

# READ&BLACK NEWSLETTER MAY 2016





# President's Chatter

I don't know about you, but with Easter being early this year, the season seemed to finish too soon. However, finish it did and on the whole it was a good one for the Club. Starting with the Ladies first, the 1's consolidated their place back in the Premier League and finished 7th. The 2's who were challenging for promotion at Christmas, but dropped down to finish 5th, whilst the 3's had their best season for a long while, finishing 6th and obtained the most wins and points for a long time. The biggest success though was the men's 1's who gained promotion and many congratulations are due to coach Ravi Viridi, skipper Luke Cottrell and all the squad. Unfortunately the 2's struggled for most of the season, but a vital win in their last game staved off relegation. The 3's had a very solid season and the 4's enjoyed their friendly games. The full results for all the senior sides are shown later in the Newsletter, and hopefully you have all received copies of every teams Captain's report, as for the first time in several years each Captain has produced one – thanks all. Congratulations go especially to Lucy Downs and Shujah Ur Rehman who were not only top scorers for the Ladies and men's 1's respectively, but for the second season running, they were top scorers in their respective leagues, WELL DONE BOTH. The juniors likewise have had a mixed season with some good wins and heavy defeats. Peter Cottrell and his band of coaches have been working hard and it is good to see top player Jackie Parsons helping out with the junior girls. Thanks are due as always to all the umpires, and their Coordinator Luvvy as matches couldn't be played without them. Also of course to all the Captains, Vice Captains, team manager and others including the acting joint Fixture Secretary Luvvy, all of whom ensure that the games go ahead each week. Thank you also to all the coaches, especially Kevin Cuffe who is standing down after 3 seasons as Ladies Club and 1's coach, but will still be helping with the junior coaching. Steve McCarthy has continued to take action and team pictures whenever he can fit in a visit to AHC with his professional assignments. He has also provided some fun 'Spot the ball' and 'Caption' competitions, as well as producing an excellent 2's 2016 calendar and superb photo book from last summer's England Ladies Euros win, so thanks Steve.

The Club's Annual General Meeting was again held on the last day of the season, and we had our highest attendance (28), despite 3 teams not playing that day, for years and a positive meeting. Details of the members who were elected to Club positions are shown later in the Newsletter. However, four vital posts have still to be filled, namely Entertainments, Ladies and Men's Membership Secretary's, and the position of Recruitment Officer. Once again, recruitment of players of all ages and abilities remains a top priority for all sections of the Club. As a start, we have run 4 sessions linked to the England Hockey (EH) "Back to Hockey" scheme for males and females in April. A Recruitment Officer for the forthcoming season is vital though as are help & ideas for schemes & successful campaigns to get new AHC players, umpires and coaches; so please let myself or anyone on Committee know if you think you can help. A key point raised at the meeting though was the need for all players to pay their subscriptions as soon as possible at the start of the season, and for new players to complete a Membership form and start paying their annual subscription ASAP; which is why we have re-established the positions of Membership Secretary's. We have struggled over the past few seasons to get subscriptions paid, which obviously affects the Club's financial situation and is unfair to have members who have paid, playing regularly alongside those who aren't paying - rant one over!

As always there has been a lot going on at Ashford (Short Lane) Sports A(SL)S and we are getting more regular functions, but finances are still tight. More thanks are due to those that have covered the voluntary bar shifts, which were nearly 100% covered. Thank you also to Victoria "Freddie" Chudleigh, Mark Doggett and Keith Nash for their unstinting help with opening and locking up. There have been various essential plumbing and maintenance problems, which Chris Evans, Keith Nash, Roy Smith and Mark Doggett amongst others, have worked hard to solve. In addition, Iain Bothwell and David Lawton of AHC have helped with glazing and plastering jobs, as well as assisting with some astro pitch tasks. The appointment of David Hanks to cover the kitchen franchise has been a real success and David has also helped with some maintenance jobs around the Clubhouse. Unfortunately a grant for the refurbishment of the remaining six floodlight towers has not yet been obtained, but the two refurbished ones (paid for by AHC,) are working well. If anyone can help with the grant application process, please contact Sherpa or myself. We hope to replace and upgrade the sink units in the Gents toilet soon, and have plans to refurbish the Board room, we are also investigating replacing the Function room floor and a new, easier to use till has recently been purchased. Gary Denne in the Club office and Shane Smith behind the bar have also contributed a lot and helped greatly to ensure things run smoothly at A(SL)S. However, after 3.5 years in the Bar Steward job, Shane has decided to move on. I am sure we are all sad to see him go, but wish him well for the future. We are currently seeking a replacement.

