

# **CHARD HOCKEY CLUB AGM ON ZOOM 18TH JUNE 2020 7.30P.M.**

## **PRESENT**

Hannah, Jim, Charlie, Lyndsay, Steve, Sue S, Sheila, Jade, Ros, Tony, Andy, EJ, Julie, Amy, James, Harvey, Kerryn, Bertie, Chloe, Trevor, Lois, Sue, Izzie, Tom, Sasha, Matt, Jo, Sophie, Alice, Rose, Evie, Jason, Gary, Beth, Alan

## **APOLOGIES**

Ben, Jonny, Steve D, Natalie S

## **1. MINUTES**

- a) Read and signed

## **2. MATTERS ARISING**

- a) The storage shed has been completed and is a great success.
- b) Men's training has been more successful this year thanks to Ben, we are still looking for a coach.
- c) Membership forms are to be looked at with a view to helping team selection.

## **3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Message from the President

This season has ended somewhat abruptly without the traditional hugging, back slapping and spraying of cheap fizzy plonk everywhere but at least there are no expensive cleaning bills. Nevertheless it has been a memorable one for other reasons. Hannah, Ben and Lynsey took over key roles on the committee and kept the club moving forward enthusiastically so should be thanked along with everyone on the committee. I will not try to name all the people who helped maintain the club as an ongoing success as I will miss someone, suffice to say thank you to everyone who helped both on and off the pitch.

On the pitch congratulations to the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams who both gained promotion. It will be good to avoid the replication of visiting teams and the dreaded inter club battle seen in 2019/2020 with two teams in the same division. Both teams will have stiffer opposition next season but with the talent coming through the club I'm sure they will relish the challenge. It is always rewarding to see the skills of the young emerging talent on display and such a contrast to the game of 50 years ago. A great testimony to the youth coaching work within the club.

The Men's 3<sup>rd</sup> team finished in a very respectable position in their division and the Ladies, despite some valiant efforts, will drop a division next season and will find life much easier but hopefully challenging. Once again the Sunday Ladies enjoyed a season of less intense hockey, although probably very competitive.

One has to hope that without the summer leagues to maintain fitness training will be able to start in August and come September all sport will be back to normal. Hockey should be in a good position because it is a non-contact sport, well that's the theory! In the current situation a game would not be the same. Imagine not being able to go to the pub afterwards. On that note we have to hope that Lynda at the Bell and Crown survives the economic damage inflicted by the trade restrictions.

Let's look forward to 2020/2021 and put coronavirus behind us. Best wishes and stay safe.

Jim Sainsbury

## 4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

### Report from Chair

Well, what can I say. This certainly wasn't how I anticipated ending my first season as Chair or holding this AGM and awards presentation.

I firstly want to say that I hope that all club members and their families are doing well in the current climate and to offer my support to any club members that need it. If any of you run local business that need our support please let us know about it on the Facebook page or contact me, or if anyone is stuck self isolating I am sure there are members that can offer their support.

I next want to say thank you to you all and particularly to the committee, our coaches and your umpires. I would like to give special mentions to Gary Wheaton, Sheila Bland, Jim Sainsbury and Chris Long who continue to give up their time and support the club even though they haven't picked up a stick as regularly this season to play themselves. Without your valued help, our club would not function as it does and I am sure that all of our members are grateful for everything that you do which allows them to play hockey.

I'd also like to give a special thanks to my Vice-Chair Ben Larcombe and treasurer Lyndsay Blackshaw. This season saw a complete shift at the top of the committee and we had very big shoes to fill. Ben and Lyndsay have been a fantastic support system and I hope as a club we have done you proud.

It is at his time that I mention umpires and coaches that I should let you all know that England Hockey are running its qualification courses online. As such, if you have an interest in becoming an umpire

Generally, COVID -19 aside, the Club has had a successful season.

On the playing side, both our men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI and men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI have secured promotion finishing second place respectively in their leagues. Unfortunately, looking as if they would easily secure the top spot our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI missed out based on goal difference. Our men's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI also placed very well finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place and only 2 points shy from 3<sup>rd</sup>. I hope that the split of our men's teams who will all be in different leagues next season will assist with player movement and morale on the men's side of the club.

The ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI didn't fair so well, with COVID 19 scuppering the end of their season. It looks likely they will be relegated although league placement is awaited. The ladies Sunday faired well with plenty of wins behind them for the season and plenty of new fresh talent coming up through the ranks.

I am very proud of our U10 girls this season who won their County Tournament. The junior side of our club, as usual, has thrived and a massive thanks has to be given to Andy Swain, Gary Wheaton and all of the other coaches who have helped throughout the season as well as the 'admin personnel'. It was a shame that we were not able to host the junior tournament this year but the junior season still ended on a high. If anyone is interested in joining our successful junior coaching team you will be more than welcome. Please speak to Andy, Gary or myself. It may be that for you younger members training can be used to support things such as your Duke of Edinburgh awards or to bulk your CVs and university applications.

