



ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Footscray Hockey Club Inc.

Mclvor Reserve, Fogarty Avenue, Yarraville VIC 3013

footscrayhockey.com.au



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After bouncing back from the pandemic years in the second full year of hockey, the board identified the club's largest priority was to continue the strong membership numbers and ensure the Premier League cut of 4 teams from 16 to 12 did not affect our PL status. Off field we aimed to ensure operations, events and projects were set up for success for the year and producing yet again a solid financial status by the end of the season.

The masters and women's retained their strength in numbers, while the men dropped one lower grade Pennant team. There were good participation numbers in U12 - U16, juniors dropping and U18 team, and the junior U8 & U10 age groups taking a big hit in numbers caused concerns after a lacklustre Come and Try program. After the juniors had commenced their season, the club was sitting 100 members down from the previous year. Continual efforts to boost member numbers continued throughout the entire season across the board and the recent come-and-try and junior program we have recovered respectfully ending on 600 members in 2023, as opposed to 630 at the end of 2022

Key Highlights:

- 2023 membership 600, pre pandemic (2019 602, 2022 630)
- One of 3 clubs to exceed their 2019 membership out of 70 metropolitan clubs, the only Premier League club to do so
- Healthy, sustained financial position, exceeding expectations
- Most significant canteen profit in FHC's history, ahead of the most significant canteen profit of 2022.
- Fit out of social space, carpet, ceiling, lights and fans
- Maribyrnong Council Project: LED lighting design stage
- West Gate Tunnel Project Grant secured: 102K for new scoreboard, grandstand seating and junior GK helmets
- Hosted 2 key tournaments, Junior Country Championships, Stand Out Cup
- Met the 2023 Premier League Entry Criteria
- Greatest junior representation in Western Wildcats, HV Academy, Victorian State Teams in several years
- Inclusion initiative and event explosion – NAIDOC, Men's Health Round, Women's Round, Pride Round, STARS program, Change Maker Program, Mental Health Round, Upstander Training, SALT wellbeing training and much more!
- 12 senior teams in finals, 4 junior teams in finals, 5 premierships flags
- Installation of high performance cameras
- Car Park rectification works, resurfacing and new lines
- Expansion of volunteerism and volunteer sub-committees
- Best year to date for grant and sponsorship income to the club
- Held Premier League in the Men's section
- Women's Premier League & Men's & Women's Reserves teams. WPL 4th, WPLR Premiers, MPLR 5th

At the last AGM the board reported we hoped to complete in 2023 the black cyclone fencing around the whole center including the "cage" - this project is on hold as council tender quotes came in significantly higher than budgeted. The Golden Oldies Tournament was cancelled due to not enough interest.

2024 Plan

Looking ahead to 2024 the board will be working on the following projects:

- Ensuring our membership numbers match or exceeds 2023
- New Strategic plan 2023 - 2026
- Establishing sub-committees and increasing volunteerism across all areas of the club
- Negotiating Council Lease Agreement
- Fulfilling 2024 League Entry Criteria (including finishing top 10 in PL for Men and Women)
- Focus on Come and Try and delivery of new HV U8 and U10 junior program
- Delivering Lacrosse Australian Champs (Jan), Stand Out Cup (Feb), Men's Country Champs (June)
- West Gate Tunnel Project Grant delivery, scoreboard, grandstands and GK helmets
- Projects to fit out our spaces for optimum use and functionality, i.e. canteen, Hockey HQ, Players Meeting Room, Gym, Board Room, shutters, signage, water bubblers

I wish to thank all the Board members for their many countless hours of dedication to the Club that we all love and aim to promote for the benefit of all members. Your time and energy are appreciated by me as Chairperson and by all the members. Thank you to all the coaches, team managers, coordinators, canteen volunteers and every single person who contributed to the betterment of the club.

I'd like to particularly give a shout out to Nick Gill for his continued support and efforts in the role of 'treasurer' when he had given the board 12 months notice to find a replacement, and when one could not be sought (albeit many many hours of trying to secure one) he kept the club afloat with doing what he could financially. Thank you also to Karen Johnstone for your support with the finances.

