

**UC Hockey Club**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2021**

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# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



**Sean Willis**  
President



**Jolanta Moore**  
Vice President



**Jeoles Gleeson-Richards**  
Secretary



**Mat Evans**  
Teams and Coaching Director



**Clare Pyc**  
Events Director



**Tracey Duren**  
Treasurer



**Matt Luff**  
Sponsorship & Fundraising  
Director

# COORDINATORS OF THE CLUB

**Robyn Sleigh**  
First Year Member  
Representative

**Meaghan Clack**  
Equipment Officer

**Meaghan Clack**  
Finance Coordinator

**Stirling Sharpe**  
UC Coordinator

**Jo Stephens-Carlos**  
Indoor Hockey  
Coordinator

**Harriet Williams**  
Umpiring Coordinator

**Zarah Mason**  
Social Coordinator

**Harriet Williams**  
Summer Hockey  
Coordinator

**Ian Morrow**  
Records Officer

**John (JB) Blood**  
Masters Coordinator

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This was my first year as president of the club. Having previously been on the Board, I believed that I had a good idea of what was involved, and I will fully admit that I underestimated the role substantially. A shout out to the outgoing President James Robertson. 2020 was a crazy year and he did an amazing job in guiding the club through everything.

2021 started out with so much potential but ended in way that none of us expected. As we approached the final rounds of the season, the ACT went back into lockdown because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The season was unable to be completed with final results standing at the point in which competitions were halted. This was immensely disappointing for a number of reasons. Firstly, we had many teams on the women's side and a few on the men's side that were in with a shout of at least making finals and some looking good for the Championship. It is a real shame these teams didn't get the chance to battle it out. In saying this, our SL2 women's team were top of the table at the time competitions were called off and therefore received the championship for the 2021 season. A massive congratulations to those ladies and Andy as coach. In some ways it's probably not fair to have an asterisk next to their championship because they went through the whole season without losing a game. Again, a massive congratulations to the SL2 ladies.

The Pandemic lockdown also came at the worst possible time for our social calendar with one of our biggest social events, the annual trivia night, due to be held the day after the ACT went into lockdown. At the time of cancellation, the club had already sold 105 tickets with plenty more interested. The night would have been amazing. A massive thank you to the amazing efforts of Clare Pyc, our Events Director, for putting together everything and we are still working towards holding both our Trivia night and Presentation night before we start next year's winter season. Clare was also so helpful in putting together social media posts and the weekly newsletter that not only provided the club with essential information throughout the season but also some fun new initiatives that kept the club engaged and informed.

Even with the disruptions, this year has been one I will never forget. I would like to thank the Board of Management for the amazing jobs they have done this year. Without their tireless and amazing work this year wouldn't have been impossible. We were innovative and proactive as a Board this year and it was great to see new initiatives developed and implemented whilst ensuring we maintain the high standards of Boards that had come before us. I would also like to thank our Club Coordinators of the club that put in countless hours to take pressure off the Board. In particular, I would like to thank Robyn Sleigh. Robyn was our First Year Rep in 2021 and was incredibly engaged and even stepped in when Jolly (VP) left the Board to start her job with Hockey ACT. Robyn was immense throughout the year, and I know I speak for all the other members of the Board when I say that she was a rock for us all throughout the season. I would also like to thank Jolly Moore for all her support and amazing work as VP before leaving for Hockey ACT. It was so incredibly valuable for me to have a former President of the club supporting me and helping my transition into this role. Jolly also brings such a wealth of knowledge to the Board and is so valuable to bounce ideas off, regardless of how crazy they are. Whilst we lost an amazing part of the Board it is great to have a UHC member working as a member of the Hockey ACT staff and will go some way to ensure that we are not neglected by the Association.

2021 was a tough year and I know for a lot of the Board, there is unfinished business and ideas yet to be explored that were talked about at the start of this season and I cannot wait to see what we can achieve in 2022.

