

## YVHC Presidents Report 2018

2018 was a challenging year for YVHC where a lot of hard work went into further growing our club (+4% members) with OneSport registrations at 459, a record for the club. At senior level we had just our Men's Pen B playing deep into the finals, whilst in juniors we saw many teams win through to Grand Finals for various grades U12 – U14. Masters were also well represented come finals. It was our second season in Premier League for both Men's And Women's divisions. HV had changed the League Entry Criteria preseason to provide for relegation even for clubs that didn't finish bottom 2 in 2017. Which meant the exemption we had earned in 2017 system was gone. As a club overall in 2018 we were ranked 6<sup>th</sup> (Men's) or 7<sup>th</sup> (Women's) for "off field" points across all PL. This reflects the off field hard work and a great junior program from H2H recruitment through to retention into our U10 – U18 teams. With slightly fewer junior teams in 2018 but better depth of numbers. Our Women continued their progress and cemented their place in PL for 2019 well before season end. However our Men's team, whilst generally very competitive, couldn't find the goals needed to win games and will return to VL1 in 2019. We didn't finish last on the LEC ladder, but finished 3.5 pts behind 14<sup>th</sup>. Pennant, Metro and Masters teams were all very competitive across both Women's and Men's.

2018 was our first full season with our new pitch, which seemed to settle down reasonably well. We have been actively chasing a second field to allow better week night training arrangements and access to hockey for all our junior teams as well as local schools on Saturday mornings. With the Victorian election this Saturday, we have lobbied hard but had no specific commitment from either party. However general support statements. Banyule Council have committed over \$1M, and the project scoping document will be available before the end of 2018. I am confident that support via grants and for female friendly change rooms will allow us to proceed in due course targeting a 2021 completion.

Great progress continues with officiating, led by Vennessa Flemming and enabled by our Australian umpire Nicola Brown and Level 2 umpire Tilka Hassing. Both umpire coaches. We are gathering more than a dozen young umpires and providing training and support to progress through the Hockey Ed system. As part of the Premier League Entry Criteria the club will next year need 7 umpires at level 1 and above so with this umpire academy gaining great momentum I feel this will be readily achieved. Accolades also to Rachel Watson who as junior coaching coordinator and H2H coordinator has done a fantastic job enabling our junior recruitment and supporting junior coaches, with great assistance from Trudie Webber and her Junior Committee. Thanks to all our coaches as you remain a vital part of the club delivering positive experiences for all players and critical to our strategic plans.

Junior Indoor has really taken off under Tony Brightling's stewardship with great participation and enjoyment across the juniors section. We are looking for a volunteer to continue his good work as Tony will take a break from Indoor in 2019. Tony took the initiative 3 years ago when post winter season many of us were lagging and has put Yarra on the map for indoor these past years, many thanks!

Senior coaches this season were Dylan Gillespie (WPL), Zac Hawes (MPL), Alex Tan (WPLR), Matt Steed (MPLR), Kayla Devlin (WPC), Toby Johnson (WPB) and Georgia Morsley (WM). Sincere thanks for your great efforts and commitment. Thanks to the assistant coaches supporting particularly the women's side – Alex & Con. Coaching is absolutely vital to our culture and success as a club on and off the field and I thank you all for your contributions.

Presentation night at The Regal in Northcote was a great success and a tribute to the organization of Larissa Payne who went back to back with coordination in 2018 – many thanks Riss. It was even better in 2018!

Our club person for 2018 was Kinnersley Smith, who has done much of the off field admin work on the Men's side for the past 6 years. He has also been club ambassador as Hockey Victoria voice of hockey

through the live streaming virtually every Sunday of the season. And coached at junior level for more than 7 years.

Congratulations to George Doig who was awarded the Senior Junior Club person. George has coached at junior level (U13 or U12) for at least 20 years, and just gets better and better every season. I know all players respect and enjoy playing in George's team and take fond memories of those seasons with them as they progress through the club ranks. And George never has a harsh word for anyone, which we can all learn from!

Thanks to our sponsors: Bendigo Bank (East Ivanhoe & Heidelberg), Just Hockey, PEP signs, East Ivanhoe Foodworks, Larry's Pizza, Danahers Mitre 10 and The Henry Barkley Hotel. Do support our sponsors, they are vital to our success on and off field. The Australian Sports Foundation Project has continued and allow us to take donations that are fully tax deductible.

