

Ashford Hockey Club



Read & Black Newsletter: DECEMBER 2006

Chairman's Chatter

I hope you have enjoyed the first half of the winter season. It has been a torrid one so far for the Ladies section, but fairly good for the Men's and Colts sections. Having lost six regular first team players before the season started and with illness, injuries and large unavailability problems most weeks, the Ladies have struggled to get four teams out regularly and those fielded have often been of a much lower strength than needed. Thus the Ladies 1st and 3rd teams are still looking for their first wins of the season. However, team Captains', Luvvy and Club Captain Wendy Baker have been doing sterling work, along with coaches Bob Thornalley and new lower team Ladies coach Graham Smart who have been working hard at improving skills and keeping the spirits up. Fortunately the camaraderie within the teams and section as a whole has remained high and results have slowly improved in last month. I am pleased to say that the Men's section has not had such problems and the 1st and 3rd XI's are third and second in their leagues respectively, and although the 5th team are struggling the other teams are mid table or just below.

On a more positive note, good progress is being made by the ACC/AHC Development Committee (Dave Baker, Bobbie Evans, Paul Frost, Sophie Grant, Howard Nicholson and Stacey Kenward), who have been meeting on a monthly basis with the Short Lane (SL) Maintenance Committee (Chris Evans and myself). We are now aiming to take over many of the financial aspects of SL from the Ashford Sports Club Board on January 1st 2007, with a view to taking full control by 1st April 2007 (yes April Fools Day!). We still need to get more bar customers and external bookings for the SL Sports facilities and function and board rooms though, to help pay the high running costs and hopefully in due course reduce current high ACC and AHC rents. Local businesses have been approached about the facilities available for hire and we are also hoping to host some midweek functions in the New Year, and are considering arranging a large annual event such as a beer festival, music event or large hockey tournament to further boost turn over. Thanks are due to the Development Committee members and AHC members Dave Brant and Denver Dias who are providing much needed technical and financial guidance and advice. It is therefore vital that the weekly voluntary bar rota continues and Gordon Smith has put a lot of time and effort in each week, along with Mark Appleyard to ensure our commitments are met. The volunteers from each team also deserve our gratitude, but may we request that more people step forward to help so that the burden is shared out amongst everyone. We are also pleased to report that due to the ongoing and determined efforts of Peter Cottrell, on 6th November AHC were awarded bronze level accreditation by Active Surrey Sports Association. Congratulations are due to Peter and to ACC, who have been working on accreditation matters for a lot longer than we have, and who were deservedly awarded a Gold Level accreditation.

Most of you are probably aware of the surplus, surface sand problems we were experiencing with the pitch before the last few weeks of heavy rain. We have now purchased some new

***** SUBSCRIPTIONS *****

Subscriptions are now well overdue, so hopefully you have already paid yours or you have updated your standing order from last season. The rates are:

Senior playing member (Over 18 years at 1.10.06 and in employment)	12 payments of £24 = £288
Senior playing member (Over 18 years at 1.10.06 and unemployed, student etc.)	12 payments of £15 = £180
Junior playing member (Under 18 years at 1.10.06)	12 payments of £8.33p = £100
Junior playing member (Under 14 years at 1.10.06)	12 payments of £5 = £60

Forms for any members who would like to start paying their subscription by the above method are available on the Club website and Notice Board. In addition, for Colts who only play on a Sunday in Colts leagues, the annual subscription is £36 or 12 payments of £3. May we remind all members that AHC membership runs from 1st October through until 30th September of the following year and therefore payments must be made for a twelve month period and not stopped once the winter season has finished. Remember the payments not only cover your annual membership fee, but also the weekly match fees that you used to pay and are needed to cover the costs of teas etc., by stopping your payments early you are underpaying the Club by nearly 50%.

Doreen Brown - Hon Treasurer (01932 229785).

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

Socks - £6.00, Sizes Small (3-6) and Large (7-12)

Summer T-Shirts £10.00, mainly large and extra large.

Men's league shirts £18.00. Ladies league shirts £20 each.

Training kit: shorts £14, trousers £27, jackets £28, fleece £28 sizes extra small, small, medium and large.

Contact Doreen Brown/Lynne Morgan for further details or complete an order form, copies of which are on the notice board and hopefully soon also on the website.

Astro Draw Fund Winners

Oct - £100 Pauline Cotton, £50 Olly Smith, £50 Mrs J Vocking

Nov - £100 Jimmy Shand, £50 Heather Grocott, £50 Phil Knowles

Dec - will be drawn on Saturday 16th December after the Ashford Antiques Game.

Training

Ladies Training finishes on Tuesday 12th December and restarts on Tuesday 2nd January.

Men's Training finishes on Wednesday 6th December and restarts on Wednesday 3rd January.

