

# ASHFORD HOCKEY CLUB



## Read & Black Newsletter: AUGUST 2011

### President's Patter

I hope you are having a good and sunny summer and you are looking forward to the coming season. The Club AGM was held in May with 32 members attending and although there was a lot of enthusiasm, new ideas and offers of help, some Club positions were not filled. These include some Men's captains', an Entertainments officer and an A(SL)S Management committee representative positions. If you think you can help, please contact your Club Captain or myself for further information. Long time AHC members Joy Ménage and Jeff Meers were elected as Vice Presidents at the AGM and both were delighted with their election and asked to pass their thanks on to all and they hope to be down at the Club in the coming season. Talking of long serving AHC members, Life Member Martin Smith, recently stood down from his role as Director of Ashford Sports Club (ASC) after over twenty years service. AHC owes him a large vote of thanks for all his hard work and support over the years and his contributions of behalf of both AHC and A(SL)S will be missed. Martin did assure me recently though that he also will be down at the Club during the coming season. Summer hockey has now finished and the matches were enjoyed by most teams. The results are included elsewhere in the Newsletter and thanks are due to all the organisers, and Alex Saunders and Tracey Holland in particular. The Men had more participating teams this summer and they have also been holding some fitness training on the cricket outfield each Tuesday night (7.30pm start) since June. Likewise, the Ladies have also started some gentle pre-season fitness training on the hard play area from 8pm every Wednesday. All members are of course cordially invited to attend their respective sessions. We are pleased to report that Jeremy Clarke will again be the Ladies Club and 1<sup>st</sup> team coach and will be assisted by Adrian Hewes on Wednesday evenings and full, winter training will commence on August 31<sup>st</sup> at 7.30pm. The Men are currently finalising their coaching arrangements for all teams and training session start dates. Recruitment of new members of all ages and abilities is a major concern for AHC and Lucy Uttley has been appointed as our new Recruitment Officer, but every members help and ideas are needed. Please therefore spread the word about our wonderful, friendly club and excellent facilities, and bring your friends, relatives and work colleagues etc., down for training or Club Day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, details of which are given within.

Work has been going on at Short Lane (SL) during the summer as always by A(SL)S and its band of voluntary helpers, with some improvements being made to the Function room, various sets of showers and in changing rooms 1&2. Some new small tables and chairs for general use have been obtained free of charge & work on the grounds and astro area has continued. However, probably of most interest to AHC members is the progress the Grants sub-committee have made towards obtaining a grant to help cover the cost of resurfacing the astro. I hope by the time you read this Newsletter, we will have applied to the National Hockey Foundation for a large grant and England Hockey amongst others are backing our application with letters of support. In addition, ASC are kindly donating £60K towards the project from the funds money raised previously from the astro hire. We have had several quotes for the resurfacing and have examples of the types of sand dressed surfaces available. We will of course keep you informed of any progress made, but would still ask you all to inform us if you know of any other possible sources of grants for either AHC or A(SL)S. Things are still very tight financially at SL and more income over the bar, fund raising and bookings for the Function & Board rooms, playing facilities etc., are still very much required. ASC and A(SL)S are still talking to Macob the properties group, but there is no real further progress to report as regards to the possible sale of a strip of SL land at the far end of the field by the small set of unused double gates.

If you don't think you can help with any of the aforementioned jobs, then how about helping with the AHC, voluntary, Monday & Tuesday night bar rota which runs from 1/10/11 until 31/3/12. A(SL)S would also like your help with its 'Going green' (and economising!) schemes; by turning off 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!! We are also trying to collect all empty drinks cans, crushing them and taking them for recycling. Cans should not be taken on the astro, and when in the Clubhouse, please could you put any empty cans back on the bar rather than putting them in a bin. Likewise when doing voluntary bar duty please don't put empty cans into a bin, but use the wall mounted can crusher and separate storage crate, both located in the back, bar store area. Thank you a and **GOOD LUCK** for the coming season, enjoy your hockey and of course COME ON U RED & BLACKS. *Lynne*  
([lynne.morgan@live.co.uk](mailto:lynne.morgan@live.co.uk))

\*\*\*\*\* SUBSCRIPTIONS \*\*\*\*\*

The playing subscription rates for the coming season remain the same as last year and are shown below. Members who do not pay before the start of November 2011 will not be considered for selection until their subs are paid. The rates are:

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

\*\*\*\*\* New Members\*\*\*\*\*

In an attempt to recruit new senior playing members and perhaps entice former players back into action, we have introduced a discounted first year membership subscription. New members will have to pay either the full amount, half the subscription or commence a standing order process before the end of October 2011. Please Contact Treasurer Doreen Brown or Membership Sec's Sue Westlake or Gordon Smith for further details.