### **Performance and Participation**

This season started off with a big bang as the Board managed to secure the services of Andrew Bewick as CL1 Women's coach for a minimum of the next 3 seasons. This provides a great deal of clarity for the CL grades on the women's side and will see Andrew develop a strong side pushing for finals and building on what is already a very talented player base. This year also saw a sharp increase in the number of members and teams the club had. In total we had 13 teams across the men's and women's competitions. We had an incredible 8 teams in the women's competitions, the highest number we have had since 2003 and it is a real credit to our coaches and managers for encouraging our members to keep returning to the club the love each year and amazing efforts of the Board to attract new players. I would like to pay particular thanks to Mat Evans for all the amazing work that he does with the coaches and throughout the grading process. This is a stressful time for coaches and players alike and he handles it with control and coolness that culminates in us putting competitive and cohesive teams on the field. We did also see an increase in men playing for the club but not quite enough for an additional team. The Board will no doubt review expected numbers in the men's side before next season and decide whether there is the ability to enter an additional team for 2022.

### **Rebranding of UCHC**

The club celebrated 50 years since establishment in 2021, details of which are provided a little further on in this report. As part of this celebration, the Board decided to rebrand the club. The previous logo and digital suite used by the club were a little outdated and didn't suit the needs of the club from a marketing perspective moving forward. I would like to thank Scott "Skip" Moore, for all his efforts redesigning the new logo for the club along with a new digital marketing suite. This has provided the club with a fresh new look whilst still maintaining the roots and identity of the club as the Devils and keeping our famous yellow.

This change was widely supported and welcomed by our members.

### **Sponsorship**

A significant goal of the Board this year in conjunction with the current Strategic Plan, was to continue to increase and improve the partnerships that existed with local community and businesses. Led by Matt Luff as the Sponsorships and Fundraising Director, we attended 3 Bunnings BBQ's at the start of the year.

Matt was also crucial in the club's efforts to sign with 3 new major sponsors this year in BGIS, CRUX Media and O'Neills. All of these new agreements were for a period of 3 years which is really exciting for the club and provides continued funding and benefits for the club over an extended period. The BGIS and CRUX Media agreements both came about from relationships between one of our members and the organisations and it is really pleasing to see these relationships develop. These agreements provided the club with both cash support and in-kind support that will assist the club greatly. It is great to have all our new sponsors on board and we look forward to ongoing partnerships with these organisations.

The club also maintained its long-standing relationship with the RUC. They provided \$2000 towards the women's program, and we will continue to strengthen our relationship with the RUC in future seasons.

## **New Uniforms**

O'Neills signed as our uniform and clothing sponsor for the next 3 years. This included providing the CL1 Women's uniform and CL2 Men's playing tops without charge and there will also be a rebate of sales provided back to the club over the next 3 years. It meant that the Board went through the process of designing a new uniform and off-field apparel for the club. The take up of the new the uniform from our members was over 98% and I would like to thank all our members for their faith and support in purchasing the new uniform.

Unfortunately, the design process was difficult for the Board and the communication between O'Neills and the club during this process wasn't ideal. The club was provided with digital mock-ups of all uniform and off-field apparel and the board was confident with the designs when the original order was placed. The final product that we received did not reflect what had been provided in the digital mock-ups and we were left with a playing strip that was fluorescent yellow instead of the medium shade of yellow that is used in the club logo.

It meant that the Board spent a considerable amount of time trying to find a solution and compromise with O'Neills. Ultimately the reorder of all the uniforms came to a total of just over \$2000 extra for the club once the rebate had been considered. This was covered by revenue generated in the 2021 season.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations**