Lower team Men's Training finishes on Thursday 7th December and restarts on Thursday 4th January.

Tuesday Colts Training finishes 19th December and restarts on 3rd January.

Sunday Colts Training finishes 17th December and restarts on 7th January.

AA's Chatter

- * Apologies for not congratulating long time AHC member and current Men's 5th Xi Captain, Dave Greenfield on his 40th birthday this summer - belated "Penblwydd Hapus I chi" Dave.
- * Rumour has it that it was 40 year old Dave and others who paid for the Mechelen Cricket Club liquid and solid refreshments during their annual game v ACC, not Sherpa as previously recorded.
- * Pleased to report that former Ladies 1st XI skipper Rosemary (Posey) had a bouncing little baby Posey in the summer and both and father former Men's 3's/4's player and umpire, Bill Jensen are all doing well.
- * AA and Bees supporter Janet Mock has hung up her boots after a series of nasty injuries and bone breaks whilst cycling/driving and after suffering a nasty knee injury on her return to League hockey. Not only will Janet not therefore be playing in the AA's Christmas challenge match, but she won't be attending as she will be down under over Xmas and New Year and will be attending the Test Match in Melbourne on Boxing Day - enjoy cobber!
- * The AA's and Ladies section also lost another very popular member at the start of the season when the effervescent Nelleke Fontaine moved back to Holland. Nelleke wrote a very complimentary thank you note to the Club and wished us all well in the future. She has been sorely missed by the Ladies 3rd and 4th teams and several of the Men's section have missed her being around for some reason
- * Former Men's handsome 1st XI Super Star and part time Ladies coach Mark Sully, is now a Dad and playing for Brighton hockey Club.
- * Former AHC Mr Fix It and Tour Organiser extraordinaire Eric Rose has retired from his day job and is running a B&B with lady wife Jane in the midlands somewhere, but as yet he hasn't sent us the details or rates for it. Hopefully he will be receptive to AHC visitors.
- * Star equestrian performer Sybil Cottrell had a nasty encounter several weeks ago when the horse she was riding slipped on the wet road and fell on top of her. Sybil ended up with a very badly bruised leg, fractured elbow and other injuries which required stitches and patching up. Things could have been a lot worse though and Sybil is still recovering, but is still feeling rather battered and fragile.

Social News

Ladies first team regular and former skipper Nicky Daly is marrying rugby player Jamie Carpenter on 9th December and Digger and Nat are getting married 25th May 2007.

Stork Club

Shergar had a baby girl Eleanor, on 16th December.

Debs Burland had a baby girl, Amy Louise weighing 8lbs 4oz on 20th October.

Karen (aka Benny) & Darren Cutler are pleased to announce the safe arrival of a baby brother for Erin, Theo Charles, on 2nd October and he weighed 7lb 3oz and was 50 cm long!

Entertainments - There are two big social events coming up:

Saturday 16th December: Children's Christmas party at 5pm (Child's Tickets £3), followed by disco and social for adults at 8pm till late (Adults Tickets £5).

Saturday 31st December: New Year's Eve party, children £5 and adults £10.

Contact Ali Boxell and/or Kellie for further details and tickets are available from behind the bar.

We hope to hold a few more social events in the New Year and we will be allocating teams to organise host them and work with Kellie the bar manager and ACC to ensure good attendance and fun for all.

The Season So Far.....

Colts Hockey

The U18 boys had an epic battle against Havant in the league. 3-0 down with 15 minutes to go the boys managed to draw 3-3 after 2 goals from Daniel Rose and an equaliser by Luke Cottrell. The match was umpired by Olympic Gold Medallist and England Hockey Performance Director David Faulkner who was duly impressed by our performance. A 3-1 win over Staines in the U14 boys was also a highlight. Ryan Croxon who joined us from Staines scored one and made one.

After losing several girls in the U14 and U16 age groups things looked bleak at the start of the season. Fortunately we have managed to recruit a few replacements and we are fulfilling our fixture list.

We are always on the lookout for new players. If you know any youngsters particularly good athletes and/ or ball players send them down.

Peter Cottrell

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Mens and Ladies leagues

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	League Position
Mens 1s	10	7	1	2	30	17	3rd
Mens 2s	10	4	3	3	21	34	8th
Mens 3s	10	3	2	5	19	33	8th
Mens 4s	10	6	2	2	33	13	2nd
Mens 5s	9	1	6	2	14	23	11th
Mens 6s	8	0	5	3	6	25	10th
Ladies 1s	8	0	0	8	2	37	10th
Ladies 2s	8	4	0	4	15	16	7th
Ladies 3s	9	0	0	9	1	60	10th
Ladies 4s	9	1	1	7	4	27	10th

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.

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. Please don't leave it for somebody else to clear up.

Have a great Christmas and New Year everyone.

Ed.