Senior training has definitely seen an improvement on last season. The ladies side of the club has seen fantastic numbers and plenty of new faces. Thanks has to be given to James Spurdle and Lois Butcher for their coaching. The men's side, whilst numbers have been low, has seen more faces than the previous season and a great effort from Ben Larcombe and co for delivering the coaching. We will continue to look for a full time men's coach and if anyone has suggestions I would be grateful if these could be directed to myself or to Ben. We have also seen a fantastic

attendance at goalkeeping training and again, thanks has to go to James Spurdle for facilitating this. With up to six keepers in attendance this has been really successful.

We were very grateful to be awarded £1,000 from the Tesco bags for help scheme at the beginning of the season - thank you to everyone who supported us with blue tokens. This allowed us to invest in new goal keeping kit and also training equipment such as the re-bound nets which have introduced new skills into training sessions.

Chard also entered into a new technological era! From the Tesco grant we acquired headsets for our umpires which due to a number of reason, mainly my lack of technological skill, did not get properly introduced this season but which we will be looking to bring in this season coming. We also saw the trial of electronic payments for subscriptions and match fees which was a great success.

Our social side, as ever, has been a bit bleak, particularly not helped by our inability to host our end of season awards evening which is one of the highlights for me normally. Instead, the awards will be announced this evening and although they won't be celebrated quite so hard, they will still be just as well deserved.

Inevitably, we are going to see a lot of change coming our way.

Hopefully, restrictions on hockey as a result of COVID 19 will soon start to lift so that we can consider our back to season training. I will try and keep you all updated as and when I know what is happening. As always, our members safety will be our priority and as a committee (I mean if you decide to vote us back in....) we will be putting our heads together to come up with sensible proposals to allow you all to come safely back.

England Hockey is also reviewing the way in which hockey as a whole is structured. I do not anticipate in the South West this will have much of an effect on our day-to-day play but we could be looking at changes in the structures of our league committees and area committees.

I am currently planning for a September season start and I hope that you all are too.

In the meanwhile, a big thank you again to you all and hopefully see you on a hockey pitch very soon.

## **5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

- a) Lyndsay presented the accounts for the year explaining a different method of recording. More subscriptions had been collected this year but there are still some people reluctant to pay. Lyndsay hopes all teams will be able to use Izettle next year which will simplify the collection of fees.

**CHARD HOCKEY CLUB  
UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

Draft Financial Statements at 18/06/2020 11:26:19

**CHARD HOCKEY CLUB**  
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**CHARD HOCKEY CLUB****PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

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	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Turnover</b>		
Mens 1s match fees	1,730	1,070
Mens 2s match fees	1,792	1,597
Mens 3s match fees	1,487	1,649
Ladies 1s match fees	1,423	1,078
Ladies 2s match fees	735	994
Junior match fees	528	2,064
Summer league match fees	305	-
Christmas match fees	58	-
Other match fees	65	386
Subscriptions	9,988	9,475
Presentation evening 2019	520	1,020
Quiz night	193	78
Sponsors	260	620
Donations and charitable receipts	1,019	157
Raffles	132	86
Back to hockey	581	572
Other income	65	156
	<u>20,881</u>	<u>21,002</u>
<b>Cost of sales (analysed below)</b>	<u>(22,625)</u>	<u>(18,675)</u>
<b>Gross (loss)/profit</b>	(1,744)	2,327
<b>Expenses (analysed below)</b>		
Establishment costs	-	(6,977)
General administrative expenses	(1,086)	(1,384)
Depreciation costs	<u>(175)</u>	<u>(175)</u>
	<u>(1,261)</u>	<u>(8,536)</u>
<b>Net loss</b>	<u><u>(3,005)</u></u>	<u><u>(6,209)</u></u>

**CHARD HOCKEY CLUB****PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

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	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost of sales</b>		
Mens 1s teas	100	200
Mens 2s teas	160	165
Mens 3s teas	210	250
Ladies 1s teas	160	170
Ladies 2s teas	140	157
Mens 1s travel	48	225
Mens 3s travel	-	210
Ladies 1s travel	85	259
Ladies 2s travel	-	64
Pitch hire	15,520	11,310
League fees	1,663	1,481
Entry fees	500	450
Coaches	1,420	2,135
Umpires	-	59
Equipment	1,760	809
Training courses	138	-
Insurance	721	731
	<u>22,625</u>	<u>18,675</u>
<b>Establishment costs</b>		
Shed	<u>-</u>	<u>6,977</u>
<b>General administrative expenses</b>		
Website costs	244	220
Printing, postage and stationery	229	-
Sundry expenses	2	107
Trophies	121	104
Presentation evening 2019 costs	440	923
Fines	-	30
izettle charges	50	-
	<u>1,086</u>	<u>1,384</u>
<b>Depreciation charges</b>		
Depreciation of goalkeeping kit	<u>175</u>	<u>175</u>

**CHARD HOCKEY CLUB**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2020**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2020</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2019</b> <b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	2	875	1,050
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks		50	50
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>24,779</u>	<u>23,064</u>
		24,829	23,114
<b>Current liabilities</b>	3	<u>(4,545)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>20,284</u>	<u>23,114</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>21,159</u>	<u>24,164</u>
<b>Financed by:</b>			
Capital accounts	4	<u>21,159</u>	<u>24,164</u>



**CHARD HOCKEY CLUB**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

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**1 Accounting policies**

**Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Turnover**

Turnover represents amounts chargeable in respect of the sale of goods and services to customers.