As mentioned previously, 2021 was a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> year since the club was established. A sub-committee was established towards the end of the 2020 season to start planning celebrations for the occasion which would ultimately culminate in a gala dinner. The second weekend of July was a fitting celebration for such a momentous achievement for the club. Members past and present gathered together to watch UCHC teams playing on all 3 fields at the National Hockey Centre before gathering at the Rex Hotel for a wonderful night full of stories from the past. It was a wonderful opportunity for old friends to catch up with plenty of stories and laughs shared throughout the night. It was also great to meet and hear from the people that help set up the club and created the club that we all love today.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration was also the chance for the Board to introduce a new club award. Club Legend status was a new award introduced as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations in which 5 current men's and 5 current women's members were inducted as the first Club Legends. Club Legends are those that have shown outstanding service to the club and uphold the values and culture of the club whilst not currently reaching Life Membership status. The award is given to current members that continue to show excellent service to the club. Club Legend status will continue to be awarded to one current male and female member each year.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Celebrations took a considerable amount of planning and organising, and I would therefore like to thank our 50<sup>th</sup> sub-committee for all their hard work. A huge thank you to John Blood, Meaghan Clack, Ryan Dix, Jolly Moore, Tessa Morrow, Alisha Nolan and Andrew Sutton.

## **Moving Forward**

Whilst there are many achievements to look back on this season, we also need to look ahead and how we can continue to make UCHC the best hockey club in the ACT.

First and foremost, the current Strategic Plan has expired, and the newly elected Board will need to first develop and start to implement a new Strategic Plan. This should take into account the fact that the club still does not have a men's first grade side which continues to put a strain on the ability to field a CL2 team each season. Additionally, there is continued work that is needed to maintain and improve relationships with both the University of Canberra and our junior club, Uni Juniors.

The club needs to continue to find innovative ways to fundraise and increase sponsors investment in the club. This will also go a long way to ensuring a sustainable financial plan for the club. I would like to especially thank Tracey Duren for all her work as Treasurer this year. The improvement in systems, reporting and tracking of financials in the club has been incredible and she has worked tirelessly to start implementing new procedures to ensure the longevity of the club financially.

Finally, the Board is responsible for continuing to innovate and operate professionally. I would like to thank Jeoles Gleeson-Richards for her work as Secretary this year and helping ensure that we are meeting all our obligations in reporting and recording actions of the Board.

I look forward to what 2022 brings for the club and Board. Proposed at the AGM will be a new Constitution and a vote to Incorporate the club. These are substantial but necessary steps the Board this year, has taken to ensure that the club is operating with Integrity, good governance and in a way that protects its members. There are bigger and better things to come in 2022 and I look forward to the seeing everything the UCHC Devils can achieve.

**Sean Willis**

**President**

# FINANCE

The financial year for UCHC coincides with the calendar year, which unfortunately means the reporting of financial results is not made in a timely manner to members. This is something the Board is aware of and will seek to address in coming years, and as part of its proposed new constitution. In the meantime, the 2020 financial results comprising an Income Statement and Balance Sheet will be provided to members as part of this report, along with the forecast position for 2021.

The 2020 financial year saw UCHC finish in a strong position, with a surplus of \$5,364 and a healthy bank balance of \$20,307. The favourable result was largely due to lower running costs, a strong player base and the fundraising efforts of members throughout the year. With COVID-19 presenting the club with its fair share of challenges in 2020, from a financial viewpoint credit should be given to the responsiveness of members in paying fees, and to my predecessor Lexie Feeney for handing over the finances in such good shape.

The current financial year commenced with the news from Hockey ACT that competition fees would be increasing to counter rising costs and reduced revenue sources as a result of COVID-19. Conservative budgeting from a club perspective and the ability to draw on the positive results from the previous year meant we were in a position to absorb the Hockey ACT increase without passing this on to members through an increase in playing fees; something the Board felt was important in these uncertain times. Fortunately, we have been able to secure sponsorship funding through BGIS and the RUC, along with support from UCX which we hope will continue in future years. At the time of writing, just under 10 percent of 2021 playing fees remain unpaid and the Board will continue to seek to resolve this before the end of the current financial year. Despite this, the financial outlook for UCHC remains positive, with sufficient resources to meet its obligations and we anticipate the club will end 2021 in a surplus position. It is hoped that this will enable the club to maintain fees in 2022 at current levels, which continue to be among the cheapest in Canberra.

