

## **Avoca Hockey Club AGM 2015-2016**

### **Ladies Section Report**

This season saw a lot of change for the ladies section in Avoca, not only in the demographic of the teams and the coaching panel, but in the training schedule and location with the new pitch in Sion Hill. However, nothing fazed our ladies, who embraced these changes and went on to play some brilliant hockey, which is reflected in the results.

The number of players in the ladies section increased to around 105 members, this was due to a large number of school girls entering into Senior Hockey and players returning to Avoca, which is a great reflection on the club itself.

The ladies forum held last month was extremely productive in the sense that it captured how the ladies section is currently functioning, its strengths and ideas on how it can be improved next season. These ideas will be built on prior to entering into next season, to ensure we continue to grow and improve with the times.

Below is a summary of how each team faired this season:

#### Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> X1, Division 1

- Coach: Ronan Hickey
- Manager: Caroline Daly
- Captain: Anna Richardson
- Vice-Captain: Kate Rushe
- Finished 9<sup>th</sup> Division 1, securing their place in Division 1 next season
- Won the Jacqui Potter Shield
- Lost the final Irish Hockey Trophy in penalties.

#### Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> IX, Division 5

- Coach: Jonathon Cole
- Assistant Coach: Richard Couse
- Captain: Ruth McDonagh
- Vice-Captain: Sinead Malin
- Finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division 5, securing promotion to Division 4 next season.
- Won Division 5/6 Cup

#### Ladies 3<sup>rd</sup> IX, Division 7

- Coach: Declan Ryan
- Captain: Kat Lyall
- Vice-Captain: Kate Whelan
- Finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in Division 7, securing promotion to Division 6 next season.
- Knocked out in the quarter finals of Div 7/8 Cup

#### Ladies 4<sup>th</sup> IX, Division 10

- Coach: Cara Kelahan
- Captain: Sandra Boyle
- Vice-Captain: Catherine Collins
- Finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 10
- Knocked out in the quarter finals of Div 9/10 Cup

#### Ladies 5<sup>th</sup> IX, Division 11

- Coach: Con Casey
- Assistant Coach: Kevin Melott
- Captain: Claire French
- Vice-Captain: Ally Molloy
- Finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Division 11
- Knocked out in the quarter finals of Div 11/12 Cup

#### **Vets**

Emma Meir and the Ladies Vets played a stormer this year placing joint 4<sup>th</sup> out of 13 clubs in their Leinster league this season. Huge congrats and thanks to Emma Meir who managed the Vets this season.

#### **Provincial Honours**

A number of our members represented Avoca at Leinster level this season, not just as players but as coaches and management:

- Caitlin Sheerin and Siofra O'Brien played with the Irish U16 girls in a test series against Scotland
- Sarah Healy was selected for the Leinster U16s and also won the intermediate girls' 4,000m title at the SIAB Schools International in March this year, both of which are massive achievements.
- Leah Spillane was manager of Irish U18
- Ruth McDonagh was manager of Leinster U17 Development squad

## **Closing statement**

This was an extremely successful season for the ladies of Avoca and would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the coaches, assistant coaches, managers, captains, vice captains and committee members. I'd like to express a huge thank you to Cara Kelehan as match secretary, which is a vital role in the Club and who is stepping down after many years of service. A big thanks also goes to Kate Rushe who looked after ladies registrations and to Ruth McDonagh who kept Avoca very much alive and present in the social media world.

I would like to give a special mention and a huge thank you to Jonathan Cole, our Director of Hockey who is retiring from his post this season after four successful years in Avoca. JC has made many significant improvements to the club over the years, such as encouraging a single club identity, the introduction of a consistent selection process and the strengthening the men's and ladies section. This is evidenced by the fact that in 2012 the Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> were in Division 4, today the ladies are maintaining their stance in Division 1 and our Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> will be competing in Division 4 next season. Needless to say JC has been a valuable asset to the club, whose hard work as both Director of Hockey and team coach to both the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> IX is recognised and will be sorely missed.

I look forward to continuing on as Ladies Club Captain for next season and hope that it brings as much if not more success as the last.

**Niamh Gaughan**

**Ladies Club Captain 2015/16**