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Goalkeeping kit	£175 per year

**Stock**

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after due regard for obsolete and slow moving stocks. Net realisable value is based on selling price less anticipated costs to completion and selling costs.

**2 Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Goalkeeping kit £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 April 2019	<u>1,225</u>	<u>1,225</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>1,225</u>	<u>1,225</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 April 2019	175	175
Charge for the year	<u>175</u>	<u>175</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>350</u>	<u>350</u>
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 31 March 2020	<u>875</u>	<u>875</u>
At 31 March 2019	<u>1,050</u>	<u>1,050</u>

**CHARD HOCKEY CLUB**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

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**3 Current liabilities**

	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>
Accruals	<u>4,545</u>

**4 Capital account**

	<b>£</b>
At 1 April 2019	24,164
Share of profit	<u>(3,005)</u>
<b>At 31 March 2020</b>	<u><b>21,159</b></u>

- b) Proposals for new costs were presented. Hannah proposed and Lyndsay seconded, all of which were carried.

### **Proposal - Amendment to Subscription Rates**

The Club has unfortunately made back to back losses over the last couple seasons and as such, a review of the subscription rates has had to be made. Given the current climate that we find ourselves in, the Club is mindful of its members circumstances and does not want to make any amends to the standard subscription rates. However, it does wish to make an amendment to the family rates to ensure that the collection of fees is fair and treated the same across the board.

Match fees will remain the same being £8 for adults and £5 for students.

This proposal is going to be made by Chair Hannah McGown and seconded by Treasurer Lyndsay Blackshaw.

The following subscription rates will remain the same:

- Adults - £75
- Students (Year 9 and above) - £65
- Juniors (Year 8 and below) - £55
- Training Only Members - £55

The following amendments will be made:

- We will scrap all current rates for partners and families and a new family rate will be introduced.
- Family Membership: Any family who has 3 or more members living at the same address will qualify for a family discount. The first two most expensive memberships will be charged at the standard rate, with the third (and any subsequent membership) being discounted by 50%.

Please see below some worked examples to gain an understanding of how this would look.

- Partners - Old rate was £140. New rate will be £150. (Plus £10).
- 1 Adult, 1 Junior - Old rate was £120. New rate will be £130 (Plus £10).
- 1 Adult, 1 Student - Old rate was £130. New rate will be £140 (Plus £10).
- 1 Adult, 2 Juniors - Old rate was £150. New rate will be £157.50 (Plus £7.50).
- 1 Adult, 1 Student, 1 Junior - Old rate was £150. New rate will be £167.50 (plus £17.50).
- 3 Juniors - Old Rate was £150. New rate will be £137.50 (less £12.50).

## **6. CAPTAIN'S REPORTS**

### **a) Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI**

#### Chard 1st XI: Season write up

The start to the 2019/20 season began with an overall positive and optimistic outlook from the team. During the previous season (2018/19) we had lost a number of players and had brought some younger members of the club into the starting 11. We spent

most of that year rebuilding the team, using the more experienced members to embed our previously successful playing style into the energetic newcomers.

The hard work that was put in by all during the 2018/19 season, was evident once this year's pre-season training began. The dedication showed by the players was undeniable, making up the majority of attendees at the sessions and continuing the work from the previous season with little prompting.

Unfortunately, it was during these sessions that we learnt that our Goalkeeper had decided to focus on boxing, rather than hockey and so would no longer be playing. As well as this, one of our defensive midfielders informed us that he would be taking a break from sports for an undetermined amount of time. This left the team a little lower on numbers than had been expected.

Thankfully, two new experienced players had contacted us, expressing interest in playing. Once they met and trained with the team, they gladly joined - no doubt due to the members' professional approach on the pitch, as well as the friendliness and comradery of the entire team off the pitch. We were glad to have them and they integrated well, both whilst playing and socialising.

During the first few games, some extremely good hockey was showcased by everyone. However, occasional lapses of confidence and teamwork from the mix of new/old players, paired with an outfield player taking up the Goalkeeper position, saw a string of losses to dampen the start of the season.

As was expected, this losing period was short lived. After training hard and learning from the previous matches, the winning began. The brilliant teamwork and the trust in each other meant that Chard 1st were quickly becoming a force to be reckoned with, even whilst lacking a competent Goalkeeper - although this wouldn't last long, thanks to the 2nd team Captain and his recruiting abilities. Soon, two new Goalkeepers would join the club. We snapped up the opportunity of a safe pair of hands between the posts. The team massively benefited from being able to rely on the keeper, allowing more creative plays to come from the ever-impressive midfield and giving the defenders freedom to advance, to work alongside the tireless wingers.

