



ASHFORD HOCKEY CLUB

Red & Black Newsletter - Xmas 2011



President's Chatter

December already and the first half of the season has been an eventful and swift one for AHC. On the Ladies side, things have gone well in many ways with numbers at training going up and three teams being fielded each week, despite very variable availability. The spirit within the section is good, especially in the Ladies 3's who have improved beyond expectations on the pitch and have bonded into an excellent squad off it. The 2's set the early pace by topping Division 2 and are currently in third position. The 1's have had a mixture of results, and mixed availability and a few injuries have affected some of their performances, but they are holding their own in the Premier Division. On the first Saturday in December, all three league sides not only recorded wins, but each team scored 4 goals and conceded only 2 against in total. It has been some time since the Ladies teams did that! Coaches Jeremy and Bubbles have worked hard to develop things and they have latterly been joined by goalkeeper coach Mark Appleyard, who has returned to put the keepers through their paces for the last few Wednesday nights. In addition, the Club joined the England Hockey (EH) "Back to Hockey" scheme, which has resulted in 2 ladies returning to play hockey and 1 or 2 others thinking about it, plus of course the Club being provided with an excellent free banner, which is proudly on display on the astro fence. It is the turn of the AAs to play the last Ladies game in 2011 on 17/12 and they are hoping to finish on a winning note.

As expected, things have been tougher for the Men's section, as due to lack of numbers, the section made the difficult decision of withdrawing the 3rd team from the League just before the season started, with the 4th and 5th teams remaining in their respective divisions. The good news is that 4 sides are being fielded each week and the 1st team have been setting the pace. After a slightly shaky start, they secured top spot in their league for a few weeks and are currently in 2nd spot and have won through three rounds of the HA Trophy, which is excellent progress from last season. The 2's struggled initially, but have now secured a couple of wins, but the 3's (formerly the 4's) have yet to win a game. However, the 4's (formerly the 5's) are doing quite well. The Colts teams have had some good results, and have strength at certain age groups, but are struggling for players at other levels. It is also good to see some of the older colts playing and progressing through the senior sides.

Off the pitch your Captains and committee having been working hard to collect membership subs and cover the many jobs that need to be done to keep AHC running. We are an amateur sports club that is run by volunteers; and more help is needed from all members not only with the bar rota, which Peter Greatorrex is working hard on each week, but all sorts of other jobs. It is **YOUR CLUB**, and if each member paid their subs in full and/or on time and gave at least 3 hours voluntary help each season, it would help alleviate the pressure on the willing few. I therefore repeat the message that everyone's help is needed so please do your bit when asked or better still step forward and offer help. On the plus side, besides Club Day we have had two successful social functions which have been fun and have boosted Club funds. Also the Club now has a Face book page to keep you up to date as well as our AHC website. Recruitment of players of all ages and standards is still high on our Agenda, so please spread the word about AHC and what it has to offer.

President's Chatter Continued

On the Ashford (Short Lane) Sports A(SL)S front, the application to the National Hockey Foundation (NHF) for a £69,000 grant to help with the resurfacing of the astro went in at the end of November and will be considered in January. The good news is that EH are backing our bid. It has been a long and often tortuous process, but hopefully the NHF will give our application serious consideration. Unfortunately the precarious financial situation at Short Lane continues as maintenance jobs mount and income does not increase. The situation was made worse this month, when the owners of the telecommunications mast located behind the hard play area gave us 6 months notice to terminate their hire contract. We are desperately looking for another service provider to replace them, so please let me know if you think you can help in some way. More income over the bar, bookings for the astro pitch, Function & Board rooms are all needed and we have been having meetings with ACC and AHC to collate new ideas to boost income and usage. The A(SL)S Management committee is looking at cost cutting possibilities, but it is almost inevitable that ACC and AHC rents will need to be increased in the New Year. We have in fact reduced hire charges for the Function and Board rooms in an attempt to attract more users, and details of the new prices are included later in the Newsletter. We are looking for new hirers and now have a Zumba class booking, which will begin on Monday evenings in the New Year. If you know of any Weight Watchers or local fitness or dance groups etc., that maybe looking for facilities to hire, please pass on our details. In addition, every member can help in some way by turning off dressing room lights, taps and showers in the Clubhouse when they aren't needed, by closing changing room doors to retain the heat etc., and finishing on time on the astro, especially when the floodlights are in use (& letting the bar staff know when the lights are no longer needed) - IT ALL HELPS!! There is a lot of hard work to do, but also a lot to look forward to and if we work together we can move both AHC and A(SL)S forward.

Finally, may I wish you and your families a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR and of course 'Come on U Red & Blacks'.

