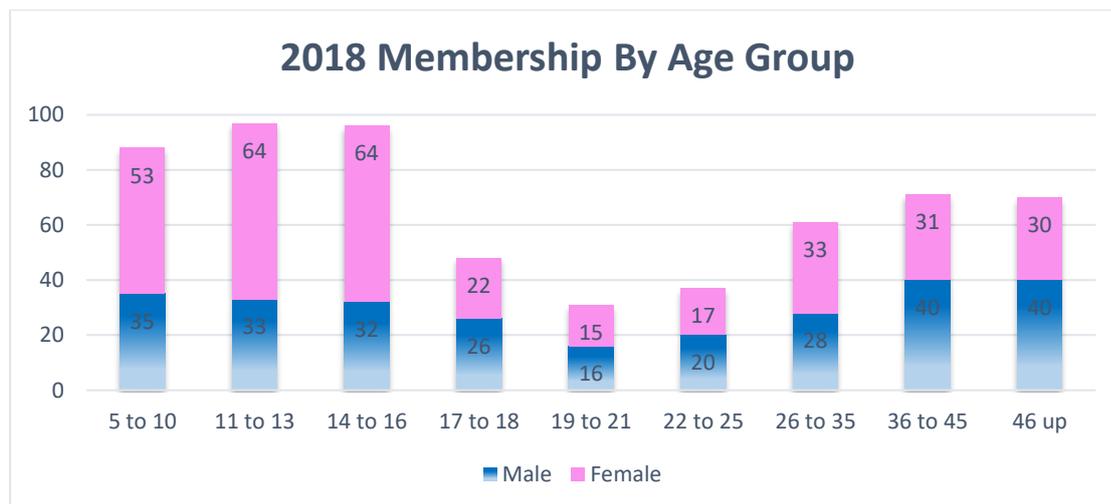
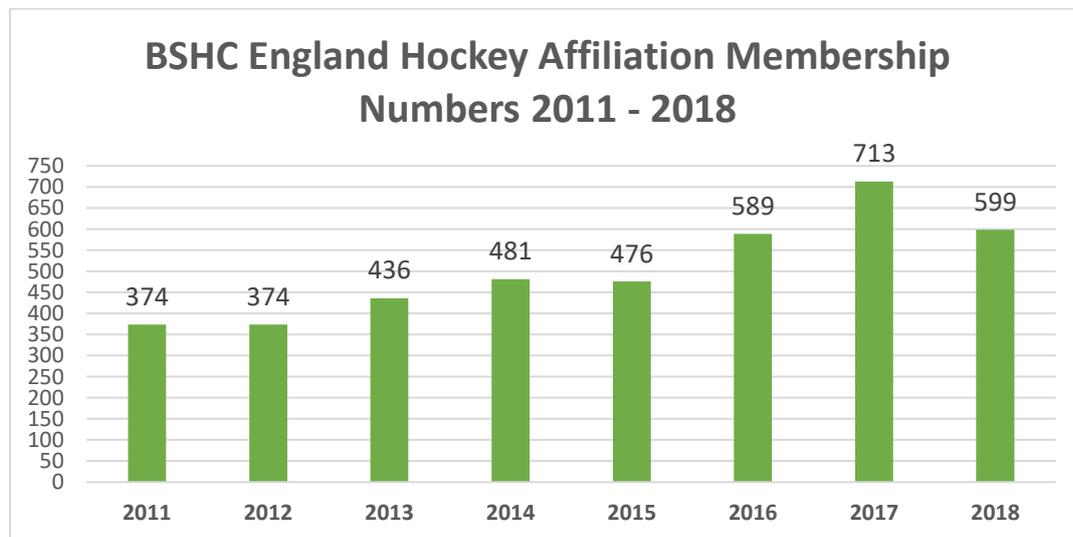


Chairman's Report 2018/19

On behalf of the management committee, it is my privilege to welcome members to the 2019 Annual General Meeting and introduce reports from your committee members on the various aspect of club life and the 2018/19 season.