Throughout the remainder of the season, we steadily rose up the league table, though it was not all plain sailing. On occasion we found ourselves short in numbers on match days, whether due to holidays, injuries or a variety of wild excuses. During these times, we were brilliantly supported by both the 2nd and 3rd teams. Often supplying us with players, when they themselves were low. Thanks to this support, we were able to remain one of the top teams in our league. As well as this, one loaned youth player truly excelled himself and became a regular towards the end of the season, fitting in almost seamlessly with the teams playing style. No doubt a key member in next seasons line-up.

One setback was the injury of the Captain/Centre Back, receiving a broken hand during the top of the table clash. This would keep him on the side-lines for the remaining games. Luckily, the Defensive Midfielder who had sat out a large portion of the season, had made his return a few games prior. This allowed the team to adjust positions, in order to continue playing competitive hockey with little disturbance.

Once the season prematurely ended, we were in 2nd position within the league. Although this is a promotion position, we would have had the opportunity to take 1st place, had we been able to finish the season. As disappointed as the team were to not

be able to fight for top position, we fully understand that the matches needed to end because of the COVID-19 threat and are very happy with the performance throughout the year. We are looking forward to the 2020/21 season, playing in the Southern 2 league.

The entire team would like to thank the clubs Umpires for their continued service that allows us to play every week, the club members involved with the organisation of the pitch/leagues/equipment/information that keeps the club running, sponsors that help fund the clubs activities and the parents, partners and fans that support the team both at home and on match days.

Chard 1st XI award nominations:

*Player of the Year* - Barnaby Willis

*Most Improved Player* - George Bromfield

**b) Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI**

**Chard Ladies First Team – AGM Report**

I am going to keep this report short and sweet, I bit like our season.

At the beginning of this season the first team had a new more youthful looking squad, with several players being pulled up from both the youth and Sunday Team. Alongside this, a shuffle in the league structure meant that several new teams joined the Sedgemoor Division One.

Overall it has been a challenging season for the ladies and sadly it looks like relegation will inevitable, which we have Covid19 to thank for. Unfortunately, the structure of the fixtures meant that we still had to play 3 out of 4 of the teams at the bottom of the league, but we had played all of those teams at the top of the league.

On a positive note, the young squad has shown a lot of promise this season, with many players being in contest for the most improved award. This has been one of the first seasons where the ladies' side of the club has had an influx of players, which has meant that there has been competition for places in the squad. I hope that the interest in the ladies' side of the club will continue next season and the club can continue to expand.

We are now looking onto next season and despite being in a lower league, we will aim continue the positive steps that the squad made at the end of the season.

Lyndsay and I are both content to remain as joint captains for a further season.

Player of the Year Lyndsay Blackshaw

Most improved Evie Trafford

## c) Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

### Chard Hockey Club Men's Second XI – End of Season Review

Firstly, let me say this season has been a success for the Men's Seconds. At the beginning of the season the intention was to get promotion, we have achieved that. After the, dare I say, wreckage of last season we have had a good and successful season. We have only narrowly failed to win the league by the small matter of a three goal difference deficit (sustained in the final round of matches). So we can be proud of what we have achieved, slightly miffed that we did not win the league and now mindful of the next step into the league that gave us a bloody nose last time round. Next season is going to be difficult and I have already been told that we will struggle! We will need to approach next season better than two years ago, both in our preparation and also in how the team is structured in the Club.

To me the Chard Second team sits a bit unevenly in the hierarchy of the club. We consist of;

- youngsters transitioning from the thirds and hoping to progress into the Firsts,
- old gnarled warriors who used to play for the Ones but like old cars (aren't so quick at accelerating, they have a few niggles and sometimes the timing is missing a bit) and,
- then the 30-40 year olds that aren't going to play for England any more, they work hard during the week, they have families to spend time with but this is their 2-3hours away from a difficult week. They look forward to the next week's game as soon as this week's game has finished and dare I say it the games get more difficult on the body but they want to play as hard as they can. On a saturday evening after the game, they are popping pills like mad and these pills do help them sleep (but are usually paracetamol, ibuprofen, nurofen etc).

It must be difficult on the youngsters as they are not playing with their mates, they are playing with chaps who on the whole are not social media friendly, chaps who would rather talk than type on their phones (indeed some of their phones don't even have facebook on them), chaps who yawn at about 9 o'clock, chaps who are sometimes 3 times their age and have played hockey for twice their age, generally chaps that they may not have much in common with apart from hockey. BUT (and here is my point) this is life and one day you will start a job and you will have to work in a team/company/office with people like us or you may even have to talk to a prospective father-in-law! You will then have two options;

Option 1-succeed at the job, work out what makes these people tick and get on with them, learn to talk to them and work with them, or

Option 2-leave the job and try to find another job.