Lynne 07831 827690 lynne.morgan@live.co.uk (President AHC and Chairman A(SL)S)

Astro Draw Fund Winners

For those of you who haven't joined our astro pitch fund raising draw as yet, the tickets cost £12 per ticket/per year and monetary prizes are drawn for each month from October through to April inclusive. You can pay by standing order and if you would like to join the draw (or increase the number of tickets you already have). Application forms are also available on the Notice board and the AHC website. Help the Club and maybe yourself by joining today. The winners so far this season are:

October - £100 Anna Protheroe, £50 Ray Edwards, £50 Sherpa (Many thanks to Sherpa who donated his winnings back to the Club)

November - £100 Steve Nunn, £50 Jane English, £50 Heather Grocott

December - £250 Gordon Smith, £100 Sherpa, £50 Alex Saunders, £50 John Tomkins

Security

Please may we remind everyone not to leave valuables in your car or in the changing rooms. A secure storage unit is available for use behind the bar and please keep your valuables with you when watching or in the team dug out whilst playing or training. Also be alert and report anything unusual, especially in the car park areas to the bar staff.

Chairman's Chatter

It has been good to see more positive results going up on the Board each Saturday - I should note here our 'Thanks' to Stephen Smith for being the scribe. A recent Saturday almost saw all teams remain unbeaten and all the Ladies Teams netting four a piece. The results have been significantly better all round than last season. The Men's One's have had a real renaissance and have managed an unbeaten run of seven games in the League plus two Cup games. Well done to Lee, Luke and the squad. In one game earlier in the year we had all three Cottrell boys playing in the First Team which is likely to be a fixture down the road we hope.

It was a landmark birthday for Mr Hockey - Peter Cottrell - recently and no guesses that it was not his Fiftieth. A modest lunch was organised to celebrate the landmark which saw some former members appear amongst them Eric Rose & Klaus Nunn. Both were in good form throughout and send their Best to all. Klaus has moved back to the area so we are likely to see more of the 1937 German Motorcycle Side Car Champion. The Ladies One's have perhaps not had the luck that they deserve and I have seen a couple of games when their endeavours deserved better. I even witnessed the Ladies 3's winning in great style and with some great vocal encouragement. Great stuff Ladies. Thanks should also go to my colleagues on the Committee for their hard work. Juggling training, matches, career and Committee is a tough act so I would like to extend my Thanks as Chairman for the extra endeavour. Hockey clubs do not run without Committee's, umpires, volunteers, coaches, managers and colleagues to feed us and water us. Sincere Thanks to all who contribute. Tracey Roberts has some new Social events in the diary at Short Lane so come on down and help support them and help boost Club Funds. Have a great Christmas and don't eat too much turkey.

Yo Ho Ho

Chairman Sherpa

Senior Club Kit available to buy this season - contact Lynne Morgan

Socks - £8.00, Sizes Small (junior), Medium (3-6) & Large (7-12)

Ladies new thin League shirts (S, M, L, XL, XXL) £23, old league shirts (large sizes only) £20.

New unisex black hoody (S, M, L, XL, XXL) £18 for seniors and £16 for juniors & names can be printed on the back for free by the Proshop at either their Brentford or Thames Ditton shops.

Men's black Shorts (S, M, L, XL) £14

Unisex rain jackets (ExS, S, M, L) £20

Shell jackets (S, M, L) £40

Beanie hats in black or red, and new striped AHC beanie hats, one size fits all £8

Men's and colts shirts - contact Peter Cottrell.

2010/11 SUBSCRIPTIONS

The playing subscription rates for the coming season remain the same as last year and are shown below and all playing members SHOULD HAVE PAID OR STARTED PAYING THEIR BEFORE NOW!

Senior playing member (Over 18 years at 1.10.11 and in employment)	12 payments of £29 = £348
Senior playing member (Over 18 years at 1.10.11 and unemployed, student etc.)	12 payments of £16.66 p = £200
Junior playing member (Under 18 years at 1.10.11)	12 payments of £10 = £120
Colts who only play on a Sunday in Colts leagues	12 payments of £5 = £60
Non playing members	£25

May we again remind you all about subscriptions; previously when you paid your subscription at the start of the season, you didn't normally get any reimbursement of it, regardless of how much hockey you played or whether you played summer hockey. However, now that many members are paying by standing order over a 12 month period, some members are stopping their payments before all twelve i.e. their full subscription for the season, have been made; for what seems in many instances for no apparent reason. Thus AHC is not getting a full subscription from many members and we are losing funds because of it. Please contact Sue Westlake (Ladies Membership secretary), Gordon Smith (Men's Membership secretary) or Doreen Brown (Treasurer) treasurer@ashfordhockeyclub.co.uk (01932 229785) to pay your outstanding subs or for further details.

