

## **BHC Ladies section Annual Report – July 2021**

With Covid playing a big part in our season this year I cannot announce any promotions or demotions for any of the teams due to the league being declared null and void in March despite the best efforts of Trysports. I should note however that all teams were doing well in their leagues, the 1s were holding third spot when the league ceased but if winning the two games in hand it would have taken them top, a very similar story for all the other teams to as with games in hand they would all have moved up to mid to top of the table. It was looking to be a strong season!

We carried on training when the Government rules would allow and have had a full return to play schedule since April with some ladies sessions peaking at 60 members and still continuing now with a steady 30-40 players each week now. As well as Wednesday nights sessions we were able to join the summer league event at Oxford Hawkes and as I write the Ladies B team are heading for the semi-final, this is a team of few Ladies 1s adults but largely juniors who are hoping to play in the higher teams at Banbury so it is a great achievement. The A team has not been quite as successful but with a different team each week with players from the 2's to those that have only joined the club in April I think it has been a great experience and a good social bonding for the club. A big thank you to Becca Atkins and Charlie Page for running these teams

The introduction of Spond as a means of communicating has been great. We celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> member to the Ladies section back in September 2020 and less than a year later we are now on 147. The aim on the 21/22 season is to try and get as many of those 147 back out playing competitive hockey in September.

The 21/22 season will bring a lot of changes to the Ladies section. I want to say a big thank you to Carol Hicks who is stepping down as the 3's to 5's coach after fulfilling this role for many seasons. Many of us have been coached by Carol over the years which has paid dividends. Thank you Carol.

Our league structures will also change greatly in September with England Hockey having done a full re-structure across the country. The idea is to make matches more local with less travelling requirements and we will get to play some teams we have not played before. The restructure has meant the ladies 1's have theoretically been promoted a division and a half above where they are now which does take them further afield to the South coast. We are reviewing this as a club to if this is feasible with the players we have available this season.

A changing season but hopefully an exciting one.

A club is nothing without its members so I want to say thank you to Richard Hobley and Simon Atkins for all their support with training. Thank you to last years captains Becca Atkins, Charlie Page, Yas Revill, Davina Miller, Carol Hicks, Amanda Perkins and Joyce Washburn.

We all look forward to seeing you next season

Jo Atherton

Ladies Club Captain