On a personal note, my Middlesex and Hockey Museum roles mean I can link up with EH more, which is hopefully helping to raise the profile of AHC. There is an exciting summer of hockey ahead, with not only the AHC summer leagues, the Champions Trophy for both men's and ladies GB teams in London in June, but of course the Olympics in Brazil in August. Have a great one on and off the pitch.

# Fundraising Made Easy

AHC has a partnership with Easyfundraising that enables you to raise money for the Club while you shop online. It doesn't cost anything and takes only a moment or two to set up. At present we have only 9 members involved (ACC have a lot more & have raised over £800), and it is very simple once registered to put the Easyfundraising icon on your Tool Bar to remind you to use it. You can collect free donations for AHC every time you shop online thanks to <http://easyfundraising.org.uk>. There are nearly 3,000 shops on board, ready to make a free donation to AHC - it doesn't cost you a penny extra. It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join - Head to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ashfordhockey/?t=Easyfundraising-li&v=a&u=3Z0359&=&> and sign up for free.
2. Shop - Every time you shop online, go to Easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.
3. Raise - After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to Ashford HC for no extra cost whatsoever!

## Colts - Stop Press

On Saturday the 21st May, Beckie Middleton née Herbert of England and GB will be holding coaching sessions at the club for 10 to 14 year olds. The session for girls is from 11:00-12:00 and the boys session is from 12:00-13:00. Unusually there will be a £5 charge for this session which will go directly to support the juniors.

## Astro Fund Draw

### Winners for the second part of the season

January	£50	Sue Westlake
	£50	Sheila Kinnear
	£100	Val Baldwin
February	£50	Martin Smith
	£50	Andy Barnes
	£100	Val Hardman
March	£50	Lesley Mitchell
	£50	Phil Knowles
	£100	Peter Davis
April	£100	TO BE DRAWN AT THE ANNUAL DINNER
	£250	TO BE DRAWN AT THE ANNUAL DINNER
	£500	TO BE DRAWN AT THE ANNUAL DINNER

To be in with a chance of winning money from our Draw, which is held every month during the season, you need to purchase tickets from our Club Treasurer Wendy Baker. All proceeds go into the Astro Fund and help AHC and A(SL)S with the upkeep & future development of the pitch. Forms are available on the notice board and AHC website, so why not sign up & help AHC out.

