

AVOCA HOCKEY CLUB DIRECTOR OF HOCKEY REPORT, SEASON 2015/16

I WILL TRY NOT TO REPEAT WHAT HAS BEEN COVERED ALREADY BUT PLEASE BEAR WITH ME IF THAT HAPPENS.

AGAIN THIS SEASON WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE COMMITTEE. I COMBINED THE ROLE OF DoH WITH L2 COACH. EACH ONE A STRESSFUL JOB IN ITS OWN RIGHT SO ALTHO I CAN'T APOLOGISE FOR MY GRUMPINESS AT TIMES, IT MIGHT HELP TO EXPLAIN IT, WELL A BIT OF IT

AS MENTIONED THIS SEASON SAW THE INTRO OF SION HILL AS OUR THIRD PITCH AND I WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED IN ARRANGING USE OF SAME FROM THE PRACTICALITY OF GETTING KEYS CUT TO ENABLE ACCESS TO THE FACILITIES DOWN, TO ORGANISING THE BALLS ETC ONCE WE WERE ON THE PITCH.

ALSO DEVELOPING TRAINING SCHEDULES FOR SION HILL, NEWPARK AND LORETO IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE JUNIOR SECTION HEADS, CLUB CAPTAINS AND AND COACHES. AS WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THE SCHEDULES ARE NOT IN STONE AND EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO MEET THE MEMBER'S REQUIREMENTS WHERE POSSIBLE.

WITH SION HILL COMING ON BOARD THIS LED TO A RESTURCTURE OF THE COACHING SET UP FOR THE JUNIOR SECTION, WITH THREE 'SENIOR VENUE COACHES' INSTALLED TAKING SOME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR VENUES ENABLING THE JHC TO ACT IN A MORE SUPERVISORY ROLE. IT WENT WELL, I'D SEE IT AS STILL A WORK IN PROGRESS.

ANOTHER OF MY MAIN TASKS WAS TO ORGANISE THE SENIOR SECTION COACHING SIDE, AND ONCE SET UP TO OFFER SUPPORT FOR THE SEASON, INCLUDING VARIOUS MEETINGS, PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT & REVIEWS.

Ms COACHES WERE AS WAS WITH MARK CULLEN M1s & STEPHEN CULLEN M2s. THE Ls COACHES HAD SOME CHANGES WITH RONAN TAKING ON THE L1s, MYSELF L2S ASSISTED BY RC, DECLAN RYAN L3s, CARA KELEHAN L4s AND NEW BOY CON CASEY ASSISTED BY ANOTHER NEWBE KM THE L5s. A BIG THANK YOU TO THEM FOR ALL THEIR EFFORTS DURING THE SEASON - RESULTS AS REPORTED ABOVE.

ONE OF MY OTHER FUNCTIONS AS TOUCHED ON BEFORE WAS TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF EQUIPMENT. THERE WERE ISSUES WITH THE GROWTH IN JUNIOR SECTION NUMBERS AT SEASON START AND THEN CONTINUING LOSS OF NUMEROUS HOCKEY BALLS (A REAL BUG BEAR OF MINE) BUT OVERALL JUST OKAY. RECOMMENDATIONS GOING FORWARD TO BE FORWARDED TO THE COMMITTEE.

FROM MY POINT OF VIEW, WAS IT A GOOD YEAR? A SUCCESSFUL YEAR? HOW IS THAT GAUGED?

ON FIELD RESULTS AS MENTIONED BEFORE BY OTHERS - THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN BY ACCIDENT AND TOOK A BIG EFFORT AND COMMITMENT BY MANY, AT ALL SORTS OF HOURS DURING THE DAY!

MANY SMILEY FACES, SOME DISAPPOINTED ONES.

PERSONALLY MY INVOLVEMENT COACHING IN THE Ls SECTION ENABLED ME TO SEE THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE PLAYERS COMING THROUGH FROM THE JUNIOR SECTION AND FROM WATCHING THE MENS I CAN SEE THE QUALITY COMING THROUGH THERE TOO. I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE MY BELIEF THAT IT IS VITAL THE JUNIOR SECTION SHOULD BE A MEDIUM FOR DEVELOPMENT OF HOCKEY PLAYERS AND NOT WINNING MACHINES!

WHICH COMES TO OFF FIELD, MANY CONVERSATIONS, MEETINGS, EMAILS. WITH THE INCREASE IN NUMBERS AND DARE I SAY IT INCREASED COMPETITION FOR PLACES ALL ROUND THERE WERE SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS TO BE MADE & CHATS HAD. I DO BELIEVE WE ARE AS GOOD IF NOT BETTER THEN MOST IN HOW WE DO THIS. IT IS IMPORTANT WE KEEP THIS STANDARD UP GOING FORWARD. A LOT OF GOOD THINGS THERE ESPECIALLY BEARING IN MIND THE EVOLUTION OF THE CLUB IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO CARA K WHO HAS BEEN GREAT TO WORK WITH (AS MATCH SEC) FOR THE LST FOUR YEARS.

AND GOING FORWARD, WHERE ARE WE GOING?
WE MUST CONTINUE TO AIM AS HIGH AS WE REALISTICALLY CAN.
FOR THE JUNIOR SECTION;
BOYS, A CONTINUED EFFORT IN RECRUITMENT
GIRLS, OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, NEED TO CONTINUE CONTROL NUMBERS FACILITATING INTEGRATION INTO THE SENIOR SECTION.
SENIOR SECTION MINIMUM AIM MUST BE TO KEEP THE 1STS IN THE 1ST DIVISIONS AND CONTINUE TO LOSE THE GAPS BETWEEN THE OTHER TEAMS, EASY! INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL TEAMS TO FACILITATE THE INCREASED NUMBERS COMING FROM THE JUNIOR SECTIONS.
THESE ARE GREAT TO AIM FOR ON THE PITCH, OUR AIM OFF THE PITCH TO SUPPORT THIS IS TO HAVE ALL VACANT CLUB POSITIONS FILLED

AS I STEP DOWN AS DoH I BELIEVE THE CLUB AS A WHOLE IS IN A FAR BETTER POSITION HOCKEY WISE (WHICH I SAW AS MY BRIEF) THAN 4 YEARS AGO WHEN I CAME IN FOR A 2 YEAR STINT. THIS OF COURSE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF ALL OF THE CLUB MEMBERS AND ESPECIALLY THE COMMITTEE. THANK YOU AND BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE.

JONATHAN COLE
10/05/2016