



Executive Committee Report

2012-13





This report was presented by the Executive Committee, to the members of the club at the AGM on 27th June 2013.

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Executive Committee

President Neil Madeley	Head of Senior Club Hockey Douglas Anderson
Vice President Sheree Totton	Head of Junior Club Julie Sally
Immediate Past President Jonto Walker	Head of Grounds and Facilities Paddy Grimes
Honorary Secretary John Bell	Head of Media Communications & PR Aileen Lawson
Honorary Treasurer Lee Tumilty	Head of Fundraising Jo-Anne Lyttle
Head of Bar Committee Nigel Allister	Head of Strategic Planning Alison Wilson

President's Welcome

Neil Madeley
President

Dear Members and Trustees,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to this – a new medium for communicating an overview of the works over the past year of the BHC Executive Committee.

We felt it was important to detail the major elements of our work over the past 12 months – some of physical elements of which can be seen around our facilities both inside and out. The season has not been without its challenges and we have undertaken to meet these head on to resolve them to the best of our ability in the best interests of the club.



As I'm sure you are aware we have had a very successful season on the pitch with success at levels and this again has propelled our club to the forefront of Ulster and Irish hockey and the challenge to us all is can we keep progressing. I have no doubt that we will all strive to keep the silverware coming!

To everyone connected with the playing side namely, players, coaches, support teams, and not forgetting our merry band of supporters who have travelled the length of Ireland to cheer on the red, yellow, and black, can I thank you for all your efforts – everyone has played their part to the full!

On a personal note can I thank all the members of the Executive Committee,

our office bearers, and our various sub committee members for all their hard work over the season and also their input into this booklet. We would not have come this far without all your contributions.

I hope you take the time to read the various reports which will hopefully provide an overview of the diversity of the work undertaken within the club, and if anyone feels they want to assist in the running of the club please speak to any of the Exec Committee. Finally good luck to all our representatives on the various Ireland squads throughout the summer.

Honorary Secretary's Report

John Bell
Hon. Secretary

The 2012/13 season was another momentous one in the history of our great club. Starting with the historic decision taken at last year's Annual General Meeting to merge the men's and ladies clubs into one and the creation of a new Executive Committee. While it would have been natural to expect teething problems with this new entity it must be said that the new structure, along with the various sub committees has operated extremely well. Various projects have been undertaken to improve the fabric of the clubhouse as well as maintaining our playing facilities to the highest standard, befitting of our club.

On the playing side we enjoyed a hugely successful season with the Men's First Eleven winning the Premier League for the first time in twenty four years. By doing so undefeated they matched a club record last achieved in the early 1960's. The team also reached the semi final of the Kirk Cup but it was in the two All Ireland competitions were they suffered heartbreak. Having surged into a two goal lead in the semi final of the Irish Senior Cup they were unfortunate to eventually lose on sudden death penalty strokes. Then in the All Ireland League final they came off second best to a very good Monkstown team by the odd goal in seven. The squad can now look forward to European hockey next season although at which level remains to be confirmed.

The Ladies First Eleven picked up where they left off the previous season and easily won their second successive league title. Next season will see them play in Senior League One for the first time in many years.

The Junior teams within the club continued the successful theme with the men's second eleven again winning Junior League One as well as reaching the final of the Irish Junior Cup only to be beaten by Monkstown Seconds. While the ladies second's emulated the first eleven by securing a second successive promotion to Junior League Two.

Both Third Eleven's had solid seasons maintaining mid table positions while the Men's Fourth Eleven were promoted to Junior League Two after an absence of only one year. The club managed to field a Ladies

Fourth Eleven for the first time in many years who proved that there is no substitute for experience!!

At the recent Ulster Hockey Awards the club were unsurprisingly presented with the club of the year award. At these awards Steven Dowds collected the leading goal scorer trophy while Gareth Lennox deservedly won the player of the year award.

At youth level the boys Under 15's easily won the Ulster Hockey Trophy defeating Lisnagarvey in the final. It's always good to get into that habit early!!

At schools level the Academy continue to dominate at senior level as they completed the McCullough Cup, Burney Cup double this year although they relinquished their grip on the All Ireland title.

Once again the club had a wealth of players recognised at representative level. Eugene Magee deservedly became the most capped Irish player of all time while Geoff McCabe, Bruce McCandless, Peter Brown, Philip Brown, Drew Carlisle and Steven Dowds all played for the senior Ireland team at some stage during the year. Owen Magee, Matthew Bell, Steven Dowds and Philip Brown all played for the Irish Under 21 team.