# AA's Chatter

- \* The 16th Annual Challenge Cup game between the AAs & Sunbury Stars of the Past (SSOP) was played just before Xmas. It was a cracking game with both teams having large squads, but on this occasion the SSOP were too strong for us. We were 3-0 down at half time and not playing particularly well, but pulled one back at the start of the second half which Val Urwin scored, but then we conceded another. The AAs certainly played a lot better in the second half and it was good to see Jackie Parsons and Annie Neyton back on the pitch and congratulations to goalkeepers Jo Lawton and Catherine Gordon, who along with Phillippa (Flippa) Messenger were making their AAs debuts. Great fun was had after with Santa's visit as always.
- \* Five AAs & Kirsty Hull were in the audience for the recording of the "Claire Balding Show" in late December. It starred GB & England Captain Kate Richardson-Walsh. Not only did we enjoy Kate's performance, but we got a wave & I had a brief chat after & told Kate how much we enjoyed seeing her in AHC colours (red trousers and a black top), which she said she wore on purpose of course!
- \* Star 1's defender and short corner specialist Cal Antell has had a successful operation on her injured leg and is hoping to be back amongst us some time in 2016. Along hopefully with the Brant family – yes!!
- \* Ex AHC colt and long-time 1's skipper Graham Smart, popped into the Club one Wednesday after Xmas, after visiting his parents. All is well with the Smart family and come back and see us soon Smartie, and bring Sophie and the kids please.
- \* Sue Strachen former ladies 1's and 2's goalkeeper is amongst the AAs who are now doing long distance, half marathon fun runs for charity. Well done Strawny, keep it up.
- \* Good to see former 1's goalkeeper Dan Appleyard back between the sticks for the men's 1's. Another former player returning to the pitch has been long time umpire & club member Yazdi Merchant, who played 1 game for the men's 4's this season and survived.....
- \* Cherriman/Hardiman/Messenger dynasty at AHC. Whilst we have numerous parents, siblings, offspring and three generations (Hewes family) who have all played for AHC; we now have one family who have four generations who have played and been committee members at AHC. Vivienne Cherriman played for the Ladies 2's and her daughters Val, Lesley and Diane also turned out for AHC ladies in the 60's/70's, with Lesley playing for the 1's and Australia. Val Hardman of course is still an active AA & involved AHC Life member who was Ladies Fixture Secretary for 15 years. Val's daughter Phillippa (Flippa to most) Messenger, played and skippered the Ladies 1's, and her daughter Lizzie turned out for AHC under 16 girls recently, what a family & achievement – well done all & keep it going please.
- \* The AAs have had two well attended coffee meetings so far in 2016, and a small group are off to Cologne for 4 day tour in early May. Watch out Germany, they could be trouble and we have one free spot if you want to join us.
- \* We bumped into former AHC colt and long-time 1's player Olly Smith, at a local greasy spoon cafe recently. Dad and AHC life member Martin has reportedly retired again and Olly is running the business. Brother Jody is playing a little hockey at Old Cranleighans and the children are being introduced to hockey.
- \* A recent picture in the local Heathrow Villager, showed long time AHC Vice President Vernon Leader, who still pays a subscription to AHC, presenting an award to a local Scout group. One of the scouts receiving the award was AHC star junior Beth Jefferies.

Lynne 07831 827690 [lynne.morgan@live.co.uk](mailto:lynne.morgan@live.co.uk)

## Sainsburys 'Active Kids' Vouchers

We are still collecting Sainsbury's vouchers to exchange for hockey equipment. The scheme runs until early July, so please pop them in the box in the Members Bar – thanks. We are sharing the collection with ACC this time, so there is only one collecting box located in the members bar.

# AHC Website | Twitter | Facebook

Are you aware we have a club website [www.ashfordhockey.club.co.uk](http://www.ashfordhockey.club.co.uk) where you will find some match reports and all the latest news about our super hockey club.

We also have an AHC Facebook Group and Facebook Page so if you can pop onto Facebook and press the 'like' button on the page then you will get the updates feeding through to your news feed.

We are also on Twitter @ashfordhockey so tweet us your news.

## Socials

We have had some really fun socials this year! One memory that stands out is Gordo and Peter's dancing at the Swing Night! Trying to cater for everyone, we have made some money for the club and now we are all looking forward to the end of season awards and dinner with over 90 people coming! Look forward to seeing you there. Next season it will be each team putting on a social so get your thinking caps on now! Abi Frith – Social Secretary

## Annual Dinner

This year's dinner will take place on Saturday 21st May at The Ship Hotel Weybridge. It will cost £40 (£35 if you have done 2 bar shifts) but for that you get a 3 course meal (menu to follow) and a night of fun and merriment with some awesome people.

