



Chairman's Report

Another year of significant achievement

The 2025-26 season is memorable for so many good reasons. The playing performance sees both M1 and W1 playing in the top Premier One division of South Central region next season – a first for the Club.

Hampshire Cup Final Day at the beginning of May was nearly an all Winchester affair – six teams in six out of seven finals, and three wins – but crucially a great day of fun and cross Club support – so good to see everyone.

At the representative level the Club has increasing numbers of players playing for national and regional Masters teams across every age group.

And within our junior section we have a hugely successful programme of coaching and development, with teams playing in all levels of competition, and players represented throughout the TA and regional programmes.

Special mention to our women's section who successfully introduced the new 6th XI to outstanding results, had three teams achieving league promotion, and worked hard on availability commitment to get teams out every week – well done indeed.

Recognition

Our senior team Captain's have contributed in every way this season, ensuring teams fully participate, and managing ever increasing league reporting, compliance and Teamo records. This consistent approach to how we run our Club has ensured fair and complete collection of fees due, and provide some excellent playing statistics across the Club. Thanks to all Captain's.

With over 600 players and 400+ parents in our Club our progress and whole playing programme is very much dependent on the many people who put their hand up and volunteer in some way – Coach, Manage, Umpire, transport, Committee's, Fixtures etc. To everyone who has stepped up – a big thank you for your contribution – it is really appreciated.

Our Club Umpires have done a great job this season – thanks to all who whistled. Our league obligation to provide qualified level one umpires for all home league matches (not covered by appointed umpires) requires up to 16 umpires a Saturday.

Huge appreciation to those who took the time to get their level one this season and who are working towards it now ready for next season. With league regulations tightening we really encourage more players to get involved. Thanks to G Beck for continuing to guide and develop our umpires through this programme. Summer Hockey is an excellent way of having a go in a more relaxed environment.

Sponsorship

Our sponsors have once again made an amazing difference to our programme again this season. Without this support we would have to curtail our programmes.

We sincerely thank Happy Hot Tubs www.happyhottubs.co.uk for their continued support and sponsorship of our Junior Hockey programmes again this season - their support is truly outstanding.



CRADDOCK

We also thank Craddock Build <https://www.craddock.build/> for their sponsorship of the senior Club, and our super smart 1st XI shirts.

If you have a building project, or want the best possible Hot Tub / swim & sauna experience – you know where to go !

We are proud to have you alongside us and thank you for your excellent support.



Core objectives of 2025-26 season

The committee team fully supports the desire to play as much hockey as possible throughout the year, and we remain committed to putting in place as much hockey to fulfil this need as possible. Once again we have seven summer hockey teams playing currently. (This is a great way to join the Club, meet people and get set up for the new season)

The Club's vision is to enable participation at all levels, where necessary adding in teams to appropriate leagues and cup competitions to match our collective playing ability. The work and planning by the Committee team has once again delivered a very broad programme that supports all players to the highest possible levels, and looks to repeat this in the coming season.

We urge all Players to support their team Captain's and the Club by making themselves fully available to play every match day as far as possible in advance using Teamo. It's easy to do!

The new EH affiliation programme now includes free coach development courses and umpire courses, which we as a club have not taken advantage of. This is something we should do (its core to our development plans) and encourage people to participate in these excellent development courses. We pay for it through our fees – we should take advantage of this!

Our hugely valued support from sponsors HappyHotTubs enabled us to continue developing coaching and supporting our hugely successful school outreach programme at local primary schools for another year – supporting sport development in our community.



The Club has continued to be recognised as a full England Hockey Talent Centre, investing in and developing coaching across the whole of the Club. Having completed the fourth year of this cycle we return to the beginning again, and want to ensure all our lead coaches participate and fully benefit from this programme.

Facilities

Kings and UoW Bar End facilities continue to work well for the club, albeit pitch hire costs continue to increase year on year. The UoW pitch is now due for replacement, and plans are in place to cover this – which of course must ensure it is retained as a 2G sand dressed pitch for hockey. We hope to be able to access some pitch time at the new WinCol pitch for evening training next season which may assist with better training access. This will be discussed at the AGM.

The Club continues to work closely with www.sportwinchester.org to campaign and pro-actively work with all the stakeholders involved in the development of our city to develop better sporting facilities – including Hockey! A brief update on options under discussion will be held after the AGM.

Clubhouse facilities remain an issue for the Club. An update will be provided at the AGM.

Club Communication

The new website based on Teamo went live for this season and enabled clear direct links to all playing information, league and cup fixtures, results and tables, as well as team match reports and club stats. There is more to come from this and if you would like to be involved in this development let us know.

We could do with some people to come forward to help us continue to drive up and improve our media and PR communications – please message me or Kate if that's you!



Club Socials.

The Club celebrated all successes this year with the Junior Awards night at the Vineyard church, and the seniors at our Awards evening at the Rugby Club – lots of great awards to deserving Club Members – and congratulations to all winners.

Let us know what suggestions you have for this coming seasons social events – please contact the Committee team.

AGM Business – matters arising.

There were no specific matters arising from the previous year's AGM.

However, at this year's AGM there will be an opportunity for Members to come along with questions and ideas for the Club and Committee in a post AGM Q & A – please do take advantage of this. I often meet Club Members at matches or around town who say “Glad I bumped into you – what is happening / I have an idea” etc. Friday 12th June – come along and speak!

Looking forward – 2026-27 season.

We are already planning our start to the new season, with league entries confirmed and Cup competition entries planned. EH has issued new Rules of Hockey, and revised league competition regulations (all of which can be found on our Club website – see Membership Info).

Our core objective remains to provide excellent playing and development opportunity for all our members – U8 to Vets, with aspirations to compete at the highest levels possible. Our 1st XI teams and U18 teams represent the pinnacle of our aspirations, and we will continue to support their performance objectives.

Our commitment to coaching and player development continues, and the club remains committed to providing over 40 hours of coaching a week during season. We continue to welcome & encourage parents and players to develop their coaching / umpiring skills and take the necessary EH courses.

Our reputation for being an excellent sporting club remains paramount – when winning and losing – the same positivity. Our Club reputation across the umpiring world is critical – both to visiting appointed umpires and equally to our own home umpires; ensuring we deliver excellent communication and provide suitable good post-match entertainment. With increasing focus through league regulations, and supporting the Spirit of Hockey code of conduct the Club is obliged to introduce and adopt its own disciplinary policy. The draft policy is on the club website, and is proposed for adoption at the AGM.

As ever, I encourage you to get involved in the running of our club, on either the Committee, or in other ways. It's easy to get involved; there is help and support from the Committee, and opportunities to work alongside people to learn the ropes. I thank all Committee members for their time and commitment.

I look forward to catching up pitch-side before too long.

Andy Craig

Chairman

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12th June 2026