Thank you to Sally Walsh our canteen manager for your continued work and all the extra hours you volunteer on top of your role. Special thanks this year to David Sanders, who just pitches in wherever possible, in the canteen, changing over bins, jumping in to train or coach when we are short. We remembered the lives of Bobbie Skilton and life member Erik Thomas for their contributions to the club.

I wish to thank the retiring Board members Mel Sanders and Myles Landon.

All the best for the festive season and we hope to see everyone's smiling faces in 2024.

Nicole Virtuoso
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The 2023 season, as you can agree, was a great year for the club on the field. It was also fantastic to see our off-field endeavours continue to increase and build awareness. In particular, the increased efforts in the inclusion space. A key highlight of the year was the work our committee members put in to delivering on our annual Indigenous Round Family Event and the SCOPE program.

SCOPE Access All Abilities Program

A huge program in our access all abilities space. We were lucky to work with Hockey Victoria and SCOPE on delivering a wheelchair hockey program that allowed people with multiple and/or complex disabilities to participate in hockey for the first time ever! With over 50 participants over the course of the program, it was a wonderful success.

Thank you again to the incredible volunteers who made the program so successful. We look forward to more programs in this space going forward.

Indigenous Round Family Day 2023

Another huge year for our third annual Indigenous Round Family Day! With the addition of our Indigenous Round uniform this year, designed by Adam Magennis of Kaptify Art, it was a day full of celebration. A huge thank you to the organising committee for their contributions to the day and to everyone who attended the event to make it so successful. We also acknowledge and appreciate the First Nations People and Businesses who contributed to the day.

We were awarded grant funding towards a Reconciliation Plan in 2023 and are continuing to develop the plan and deliver training in this area.

Social Media

Thank you to everyone involved in the social media team and, in particular, to Mel Morton, Nicole Virtuoso, Mel Sanders, Bec Thomson and Rick Wiseman for their work in creating social media content to share with our members.

Looking ahead to 2024, some fantastic ideas have been received for new club content, and we will be on the lookout for volunteers to assist. Next year will be an excellent opportunity to showcase our club and our history to the broader hockey community, especially as we enter a significant milestone celebrating 90 years. Keep an eye on how you can get involved in the new year.

Governance Review

We have completed a thorough governance review and will continue to ensure that all policy documents are up-to-date and maintained.

Acknowledgments

A huge thank you to all board members for providing me with guidance as I stepped into the Secretary role. As a newly appointed member of the board, I have a greater appreciation of what it takes to run a club of our size.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the work that Mel Morton has done within the Inclusion space this year. As you will all agree, her contribution has been invaluable, and the programs would not be where they are today if not for her work.

Of course, I'd also like to thank all the sub-committee members for providing their time and efforts. Without our valued volunteers, our activities would not be as successful as they are. Thanks to Ellen Druce, Emma Robinson, Tanya Druce, Andrew Boyle, Rodney Johnston, Abu Watts, Bec Thomson, Elliot Thomson, Helen Morton, Peter Zammit, Renee Boyle, Oskar Hayes, Jaime Lam, Maddie Bezzobs, Jye Walters, Georgia Cutrale, Greg Hopkins, Kaila Ducret & Tanya Weerasekera.

What's happening in 2024?

We have such an exciting 2024 planned! We have the following events to look forward to, plus much more!

- Stand Out Cup – Sunday 25th February
- FHC 90th Year Celebration – TBC (Start of Senior Season)
- Women & Girl's Round – Friday 10th May – Thursday 16th May
- Pride Round – Friday 14th June – Wednesday 23rd June
- Indigenous Round (NAIDOC Family Day) – Saturday 13th July – Sunday 21st July
- Men's Health Round – Saturday 10th August – Sunday 18th August

If anyone would like to be involved in these events, inclusion or communications, please get in touch. Volunteering is the lifeblood of local sporting clubs, and we would love to have as many members as possible, not only in events but in all sections of the club.

Rod Fuentes

Secretary

WOMEN'S REPORT

Summary

The aim of the 2023 season was to consolidate the hard work of the year before and field 8 teams successfully, and that we did. We matched the 2022 year with 6 out of 8 teams in the finals with 1 premiership flag (WPLR) and 2 runners up premiers (PB and PC).