The details for the account are:

Account Name: Ashford Hockey Club

Account Number: 79295702

Sort Code: 09-01-55

The time has now come for you to start letting us know if you would like to come by emailing Abi ([ajfrith1990@gmail.com](mailto:ajfrith1990@gmail.com)) and also to start paying. You can pay in two different ways.

1. By leaving the money behind the bar with Shane
2. Making the payment to the AHC account directly. PLEASE make sure your name followed by AD is the payment reference to help Wendy out.

## Tours / Festivals

The AAs are off to Cologne for their annual tour for 4 days in early May, but without top tour goer Shirley (The Queen) Winson who is recovering from her hip operation. Get well soon Shirley and see you back on tour in 2017 hopefully.

## Stork Club

Nicky Winter & wife Tash welcome baby daughter, Eden Darcey Nora Winter into the world on 5th April weighing 6lbs 7oz.

Dan Appleyard who recently returned to playing in goal for the mens 1s, has got married, and him and Mel are expecting their first baby.

## Off to University

Goodbye Beth Jefferies who is off to South Wales Uni, and to Matt Law and Adesh Aulakh

# AHC Committee Members

## 2016/2017 Season

President	Lynne Morgan
Chairperson	Ian Jenkins
Hon Secretary	Vanessa Law
Treasurer	Wendy Baker
Men's Club Captain	Patrick Fisher
Ladies Club Captain	Victoria Chudleigh
Colts Manager	Peter Cottrell
Men's Fixtures Sec	POSITION VACANT
Ladies Fixtures Sec	Peter Cottrell
Press Officer/Webmaster	Elliott Smith
Entertainments	POSITION VACANT
Recruitment Officer	POSITION VACANT
Membership secretaries	POSITION VACANT

# AHC Coordinators

## 2016/2017 Season

ASC Representative	Victoria Chudleigh
Men's Disciplinary Officer	Patrick Fisher
Ladies' Disciplinary Officer	Victoria Chudleigh
Coaching Coordinator	POSITION VACANT
Umpiring Coordinator	Tracey Holland
Grounds Coordinator	Lynne Morgan
Equipment Coordinator	Lynne Morgan
Webmaster	John Vocking

# AHC Team Captains

## 2016/2017 Season

Mens 1st XI Manager	Patrick Fisher
Mens 1st XI Captain	Luke Cottrell
Mens 1st XI Vice Captain	Charlie Cottrell
Mens 2nd XI Captain	Ryan Croxon
Mens 2nd XI Vice Captain	David Eastbury
Mens 3rd XI Captain	Chris Lunn
Mens 3rd XI Vice Captain	James Berressem
Mens 4th XI Captain	Gordon Smith
Mens 4th XI Vice Captain	Jonathon Long
Ladies 1st XI Captain	Anna Prothero
Ladies 1st XI Vice Captain	Sarah Hopkins
Ladies 2nd XI Captain	Tracey Holland
Ladies 2nd XI Vice Captain	Becky Hewes
Ladies 3rd XI Captain	Megan Hurley
Ladies 3rd XI Vice Captain	Abi Cowell

# AHC Junior Coaching Staff 2016/2017 Season

Child Welfare Office  
Volunteer Junior Coordinator  
Junior First Aid Office

POSITION VACANT

Adrian Hewes

POSITION VACANT

## Club Kit

AHC training kit, including hoodies, zoodies, rain jackets, fleeces, tracksuit trousers, beanie hats, skorts and shorts in senior and junior sizes can now be purchased on-line from the Pro shop, website on [www.proshopsport.com](http://www.proshopsport.com) e.mail; [sales@proshopsport.com](mailto:sales@proshopsport.com) or phone 0208 568 9929.

New larger and stretchier Club socks are now available in junior size small £8 per pair, and adult medium & large, as well as some old extra large) at £9 per pair.

New Ladies league shirts will be available before the season starts from Lynne Morgan. Peter Cottrell has a supply of junior shirts and some Men's league shirts.