Our Coterie Group coordinated by Adrian Brown and David Findlay has again very important to raise funds (with ASF tax deductibility) and provide a really important vehicle to lobby support from politicians, local government, schools and sponsors. I commend Adrian and David (both Board members) for continuing this momentum which is a model for other clubs.

There are several changes at General Committee level at end 2018. Which in itself should be a good thing as will bring fresh energy and idea's. I thank all the Board members for their contributions in 2018. Greg Watson continues to manage the finances as Treasurer, and whilst our financial position is not as strong at end 2018 as we had planned, there were a lot of carry overs and early registrations at end 2017 to clear the new turf debt. And several unexpected costs in 2018 such as the planning permit amendment for our lease extension. Which has now been approved and should allow a further 15 years agreement to proceed with increased access hours and nominal rent. Danni Whyte is retiring from her role as secretary. Danni has done a power of work behind the scenes, and I think her greatly for her advice over the past 3 years. She also ensured we were organized for the match day functions throughout the season. Thanks to Neil Watson who does so much work on the facilities, organizing everything from canteen to bar to pitch etc., help also by George Doig on the pitch side. David Findlay is stepping aside for 2019, Dave has provided great hockey insight at Board level and together with Adrian Brown (who is continuing) have steered the Coterie group. Thanks also to Janice Cuthbert, Women's Director, who with Georgia Morsley and Paula Butcher steered the women's committee throughout the season. Kin Smith is looking to retire as Men's Director and I know will continue in a support role as soon as we can identify a successor. Andrew Howell has been great again in his second season as Master delegate, and growing our Masters section. I will step down for President role with mixed feelings as we did set a strategic vision 6 years ago and followed a plan reasonably well to deliver that but the MPL remains unfulfilled. However the opportunity is to now rebound with a better integrated and prepared club in 2019.

Craig Lovel

President 2018

## **FINANCIAL REPORT OF YARRA VALLEY HOCKEY CLUB INC** **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

The financial position of the Club is reasonable considering the Club paid out a net \$17K on new uniforms for the Men's and Women's PL and PLR teams during the year. The Club will continue to face a tight cashflow period until fees start to come in. Based on this we will again provide an incentive for members to pay their fees before Christmas to help ease the cash situation.

Your Board tries to keep expenses to a minimum so we can keep the fees to a minimum however we are conscious of the requirement to maintain the Clubs assets at a good standard and develop the skills of our members at all levels to gain promotion to the highest grades we can at all levels..

Thanks to the efforts of David Finlay and Adrian Brown the Coterie group continued to provide a good source of funds to the Club. Numbers were down a little this year but it is hoped they can be increased again next year. This is vital in providing funds to improve the skills of our up and coming players.

Donations to the Australian Sports Foundation Fund (ASF) which allows members or supporters to make a tax deductible donation to the ASF and designate that the funds are to be directed to the Yarra Valley Excellence program is an excellent way to help the Club continue to be successful. This money is used to support the development of our players so we will be pushing hard to get supporters to make tax deductible donations next season.

We are still pushing hard to get a second ground and we will need to put funds away to replace the surface of the current ground. It is a PLEC (Premier League Entry Criteria) requirement that we set up a sinking fund into which the ground levies will be transferred and these funds will not be available for normal operating expenses. We expect this to be around 15K a year.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Income increased by 5K this year. Canteen sales were 8K more than last year as the ground was not available for the whole season last year. Fundraising events were reasonably successful this year and I want to make a special thank all those members who organized these events and also thanks to those members and friends who supported these events. We lost the sponsorship from Courtney & Patterson this year. We are continually trying to increase Sponsorship monies and now have Just Hockey, East Ivanhoe Grocers, Bendigo Bank, Danihars Hardware, Pep Signs, Larry's Pizza's and Edgy Lawns and Gardens and The Sir Henry Barkly Hotel supporting the club.. As well as providing much needed funds to the Club some of the sponsors also offer members discounts if they say they are from YVHC.

We are still seeking a major sponsor and any leads in securing such a sponsor will be greatly appreciated. The Board sincerely hopes you can support these sponsors and ensure they know you are from YVHC.

