

KCHC Presidents Report to AGM: June 2022

Kia ora – I have the honour in presenting this report to the KCHC 2022 AGM.

This is the second time that the club has held the AGM away from the end of year wind-down and celebrations. The thought behind this was two-fold:

1 – so that there was more relevance to the playing members of the club. In previous years, with the AGM so close to the end of the season, there has been a general drop-off in interest from the club members and a desire to look forward to the summer (and quite rightly so); and

2 – to hopefully feed off of the interest level and encourage more of you to attend the AGM, and possibly play a larger role in the running of your club.

While we were not as heavily affected as some other areas of the world by the Covid-19 virus and associated restrictions, the restrictions we have been subjected to certainly affected the beginning of this season, and to some degree are not over yet (as we are still sat at the Orange alert level). What was harder, prior to the season, and in the early rounds, was the restriction on only vaccinated players and spectators being able to attend facilities associated with Hockey New Zealand and Wellington Hockey Association affiliated events. This had the effect of reducing some playing numbers, although the lifting of the restrictions in time for round 2 did enable some further players to return.

We would not be able to operate the way we do as a club without what is undoubtedly the best turf/facility in the Wellington Association area, the wonderful KCRTT (Turf Trust), and the never to be forgotten efforts of former club members, committees, sponsors and funding providers. These facilities are the envy of the region, and are a fabulous home for the club, teams, supporters, and community.

Of course, this year we have been blessed with a brand new turf, laid JUST in time for the start of the 2022 season. Although the Covid related delays meant that the preseason Kapiti Fast 5 tournament, along with the Trust-organised summer social hockey, was not able to take place, in the long run it has definitely been worth it as the playing surface is magnificent.

The junior sub-committee and club continue to show the way for the Wellington Region, in their levels of commitment, enthusiasm, energy and pure love of the game, both with the junior club teams and with all the schools entered in the after-school and weekend competitions.

We do say this each year, but it rings more true than ever at the moment. KCHC continues our long standing excellence on the field aided in no small way by those dedicated hockey people who give their time and expertise at every level to manage, administer, umpire, coach teams and individuals to develop the game and the club. We owe them our gratitude and appreciation. I will say more on this a bit later.

Membership:

There are always losses and gains in players from season to season, but this season has been strange.

We reached a position where we would be unable to field the five (5) women's teams that we had last year, and during the fraught sessions of sorting the teams out it honestly looked like we were going to be reduced to three teams on that side of the club. However, with a bit of luck, craftiness and magic, we were able to re-work the players we had registered into 4 women's teams. With the support of a legion of casual players, registered but not full time, who seem to be able to answer the emails, messages and calls when needed, we have kept the teams going, and they are going well.

The opposite is almost true of the men's side of the club. We still maintain the three teams we had last year, but there has been an influx of fresh blood, and a possibility of considerably more next year as we have been approached by a number of interested parties regarding next year.

All in all, the seven senior teams we have on the turf each weekend is a testament to the club, the players and the supporters.

We continue to be strengthened by a strong cohort of players from the Paraparaumu and Kapiti Colleges, as well as by other college age players from the region who are educated elsewhere but play for the club.

Team grades:

On the women's side of the club, the K1W (the "Town Team") are continuing in P2, while we have 2 teams in the P3 grade. The K4W were promoted at the end of last year to R2 and are performing well.

In the men's competition, the K1M were promoted to P2 last year, while K2M were elevated to R1 at the start of 2022. Along with K3M, in R2, they are all playing and competing well.

Activities:

On the back of last year's "Jingo" night, and the end of year round-up, the committee are looking to get a few more events in this year. This starts later today with the Matariki Saturday quiz, and more will definitely follow.

The new club website, which has take a little longer than planned, is now oh-so-close to getting going, and this will make it much easier to follow all things to do with the club.

Technical Officials, Umpires, Coaches and Managers:

We have to be honest here, numbers are down.

Club umpire numbers have dropped of significantly this year, with some moving away and others not being available as they are playing on the same day (especially the case with us now having all three men's teams playing on Sunday, and all but one women's team playing

on Saturday). There have definitely been occasions where teams have had to find their own umpire in the Reserve grade.