Sadly the club lost a lifelong member and founder member of the Ladies Club in Dorothy Lyttle during the year. She had given many years service to the ladies club and would no doubt have been extremely proud of the club's achievements this season.

Socially the club has had another successful season with the Winter Ball and end of season BBQ both being well organised and attended.

Finally can I reiterate our Presidents comments in that this is our club. If you feel that you can help in any small way then please let a member of the Executive Committee know. Together we can continue to help our club go from strength to strength.

Senior Club Hockey

Douglas Anderson
Sub Committee Lead

Banbridge Hockey Club embarked on its first season as an amalgamated club with four men's teams and four ladies teams with the introduction of the ladies fourth eleven for their inaugural season. Great success was to be had throughout the season which was tantamount to the strength and depth within the club. The success of the club was acknowledged at the end of season Ulster Hockey awards where the club and its members received eight trophies including club of the year.

The men's first were awarded with the first silverware of the year when they won the Ulster Hockey league and returned the Keightley cup to the club for the first time in 24 years. The firsts remained unbeaten in the league and won the league by an impressive seven point margin ahead of local rivals Lisnagarvey. In the Senior Irish Cup after great wins away to Fingal and Cork Harlequins the first's run was ended by Pembroke in a close fought semi-final on penalties. The team swiftly put the loss aside to focus on the Irish Hockey League where they achieved full points in the group stages with victories over Lisnagarvey, YMCA, Railway Union, Cork Church of Ireland and Glenanne. Topping the group meant they played Cookstown in the semi-final where they played their best hockey of the season to demolish Cookstown 6-1. Their success in the semi-final meant they faced Monkstown, who had won the Senior Irish Trophy the previous month. Although they scored within the first ten seconds of the match they were unlucky to lose 4-3 and gave a great account of themselves during the match. Peter Brown was awarded with player of the tournament for the Irish Hockey League with Gareth Lennox being named player of the season for the Ulster league and Stephen Dowds picking up leading goal scorer in the Ulster leagues. The men's success in the Irish Hockey League sees them qualify for another European tournament.

Acknowledgment of teams success was recognised when Bruce McCandless and Peter Brown were selected to represent the Irish Men's team at the World Hockey league in India where the team qualified in second place. Stephen Dowds together with Bruce and Peter were also recently selected for the Irish training panel for the forthcoming World Hockey League semi-final in Rotterdam and the Europeans in Belgium. Drew Carlisle, Owen Magee, Matthew Bell and Jonny McKee were included in the wider training panel. At underage level international selection continued with Jonny McKee and Ben Cosgrove being selected for the Irish U18's who travel to Poland for the Europeans and Timmy Watt being selected for the Irish U16's who will compete in a home nations series.

The men's section was also well represented in the Ulster squads with Matthew Bell, Josh Moffet, Owen Magee, Hugh McShane, Peter Brown and Stephen Dowds being selected for the U21 squad; Jonny McKee and David McCracken for the U18 squad and Timmy Watt, Matthew Hurst and Sam Farson for the U16s. Notably the successful U16 squad was also coached by our first eleven assistant coach Scott McCandless.

The ladies first eleven after gaining promotion to Senior 2 last season made it back to back promotions after winning the league with two games to spare. After a slow start to the season the ladies went on a fine run of form to lift the league title which propels them into Senior 1. To achieve two promotions in two seasons acknowledges the continued progress of the ladies section.

The men's seconds regained the junior one league title with 61 points after scoring 106 goals. They also reached the final of the Irish Junior cup after victories against Killeel, Fingal, Cork Church of Ireland and Cookstown before being beaten by Monkstown in the final 2-1. The blend of youth and experience was the key ingredients for their success.

Banbridge ladies second eleven followed their firsts with back to back promotions finishing

side will look to gain from their experiences in order to push for promotion next season.

The men's fourth eleven were the first of the club sides to gain promotion finishing second in Junior league 3 and will now have the mouth-watering fixture of playing against the youthful thirds next season! Club president, Neil Madeley, an ever present for the fourth eleven was selected for the Ulster Seniors and has subsequently been selected for the Irish



second in Junior league 3. With the tightest defence in the league they won their last four games in a row to beat off their nearest rivals. On the back of their successful season seconds players, Ashleigh Mitchell and Rosie Waddell, were selected for the Ulster Seniors.