Expenses were up this year by 20K and the Board is conscious that all expenses need to be looked at closely next year so we can ensure the money can be set aside for the sinking fund.

The purchase of equipment (including uniforms for PL and PLR) increased by 10K this year.

We plan to purchase a new Electronic scoreboard for next season and this has been budgeted for and partially sponsored by the Bendigo Bank.

Coaching costs were up this year as we reimbursed a few more coaches for their time in coaching lower grades, umpires and juniors.

The Club made a surplus this year of \$11K which is a bit less than we expected. I would like to thank Neil, Denise and Rachel Watson and their helpers for managing the Canteen and running a number of fundraising events throughout the year.

As seems to be the case every year we still had a number of fees outstanding that I am still chasing. The Board has resolved that no unfinancial members will be selected at the start of next year or if anybody is unfinancial as at 30<sup>th</sup> June during next season.

I would also like to thank Glenda Brown, the Section representatives and the team managers, both Senior and Junior, for their support in this area. It is a thankless task as nobody likes having to ask for money but without their efforts the outstanding fees would have been significantly more.

As Treasurer I certainly try to keep fees as low as possible but we have to cover our expenses so I would like to ask all members to pay their fees as early as possible next year so the chasing is minimal.

**Greg Watson**  
Treasurer

## **2018 Women's Section Report**

### *Team Final standings*

WPL – 11<sup>th</sup>

WPLR – 13<sup>th</sup>

Pennant C – 6<sup>th</sup>

Metro A – 7<sup>th</sup>

### *WPL & WPLR*

- Both teams had fairly successful seasons, with both teams finishing around the middle of the table, clear of relegation.
- Both teams had a number of wins, with a couple of games they were unlucky not to win.
- Three international players joined the team this year, with 2 players actively recruited from the USA. All 3 players were a great addition to the team and fit into the team well. One player is extending her visa to return next year.
- Injuries affected both teams throughout the season, with 2 ACL's pre-season. Teams struggled sometimes with numbers
- We had a coaching team of four for these two teams with a main coach for each team, a skills coach and a junior development coach. There were advantages and disadvantages for this set up which will be reviewed with the coaching staff for 2019

### *Metro A & Pen C*

- Both teams finished mid-table, which was a great achievement, especially as this was the team's first year in Pennant C
- Fortnightly Monday training was introduced for these squads this year which had consistent attendance by players throughout the season. Much more friendly time to train – 7pm on a Monday
- Heavy focus on developing junior players in both these teams by actively seeking U16 & U18 girls to start playing seniors. Worked hard to bridge the transition from juniors to seniors

- Coaches appointed for both teams which assisted with the consistency of the match play and skill development

#### *Reviews & Surveys*

- A mid-season review was conducted with the WPL & WPLR teams to obtain feedback about how the season was progressing. The survey to players provided anonymous replies with valuable points raised. Meetings were held with both coaches to discuss results of the survey, with items to be actioned for the remainder of the season.
- A short end-of-season survey was sent to WPL & WPLR players for final thoughts of the season. Valuable feedback was obtained with common issues which will be addressed for 2019.
- A detailed end-of-season survey was sent to Metro A & Pen C players giving valuable feedback on the season. Common issues raised will be addressed for 2019

#### *Volunteer Hours*

- All WPL & WPLR players are required to volunteer 3 hours of their time throughout the season to assist with the running of the club. All players volunteered hours by assisting with the canteen, coaching, umpiring, ball-girling. Will continue this in 2019 to spread the load of work performed by a few.

#### *Ball Girls*

- Last year we were lucky to have the same 4 ball girls for all home games. This year these players started playing senior hockey and were unavailable when there was a clash. Will need to spread the role of ball girl around amongst the U12 & U14 girls' teams for 2019.

#### *New uniforms*

- The new Canterbury uniforms were a huge success for the top squads and gave the teams a professional look. The uniforms were warm and practical.
- All playing tops have been returned, ready to be distributed for the 2019 season.
- Would be good to offer the rest of the club these uniform items to purchase.

