

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

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# Annual General Meeting - Draft Minutes

Meeting conducted at ACT Hockey

4 December 2022

## 1. Welcome and Introduction

The Meeting opened at 1:30 p.m and the Annual Report and Financial statements were made available for all attendees. The President thanked everyone for their attendance.

### **Present**

Michael Plenty, Leanne Monfries, Trad Wallace, Darren Williams, Sonia Williams, Lachlan Woods, Caroline O'Driscoll, Ryan Hodson, Brett Bettiol, Morgan Hubbard, Tim Cullan, Gerard Evans, Tamara Seaman, Nicole Evans, Kathy Mumberson, Jai Hill, Sally Hill, Michelle Murphy, Samuel Rowsell, Claire Warner, Wayne Beresford, Sarah Janek

### **Proxies**

Mick Mason (Trad), Nicole Bettiol (Trad), Angus Esslemont (Trad), Steve Sant (Trad), Gavin Hillier (Trad), Keith McGinnes (Trad), Lisa Plenty (Mick P), Ethan Plenty (Mick P)

### **Apologies**

Nicole Bettiol.

## 2. Acceptance of minutes of previous annual general meeting

Proposed resolution: That the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Lachlan Woods, Seconded: Nicole Evans -- Passed

## 3. President's Address

Following an acknowledgement of country, the president, Leanne Monfries, welcomed all to the meeting and thanked the 2022 committee for their work. Particular mention was made of Chris Moylan and Tim Cullen, men's and women's CL coaches respectively, who are both stepping down this year.

A highlight of the year was the establishment and work of the Development Committee. Kathy Mumberson, Brett Bettiol, Chris Moylan, Tim Cullen, Wayne Beresford and Craig Dalzell, were thanked for their work on and off the field. The junior competition committee; David Webb, Wayne and Kim Beresford, Inge Ballingall and Brett Bettiol,

were also thanked for their tireless hours of effort. Acknowledgement that David, Wayne and Kim are stepping down this year as well.

The president expressed her pride in the club's representation across all Hockey ACT's *rounds of significance*. Particular thanks expressed to Emma Taylor for her work on social media, Mental Health ambassador Naomi Evans and Pride Ambassador Lachlan Woods. Rechelle Turner was also acknowledged for her artwork that is now proudly displayed on our indoor uniforms.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Trad Wallace, outlined the year noting an overall deficit of \$4034.82 for the year despite the shortened season, with a larger than usual number of players asking for payment plans.

We saw some higher than usual costs for field hire due to use of the AIS for some junior teams and the hire of the Taylor pitch at Tuggeranong for use by the CL squads one night each week. Raiders Gungahlin were also not able to meet their sponsorship contribution due to also being shut down due to the pandemic.

At Home Landscapes and Wilby Constructions continued their support which was much appreciated, and we welcomed a new sponsor Ainslie Group (Ainslie and Gungahlin).

Trad anticipated that fees would remain stable, all other things remaining equal, but noted we would still benefit from additional sponsors.

#### **5. Acceptance of Financial Statements**

Proposed resolution: That the financial statements tabled at the annual general meeting be accepted.

Moved: Tim Cullen, Seconded: Gerard Evans -- Passed

#### **6. Acceptance of the Annual Report**

Proposed resolution: That the annual report tabled at the annual general meeting be accepted.

The contributions of competitions coordinators and other members towards the 2022 Annual report are gratefully acknowledged by the executive committee.

Moved: Tim Cullen, Seconded: Gerard Evans -- Passed

#### **7. Election of Office Bearers**

**Executive:**

President: Leanne Monfries

Nominated: Tim Cullen, Seconded: Michelle Murphy -- Elected

Secretary: Michael Plenty

Nominated: Ryan Hodson, Seconded: Michelle Murphy -- Elected

Treasurer: Trad Wallace

Nominated: Leanne Monfries, Seconded: Michelle Murphy -- Elected

### **Club Patrons**

Bill Powell and Kaz Ely (Pending Acceptance)

### **Other Committee Members**

Assistant Secretary: Nicole Bettiol

Nominated: Michael Plenty, Seconded: Leanne Monfries -- Elected

Vice President (Men): Gerard Evans

Nominated: Leanne Monfries, Seconded: Michael Plenty -- Elected

Vice President (Women): Tim Cullen

Nominated: Leanne Monfries, Seconded: Michelle Murphy -- Elected

Men's Coordinator: Ryan Hodson

Nominated: Caroline O'Driscoll, Seconded: Lachlan Woods -- Elected

Women's Coordinator(s): Michelle Murphy

Nominated: Claire Warner, Seconded: Claire Warner -- Elected

Indoor Coordinator: Kathy Mumberson

Nominated: Claire Warner, Seconded: Ryan Hodson -- Elected

Social and Media Coordinator: Emma Taylor

Nominated: Leanne Monfries, Seconded: Michael Plenty -- Elected

Sponsorship and Fundraising Coordinator: *Vacant*

### **Junior Competition Committee**

Junior Registrar: Jai Hill

Nominated: Nicole Bettiol, Seconded Michelle Murphy -- Elected

Assistant Treasurer - Juniors: *Vacant*

Coordinator(s) - Boys: Inge Ballingall

Nominated: Wayne Beresford, Seconded: Michael Plenty-- Elected

Coordinator(s) - Girls: Sarah Janek, Kerry Palethorpe and Claire Warner

Nominated: Wayne Beresford, Seconded: Leanne Monfries -- Elected

## **Development Committee**

Chair: Kathy Mumberson

Currently comprising: Tim Cullen, Brett Bettiol, Kathy Mumberson, Craig Dalzell and Jai Hill. Other members may be drawn into this committee over the course of the year.

### **8. Motions of which due notice has been received**

Life membership was granted to Darren "Toge" Williams and Sonia Williams in recognition of their combined +50 years of service to the club as players, coaches, and managers.

