

Presidents Report  
Inverleith Hockey Club AGM  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2009

This season has been mixed for Inverleith HC and we are discovering that the model I inherited for running the club is not fully sustainable. We are still attracting lots of youth to the club and just about holding our own at the top end of the club. However, we are not attracting and retaining players in the 25 – 40 age group – the heart and engine room of the club. In fact we have had significant leakage of players over the past season. The club has some fundamental and potentially difficult decisions to make in the near future to ensure that we choose a path to build on our over 90 year history and transform the club into a vibrant and successful club. A club development plan is close to completion and I hope that I can count on you to join me on this journey.

Here are some of the highlights of this year and challenges for next year:

#### New Club Governance Structure

When I introduced a new committee structure to run the club a couple of seasons ago the aim was to involve a larger number of members in the running of the club. This has been partially successful, with some of the sub-committees starting to be productive. However, the club is still run by a very small, number of dedicated members. In the current economic climate, where we are all being pressurised to work longer hours, this is not feasible. It is essential that all members step up and assume responsibility for some elements of running the club. I will persist with this new structure for the coming season and encourage more members, especially younger members, to get involved.

Andrew Dane is going abroad and we are looking for a new club Treasurer and Jonathan Bower is stepping down as VP due to a new focus in life – fatherhood. The majority of the other committee members have agreed to remain in their positions for the coming season to create a degree of continuity. I thank all the committee members for their support of the club.

#### Results on the Field

It has been a somewhat frustrating year for the club on the field, especially in the men's' As and Bs where we were significantly short of players. Here are some of the high and lows:

#### Teams

##### **Men's - Outdoor**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Team – 4<sup>th</sup> National League Div 1, Semi-finals of Scottish Cup
- Nomads – 7<sup>th</sup> in Men's Regional League Central Division 1 (one point away from relegation)
- A's – Relegated from East Division 1 with just 7 points.
- B's – Second bottom of East Division 2
- Development Squad – 7<sup>th</sup> East Division 4 (they played all their games this year!)

##### **Men's - Indoor**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Team – Runners-up Division 1 (Robbed by an umpiring decision in the last 5 seconds of the final match!), Winners of Indoor Cup.

##### **Ladies - Outdoor**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Team - 3 points off promotion play off spot in National League 3 (finished 4th)
- Ladies A - Winners East Premier Division, The success continues – well done.
- Ladies B – 5<sup>th</sup> in East League 2

##### **Ladies - Indoor**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Team – 7<sup>th</sup> in Women's National Indoor League Division 1

#### Players

##### **Men GB Players**

- Stephen Dick

##### **Men Scotland Players**

- Stephen Dick, Adam MacKenzie, Derek Salmond, Andrew Sinclair, Chris Grassick, Callum Milne, John Harris

#### **Men GBSL Players**

- Stephen Dick, Adam MacKenzie, Derek Salmond, Andrew Sinclair, Chris Grassick, Ross Jamieson

#### **Men U-18 Scotland Players**

- Chris Duncan, Ross Jamieson, Andrew Malcolm

#### **Men East District Players**

- Ian Chisholm (GK), Ewan Milne, Ross Jamieson, Neil Morton-Lloyd, Stuart Kinnaird, Jack Kennedy, Tom Barrett, Mathew Tansini, Andrew Malcolm, Aeden McCrossan, Shaun Miller (GK), Calum Swann, Ewan Milne, Stuart Kinnaird, Chris Duncan, John Harris, Peter McCosh, Ramsay Bell, John Martin, Calum Milne, Craig Sinclair

#### **Women U-18 Scotland Players**

- Alison Sinclair, Emma Helm

#### **Women U-15 Scotland Players**

- Gwen Morton-Lloyd

#### **Women East District Players**

- Sarah Jamieson, Laura Page, Tabitha Sutherland, Clare Laverty, Gwen Morton-Lloyd, Laura Protheroe. Alison Sinclair, Emma Helm

### Youth Section

A key aspect of the club's success over the past two decades has been our ability to attract and nurture players at an early age through our youth initiative. The majority of the players participating at the top of the club are products of this 'conveyor belt' of talent. We thank Walter Jamieson and his team for their support and we all need to contribute to this on-going initiative to ensure the club's survival and success.

