



Director Report 2024

Thank you, for those of you who have given your positive support and assistance throughout another busy season for West Hockey.

The year has seen many achievements both on and off the pitch and thanks must go to all the Directors and Committee Chairs, along with their committees, who work tirelessly and largely without recompense to deliver hockey across the season.

Thanks must especially go to a vastly depleted Officiating Committee, with Graham, David and Rich holding things together and tolerating me as interim Chair after Rods departure. They have continued to appoint across the Area and in particular to Women's Prem on a consistent basis. This is only possible due to many of our committed and experienced officials doubling up on many weekends. Many thanks to Charles Hallows who has agreed to take the vacant position of Chair. I know Charles will be focusing much of his effort into delivering support for umpires at club level, whilst not forgetting our experienced Level 1, 2 and 3 umpires, on whom we heavily rely. Charles and the committee's efforts in the coming season will only be successful if clubs work with us to promote officiating and drive increased levels of participation and qualification. What we all want is more, better quality umpires in all areas. Hopefully an increase in coaches, assessors and mentors will help in this area, not to mention some snazzy new kit! Before closing on officiating, I'd like to thank all those volunteers who joined calls that helped shape our plans that Charles and his team, can now deliver against.

Masters have had some incredible successes this season with many players achieving international call ups, including Debs Gemmell herself. The West hosted one tournament at Combe Dingle and this was combined successfully with an umpire development day. Debs desperately needs an admin assistant, less a thinker and more of a doer, to bring together the men's and women's side of the game and to collate information. Hopefully there is someone listening who may be able to assist and in return earn a little bit of extra money.

Thanks now to Anne Baker for taking on the Junior section of West Hockey as Chair. Thankfully she has, as I get completely lost with the vast number of club and school tournaments, both indoor and outdoor on what seems like a weekly basis! This AGM sees us thanking Paul Westgate for his continued work behind the scenes and to Jackie Stanley who has chosen to step down from her role this season.

Lesley Love has again gone about her business with a team of ADA's with a ruthless efficiency and with a level of consistency that has to be admired. My thanks go to those who

assist her in a difficult area of the game and especially to Lesley who deals so effortlessly with anything thrown at her.

Last but not least it's Jan Bowen and the Adult League. Having sat in on a few of the league meetings this season it is incredibly pleasing how open and accommodating and flexible the league committee are, when they can be. Thanks obviously go to the league secs who have had to deal with GMS for a few years now, but particularly to Stuart as Area League Manager and to Karen Dutton who has taken on the role, not only as GMS admin officer, but also sits on a national panel aimed at improving both the functionality and reliability of the system. Jan deserves a special mention as many tasks with which the board are charged, are driven and often delivered by Jan in her role as a co-opted director. If she's not dealing with the league, it's GMS, or Strategy, or Welfare, or Communications..... anything that's thrown at her, she commits to with a passion. So thank you Jan! We also had the incredibly sad news and huge loss of Tina Phillips this season, Tina was a huge part of hockey in the West and particularly in the Plymouth area and will be sorely missed.

West Hockey continues to look forward and I now believe you have an accountable organisation, with digitalised accounting systems, financial control and practical budgets, along with a diverse board and management committees.

With that said, there are obvious improvements we can strive to make, particularly in communicating news and success stories, developing individuals within the organisation and attracting new people to join the Board or Management Committees. Our success moving forward and in delivering our published strategy rests on attracting more volunteers to assist in a number of areas.

If there is anyone on the call tonight, or anyone you know who may be able to help in any small way, please let us know through the website or a call directly to me. No matter how much time you may or may not have, we can find a role for you, tailored to the commitment you wish to make.

David Chard
West Hockey Chair of the Board