Life is about challenges and overcoming them not turning the other way when it gets tough.

Hockey is a team game and THERE IS NO I IN TEAM! A team is a greater sum than its parts, yes a team must allow an individual to shine as part of the team but when the going gets difficult either on the hockey pitch or off it, the team is there to help!

The season started with trying to work out who we had lost from last year and who was stepping up from the thirds.

Goalkeeper was the first issue but we managed to find Tom Angel, a veterinary recruit, who very quickly moved up a team to the firsts, so we had to find another one! Where upon I managed to find a volunteer from "Rocky", my main Tractor driver contractor on the farm. Rocky has not played much hockey before this season but he has been a wonderful "find". Some of the rules have been a challenge to him, but thanks must go to the Coaching team on Wednesday evenings for getting him prepared for us. He has been up to the challenge of playing GK for us and in fact stepped up to the Ones for a game as well (one of only 3 seconds to play ones this year?). He is now part of the team after 17 caps this season. I am not entirely thankful of him as his clearance kick at Mid Somerset did catch me fair and square on the kneecap and it did take me a few minutes to recover but apart from that thank you Rocky, you have done bloody well!

Riley was the other recruit from last year, who transitioned to us from the Thirds. Riley has played 18 matches for us this season. I think it is fair to say he has found the Seconds difficult at times, definitely not in the hockey but in his team mates. His standard of skill has been brilliant to watch. His jab tackling is a thing of beauty, especially to most of us who have given up jab tackling because of the timing issue! He does like going off on mazy runs, backing his own skill to disappear from the back up into the dizzy heights of the oppo semi circle. I think this is the hockey that youngsters are taught these days, in that you are not set to your position, people can drift over the pitch and positions are fluid. However most of us oldies are set in our ways and that fluidity is difficult for us to cope with (NOTE: I have said difficult and not impossible!). At times there has been criticism of his style of play and I think that has effected Riley's confidence with the team, this is something I am sure we can overcome together. I would hope that in time Riley will progress into the Chard One's as that is where his ability is going to get him, but I would hope that this season he will be one of our main players and that our team's play will need to be built around him, rather than trying to fit him into our team. Well done Riley on an excellent season, under probably what was for you at times a difficult season, we are only trying to help you! if you can put up with us, you can put up with most things!

Of our team we have really played with 10 regular players (all of whom have managed over 75% of games) and three semi regular players this season. We all know that a regular core of players is the way to go to be successful, but with such a small pool of players it does put a lot of reliance on the commitment of those regulars, so congrats go to those core regulars. Two of us managed to play all the games this season (and as those two were the fittest and quickest on the pitch then that is fair-but I may be biased)!

The season started off away at Isca. Memorable for two squires on the pitch at the same time, (rollo and toby) and the captain being driven down by Murray in his shiny white BWM. My journey to Exeter was fairly quick, but safe and we got there on time (just). But driving through the freshers fair students all over campus with Murray revving his car when required, with windows down and no shades was an experience. We came away with a 3-1 win.

Then on to Mid Somerset at home, a 3-1 win. Gabe Cameron had an excellent game here, which he capped off with a goal and two from Rolo. It was a good Mid Somerset team, full of youngsters and a hard game to play in.

Then away to Yeovil where we came away with a 3-1 win. At times we had our backs against the wall here, as the opposition had a couple of very skilful players, but I seem to remember a Harvey special goal and some good teamwork gave us a hard earned victory.

The onto TV "E" at home, where we had one Wheaton playing for us (Murray), one Wheaton playing for them (Kyle) and one Wheaton Umpiring (Gary). I do recall Gary blowing Kyle up for fouling Murray! A 7-2 win. My paperwork does not say who scored.

Next came bridgewater, a 5-2 win but it should have been a lot more. A lot of clear cut opportunities were wasted against a fairly poor bridgewater team.

Then home to sid and otter, a 5-3 win. Against a team who bought 15 to play an away game. Harvey cracked in another 2 goals here. I seem to remember a tough game here as they were quite a youngish side, full of running with lots of skill. Good debut in the twos from josh.

Then onto a grumpy game against a Civil Service side. A 3-1 win here, thank you to Steve Dare to helping us get to 11 players here. I remember a couple of break away goals, (potentially a lucky umpiring call led to one of them), poor floaty got three balls where he only wanted 2, and then we had a deliberate trip, some tough challenges and some harsh words to their own umpires (that in my book deserved cards).

A 5-0 win against Minehead then followed, with 2 goals each for Harvey and Gareth. Again I think we should have scored more, possibly we got a bit greedy. Thank you for Justin Green, in helping our numbers then.

And then to a big game against TV"D". We nearly held onto a 1-1 draw, which probably should have been a fair reflection. But succumbed to a last second short corner goal. We missed an open goal with their keeper in the bin and a short corner similarly without the keeper so we had our

chances. Steve M had a couple of card issues. Neil got the MOM so there was a lot of defending done and I think we were out battled in the midfield. Possibly our diamond formation giving them an extra player in midfield.