Passed unanimously

### **9. General Business**

There was no further business

### **10. Meeting close**

The meeting was closed at 2:35 pm

*Minutes prepared by Michael Plenty*

*23 December 2022*

## President's Report

I begin today by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to their Elders past and present. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

Life Members, Members, Players, Supporters, welcome to the St Patrick's Annual General Meeting for 2023, it's my pleasure as Club President to welcome you all here today. Firstly, I would like to start off with thanking our Executive Committee - Trad Wallace and Michael Plenty. Also our Women's and Men's Coordinator's Michelle Murphy, Tamara Seaman and Ryan Hodson - you do an outstanding job that is not always easy. You have all worked tirelessly to keep our club running and this shows in our current membership numbers and success across the grades. Likewise, our Men's VP Gerard Evans and Women's VP Tim Cullen. We continue to work hard on the culture of our club to ensure we are consistently a club of choice. This is represented by our growth in membership numbers - we currently have in excess of 450 members.

The Development Committee - Kathy Mumberson, Brett Bettiol and Craig Dalzell - again thank you for all your hard work on and off the field and the programs you have put together over the past year. We are looking forward to working with you next season.

Congratulations to our Junior Committee for another great season and the continued successes of our juniors. Our Boys Coordinator Inge Ballingal will not be nominating next year, and I would like to thank Inge for all the hard work she has done for the Junior boy's teams as Coordinator for the past 2 years, culminating in us being awarded Junior Boys Club of the Year for our successes.

Hook into Hockey Coordinators and Coaches - Brett Bettiol and Jess Whitlock - thank you for your dedication to our up-and-coming juniors. These kids love playing hockey each week which is a credit to you both and all the junior coaches that continue to step up each week. I also would like to thank all players, parents and committee that helped at the H2H carnivals this year. These carnivals would not be possible without you, so thank you.

I would also like to say thank you to Paul Sureda, our outgoing Women's CL1 Women's coach who unfortunately will not be nominating to coach next year. I would like to thank Paul for his efforts this season in coaching this talented squad of players.

Tony Mumberson and Manager Denise Lemon - this year could have been a different result for our CL2 women's cohort had it not been for Tony and Denise taking on this team. I would like to congratulate Tony and the team who were able to win the Premiership for St Patricks yet again - 3 years in a row. Mumbo thank you for coaching the girls. I know they would have loved to have you back in 2024.

A big shoutout to Darren 'Toge' Williams for taking on the coaching role for the CL1 Men. Despite not making finals this year, there was some great hockey played and we look forward to seeing what the boys can achieve in 2024.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to Michael Plenty and Ryan Hodson, the outgoing Secretary and Men's Coordinator. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes by Michael and Ryan to keep the club running is never-ending, and these two have done an exemplary job during their tenures. I cannot thank you enough for everything



that you do or have done for the Club and I hope to see you back on the Committee when the time is right.

Congratulations to all players that made Representative Teams this year - Seniors, Juniors, Master's and Canberra Chill - you have done your club proud.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to wish you all and your families a safe and wonderful Christmas and we are looking forward to seeing you all back in the green and white next year.

Leanne Monfries  
*President*  
*St Patricks Hockey Club*



## Secretary's Report

*I don't normally write a report, but on reviewing the annals of club history I am encouraged by the fact it is not the first time a club secretary has done so.*

I have thoroughly enjoyed being able to contribute something to the administration of this great club over the last 6 years or so as secretary and I think we have come a long way in some respects during that time. I also believe we have let some of the underlying life and culture of the club get set aside. Whether that be due to the general busyness of everyday life, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic or some other combination of reasons, our social events calendar has been empty for too long and it is time for it to be re-energised.

On the pitch we have more numbers than ever, and our club culture remains strong and supportive of each other and, almost as importantly, respectful towards our officials and opposition players. My fear is that this is diminishing somewhat and that our positive culture is happening more by coincidence than by design. There are too many instances where intra-team bickering has caused us to lose matches and mates, and all too often over the past few years we have been tasked with addressing player or spectator behaviour that is unacceptable. Thankfully these instances remain quite rare however I fear it will remain a challenge for the club into the future. It is incumbent on all of us to exhibit only our best sporting behaviour and to encourage those around us to remain similarly positive and supportive.

I applaud the work of the Development Committee and wish them more success in the future. A large club has its challenges and not least among these is providing quality coaching and associated supports to ensure we reach our full competitive potential – both in each grade and as individual players. Needless to say, finding, training and retaining the right people is undoubtedly made easier when we have some money in the bank, so I join with the Treasurer in requesting you stay on the lookout for appropriate sponsors. In a club that is now 70 years young we also have a large community of former members to draw on for their expertise and which we should be tapping into where possible.

My thanks to all the people who have made this job so much easier over the last few years. Special thanks to Nicole Bettiol who has served as Assistant Secretary for many years. Your assistance, friendship and work ethic are more appreciated than you will ever know. Nicole has carried the bulk of the work in relation to uniform supply and design as well as a myriad of other tasks. To Peter Elliot (Life Member and former Secretary) for helping me learn the ropes and set a few things upright. Many thanks to Emma Taylor too, whose work on the club's social media has kept our community informed and engaged so well over the past few years.

With that said, it is time to step aside and let someone with new ideas take the helm. I look forward to being involved with St Pats for many years to come.