Banbridge men's third eleven after being relegated from Junior 1 the previous year had a solid season finishing 6th position in the league with 63 goals for and 63 goals against. The youthful side will have plenty to build on for next season. After winning their Junior league 8 last season Banbridge ladies third eleven consolidated their presence in Junior league 7 finishing 5th. Once again this youthful

seniors. The ladies fourth's embarked on their first season in Junior league 10 and finished a respectful third especially given that some of their team members had only recently taken up the sport again.

Overall the club has had a remarkable season with our achievements across Ulster and Ireland being recognised when the club was awarded with club of the year at the Ulster hockey awards. This accolade represents both the hard work on and off the pitch of the club and every member should be proud of their involvement. Enjoy the summer break and we all look forward to seeing everyone along for pre-season!!

Grounds & Facilities

Patrick Grimes
Sub Committee Lead

Sub Committee:

Quentin Boyce
Lynda Brown
Dennis Livingstone
Neil Madeley
Colin Taylor
Sheree Totton

The committee started the season with quite a big workload after a number of projects had commenced under the previous years regime. But with no lack of enthusiasm we set about the various tasks and achieved quite a lot throughout the year. The full extent of the tasks we carried out would take up too much of my report, but below I have detailed some of the more significant projects undertaken during the year.

The first task was to introduce measures to reduce the risk of burglaries in the Clubhouse. The much discussed shutters were put in place in October 2012 after a spate of 10 break-ins during the summer months. The shutters have been largely successful in nullifying this threat, with only one incident since this time.

After nearly 15 years in the Havelock clubhouse we decided to start a phased replacement of the furniture within the bar area. New furniture was purchased for the kitchen side of the bar and has been met with universal approval from the members. It is hoped that we may be in a position to continue this project over the next two years.

The netting behind the goals was also entirely replaced, with new ball stop fencing also being installed. This project was completed towards the end of the year and greatly improves the aesthetic appearance of the ground. We wish to thank Banbridge District Council who provided us with some financial assistance towards this project and also Dennis Livingstone who penned the initial grant application.

We also decided to recycle some of the old football goals and with the metal now have 2 sets of junior goals.

These will be totally finished shortly and it is hoped, with our junior section growing so rapidly, that we may be in a position to add to these in the next year. Again, can I thank Banbridge District Council for their assistance in this project and Alison Wilson for her work on the grant application.

Outside the video tower, scoreboard, equipment storage, floodlights, pitch marking and watering system/borehole are also on our list of items which will need addressing in the early part of the next year, as well as the kitchen facilities within the clubhouse.

Banbridge Academy continues to avail of our pitch for use during the school year and for this relationship we are very grateful. Worryingly, we have all but lost all of our remaining regular pitch bookings during the year. This is an area which we will have to work harder at during 2013-14, with relationships with local Primary Schools a possibility.

I must offer a huge thanks to Ian Forbes who continues to keep the club, inside and out, in great shape throughout the year. He has attended to the clean-up jobs after numerous break-in's swiftly, and carried out every task, no matter how big or small, without any problems. The pride he takes in the club makes sure that our facilities are there for every member to enjoy all year round.

I would also like to thank those members of the Club who have served this committee so well this year in attending meetings, particularly early in the year, and also in carrying out the numerous tasks which we undertook. Special mention must go to Lynda McKinley, Sheree Totton, Neil Madeley and Colin Taylor, who continues to handle the pitch and clubhouse bookings with such efficiency.

We look forward to continuing the improvements during the 2013-14 season and further enhancing the Club's reputation as one of the premier hockey facilities in Ireland.



Junior Club

Julie Sally
Sub Committee Lead

This year has seen an increase in numbers as we now have approximately 300 juniors from under 15 to P1 (and in some cases nursery age). This has clearly made a positive impact on the finances of the club.

We currently have 20 senior coaches of which 3 have level 2 coaching award and 8 have their level 1 and others have attended the foundation course. This year has also seen 3 parents of children become involved in the coaching aspect of juniors and hopefully in the future this will increase.

The junior club have been very successful this season with our Under 15 boys winning the Ulster cup, beating Lisnagarvey 5 – 1 in the final, whilst our Under 11 Girls have brought home 3 pieces of silverware – joint winners of Ulster finals day, winners of the both Lurgan and Banbridge Tournaments and runners up at Dromore tournament. Our other teams all reached semi-final stages in their respective cups this season.

This season has also seen success at representative level with quite a number of our Under 15 boys training at TDS and Ulster level. We have had one boy (Kyle Marshall) who has played Ulster under 16 and is currently training with the Irish under 16 panel. Recently we have had a number of Year 7 and 8s selected for next year's TDS training.

