



## **Wakatipu Hockey Club**

### **End of Season Newsletter 2021**

Welcome to our final newsletter this season, which takes the place of our usual prize-giving ceremony. Sadly we had to cancel prize-giving due to lockdown and level 2 restrictions, so we would like to celebrate our club's successes and achievements with you all via the newsletter this season. We will aim to resume our usual prize-giving format next season.

With regards to our stolen equipment, this has not been recovered however through the kindness of our community (hockey and non-hockey organisations) we have been able to fully replace it, which is a big relief.

#### **Turf opening**

The most exciting development for our club this year has been the construction of the new multisport turf, which is due to be open sometime in October. I am sure those of you who had a few practices on it prior to lockdown were happy to finally be out there using it for the first time. The process to achieve this has taken approximately 5 years from the planning stages, so to see it finally take shape is hugely satisfying. The location provides so much visibility for our club and it will be great to be able to showcase hockey and raise the profile of our sport in the Wakatipu as a result of this. Of course we do need to remember that it is a multisport turf and that it is a council facility, so we do have to share it for the foreseeable future. This means that we need to hire it for our teams each season, and that other sports can do the same, however once it is officially complete and open, it will operate the same as any other council facility in that it is able to be used by anyone in the community, if it is not being used. Please remember to respect the turf guidelines that will be on display.

#### **Summer Hockey**

This is actually happening this year - QLDC are running a 6 a-side social summer hockey league, on Tuesdays, starting 26th October. Watch out for advertising coming out soon via our facebook page, school newsletters and QLDC fliers. There will be grades for year 5-8, year 9-11 and year 12-adults and it is aimed at all ability levels, so grab your friends and family, and anyone you know who has thought about giving hockey a go, and enter a team.



## 2021 Season Highlights

We always knew that with a new turf, interest in our sport would grow, and this has been evident this year with more than 20 new Fun Sticks signing up to play hockey. They had a great season and we hope to see them back for more next year. We also had a team of Mini Sticks who, along with their skill sessions here, participated in some festival days with other clubs during the season. Our Kiwi Sticks team and 3 Kwik Sticks teams experienced some changes this season to the 6-aside format and the removal of scoring and competitive games. I know that many of these players, coaches and parents struggled to see where Hockey NZ were coming from with these changes at the beginning of the season, however the feedback has been mainly positive and the players have experienced more development opportunities and increased their skill levels as a result. As with any changes, there are teething problems and Central Otago Hockey will be taking this on board for next season to improve the experience further.

Our high school experienced more growth again this year, doubling the number of teams from 2019. They entered 4 teams this year for the first time ever, and while the huge increase in numbers created some logistical challenges at the beginning, and required parents to step up into the coaching and manager roles, they all settled down into a pretty good season. It was great to witness a definite improvement in skill level, particularly amongst our many beginners at this level. I know the high school has extended their thanks to those coaches and managers who stepped in to allow these teams to compete but we would also like to thank Sue Tait for helping the 3 B grade coaches to run practice sessions and upskill their players - I know they all appreciated your experience and knowledge this season. We also benefited from having a specialised goalie coach in Queenstown at the beginning of the season, Dayle Jones, who kindly offered to train new goalies. Her expertise was well received and allowed our new and existing goalies to develop their confidence before the season started.

Also this year, our men and women fielded 1 team each and once again enjoyed a very competitive season. Our women finished 3rd equal this year, while our men won their competition, which was an outstanding performance in a very competitive grade.

We also saw Will Daughtrey, Oliver Jolly and Jason Lennon selected for the Central Otago Men's team, Ally Wilkinson, Alex Thomson and Sammy Fookes selected for the U18 Central Otago girls, Oliver Battrick, Hugo Bogue and Samuel Robertson-Muir selected for the U15 Central Otago boys and Abby Fookes selected for the U15 Central Otago girls teams this



season. In addition, our U13 development participants recently enjoyed a successful Lower South Island festival weekend of hockey in Dunedin.

Many of our teenage players stepped up this season to help junior teams and the feedback received is that their help is much appreciated. Not only do the younger players benefit, it assists coaches and managers, and provides some great development opportunities around coaching, leadership and community service. Paige Loggenberg and Oliver Battrick helped coach the WHS Development Blue and Gold teams, while Sammy Fookes, Abby Fookes, and Oliver Battrick umpired the WHS teams, Alex Thomson helped coach a Kwik Sticks team, Liam Paterson, Abbie Rooney and Finn McCaw umpired the Kwik Sticks and Katie Battrick umpired for the Kiwi Sticks. A number of other keen young umpires shadowed some of these games and filled in when needed, and hopefully this means we will see more involvement next season. Thank you also to Will Daughtrey and Sue Tait for umpiring in our mens and womens grades. And to our coaches and team managers, a big thank you - our players cannot play hockey without you and we all appreciate the time, effort, commitment and passion you put into your teams.