Wellington Hockey have continued with their commitment to find umpires for all of the Premier grade games, and this has generally been successful. These umpires can be recognised by their gloriously bright 'licorice allsort' shirts. Alongside Nano Tunnicliff, Grayson Rowse and Caleb Pulepule, we have been rejoined by Jay Stevens, looking after the higher grades.

WHA have continued to push on with the Technical Official role, under Paul Tessier, and the majority of our P2, some P3, and college P1&2 grade games now have an attending tech official, enabling the umpires to concentrate on the field of play. Paul, Ale Pulepule, Kevin Richards and Alison Fitzmaurice have all graced the tech box for us this year.

All our club teams managed to get coaches/managers/organisers to one degree or another, which were much needed and appreciated. These again are vital roles and your voluntary efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you.

Finances and Funding: (Please refer to Annual Financial Report 2022)

The cash reserves at year end closed at \$106,169 for the club, this is up on the 2019/20 year by almost \$15,000. To note within this balance was a \$22,015 Sport NZ Community Resilience Grant which has been earmarked to subsidise club members fees over the next three years.

We continue to hold healthy financial reserves, following prudent spending over the last few years, and the club is in a very stable condition.

A lack of grants monies over the past 12 months, with us unable to acquire any grants (there has been an extreme paucity of grants available with Covid shadowing every area) has meant we were unable to continue to fund the position of Club Administrator this year. This meant that we had to ask Sue Spellacey, who really is the heart of hockey here on the Kapiti Coast, to relinquish the position. Club committee personnel have gainfully stepped in to try and cover the role between us, but it is noticeable how much Sue did for the club. Thank you Sue, I am truly grateful.

Committee and Executive Members:

The current committee have overall been together since the last AGM, but numbers have been tight, although there have been a couple of comings and goings.

We had to accept the resignation from the committee of three members during the period since the last AGM – Lynnaire Stock, Lisa Osbourne and Ginny Hawke. I thank you all for the service you gave the club, and have to single out that of Lynnaire who spent countless hours on fundraising activities.

Fortunately, at the 2021 AGM, we managed to acquire a couple of further members – Bruce Stewart and Graham Cole, who have settled in well over the last year, and more recently Si Dawson and Taryn Swanepoel have also joined the committee.

We are hoping to be able to persuade more of you to the committee as we seek to grow the club for all members.

From my perspective, I could not have managed without the support and expertise of the committee with whom I serve, so a huge to the current committee members: Onny, Heidi, Nikki, Mike, Rachel, Mel Bruce, Graham, Si and Taryn.

However, it is on that note that I do need to address a few things –

All of these people are volunteers. The only thing that we get out of all the effort we put into the club is the enabling for ourselves and you to be able to turn up on the weekend and play, or during the week and train. The difference is we cannot just switch it on and off when it suits us. Countless committee meetings, kit organising sessions, team selections, communication with WHA and other clubs, fund-raising, applying for grants, and much more. For this, we each give our time and effort. I cannot thank my fellow committee enough for giving what they can, but for the club to grow it actually takes us all to work together as a true community and family. This is undoubtedly the best family club in Wellington, but we need your help, input and energy if we are to keep evolving and growing.

Secondly, for me, the past 12-18 months have been too much. I feel that I am unable to sustain this in aid of a club that, and this may be a little stark, often appears great at lip-service, but there is not a lot of substance behind it from many of the members. I would love to just turn up, do my thing and go home too, on occasion. I am not after gratitude, and nor are the committee. What you could do instead is see what you could do to help, come to us with ideas and be prepared to follow through with them as well. We all have full-time jobs, as well as our volunteering here.

I was planning on resigning from the committee at this AGM, and advised my colleagues of this. Then I waived and said I may stay. I cannot continue, and am resigning as of today, and although I know this means the others will need to fill the position in the immediate future, I am confident that from within the club the right, dynamic person can be found who will be able to lead others in the next leg of the Kapiti Hockey journey. They may even be putting their hand up shortly when we ask for nominations.

I will terminate my role as President this evening by hosting the quiz, to take place after the AGM, but will be on hand to assist the Club Secretary should they need anything while the new President settles in.

Thank you – Chris Brown (President KCHC)