



Kings Langley Hockey Club 2017 Annual Report

The club has experienced a number of challenges over recent years, enough to have some of us contemplating winding up the club but with renewed determination, external support and a few new members, a touch of optimism found its way in to the club this year rewarding us all with a wonderful season.

2017 Committee

While the constitution allows for 7 elected and 2 appointed committee members the club has been operating with a committee of 5 for a number of seasons, including throughout 2017. Positions have been routinely filled by club stalwarts; Jo Baird, Kate Bush and Lyn O'Reilly, without the contribution of whom the club literally would not be able to function, hence an enormous amount of thanks is extended to these 3 members of the club.

Following the 2016 AGM they were joined by Simon Deduhin as Treasurer standing for his 2nd term and committee debutante, Christina Thomas. Simon, with the birth of twins imminent stepped down in March. Pleasingly Chris Heath stepped in to the vacancy for the remainder of the season.

Additionally the committee was assisted by Rob McShane who looked after registrations on the HNSW Revolutionise site, Nerida O'Neill who co-ordinated the Bunnings BBQ, Chris Swadling as Senior Umpire Co-ordinator, Mark Williamson as Junior Umpire Co-ordinator and from UTS; Fiona Telfer who very capably co-ordinated the link between both clubs.

Thanks is also extended to these individuals for their contribution to the club throughout the 2017 season.

Programmes

KLHC once again ran summer and winter programmes during the 2016/17 season.

The 2016 summer programme, run across both Cavanagh and The Ponds was reasonably successful attracting approximately 30 participants, the majority of whom were 13 years of age or younger. Pleasingly a number of these players were new to the sport and subsequently signed up for the 2017 winter season.

When one compares the summer and winter programmes, the summer programme is easy to run having a great deal of flexibility around numbers and scheduling. Not so the winter programme so it was good to get to the finish line with all 51 adult male and junior players wanting to register for 2017 having had somewhere to play. Unfortunately the club remains challenged with regards to offering adult females the opportunity to participate in hockey during the winter season with Casey being the exception. As a product of KL's junior programme and used to mixed hockey she happily joined the men's team for the third successive season.

Results

At U7s and U9s the introduction of home games provided sufficient incentive for the majority of our families to sign up for the 14 North Area games. Training was held both at Cavanagh and The Ponds with players from both centres coming together on Saturdays for games against other North Area Clubs. Initially run by Lyn the encouragement of parental participation saw parents stepping up to take on coaching, managing and eventually umpiring roles through the season, a factor that augers well for the future of the club. Scores aren't kept at this age however I am reliably assured by some of our younger members that the teams "won" every game.

KLUTS sides were entered in to the North Area Competition at 11s, 13s and 15s. UTS being dominant at 11s and 13s provided the coaching and managing staff for those sides while KL had the primary coaching

and managing role for 15s. Understandably a level of scepticism surrounds this arrangement as players from each club train separately before coming together for games at the weekend. Two seasons in to the arrangement now though and the goodwill extended by both clubs towards the other is making this work as shown by some great season results;

U11s – 3rd
 U13s – 4th
 U15s - Premiers

At senior level, the men finally had sufficient numbers to field a full 11 each week and regularly had 2 or 3 subs. Additionally the change in the structure of the Nepean Comp placed the team in B division rather than a combined A/B comp. The result? The team absolutely flourished and as with the 15s finished the season as premiers.

Particular thanks go to team coaches and managers for their efforts this season. We've had a great season, in the main due to your abilities to organise, coach, manage and encourage your charges. Well done everyone;

U7s - Tim Pederson, Erin Murphy
 U9s – Lisa Maher, Anya Williamson
 U11s – Jen Dobrijevic, Subhra Ghosh
 U13s – Shannon Kinman, Phil Sortwell
 U15s – Roger Phelps, Mark Galliani
 Men – Patrick O'Reilly, Patrick May

Awards

Congratulations are extended to the 2017 award winners;

Team Awards

| U11s | U13s | U15s | Men |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Hugo Schindler – Sportsperson Award | SkySilakwa - Sportsperson Award | Andrew Phelps – Players Player | Patrick May – Players Player |
| Dakota Prudnicki – Most Improved | Nathan Sandison - Most Improved | Teagan Ward – Coaches Award | Rob McShane – Encouragement Award |
| Mayukh Ghosh - Encouragement Award | Annika Griffiths - Encouragement Award | Bethany Thomas – Encouragement Award | Jasdeep Gill – Encouragement Award |
| Rocco Galluzzo – Encouragement Award | Soren Williamson – Encouragement Award | Owen Penney – Encouragement Award | |

North Area Umpiring Award – Andrew Phelps

Club Awards

Junior Player of the Year

Jaidii Freeman

Senior Player of the Year

Chris Swadling

Club Person of the Year

Patrick May

Representative Hockey

The participation of KLHC players in representative hockey has declined in recent seasons. That being said we still had 4 players involve themselves in representative hockey;

Jaidii Freeman
Bethany Thomas
Thomas O'Reilly
Patrick O'Reilly

Particular congratulations go to the O'Reilly boys; Thomas was part of the SEHA U18 side that achieved a silver medal in the U18 division 1 HNSW State Championship while Patrick was part of the Nepean open men's side that won Division 3 at the HNSW State Championship.

Promotions and Events

Participation in community events and school coaching was not undertaken this year. While there was still a level of advertising in schools via fliers and newsletters and in the community via pop-up stalls at shopping centres a greater reliance was placed on the introduction of an additional website – Hockey Blacktown and related signage – “Hockey Blacktown Google Us”.

While the additional website and signage appear to have been effective, resources permitting, a broader approach including engagement with local schools is still recommended.

Facility

KLHC was successful in gaining 2 lots of grant funding;

1. \$6,000 under the Federal Grant “Stronger Communities Programme” which with the addition of \$6,000 worth of matched funding from KLHC is currently being used to improve fencing at Cavanagh.
2. \$10,000 under the State Grant “Community Building Partnership Programme which with the addition \$5,800 worth of KLHC funding will see improvements undertaken on the amenities building at Cavanagh.

Discussions are now being held to see if we can get an awning constructed at Cavanagh.

Finances

Please see the Treasurer's Report for greater detail. In short though, KLHC is currently in a sound financial position with net cash assets of approximately \$18,000. This position has largely been the result of efforts put in to the securing of sponsorship, donations, grant monies and fundraising in previous years the exceptions of course being the continued sponsorship from Just Hockey, ongoing support from Seven Hills Bunnings, affordable access to training facilities provided by Blacktown City Council and unpaid umpiring undertaken by parents, in particular Mark Williamson. Thanks are extended to these parties for their ongoing support of KLHC and its members.

2017/18

KLHC is a small club that will remain challenged in hockey's current landscape, a landscape that supports big clubs while undermining smaller ones such as ours. While it is hoped that the landscape in Blacktown will change in future years to support the existence of small local clubs and offer local competition we must focus on doing the best we can to provide locals with access to an inclusive, family friendly club in the current landscape.

To this end I'd recommend the following;

1. Amending the constitution to provide for a committee of 5 elected representatives + 2 appointed representatives.
2. Reducing the quorum required at committee meetings from 4 to 3
3. Changing the financial year from October 1 to September 30 to 1 January to 31 December
4. Clearly defining a number of delegated roles to facilitate the spread of workloads across club members.
5. Consider changing association affiliation from NWSHA to NHA.
6. Consideration of the re-introduction of a 4-a-side competition
7. Access ways to improve skills and knowledge across the club
8. Facilitate links within the club to better support club families, in particular with transport

Lyn O'Reilly
Secretary
KLHC