Happy shopping and hopefully you will wear your AHC kit with pride

## Thank You's

Looking back at my mid-season report for the Christmas newsletter, things were going well across all three ladies teams and I'm happy to write that this pretty much continued for the second half too. The ladies 1s finished 7th in their league with some well deserved and consistent wins coming through in the last couple of months. For the ladies 2s there was a post-Christmas struggle to win their games which meant promotion slipped out of the teams grasp. The focus therefore switched to simple hockey and bringing up the junior players from the 3s in preparation for next season. For the 3s, the second half continued as well as the first by consistently putting a team of 12 or more out each week and enjoying their hockey. They finished a very respectable 6th in their league with 35 points - credit goes to Megan and the whole team.

I would like to thank Kevin Cuffe and Bubbles for running the ladies coaching this season and Chris Howkins for keeping our goal keepers on their toes! A BIG thank you to our umpires especially Lesley, Mick and Michelle for being on time and ready to go both at home and away games and to Luvvy for organising the umpiring across the club. Also a thank you to Lynne for opening up the clubhouse each week so everything is ready for the first match of the day onwards and for sending out the ladies results each Saturday. I would also like to thank Keith Nash and the ladies who covered the bar shifts over the season as well as Lynne and Mark on lock-up duty. And finally I would like to thank the lovely team captains Anna, Kirsty and Megan for being great and making my job so easy.

Freddie - Ladies Club Captain

A big thanks for those who updated standing orders to the £31pm, for new players setting up promptly but mostly to Luvvy & captains for following up with players. For when goalkeepers need safety kit, when leagues need umpires, when skills need coaching, we unfortunately need the green readies and that comes from our subs! So thank you.

Wendy Baker – Club Treasurer

# Pitch Etiquette

Please could all members help to look after the pitch and surrounds by:

- Practice hitting against the sleepers and goals only, not by hitting the ball hard against the boards along the bottom of the fences.
- Don't take hot drinks, cans or food onto the playing areas or discard chewing gum on it.
- Put litter and empty bottles in one of the 5 waste bins provided.
- Use the far end of the pitch as much as possible during training, rather than the much used Clubhouse end.
- Respect other teams and matches and remain behind the spectator barrier during their matches.
- Refrain from smoking within the astro cage area.
- Keep dogs on a lead and outside the astro cage at all times.

Thank you and if you see football being played using the hockey goals, ask the players to stop as it is against the rules and damages the hockey nets.

## And so the season ended like this...

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts	League Position
Mens 1s	22	16	4	2	114	28	52	1st
Mens 2s	22	6	3	13	41	69	21	9th
Mens 3s	22	8	3	11	55	50	27	7th
Mens 4s	20	3	5	12	31	51		
Ladies 1s	22	10	3	9	55	55	33	7th
Ladies 2s	22	11	3	8	76	58	36	5th
Ladies 3s	24	10	5	9	49	43	35	6th

Prize for the most goals in the Club goes to the goal machine that is Shujah Ur Rehman with 56 goals!!!

Other Top Goal Scorers were:

Lucy Downs (29), Gillian Clegg (24)

Alex Betts (18), Jamie Hemphrey (15), Maria Cavilla (13), Jenny Tippell (13), Andrew Whiting (11)

Matt Emmerton (10), Caitlin Davis (10), Stephanie Bothwell (9), Sam Betts (8),

Thanks to all the umpires that have done games this year –

Mick, Steve, John, Bobby, Ryan C, Yazdi, Gordon, Mark, Sherpa, Digger, Paul, Luvvy, Lesley, Gillian, Michelle, and anyone else I have missed off. We had the luxury of a North Prem Umpire join us in the form of Chris Howkins at the start of the season unfortunately due to job relocation we lost him in March, but he was invaluable for the short time he was with us and will be sorely missed.

## Summer Hockey

The Ladies summer league has already started and is running on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Nicky Benedict and Emma Hynes are organising the teams so if you are interested in playing please email them.

The Men's summer league has also started with Shane Smith and Joe Lewis running the two sides, so if you are interested in playing please email them.