As previously stated, finances have improved greatly and whilst this has mostly been down to fees, there has also been events which the junior section have been involved with to help raise money – bag pack, Hallowe'en fancy dress disco, tuck shops run at various events and the sponsored dribble. (this dribble will be rescheduled for Sept as rain stopped play!!!!)

Thankyou everyone who has helped me over this past year to make every training session, tournament, Sunday match and our skills and awards nights run effectively and efficiently.



Bar

Nigel Allister
Sub Committee Lead

Functions and Club occasions helped to bring the total takings this year up to a level comparable with past years.

The bar received a boost this year when the furniture was updated. This helped the look of the bar and the stools contributed to the ability to watch hockey from the bar. Reports from customers, both function attendees and hockey visitors, consistently praise the bar and the surroundings and this is believed to be one reason for the continuing level of bookings. However, there were several weekends during the year with no booking and these could have been used for social functions for our younger playing members.

The number of functions was disappointing from Nov to Feb but averaged 6 per month in the period Mar to June. As always the 2 Club functions are the best nights of the year, both in terms of fun and turnover. For the future, Christmas could be better exploited in terms of functions and more strategic planning of the fixtures would help with takings from hockey crowds. Towards the end of the season the excellent playing successes helped to boost takings.

The bar committee meetings reviewed staff issues, pricing and operating issues. The Bar Staff have been excellent over the year but new members of staff are always required.

I would appeal to younger members who wish to work to put their names forward. On the subject of pricing, stock prices from 2 alternative sources were compared during the year but not found to merit a change of supplier.

Diageo are now supplying only keg beers and the supply of all other goods is lumped together on our Cash & Carry supplier. This simplifies ordering and gives more leverage on prices and delivery options.

Our Treasurer will cover the turnover figures and the profit margin.

Stock is held to a minimum and checked weekly. A system to check the stock as it arrives, is signed out and is used, gives greater visibility of usage and a higher level of control.

My thanks go to Colin Taylor for his help with functions, to Ian Forbes for his help receiving orders and to the casual barmen who have helped out over the year (Bruce, Rory and Mark Carson.) I am also grateful to Harry Rafferty for his great help with the Finance side of the bar. Thanks are also due to my fellow bar committee members who gave of their time during the year.



Media, Coms and PR

Aileen Lawson
Sub Committee Lead

Sub Committee:
Patrick Grimes
Anna Moore
Roger Martin
Scott McCandless
Ian Livingstone
Simon Allen

The Communications, PR and Media Sub-Group met on three occasions throughout the past year and worked effectively throughout the season to deliver news and information to club members and the wider public. Thanks to all the sub-group members for their contributions throughout the season. The main work carried out since the last BHC AGM is outlined below.

Communications Plan

The Sub-Group reviewed previous communications procedures within Banbridge Ladies Hockey Club and Banbridge Hockey Club and agreed to build on the work that was done in the past. Roles were delegated to sub-group members and a Communications Plan developed for the Club.

Website

The Banbridge Ladies Hockey Club website was closed and the existing Banbridge Hockey Club website was updated and the relevant ladies sections added. Website training was provided for the Sub-Group members and team captains/representatives at the start of the season. The team captains/representatives were asked to update the relevant 'Team Page' on the website with match details and reports throughout the season and this was kept under review by the Sub-Group. Work will continue on the website including the development of a junior section.

Social media

The BLHC social media accounts were closed and the sub-group worked on ensuring the BHC Twitter and Facebook accounts were regularly updated. With now over 1000 followers on Twitter and over 500 'likes' on Facebook, social media has become the most effective way of promoting the clubs activities to both members and the wider public. The number of people 'liking' and 'following' the club continues to grow and at its peak the club Facebook page reached just over 4500 people in one week. The sub-group also developed a club 'Social Media Policy' which was issued

to all club members at the start of the season. Thanks to Paddy Grimes for live 'tweeting' from the men's 1st XI games, this has proved to be a popular service.

Club Email

A system has been developed to allow emails to be sent from the club email address info@banbridgehockey.com. This has allowed newsletters and other notifications to be sent directly to members free of charge therefore cutting postage costs for the club.

Press

In addition to Senior Team and Junior match reports, press releases have been issued to the local papers on a regular basis covering social activities, Ulster and Ireland selections, highlighting awards won by the club, coaching and training achievements, sponsorship etc. A meeting was also held with the Banbridge Leader to discuss the club's profile in the paper.