**Tracey Duren**

**Treasurer**



# University of Canberra Hockey Club

## Income Statement

*for the period ended 31 December 2020*

### Revenue

Competition Fees	\$	71,785.30
Competition Fee Refunds	\$	(9,300.00)
Indoor and Social Fees	\$	6,305.00
Fundraising	\$	5,505.08
Presentation Night	\$	5,958.47
Bar Rally	\$	800.00
Merchandise	\$	1,415.00
Fitness	\$	760.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>83,228.85</b>

### Expenses

Competition Fees	\$	40,000.00
Training Fees	\$	12,725.00
Umpiring	\$	5,780.00
Indoor and Social Fees	\$	5,580.00
Bar Rally	\$	300.00
Fundraising Expenses	\$	2,489.19
Presentation Night	\$	6,360.00
Trophies and Yearbook	\$	2,028.00
Merchandise	\$	1,425.00
Fitness	\$	792.00
Website	\$	382.60
Bank fees	\$	2.50
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>77,864.29</b>

<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,364.56</b>
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# University of Canberra Hockey Club

## Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2020

<b>Assets</b>		<b>2020</b>
Cash at Bank	\$	20,307.37
Cash on Hand	\$	1,709.20
Receivables - Fees	\$	2,440.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>24,456.57</b>

<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Payables</b>			
Suppliers	\$	1,846.13	
Club members / staff reimbursements	\$	1,558.71	
Umpiring credits	\$	935.00	
Fees received in advance	\$	4,600.00	\$ 8,939.84
<b>Total Liabilities</b>			<b>\$ 8,939.84</b>

<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>15,516.73</b>
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<b>Equity</b>	
Retained Surplus	\$ 15,516.73
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 15,516.73</b>

## 2021 Forecast Income and Expenditure



### University of Canberra Hockey Club Income Statement

as at 31 October 2021

	Actuals YTD	Full Year Forecast	Full Year Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Competition fees	74,495.63	81,526.12	80,797.00
Indoor fees	2,682.50	7,752.50	8,600.00
Write off of doubtful debts	-	-	(1,000.00)
Sponsorship	1,467.00	8,467.00	1,500.00
Fundraising	1,275.00	1,275.00	2,100.00
Functions	1,433.37	1,433.37	2,100.00
UCHC 50th function	19,360.73	19,360.73	8,000.00
Presentation night	-	4,500.00	6,500.00
Uniforms and merchandise	27,775.53	27,775.53	12,250.00
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>128,489.76</b>	<b>152,090.25</b>	<b>120,847.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Coaches	-	-	1,000.00
Competition fees	60,988.82	60,988.82	55,968.00
Indoor fees	225.00	5,295.00	8,600.00
Training fees	15,034.25	15,034.25	17,930.00
Equipment	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Uniforms and merchandise	24,064.20	30,852.63	12,250.00
Umpiring	6,068.18	8,118.18	10,110.00
Functions and Fundraising	891.80	891.80	1,200.00
UCHC 50th function	19,208.56	19,208.56	8,000.00
Presentation night	-	6,500.00	6,500.00
Website fees and other	200.53	200.53	1,000.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>127,681.34</b>	<b>148,089.77</b>	<b>123,558.00</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>808.42</b>	<b>4,000.48</b>	<b>(2,711.00)</b>

# EVENTS

This year we were lucky enough to host more events as a club compared to 2020. UC Hockey hosted Season Launch, Bar Rally, and the 50th Anniversary Gala with plans to host Trivia Night and Presentation Night. I would like to thank everyone that supported these events and especially the BoM for supporting me through the planning of events. Congratulations go out to the 50th Committee that planned the 50th celebrations including the 50th Anniversary Gala: Jolly Moore, Ryan Dix, Andrew Sutton, John Blood, Alisha Nolan, Tessa Boston, and Meaghan Clack.

