

ASHFORD HOCKEY CLUB

Read & Black Newsletter: APRIL 2008



Chairman's Chatter

2007/8 certainly wasn't one of unlimited success for either the Ladies or Men's senior sides, but after some problems both 1st XI's avoided relegation, as did most of the other sides, with the exception of the Ladies 3rd XI. Both sections struggled to get a full complement of sides out each week, and although the Ladies 4th XI ended up anchoring the bottom of the Middlesex 4th Division, praise is due to all those who played and organised the team as they worked wonders to ensure that we at least got the minimum number of players out each week and we retained our league place. The Men's 6th XI also suffered with lack of numbers and a big recruitment drive for new members of all standards and ages is needed to ensure we don't struggle again next season. The Colts section however, had an excellent season, with many successes that Peter Cottrell will report on elsewhere.

Off the pitch a few more members have got involved in helping out and organising things. Besides thanking all the Captains, Vice-Captains, Committee members, team managers, coaches and other Club Officials; two people in particular have worked extremely hard on our behalf to ensure that we covered the voluntary bar rota each week during the winter, namely Gordon Smith and Mark Appleyard. Gordon organised the volunteers, but due to a poor response from many teams, he often did the Tuesday (& sometimes Monday's) night shifts himself. Mark also worked tirelessly closing the bar and locking up the Clubhouse on most Monday & Tuesday evenings, helped later in the season by Bob Billins, THANK YOU BOTH. A massive 'MERCI' is also due to Wendy Baker (and her crew of regular helpers) who have organised numerous, excellent social events this season, culminating in the stupendous AHC Annual dinner, which once again was held at Short Lane. Not only did super star Wendy provide many enjoyable functions for us all to attend, she and her crew managed to raise a much needed £2,000+ for Club funds, an outstanding achievement all round and a very positive turn round from the season before – what's on the social calendar for this year Wendy? We also managed to get the new AHC website up and running early in 2008 and I hope you are all pleased with the results and please let me know what else you would like to see on it.

Although progress with some matters at Short Lane under the new guidance/management of the ACC/AHC combined Ashford (Short Lane) Sports (A(SL)S) Ltd has been slower than anticipated, the lack of a bar manager recently and numerous on-going maintenance and security problems have kept us occupied. Unfortunately the lead from the Clubhouse roof was recently stolen and at present we have a temporary repair to help prevent the rain getting in! We can report however that the astro playing surface will be professionally cleaned and the seams repaired at the start of June, weather permitting. The contractor involved assures us that this will be done in stages and that the pitch will be available for use in the evenings.

AA's Chatter

It is difficult to know where to start this time round as so many former players turned up to celebrate Bruce Cotton's testimonial game on Saturday 12th April. The squad players included:

Bacchus; Baker; BB; Biffy; Bubbles; Chirpy; Coley; Cottrell Peter; Crab hands; Cuffie; Danno; Dan Appleyard; David Bowles; David Meers; Dawson Hardiman; Dean Hull; Deep Bassi; Digger; Elliot Symes; Gordon Smith; Graham Smart; Greeny; Ian K MCALLAN; Jessie; John Vocking; John Lewis; Lynne Morgan; Mark Rake; Mark Smith; Matt Emmerton; Matt Tomassi; Michael Register; Mike Poulton; Neil Smith; Nicholas Tebb; Peter Cottrell; Dickie Chessman; Richie Ardron; Rob Travers; Russell McQuillan; Shar; Sherpa; Smarty; Smudger; Steve Davies; Steve Smith; Swine; Tonker. A group photo showing the majority of players is on the website, so take a look to see how many of the former super stars are now looking!

Amongst the many spectators were Bernie Peuleve, Ron Cooksey et al and some appropriate speeches and gifts were given after the game. For the record it was Legends 4 (Chirpy, Trav, Lynne & Russ) - Colts 3 (Danno 2 (unbelievable!!), Digger) who won, with the scores reversed in the boat race --- no amount of cheating could stop victory for the young lads and the less said about the funnel the better. Thanks are also due to Matt Tomassi and Sherpa who umpired the game and Darren Cole and Deep who got the teams out, and despite some horrendous weather that delayed the second half, an excellent time was had by all. The screening of the first HA Trophy win did much to add to the occasion after the game as many of the winning team were present and everyone helped to celebrate Bruce's AHC playing career from star colt to star 1st XI and mixed team hero. Many old stories were retold and beer drunk. Good luck to Bruce, Pauline and the girls in your new life down under and please stay in touch.

Long time player and Stoke City supporter Dave Greenfield is also moving down under to Melbourne with his job this September. Bon Voyage Dave, don't forget to write.

Sherpa, Mr Spanky and Bernie P went up to visit Eric Rose and Jane in March at the Rose's Warwickshire bed & breakfast establishment. Eric has had a hip operation, but is now back on his feet and helping Jane out with running things. We have still to get Eric down to Short Lane though, but we hope to sooner or later.