Michael Plenty  
*Outgoing Secretary*

## Women's Competition Report

### Overview:

2023 began with Kathy Mumberson organising teams for our Women's Indoor season and Freda Bennett Masters Carnival – Many thanks Kathy! For the first time in a few years St Pats coordinated entering teams in the 2023 Freda Bennett Masters outdoor competition; the 3 teams appeared to have great fun. The indoor competition saw the following teams enter; Supers, SL1, Mon and Thu teams. Providing great St Pats Coverage

This year we kept 10 teams across the 7 grades, with a CL1, CL2, SL1W, SL1G, SL2W, SL2G, SL3W, SL3G, SL4 and SL5. Each team started with a good number of players, but as usual injuries and personal commitments impacted on player availability. We are proud of the way that our Club supports teams above and below with subs, although we may consider how we can improve on this next year. We had the usual small number of come and go, but it was great to see the teams bond and improve over the year.

Training for CL1 and SL1 teams was at Lyneham, which provided an opportunity for CL teams to keep an eye on upcoming talent! SL2-5 training was held on Taylor which unfortunately created challenges for many players to get to training, especially those with juniors training in Lyneham.

Before we move onto team reflections, I'd like to acknowledge and thank Tam for joining /supporting the Women's Coordinator role. We would also like to thank Tim, Women's Vice President for his support.

### CL1 Women

*Coached by Paul Sureda. Managed by Sonia Williams.*

CL1 Women had 16 wins 3 draws and 2 losses. They scored 95 goals and had 26 against, and finished 2nd on the ladder. They played Goulburn in the Major semi-final and went down 0-3. Unfortunately, the team had another loss in the preliminary final going down 2-3 against TVHC.

Awards: Best & Fairest – Mikayla Evans, Most Effective – Nicola Williams, Coaches Award – Ashleigh Seivers.

### CL2 Women

*Coach: Tony Mumberson, Manager: Denise Lemon*

WINNERS are GRINNERS!!! What a great season with such a great bunch of girls (and Mumbo)

The team had a highly successful season, not only finishing on top of the ladder but also taking out the Premiership after a nail-biting finish and into shoot outs!! The team had a number of players that attended U18 Nationals, Masters, School Nationals and State Championships. It was also great to have Kaidey O'Connor returning from injury mid-season and the support of players from CL1 and SL1 stepping in to help when needed.

The two team awards went to Wendy Moylan (Players player) and Rachael Mumberson (Coaches award) who both had an outstanding season.

Big thank you goes to Mumbo for all his efforts throughout the year, the squad learnt a lot from him on and off the field.

The CL Squad this year has been amazing, and we look forward to what we can achieve in 2024!!!

### **SL1 White Women**

*Coached by Jaimilee Keir. Managed by Sonia Williams.*

SL1 White were undefeated with 14 wins, 6 draws and 2 byes. They scored 69 goals and had 19 against, finishing minor premiers. The girls played UCHC in the major semi-final defeating them 2-1 putting the team straight through to the grand final. Unfortunately they went down 2-3 to UCHC in a shootout (nil all at full-time, 2-3 loss in shootout) SL1 White finished runners up for 2023. Congratulations to Taylor Burns who was the highest goal scorer across the ACT SL1 Women's grade scoring a total of 26 goals for the season.

Awards: Best & Fairest – Taylor Burns, Most Effective – Melanie French.

### **SL1 Green Women**

*Coached by John Rhind and managed by Fiona Long.*

Congratulations to the SL1 Green women's team on finishing third, it was a great season, and the team had lots of fun playing together. The blend of experience with juniors was a great combination, and it was wonderful to see the team come together and support each other. The team just missed out on an opportunity to play against St Pats SL1 White in the grand final which would have been an exciting match. Maybe next year! Overall, it was a fantastic season, and the team should be proud of their accomplishments.

### **SL2 White Women**

*Coached by Chris Gray, with assistance from Garrit Ivers-Royle and managed by Beth Taylor.*

Award recipients this season:

Best and Fairest (321s) – every week Lisa Liu-Thorrold would be among the top 5 vote recipients; she was such a consistently good player.

Most Improved/Coaches award - Triana Smith had an absolutely incredible season this year following on from an amazing season last year. So proud of her improvements this year and we look forward to her future in hockey.

It was great to have Mel Page back this season, after suffering a significant injury mid-season last year that put her out of action for months, and she had a cracker season back from injury.

The team found it hard to pick which game was their best game, enjoying every aspect of the teams they played and enduring weather and pitch conditions.

### **SL2 Green Women**

*Coach: Sam Rowsell, Manager Kate Bell.*

Awards:

Our SL2 Green team is really enthusiastic and supportive. They are dedicated to improving both individual skills and as a team.

Sam Rowsell joined as SL2G coach and has worked hard with the team on fitness and skills. He is a very patient and good humoured and our team has certainly enjoyed many laughs through our training sessions.

Our dedication to never giving up has always been a strength within our team and we have shown this by beating many of the stronger teams in our grade. Next year our focus is on scoring goals more and moving up the ladder!

### **SL3 White Women**

*Coached by Joe Corby, managed by Katie Langridge*

SL3W had a good season, despite some struggles with player injuries. Player shortages were exacerbated by an inability to source substitute players at times.

The team acknowledged the move by Hockey ACT to crack-down on abuse of umpires as a positive, but occasionally found the lack of tolerance between polite questioning and dissent difficult to navigate – particularly in relation to inexperienced umpires who were often unsupported. Overall the standard of umpiring had improved from previous seasons.

As a number of players were based on the south-side of town SL3 White preferred the training at Tuggeranong, unlike some other SL grade teams.

### **SL3 Green Women**

*Coached by Matt Hope, managed by Michelle Murphy.*

We welcomed some wonderful new players to our club and SL3G team this year. Lisa Linton, Donna Anderson and Judy Williams impressed us, travelling from Jindabyne and Cooma for the games each weekend!

The team had an unusual start to the season with 2 strokes in the first game! Then after a slow start (with few wins) we started to really click, then shift up a gear to challenge our opposition - only narrowly missing out on 4th place. Our forwards Judy and Nic Emerton were high goal scorers, not only for our team but outstanding across SL3. Regardless of the result, we had a lot of fun, laughs, and forged some strong friendships over the season. Holding training at Tuggeranong, did however impact on attendance.

