



# **2015 Annual Report**





Australian Government

**Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development** 











Dedicated to a better Brisbane

# Brisbane Hockey Management Group Inc. Seventh Annual Report

President: Greg Swann

Secretary: Kathleen Proctor

**Treasurer: Paul Saunders** 

## Committee Members: Ian Harcla, Ian Jones, Karin Walduck Guest: Tony Comerford

Brisbane City Council Marchant Ward: Cr Fiona King

Full Time Facility Supervisor: Tony Freshwater

Casual Facility Supervisors: Robyn Sneddon, John Bigg, Andrew Dawson

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#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year has seen continued improvement achieved at Burringbar. 2015 was our sixth full year of operation of the centre as Brisbane Hockey Management Group Inc. (BHMG) since commencing part way through the 2009 season. This year has been one of continuing the improvement and maintenance within a stable facility and financial management framework.

Unfortunately we were unable to secure grants for further improvement of Burringbar during 2015. Despite this a number of facility improvements continued, including rejuvenation of the grass fields and general maintenance of the facility due to its age and wear and tear. Plans for a viewing deck have been developed and a grant application has been submitted again in 2015. Security at Burringbar is a concern with break-ins and the subsequent theft of property continuing to impose costs on BHMG. A grant application is in progress to provide improved security measures.

The grant towards the cost of providing a second turf at Burringbar was announced during the Commonwealth election campaign is still current. A project plan to continue the grant commitment and scope the provision of a second turf has been developed, however grant funding has not been obtained. Application to extend the required completion dates has been made due to grant funding not being available. A new grant application to Brisbane City Council is in progress.

While the financial viability of Burringbar is strong, cost pressures continue to be experienced, in particular for electricity and water. Changes to the way electricity charges are applied continue to see increased electricity costs to BHMG, not for usage that we can control, but for network connection charges. Negotiations are in progress with the power supplier to revise our user status to reduce network connection costs which are approximately 70% of electricity costs.

At the time of writing negotiations are continuing with Brisbane City Council for approval to use the second grass field for parking for Westfield during construction at the shopping centre. Significant revenue is available for minimal outlay in minor preparation works. If Council approval is gained this will more than offset revenue loss from hiring the field out and provide funds for investment in the centre, in particular including improvements to the grass fields.

The priorities for BHMG in 2016 and going forward are to continue to run the centre on a commercial basis to ensure self-sufficiency, maintenance of the facility and to make provision for the next replacement of the artificial surface as well as progressive improvement of the facility, in particular the grass fields. Given the age of the centre, a range of maintenance issues can be expected to continue – many of which are costly to resolve. In addition, the planning for a second turf is a major commitment.

A facility development strategy continues to be developed to guide future improvements to Burringbar. High priority items are planning for a second turf, the construction of a viewing deck to improve spectator amenity and continuing improvement of the grass fields. The grass fields rejuvenation undertaken to date requires further work to build on the improvements made to date. This is an important action as the grass fields provide revenue across the year from other sports and need to be kept in good condition for both hockey and these sports.

Maintenance of the facility continues to be good with the grounds and facilities being clean and presentable. Thank you to our Facility Manager, Tony Freshwater, and his team for your commitment to the good maintenance and operation of the centre.

Improvement and maintenance of the facility for Brisbane Hockey continued in 2015, a major advance from when BHMG assumed responsibility for the centre following the demise of ShawSportz which left Burringbar with no funds, an artificial surface at the end of its life as well as many maintenance issues.

I would like to note the continuing conflict that BHMG faces in providing a turf facility for Brisbane Hockey at the lowest cost practicable while maintaining and improving Burringbar and saving the funds required for turf replacement. BHMG acknowledges the cost to players for turf hire and strives to balance this within its financial responsibilities to provide for the continued operation and maintenance of Burringbar.

