

Chairman's Report 2022 – 2023

As I outlined last year, we have been working hard on plans for the medium to long term future of the Club, and I was delighted with the response to our latest plans from the Club members at the AGM. We could so easily sit back and do nothing and wait for others to control our future, but the positive feedback and offers of help when needed have given us a mandate to go forward knowing that the Club is fully behind it.

In the next few months I will be announcing a number of meetings where you as Club Members can get involved in moving the project forward. We will need to design and finance the project carefully as I am fully committed to creating THE BEST possible facility for the future of Club-based sport. I am not prepared to waste our time on compromised resources due to under funding, and to start a new future with mediocre facilities. We have a one-time opportunity to create a brilliant multisport community resource that will act as a template and inspiration for other clubs in a similar fight for their sporting future.

We will be going forward with detailed planning this year having had a promising if slightly frustrating Pre App report. We have work to do as a Club to now inform the general public of our plans and of the importance for the future of Sport in West Bridgford (this is not just about Hockey). The land is of course Greenbelt, and as such has a lot of history and emotive feelings related to it, not least with the recent housing expansion. Our plans are designed to create a Greener Belt by integrating our sporting facilities into the land, and creating sustainable habitats so that people and nature can live together, rather than apart. We are also determined to create an environment where the community can come and do what people like doing, whether it is playing a game of hockey, taking a stroll through woodland with your Nan, or come for a family lunch at the bar.

We will need to have the community onside with these plans, and are meeting next week with Rushcliffe Council to gain support. Next we will meet with the politicians, and we will need you to help with the PR campaign. I will let you know when.

Other changes in the Club revolve around Derek's retirement. We have tried to adequately thank him for all his work, but there are no suitable words to use to thank someone for such an enormous input into all our hockey lives. The implications are that we will all need to step up to the plate for matchday bar management. James Carter and Ian Johnson will be stepping in to Derek's big boots to manage the bar and kitchen, but they still want to play, so we will not always have a bar manager to serve you and your opposition. Please make your captains' life simple by happily taking your turn in serving behind the bar (over 18s!).

We also require people to clean the clubhouse, this is a paid role, so please let Martin know if you can help.

So – exciting times ahead. Along with planning for the future we will continue to do what we do best, enjoy our hockey and enjoy all the special "Bridgy" things such as the social side which will continue unabated next season. Get involved it is YOUR CLUB.

Training gets underway in August, and the first social events will be determined at the upcoming committee meeting, so break out the diary and ink those in. Seasons fixtures will soon be available on the CMS web site, so please let your captain know your availabilities as far ahead as possible. Subs can be paid online, or by BAKS with our new account number so get that sorted ASAP. Let's have a great season. Again.....

Geoff Bail
Chairman July 2022