CEO's Report

2018 was a very successful year on a number of measures, we grew our player numbers again as we have for each of the last 10 years, we returned an annual surplus and we had teams do well at a National level and players go onto National and International honours.

The most difficult issue we faced as a business was a few staffing changes around Administration and Café Management, we have continued without a settled administration resource, but have plans to achieve this in 2019. Addan Wyndham-Smith has stepped into running our café for us and has done a great job.

Ned has taken on a lot more of the facilities management as well as the competitions and events work and we thank him for the countless hours he has put in during and 2018 and know that some of the streamlined processes he has put in place will make for time savings in the future.

Outside of the office 2018 has been another huge year, with great continued growth in numbers, good results on the field and number of big events.

On the field

- We grew our player numbers by a further 8% in our winter hockey competitions and now have 5,033 affiliated players (up an amazing 60.2% since 2010).
- We sent 12 Representative teams away to National Tournaments with all teams performing well, the highlighted finishes were, Waikato Bears Senior Men's Team 3rd backing up from their 1st place in 2017.
- Our Umpires again excelled on the National Stage with many of our Umpires being chosen for National finals and Test Matches.
- We again won both the Midlands Intercity competitions on the Men's side Hamilton Old Boys won the competition. Fraser Tech Won the Women's Midlands Intercity.
- In the Midlands Intercity Secondary school competition, all 4 Divisions were won by Waikato Teams.
- Aber Hamilton Old Boys Men's Premier Team were unbeaten all year and won the 2018 Club Team of the Year in the Sport Waikato Hamilton District Awards.
- The Aber Old Boys coach Richard Petherick won the 2018 Club Coach of the Year in same awards
- We had excellent numbers of our Waikato players in all the Midlands teams again.
- We had a number of Blacksticks who originated from the Waikato, but are playing their hockey currently in Auckland, but we had a very pleasing return to the Waikato Competition by many of our top women's players.
- Added to this we had many more young athletes playing in the Waikato named in NZ Under 18 and Under 21 teams (in addition a number of Waikato athletes who are off at various universities were also named). This is a huge credit to the platform set in place by the Waikato and Midlands coaching staff.

Off the field we hosted very successful tournaments;

- 1. Our second year of our 5's Tournament
- 2. The 4 Nations Test Series.
- 3. NZ Under 21 Tournament

the Café we had our second year of the Rewards System to encourage the Clubs to support the café. This is a system we have decided to continue after 2 successful years.

Finally, I would like to thank all the other Waikato Hockey staff; Kirsten, Stu and Kris for all they do and the hours they put in to make hockey happen, they are a fantastic team to have around and we are all excited about some of the changes and improvements that we are making going forward.

Along with our paid staff I also want to thank our brilliant volunteers, who make the smooth running of Waikato Hockey possible.

So to all players, coaches, managers, umpires, staff, volunteers and the Board thank you for another very successful year.

Declan

Declan Wyndham-Smith

CEO - Waikato Hockey