Houlcroft Wealth Management.
- HockeyHeroes programme run for 5-8 year olds with good initial feedback – so will look to continue this once the Covid19 situation has settled down.
- P&L ended in a positive situation (much improved on previous year) and hence slight increased subs decision taken last year has paid off.
- Junior GK-ing in the Men's section looking very strong
- Separate Committee focussing on Junior Training and Development being set up by Andre.

### Areas for Improvement

- More members of the female section need to umpire to make our umpiring model sustainable – but encouraging signs with more of them picking up the whistle last year.
- Men's 2nds continues to be a challenge, with a requirement for a longer term strategy needed to help ensure it is not an annual issue.