## **Season Launch**

We kicked off our 2021 events with Season Launch on the 20th of March. Season Launch started with UC Hockey trials games that were used as a part of the trial and team selection process. After this, we joined together at the RUC to celebrate the start of the new season. This was not a ticketed event, however, there was a significant group of UC members new and old getting to know each other.

## **Bar Rally**

After an at-home Bar Rally for 2020, we were able to come back with a successful event this year. Bar Rally 2021 was themed Olympics. The night consisted of participants dressed up in Olympic theme costumes and all participants were rewarded with a medal. We went to 5 locations throughout the night. Starting at Dickson Taphouse, we caught the tram to Zoo Bar in the city. From here we bar hopped through Dolly's, King O'Malley's, and ended at Mooseheads. The board thanks these venues for hosting us for the event. The night was a success as we sold 40 tickets. This year we decided to use our website to sell tickets. Using the Wix website event tool, meant that we could sell tickets with a cheaper booking fee while also keeping track of the number of tickets sold.

## **Mid-year event / 50th Anniversary**

This year the Board decided not to hold a Christmas in July or a Wine Fundraiser event as we have in the past. With this year being the 50th year and all the celebrations that go along with this, there was limited time to do an extra event in June or July. The 50th Anniversary Gala was a very successful weekend. As mentioned earlier, all congratulations go to the 50th committee that planned the celebrations. The weekend started with most of our UC teams playing competition on Saturday. The big event was the Gala that was held Saturday night at the Rex Hotel. The night brought together a variety of guests from all over Australia to celebrate UC Hockey through the years. The weekend continued on Sunday with a recovery lunch at our sponsor pub, The RUC.

## **Trivia Night**

Trivia Night was scheduled to be on the 13th of August. However, with the ACT lockdown announced on the 12th of August this event could not go as planned. Before the cancellation of this event, we had sold a record number of 105 tickets. The event was sponsored by local Canberra businesses that donated prizes for the night. The sponsors of this event included Canberra Labor Club, the RUC, The Dock, Capital Brewing, Bunnings, Zone 3 Laser tag,

Seg Glide Ride, and Hoyts. UC Hockey thanks these businesses for their donations. The event was expected to be another success but has now been postponed. There will be plans put in place for a postponed event. Online trivia during lockdown made for a way to connect as a club. Sean Willis did a great job organising and hosting multiple online trivias when we were unable to have the in-person event.

### **Presentation Night**

Presentation Night was also postponed because of the ACT lockdown. Presentation Night was scheduled to be on October 9th at the Ann Harding centre. 2021 Presentation Night has been postponed and will be held at a future date. Based on responses from members on the UC Hockey Club Facebook page, the majority wished to hold the event in person instead of online. We are planning a presentation night that will ensure we can all get together in one location and celebrate the 2021 season.

### **2021 Communications**

This year I took into consideration feedback from 2020 to ensure effective communication. We reinstated the milestone game shootouts in the Devils Digest and on social media. We continued to send out weekly Devils Digests to members' emails, this year with an additional President's Blog from Sean Willis. This kept the Devils Digest new and interesting for members to read each week. We would update important information through social media on our Facebook page, Facebook group, and Instagram. Each week fixtures and results were posted to social media. Social media has been a great way to engage with members.

I would like to thank everyone that made these events successful. UC Hockey has always been a very social club and it has shown through this year's events. We would like to continue socialising as a club, this can be achieved through events and engaging members at weekend games. Looking forward to 2022, we hope to have the opportunity to hold more events and continue to engage with members on social media.

**Clare Pyc**

**Events and Communication Director**

# SPONSORSHIP & FUNDRAISING

The start of the 2021 season saw an exciting opportunity in terms of sponsorship, with new shirts would give some value add to new sponsors for the next few seasons. Unfortunately, despite our best attempts we were unable to get a key sponsor on board, leaving our shirt space predominantly blank. Saying this though, we did have some good wins this year.