The achievements this year would not have been possible with the continuing commitment and work of our Secretary, Kathleen Proctor and Treasurer, Paul Saunders. Both have key roles within their associations and have also continued to work hard to establish and improve the BHMG operation of Burringbar Park. Ian Harcla also makes a significant contribution in identifying and progressing applications for available grants. The continuing commitment and work of representatives on BHMG is appreciated.

Greg Swann President



#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Our AGM was held on December 8th 2014 our Board was elected unopposed, noting however that Greg Swann had stepped down as the BHA President, but he would remain as one of the BHMG representatives for BHA. Our general meeting following the AGM saw us discuss a way forward to allow filming by HockeyZone at our facility, and scaffolding was erected early in the new year to allow this to happen. Thank you to Paul Mills (HZ) for his work to see this become a reality.

The budget was not passed at this meeting as our treasurer received significant injuries in November, the Budget was later approved via email. Thankfully Paul has made a full recovery from his injuries and completed his Treasurers role for the whole year. The rising costs of water and in particular electricity will unfortunately lead to increases in the turf hire costs for 2016. We must ensure the facility is earning enough money to maintain and improve the facility for the future. Paul is constantly looking for ways to reduce the cost impost on players, and will continue to lobby the electricity suppliers to assist with this. Thank you Paul for all your hard work in this area. Thank you also to Susan Johnston (BHA Financial Officer) and Tony Freshwater for dealing with the day to day financial management of the facility.

Our Facility Manager Tony Freshwater continued to maintain the facility to a high standard, a program to repair and where necessary replace fencing across the facility has been determined. Tony is a valuable employee, the facility while aging always looks clean and tidy and we have him and his team of workers to thank for this. Well done and thanks Tony and your team.

Unfortunately we did not receive any government funding during the year. State Government funding would have been used in part to support a second turf at BP. This year we have again applied for funding to provide a protected viewing area, advice on this grant will not be known until December. We also applied for, but were unsuccessful for a BCC "Security Grant' to try and improve security at the premises and reduce the number of break-ins. We will continue to make the facility as secure as we can with better external lighting and locks.

Following the undertaking from the Federal government for \$300K towards a second turf at Burringbar Park, Ian Harcla and Ian Jones have worked on a plan to have a second hybrid turf at the facility. Grant applications have been submitted and plans worked on to make this happen in 2016/2017. Thank you to the two Ian's and many volunteer experts that have assisted them to this point. We hope that a positive result is known early in the new year.

KWSHC continued to run the canteen to allow our patrons to purchase quality product at reasonable prices. All money raised from the canteen stays in our sport, so we encourage you to utilize the facilities provided. Thank you to KWSHC for your work with this. The canteen is limited in space and storage, but we appreciate what KWSHC do within these limitations. We now have a signed MOU for the canteen which provides certainty for all.

Greg Swann remained on the BHMG Board as President, but new BHA President Tony Comerford also attended our meetings. Thank you to Greg, Karin & Tony for your attendance at meetings, dedication and commitment to BHMG. Thank you also to Kim Rendell for looking after the mail and website for BHMG.

Kathy Proctor Secretary

#### **TREASURER REPORT**

The 2015 Financial Statements of Brisbane Hockey Management Group Inc., for the year ending 30 September 2015, are submitted and appear in this Annual Report.

The financial position of BHMG Inc is reasonable. The Profit and Loss report, for the past financial year is satisfactory, although we were unable to reach the budgeted level of profit.

Electricity costs, once again, continue to be one of the major outgoing costs. The board of BHMG has undertaken consultation to try to minimise electricity cost increases and will look to the medium term to investigate upgrading or replacing the current lighting configuration.

As always, my sincere thanks to Susan Johnston who, assisted by Tony Freshwater's monthly invoicing, keep the BHMG accounts in order. We, as an entity, suffer from some clubs who seem unable or incapable of paying their accounts in a timely manner – a very unfortunate occurrence, which will not be tolerated in the coming year.

To Kath Proctor, a clear thinker who acts as a sounding board and a reasoned voice, somehow manages as secretary of BHMG and all it entails, in the midst of her numerous duties at BWHA.