**** ENTERTAINMENTS AND SOCIALS ****



Thursday 15th December

Pool match between ACC and AHC. Teams of eight players - food - prizes - time etc. to be defined. Shane Smith is running the AHC team, so please let him know if you want to play or come down and support our team.

Sat 17th December 13:30

Ashford Antiques (AA's) v Sunbury Stars of the Past (SSOP)

Sat 17th December

Children's Xmas Party (2-12 Years), 4:30-6:30pm, tickets £4.

Mens Under 30 V Over 30s Annual Hockey Match

The Men's Under 30s v Over 30s Boxing Day game will start at 11:00.

Saturday December 31st New Year's Eve party, 8 pm until late

There will be games/quiz and music and dancing, and food/buffet will be provided. Entry will be free to members but on a first come first served basis and numbers may be limited - tickets are available from Tracey. Non members will be charged - £10 adults, £5 children.

Sat 28th January 2012

AHC social event TBD

Sat 28th April 2012

Annual Awards dinner Saturday April 28th when the draw for the hockey Olympic tickets will be made.

This year its being held at the Manor Hotel in Datchet, Tickets will be £32.50 and will be available to buy after Xmas.

OPENING TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR 2011-2012

Normal opening up to Fri 23rd December
Christmas Eve, Sat 24th Dec 12 noon to 10:30pm
Christmas Day, Sun 25th Dec.....CLOSED
Boxing Day, Mon 26th Dec 12 noon to 3pm
Tuesday 27th Dec.....CLOSED
Wed 28th Dec.....Normal Hours
Thu 29th Dec.....Normal Hours
Fri 30th Dec.....Normal Hours

New Years Eve, Sat 31st Dec.....7pm to Close
New Years Day, Sun 1st Jan.....CLOSED
Mon 2nd Jan.....CLOSED
Tue 3rd Jan.....Open again as normal

AA's Chatter

- * Unfortunately I have to start off with some sad news as AA Mavis Lane died after a short illness in early October. Not only did Mavis play for AHC for several seasons, but so did her children Jackie and John Lane. Our condolences go out to them and the rest of her family and her close friends, several of which are AAs.
- * On a brighter note former men's 1's player Alan Watkinson won the Aviva "School Sport Teacher of the Year" award. Alan is now 47 years young and it was for his work with school children in Isleworth and Syon. Well done Wato and come and see us again soon.
- * AHC legend and long time foreign tour organiser and voluntary Woodthorpe Road grounds man Eric Rose and wife Jane (Boddington), are now on Face book if you want to contact them or stay at his 'Victoria Lodge' B&B in Kenilworth.
- * Several blasts from the AHC past have turned up at Short Lane recently. Firstly Mick Flannigan, who joined AHC when Life Member and AHC legend, Martin Smith and Vice President Jeff Meers did, contacted me in early November. Mick used to play regularly for the men's 4's and 5's and Sunday SPF sides and he duly came down to SL and renewed old friendships with Jane English and Daddy Cottrell amongst others, and has taken up umpiring. He got 98% in his theory paper and is currently umpiring the lower Ladies and Men's teams in an attempt to obtain an initial umpiring qualification. Well done and welcome back Mick.
- * The second golden Oldie to appear was the original "Old Dog" Johnny Rees. John was a tourer extraordinaire and there are numerous tales of his exploits on and off the pitch. One I can recall is one Easter in the late 70's, one Easter, he told his wife he was going out to get a paper and he made his way down to AHC and came on tour to Dublin for 4 days! It is good to see you back John AHC welcomes and needs your support from the side lines.
- * The AAs and AHC Ladies were both sorry to lose extrovert Kiwi Holly Busby when she returned to live and work in her home town of Wellington in the Autumn. We miss you on and off the pitch Holly.
- * Several prominent AAs have had landmark 40th birthdays in 2011, the latest being Kirsty (my body is a Temple) Rossington, who organised a weekend of birthday celebrations in London; where she was joined by numerous AAs and AHC Ladies to dance and drink the weekend away.
- * The next birthday I will mention quietly as Peter C (Mr. Hockey/Spanky) was 60 at the start of December and is now eligible for many OAP benefits. Welcome to the Club Peter.
- * Ex male AA Alan Green played for Staines against AHC in November in what was one of the quietest and gentle men's games ever played between AHC and SHC.
- * Nodrog Smith (Gordon) Smith competed in the Baxters Loch Ness marathon in early October raising money for two charities. Close to 4000 people took part in the race and Nodrog was running well until 18 miles, when his hip really started hurting and by 21 miles, he had slowed down, so the last 5 miles took him 1 hr 18m to bring him in at 4 hrs 49m 51s. Well done Gordy :O).
- * AHC has now several well-accomplished triathletes, including AAs Nicky Benedict, Dave (Angry) Baker and Dawson Hardiman as well as young Ladies Club Captain Emma Hynes. Other AHC members are planning to join them and good times are being achieved by all.
- * Half marathons have been run by AAs Wendy Baker and Polly Shoebridge in the Autumn with both excelling as normal. They put my early season charity and recent Santa fun runs in the shade, so well done girls. My only claim to fame is that I nearly caught Fatima Whitbread up in the Hyde Park 5K in September and my hand is still sore from the massive high fives she gave me when I finished the race.
- * More sedate AAs activities have included a couple of coffee dates, the first being in Windsor when we celebrated AHC life member Val Hardman's birthday and were very pleased that Carolyn Dale and Staines exile Heather Howell (nee Cummings) could join us.
- * The other was in late October in Laleham to confirm details for the next AAs tour in Spring 2012. I can't tell you what went on though as after arranging the date, I ducked out to go and support Wales at the rugby world cup in Auckland - sorry girls but my country needed me.
- * When Lucy Kinnear took part in the AHC club Day at the start of the season, she was the third generation of the Greatorex/Kinnear family to appear for AHC. Grandmother Jeanette, mother Sheila and Uncle Peter have all of course played and for the latter still are playing for AHC. Also her late Grandfather Bob Greatorex was also an AHC stalwart in our Woodthorpe Road days.