## **Sponsorships**

This year did welcome three new sponsorships in BGIS, Crux Media and O'Neills.

BGIS is an international company that specialize in facility management, project management and much more. We came to an agreement with BGIS where they would donate \$1,500 per season for the next 3 seasons. This payment is obviously great for the club as it will be invested into the club or the betterment of all members.

Crux Media is an award-winning Canberra based video & animation production company that offer services in corporate, advertising, music videos and short form videos. Now, Crux weren't able to provide a financial sponsorship, however UHC and Crux came to an agreement for an in-kind sponsorship. For a spot on our uniform/s, Crux are going to be creating a couple of videos for us, including the 50th Anniversary.

O'Neills came on board with the club this year as the uniform and clothing supplier for the club. O'Neills already manufactures uniforms for several Hockey ACT clubs as well as Hockey ACT themselves. They also are the uniform suppliers for the likes of the Brumbies and Penrith Panthers. In addition to providing uniforms for the club, O'Neills generously supplied the club with CL1 Women's uniforms and CL2 Men's playing tops free of charge. They also have provided the club with a rebate that was used to offset the cost of replacement uniforms that were required during the season.

We thank BGIS, Crux Media and O'Neills for their support this year, and the years to follow.

We also maintained our sponsorship arrangements with the RUC, who provided \$2000 in funding towards the Club's women's programs.

## **Fundraising**

Like last season, there were limited fundraising opportunities due to the ongoing affects of Covid, and the cancellation of events meant there was less we could do to raise money for the club. Saying that however, we have had a few wins this season.

To start the year off we started with a traditional bunnings BBQ. This was a big success and we raised \$1,173.44. Covid depending, we will start to organize another one after the hockey season ends. Many thanks to all those that supported this BBQ.

After doing a wine fundraiser the last few years, it was decided that we would attempt something else. After doing a bit of research, we decided that a gin fundraiser would be an attractive proposition to our members. We found a company that specialised in this, and each bottle sold we would get \$18 profit back. We had 45 orders for gin, equalling to a profit of \$540. Additionally, we have ordered a dozen bottles for the club to purchase, so there'll be some more sales from this in the following months.

At the moment I am currently exploring an exciting opportunity which will simplify how we get local businesses on board and provide revenue to UCHC easily.

Overall, this season was successful in terms of sponsorship and fundraising and I thank everyone that has played a part in this. Moving forward, I implore all members to reach out if the business they work for / know are keen to be involved in any capacity. Our best leads come from our members that have an existing relationship with a business. Both BGIS and Crux sponsorships came from our members with a relationship with these companies. The break down of cash support can be found below. There were considerable in-kind benefits provided to the club throughout the season.

<b>BGIS Sponsorship</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>RUC Sponsorship</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
<b>Bunnings BBQ</b>	<b>\$1,173.44</b>
<b>Gin Fundraiser</b>	<b>\$540</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,213.44</b>

**Matt Luff**

**Sponsorship & Fundraising Director**

# TEAMS AND COACHING

## 2021 Coaches

I do it every year, but once again, I'd like to start by thanking all our excellent coaches. Without all the effort and time that you put in, we wouldn't be able to function as a club. For that, we are extremely grateful.

There was a lot of hard work put in this year to ensure we were ready for the usual start date. At the beginning of 2021, the club nominated 11 teams: six women's team and five men's teams. Club day had a fantastic turn out and made it obvious needed extra teams. We ended up nominating an additional 2 women's teams. This meant the club nominated 13 teams in total with 8 women's teams being the most we've had since 2003. The men also saw an increase in numbers steadily throughout the season taking our numbers to 16/17 a team.

We were fortunate enough to have coaches for each of the teams this season, with our new Women's CL1 coach Andrew signing on to coach CL1 for three years. We also welcomed Nathan who coached his first season in CL2 men. Jimmy moved up to coach the additional SL1 women's team and Andy coached his first year by himself in SL2 women. The rest of our coaches returned for another season, and I thank them for their commitment and time.

