

**December 2011**

## Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The 2011 AGM was held on Tuesday 22 November, attended by 13 enthusiastic members who braved the rain to help launch the club into its new year.

The accounts for the past year were tabled and approved and reports received on the various activities of the year, including the very successful BBQ fund raisers to which many members contributed. See the President's report on page 2.

### The following people were elected to the Committee for 2012:

President & Public Officer – Sue Briggs  
Vice-President – Jane Easterbrook  
Secretary & SWHL Delegate & Child Protection – Jane Spalding  
Treasurer/Registrar - Kathleen Sales  
Uniform & Equipment Coordinator – Jane Easterbrook  
Umpires Coordinator Turf – Robin Gorton  
Publicity – Anne Rorke  
Social/Fund Raising – Rochell Dwyer  
Senior Grass Coordinator & PWHA Alternate – Bev White  
PWHA Delegate – Kath Stone  
SWHL Alternate – Tammy Dunne  
Committee Members – Lynne Welsh, Marg Ras and Janet Tancred

The club is indebted to long-term members of the committee who give continuity and strength to the team, and welcomes newer members as well. Any club member who would still like to join the team is most welcome to attend and take up a position as a general committee member.

General business at the AGM included the following:

- ◇ Discussion on the teams to be submitted to SWHL for the 2012 season;
- ◇ Call for coaches for 2012;
- ◇ Junior development – it was agreed that the club's strength for the future depends on encouraging young people to play hockey, and supporting them in their development.

The Minkey programme will be continued next year, as well as involvement in school holiday hockey programmes etc. A proposal is being prepared for Parramatta Women's Hockey Association (PWHA) to establish a path for progression of youngsters from the introductory level through non-competitive half-field hockey and then into club hockey. Interested members will be needed to assist with the programme so we hope you come along, have some fun, and build the future of our favourite game



– it's not as dangerous as it looks!



## Diary dates for 2012

Though dates are still being finalised with the various associations, please make a note of the following:

- ◇ SWHL turf matches commence 16 April 2012
- ◇ Turf training is expected to start 9 February, with Strikers being allocated 6-7pm on Thursdays at Homebush
- ◇ Masters Divisions 3 and 4 commence 16 April 2012
- ◇ Masters Division 1 and 2 commence 18 April 2012
- ◇ Senior grass is expected to commence in early April, with training probably commencing 8 March

## Aussie, Aussie, Aussie!

Fifteen of the 'more mature' members of Strikers enjoy playing Masters Hockey (we are no longer veterans like the cars!) in the Parramatta representative teams, and participate in the annual State tournaments – like next year's half-State competition to be held in Taree 27-29 July 2012.



Australian Masters teams were recently announced, and Strikers is very proud that two of our players have been selected in the over 50s team to play in the Masters Hockey World Cup in August 2012 in Canterbury, England. Our very own Sue Briggs is to Captain this team, while Jane Spalding has earned a coveted place in the team as well. Congratulations ladies!

A number of other players have also played recently for NSW and Australian teams, including Robin Gorton, Jane Easterbrook, Trina Tromp, Angie Carpini and Janet Tancred. Well done ladies.

**Also** Let's not forget the club members who have contributed to Parramatta representative teams during the year. Congratulations to Nicole Barnes and Dominique Cutler (playing Opens), Maddison Parhnam (U18s) and Nicole Barnes as coach of the PWHA U13 team. Genevieve Cutler has also worked as PWHA Secretary this year and along with other club members, particularly Sue Briggs and Robin Gorton, contributed significantly to the delivery and development of hockey in New South Wales. A big thanks to everyone.

## 2012 Registration

Registration forms will be available on the internet site early in the New Year and can be returned by email, fax or mail, with payment by funds transfer or cheque. Face-to-face registration evenings have become less popular over the years, and will be phased out in 2012. Fees will be kept as low as possible to cover Association charges.

## President's Report 2011

2011 has been a challenging year for the club.

The club entered competitions with Parramatta Women's Hockey Association (PWHA) (grass based) and Sydney Women's Hockey League (SWHL). To sum the season up - there were mixed performances across the teams.

Two teams were entered in the PWHA competition. Strikers 1 played in Division 1 / 2 and Strikers 2 in Division 3. The Division 1 team came in fourth at the end of minor round games and were eventually beaten in the semi-finals. The Division 3 team was undefeated for most of the season, with their final placing being second to Guilford Leagues 2 by one point. Unfortunately the team was beaten in the finals.

