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# Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club

(Affiliated to Hertfordshire County Hockey Association)  
<http://stortfordhockey.co.uk>

Ground:  
Herts & Essex Sports Centre,  
Beldams Lane,  
Bishop's Stortford, CM23 5LH

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## **Ladies' Section AGM Report for Season 2019-20**

Four Divisional Championship titles; another promotion; and a third place from six teams.

To say this was an extraordinarily successful season would be an understatement. The championships were won by the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, 4<sup>th</sup> XI and the newly formed Acolytes. The 5<sup>th</sup> XI were the first team to be promoted in the section; and the Ladies' 3s achieved their highest ever league placing. There were also two unbeaten records as well from the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and the 4<sup>th</sup> XI. The section won 76% of all competitive league matches played and only lost eleven matches out of 112 matches as a section. It's still not over as the Ladies' Masters Over 35s are still in the semi-final of the National Master's Cup which has yet to be played. It breaks my heart that the section hasn't really had the chance to celebrate their achievements. Yet in many ways I hope this makes us hungrier for success; to never settle; and to continue to strive for excellence. The end game is to establish ourselves as a National League club and the raw materials are in place to make this happen.

More pleasingly last season was that the culture of the club was strong. This was down to having strong leadership from the captains and the coaches. I am delighted to say that the same leadership group will be staying on for next season. Leadership also comes from adult players playing with emerging youngsters. The empathy and support from the natural leaders to younger players within the teams has been excellent too.

Successful teams breed strong cultures; and strong cultures breed successful teams. The attitude to committing to training has been first class too. Every week we had over sixty players training on Wednesday nights and on at least five nights this topped over eighty players.

There were also a number of weekends where all six teams were able to take full squads of 14 players so we will be launching a 7<sup>th</sup> adult team for next season to cater for the demand.

The forthcoming season is going to be even tougher as every side is playing up a division and in some cases are two divisions higher than over three years ago. If we stay hungry, stay humble and score more goals, there is no reason why more success is not possible.

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