A form for any members who would like to start paying their subscription by the above method will soon be available on the Notice Board and on the AHC Website. May we 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](mailto:treasurer@ashfordhockeyclub.co.uk) (01932 229785) to pay your subs or for further details.

**AHC Committee Members for this Season**

President	Lynne Morgan
Chairman	Ian Jenkins
Treasurer	Doreen Brown
Secretary	Peter Greatorex
Ladies Fixtures	Alex Saunders
Men's Fixtures	Andy Sonden
Ladies Club Captain	Emma Hynes
Men's Club Captain	Darren Cole
Press Officer	Wendy Baker
Recruitment	Lucy Uttley
Colts Manager	Peter Cottrell
Entertainments	TBC
Sport Club Representative	Hannah Cole
A(SL)S Management Committee	David Sutch, Adam Husband + 1 vacancy
A(SL)S Maintenance Committee	Lynne Morgan

**Pitch Etiquette**

May we remind all members and spectators that if they are not involved with the game being played, they should remain behind the spectator side line barriers at all times. Members should not be 'knocking up' or using the goals or areas of the pitch whilst matches are being prepared for or in progress. In addition, smoking within the confines of astro pitch and the use of glass drinks containers is prohibited. Please abide by these rules they apply to all teams, players and spectators!

**Pitch and Grounds Litter**

Please put all your litter, empty cups/ bottles etc., in the litter bins provided when you have finished your game and/or training. We are trying to maintain the pitch and surrounds in the best possible condition that we can, so please help as well and please don't leave your litter for somebody else to clear up.

### **Senior Club Kit available to buy this season- contact Doreen Brown or Lynne Morgan**

Socks - £8.00, Sizes Small (junior), Medium (3-6) & Large (7-12), old style socks large size only £6.

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 £15 for juniors & names can be printed on the back for free by the e 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

Black Beanie hats one size fits all £8

Men's shirts - contact Peter Cottrell.

### **Ashford Antiques News**

\* More 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations amongst the AA's during the summer months with Poline Cotton travelling all the way from Oz to celebrate hers with fellow Sniffers in Weston Super Mare. Flips, amongst others, have also been celebrating and Kirsty R is doing her thing in town after Club Day - Happy Birthday all.

\* Numerous AAs, both male & female took part in the Staines 10K in June, with lovely legs Guy Taylor being the first home, but good times were posted by all participants who included Dave and Wendy Baker, Darren & Hannah Cole, Emma Hynes and Benny (Karen Cutler nee Little), Many also did the recent 10K Dorney Dash. Dave, Emma and Dawson Hardiman are now participating in Triathlons and Nicky Benedict is also taking up the Challenge - well done all, it puts my two summer 5K Fun Runs to shame!

\* Other active AAs this summer have been Sarah Jacobs who did the Kempton Park 5K Race4Life for the first time, Irene Okello who did a 10K for charity and star marathon runner Polly Shoebridge who whizzed around the hilly Brighton marathon in an incredible 3hr 43mins.

\* Besides the Sniffers going on their normal Easter tour, the vintage AAs went on another European jaunt. After a break of well over 15 years, 13 intrepid tourer's left Heathrow on the day of the Royal wedding to visit Dublin. Three days of fun, frolics and plenty of Guinness and Irish humour followed, along with celebrations of new Club VP Joy's 'official birthday'. No hockey matches were played and Dublin is still recovering. A reunion was held a few weeks later at the AAs summer Bash which was held at Alison Blundell's this year, when a slide show of everyone's photos was part of the entertainment. Three official postcards of the trip have been published and are available free of charge from myself on request.

\* It was great to see the Cotton family over in the summer for a one month visit and back at SL if only for 1 day. All are well and Poline in particular looked lean and fit and no different to her illustrious playing days, which we hope one day she will return to.

\* Sheila Cooksey came down to SL one Friday in early June to have coffee with several AAs and to inspect the bench seat dedicated in her late husband and AHC life member Ron. I am pleased to say Sheila was pleased with the location of the seat and plaque in Ron's honour.

\* Talking of Ron, apparently among the many players he introduced to hockey and/or AHC were Greek exile and ex webmaster Alf Rhodes and former long time 1s keeper Mark Smith. I'm not sure if that is a good epitaph for Ron or not!

