

# Bracknell Merger

# Agenda

- Resolution
- Challenges
- Merger Proposal
- Next Steps
- Pros/Cons

# Resolution

"to approve a merger with Bracknell Hockey Club; subject WHC management committee agreeing acceptable terms"

\* Bracknell HC Approved May 7th

# Challenges

- Falling playing numbers and performance
- Local competition - Sonning, Reading, Pheonix, Maidenhead, Yateley and Bracknell.
- Attracting and retaining adult coaches
- Limited volunteers
- Limited development opportunities for Juniors
- No Vets teams, no bridge to Super Vets

# Merger Proposal

# Identity & Aspirations

- New club “South Berkshire Hockey Club” (tbc)
- Existing club ethos to be retained
  - Safe, Friendly and Sociable
  - Competitive at all levels
  - Trusted development - “Be all you can be”.
- Well run
  - Open and transparent
  - Financially Sustainable
  - Value for money
  - Club First Accredited

# Club Management

- AGM - July
- Seeking representation from BHC and WHC
  - Management Committee
    - Chair
    - vChair
    - Secretary
    - Treasurer
    - Club Captain,
    - Welfare Officer
  - Adult / Colts Playing Committees
    - Coaches
    - Captains / Managers

# Club Management

- Paid Roles
  - Director of Coaching
  - Administrator
    - Umpires
    - Fixtures
    - Membership



# Facilities + Resources

- Seek single site solution
  - Suitable single clubhouse
  - 2 x pitches
  - Targeting 17/18 Season
- Interim plan
  - Use both pitches at Cantley and Birch Hill
  - Use both Bracknell and Wokingham clubhouses
    - Wokingham 14yr Lease Expires Feb 2018
- Subs/match fees at similar levels to now
- Club will subsidise new shirts offsetting costs via sponsorship

# Finances

- Accounts from both Clubs to be merged
  - Break even in Yr1
  - Facilities merged in Y2
  - Profitable in Yr3
- 2 year pre-nup
  - Should clubs dissolve within 2 years
  - Funds will be distributed in proportion to initial contributions

# Next Steps – “Yes” Vote

- League notifications, followed by umpires assocs and England Hockey.
- Agree team naming.
- Consolidate web sites.
- Agree new kit and order stock for start of season.
- Finalise training arrangements, coaches and pitches.
- AGM - July
- Agree financial arrangements for new club, set subs and match fees.
- Commence preseason training and arrange trials.
- Back to Hockey!!

# Next steps- “No” vote

- No merger in 2016
- Form new committee for 2016/17 season as per existing WHC constitution.
- Merger could be revisited in the future

# Pros

- More competitive club with larger playing base
- Standard of teams closer together
- Not competing for the same new players
- More potential for vets teams
- Improved player development
- Better junior set up eg U16 teams
- More effective use of limited volunteers
- Larger audience for targeted social calendar
- More attractive to sponsors
- More credibility when approaching local schools
- Stronger negotiating position with councils

# Cons

- Loss of individual identities
- Some home matches/training at Bracknell