The return, recruitment and the welcoming of many new members to the pre-season certainly was exciting for the pending season.

Premier League Squad

Alex Shirley coached his second full season of hockey. With the best defence in the entire PL competition, finishing 4th on the ladder and unfortunately falling short of the semi-final. Stuart Hyslop coached the Reserves team and another strong year finishing minor premiers and securing their second premiership flag. We welcomed a few new faces to the group, who settled in extremely well.

Megan Alakus and Rosie Villagra were selected in the Hockey Club Melbourne. Maz Stonehouse, Jane Luckett, Katherine Wilson, Teri Burke, Jo Torr and Marita Tranata were selected in the Victorian Masters.

TEAM	WINS	LOSS	DRAW	FOR	AGAINST	DIFF	POINTS	POSITION
Premier League	13	1	4	26	17	17	34	4th
Reserves	17	1	0	91	12	79	51	1st Premiers

Pennant & Metro

David Gorton led Pennant A 4th (Prelim Finalists) and after a stellar 2022 season took the team one further to the preliminary final. Julian Pratt coached Pennant B in an outstanding year, finishing 3rd (Runners Up Premiers). We were gifted a pre-season promotion to PC after a team went into the Vic League Structure and Phylcia Veitch took Pennant C finishing 2nd and (Runners Up Premiers). Karen Johsntone led PD 8th, Helen Morton Pennant E (4th, Prelim Finalists), Tania Bezzobs Metro 1 7th.

TEAM	WINS	LOSS	DRAW	FOR	AGAINST	DIFF	POINTS	POSITION
Pennant A	10	2	6	34	25	9	32	4th Prelim
Pennant B	12	4	2	54	23	31	40	3rd RU Premiers
Pennant C	12	3	3	42	20	22	39	2nd RU Premiers
Pennant D	2	5	11	19	51	-32	11	8th
Pennant E	8	5	3	32	20	12	27	4th Prelim
Metro 1	4	11	3	18	32	-14	15	7th

Acknowledgments

Thank you to all those who contributed to the administration support and social support. Karen Johnstone, Angela Thompson, Sue Milford, Rick Wiseman, Heather Shaw, Amanda Bradfield, Mel Morton, Mel Sanders and Lynda Thomas.

Thank you to our terrific team managers, Harry Zac PL, Sue Milford RES, Kirsten Digney PA, Brianna McLaughlin PB, Christy Jeromson PC, Dee Ruane PD, Scarlett Fitzpatrick PE, Sharon Pollard M1.

Thanks to our sponsors who had committed, we hope you are back on board in 2023.

Looking Ahead

We look forward to next season, consolidating the 2023 results and going one better, or for Ressies will it be a Threeppeat?

Thanks again to everyone, have a great 2024 festive season.

Nicole Virtuoso
Women's Director



MEN'S REPORT

Summary

The Men's section reduced our presence across the grades for the 2023 season fielding 7 teams instead of the 8 we have had in previous years. This proved to be a sound decision based on the number of 'double up' players that were necessary through the early rounds.

From a performance perspective it would be fair to say we underperformed across the board, however, the key highlights were the Metro 1 team going back to back in winning flags, and our young PLR team making the finals under first season coach Jordan 'JT' Tamblyn (ably supported by Tung Le as his assistant!).

Our Premier League team had to work hard, battling against a significant number of injury and availability setbacks, depriving the team of a significant number of games experience from a collective perspective. In the end, the spectre of relegation was avoided and we move on to the reduced team competition in 2024 with a high degree of optimism about the season ahead.

Premier League and Premier League Reserves

Dan Mitchell settled in to his second season at the club and was immediately met with availability challenges in the early part of the year. Despite this fact, the team were not far off the mark in most of the games, with solid performances against the teams who were leading the competition at the end of the season. This was demonstrated in the opening game of the season where we went down to the eventual premiers 5-3, having conceded 3 goals in the final minutes of the game. It was similar in games against Waverly and Camberwell where small patches of each game cost the team a result. Those games in some respects, typified the PL season.