Home to Hornets, a 6-0 win with a Harvey hat trick and a MOM performance from Gareth.

And then onto Chard V Chard, this has never been a straight forward game. There are no gimmies here, and both teams want to win. Thanks must go to our umpires here, as it does get a bit tense and niggly, I guess more from the Seconds as we “have” more to lose? We went to 3-0 up and then the pace of Alex (who went on to play for the ones but never the two’s ?)and some good short corner routines left us hanging on to a win. Rocky got man of the match for some great saves. Our team morale took a bit of a hammering as tempers got a bit tense.

A 5-2 win against the stronger of the two sid and otter teams, settled our nerves at the half way point, with 2 goals for Rolo. Thank you for Jonnie Crease for helping us this week.

A 4-0 home win against Isca in the new year, with two each for Harvey and Gareth and thank you to Spud for getting us to 12.

A trip to Mid-Somerset gave us a 5-5 draw and some dropped points. A hat trick from Harvey but we did come from two goals down in the last few minutes. I got clobbered by rocky and did miss two goal chances as I waddled at the far end. Thank you to Justin Green for getting us to 11. I did get an assist for a pass over half the length of the pitch to Harvey for a “long ball” goal!

A 7-1 win at home to Yeovil with a Gareth Hatrick followed and then a 10-1 away win to TV”E” with 2 goals for Gary, Rolo and Harvey and a good goal from Josh. Thank you to Cheffey and Bertie. This was the match that Steve was accused of playing two matches on one day!

A 6-0 win at home to bridgewater followed, we should have scored more, with 4 for Harvey and MOM performance from Oli. Our trip to sid and otter was postponed due to the weather. Then we had the infamous match against Civil service, a 7-0 win but hard work on the umpires (Jim and Gary).

Then the double header against Minehead and Sid and Otter. A 4-0 win in Minehead on the Saturday,thank you to Tony and Monty for agreeing to play for us at the last minute. Followed by a 8-0 away win on the Sunday. Thank you to Andy Swain, Tony Millett, Gary and Charlie Grossey for helping us to make a strong Sunday team. Another Harvey Hatrick and amongst others a good individual goal from Riley.

Then the big top of the table crunch v TV “D”. It was always going to be a difficult game, I think we went a goal up, then 2-1 down, then to lead 3-2 only to see our lead extinguished towards the end of play, but left us with the same points as our opposition and goal difference being the key. Our final game as it turned out was against Hornets away, which as we know is a difficult place to go. We came away with a 5-3 win here. Thank you to Steve Dare once again for getting us to 12. I am sorry that he saw an undeserved card from the umpire. Unfortunately a 10-0 demolition of sid and otter “c” by TV “D” gave them the lead in the goal difference race, which is where it finished. We have been running a “MVP” competition during the season with positive points for playing, assists, goals, clean sheets and votes for MOM (extra points for the oldies and youngies). Negative points for cards and “donkey of the day” votes.

The finishing positions are as follows;

First	Jason	112 points
Second joint	Gareth	108 points
Second joint	Harvey	108 points
Fourth	Trevor	77 points
Fifth	Neil	71 points
Sixth	Rolo	68 points
Seventh joint	Riley	67 points
Seventh joint	Tom	67 points
Ninth	Rocky	57 points
Tenth	Steve M	56 points



The points system may need some amendments as it does favour the attackers (says the defender).

Jason did play every game, so congrats to him for winning!

My brief summary of our regular team (similar to a racecard form)

GK-Ian Rocket –new find, solid, a bit quiet for a GK, sure to improve in second year, needs to get noisy! Big presence! Need to get him running round the pitch.

Defence-Riley-skillful young pup (compared to the rest of them), good stick skills, fancies some goals, is defense a bit too boring for him?

Steve M (chopper to his friends and umpires), redder than a tomato (especially at TV), thought we had nearly lost him at Hornets, he is still struggling for fitness, some may need longer lay off? What are we going to do without him for match reports, potentially hanging up his seconds stick to offer his considerable expertise to the thirds. Thank you for all his teamwork in the seconds.

Neil-when his knee is holding together a great partner in the centre of midfield, very solid and reliable, good organiser of the team (I thought I barked orders! ), only missed the odd day to go racing or stalking!

Me-unreliable and late!

Midfield –Floaty great improvement from Floaty this season, good recovery from the crown jewels affair, great work horse in midfield, good stamina, I think he is off to uni, but if he isn't we will have him! Make the rest of us feel old!

Trevor- a utility player, he can play all over the park, good scoring off short corners (when he is allowed), thank goodness Yeovil town were not in the league last year, needs to check his rules about overheads (or faking overheads) again a great team man.

Chris Knight (Dr.) plays hard, quite happy to fight fire with fire, not backwards in coming forwards, never quite sure about people who colour the outside of their gum shields, especially in the Irish colours!