Coaches award: Judy Williams and Alyssa Hope. Best and Fairest: India Palethorpe

### **SL4 Women**

The SL4 team had a good season and after a mid-season change of structure made a late surge to the finals, missing a top four place by 2 goals. The team had four juniors make their senior debut as permanent players and another made her debut when she filled in., Three former St Pats junior players also who returned to the sport.

The team had the privilege of having two coaches this year. Olivia Beresford from our U13 team as the assistant coach bringing great insight to the play of the team due to her representative experience, whilst Wayne Beresford brought some new drills and a new system of playing. The guidance from the backs was formidable with our experienced goalkeeper. Having two other goal keepers, and Suze Nucifora playing in full back provided confidence to the halves and forwards that they were well supported. It was brilliant that throughout the year, opposition coaches and manager regularly commented that they enjoyed playing against the team due to the team's fairness, good game play and sportsmanship. The experienced players made a great impact in the team, supporting the juniors in the development of the team, building confidence in our younger players. The way that the team rallied around and supported each other when needed was highly commendable.

## **SL5 Women**

Coached by Geoff Colquhoun, with Beth Taylor and Alicia von Renouard taking over mid-season. Managed by Lorraine (Loz) Suters.

Renee O'Loughlin received the most improved player this year. This was Renee's first year playing hockey. This team had a lovely mix of age and skill set, who came together beautifully on the pitch, providing support to each other.

Mirabel Wilson received the best and fairest award, she was a little powerhouse who adapted to any position she played. She assisted other teammates with honing their skills and gave her all in every game. Leanne Foresti also received an award for best and fairest. She was constantly stepping up as the captain leading the team to become stronger with each game.

Michelle Murphy  
*Women's Coordinator*



### Overview

Another year of hockey done and dusted. This year was a bit weird – there seemed to be a lot more people away with work or holidays, and although COVID-19 is still about, most of the impacts we felt weren't directly from that. I think it's more just everyone catching up on travel that they've put off since 2020.

Some great things to take away from the year, and some more things to work on as well. Fundamentally I think as a club, if we can engage players from first to seventh grades and get everyone playing a similar style or structure of play and emphasise the basics from those lower grades and build upwards, we can promote the best quality hockey at every level and we'll be in a great spot to help to link the club together. Getting to each other's games, getting the experienced players to download their knowledge into the less experienced players (juniors and grey-haired newcomers alike) will take us a long way on both of those fronts.

Moving into next year, I think also across all grades we need to continue emphasising and offering opportunities to juniors and those looking to step up and improve their individual game – that doesn't mean having a billet of x youngsters in each grade full-time, but it does mean maximising where possible those opportunities for a run-on for exposure to the next grade up. There's a lot of promising talent migrating upwards through grades, so making sure that growth pathway for experience and upskilling, even when it doesn't translate to a full-time gig in the next grade, will be important for not only maintaining the numbers base but improving the quality and competitiveness across all grades. I'm well pleased by how as a club we're supporting our junior members – let's keep that trajectory up.

I'd encourage and challenge everyone to be more involved next season, where you can – mentor a player or team (officially or unofficially), head to a committee meeting to find how the back end of St Pats/HACT works, help out Hook-In-To-Hockey, or help to organise/run a Bunnings BBQ or Quiz Night. Sure, it's extra work, and I know a lot of people are time poor, but you genuinely do get out what you put in, and it's a great feeling to see things improve for the better over time. I'd also encourage senior players to consider taking on a leadership role in a lower grade – that'll promote that talent pipeline opportunity and give you a great opportunity to download your skill into the next club committee members.

I'd also really be keen to see the entire club get out and support our SL5 men or women one round next year – the lower grade teams tend to get shanked with late games at Tuggers, but having the whole club get around and cheer on Darryl, Trad and maybe even Scotty as they crack goals and break hearts to the cheers of a hundred belligerent voices would be fantastic.

As you heard at Presso night and via email/socials, I'm stepping down this year as Men's Coord. It's been a great few years but I've just got too many things on at present, so I'll be handing over the reins. I hope you all support the next person in the seat, and I'll see you around the traps soon.

My last point, before I climb down from this proverbial soapbox the last time, was that this year we had a lot of injuries – take care of yourselves, warm up and warm down, and rehab where you need to.

Be excellent, support each other, and make sure you're having fun.

## CL1 Men

*Coach: Darren Williams. Assistant Coach: Gerard Evans. Manager: Mandy McCarthy.*

CL1 Men had 4 wins, 5 draws and 12 losses. They scored 34 goals for and had 59 against, finishing 6th on the ladder. Bit of a frustrating year, at our best we were very good and competitive with the top teams. The trouble was we weren't consistent with our form or the team that ran on the pitch. The promising thing was the improvement of juniors and knowing that they are only going to get better. Looking forward to next year knowing that we will gain a few players and the fact that it will be our second year together.

Awards: Best & Fairest – Malcolm Beer, Most Effective – Kyle McIntosh, Coaches Award – Samuel McGregor.

*Toge Williams*

## CL2 Men

*Coached by Tim Cullen and Jai Hill. Managed by Sonia Williams.*

CL2 Men had 10 wins, 3 draws and 8 losses. They scored 43 goals and had 46 against, finishing 3rd on the ladder. Played United in the minor semi-final and had a good 5-3 win. Unfortunately had a 1-2 loss against Central in the preliminary final.

Awards: Best & Fairest – Michael Rowell, Most Effective – Samuel McGregor.

*Sonia Williams*

## SL1 Men

### **Introduction:**

The SL 1 Hockey Team navigated a demanding season, reaching the semifinals only to face a disheartening defeat in a shootout. The team showcased resilience and the talents of four young players active in state or schoolboys' hockey. The season, however, was marked by challenges, including player commitment issues and the impact of both long-term and short-term injuries.