The AA's had a game against Windsor Royalists after Bruce's benefit game and they enjoyed a 2-0 victory. Freddie Newman (who was making her AA's debut) opened the scoring in the first half, whilst Gillian Clegg added a second in the second half. The game also marked the retirement of stalwart Ladies goalkeeper Ali Boxell from regular league hockey, but we are hoping Ali will still grace the AA's with her presence.

The Annual Hockey club dinner was held on Madam Chairman's 60th birthday and several original AA's attended to help Lynne celebrate. They included Jeannette Knight, daughter Sheila Kinnear, Val Hardman Audrey Hewes, as well as regular dinner attendees Shirley Winson and Shirley Gale. I certainly appreciated them coming along and thanks in particular to Val, Michelle Lewis, Aunty Shirley, Wendy Baker and all the AHC members attending for making it such a memorable and enjoyable occasion for me - it was great everyone. I can certainly recommend the AHC Entertainment committee as organisers for 'special' birthday events, and Short Lane as a venue.

Apologies to Adrian (Bubbles) Hewes, Peter Greatorrex, Bobbie Evans and Sue Westlake, whom I left off the long serving AHC playing members list, Bubbles especially has been playing since 1971.

Former early eighties AHC star right winger, Tracy Jones is now playing an occasional game (when they are short) with her daughters at Staines HC and Tracy turned out against the Ladies 4th XI in a league late in the season!! We are hoping that Tracy will turn out for the AA's sometime soon and we can get her back in a red and black shirt on Saturday's!

AGM – This was held on Thursday 17th May and only 25 members attended. The new subscription rates were approved and will come into force at the start of the coming winter season. Notification of the meeting and related paper work was, as agreed at the previous AGM, mainly sent out by e-mail. If you didn't receive it, please notify Doreen Brown on doreenmbrown@msn.com or on 01932 2297895.

Astro Fund Draw - Winners for this season

December	£50	Dave Brant
	£50	Robert Evans
	£100	Martin Smith
	£250	Pauline Cotton
January	£50	Hilary Hull
	£50	Martin Reason
	£100	Digger
February	£50	Gill Waite
	£50	Nic Robinson
	£100	Sharon McGinley
March	£50	Seamus O'Connell
	£50	Seamus O'Connell
	£100	Neil Smith
April	£50	Martin Smith
	£100	Dave Brant
	£250	Val Hardman
	£500	Mark Burrows

Thanks are due to Martin Smith and Dave Brant for donating their winnings back to the astro fund.

Weddings

Ben and Liv - 10th May 2008, Nads and John - 17th May 2008, Laura and Scott - 31st May 2008

Stork Club

Jody and Lucy Smith became the proud parents of Louis on 2nd February.
Jo Smith had a baby boy Edward during the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.
Mark and Sue Smith are expecting a baby on 13th July.

Tours

Unfortunately there were not enough Drambuie Sniffers (Ashford's ladies touring side) to go to Weymouth this year. It will be revived next year though!

Well done to all those members who ran the London Marathon

Dawson Hardiman, Rebecca Martin, and Ben Washer, all ran it and finished in less than 4.5 hours. Dawson was first home in ~3.5hours, Becky and her twin sister also ducked under 4 hours and even got interviewed on TV and Becky mentioned that she was a hockey player! Ben struggled with a leg injury for over 30 minutes at one stage of the race, but still finished in under 4.5hours WELL DONE ALL.

Goodbye to

Rakey who is moving to Birmingham, Joe Lewis and James Maitland who are off to Uni, Dan Appleyard who is going off to USA. The Cotton family who are moving down under, and so is Dave Greenfield.

Annual Dinner - Saturday 19th April 2008 at Ashford Hockey Club - 7pm onwards

Our second attempt at holding the Annual Dinner at Short Lane was an outstanding success on Saturday and thanks are due to all the many members and staff at short Lane who helped to not only make the event happen, but also ensured it ran so professionally on the night. In particular, Wendy and Dave Baker, and Luvvy (and the rest of the gang) who worked tirelessly before, during and after the event.

The AHC trophy/awards winners for 2007/8 were:

Colt of the Year - Kelly Taylor and Simon Pocock

Progress Cup - Jackie Bashford/Becky Hewes and Dasmesh Sandhu

Ladies 1st XI Player of the Year - Emma Hynes

Ladies 2nd XI Player of the Year - Lynne Morgan

Ladies 3rd XI Player of the Year - Alex Saunders

Ladies 4th XI Player of the Year - Jules Christer

Men's 1st XI Player of the Year - Olly Smith

Means 2nd XI Player of the Year - Dan Rose

Means 3rd XI Player of the Year - Tom Johnston

Means 4th XI Player of the Year - Amit Bhamra

Means 5th XI Player of the Year - Ian Doggett

Means 6th XI Player of the Year - Blake Harris

Overall Ladies Ken Miller Player of the Year - Hilary Hull

Overall Means Ken Miller Player of the Year - Matt Emmerton

Ian Maloney Means Lower XI Player - Andy Sonden

Maria Taylor Enthusiasm Trophy - Hannah Stokes

Team of the Year - Men's U18

Jubilee Plate - Wendy Baker

Please may I thank everyone for the wonderful AHC and individual birthday cards, gifts, balloons, flowers, table names, decorations, hugs, kisses and best wishes etc., which made my 60th birthday my best ever, it really did show that AHC is "simply the best".