### **Committee Update**

Finally, a big thank you to our committee members who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep hockey running smoothly in our community. This year we have been focused on a strategic plan and development of a business model to prepare our club for future development and growth over the next few years. This is still a work in progress, so if anyone has an interest in these areas, please get in touch with us. We also still have a vacancy in the Junior co-ordinator role and urgently require new committee members from our primary school players to ensure continuation of knowledge and skills within the committee.

### **Prize-giving Awards**

Congratulations to our award winners this season. We hope you all enjoyed your season and know they are well deserved.

#### **Mini Sticks**

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|-----------------|-----------------|
| ❖ MVP           | Oliver Dennison |
| ❖ Most Improved | Leo Devereux    |

#### **Kiwi Sticks**

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|-----------------|-------------|
| ❖ MVP           | Jack Bamber |
| ❖ Most Improved | Jesse Bates |



### **Kwik Sticks Gold**

- ❖ MVP Ben Groves
- ❖ Most Improved Scarlett Cavanagh

### **Kwik Sticks White**

- ❖ MVP Ethan Morphett
- ❖ Most Improved Patrick Edwards

### **Kwik Sticks Blue**

- ❖ MVP Chelsea Wood
- ❖ Most Improved Milla Leemborg

### **Most Promising Year 8 Player**

- ❖ Jack James

### **Wakatipu High School 1st XI**

- ❖ MVP Sammy Fookes
- ❖ Contribution to team Lucy Viggers

### **Wakatipu High School 2nd XI**

- ❖ MVP Charlotte Muir
- ❖ Most Improved Lucy McNay

### **Wakatipu High School Blue**

- ❖ MVP Subath Wijerathna
- ❖ Most Improved Scarlett Blundell

### **Wakatipu High School Gold**

- ❖ MVP Pete Davis
- ❖ Most Improved Seb Watson

### **Men**

- ❖ MVP Oliver Jolly
- ❖ Contribution to team Curtis Luff

### **Women**

- ❖ MVP Stella Torvelainen
- ❖ Most Improved Chloe McIntosh
- ❖ Best Newcomer Bertie Stohart

Prize winners will be contacted to arrange delivery of trophies this year (some of you may have already received them by now).



The following club award winners will be invited to attend our AGM on 18 November at the Event Centre to receive their awards:

**Coach of the Year Award: Suzanna Martin**

Suzanna coached the Wakatipu High School Development team last year and the Gold Development team this year and achieved great results with a young and developing team, many of whom were new to hockey. She has a strong rapport with her players and created a great team culture based on mutual respect, enjoyment and skill development, which is noticeable in their play. The environment created during games is always positive and she seems to bring out the best of everyone in her team - they always return home believing they have played a great game, regardless of the outcome.

Suzanna has provided coaching over and above normal expectations, organising for an experienced coach to run extra sessions and then extending the opportunity to the other B grade players as well, enhancing the environment of inclusion that our club strives for, and increasing skill development within our high school teams. She has shown a proven ability to increase her team's performance, with her team this year improving from last to finishing in the middle of the B grade and providing strong competition for our 2nd XV, thus strengthening the level of hockey overall in this grade.

Generally Suzanna's passion and enthusiasm for hockey is infectious and she demonstrates this at every practice and game, which reflects in her team's success this year.

Congratulations Suzanna and please return next year!

**Contribution to the Club Award: Michelle Loggenberg**

This award goes to our high school coordinator and committee member, Michelle Loggenberg, who agreed to take on this new role and has developed it into a smoothly-run operation. With over 90 students signing up at the beginning of the year and a loose framework of her responsibilities, Michelle had a huge learning curve ahead of her. Michelle has coordinated trials, team adjustments, Central Otago Hockey and school requirements, organised coaches and managers, organised winter tournament week, and has been the liaison between Wakatipu High School and our club. Not a day goes by in this position without an enquiry to deal with or a change to accommodate, so on top of her real job and managing the first XV, this has been a big job.

Michelle's attention to detail, amazing organisational and communication skills, and efficiency have enabled this partnership to be successful, ensuring that the high school has



teams who represent our club and the school positively in the community, and that all of their needs are met. She often stepped up over and above her required responsibilities to help other teams or players, help find umpires, and to provide extra assistance when needed.

Michelle as a club we appreciate all you have done in this position, and will continue to support you as you grow further in the role over the next few years. Congratulations.

### **The End**

Thank you to everyone involved in our club for a great season. This is my last season as President - I am stepping down from the role at the AGM as it is time for someone new to take the reins, however I will remain on the committee for the foreseeable future. I have enjoyed my time as president and met some amazing people during this time. My goal was to unite and grow the club, increase the visibility of hockey in our community, and increase the efficiency of club administration and communication. I feel satisfied that while there will always be room for improvements, these goals have been achieved, and I leave the club in a good place to move towards the future. There are exciting times ahead for hockey in our community, and I look forward to seeing the club embrace and facilitate these over the next few years.

I wish you all well for your summer season of sport, and hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM on 18 November, 7pm at the Event Centre, or next hockey season.

Kind Regards

**Karyn Battrick**  
**Club President**