

Dear Clubs and Schools,

My name is Alistair Dick although many of you would know me as Ali and I am standing for the position of Vice President of Scottish Hockey. Since watching early morning highlights from the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 I have been in love with hockey. I started playing on a blaise pitch (still sadly no artificial hockey pitch in the town) at Balwearie High School both for the school and Kirkcaldy Hockey Club before moving to Hazlehead Hockey Club in Aberdeen during my student years at Robert Gordon University who I also played for. Upon returning to Fife in 2000 I have been an active member of Dunfermline Carnegie Hockey Club both as a player, youth coach and umpire along with various positions within the club committee. I also have the privilege to represent Scotland as a technical official in Europe and have been the umpiring appointments convenor for the National league since 2006 and the discipline officer for Scottish hockey since 2009. My weekly engagement with the sport is as an umpire in both the national and district leagues along with some veterans matches in which I hope to play following a recent fitness drive. I have also served for two years as East District president.

Why me you may ask?

Well during the recent Covid pandemic I, like many of us had considerable time to reflect on our sport and I felt that the lack of engagement with the membership of Scottish Hockey has been indicative of the way in which Scottish Hockey appears to have moved away from being a truly inclusive and transparent membership driven organisation.

How I would work ?

As a schoolteacher at Kirkcaldy High School which is sector leading in the promotion of diversity and equality I am aware challenges that society faces and the need to work as part of a larger team to achieve both long- and short-term goals which will enable hockey to continue to grow. I believe that it is crucial to maintain good dialogue with all stakeholders with our sport and to listen and evaluate all opinions and ideas to move things forward in the best possible way. I also believe that it is important to be visible to the membership on a regular basis as there can be a view that Scottish Hockey organisation is very distant from the members.

To this end if I am successful, I would commit to the following points:

- Ask Scottish Hockey to justify decisions that affect clubs, asking which other options have been considered and why they were discounted.
- Encourage Scottish Hockey to bring in initiatives at club and district level to improve our sport and to keep costs to a minimum
- Try to represent the elite athletes, grassroots membership, male, female, youth through to masters in an equitable and inclusive manner.
- Rest assured I will not be a yes man for the establishment or the president and will be an active and accessible independent voice for all clubs and affiliated groups.

What would I champion?

- All forms and levels of hockey as it is a sport for all and can be life changing for many.
- Push for openness and web publication of minutes of Scottish Hockey committee meetings.
Breaking the shroud of mystery behind the workings of Scottish Hockey
- I believe that there are huge areas of the country that have become lost to hockey and that we should be looking to invest time in these areas to bring the sport that so many enjoy at a young age to the rest of their communities.
- Development of all participants as there are many wonderful opportunities open to members regardless of whether they use a stick or not.

Finally I would like to say that if successful I will no longer be there to represent my own club but to champion all of Scottish hockey and endeavour to deliver to the best of my abilities a sport that we can call our own and be proud of.

I'd like to thank the clubs who have nominated me for this position: Grove Menzieshill Hockey Club, Perthshire Hockey Club, Grange Edinburgh Ladies Hockey Club, Kelburne Hockey Club and Falkirk and Linlithgow Hockey Club.

Should you think I am the right person for the role - it would be an honour and a pleasure to represent your clubs and schools in this position.