Training

Tuesday training for U9, U11 & U14 boys & girls & senior men finished on Tuesday 13th December 2011 & recommences on Tuesday 3rd January 2012 -18:30-19:30.

Wednesday Night training (Ladies) finished on Wednesday 14th December and restarts on Wednesday 4th January 2012 - 19:30-21:30.

Thursday Night training U16 colts & senior men finished on Thursday 15th December and restarts on Thursday 5th January 2012

Sunday training in 2010 for U9 & U11 and U14 boys and girls is on 18th December 2010 & it recommences on Sunday 8th January 2012 -09:30-11:00.

Recruitment

* Do you know anyone who plays hockey and is thinking of a change? You know how lovely and welcoming we are at AHC, so bring them along to our evening training sessions, have them email us (ahcsocial@hotmail.co.uk) or get details and we'll call them!

* Do you have somewhere at work where you can put a notice/advert about AHC? Your work website or intranet, an e-classifieds section, a sports notice board, general 'wanted' section? We can provide the words for you...we just need you to access the posting areas!

* Can you think of somewhere to put up a poster/flyer/small ad perhaps your local shop, library, doctors/dentists, gym? If everyone in the Club took one of Lucy's posters, then we'd have an advert posted in 100+ different places! See how we can all help.

Advertising - we're putting a little something in Gum tree, we have an ad on the English Hockey website- can anyone think of any other advertising publications we can use as an outlet for our recruitment drive?

* Universities - does anyone have any links with local Uni's sports colleges, to again, get posters/ads up on the sports boards?

WHAT IS YOUR GREAT IDEA - please let us know - we're happy to try new things, but need help with approaches. Whatever you can do to help is appreciated - we want AHC to have a great 2011-12 season...aiming at promotions, supporting our developing talent in all sections of the Club, and enjoying our Saturdays and Sundays that will help us all :-) thank you, Lucy Uttley & Wendy Baker.

AHC Website and Facebook

Are you aware we have a club website www.ashfordhockey.club.co.uk where you will find all the weekly match reports and latest news about our super Club.

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

The Season So Far....

Men's - Withdrawing the Men's 3rd XI from the League before the season started seemed to be right decision, with the lower teams having enjoyed some more successfully and enjoyable results. The men's 4th XI (formerly the 5's) well captained by Peter G have been picking up some great wins, and Shane must have shares in the 'Hockey Pools' competition as he has masterminded 5 score draws already this season for the Men's 3rd XI (formerly the 4s)! The winter break may have come too soon for the 2's as they have finally found their form and picked up a great win on the last Saturday before the break. The 1's go into the winter break sitting 2nd in the league and in the last 16 of the HA Trophy, with an away against Marlborough on Sunday 12 Feb 2012 to look forward too.

Mens and Ladies leagues

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	League Position
Mens 1s	11	7	2	2	29	18	2nd
Mens 2s	11	2	1	8	13	38	11th
Mens 3s	10	0	5	5	9	25	12th
Mens 4s	9	4	2	3	27	18	6th
Ladies 1s	9	2	4	3	15	17	6th
Ladies 2s	8	4	1	3	24	17	4th
Ladies 3s	9	3	1	5	12	14	5th

Umpires - Many thanks for everyone that has umpired so far this season!

Fixtures - The latest joint fixtures list is attached.

Have a good Christmas and New Year.

Ed