### Coaching

The club relies on volunteers to dedicate their time to coaching all levels of the club's teams. I thank them for their enthusiasm and commitment. A special thanks goes to Stuart Neave, who came so close to breaking the domination of Menzieshill in the indoor arena, and Dave Reid and Alan Dick (Snr), who balanced the league requirements against supporting so many of the team members in achieving recognition at the GB and Scotland level. They have helped many players achieve the next level. Finally big thanks to Walter Jamieson, who has motivated so many young people to adopt hockey as their passion.

### Where do we need to improve?

Here are key areas where we need to improve – not much change from last year!

- **Fund Raising** - at the last AGM, we decided to minimise the increase in subs on the understanding that we would raise £3,000 through fund raising. Disappointingly, we have only raised £400 in funds. Fortunately, the club has just about broken even this year through effective financial management. With a decreasing senior membership it is essential that we take fund raising seriously next season.
- **Social** – the club is not just about playing hockey; a significant element of a sports club is its social side. We enjoyed a fantastic ceilidh at Heriots Sports Club House with around 90 attending – we need to do more of this next season,
- **Umpires** – the dearth of qualified umpires in the club is becoming a serious concern. Many of our former players who have umpired for many years have recently retired leaving a significant hole. All teams have been struggling for umpires. Next season each team will have a quota of two players to be qualified as umpires. Umpiring rules night will be publicised and all members are asked to attend.
- **A and B Teams** – this season a single squad supported both the A and B teams. This led to the relegation of the A team from East Division 1 and the B team just surviving East Division 2. More significantly, it has led to the departure of 'Budgie' and

Tim Wilcock is also contemplating leaving the club. Next year we will abandon the B team unless we can attract more players at this level.

- **Grants** – there are a number of opportunities for obtaining grants from local and national bodies. We still haven't tapped into this potential source of funds. Volunteer to support these grant applications.
- **Club Development Plan** – enter the debate about the future of Inverleith HC and shape and support the Club Development Plan.

### The Club's Future

Last year I appointed Colin Macbeth and John Bell to draft a Club Development Plan. The plan will provide a vision of the club in five years and provide guidance on how to achieve this vision, including:

- Expansion of the club into a multi-sport club through mergers, for example;
- Adoption of a new, sustainable business model that will allow the club to pay coaches, if required;
- Solutions to the club house problem.

The plan was to be presented at this next AGM, but it is not quite ready for exposure. However, it will be ready over the summer and I plan to call a meeting before the start of next season to engage all club members in debating and signing onto a Club Development Plan. Please attend as this is our future – you need to be apart of it.

### Objectives for Next Season

Last year I specified the following objectives:

Objective	Success
Men's outdoor 1 <sup>st</sup> team gaining access to European events;	No
Men's indoor 1 <sup>st</sup> team winning National League 1;	No
Ladies outdoor 1 <sup>st</sup> team gaining promotion to National League 3;	No
The Development Team (formerly the 'Juniors') playing all their fixtures with no defaults due to lack of players;	Yes
The Scottish Cup being retained by the men's U-18;	No
Raising £3,000 through fund raising events;	No
Having fun playing hockey at all levels and meeting each other on a Saturday after games.	No

We failed on most counts! Let's over achieve on these objectives for next year:

- The club agrees a Club Development Plan ahead of the new season;
- Men's outdoor 1<sup>st</sup> team finish in the top half of National League 1;
- Men's indoor 1<sup>st</sup> team win National League 1 (Stuart Neave deserves this);
- Ladies outdoor 1<sup>st</sup> team gain promotion to National League 3;
- Men's' A team play all their games and finish in the top half of East Division 1;
- The Scottish Cup won by the men's U-18;
- Raising £2,000 through fund raising social events;
- We find a venue to meet each other on a Saturday after games.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you at a meeting to discuss our Club Development Plan before we head back for next season. A bright future won't just happen. It is up to you to make it happen and shape the future.

Robin McLaren  
President  
Inverleith HC

May 2010