

BHMG INC

BRISBANE HOCKEY MANAGEMENT GROUP INC



2014 Annual Report



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

Brisbane Hockey Management Group Inc. Sixth Annual Report

President: Greg Swann

Secretary: Kathleen Proctor

Treasurer: Paul Saunders

Committee Members: Ian Harcla, Ian Jones, Karin Walduck

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. 2014 was our fifth 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 2014. 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 were submitted for a range of grants in 2014, unfortunately without success. 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.

A grant towards the cost of providing a second turf at Burringbar promised by the current Commonwealth Government is still current. The grant was announced during the Commonwealth election campaign by the Honourable Julie Bishop MP (now Minister for Foreign Affairs) on the turf at Burringbar. Work is progressing on developing a project plan to continue the grant commitment and scope the provision of a second turf. Further work is now required to gain further support from the state government and the Brisbane City Council to bring the second turf to fruition.

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.

The priorities for BHMG in 2015 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. 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 in 2013 and 2014 requires further work to maintain and extend the improvements made to date. This will involve additional costs for water. 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 to meet the needs of these sports as well as hockey.

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.

While there have not been major improvements to report for 2014, this year has seen the continuous improvement and maintenance of the facility for Brisbane Hockey, a major advance from when BHMGM 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 BHMGM 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. BHMGM 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 BHMGM operation of Burringbar Park. The continuing commitment and work of representatives on BHMGM is appreciated.

Greg Swann
President

SECRETARY'S REPORT

At our AGM on December 6th December 2013 our Board was elected unopposed. Our committee meetings have been generally held on the first Friday of every month since BHMGM started but during 2014 it was determined to move these to the second Monday of the month to allow for a complete financial statement for the preceding month to be presented to the meeting. The first Friday of the month did not always allow time for this to happen. I thank all the board members for their commitment to the meetings and the association.

Our general meeting following the AGM sees us approve the Budget, updates the Facility Development Plan and User Manual. It is important to see where we have come from and our plans for the future. This facility is of vital importance to the hockey community in Brisbane.

At the AGM it was noted that we will continue to work to update our aging facility and provide a venue that hockey enthusiasts and other community groups want to use. Talks were held with the England Commonwealth Games committee with a view to use our facility for the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast as a training venue. Our Facility Manager Tony Freshwater freshened the facility up with a coat of paint as well as maintenance on the fields and fences during the off-season. 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.

Unfortunately we did not receive any government funding during the year. This would have been used to improve our viewing experience at the facility, thus increasing patronage at the facility by providing shelter from the extremes of weather Queensland is known for, but we will continue to look at ways to make this happen in the future.

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 2015/2016. 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 utilise 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.

Unfortunately our Treasurer Paul Saunders sustained a major workplace injury at the end of the financial year, we wish Paul a speedy recovery. I would like to thank Susan Johnston for ensuring that the books were audited before the AGM and she ensured the financial management of the association continued uninterrupted with a small contribution from myself in Paul's absence. Thanks Susan for all your work in this area. The rising costs of water and in particular electricity will unfortunately lead to increases in the turf hire costs for 2015. We must ensure the facility is earning enough money to maintain and improve the facility for the future. Thanks Paul for your work to date, we expect to see you back up and running in the near future.

Thank you to Greg Swann for his unending drive to make Burringbar Park and BHMG something all members of hockey in Brisbane can be proud of. Greg is stepping down from his role as President of BHA and BHMG and we thank him for his time and expertise and wish him well for the future.

Kathy Proctor
Secretary

TREASURER REPORT

The 2014 Financial Statements of Brisbane Hockey Management Group Inc., for the year ending 30 September 2014, are submitted and appear in this Annual Report.

The financial position of BHMG Inc is reasonable. The limitations on the income and the ongoing pressures of electricity costs and water costs continue to undermine our ability to reasonably save enough to eventually replace the artificial surface with in the five to seven years depending on the wear factor.

This report, under the circumstances, with my burns injuries and month long hospital recovery period and on-going treatment, is brief.

I would like to thank the following people for their generous assistance, keeping in mind that all board members give generously of the own time, at no cost to this Group.

Thanks to Susan Johnstone, who achieves much with accounts with efficiency, accuracy and good humour, in a small part of one day per week.

To Kathy Proctor, a big thank you also for the unenviable job of taking the minutes and controlling the ongoing inflow of information and for keeping us constantly “on task”.

Greg Swan and Karin Walduck, thank you both, as presidents of the respective Men’s and Women’s associations, who give so generously of their time on the BHMG board.

To the two Ian’s – Harcla and Jones, thank you also for your ongoing contributions. Kim Rendell, who co-ordinates all day to day office protocol and other financial matters, when and as required.

Finally, to Tony Freshwater for his ability to run the complex on behalf of the BHMG Board with great insight, knowledge and an outstanding attitude to life in general.

Paul Saunders
Finance & Facilities

EQUIPMENT, STAFF AND FACILITIES REPORT

Equipment:

- All equipment is in good order.
- The Ferris ride-on mower will have its service at years end.
- Unfortunately we have been broken into again this year, which is costly in both time and money. We have applied for a grant to install increased security measures.

Maintenance:

- Flood lights: on the turf and grass fields will require bulb replacements, we plan to have this work carried out by the first week of February as it will also include the repairing of the timer on the score board, which will be a time consuming job. It is difficult to quote on work like this as internal problems are difficult to determine until work is commenced. Steven Lambert our Electrician has been a great help throughout the year and we thank him for this.
- Grass field work will be carried out in December to allow as much time as possible for the re-mediation of the fields before touch football and hockey recommence in 2015. We plan to fertilise, top dress and aerate the two grass fields to rejuvenate them. Patches of turf will be laid to fill larger bare patches.
- Brisbane Fire Safety Management carried out the annual fire equipment service on 6/11/2014.
- The irrigation system has had three sprinkler heads replaced and two valves.
- The Turf field will require vacuuming in 2015, it is planned to be done in March before season fixtures commence.
- We will continue to maintain the fencing repair work on site, utilising John Bigg to assist with this job.

Staffing:

- We hope to retain our current staff for 2015, but we are always looking out for additional people to share the load, this person must have both computer and maintenance skills, as well as people skills to ensure all enjoy using the BP facility.

Accounts:

- Invoicing and collection has improved in 2014. Thank you to those clubs and groups who have paid their accounts promptly.
- Thank you to Susan for your assistance.

Bookings:

- The turf facility was heavily booked during the season, but it was disappointing that a number of clubs cancelled bookings at late notice. We are looking to increase the penalty for booking cancellations in 2015. The available turf is so limited, it is important that time is provided to allow for someone else to use any cancelled space.
- The grass fields were used by 2 Touch Football associations as well as hockey groups.
- 2015 Preseason and permanent bookings have started to roll in.

I wish to thank all those people who have helped me in small little ways this year it does make the job easier.

Thank you,

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.

Thanks to the support from the President of the Kedron Wavell Services Hockey Club, 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 during 2015. BHMG is looking to install the latest technology in dry turfs to save on water costs.

The canteen showed improved patronage and profits over the winter season which provided an increased profit share 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