The PLR team experienced an excellent season, bleeding and maintaining a strong youth element, brilliantly supported by a group of senior players who did an outstanding job of mentoring the group. In his first season, Jordan Tamblyn, assisted by Tung Le, led the group with a great balance of enjoyment and discipline. Plenty of smiles on the faces of the players throughout the season was testament to this approach. The team finished 5th and unfortunately bowed out in the first week of the finals, but delivered a significant improvement on the performance from 2022, recording 3 more wins and reducing the loss making column from 10 to 3 for the season. There's a bright future ahead with this group looking to form the nucleus of the PL for many seasons ahead.

Congratulations to Luke Noblett for being named in the Premier League All Star team for the season.

Team	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points	Position
Premier League	4	3	8	52	56	-4	15	11th
Reserves	11	4	3	58	33	25	37	5th

Pennant & Metro

The Pennant A team were led by Scott Walters (playing coach) and Alex Grosz (captain) under some challenging circumstances. Again, some youth were injected into this team during the season and the team narrowly missed playing finals finishing 5th, a significant improvement on the 2022 season. The win/loss ratio improved dramatically but more importantly, the team was set up to further nurture the young talent progressing through the junior ranks, again, mentored by a group of seasoned senior players.

Pennant B did an outstanding job with Josh Walsh and Kyle Lewis at the helm after promotion from Pennant C in 2022. The team only missed playing finals by 1 point which, whilst disappointing at face value, was an outstanding achievement given their promotion to this grade. This team is shaping as another strong nursery for the youth element progressing through the club.

Chris Heslop took on the coaching duties for the first time with the Pennant D team alongside the evergreen Adrian Randall. Both lads did a great job guiding this team throughout the year, having to manage a significant number of players circulating through the team during the season. This large rotation of players through the team made it difficult to build continuity, but despite that fact, they were still in the hunt for finals deep into the season. Plenty of learnings to take from the year which will no doubt translate into success in 2024.

Metro 1 did it again! Back to back premiers which is an outstanding achievement in any grade. Brilliantly led by Anthony Santoro and Wayne D'Souza, this was another team with a fantastic blend of experience and youth, with three of our club juniors being part of the premiership team. Everyone is eagerly anticipating this group of 'Benjamin Buttons' to front up again in 2024 with a new crop of youngsters to seal a 'three peat'!

Metro 2 was lead superbly by Alex Fensome again in 2023 in what was a challenging year in terms of player numbers from week to week. It wasn't necessarily the season the team were looking for in terms of results, but unquestionably there was a high level of enjoyment taken out of the year thanks to Alex and his efforts for the team.

Team	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points	Position
Pennant A	7	5	6	41	38	3	26	5th
Pennant C	8	2	6	30	34	-4	26	5th
Pennant D	5	3	10	30	51	-21	18	6th
Metro 1	11	1	3	88	22	66	34	1st
Metro B	6	0	12	36	56	-20	18	9th

A massive thank you to the many people who contributed big or small when it comes to the administration and support of our teams. Rick Wiseman, Sam Cutrale, David Braiden, Paul Jones, Lisa Walters, Rodney Johnstone, Adrian Randall, Graeme Veitch, Jodie Weerasekera and all of the FHC Board Members. Everyone contributed positively to the Men's section throughout the year.

A big thank you to all our supporters who turned out each week to watch all of our Men's teams, it means an enormous amount to the players.

My sincere apologies to anyone I have missed in this summary, there many people that enable us to get teams on the park each and every week so to anyone else who offered their time to help the Men's section run, a huge thank you!

Thanks to Heather Shaw for the after match meals for our PL/PLR teams and exceptional service of schnitzels for Thursday training throughout the year, along with the guys that jumped in behind the bar to help out.

A big shout out to all of the members who willingly and happily doubled up for many weeks throughout the year. There were some serious games numbers racked up by individuals during the year due to unavailability and we cannot thank those players enough for their contributions and commitment.

2024 – The Year Ahead

Into 2023 we are looking forward to welcoming Paul Schram into the position of Premier League Assistant Coach and Men's Player Development Manager. Paul comes to the FHC with a wealth of playing and coaching experience and we're excited about his partnership with Dan Mitchell and the entire Men's section.