Unfortunately, the season was suspended before we were able to play finals. However, titles were given to teams who finished first on the ladder. With that, SL2 women won our first championship in 4 years, coming first on the ladder and going through the whole year undefeated. A HUGE accomplishment and the Andy and the Team should be very proud.

The coaches for this year were: Women's	Men's
<b>CL1</b> – Andrew Berwick	<b>CL2</b> – Nathan Cornish
<b>CL2</b> – Russell Thompson	<b>SL1</b> – Megan Thomas
<b>SL1 Blue</b> – Mat Evans and Chantelle Blackwell	<b>SL2</b> – Brianna O'Keeffe
<b>SL1 Red</b> – James Robertson	<b>SL3</b> – Meaghan Clack and Jessica Edington
<b>SL2</b> – Andrew Martin	<b>SL4</b> – Lincoln Green
<b>SL3 Blue</b> – Mat Evans and Simone McKenzie	
<b>SL3 Red</b> – Bram de Laat	
<b>SL4</b> – Kenny Duran	

It was great to see many of our coaches step up this year and they each did a fantastic job bringing their teams together in a tough year. The coaching staff should be commended for supporting each other the way they did.

Our club and coaches are committed to providing opportunities for people to fill in for higher grades. With hopefully a more normal season next year, we aim to go back to having room in teams to ensure player development in higher grades can be achieved.

On that note I need to also thank Goggles and Pete. While not formally tied to a team, both put their hands up to coach and assist with training. Your help is greatly appreciated.



## **Teams and Finals Opportunities**

### **Women**

This year saw us add three extra teams from 2020 to the women. Bringing back an SL4 Women's team, AKA the Cidership, with a slightly different approach. Most of these ladies dropped themselves from higher grades to play with their friends, give others the chance to push up and embrace more social hockey. These ladies epitomised the culture of the club, often playing two or three games in the weekend and helping right across the club every week. I don't think there was one person in the team that didn't help and play multiple games on the weekend. They also managed to recruit people as the season went on, including providing a safe space for some juniors to try out senior hockey. This will no doubt prove to be a truly valuable contribution to the club in future years.

We also brought in additional SL1 and SL3 teams. Both these teams were in the hunt for finals when the season ended, and both these "new teams" were able to establish a wonderful and inclusive culture throughout the year.

Before the season was suspended all but one of our teams were in the fight for finals, being led by our CL1 women who had a few close games that would have decided if they could sneak into finals. While finals didn't happen and there were four weeks still remaining, we can lay claim that all these teams would have been in finals. Once again, a huge accomplishment

### **Men**

Teams were very full this year with 16 people per team limiting the ability for player development through higher grades and cutting people's game time to a third of what they would have received in previous years. It was difficult to gauge at the start of the season, the number of men that would decide they wanted come back or that we were going to have so many wonderful new recruits joining us late as the COVID situation changed. With the increasing interest that was shown this year, hopefully that will bring good news for the 2022 season, and we can confidently put in extra men's team.

Our SL3 men and our SL4 men were in the hunt for finals before the season ended, and just like we said with the women, we can cheekily claim they would have made it and won the whole thing.

The Men's side of the club is at a bit of a crossroads. We have quite a juxtaposition of types of players at the club. We have people who are trying to play hockey to their highest ability and people who are more wanting the social side of the sport. We have received feedback that this has caused some frustrations in teams this year. At the heart of it, we have in each of our teams about half the team that are not interested in playing up or pushing any higher. This is causing the need to promote players that are not at the standard of the higher grades but because we want to make sure people are enjoying their hockey and to some degree can play wherever they feel most comfortable, it has become difficult to balance This is something that needs to be considered going forward with what grades we nominate in and how to structure the men's side of our club.