#### *Player Games Stats*

- Trish Barnes & Clare Park kept record of playing stats for all players to ensure we didn't lose points due to playing players incorrectly.
- They will continue for to do this task for us in 2019
- Big thank you to both of them

#### *Thank you*

- Big thank you to the Women's Committee and all their hard work this year – Janice Cuthbert, Emma Ball, Georgia Morsley, Paula Butcher & Lesley Longmuir
- Big thank you for the Board supporting the women's committee throughout the season

## **2018 Men's Section Annual Report**

YVHC Men's section again fielded 6 teams in 2018, ranging from Premier League to Metro B. It was with disappointment that our 2018 Premier League Campaign sees us return to the Vic League 1 competition in 2019 after failing to secure sufficient on-field points.

Our Pennant B team secured a finals position and acquitted themselves well, reaching the semi-final. They supplied significant support throughout the year to both Pennant E and the Premier League Reserves. Though our only finalist, Pennant E and Metro A also sought a finals position until late in the season. Overall, we compare favourably with many of our contemporaries regarding Pennant /Metro team performance.

Moving forward the section will face considerable challenges should the week to week logistics of team organisation and communication fall largely upon one person. It is imperative we continue to grow the volunteer base and compliment the brilliant work already being done by those who assisted in 2018. I would like to formally recognise James Gav, Toby Johnston, Dante Tait, Daniel Karakaltsas,, Jeremy Beresford, Sally and Hugh Brown and Max Chatterton for their assistance in 2018. I would also like to thank the assistance of our team managers Premier League and Premier League Reserves team managers Neil Watson and Tracey Cox. Tony Brightling also served a number of home games as technical official.

I would like to specifically acknowledge the contribution of Lucy Jager and Jim Gulabovski who hosted our Belgian overseas players throughout the season. Max, Seb and Cesar contributed on and off the field during their time at YVHC, involving themselves in junior coaching and mentoring. Their U14 team making the grand final! We thank Lucy, Jim and Oli for welcoming the boys in their home and all they have done to support them during their time here. We also thank the Watson family for hosting Xander from Holland and welcoming him into their family.

Areas of focus for an expanded men's committee must be umpire co-ordination, improvements in week-to-week communication through team managers and the development of regular meetings between VL, Pennant and Metro reps to discuss challenges and improvement strategies. Significant increases in regular communication are required to assist long term improvement, player retention and enjoyment. These meetings should include dialogue with particularly U18 and U16 teams managers/age co-ordinators.

In 2017/18 we enjoyed success through a system where 2 Premier League players travelled to Metro A/B games to provide sideline assistance and cover umpiring. Feedback from players and parents in the Metro grades was positive and contributed to our goal of fostering strong ties throughout the entire section.

Our initiative of including large sections of our U18 and U16 program in the Metro A team has also been successful. Complimented by a range of senior players, the development on and off pitch was well received by parents and players. We will look to expand this through our Pennant E and Metro B teams in 2019.

To ease logistical pressures and bolster numbers in our Pennant grades, YVHC should consider entering only 1 metro grade in 2019.

This would see Yarra field 5 men's senior teams. Increased availability will ease double up pressure and weeks where participation is impacted by holidays, injury, sickness and schooling. The new committee must decide whether to enter either Metro A or B in 2019.

The senior and junior sections must work together on establishing a set of targets revolving around junior representation at state level. With the intention to return to Premier League for the 2020 season, Yarra must provide an environment committed to excellence. To compete for finals positions in Premier League, clubs need consistent selection of multiple juniors in multiple state age groups. This also supports pennant/metro teams as players develop through senior exposure.

Both sections must work on identifying specific skill areas junior players wish to develop including aspects of general play and then specialist skills. Senior players/coaches can then be made available to offer coaching and guidance.

YVHC must increase support for the Pennant/Metro training slot to improve engagement and participation. This should involve dialogue with team representatives to identify areas players would like to develop through their training sessions. Consideration should be given to integrating players from PB training with the VLR squad. This will assist with numbers and quality. Additional, structure support should be given to continue the development of our Pen E and Metro A/B players who attend.

The men's committee must create a vision and process for integration of our Pennant B team with VL1R to foster junior development and ensure consistent, high level of competition for our players. YVHC must set a goal of ensuring a strong performance in both PB and VL1R grades for 2019. PB will, at times, offer stronger opposition than VL1R - it is important selections provide both teams the best opportunity for success and development. Consistent, clear development pathway conversations will be critical.