Jason --well, he acts like he is 35, when he is a lot more than 35, his hearing is not very good at short corners and the number of times he is sent to midway for breaking early, (so much so that it is catching). His overhead flicks leave a lot to be desired. His memory for names is not good, Rolo/Rollo (it has stuck now), but his pace on the wing ensures that we don't always play a long ball game. Perhaps a bit too much shoulder at times?

Rolo (or should it be Rollo)- tough eared top of diamond, he must have bad hearing as well? Maybe not the paciest for his age? Good skill! Good distributor on his day when he gets his head up, likes to have a go when he is allowed, gets a bit bothered with the odd feisty opponent, Mummy's boy has some brothers who are not as good at hockey as him and son of our best supporter! Is he allowed a pint yet?

Murray-fast car, laid back and relaxed in life, later than me? (i rang him when I got to Civil service to see where he was (I think he was still in the gym)). Needs to work harder on his abs, if he is going to get a partner! Hopefully we will see him back on the pitch, once he has had enough trips to rave's and gay bars?

Forwards-Gareth-smiley faced head banded assassin, good number of assists (he claimed that one as well?) good goals, has an opinion (~~usually~~ always right) good vocal strengths, good passing ability, wants to win and wears his heart on his sleeve (gets upset when others aren't trying as hard as him) aka. The entrepreneur.

Harvey-mild mannered red head. By day shift/night shift saving lives. On the pitch wants to win and score goals, but if someone gets injured whether on the opposition or our team he will be the first to help. What a shot /unstoppable! Maybe the reverse stick shots, don't always go where he wants them to, but just when you say don't he goes and scores from an impossible angle. Sometimes the opposition stick gets in the way, mutters a bit?

Thanks must also go our umpires over the course of the season, without them there would be no hockey, thank you to Gary for organising them and also playing for us when he has time!

Our umpires were (apologies if I have missed anyone off)

Hannah, Jim, Gary, Danny, Ben, Andy and Alan. (reward at Bonners to be picked up).

Also our thanks to the Bell for some excellent “nosh” and pint after the games. Certainly when you compare our food to what was on offer elsewhere, we are very lucky to have the Bell and Crown, so close and with a warm welcome.

Two years ago I had to go and play in Sidmouth and Ottery as a Captain of a Team consisting of 7 Players, with the Thirds playing at home with a full team on the same day. I had to ask the umpires to call the game off at 20-nil, it was not much fun. We have got through this season with fairly bare numbers and thanks several members of the Thirds and Firsts who agreed to play for us at the last minute we were able to send out a full team for each game but the current system of “squads” mean that there is not fluid movement of players between teams, despite the fact that we all play for the same Club. The overriding aim must surely be Club first, Team second?

The fact that Chard can put out three Men’s teams each season is a real plus point for our club, but it is not easy to keep numbers going. There is a great Junior training set up which continues to bring lots of young players into the men’s teams. We continue to lose players as youngsters head off to University or Jobs or to better themselves at bigger clubs, (which is always going to happen). Every now and again we pick up new members to the area. Commitment to playing every weekend is difficult with people changing jobs, getting married and having kids. We must remember that some of us are big, ugly and noisy and we must make every effort to bring new players into the team and make them feel part of the team but we must ensure that our will to win does not upset others. but the fact is we all want to play Hockey to the best of our ability for Chard

TE 17/06/20

Player of the Year Jason Goddard  
Most Improved Neil Gage

## **REPORT FROM STEVE MAHONEY**

### **CHARD HOCKEY CLUB AGM 2020 A 2<sup>nd</sup> XI player perspective**

I have played Hockey for Chard since 1984.

I have served on the committee as Treasurer in my early years with the club and for some while now as Public Relations Officer.

It has been my privilege to serve as Club Chairman for 3 years and to help organise the club's Centenary Celebrations back in 2007.

My most "hands on" role for many seasons now has been to write team match reports for the newspapers and our website. I cannot possibly count how many I have written over the years, but they have covered triumphs and disasters, promotions and relegations and everything in between.

The past season for the men's teams of this club has been one of those triumphs. First eleven promoted, second eleven promoted and third eleven finishing the season on a strong run achieving sixth in South East 2 while also bringing back a number of former players who clearly have not lost their touch. So we should all be congratulating ourselves on a job well done. I emphasise should, because it is my perception that we are not united in the celebration of what has been achieved. Nothing has been said to me directly, but I am troubled by the second-hand comments being relayed by others, which are critical of the second eleven.

For the benefit of those outside the team and looking in, may I offer an insight into what it has been like to be part of the team. I have many previous seasons with which to compare the one just past and almost as many teams, given the change of playing personnel during the past 36 years.

