

D NOTICE

NEWSLETTER OF WEST BRIDGFORD MONARCHS HOCKEY CLUB

Club Rocked by Hacking Claims

Ex 1st XI Defender Claims "It was an isolated incident"

Welcome to the new season. As we have decided not to produce a fixture card this season (see article later) I thought that I might get away with not writing a newsletter, but here by popular demand

Playing Record

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Men							
1L	22	10	4	8	66	60	32
2L	22	10	1	11	68	65	31
3L	22	9	3	10	51	63	30
4L	22	7	4	11	65	62	25
5L	22	6	1	14	41	71	17
6L	20	10	5	5	62	30	35
7L	20	7	2	11	54	66	23
8L	16	9	1	6	33	27	28
GR	16	7	4	5	44	32	25
Ladies							
1L	16	9	1	6	36	28	28
2L	20	4	3	13	30	47	15
3L	18	2	1	15	15	58	7
4L	20	16	3	1	97	7	48
5L	20	3	3	14	14	55	12

On the pitch, last season was not our finest. However, we have set such high standards over the past few years that it isn't all that surprising when a blip occurs. Let's make sure that it is only a blip and that the teams that were relegated get back to where they should be for next season. Congratulations to the mens' 6ths who bucked the trend to

achieve promotion and to the ladies 4ths who must have set a points and goals record for not being promoted. The other highlight was our ladies 1sts who had an excellent second season in the Midland Feeder League and should be able to push on even further this coming season.

The club tournament was once again blessed with good weather and we were delighted that Joan Price was once again on hand to blow the starter's whistle for the **Mike Price Challenge** match, in which our President's XI beat Doug Stuart's XI fairly comfortably (as is traditional and despite umpiring the game, I can't remember the score). The day itself was enjoyed as much as ever, kicking off with the annual match between the Grizzlies and the All Stars, won, also traditionally, by the Grizzlies!, after a hard fought and skilful contest

Team Captains

Here is the list of team captains for the forthcoming season:
Men: Peter Langley, Chris Berry, Graham Lockwood, Adam Bush, Andy Holmes, Nick

Hemm, Richard Bonsall, Mike Barnes, Brian Jones.
Ladies: Naomi Boulter, Aimi Dickinson, Jo Darby, Emma Bee, Helen Spencer.

Committee

Congratulations to **Naomi Boulter** who has been elected Club President. Naomi has been a driving force on the ladies side of the club for a number of years, carrying out secretarial duties and making sure that the administration has been spot on. In addition, Naomi is a key player in the 1st XI and has been elected captain for the forthcoming season.

Geoff Bail continues as Club Chairperson. Thanks to everyone who has stood down for your service to our club.

Other main posts are as follows:

Secretary: Martin Ebsworth, Naomi Boulter;
Treasurer: James Cashmore,
Social: Andy McCarroll, Gemma Rolley;
Fixtures: Mark Johnson, Claire Good;
Juniors: Bob Douglas, Izzy Staton, Liz Abba.

Don't forget that we also elect committee members part of whose role is to make sure that our committee truly reflects the views of all club members and who would welcome your input. This season they are Ben Lambourne, Dan Hammond, Sean Gauton, Emma Bee, Lucy Blythe, Aimi Dickinson, Lauren Hemm.

"Sportivate"

We are looking for club members to help publicise the above project, which is going ahead over the summer.

The idea is to get non-hockey playing friends, colleagues, fellow gym members, whatever, aged 16 to 25 to try out (or retry out) hockey over the summer. This age group has been identified as one where lots of people give up sport.

There will be 6 sessions, every Wednesday at the school, starting on July 27th, from 7.00 to 8.00. It costs £2 per session or £10 for the set. Payment of £10 qualifies participants to a £20 discount on their first subs at the club - ie they wouldn't have to pay the extra for shirts.

This is a Sport England funded project and it would be really handy if we could make a success of it. Club members who want to receive coaching in the basics are also welcome to attend - but won't get the £20 discount!

Fixture Cards

Won't be late arriving this season - as an experiment and

to save a significant sum of money, we are not producing fixture cards. Please give feedback to committee members.

Fixtures

Early season fixtures start in September and here are some (fairly sketchy) details:

Ladies

1sts, friendlies start on Sept 3rd (Bridgnorth away!), league on Sept 24th.

2nds - 5ths friendlies start on Sept 3rd, league on Oct 1st

Men

1sts, joint game with 2nds on Sept 3rd, friendly v Belper on 10th, league starts 17th

Other teams friendlies from Sept 10th, leagues start on Oct 1st.

Please make sure that you complete your availabilities asap (preferably online) - as a club we are committed to playing as many games as possible, so if you say you are available, we will try to make sure you get a game, even if your normal team isn't playing.

Social

Once again, we have a range of social events organised for the coming season. The first **Curry and Quiz** will take place on October 15th and our main **Beer Festival** will take place from Thursday, November 10th and will include a Sunday lunchtime jazz session.

Following the success of last year's event, the **wine tasting** evening will be on November 19th followed by the **Christmas**

Social (/fines night) on December 10th.

Watch this space for dates for the Dinner Dance (provisionally April 21st), the End of Season Tournament, including the Mike Price Challenge (provisionally April 14th), Beer Festival 2 (Feb 3/4) and Curry and Quiz 2 (Mar 10).