\* Former AHC starlet and fullback Lisa Windmill is reportedly now coaching her daughter in the 'skills and art' of hockey, but Lisa no longer plays herself.

\* There were lots of ex AHC stars at the wedding of the year in Windsor, no not that Royal thing at Westminster Abbey, but Hannah and Darren's on 1<sup>st</sup> July. They did of course include Darren's Mum Janet Cole, a swashbuckling centre forward in our Woodthorpe Road days, the ever popular 1<sup>st</sup> team star and known as 'The body' Peter Wood and Danno who we still hope will come and play again.

*Lynne - [lynne.morgan@live.co.uk](mailto:lynne.morgan@live.co.uk)*

### **Weddings/Engagements**

Lisa Bacon got engaged in April.

Howard Nicholson and his long term girlfriend Theresa got engaged at the beginning of August.

### **Stork Club**

Charlie had in May little girl Lillian Therese Hera Poulter 8.5lbs and she was back playing her first game in the Ladies Summer League Final.

## Social Dates for your Diaries!

### Club Day Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

Ashford will be kicking off the 2011-2012 season with our Club Day tournament. Meeting at 1pm for registration, we'll be holding a mixed team, mixed ability tournament! Exact team size dependent upon numbers, but usually around 6-7 aside playing on half a pitch...a more gentle reintroduction into the game :-)  
Games should start at 1.30pm. The men's 1st XI squad might not have such a gentle start with a hopefully a friendly being organised for the 3rd...but their manager Lee is expecting them to come down afterwards to boost numbers! Alongside the tournament, we'll also be hoping for sunshine as we get out the BBQ and to have some social beers. If you are definitely able to make it or are hoping to, please let us know to aid catering. Should you know someone interested in playing hockey for Ashford, this is a great chance to come and meet us...so bring them along! Hope to see you there, Hynes, Lucy, Wendy & Cole'

### Other Social dates for the year but yet to be confirmed are:

22<sup>nd</sup> October 'Place your bets'  
26<sup>th</sup> November Birthday bash (Dawson & Abi) disco  
28<sup>th</sup> January 2012 Quiz night or Wine & Wisdom.

### Clean Up Days Club Day 3/9, Sunday 4/9 and Sunday 11/9

All members are asked to help clean up the grounds, car park areas, along with the astro and hard play areas before the season starts. Working groups are required on the above days and gloves, waste bags and tools will be supplied. Please help if you can.

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### Astro Draw

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 a form is enclosed 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

### Summer Hockey

**Ladies** - Another good summer league competition was held at AHC this summer with nine teams taking part in two Divisions. The B League final was between BA/Hayes B and Staines B and in a very even game and the strong BA/Hayes B side scored the only goal of the game shortly before the end of the second half. The A league final was played between Staines A and Ashford A. Staines played with eleven outfield players and no goalkeeper or kicking back and a combination of experienced first or ex first team players and youngsters. The game was competitive and yet played in an excellent spirit and although Staines won 3-1, the Red & Blacks put up an excellent performance both on the pitch and in the bar afterwards! We have had several letters of thanks form participating Clubs and the spirit within all teams seemed especially good this year.

**Mens** - We had 6 teams participating in two divisions, BA, Indian Gym, Staines and Amersham & Chalfont all seemed to enjoy themselves at least some of the time!

### 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 to the bar staff, especially in the car park areas.

### Tesco Vouchers

Thank you to all of those who collected Tesco vouchers and donated them to the Club. We have now received 84 junior hockey balls, two 28" and six 30" junior sticks. These will all be put to good use in the coming season.

## Recruitment

It is with sadness we say adieu to some of our stalwart players in the ladies section. Holly has headed home to NZ, Lisa & Helen have new jobs in the west country, Kelly is focusing on Uni level hockey and Phil is given her injuries chance to heal...We are going to miss them all terribly. It's a similar story in the men's with Tom moving up north, Dave declaring (again) his retirement (sweepstakes on how long he lasts this year?!). We are welcoming back players too...Charlie had a little girl and is already putting her keeper kit back on :-). Maria Cavilla is hoping to come back after her long term injury, Liv Washer hopefully after her knee op, and we had a couple of new ladies (Groomy and Kath) playing during Summer, who will hopefully join. However, we do need to work on replacements and players at all levels. Lucy is our recruitment lady this year, and has already got some plans in motion...but we do need your help please?

