

SOUTH WEST UNITED WOMEN'S HOCKEY CLUB INC.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2011

This season has seen our club continue grow and develop due to the dedication of a small group of volunteer committee members, coaches, umpires, mentors and team managers. These groups are responsible for the overall success of all aspects of our club. Our aim was to increase the communication within our groups and establish a better relationship between committee, players and parents.

Facts and figures for the year include:

- 212 registered players - 144 junior and 68 senior
- 11 junior teams , 7 senior teams
- 2 new teams - Monday Masters div 3 and under 13 Turf
- Our division 5 turf team successfully challenged for division 4
- The establishment of a Development program
- The further improvement of our umpiring Development program
- Updating our club uniform
- The introduction of a turf co-ordinator.

MANAGEMENT

- This season has been rather different from a President's point of view. There were a number of administrative and ethical issues which needed attention. Some people still fail to realise that we are a volunteer sporting club not a business and therefore placed undue pressure on the committee to make decisions which we were not qualified to do. Next season, through the establishment of a sub-committee we will be looking at everything from our Constitution and Code of Conducts to recruitment and even email and phone text etiquette.
- In August I attended a Club Governance Seminar facilitated by the Department of Sport and Recreation. The topics were based around the changes to the rules and regulations of constitutions and the general organisation of a club in conjunction with changes to the associations act and model rules set down by the Office of Fair Trading Queensland. It was pleasing to note that we are very well organised and proficient in our day to day administration role.
- As a result of the seminar we will update our Constitution and change the structure of our committee to bring it in line with that of other volunteer organisations and to follow the lead of BWAH.
- Our committee meetings were always attended by the minimum number to make a quorum as some members chose not to attend. Seven meetings were held during the season. Our last meeting for the season was held on 31st August. Our planned October meeting was cancelled due to illness and other members who had family issues to attend to.
- There has been confusion about the number of times we should have meeting. According to the Office of Fair Trading the Management Committee may meet as often as necessary but must meet at least once every four months.
- We will also be updating sections of our Member Protection Policy following a legal issue during the season.
- There will also be a motion at the next management meeting stating that all complaints from players or parents are to be put in writing to the club secretary. If this is not done, no action will be taken by the club management.
- We will begin to work more closely with BWAH on these matters.
- Thank-you to all committee members for your dedication, hard work, loyalty, discretion and continuing support.

DEVELOPMENT

- Was a new and very necessary part of the future of our club. This was extremely well organised by Liz O'Connor.
- All Junior parents paid a \$20 levy which was used to pay for coaches and venues.
- The goalie clinic section organised by Roneece Cupitt was incredibly successful with over 30 players attending regular sessions.
- It is hoped that next season we will be able to hold clinics for grass players.

COACHING

- My apologies for neglecting this position.
- Our attempt to upgrade senior turf teams began in early December 2010 with a proposal made by another club to bring members of their division 1 team and a coach to SWU. The proposal did not eventuate as they did not get the numbers they expected. This was quite disappointing as we were excited at the prospect of adding top level players and of course umpires and junior coaches to our club.
We then had the welcome addition of 3 former club turf players who had returned after leaving to pursue higher divisions elsewhere. There are 2 more expected to play for us again next season.
- We had 5 senior coaches and 11 junior coaches with some teams having an assistant.
- Attendance at training for our turf teams was a major problem. We will need to develop a strategy to ensure that the players selected commit to their team for the season.
- Both our senior turf coaches feel that the juniors who nominate to play seniors should treat the senior team as their priority. It is also felt that all players over 15 years should play seniors. This is a policy adopted by other clubs and is vital in our quest to move to division 1.
- Thanks to Nicola Hutchinson for her job as Turf Co-ordinator.
- Senior grass lacked the enthusiasm of recent years as far as training and involvement of players. Many thanks to Steve Knyn for organising a training session each week. It was great for those who attended to train with players from other teams - something we hope to continue next season. Two teams, Monday Master 2 and DP2, reached the semi-finals.
- Monday Masters continued to thrive with two teams entered in the competition. Our “younger” div 2 team did extremely well, while our new div 3 team struggled at times with numbers and the late night games at Redcliffe! There will be more players joining this group next season which should be exciting and most all a lot of fun. Thank you to our co-ordinators, Gillian and Fi.
- 6 senior players represented Brisbane.
- Our junior coaches did particularly well and it was wonderful to see the communication between each of our teams. We had three teams reach the semi finals: JT3, J3 and under 11D. J3 won their division minor premiership and under 11D won the grand final.
- 11 Junior players represented Brisbane.
- 11 juniors played in senior turf and grass - a much improved number from 3 in season 2010.
- We started the introduction of junior players to senior teams and had 3 JG3 players “starring” in our DP5 team during the season.
- We need to write a policy for the upgrading of players to “Fill in” in a higher age group as this was a major concern for coaches, players and parents during the season.
- Our priority for next season is to work out a budget and strategy for maintaining a high standard of coaching and a payment scale and to develop a program which will allow all coaches to follow the same criteria and skill development.