At the conclusion of the 2018 season the YVHC board conducted a review of the section performance. It was decided all coaching positions would be declared open. We anticipate coaching structures for 2019 will be announced shortly.

In consultation with senior coaches, players and committee members the formation of a men's section specific strategic plan is suggested. This should encompass all aspects listed above, and outline the vision for growth and expansion of the section over the next 3-5 years.

Due to more time being required regarding appointment of permanent directors/committee members for the Men's section, I will nominate as interim director until such time as a permanent replacement is found.

**Kinnersly Smith**

**November 2018**

## **AGM Masters Report- November 22"d, 2018**

The Masters section had a reasonable season this year. We did not have the number of teams in the finals as we did last year, but in the big picture, we had a fairly good year considering that both 45's teams played in higher grades and survived.

We held the 45's following the promotion of both teams from the previous year. The 45A's held their own and finished 6th although a couple of close results could have seen them playing in the finals. Maybe next year with a bit of recruitment! The 45C's had a harder task as we basically played the same "0" grade team, less a couple of integral players, so the task was a bit more difficult. It took seven rounds before a victory, but the guys worked hard and eventually learnt the speed of the higher grade and ended up winning a couple of games and should manage to hold the grade for next year. (Still to be confirmed with HV, but I am confident they will).

The 50A's played off in the Grand Final only to succumb to a well organised and skilled Camberwell team losing 2-0. The 50B(1)'s finished 5th by 0.85 points on equalisation, it could have been so different if a couple of games through the season had gone the other way. The 50B(2)'s had a solid season and finished 9th out of 11.

The women playing in the 35 BNW competition had a good season with a few new players joining the team and finished 7th out of 10.

We participated in the inaugural +60's competition which ran from early January to mid-March 2018. It was a success and looks as if it will be held again in 2019.

Congratulations to all award winners for all teams;

Men's 45A's B&F:

- Adrian Rutley

Men's 45C's B&F:

- Kath Handasyde & Stuart Bridgman

Men's 50A's B&F:

- Brett Wardley

Men's 50B(1)'s B&F:

- Martin Hodgson

Runner up B&F:

- Mark Healey

Men's 50B(2)'s B&F:

- Stuart Bridgman

Highest men's goal scorer:

- Glen Connell

Women's 35BNW B&F:

- Tina Dawson

Runner up B&F:

- Kathy Berrill

Most improved player:

- Selina Hegarty (after a long break from the game).



During the winter season, it was the club's responsibility to supply umpires for all home games. This year it proved quite difficult to organise umpires. The main issue was that there seems to be a culture within the club, for some players to question or dispute umpire decisions. The result of which was that some potential umpires were averse to umpiring, so for those who did umpire during the season, thank you very much. Umpires during the season were: Hugh Brown, the Belgian guys (Casar, Max & Seb), Tom Bean, Tom Brightling, George Hunt, Steve Lewis, Robert Chatterton and Fiona Davis. Players need to realise that without umpires there is no game of hockey, so a change in attitude needs to take place within the player group for next year.

I would like to thank all the team managers who helped organise all the teams, without their help during the year, we would not have been able to had teams on the field each week.

A number of players played state representative hockey in Ballina/Lismore for the men and in Bunbury/Busselton for the women. Playing Men's Masters for Victoria were:

- Glen Connell played in the 55's div 1 team (5th),
- Craig Kenny played in the 60's div 1 team (6th),
- Andy Howell played in the 60's div 2 team (3rd - Bronze),
- Max Chatterton in the 70's team (2nd – Silver) and
- Noel Campbell in the 75's team

(4th). In the Women's Masters:

- Janice Cuthbert played in the 50's and finished 4th after losing in a penalty shootout 2-0.

Officiating for the Men's Masters:

- Nola Chatterton was team manager for the 65's

Other Yarra players representing other states:

- Rob McNeil for South Australia in the 70's (1st- Gold) and
- Bruce Smith for ACT 70's (6th).

I would recommend any player of any ability to consider playing in the Australian Masters Championships (both Men's and Women's).

We have teams entered for summer hockey, being- Men's Masters at Doncaster in the 35's (2), 50's at Footscray (2) and one Women's Masters team at Essendon in the 35's.

Hopefully with a few new recruits to strengthen our teams, we will have another successful year in 2019.

Andy Howell  
Masters Rep YVHC