Our recruitment campaign for 2024 is well under way and our search is encompassing Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland, alongside discussions with a raft of international players. We're also excited about the prospect of what the 'home grown' youth element of the Men's section look to be promising for the future, exciting times ahead without a doubt for the Men's section.

We're on the lookout for support in some 'sub committee' areas of the Men's section. If you're interested in supporting on the administration side of areas such as: selected team announcements, team management, uniform order management or just general support, please reach out to me directly at mens@footscrayhockey.com.au. Any and all offers of help will be gratefully accepted!

Go doggies!

Col Keating

Men's Director

JUNIOR'S REPORT

Overview

Season 2023 had a lot to live up to. 2022 was an excellent re-building year which saw us retain 5 Shield A positions in 2023 with our U12 Boys Shield B continuing to strive for the coveted U12 Boys Shield A position.

Come and Tries started the year down on previous years, which in turn has dropped our U10 and below numbers to the lowest we have had for quite some time. The U6 cohort had stellar numbers and it was especially pleasing to see lots of "legacy" children from our senior players in that group.

This year we saw our U18 squad move towards senior hockey and Year 12, but in its place popped up a brilliant U16 Mixed District team.

I was also thrilled to re-introduce the U12 Girls Pennant team for season 2023.

If 2022 was a huge year for rep hockey, then 2023 was monumental. Once again we have had solid numbers of athletes selected in the Hockey Victoria Academy programs. We have had wonderful representation across Hockey Victoria teams and School Sports Victoria teams.

To start us off, Angus Lee has been joined by Eleven FHC Athletes in the Hockey Club Melbourne Futures Squads.

Angus, Baden Jones, Ashton Schram, Jack Tamblyn, Tom Templeton, Lachlan Toussaint and Charlie Gun have been selected in the boys squad

With Evelyn Boyle, Erika Digney, Ruby Gorton, Jaime Lam, Georgia Taylor selected in the Girls Squad.

Georgia, Baden and Angus also traveled to Tasmania as part of the U18 Vic Development teams in July. With Jaime Lam selected as train on.

The Under 16 SSV Teams saw Ashton, Ruby, Baden, Georgia and Angus travel to Adelaide to compete, with Evelyn, Jaime and Lachlan selected as train on players.

We had 10 athletes selected for the U15 nationals, Elliott Thomson, Erika Digney, Zoey Sykes, Ruby Gorton, Seb Dabner, Ash Schram, Jack Tamblyn, Tom Templeton, Lach Toussaint © Charlie Gunn heading to the NT.

3 young athletes were selected in the 12 and Under School Sports Victoria team - Adi Sanders returned for her second year and was joined by Lilah Jeromson and Felix Brophy

We had 7 athletes who where been selected for the Under 13 nationals - Sage Toussaint, Freya Hudson, Hannah Mannix, Tilly Gordon, Iris Sondhu, Felix Brophy and Max Dolence

And to round off, Baden was selected to train on for the Men's Vic Country team.

We have had record numbers selected in Wildcats teams for the 2023 State Championships, 62 FHC athletes and 8 coaches!

The year wrapped up with 6 of our teams making finals.

Two teams made it to the Grand Final with both bringing home a Flag for our walls. Massive congratulations to the players, coaches, team managers and parents of the U14 Shield Girls A team. And the U16 Shield Boys A team.

Greg Hopkins has checked the records, and he believes that is the first time we have won a U17/U16 Mixed/Boys Shield A premiership.

Finally, many thanks to:

- The FHC board
- My amazing Junior Coaches.
- The wonderful Team Managers
- The Legion of kids who umpire on Saturday mornings Zoe Brown, Evelyn Boyle, Renee Brown, Audrey Boyle Elliott Thompson, Nikita Dhar Emmy Wynn, Freya Hudson, Chiara Virtuoso, Fred Whittaker
- Also I would like to thank Phil Mac and Josh Darcy for their weekly goalkeeper coaching this year on a Tuesday night. Along with Ash Wells, Elliott Thomson, Adrian Mac and Jye Walters
- Sally for her work in the canteen and Russ Wickson for just saying yes on a Thursday night when I can't be here.
- Absolutely everyone who I have tapped on the shoulder this year
- And finally to my husband Dave and my daughter Adi, who just nod and smile and don't question my late training nights, endless board meetings, phone calls or late Friday nights when I get caught up watching games.

