



To: All Moreland Council Candidates

September 9th, 2020

Subject: Brunswick Hockey Club Second Pitch and Clubrooms

Brunswick Hockey Club is seeking the support of Moreland Council for the construction of a second hockey pitch with clubrooms to cater for the growth in the club's membership, to allow the club to run and expand its community programmes and to provide a safe, welcoming and friendly environment for players, officials, spectators and their families.

Background:

The Brunswick Hockey Club was established in 1923, making it one of the oldest sporting clubs in the municipality. The club has over 450 members with an affordable fee structure that encourages participation¹. The hockey ground is located at Brunswick Secondary College where the club has been since 2008 when Moreland Council and the Education Department co-funded a synthetic hockey pitch. Major improvements were made to the pitch in 2018 due to flaws in the original construction which made it unsafe for play.

The club leases two player changerooms and one umpire changeroom from the school. In 2017 the changerooms were modified to create a small canteen and small storeroom, these modifications were wholly funded by the club.

The club has access to meeting rooms (formerly a scout hall) at Wylie Reserve, 1.6kms from the hockey ground. This building was renovated in 2013 with the assistance of a small Capital Works Grant from Moreland Council.

The club has enjoyed year over year growth particularly in the junior and women's sections. Currently the club has 30 teams² from U10's to over 60's (cradle to grave). A number of our junior teams are now competing at the top level for their age group and the men's top 2 teams compete in the highest competition in the state – Premier League.

In 2018 the club introduced the Wickers Academy, a program to develop our junior members as umpires, coaches and leaders – understanding that as a community we need to "give back" in order for the community to grow. As well as mentoring in umpiring and coaching the program included formal Sports and Leadership Training on issues such as Gender inclusion, Cyber Safety & Body Image.

As well as introducing hockey to children via Hockey Victoria's formal "Hooked into Hockey" programme, the club runs three weeks of free hockey activities in conjunction with local primary schools which reach more than 1500 students. The club has assisted in running after school hockey programmes for 70 kids with the North Melbourne Football Club "Huddle" in the Flemington, Kensington and Ascot Vale public housing estates. Earlier this year the club delivered an innovative social hockey programme for 70 international students (in partnership with IDP Education and tertiary institutions in the Melbourne CBD) to give students the opportunity to connect with others, the local community and experience a game they love.

The hockey club has been recognised for its community approach being a co-winner of Moreland Councils "Sporting Club of the Year" in 2015, top 3 finalist in Hockey Victoria's "Inclusive Club of the Year" in 2014 and 2015, and Hockey Victoria's "Community Club of the Year" in 2019. The club is Level 3 accredited (the highest level) in the Good Sports Program³.

The Club has identified significant demand for continued growth in membership – we were the top club in Metropolitan Melbourne for (70) new junior recruits in 2020 and we have excellent relationships with local primary and secondary schools who would like to use a new hockey facility.

¹ Refer Appendix A – Membership Statistics and Fee Structure

² Refer Appendix B – Brunswick Hockey Club Teams

³ <https://goodsports.com.au/programs/level-3/>

Our Vision: *"To be a leading hockey club."*

Our Mission: *"Provide a sociable and responsible club where hockey can be enjoyed by everyone."*

Our Values: *"Service to our members and players. Growth and development of our club and players. Professionalism and ethics in all our actions. Competitiveness and a will to win."*

We are well placed to capitalise on demand from international students (some 38,000 of whom come from hockey playing countries and study nearby).

Issues

Due to continued growth in player numbers our pitch is now at full capacity for training and matches. The pitch is occupied every night of the week (and all weekend) from February to October⁴. Our junior teams are all restricted to 1 training session per week, which is a disadvantage for our 6 junior teams who are playing at the top level in the Victorian competition. Junior games and Masters games can be scheduled after 9.00pm.

The ability to run our community activities, such as the International Students Programme, is restricted by ground availability.

Having only two changerooms means that the rooms are shared between females and males for both the home and away teams. The changerooms do not have showers or hot water!

The changerooms and canteen space are leased from the school at the unreasonable rate of cost of \$10,000 +GST per year.

There is no permanent shelter for technical officials, a portable shelter is used and if the weather has been wet, the tech area is a muddy quagmire. There is no seating and limited shelter for spectators which may be unsafe if COVID-19 persists.

The club does not have club rooms at the ground. This means that after match socialising and hospitality for visiting teams and officials is held outdoor. Socialising at the Wylie Reserve club rooms is bespoke, detracting from a sense of club unity and impeding junior-senior interaction.

Goals and Benefits

A second ground with appropriate club rooms facilities would provide more ground time for training, allow the club to expand its community programmes, and attract more members through the provision of an appropriate, family-oriented social environment for all.

The *ACTIVE WOMEN AND GIRLS IN MORELAND – VOLUME 4: STRATEGY* identified that "female friendly" infrastructure would contain:

- Separate male and female change rooms
- Enclosed shower cubicles in female change rooms
- Social areas with meals and drinks facilities, acknowledging social interaction is a major driver of female participation

Providing a safe, friendly area where players, spectators, officials can socialise together is well known to assist with mental wellbeing. Our International Students programme addressed a need for social inclusion amongst this vulnerable cohort⁵ by providing food and sport in a friendly environment.