Duncan Barber, Richard Temple and Jemma Smith will present reports on the season from their respective sections. From a playing perspective, it has been particular pleasing to see the majority of men's sides securing promotion including the 1st XI bouncing straight back from the disappointment of last year's relegation winning the league in comprehensive fashion; 30 new players in the Ladies' adult section; and the introduction of the incredibly popular junior hockey camps in partnership with Evo.



Our membership numbers remain strong and the relative fall over the last year is primarily due to a data cleanse of the website led by Amy Duffy as part of her GDPR preparations in May 2018. Amy has also been instrumental in collating the evidence required for BSHC to achieve England Hockey Clubmark accreditation.

Off the pitch, as the Club celebrates its 70th anniversary season, the prospect of a new home with collocated social and playing facilities for the first time in more than 25 years is now on the verge of

being a reality. Construction of the new astroturf at Beldams Lane is underway with a view to the pitch being ready for the start of the new season and many members will have seen the fantastic sports hall building that will incorporate our new clubroom. That this is possible is due to the generosity of our membership who have donated the majority of the £300k required to enable the project to happen. Notably, it is a testament to our vice presidents and former players who have contributed so generously, not least as a result of the vision and tenacity of Peter Smith who organised a highly successful Fundraising Dinner, ably supported by Ronnie Stott, Bernard Judge, Bernie Cotton and Belinda Appleby amongst others. Belinda, alongside Polly Murphy and Amanda Smart, was also central to the reintroduction of the Candlelit Supper after a decade-long hiatus.

Future generations of hockey players should have much to be grateful for to these contributions. Furthermore, special mention should go to a tireless quartet who have made this project possible: Gary Griffiths in his dual role as Herts & Essex governor and hockey vice president has spearheaded the work throughout; Duncan Barber for developing good governance for the future arrangements crystallising our partnership as well as marshalling the troops throughout; Simon Murphy for his successful shakedown of many of the club's benefactors, and Gregg Pettit for his unstinting work in ensuring the project's specifications meet our club's requirements. Jamie Henderson's work in securing us Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) status and thus the ability to claim gift aid has also played a significant part.

This new chapter in the club's history does mean a conclusion of another: from the end of August, BSHC will no longer be a member of the BS Community Sports Club. The Club's history recounts that over the last 70 years, there have been ups-and-downs in our residency at Cricketfield Lane and that the competing needs of different sports have not always been easy to balance. However, the overriding memory of our time at Cricketfield Lane will be one of fondness whether for the sloping outfield pitch that facilitated the giant slayings of the 70s and 80s, many a party or post-match debrief that lasted long into the night, and particularly in recent times, the exceptional quality of the beer. On that last note, a particular congratulations to all the Bar team on their recent recognition by CAMRA and our thanks to Neall 'Tubby' Range and Sedge especially for all their work to make the experience of Charles Edwards Pavilion such a welcoming environment. Replicating the atmosphere of good cheer in our new club house will be one of our ambition for next season.

We're expecting to launch a new website over the summer thanks to the efforts of Adam Farley: the current hitssports site was introduced in 2008 by Andy Webster and whilst it has served us well, the time has come for something more in keeping with the times – and mobile technology in particular.

As a club we are run entirely by volunteers and on behalf of all of the membership, I'd like to thank everyone who makes a positive contribution in any form towards the running of the club – there are too many to mention you all (although as ever, we'd love a few more!).

Club Awards 2018/19

Coaches' PoTY – Lizzie Roberts

Coach – Suzy Kittrell Fletcher

Umpires Award – Alex James

Neil Vartan – Amy Duffy

James Kew – Peter Smith

Chairman's Special Award - Duncan Barber, Gregg Pettit, and Simon Murphy

Chairman's Award – Belinda Appleby