



## JO BUSH MEMORIAL WALKING HOCKEY FESTIVAL

Keynsham Hockey Club is very proud to have hosted our inaugural Jo Bush Memorial Walking Hockey Festival on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April. We are not sure if it was the worlds' first, but Walking Hockey is an emerging way to play the game, so it is possible this was the first event of its kind!

The festival was held in memory of Jo Bush, a much-loved member of the club who held several positions over the years including Chairperson.

The spirit of the day was about having fun, connecting with old and new friends and enjoying the game at a different pace. For anyone who has yet to experience a walking sport, it is surprisingly difficult not to run and the resulting walking 'styles' can be, shall I say 'interesting'! What constitutes a walk, rather than a trot, skip or gallop came into focus and is something for future debate.



The event raised £271 for Dorothy House Hospice Care, the charity chosen by Jo's family. To raise money, we ran a pop-up cafe for the day (which we dubbed Callipa's Café after Cara and Phillipa who served refreshments all day) selling hot and cold drinks, rolls, some amazing cakes supplied by our club members and a fruit donation from our local Tesco store. We also had fantastic raffle with donations from local businesses including Harvem, Giles Sports and Doug Hillard Sports (as well as one or two bottles of Prosecco!).

The day comprised of a series of short matches, played in a round-robin format, with points allocated for win, lose or draw. Around 3pm the scores were tallied up and prizes awarded by Jo's sister Louise. The winners of the Festival were 'Bromsgrove No 1' who travelled over 150 miles round trip with another squad from the Midlands. In second place were 'Keynsham 5's' and in third place where the 'Jofs' (Jo's Old Farts!) which were a wonderful team who had played alongside Jo for many years.

Some of the 'Jofs' players had not picked up a hockey stick for over a decade and told us they thoroughly enjoyed being amongst old friends and playing the sport they have loved all their lives. We had another 2 squads who travelled from across the county from Corsham who played with tremendous spirit.

# Keynsham Hockey Club Festival Bulletin

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Corsham has been running Walking Hockey training for some while so this was the first chance they had played in any kind of competition.





Another 5 squads made up from Keynsham Hockey Club members along with friends, family and new people to the club.

We gave a prize for the Best Spirited Team, which was won by a squad 'The Chocolate Squad' comprising of the Clifford family, including their children who had never played hockey, but really want to take up the sport! It was a delight to see people of all ages playing together and having fun.



This event simply could not have happened without the support of so many of our Keynsham Hockey Club members. We had a team of umpires who gave up their whole day, players involved in our local scout movement put up event shelters for us and set up a PA system and music. Some younger club members sold raffle tickets, acted as subs and lots of family members made rolls and cakes, donated tea, coffee, milk etc.

The list of help people gave is endless, but it shows with some concerted group effort, some great things can be achieved. We thank everyone for their part in making this event a great success.

#### **Training Sessions in Keynsham:**

We are planning to run regular Walking Hockey training sessions; timings have yet to be agreed, but if you are interested do look at our website for further information.

<http://www.keynshamhockey.club/>

#### **Festival next year - 2019:**

If you or your club are interested in coming to a Walking Hockey Festival next year, do email us on

[walkinghockey@keynshamhockeyclub.com](mailto:walkinghockey@keynshamhockeyclub.com)