The club wants to continue on its current path i.e. growing its membership and giving back to the community through our various internal and external initiatives. The club has a shared belief that community sporting clubs should serve community need, wherever we find it. We invite the Moreland Council to enable us to continue our community work.

Enclosed is a letter from Hockey Victoria supporting this request.



Evan Kittelty – President



John Vincent – Community Liaison

⁴ Refer Appendix C – Current Pitch Usage

⁵ Vic Coroners Report 2017, English Australia Intl Student Mental Health 2018 Survey

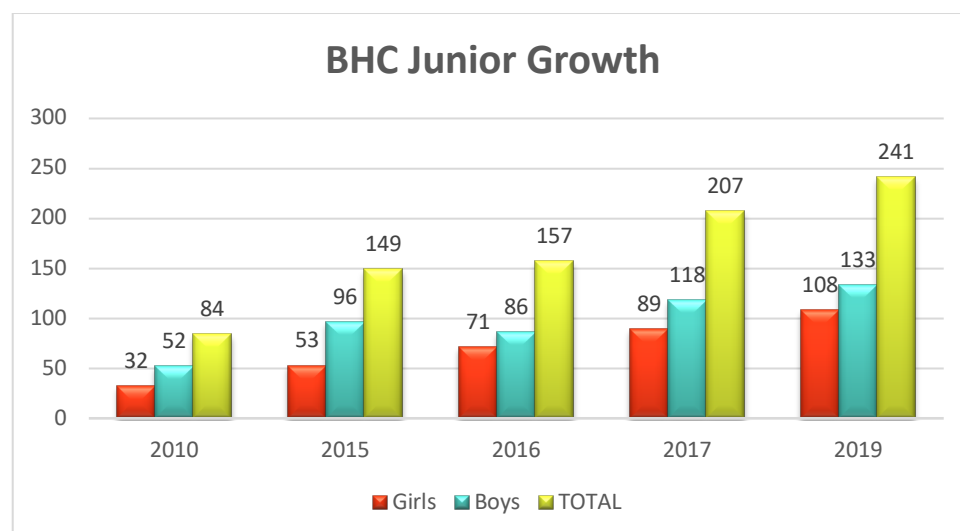
Appendix A: Membership Statistics and Fee Structure

Membership Statistics *

Female Members	
Seniors & Masters	88
Juniors	108
Non-Playing	2
Total Female Members	198
Male Members	
Seniors & Masters	118
Juniors	133
Non-Playing	3
Total Male Members	254
Total Number of Members	452

* These statistics are based on 2019 membership as the 2020 season has been cancelled due to COVID-19.

Junior Growth 2010-2019



	Girls	Boys	TOTAL
Growth since 2015	104%	39%	62%

2020 Fee Structure *

SECTION	Fee
Men/Women / Masters Playing Seniors	\$614
Men/Women – Concession Card Holder	\$429
Masters	\$472
Masters – Concession Card Holder	\$330
Goalies with own Gear	\$197
Student FULL TIME playing Seniors only	\$438
U/10	\$172
Juniors 1 st Child	\$320
Juniors 2 nd Child	\$288
Juniors 3 rd Child	\$230
Juniors Playing Seniors	An additional \$100 on top of the relevant junior fees.

* The fees do not include the Hockey Australia and Hockey Victoria player levies of \$91.50.

Appendix B: Brunswick Hockey Club Teams:

1. U10s Superstars 1 (intraclub)
2. U10s Superstars 2 (intraclub)
3. U10s Girls
4. U10s Boys
5. U12s Boys Pennant
6. U12s Boys Shield *
7. U12s Girls Pennant
8. U12s Girls Shield *
9. U14s Boys District
10. U14s Boys Pennant
11. U14s Boys Shield *
12. U14s Girls Shield *
13. U16s Boys Shield *
14. U16s Girls Shield *
15. U18s Mixed
16. Women's Vic League 1
17. Women's Vic League 1 Reserves
18. Women's Pennant C
19. Women's Metro A
20. Women's Metro B
21. Men's Premier League *
22. Men's Premier League Reserves
23. Men's Pennant D
24. Men's Pennant G
25. Men's Metro A
26. Women's 35+ A
27. Women's 35+ B
28. Men's 45 B
29. Men's 50 B
30. Men's 60

* - Highest level of competition in that age group / section

Appendix C – Current Pitch Usage

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8:00 am	School Use	School Use	School Use	School Use	School Use	HV Junior Comp U10's & U12's	
9:00 am						U14 Boys Shield Junior GK training	
10:00 am							
11:00 am						Superstars	HV Senior Comp Men's & Women's
12:00 pm							
1:00 pm							
2:00 pm							
3:00 pm							
4:00 pm							
5:00 pm	U18's	Hi2H	U10 Boys & Girls	U12's Girls Shiels U12's Girls Pennant			
6:00 pm	U16 Boys	U16 Girls & U14 Girls	U14 Mixed District U14 Boys Pennant	U12's Boys District U12 Boys Pennant	HV Senior Comp Men's & Women's		
7:00 pm	Men's Masters Competition	Men's PL & PLR training	Women's Pennant & Metro training	Men's PL & PLR training		HV Junior Comp U14, U16 & U18	
			Men's Pennant & Metro training				
		8:00 pm	Women's VL1 & VL1R training	HV Men's & Women's Masters Comp			Women's VL1 & VL1R training
9:00 pm							
10:00 pm							
11:00 pm							