BHC Newsletter

The first BHC Newsletter was published in January 2013 and emailed to all club members who had provided an email address. The sub-committee received positive feedback on this approach for keeping members informed about club activities and it is hoped to publish newsletters on a more regular basis next season.

Fundraising

Jo-Anne Lyttle
Sub Committee Lead

Sub Committee:

Neil Madeley
Jonto Walker
Mathew Clarke
Simon Magowan
Dane Ward
Alison Wilson
Julie Sally
Ashlea Bell

Key fundraising / social events throughout the year were as follows:

Corporate Lunch

This was the brainchild of Jonto Walker and, thanks largely to his time and effort, this venture, the first of its kind for BHC, was a roaring success. Nearly 100 people attended a Carvery Lunch provided by The Seagoe Hotel at Havelock Park before watching Bann take on old rivals Lisnagarvey in a Premier League Fixture in November 2012.

Food was simultaneously on offer in the kitchen upstairs and the fun continued into the night as Stevie Lockhart entertained the crowd until closing time.

Thanks to sponsorship by Ulster Granite and a half-time raffle, this event was a kicked off fundraising for the new season.

Christmas Cracker

The Annual Christmas Party for members was held at Havelock Park on Saturday 15 December 2012. Dinner was provided by The Windsor and a lively DJ ensured members were able to work off the calories consumed with some enthusiastic dancing.

Christmas Raffle

Thanks to Paddy Grimes for organising the Christmas Raffle which was well supported, particularly by the Junior Club.

The raffle was drawn on Saturday 22 December, the day Santa came to visit Havelock Park. Thanks also to Club Members who sponsored this very successful social event which made sure everyone entered into the Christmas Spirit.

Tesco Bag Pack

The Annual Bag Pack in Tesco on Christmas Eve was supported predominantly by members of the Junior Club who worked hard from 7am to 4pm helping shoppers on the busiest shopping day of the year.

Table Quiz

In a change from the norm, the quiz in late January was held on a Saturday night at Havelock Park.

Supper was provided by contributions from the Executive Committee and all 8 teams. Thanks to Quiz Master Dave McKibbin and his glamorous assistants Dorothy McKibbin and CT.

Winter Ball

The highlight of the social calendar was always the Winter Ball in February 2013. Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner provided by The Seagoe Hotel and enjoyed dancing to music by "Rumors". Thanks to everyone who helped make the night such an enjoyable one.

Soccer Buster

The Soccer Buster competition commenced in March 2013 and was very capably organised by Simon Magowan and Dane Ward. This was a major contributor to the fundraised monies for the year and definitely made the weekend football results much more interesting for those who participated.

Catering

Throughout the season, the Ladies continued to run the kitchen for major fixtures. Thanks to all the Ladies who participated in the rota to ensure the income continued on a regular basis.

In addition, catering was also on offer for the Kirk Cup Final on Boxing Day and the U21 Interpros in February 2013. Thanks to those who stepped in at very short notice to make this possible.

Finally, thanks to all the members of the Sub Committee for their support and hard work throughout the year.

Details of fundraised monies for the year are available in the Annual Report from the Hon Treasurer.

Strategic Planning

Alison Wilson
Sub Committee Lead

Clubmark

Achieved Clubmark for Banbridge Hockey Club which required complete revision of all Club policies and procedures to reflect the new organization and structure and communication to all relevant parties through membership packs

Summer 2012 Hockey Program

Run in conjunction with Banbridge District SDO and to be run again in August 2013.

Club - School Links

Established 4 New Club – School links (1 post primary integrated, Newbridge and 3 primary, Milltown, Drumadonnel and Iveagh) working through IHA Tricks for Sticks program in conjunction with UH Grassroots Development Officer and Banbridge District Sports Development Officer. 15 new Club members.

Established monthly review forum with main post primary feeder school, Banbridge Academy, to align on strategy and player development.

Volunteer NI

BHC registered with Volunteer NI under the Goldmark program with 20 females registered and 22 males submitted for registration to support and recognize the Club's volunteers.

Coach Training

4 new accredited coaches, 3 at Level 1 and 1 at Level 2. (3 male and 1 female). Hosted a Level 0 session for UH and had 8 coaches attend. All FOC for the coach. Plus 6 further Access NI registrations completed.

Coach Development

5 Club coaches participating in regional programs & 4 Club coaches working with local schools. 1 further working with Belfast school.

Grant applications

Minor equipment grant funding SW for hi performance player development and mini goals for Juniors.

Minor Capital grant – funding an equipment store and a new scoreboard.





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