Thank you to Greg Swan, his term as BHA president has ended and therefore his chairman's role of BHMG. We express our considerable appreciation for the last six years.

Karin Walduck, for her balancing act in her many capacities within hockey - thank you for your generous contribution on the BHMG board.

Ian Harcla and Ian Jones, thank you also for your ongoing board contributions and a warm welcome to Tony Comerford.

Finally, Kim Rendell, for his ongoing assistance with the BHMG webpage and also for day to day office crossovers with BHMG matters.

#### Paul Saunders Finance & Facilities



#### **EQUIPMENT, STAFF AND FACILITIES REPORT**

#### **Equipment**

Maintenance equipment is in good order, a number of items have been replaced at considerable expense due to another break in.

#### **Insurance Claims**

Considerable damaged was done to our club house this year due to storm damage, partial roof replacement at our expense as insurance would not cover us due to age of roof and some preexisting work had been carried out. The insurance covered us for new ceiling, lighting, fans and carpet in the club house.

Our fence on Kittyhawk drive was smashed into by a car and a number of panels and a new Kedron Wavell hockey sign were replaced. All insurance claims work has finally been completed.

#### **Field Maintenance**

We will have considerable expense in 2016 as we need to replace ten power pole lights on grass and turf fields, and at least two gearing systems. Our electrician is putting together a costing and upgrading proposal for our turf field and grass field lights, the proposal will be in two parts so we so we can submit grants.

We are still having a considerable amount of trouble with our Blue Vane score board system, which will needed to be attended to by our electrician in conjunction with Blue Vane industries in Melbourne in the new year. To bring our grass fields up to a reasonable standard we have allocated \$6000.00 for fertilizer, top soil and grass patching, this work is planned for a start at the end of the second week of December weather and contractor permitting. Turf field fencing repairs will be completed before start of 2016 season.

#### **Security**

Security is still a major issue at our venue, we have trimmed a lot of trees which is still ongoing and had new security locks fitted to our equipment shed and a large spot light fitted at the end of our canteen area. We applied for a security system grant, unfortunately we were unsuccessful.

#### **Painting**

Painting of change room ceilings and back boards attached to back of goal areas will be completed before start of 2016 season, money has been set aside for this work in our general maintenance budget.

#### **Staffing**

We hope to retain Andrew, Robin and John as casuals for 2016. We thank them for their hard work and commitment in 2015.

#### Turf Booking 2016 Pre-season

Bookings are strong for pre-season starting from 18<sup>th</sup> January to the end of February.

Kickit touch footy have approached us for the 2016 season, this group would replace TRL who have gone to Shaw Park.

2015 has been very busy and we hope that the Burringbar Park facility will have a smoother 2016 season.

Tony Freshwater Facility Supervisor

#### **CANTEEN, GRANTS AND FUNDING REPORT**

BHMG has continued to seek grant funding for improvements to spectator facilities at Burringbar Park primarily for the artificial surface. Plans have been drawn up and grant applications were made with the State Government and BCC with no success. BHMG will keep trying to seek funds to improve the hockey experience of patrons at Burringbar Park.

BHMG has received a commitment from the Federal Government for \$300,000 funding towards a second artificial field at Burringbar Park. Submissions have been lodged with the Queensland Government and the BCC to provide the residual funding to get this much needed extra field constructed. An initial grant application to the Queensland Government was unsuccessful. A further application has been delayed pending a submission from Hockey Queensland to the State Government on hockey infrastructure around the State

The canteen showed improved patronage over the winter season which provided increased revenue for the facility. Kedron Wavell continued to be mindful of the hockey community by keeping costs as low as possible. Running the canteen requires a significant amount of manpower from Club volunteers (approx. 1400 manhours for the opening times plus cleaning, maintenance and buyer's time) and the efforts of the Kedron Wavell Club are commended in maintaining this service to the hockey community.

#### Ian Harcla and Ian Jones