### **Performance Overview:**

The SL 1 Hockey Team displayed commendable performance throughout the season, earning their spot in the semifinals through a combination of skilful plays and strategic teamwork. Despite challenges, the team demonstrated determination and dedication, underlining the potential for success in future competitions.

### **Young Talent:**

An encouraging aspect was the noteworthy contribution of four young players who excelled not only at the club level but also in state or schoolboys' hockey. Their involvement injected energy and skill into the team, highlighting the promising future of the SL 1 Hockey program.

### **Challenges Faced:**

The season presented significant challenges, with one notable hurdle being player commitment. Several team members struggled to consistently attend training sessions and matches, impacting team cohesion and overall performance. This issue requires attention to ensure a more reliable and dedicated unit in the future.



### **Injury Impact:**

The SL 1 Hockey Team faced additional challenges with the presence of both long-term and short-term injuries. Long-term injuries, affecting key players for an extended period, had a noticeable impact on the team's dynamics, particularly in crucial matches. Short-term injuries disrupted the team's rhythm and forced adjustments to the lineup, adding an extra layer of complexity to an already demanding season.

### **Semifinal Defeat:**

In the culminating semifinal match, the team endured a shootout loss, emphasising the fine margins in hockey and the importance of mental fortitude. Despite the defeat, the experience serves as a valuable lesson, highlighting areas for improvement and growth.

### **Acknowledgments:**

Recognition is due to the coaching staff, players, and supporters for their unwavering commitment to the SL 1 Hockey Team. Special acknowledgment is extended to the four young talents who brought vibrancy to the squad. The collective efforts of the team, despite challenges, lay the groundwork for future success.

### **Conclusion:**

The SL 1 Hockey Team, while navigating a season marked by challenges, can draw upon their experiences to improve and evolve. The focus shifts to the off-season, where addressing player commitment issues and implementing injury management strategies will be instrumental in shaping a stronger and more resilient team for the seasons ahead.

*Gerard Evans*

### **SL2 Men**

SL2 had another year characterised by great hockey. The squad from last year was changed to give some newcomers and juniors a crack, while also providing some experience to the SL3 squads as well. Going in we had some extremely positive games, and unlike every other team in the competition we had fundamentally the most stable lineup week-to-week you could ask for – some of the weekends where SL 1, 3 (both), 4 and 5 were looking at cards of 11 players maximum, SL2 had a deck of 15, so the commitment was there. The new members picked up rapidly, the existing team welcomed them, and while we still struggled to put the thing into the thing, we had arguably a top-4 lineup – out of the 3x times we played Valleys (who took the flag), every time we would have beaten them with another quarter.

Looking into next year, I think the main trick is to just continue playing positive hockey and supporting each other, taking time and having patience in that last attacking quarter to really link midfield to strikers, and focussing on the basics. It's looking good lads, don't let the results get you down!

Best and fairest, Craig Paterson (the great wall of Air Patto), and most improved, Liam (withthehair) Williamson.

*Ryan Hodson*

### **SL3 Green Men**

SL3 Green had a pretty decent season all up. A good mix of old heads and some young legs saw us hold most teams to account. Of course, those early-season games we let get away came back to haunt us as we were chasing a finals spot in the last weeks. That particular task was not helped by having more solid numbers on the injury bench than ever in the closing rounds as Adam Smith, Michael Plenty, Marty Ward, and Craig Dalzell suffered from various hurties. Nevertheless the team managed a respectable 5th position, defeating top-four teams a few times on the way through. With the injury list growing it was great to see the players from grades above and below along with a few of the women willing to put their hand up to help out.

The team's play was characterised by strong defence and possession, leading to a great deal of control in most encounters. Our younger players grew in maturity over the course of the season, and the older guys lifted as a result of their enthusiasm. Overall it was an enjoyable season with the players bonding really well making everyone feel part of the team.

Best and Fairest to Ignatius Murray, Most Improved Harry MacKayMick Plenty

### **SL3 White Men**

The players of SL3 White 2023 remain the absolute heart and soul of club hockey. This team personifies what club sport is all about. Every player on the team came out to every game in the best of spirits and with the intention of playing the best quality hockey they could, not only with the competitive interest to win, but also with the aim to support their teammates and enjoy a quality game. While not the most successful team in terms of wins on paper, they were absolutely the most successful team when it came to the spirit of the game. Every week they walked off the field rightly proud of their performance and filled with the joy that can only come from the team-sport experience.

It was an absolute highlight of my week to come out to their games and to see the team improve each week, banding together as a team. It was especially impressive to see some of the older, more experienced players bring their expertise from higher grade hockey to SL3, passing on their knowledge to the younger players, who then in turn improved out of sight across the year. The team should also be commended on their commitment to training. SL3 White consistently provided the most players at the SL Men's training each week, sometimes making up over 50% of the players in attendance.

Like other teams, fielding a good number of players each week was not always easy. The post-COVID increase in other-life-activities, travel and family commitments was unexpected and challenging at times. I'm very grateful to all the SL2 and SL4 players who came out to help fill-out numbers across the season. SL3 White was lucky to miss the plague of injuries that harried the other teams with most players playing throughout the season.

I anticipate that a number of players from the 2023 teams will shuffle across the grades next season, most especially from SL3 where we currently have two teams, while the numbers in other grades are spread thin. There are some very impressive juniors that deserve the opportunity to move up and continue improving their skills and gaining experience. There are also some more experienced heads that would be hugely beneficial to supporting and encouraging the less-experienced players in the lower grades. This is the balance the club will need to consider moving forward.

*Caroline O'Driscoll*

## **SL4 Men**

Ahoy! And Avast Ye.