It has been my privilege to be the Junior Director for the last 4 years. I look forward to driving my pet projects in 2024, developing junior umpires, developing Elite Juniors and developing all round good young humans.

Mel Sanders

Junior Director

MASTER'S REPORT

We had 6 teams on the field this year with the continued addition of a Women's 45s side.

It was a more challenging year for our Masters' teams this year compared to a very successful season in 2022.

Many thanks and gratitude to all the team managers and captains this year – Tony Grey (45 Mens), Jo Torr (45 Women), Linda Wotton (35B Women), Giulia Wiseman (35A Women), Heather Shaw (60s Men) and Greg Hopkins (50A Men).

Again a big thanks to Nicole Virtuoso for her support throughout the season. A big thanks also to the other Board members for their work this year – they are an amazingly committed, hard-working and generous group and we should all be very thankful for the visible and invisible work that they do to.

Thanks to the one and only Sam Cutrale for coordinating Masters games umpiring on Monday and Wednesday nights at FHC – we appreciate all of the work Sam does behind the scenes to ensure that we have good umps on the pitch, especially during the cold, wet months.

We celebrated 3 wonderful milestones this year including Cosi's 1100th game, Greg Hopkin's 900th game and Heather Shaw's 600th game. Well done to Cosi and Heather on such amazing achievements.

MEN'S 60s

It was a challenging season for the 60s who continue to be fixtured their fair share of 9pm games. This team certainly knows how to turn on the after-game feast – Heather's sandwiches are famous and the 50s guys and other clubs appreciated them after our games. They had a tough season with 2 wins, 2 draws and 12 losses.

MEN'S 50As

This team moved into A grade after winning a premiership last year. Our goal was to be competitive and hold our own, especially against the top sides. We achieved that, narrowly missing out on playing finals and had a few games against the top teams that we should have won.

Finished 5th; Won 6 games; drew 2, lost 6.

Key to this team's continued success is a committed group of 18 guys who contributed to this team's success in 2022 and this year.

WOMEN'S 45s

This team had a more challenging season after last year's grand final appearance. Scoring goals was a challenge this year – a big thanks to Jo Torr for her leadership and coordination of this side. Finished 7th with 5 wins, 1 draw and 11 losses.

MEN'S 45NW

These guys finished 5th in a season characterised by too many draws! Narrowly missed out on the finals on goal difference. A big thanks to Tony Grey for his management and leadership of this side. 7 wins, 6 draws and 4 losses.

WOMEN'S 35As

These ladies have been our most consistent Masters' team for the last 7 years in a row and they had a pretty solid season again in a very strong competition.

Finished 4th with 7 wins, 6 losses and 2 draws. Defeated by a strong Greensborough team in the semi-final. Thanks to Giulia for managing and looking after the side.

WOMEN'S 35Bs

This team enjoyed a tough but enjoyable second season. Finished 5th with 6 wins, 8 losses and 3 draws – looking forward to seeing this team improve next year. Thanks to Linda for taking on the management and organisation of this team through the year.

FHC AUSTRALIAN AND VICTORIAN MASTERS REPRESENTATIVES

Congratulations to the following FHC Men's and Women's Masters' players who represented Victoria in 2023.

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MEN'S VICTORIAN MASTERS' TEAMS 2023

- Alex Grosz – Over 40s Div 1
- Nigel Toussaint – Over 45 Div 1
- Geoff Peacock – Over 50 Div 2
- Phil Frost – Over 60 Div 1
- Martin Babb – Over 60 Div 2
- Geoff Pilley – Over 65 Div 1
- Neville Hopkins, Peter Byrne, Neil Coster, Geoff Lewis (shadow) – O70 Div 1
- David Sonenberg – O75
- David Sinclair, Henry Barrie – O80

WOMEN'S VICTORIAN MASTERS' TEAMS 2023

- 40s – Jane Lockett, Maz Stonehouse
- 45s – Katherine Wilson, Christine Henderson (Manager)
- 50s – Therese Burke
- 60s – Marita Tranter
- 65s/70s squad – Jo Torr, Deb O'Shannessey

Well done to all of those players – it certainly should make us proud that we have such amazing representation at a state and national level.

