

# Men's Club Captain's Report

## Review of Season

Another generally positive season marked with a considerable amount of success – most importantly the promotion of the Men's First XI back to Division 1. There has been a good Club spirit which should be enhanced as we move to our new home in September. Plenty of people willing to move teams late in the week to help out others.

The 1<sup>st</sup> team and 3<sup>rd</sup> team in particular managed to play some consistently good hockey in the period after Christmas and comfortably achieved their promotions as a result. The 4<sup>th</sup> team also achieved promotion. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team had some great performances but could not find consistency, especially for away matches when availability was patchy. The 5<sup>th</sup> team were relegated but were competitive at the level of 7SW after Christmas.

## First XI (Division 2S Champions)

Won all of their games in the second half of the season. John Kirton has really got them organised and playing to a plan and they seem to be enjoying themselves. An excellent win at Bedford in the last game in front of a hostile crowd (apart from our 5s) showed their new-found resilience and calmness - and was hugely enjoyable for the BSHC supporters. JK is already plotting how to achieve back to back promotions. That's the aim.

Player of the season: Rob Adkins

## Second XI (4SW - 6th)

Matt Brown had the hardest season of the Captains with a constant struggle to get an away team together - home form across the board would probably have brought promotion. That's the aim next year.

Player of the Season: Mark Taylor

## Third XI (5SW Champions)

Won all but one of their second round of matches. A great blend of youth and experience from England O65s star Tim Smith to U15s Alex James and Freddie Cooke Junior.

Player of the Season: Gregg Pettit (who is also to be commended for successfully restarting the Men's Masters who got the quarter finals of the Tier 3 Over 40s EH Cup)

## Fourth XI (6SW - 3rd)

Promoted despite Stuart Paskins' astute reading of the League website which said only two would be promoted in 6SW so that winning the last game, an effective play-off for third against WGC, would leave them in 6SW. The League have since marked the 4s as "promoted". The 4s are even starting to think about training pre-season for their own challenge of two promotions in two seasons!

Player of the Season: Chris Slack

## **Fifth XI (7SW - 11th)**

Relegated facing the challenge of two promotions in two seasons but with a second half of the season where they consistently picked up points and would have been in mid-table if this form had been found in the first half. A very strong bet for promotion next season.

Player of the Season: Michael Wilson.

## **2018/19 awards**

Men's Indoor Player:	Fred Cooke Snr
Men's Top Goal Scorer:	Tom Nash
Men's Young Player	Jamie Munro
Men's Most Improved:	Phil Ramsay
Men's Masters Player:	James Marsom
Men's Clubman:	Andy Round
Team of the Year:	First XII

## **Outlook for 2019/20**

The two main targets will be to achieve promotions for the Second team to Division 3SW (whilst keeping the 3<sup>rd</sup> team in 4SW) and for the First team to Premier B given that Division 1 should be a little weaker than when the First team were last in it (having said that, Southgate, St Albans and Old Loughts Second teams are entering the East League structure to offset the impact of more East teams going into the National League).

The First Team squad are intent on achieving that success next season with good levels of player retention and already a couple of possible new joiners. There is also the possibility of one or two travellers returning next season. If we are three or four players stronger we should put out the strong version of the Second team each week and they should have a good chance of promotion.

We will continue to work with our excellent juniors to give them opportunities in the higher sides and take advantage of their great potential. The U18s will be very strong and we would expect the majority of these to play in the First and Second teams when available for the club.

At the other end of the Club, the Fourths will face the challenge of two successive promotions.

The Fifths should achieve promotion back to 7SW if they can keep playing at that level in 8SW.

We continue to have a longer term objective of relaunching a Sixth team but absent a currently unforeseen influx of players that is still a couple of seasons off.