The SL4 Men kicked off the 2023 season with rigor and enthusiasm. 16 strong and abled buckos on the card and a song in their hearts. 6 rounds in and we started to see the crew take ill and experience injuries as we fought the wind and struggled to keep the bow point on compass. The middle of the season had seen us draw more than we won, but we valiantly fought on.

In the back half of the season we unexpectedly lost more in a violent squall and struggled to find hands to team. Surgeries, age, youth, escape for island paradises, beckoned to the team. Weighing anchor we sought new waters for fresh scallywags to bolster the team. Strong winds and clear skies drove us towards the booty, top four, where we valiantly took more injuries and fought for the finals. With a final heave ho, the SL4 Men's team sailed into third place with the bitter defeat of shootouts to the scurvy UCHC.

(See the end of this report for a bonus, extra-piratey, version)

*Joshy Warner*

## **SL5 Men**

The inaugural year of the SL5 (SL4 2.0) comp was quite a rollercoaster. I would like to start off by thanking everyone who played in the team and helped out, there was a great team spirit within the group, and everyone stayed positive through some tough times. The "tough times" included getting spanked the first game and losing 3 players for the season in the first weeks. In fact, due to long term injuries and "life", there were 5 games we finished with only 10 on the field (and not all could still walk!).

As the season progressed the walking wounded started to recover and the introduction of "youth" in the form of Scott Bell and Craig Johnston turned the season. In the last round we beat ANU and Central, and narrowly lost to the eventual premiers UC. We made the semi-final and if it had not hit some old guy in the face, causing a penalty stroke in the last minute of the game, we would have gone to one on one's.

A special shout out needs to go to Will Heffernan and Jenny. Such a big effort to come from Crookwell each week for U15's and then stay on for us oldies who often played after 6pm. Your commitment to the team and club is much appreciated.

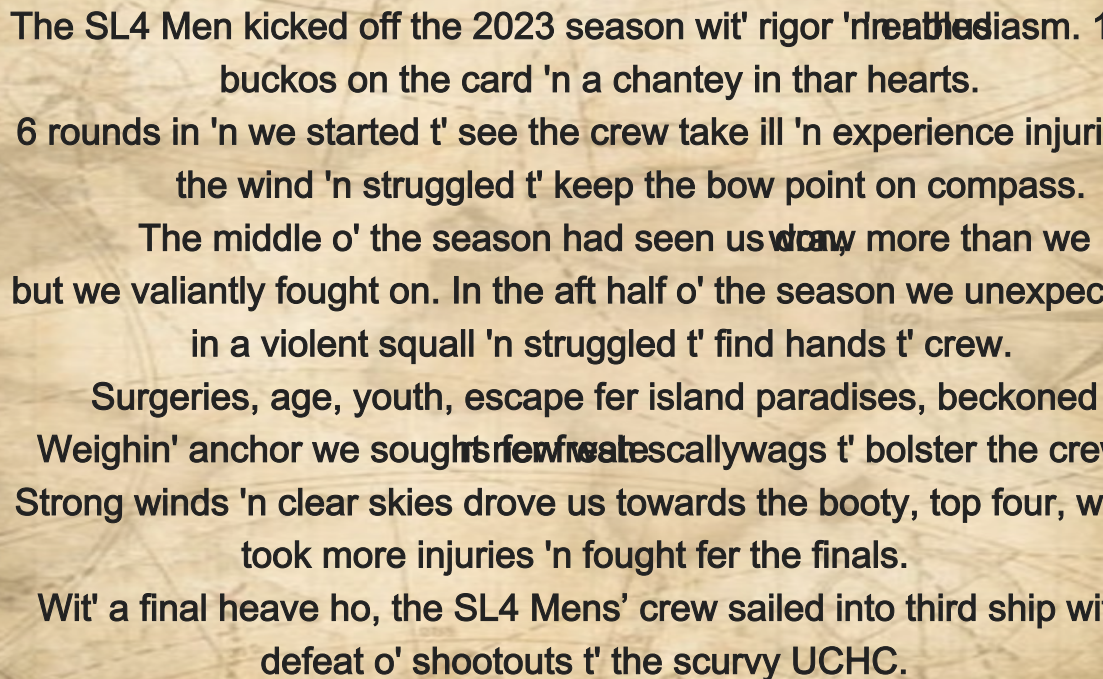
One other noteworthy highlight was father/son combo Ewan and Bryan Kelly as well as father/daughter combo Jono and Mirabel Wilson.

*Trad Wallace*

Ryan Hodson  
*Men's Coordinator*

**Bonus alternate SL4 version:**

(note: for full effect, play the song [‘Keelhauled’ by Alestorm](#) at a volume not recommended by hearing specialists)



The SL4 Men kicked off the 2023 season wit' rigor 'n reath'ediasm. 16 strong  
buckos on the card 'n a chantey in thar hearts.  
6 rounds in 'n we started t' see the crew take ill 'n experience injuries as we fo  
the wind 'n struggled t' keep the bow point on compass.  
The middle o' the season had seen us ~~win~~ more than we  
but we valiantly fought on. In the aft half o' the season we unexpectedly lost m  
in a violent squall 'n struggled t' find hands t' crew.  
Surgeries, age, youth, escape fer island paradises, beckoned t' the crew.  
Weighin' anchor we sought fer ~~fresh~~ scallywags t' bolster the crew.  
Strong winds 'n clear skies drove us towards the booty, top four, where we val  
took more injuries 'n fought fer the finals.  
Wit' a final heave ho, the SL4 Mens' crew sailed into third ship wit' the bitter  
defeat o' shootouts t' the scurvy UCHC.

## Junior Competition Report

This year the junior club fielded 8 Junior teams, four girls teams and four boys teams, including one combined boys team (merged with North Canberra Eagles). Congratulations to the U18/2 Boys White and U15/1 Boys for winning the Grand Final, and to our U13/2 combined boys team (NCE) for making the Grand Final and finishing runners up.