To be in with a chance of winning money from our Monthly Astro Draw, you need to purchase tickets from Doreen Brown or Wendy Baker. All proceeds go into our second Astro Fund and forms are available on the website.

Men's summer Hockey

Ian McAllan has arranged some friendly games for 2nd-6th XI standard players and the fixtures are shown below, and please contact Ian if you wish to play.

Opposition	Venue	Date	Meet time	Push Back
Windsor Hockey Club	Windsor Boys School	14/5/08	19:00	19:30
Sunbury Hockey Club	Ashford Hockey Club	3/6/08	19:00	19:30
Staines Hockey Club	Staines Hockey Club	16/6/08	19:30	20:00
Sunbury Hockey Club	Ashford Hockey Club	4/7/08	19:00	19:30
Staines Hockey Club	Ashford Hockey Club	16/7/08	19:00	19:30
Staines Hockey Club	Ashford Hockey Club	30/7/08	19:00	19:30
Sunbury Hockey Club	Ashford Hockey Club	6/8/08	19:00	19:30
Staines Hockey Club	Staines Hockey Club	18/8/08	19:30	20:00
Windsor Hockey Club	Ashford Hockey Club	28/8/08	19:00	19:30

Ladies Summer Hockey

The ladies summer league will provisionally start on Tuesday 10th June, with the finals being held on Tuesday 12th and Thursday 14th August. Games will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays evenings. The ladies are putting in 2 sides, into an A and B league. If you are interested in playing please can you contact Luvvy on t.holland@husonmedia.com regarding the A league and Hannah Stokes on H.Stokes@teamphone.com.

Date		Time			
Tuesday	10-Jun	Ashford B	vs	Hayes	6.45 for 7.15pm start
Thursday	12-Jun	Ashford A	vs	Staines	6.45 for 7.15pm start
Tuesday	24-Jun	Eastcote B	vs	Ashford B	6.45 for 7.15pm start
Thursday	26-Jun	Ashford A	vs	Teddington	6.45 for 7.15pm start
Tuesday	01-Jul	Ashford B	vs	Walton &W	8.00 for 8.30pm start
Thursday	10-Jul	Ashford A	vs	Eastcote A	6.45 for 7.15pm start
Tuesday	15-Jul	Walton &W	vs	Ashford B	8.00 for 8.30pm start
Tuesday	22-Jul	Ashford B	vs	Eastcote B	6.45 for 7.15pm start
Thursday	24-Jul	Staines	vs	Ashford A	6.45 for 7.15pm start
Thursday	31-Jul	Eastcote A	vs	Ashford A	6.45 for 7.15pm start
Tuesday	5-Aug	Hayes	vs	Ashford B	6.45 for 7.15pm start
Thursday	7-Aug	Teddington	vs	Ashford A	6.45 for 7.15pm start
Tuesday	12-Aug	FINAL - POOL B			
Thursday	14-Aug	FINAL - POOL A			

Mixed Summer Hockey

Stacey is organising a few mixed summer league games in the evenings so look out for her emails if you are interested.

Wayfarers Mixed Festival is on July 11-13th. If you are interested in attending please Hannah on H.Stokes@teamphone.com.

And So The Season Ended Like This.....

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	League Position
Mens 1s	22	9	1	12	49	61	6th
Mens 2s	22	8	2	12	46	57	8th
Mens 3s	22	8	4	10	46	63	8th
Mens 4s	22	5	3	14	30	69	10th
Mens 5s	18	9	3	6	43	51	4th
Mens 6s	12	3	1	8	17	46	8th
Ladies 1s	20	5	4	11	26	51	8th
Ladies 2s	20	2	4	14	17	55	9th
Ladies 3s	20	2	0	18	9	100	10th
Ladies 4s	18	1	1	16	7	79	10th

And special thanks to all the umpires who have helped out this year, we couldn't manage without you putting yourselves out to play and umpire as much as you could this season.

Gordon, Ian, Neil, Dean, Steve, Surinder, Daniel, Olly, Charlie, Ben, Luvvy, Lesley, Lianne, Ashley, Lorna Bishop-Burrell, Handbag, Mark Smith, Sherpa,

Ben, Ashley, Elize, Donna-Lee and Lorna all passed their Level 1 Theory paper hopefully we can get you assessed for your level 1 badge sometime during the summer. There is ladies league being run, where you can finish off your qualification.

Have a great summer everyone and come on you reds. Ed