The second eleven of this season has been built around a settled core of players available most weeks from the first game to the last. The camaraderie/team spirit has been outstanding. It has been brilliant to be part of it. It has reminded me why I still get a buzz out of team sport. The team's style of play for the vast majority of our games has been a reflection of this. No selfishness on the ball or in front of goal, mutually supportive and positive in attitude. That positivity and mutual support was extended to players from first and third elevens who were drafted in to help us out on a more occasional basis. This may be a contentious point with some, but I am speaking based upon my personal experience of half time and post-match talks.

The personnel in any team are not perfect. They are human, they have their good points and their flaws. Where there are flaws, for the benefit of the club as a whole, these need to be tactfully addressed and managed so that the benefit of the more positive characteristics are not lost along with the players themselves.

At the moment, I have the impression there are too many players who see themselves as a member of their team rather than as a member of this club. This isn't the first time this has happened and we have got over it before. We must do so again. At the start of every season, there is talk of selecting according to ability and availability, the first eleven naturally having priority, then the second eleven, then the thirds. We cannot just pay lip service to this. It must actually happen. Everyone who plays hockey for Chard is a club player not just a player for one team. To build upon

the success of this season, it is essential that all players recognise and accept this and for senior Club members to encourage this attitude in our younger and newer players.

Please let us all congratulate one another on the achievements of all our men's sides this season and commit to putting what is good for the club as a whole ahead of personal preferences as regards the team we want to play for.

Stephen Mahoney

#### **d) LADIES SUNDAY**

Sunday ladies captains report.

The ladies started out the season at a bit of slow pace whilst getting back into the rhythm of playing hockey as a team again after the summer break. Straight from the offset the Sunday team was fielding a vary variant team with experienced players to juniors and back to hockey players. This theme continued throughout the season welcoming more juniors up through the ranks and a few more back to hockey ladies. Once settled into the season the Sunday team managed to find their feet and this resulted in some wins for the team. As always this helps the team moral. The team bonded well as a group and this showed on field and off field. Even though it would be a scramble every week to get a team the Sundays would always manage to field a side even with the long distance journeys. This was helped with a few more of the juniors progressing up through and filling in gaps. All juniors that played were excellent and fitted into the team with no problems. Overall the Sunday team had a consistent season, ending with a few more wins than losses. Thank you to the whole of the team for supporting me as captain it is very much a group effort on a Sunday to keep the team going and I am very thankful for all the help from the team. Special thanks go to Ros, Sue and Julie for keeping me on the right track and helping me out when I need it.

Team player of the year – Alice Gibbins

Most improved player of the year – Jo Gibbins and Heidi Warren

#### **e) MEN'S 3RD XI**

Player of the Year Ollie Saxby

Most Improved Monty Willis

#### **f) JUNIORS**

##### **Junior Report 2019 / 2020**

The Juniors have had another busy year with excellent numbers attending Wednesday & Thursday evening training with newcomers trying Hockey for the first time.

The Club entered teams in all the Tournaments throughout the season and the highlight was the U10 Girls winning the County Tournament, this being the first time Chard have won this competition. Unfortunately, the Girls were not able to represent Somerset at the West due to Coronavirus outbreak. The U12 Girls were competitive in their Tournament. The U14 tournaments were cancelled.

Many thanks to Sheila and Sue for looking after the admin on Wednesday evenings. Also, all coaches who have helped this season, especially Gary for his support and help at the Tournaments.

Junior Improvement Awards

Thea Parsons Luc Brown Archie Parris Alice Gibbins Hatty Souttar-Stone  
Kendra Druce Dexter Druce Finlay Downes Josh Truscott Harry Criddle

Club Person of the Year - jointly between James Spurdle and Andy Swain

Team of the Year - jointly between Men's 1<sup>st</sup> and Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

Colt of the Year - Boys Charles Grossey

Colt of the Year – Girls Kerry Mullis

## Election of Officers 2020/21

POSITION	NOMINEE	PROPOSED	SECONDED
President	Jim	Hannah	Matt
Chair	Hannah	Lyndsay	Andy
Vice chair	Ben	Hannah	Ros
Secretary	E J	Amy	Steve
Public Relations/Press	Steve	Hannah	Lois
Website	Hannah/Lois	Matt	Sheila
Treasurer	Lyndsay	Matt	Andy
Junior Dev	Andy	Ros	Sheila
Welfare Officer	Trevor	Amy	Tom
Social Sec	Sasha	Tom	Hannah
Umpires	Gary	Tom	Jim
Fixtures – Ladies S	Ros	Sheila	Charlie
Corp VPs	Lois	Hannah	Andy
Capt – Men’s 1	Jonny	Matt	Harvey
VC	Matt	Harvey	Hannah
Capt – Men’s 2	Tom	Hannah	Matt
VC	?		
Capt – Men’s 3	?		
VC	?		
Capt – Ladies 1	Amy/Lyndsay	Hannah	Charlie
VC	Hannah	Sasha	Tony
Capt – Ladies S	Charlie	Andy	Julie
VC	Julie	Sue	Ros
Minutes	Sheila	Hannah	Steve

Date of next meeting Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020

Meeting closed 9p.m.