St Pat's encourages all juniors (U15 and above) to consider playing in both junior and senior teams. We realise this is a large commitment, but the benefits to junior players make the effort well worthwhile. For those who turn 18 prior to 1 January 2024 please consider playing in a St Pat's senior team in 2024.

### **Junior Committee**

I would like to thank the Junior Committee for all the work they do, especially behind the scenes and for all of their continuous support to keep the juniors running successfully. I take this opportunity on behalf of the committee, to appeal to everyone to please consider volunteering and assisting with the juniors wherever you can.

This year unfortunately we farewell Inge, our Junior Boys Coordinator. We appreciate everything she has done throughout the last few seasons.

Without the support of our parents, we will not be able to continue to provide the great experience that the club provides. If parents would like to find ways to support the club please contact a member of the committee, or myself. Many hands make light work.

### **Junior Coaches**

I would like to thank the coaches and managers for all your help. Without your guidance, dedication and enthusiasm in bringing the different levels of player skills together as one team, we wouldn't have such a great mix of junior teams. Thanks everyone!

### **State Representatives**

Congratulations to the high number of players across our Junior teams who were selected to represent ACT this year. We were lucky enough to have representatives across most age groups in both boys and girls.

### **Award Recipients**

Each year the club issues two awards to junior players for their dedication to improving their own skills, leadership, development of others through assisting with coaching and umpiring. The awardees for this year are:

- Father Lynch Scholarship – Cooper Evans
- Maureen Scholtens Scholarship – Olivia Beresford

## Final comments

A big thank you goes to everyone who took on the important team roles of coaching, managing, and umpiring. Thank you to parents for your continued support and to all the players, thank you for your ongoing commitment to St Pat's. Overall, this is what makes our junior teams such a great success each year.

Jai Hill

*Junior Coordinator*



## Hook in 2 Hockey (HI2H) Report

The 2023 St Patrick's HookIn2Hockey (HI2H) Program was based in Gungahlin on the artificial turf fields at Nicholls, Gold Creek Primary School. Ages ranged from 4 to 10 years and the program was centred on fun and involvement whilst learning basic hockey skills, including; trapping, push passing, hitting, slapping, various tackling techniques, dribbling and passing on the run and ball control. For an hour session each week, the first 30-40 minutes is generally dedicated to skills/technique development, and the final 20-30 minutes is team gameplay and building positive sportsmanship.

The number of HI2H participants for the club this year increased to 51 (up from 41 in 2022). A breakout of the St Pat's 2023 HI2H program as follows:

- 11 participants from 2022 moved up to U/11s for the 2023 Junior season.
- 11 participants from 2022 did not register for 2023 season.
- 21 participants from 2022 returned for 2023 season (a few also filled in for U/11s).
- 30 new participants registered for the 2023 season.

Two HI2H Carnivals were held over the year, Northside Carnival held 17th June and Southside Carnival held 12th August (where the club also ran the BBQ for the day). All ACT clubs fielded teams, and St Pat's was able to field three U/9 teams and three U/7 teams for both Carnivals – a really encouraging turnout. The kids had a great time playing against other clubs in a round robin format and building competitive friendships that will no doubt grow in years to come, and though no scores were officially kept, there's a fair degree of certainty that the kids kept score in their heads (which the coaches quietly encouraged)!!!

The St Pat's HI2H Coordinators also maintained a roster of assistant coaches from the club's U/18 Juniors ranks, including; Grace Dwyer, Triana Smith, Emily Staples, Kaleigh Tuckwood, Toby Palethorpe and Liam Williams. Senior Women's Grade players who assisted on a frequent basis included Coutney Booth, Alicia Von Renouard and Anika Bettiol. A big thank you to all the assistants who helped coach, mentor and generally build the fun and passion with the kids over the season.

Over the course of the season, we were also fortunate to have a number of CL1 Women and Men squad members volunteer their time to provide skills/technique and gameplay coaching to our older HI2H cohort. Our thanks to Emma Taylor, Naomi Evans, Mikayla Evans, Chloe Bell, Wendy Moylan, Aleisha Price, Nicola Williams, Jess Lemon, Layla Bettiol, Kaidey Oconner, Sonia Williams, Toge, Ethan Long, Tyson and Josh Williams for volunteering their time and imparting their knowledge and passion to the kids.

Approximately 16 HI2H participants from this year will age qualify for U/11s next year, and approximately 8 younger participants (turning 9 in 2024) have the skill level to potentially move up to U/11s if numbers are needed or as fill-ins. Notwithstanding, we look forward to seeing all HI2H participants continue to develop their game and passion for hockey and to move through the junior grades in coming years.

We thank the St Patricks Hockey Club Committee for their continued support to the HI2H program this past year, and we're looking forward to building on this past year's successes into the 2024 season.

Brett Bettiol and Jess Whitlock

St Patrick's Hockey Club HI2H Coordinators

## Development Committee Report

The St Pat's Hockey Club Development Committee (DC) continued the work they commenced in 2022, working with the broader club to deliver opportunities for players, coaches and umpires to improve, develop and contribute to the club.

The DC met six times throughout the season. A meeting Agenda and Minutes were generated for each meeting and the Minutes were also provided to the Club Committee for their information. The committee consisted of:

- Chairperson – Kathy Mumberson
- Hook into Hockey Coordinator – Brett Bettiol
- Junior Coordinator – Jai Hill
- CL1 men's coach – Darren Williams
- CL1 women's coach – Paul Sureda
- Umpiring and Goal Keeper expert – Craig Dalzell

We also thank Bri Pilicic who was a member of the committee for a short time. The strategic intention of the DC, as outlined in the DC's Strategic Statement and Terms of Reference, is to make St Pats a highly competitive, inclusive and united hockey club by providing opportunity for every player, coach and umpire to improve and develop.