Damien Toussiant

Masters Director

RETAIL REPORT

Canteen

Thanks to all those who volunteered this year with guidance from Sally (Canteen Manager) we were able to keep the canteen humming. This year we hosted a number of HV & school tournaments and had a number of large weekends such as Naidoc Day which has helped the canteen be more profitable than expected.

With the introduction of the canteen levy which helped get slots covered and the New Square register made the process easier for our volunteers.

Thanks to all those that volunteered in the canteen throughout the year especially Heather Shaw, Dave Sanders, Graeme Veitch, RJ and all those who put their hand up to help out when we needed shifts to be covered. Whether it was a tournament or just a couple of weekly slots to be filled during the season it was greatly appreciated.

Hockey HQ

With the Social space renovation we had a quieter time in HQ as we had to close HQ during this timeframe. This resulted in reduced income coming via Just Hockey.

A big thanks to Jenny Hilton, Bec Thompson & Merryn Brown for helping keep HQ opened on training nights in 2023.

Being the first year of introducing our Online Uniform ordering option we have a number of things that we need to improve on but overall it made a lot of things easier especially with HQ being closed at the start of the season.

2024 is our 90th year and we are currently in the process of finalising designs that will be approved by our board members and then our club members will vote on the design that they would like to become our new uniform. Please look out for the survey in the next week or so.

This year the Retail section was able to produce an \$73.8k profit a little down on last year partly due to Social Space renovation and missing out on the Men's Country Championship due to late change of venue.

All funds raised by the Retail section go towards covering the costs of running our club / teams which therefore helps keep the cost of our fees down.

With next year being the middle year of my 3 year term as Retail Director we will be consolidating what we have improved and working on streamlining those areas that we are yet to get to. My aim is to ensure that when things get handed over to a new Director, the processing/volunteering time is reduced.

Karen Johnstone

Retail Director

Special thanks to to all members who have supported in our efforts to maintain this great facility and in particular to Graeme Veitch, Phil McAlinden and Dave Sanders.

2023 continued with Summer Comp leading into the Winter Senior and Junior seasons and a range of competitions from JSC Tournaments, Primary and Secondary School Games and Finals, State Schools Victoria Trials and Training, Hockey Club Melbourne Development Trials, Hockey Victoria High Performance Training for Juniors through to Masters, as well as some fantastic events in Pride Round, Naidoc Round and Diversity & Inclusion programs.

We have continued with some key projects further enhancing the club presentation, accessibility, and usage with the following completed or due for completion by the end of 2023:

- Watering system – upgraded and FHC are well positioned with the best water pitch in Melbourne outside of the State Hockey Centre at Parkville
- High Performance Camera Project – project managed by Nick Dabner - complete and commissioned
- Lighting issues largely rectified by Council until we crossover and upgrade to LED's
- Car park restoration completed by the Westgate Tunnel Project
- Security – alarm installed to club rooms
- Patio Heater project lead by Andrew Wiseman
- BSF Scoreboard installation
- ASF Scoreboard repair and interim upgrade
- More training equipment - barrels, S&C running sleds, field dividers

Projects in motion for 2024 include but are not limited to:

- ASF Scoreboard
- ASF Ground Grooming Equipment and Program
- ASF Resurfacing
- Polytan Goal Refurbishments
- Electric Heating Bar Project
- ASF Dugout Plan
- Carpark security lighting

Andrew Boyle

Grounds/Bookings Director

PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE REPORT

On the back of all of us returning to Hockey last year, 2023 was all about getting back to work and planning for our sustainability and future successes. In what seemed like an eternity since the previous BSF ground was dug up, we officially opened the new playing surface and associated player and official facilities in round 2 this year. A fitting opening occasion and to reflect on the contribution to the club of Brendan Sheehan, of which the ground is named.