### **Training Times**

Training was held again on Wednesday nights. This is still not an ideal situation for our club, but we were able to move one of our training slots from 8.30 to 6 o'clock. This was taken by the lower grade women and judging from the turn out, they must have enjoyed it, particularly our SL1 Red and SL2 teams.

The Board has consistently asked Hockey ACT to consider rotating clubs out of the most popular training slots to ensure fairness and equity, given all clubs pay the same amount for field hire. Hockey ACT has shown no interest in changing this. The Board will keep fighting to move our training to a better time slot and campaign Hockey ACT to at least charge more for most popular times to pressure other clubs to leave those slots in pursuit of more affordable options.

## **The Future**

The last two years have been strange years for our club. COVID has had an impact but in many ways our club and teams are in a better position than we were pre COVID.

As mentioned previously, our women have gone from strength to strength this year. It was great to see so many Juniors start playing on the women's side and how many new people joined us. Having a CL1 coach locked in for the next few years will bring some much need stability to our CL1 women and we have a wonderful bunch of young, skilful women who will ensure that UCHC will go from strength to strength in the years to come

While our men have had tremendous amounts of success over the years, we do need to start making a space for juniors to come through. Currently, our Uni Juniors are going predominately straight to ANU despite the fact we have people there coaching and trying to bring them across to UC. This is generally because ANU have many more teams, meaning that they are offering the kids a chance to play higher grades. As we also don't have a men's first grade team, we are losing our best players to ANU as they have a chance to play in their first-grade team. The Board is going to need to make some big decisions on the structure of the men's teams in the future. The possibilities include taking a risk and putting in a CL1 team to see if we can attract the top players or moving our CL2 men's team to SL1 and having an additional SL2 team so we would have two SL1 teams and two SL2 teams. Another option would aim to give more people time to play some higher hockey and allow for teams to rebuild before pushing back into CL. Regardless, we do need something to change, and we are interested in hearing people's perspectives over the off-season.

Previously there have been plans to develop a high-performance junior squad to improve our ability to attract juniors into senior competitions and continue build our relationship with our junior club. COVID has meant these plans have been put on ice the last couple of seasons, but we will look to build this in coming years.

Our relationship with Hockey ACT is improving, helped greatly by the capable competition coordinator and our success of having someone from the club sitting on the Hockey ACT Senior Competition Committee (Thanks Jolanta Moore & Alisha Nolan). We need to continue to ensure HACT can't cut us out of their stakeholder engagement. Once again, if you are interested in being on the senior competition committee and the rules review committee, please let the Board know.

Finally, once again a big thanks to all the coaches, managers, and everyone else that helped or even supported our teams this year. You guys make this club great, and we hope to see you again next season.

**Mat Evans**

**Teams & Coaches Director**

# UMPIRING

We continue to rely on the wonderful efforts of our club umpires each and every year and 2021 was no different. Whether it be the people that umpire week in and week out or the people that put their hands up for the one-off games when I call upon them, your efforts are so greatly appreciated by myself and the club.

This year the club continued to umpire the lowest two grades of the men's and women's competitions. Given the increase in the number of SL3 women's teams we had more commitments with the club completing 77 commitments. This is down from previous years because of the games missed with the season being cut short.

The payment structured continued this season with \$30 being paid to those that were accredited through Hockey Australia and \$25 for those that had not completed accreditation. Moving forward into 2022, the club will again need to focus on the recruitment of new umpires. It was great to have Tony Xu learn the ropes this season and join the group of club umpires.

Pleasingly, there were again several UCHC umpires that went above and beyond and umpired games that other clubs did not turn up for. I applaud people for helping and ensuring that teams did not suffer through only one umpire being on the field.

There were also a number of umpires that represented the club in the Hockey ACT panel. A special congratulations to Jackson Leckie, James Robertson, Stirling Sharpe, Alyssa Hancock, Renee Cooper, Paige Edwards and Sean Willis.

Thanks again for everyone's efforts and we hope to see you all again next season.

**Harriet Williams**

**Umpiring Coordinator**



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