These teams suffered a very disruptive season with both games and training being abandoned due to wet weather. The damp weather did not lessen their enthusiasm, however, so well done to everyone.

Four teams were entered into the SWHL competitions in Divisions 1, 3, 4 and 5. Teams started off quite slowly with some inconsistent performances.

Division 3 started to settle down following some re-grading of players and stabilisation of the team list. At the end of the season, this team only just missed out on a semi-final place.

Division 1 continued to struggle in each game even though much promise was shown. A lack of team cohesiveness, injuries and representative commitments all contributed to a less than ideal performance.

Division 4 suffered from the age old problem of not being able to capitalise on possession and penetration into the circle. Even though they could match many of the teams, the results did not show this.

Division 5 were a mixed team, some players being promoted from the Division 6 team last year. Some unlucky mistakes in defence combined with a lack of strike power contributed to this team's low placing on the final table.

Many thanks to the Coaches and Managers who assisted with all of our teams:

<i>Team</i>	<i>Coach</i>	<i>Manager</i>
ML1	Nate Ball	Sue Briggs
ML2	Nicole Barnes	Rochell Dwyer
ML 4	Jane Easterbrook	Sue Briggs
ML 5	Sue Briggs	Lyn Welsh
Grass 1&2	Bev White	Anne Rorke

A great job organising and ensuring the club had players on the pitch each week!

Many thanks to those who assisted with umpiring during the season: Pat Vella, Craig Miller, Robert Easterbrook, Robin Gorton, Jodi Parnham, Liz Moran, Lynne Roberts and Judy Gray.

Strikers embarked on a new initiative in 2011 at Parramatta. The first stage of this was to run a School Holiday Junior Coaching Clinic, in conjunction with Parramatta Council during May. This exceeded all expectations with over 70 children participating. Thanks club members who organised and assisted, NSW Hockey Development staff and PWHA who supported this coaching clinic.

The second stage was to organise a weekly program during the next school term targeting the same group of players for one hour on Saturday morning. The number of players varied from week to week, with a range of about 10 to 30. Ages ranged from 3-10 years, both boys and girls. The structured program was run to ensure these players were given a sound introduction to the game and the basic skills of hockey. The principles were participation, challenge and enjoyment. The program was delivered by experience club players and volunteer parents. At the end of the program each player was given a certificate of participation and a 'sparkle' hockey ball.

On reflection, the program was very successful. It is envisaged that this initiative can be replicated in 2012. The possibilities of a third stage is on offer, with a modified competition (smaller field, less players and reduced duration) to be considered.



The club was very successful with its fund raising activities this season, with a variety of activities undertaken. We were fortunate to be granted permission to organise a number of BBQs during the competitions on Saturdays at Parramatta. This proved quite successful fundraising endeavour, but more importantly, provided an avenue for many turf player to reconnect with PWHA and grass players. Many thanks to those who assisted with these BBQs.

A mega effort was to organise a BBQ at Bunnings North Parramatta during June. With 70 kg of sausages, 10 kg of onions and 50 loaves of bread and litres of sauces, and with an organised and committed group of players we had a very successful day. A big thanks to everyone who helped to make this successful.

The club organised two raffles during the season. These have proven quite successful (and painless) as players can easily opt to contribute the minimum amount for a book of tickets.

Thanks very much to Rochell for organising the Bunnings event; Rochell's father for arranging fabulous sausages and the Garth family for their donation of the art work to be raffled at the end of the season.

A number of players from the club were selected in PWHA representative teams or were involved in coaching, managing or umpiring. Congratulations and well done. The club continues to support the organisation of both competitions by members taking on key committee positions. Your contribution is most appreciated.

The club continues to be well organised as a result of an energetic committee. Many thanks for all your hard work and support during 2011.

I believe the club is facing a new era. Planning has been undertaken to visualise where this club wants to be in 5 to 10 years time. Some difficult decisions will need to be made. The next few years need to be a rebuilding stage for the club. We need to re-establish the sense of 'family' and inclusiveness that used to exist. Negative attitudes and lack of commitment need to be replaced with a sense of team spirit, belonging and a desire to be part of a team. Success requires effort from everyone.

Enjoy the season off and look forward to renewed energies in 2012.

Sue Briggs

Strikers Club President 2011



The Committee and members of Strikers Women's Hockey Club wish you a safe and happy festive season. Remember - hockey sticks and equipment make great Christmas gifts!