UNIFORMS

- The long awaited introduction of a new uniform started in December 2010 where designs and colours were looked at. We decided on a company from Port Macquarie NSW called Soft Edges to make and design our samples. Due to the high cost we made a decision to purchase uniforms for our turf teams only. The club was to subsidise each player \$50 of the cost. The rest of the club were to be in the new uniform early 2011.
- Following the initiative of our uniform convenor, Claire Conway, we have found a local supplier, Kukri, who are cheaper and access is a lot easier. We are at present waiting for samples from them.
- Thank-you to Claire Conway, Maree Knight and Gillian O’Sullivan for their out of season efforts and modelling!

UMPIRING

Juniors

- Supplied 141 umpires during the season with 100% attendance.
- 7 girls were awarded badges.
- Very successful umpiring clinics organised by Clair Shipp, whose time and effort in both junior mentoring and senior turf umpiring is very much appreciated.

- The umpiring mentoring system was a great success and thanks must go to all who helped out.
- Special thanks to co-ordinator Helen Hill who has succeeded in increasing our pool of umpires and helped make umpiring an increasingly growing section of our club.

Seniors

- Turf umpiring has always been difficult due to the restrictions on the experience and qualifications required. We had 4 player umpires and Clair Shipp who dedicated their time every second week to umpiring from Div 5 to Div 3.
- A roster was drawn up of all players and with the permission of BWA we submitted every players name and they were expected to umpire at least once a season or find a replacement. This worked to a certain extent but did not expose any further badged umpires.
- This will need to be discussed by our proposed umpiring sub committee.

Grass

- Once again a major success thanks to the efforts of Sally Castle who has held the position for 4 seasons.
- There was a list of 8 badged players who were available to umpire or mentor when required. Thank you to these girls who managed to prevent our clubs name from being called out over the PA system on all but one occasion.

SPONSORSHIP FUNDRAISING AND GRANTS

- Inevitably the most difficult areas to promote. We limited our fundraising to the raffle at Downey Park (raising \$2,000) as we were unable to find a co-ordinator to organise other events.
- We unsuccessfully applied for a number of grants during the year but will continue to work on applications. Many thanks to Maree Knight for the long hours and late nights compiling the grant applications.
- It is envisaged that we will need sponsorship of at least \$10,000 to cover the cost of new equipment, field hire, coaching, umpiring and development payments. If we do not find some form of outside income we will need to raise our fees substantially to give our members the expertise they need.

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WEBSITE

- Our sponsorship with Get it Happening finishes at the end of this year.
- We will be re-vamping our website and looking at options for next year.
- The sight has been very successful mainly due to the hard work by Melanie Johnson in updating and reviewing our messages and "Latest News" board.

HELD NEEDED

- To update our constitution, rules and code of conduct.
- To seek out prospective sponsors.
- To take over the organisation of our website.

GOALS

- To update a new constitution, rules and code of conduct.
- To create a plan for the payment and development of our coaches.
- To encourage all club members to communicate and become involved.
- To continue our Umpiring Development program.
- Complete our new uniform.
- Involve more players, coaches and umpires in BWA development clinic and representative teams.
- Utilize more members who have special skill and promote or own qualified umpires and coaches.

I would like to thank everyone who made our season a success. We must work together for the good of the whole club and this can only be achieved if every member, player and parent has the same goal.

Thank you to our committee whose loyalty and friendship was very much appreciated.

To everyone who is returning for season 2011 good luck! Stay healthy!
Merry Christmas!

WENDY STEPHENS