The key purposes of the Development Committee are:

- to provide advice to the St Patricks Hockey Club committee regarding effective and efficient
- development of players, coaches and umpires; and
- with approval from the St Patricks Hockey Club committee, develop plans and deliver programs to develop players, coaches and referees,

in a manner consistent with the purpose and values of the Club.

In 2023 our main achievements include:

- Modifying our Terms of Reference document which the Club Executive approved. This document outlined our role and how the committee operated throughout the year.
- Development of a Player Nomination, Selection, and Grading Policy and Process, which is now published on the St Pat's website
- Development of Coach Selection Guidelines which is currently with the Executive for review and future implementation
- Delivery of a coach survey to obtain feedback from our 2024 coaches on why they coach, the challenges they face and how we can better support coaches



- Delivery of the Summer Skills Program over five Saturday morning sessions in January and February at the AIS, which was open to HI2H through to U/18 age groups.
- Delivery of a senior coach forum and a junior coach forum prior to the start of the season, which provided advice and resources to coaches on developing strong team culture and getting the best out of their team.
- Delivery of a Livin' for Hockey session for coaches during Hockey ACT's Mental Health Round, during which coaches received information and guidance from the Livin' for Hockey team on how to support club members.
- Planning for a Junior Development Tour to Perth. Unfortunately, we were unable to deliver the Tour but we are hoping that with some tweaking we may be able to deliver it in the coming years.

Priorities for 2024 have been drafted for consideration in the new year. The committee is intending to continue to provide support to coaches but also provide opportunities for our umpires and goal keepers to develop and provide skill development opportunities to players.

I would like to thank Brett, Craig, Darren, Paul, and Jai for taking on the development committee work on top of their current club roles. Each person provided an important perspective and hockey expertise which resulted in delivery of some great initiatives. I would also like to thank the Club Executive and broader committee for their guidance and support. There are also several club members who took the time to answer our questions and provide their guidance, which assisted us with our decision making and what the committee achieved.

We look forward to 2024 and continuing to work to develop and support coaches, umpires and players.

*Written by Kathy Mumberson*



## 2023 Outdoor Representative Players

The Club had a great representation of junior players challenging themselves by participating in the regional program with competitions held in Canberra and regional centres across NSW. Many of our junior players also represented Canberra in the NSW State Championships.

The following players from across the club were selected to represent ACT at various forms of National Championships:

### **ACT School Sports**

#### **Girls - 12 & Under:**

- Lani Hill
- Amber Byrne
- Cara Janek
- Gabby Nokes (Shadow)

#### **Boys - 12 & Under:**

- Cooper Evans

#### **Girls - 16 & Under:**

- Sophie Bolton
- Naomi Evans - Coach

#### **Boys - 16 & Under:**

- Jonte Platten
- Hugh Evans (GK)

### **ACT Under 13's:**

#### **Girls:**

- Caitlin Somlyay
- Cara Janek
- Lani Hill
- Olivia Beresford (GK)

#### **Boys**

- Cooper Evans (Withdrawn Injured)

### **ACT Under 15's**

#### **Girls**

- Annika Plenty

#### **Boys**

- Jonte Platten
- Jay Knight
- Cameron Schultz
- Eamon Sheil
- George Skelly

- Tyler Smith
- Shay Leonard
- Nate Kemp
- William Heffernan (GK)

## **ACT Under 18's**

### **Women**

- Jessica Lemon
- Kaidey O'Connor
- Layla Bettiol
- Sophie Bolton

### **Men**

- Harry Skelly
- Jack Evans
- Jack McEntee
- Jake McCarthy
- Sam McGregor

## **ACT Under 21's**

### **Women**

- Ashleigh Seivers
- Courtney Booth
- Sophia Lemmon

## **Canberra Chill**

### **Women**

- Naomi Evans
- Mikayla Evans
- Zanthe Sheargold



## 2023 Indoor Representative Players

### ACT Under 13's:

#### Girls:

- Hayley Francis
- Lani Hill
- Olivia Beresford (GK)

### ACT Under 15's

#### Girls

- Annika Plenty (Shadow)

#### Boys

- Sam McGregor
- Jay Knight
- William Heffernan (GK)

### ACT Under 18's

#### Women

- Sophie Bolton

### ACT Under 21's

#### Men

- Zac McGregor

### ACT Open Indoor

#### Women

- Aleisha Price
- Emma Taylor
- Chloe Bell
- Taylor Thomson

## Treasurer's Report 2023

I would like to acknowledge and thank all committee members and the many people who volunteer their time to mentor, coach, umpire and administer various aspects of our club. Without volunteers we could not run our club. Remember that person who helped you with a skill as a junior? Or welcomed you as a new player into the team/club. It would be great if we could all "pay it forward" in some way to assist others within the club.

We must be doing something right as our registered members broke through the 450 mark this year. As we go into our 70 th year in 2024 let's continue to support each other and enjoy the game we love.

With my Treasurer's hat on, your committee continues to set our fees (by far our main income source) at levels as low as possible to balance fulfilling our statutory requirements, paying creditors and value for money for our members. As our auditor has noted in her report, finding outside funding through sponsorship is essential to our future. While the Ainslie Group have committed to matching their sponsorship again in 2024 this falls short of what is needed (without significantly increasing player registration fees). If any members know of any possible sponsorship opportunities, please contact one of the committee members.

The audited Profit and Loss were presented at the Annual General Meeting. It was noted that if we did not have additional sponsorship in this financial year, we would have made a loss.

The club's committee continues to encourage members who are having financial hardship to seek personal sponsorship and/or begin a payment plan that suits their individual budgets. We have members paying off their fees over the Summer period ready for the Winter Competition.

Please let me know if you have any fundraising/sponsorship ideas.

Trad Wallace  
*Treasurer/Life Member*

25/11/2023