\* Do you know anyone who plays hockey and is thinking of a change? You know how lovely and welcoming we are at Ashford! Bring them along to club day or our evening training sessions, have them email us ([ahcsocial@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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? A 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? Your local shop? local library? local 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....ask at club day for a poster (or email us beforehand if you can print off and are able to publish beforehand)

Advertising - we're putting a little something in gumtree, have an ad on the English Hockey website, Wendy will write an article for the local press - 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 send a representative to freshers fayres? To again, get posters/ads up on the sports boards? WHATS YOUR GREAT IDEA? do you have any thoughts/ideas we can try and implement? 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 ASHFORD 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 that will help us all :-) thank you, Lucy & Wendy.

## Colts Hockey

**Peter Cottrell - Junior Coordinator on [colts@ashfordhockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:colts@ashfordhockeyclub.co.uk) or 07557 445692**

### Team Managers and Coaches:

The teams would be organised by:-

U8 mixed - Gordon Smith (C), Jacqui Bashford (C) and (M)

U10 boys - Adrian Hewes (C), Jacqui Bashford (C)

U10 girls - Adrian Hewes (C), Caroline Jefferies (C)

U12 boys - Adrian Hewes (C) Caroline Jefferies (C)

U12 girls - Sam Clarey (C) and (M)

U14 boys - Adrian Hewes (C) and (M), Jas Nijar (C), Alex Betts (C)

U14 girls - Sam Clarey (C) and (M), Mark Appleyard (C)

U16 boys - Jas Nijar (C), Peter Cottrell (M)

U18 boys - Jas Nijar (C), Peter Cottrell (M)

(M) Manager (C) Coach

## AHC Captains for this Season

Ladies 1s - Capt: Lucy Uttley and VC: Jacqui Bashford

Ladies 2s - Capt: Hannah Cole (nee Stokes) and VC TBC - Lisa Bacon was elected, but is leaving the area.

Ladies 3s - Capt: Abi Frith and VC: Charlotte Dyett

Ladies 4<sup>th</sup> XI co-ordinator - TBC

Mens 1s - Capt: Ben Washer and VC: Luke Cottrell

Mens 2s - Capt: Elliot Smith and VC: Adam Husband

Mens 3s - Capt: TBC and VC Gordon Smith

Mens 4s - Capt: Shane Smith and VC: Adrian Hewes

Mens 5s - Capt: Peter Greateorex and VC: Robert Evans

Mixed - Hannah Cole and TBC

## **Season Starts again – Get ready to go.....**

<u>Tuesday August 16th</u>	MENS TRAINING RESTARTS 7.30pm - 9.30pm
<u>Thursday August 11th</u>	1/2s TRAINING RESTARTS 7.30pm - 9.00pm
<u>Wednesday August 31st</u>	LADIES TRAINING RESTARTS 7.30pm - 9.30pm
<u>Sunday September 4th</u>	COLTS TRAINING RESTARTS We are looking for as many new players as possible so please bring down your friends.
<u>Saturday September 3rd</u>	<b>CLUB DAY details to be confirmed</b>
<u>Saturday September 10th - FRIENDLIES</u>	Ladies Practices/Trials - Time tba Mens 1s V TBA Mens 2/3s V TBA Mens 4/5's V TBA
<u>Saturday September 17th - FRIENDLIES</u>	Ladies 1s/2s V TBA Ladies 2s/3s V TBA Mens 1s V TBA Mens 2/3s V TBA Mens 4/5s V TBA
<u>Saturday September 24th - FRIENDLIES</u>	Ladies 1s/2s - Friendly Home Ladies 2s/3s - Friendly Home Mens 1s V TBA Mens 2s V TBA Mens 3s V TBA Mens 4s V TBA Mens 5s V TBA
<u>Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> - Mens league starts</u>	Ladies 1s V TBA Ladies 2s V TBA Ladies 3s V TBA Mens 1s V Oxford Hawks 2s Away Mens 2s V Banbury 2s Home at 12:00 Mens 3s V Eastcote 4s Away Mens 4s V Marlow 3s Home 13:30 Mens 5s V Brunel University 2s Away
<u>Saturday October 8th - Ladies league starts</u>	Ladies 1s V Hendon & Mill Hill 1s Home 10:30 Ladies 2s V Hendon & Mill Hill 2s Away Ladies 3s V No League game Mens 1s V OMT 1s Home at 12:00 Mens 2s V Eastcote 3s Away Mens 3s V West Hampstead 4s Home at 13:30 Mens 4s V Eastcote 7s Away Mens 5s V Gerrards Cross 3s Home at 15:00

Have a great season everyone and more importantly enjoy your hockey!

Ed.