Social Secretary's Report

One of the many strengths of GBHC is the sense of community and belonging you have as a member.  I was honoured to have had the opportunity to represent the social aspect of the club, with an aim of being inclusive and bringing its members together, both on and off the hockey pitch.  Having been appointed during a night out and much to my surprise, the first event was to be the Halloween party. It was held at the Seahorse, they had a live band and fancy dress was strongly encouraged. We had around 30 plus people there and a good time was had by all.  The next event would be the Christmas dinner. Whilst I was reassure that GBHC were always slow on the uptake, I was still left sweating and worried that people were not going to come. The venue was again the Seahorse with entertainment provided through Mr Mike Higgins and the rental of Andy Higgins decks which I like to think were masterfully handled by DJ Daza. Special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with a special thank you to Donna James for her help in the raffle and lots of very generous donations from our members. First prize was to be an Aratak stock donated by Darren Freemantle.  Mr Anthony Johns won, despite not being present and being forced in to buying tickets 😂.  Well deserved for all his hard work in coaching this season.  Not only did we have the adult Christmas party, but the junior members also got in to the spirit at the GBCC, thanks to the support of Mrs Higgins, Mrs Short and several others, and of course not forgetting the appearance of Father Christmas.  But it has not all been about big events, the ladies teams have made a concerted effort to get together for games nights a few times this season, and I think I will never forget my invite to attend and the startled look on the ladies faces when I arrived.  A great night and one I was really pleased to be a part of.  And one of my favourites was the murder mystery night held at the cricket club towards the end of the season. 1950’s themed murder on the Dance floor. I think it is fair to say even our very own retired policeman was not going to get any awards for his detective skills, however the night was enjoyed by all and a really good turn out as well as some amazing costumes. Jo Head really did suit her role and won the prize for best costume.  We have also seen the men’s 2’s host a pub golf night, which was attended by representatives of all teams and was great fun...so I am told, my memory is a little vague on that one.  It is important to remember that the season is not finished yet in terms of our social calendar, we still have the AGM and end of season dinner dance.  I have thoroughly enjoyed the responsibility of Social Secretary, and arguably one of the most important roles within the club to encourage interaction across teams as well as parents and families.  I would be grateful of the opportunity to continue with social Secretary next year, but I would like to see social representation from each team and consideration being given to a social committee, which would/could to and organise future events. I think we rely heavily on the generous support of the few to mobilise a club, but it requires greater representation.

Darren Humphrey