Facility upgrades didn't stop there with the pavilion ceiling, lighting and carpet upgraded for our social area. This refresh completes the pavilion upgrade to a first-class standard that we should all be proud of. Upcoming capital works will see the junior training area fencing upgraded shortly, with council funding being sought in their next financial year, to complete the perimeter ASF fencing, to align with the new fencing around BSF.

Initial discussions with Council have been had regarding our new Lease and Licensing agreement. With a new structure being introduced by Council, we are awaiting the first draft to be presented to us for comment. We are mindful that the two biggest future capital works projects will come at great cost, that being pitch lighting upgrades and replacement of the ASF playing surface and dugouts. Our relationship, and what we can offer the local community, with the City of Maribyrnong Council, has been extremely successful. We look forward to working with them and establishing our facilities planning schedule to meet our community's needs.

Our Grants committee has been working tirelessly this year to ensure we can extract external funds to support our needs. Congratulations to Mel Morton for again successfully running our NAIDOC round with funds received. The energy and support from members regarding the purchasing of indigenous uniform and off field apparel was outstanding and has set a good platform for future utilisation.

You would have seen or read our latest Grant successes, with the funding of junior goalkeeper helmets, spectator seating and a new electronic scoreboard, totalling \$102,300 from the Westgate Tunnel Project. We are presently in discussions to finalise the seating and scoreboard, having only received partial funding for our project application. Still, a very good result!

Sincere thanks to the Grants Sub Committee for their efforts this year. I would particularly like to thank junior parent Candy Caballero and fellow Board member Andrew Boyle, on their major work on the recent successful Grant submissions.

From a player/team's planning perspective, the work of all section Directors cannot be underestimated. After a slight fall in membership from 2022, where we were one of only three clubs to increase membership from the previous completed season, we are mindful that we face challenges in not only regaining membership, but ensuring our junior growth does not stagnate, as we look towards the future.

After last year's success of WEHA (Western Elite Hockey Academy) organised by Andrew Boyle and Men's Head Coach Daniel Mitchell, this year's program is soon to be begin, which aims to provide specialised development for our junior and future senior players as well as providing valuable experience for our up-and-coming coaches.

The future is in our hands as we move towards establishing our Strategic Plan for 2024-2028, as I currently sift through the comments and feedback received from the club's member survey (taken early in the year) and Strategic Planning Workshop, held a couple of weeks ago. Although numbers were extremely disappointing at the workshop (18 members, other than Board members), the energy and quality discussion points raised on the night have provided a variety of tasks and actions we need to implement to strive to be competitive and sustainable at the highest level, in the future. Also, thank you to those who responded to the survey. We now have all the results that will assist us in continuing the good work that many of you acknowledged, but also to work on and develop strategies to improve areas that are felt, is required.

Lastly, thank you to all the 2023 Board of Directors for your continued hard work in ensuring we provide the best voluntary support and leadership we can, in representing the members of our

Hockey Club. We are a large, successful club, run mainly by the extraordinary efforts of a small percentage of our members. We strive and will continue to encourage all others to become involved and assist where you can to work towards jointly, the continual success and prosperity of our Hockey club.

Greg Hopkins
Planning and Performance Director



SPONSORSHIP REPORT

2023 was a successful year where we had a good receipt for the sponsorships and we were able to add some new sponsorships into the club which was excellent. Our Sponsors Day had a great turnout and it was great to be able to give back to sponsors and show them in more detail what the club is about and how we operate. Long term sponsorship is something that we need to continue to push for on an ongoing basis and ensure we can generate sponsorship value by giving them support in return.

We had five Club Sponsors (Hardimans / QUBE / Yarraville Club / Yarraville and Footscray Bowls Club and Big5 Fitness) and in 2024 we should expect these to continue and there is definitely the potential to add back on some previous sponsors and target some new ones.

It would be great to see an earlier push for player sponsorship next year and I would encourage all members regardless of the team you play in to try for a sponsorship next year to get more external exposure for the club.

It has been challenging picking up this role in 2023 and unfortunately I cannot continue in this role next year due to personal commitments, I look forward to supporting the incoming Sponsorship Director to ensure a smooth transition and ensuring that the relationships with sponsors can be maintained.

Myles Landon

Sponsorship Director

TREASURER'S REPORT

*See financial documents for detailed report