Finally, we have a new event the WBMHC **Ceilidh** scheduled for Jan 28th.

Please put these dates in your diary - as a committee member, it is really irritating to hear members say "Oh, if only I'd known about that, I would have come..." There really is no excuse.

Olympics

We have been allocated 32 tickets for one of the hockey preliminary events at the Olympics. The Committee is currently in discussion with Lord Coe as to how to distribute these fairly and with minimum fuss. There is a possibility of hiring a coach and making it a club day out. We will update the website as we get more information.

Training

Mens training will start on Monday nights from August 1st at the school, ladies also at the school on Wednesdays from September 7th. "Elite" training for 1st XIs and the like is on Thursdays. See the website for more details and don't forget that the men will train on the Tuesday of the Bank Holiday week.

Team Coach

For the first time, we are thinking of appointing a coach for the ladies' 1st team from outside the club. We have been fortunate for many years to have had committed and excellent managers and coaches within the club, but we are in the position that, if we want to develop further, this is the way to go.

From a personal perspective, there's no point bringing excellent youngsters through, if we can't offer them the development they need to realise their potential.

So this will be another expense to our club, but one that will be carefully monitored and managed.

Valuables

Please remember to lock your car and hide any valuables away at all times - both when you park at the school and also at the clubhouse.

Juniors

Due to high numbers, the format of Sunday coaching is changing for the forthcoming season. There will be 3 groups, mainly sorted by school year:

Yr 2-4: 9.30 to 10.30 led by Jon Wells and Ian Freegard

Yr 5-7: 9.30 to 11.00 led by Steve Thompson and Pete Bonnett

Yr 8+: 10.30 to 12.00 led by Ian Johnson and Phil Elliott.

There will be some discretion about who goes into which group but this will be down to the coaches.

Older girls will again also be welcome at Monarchs training on Wednesday nights, while we welcome all youngsters aged 8 and over on Sundays- any younger, I would want to discuss with parents first.

We will be entering all the usual competitions and leagues and we would be grateful for any help you can offer, either Sunday/Monday/Wednesday coaching or managing teams. As well as this we are also looking to offer coaching in specific areas, eg aerials, one on ones, etc, and are looking for club members who could help with this - you wouldn't need to control a session, just deliver your bit around the rest of the coaching that is going on. Give Liz Abba, Izzy Staton or me a call if you think you could contribute in any way.

At time of writing we are thinking of having a junior club "hockey day" on a Sunday in early October (before half term) and also organising taster sessions in local primary schools in advance of the hockey day in order to publicise it. The day will involve lots of fun (!) activities as well as a barbecue, bar (for parents), etc and we will need loads of help to make this work. Once we have a date and more of a programme, I will be looking for lots of help - not just from regular coaches but also from other club members, parents, etc - ie you!

Finally, well done to Ian Freegard, Michael Hart, James Leverton Smith and Fred Notman, who have all achieved Level 1 qualification this

summer. My apologies to those who missed out on doing the course because of the short notice given.

Helen Richardson

Having already donated a significant sum to the club when she won the Hockey Writers' Club Annual Award, Helen has donated a further sum, having been made GB Hockey's Athlete of the Year.

Rather than put the money into club funds, we have in consultation set up a foundation, which is designed to help young players who need some financial backing. There will be little formality to this fund which will be administered by James and myself, with input from others as needed. There isn't an application form, we just need a letter explaining what is needed. We will report to committee on our progress. The club has added to the fund through a donation of the year's 200 Club profits and we have also been given a couple of other sizeable donations so the fund is looking pretty healthy already.

If we can find a suitable date, Helen has said that she would like to come to the club to formally launch the fund sometime in the autumn -and we are also hoping that Beth Storry, the GB goalkeeper will be able to come with her so that we can make a real event of it.

Players

With the size of both sides of the club, we do have a fair turnover of players and we always welcome new faces - so please keep your eyes/ears open for talented (and friendly) hockey players looking for a new home.

Your Details

Please help us keep in touch with you through the season by making sure that your details are up to date on the club database.

Club Kit

All members (except mens' 1sts, 2nds and 3rds who have team kit) should by now have been supplied with club shirts, replacements will cost you £20 each so look after them and put your names in the collars! New members will be supplied with kit on payment of their subs.

The online kit supply worked up to a point and with a number of glitches last season. Geoff is seeking to iron these out over the summer (must be a pun there somewhere) and the upshot is likely to be that there will be two "order by" and "deliver by" dates in the forthcoming season.

Getting Involved

Doesn't have to mean that you must become treasurer or a Sunday coach next week - however, we do need more members to do things like bar work, clearing up, helping with coaching, learning to umpire, etc. That way, life gets easier

for those who are already doing their share and the club prospers into the future.

Finances

Those who attended the AGM will know that we have increased subs, match tax and petrol money for the coming season (and bar prices are also likely to increase). Although our bank account looks healthy, we are looking to make prudent adjustments to our income, to take account of a few hits that we are going to be taking in the coming months and years, and to make sure that changes are gradual and relatively painless rather than sudden and painful.

Although we part financed the new pitch, it belongs to the school and they paid for the bulk of the refurb - we actually financed the extension of the pitch, which the school had no interest in doing. They are now seeking to increase their revenue and are looking to us to make a much bigger contribution going forward - and to be fair, they have probably underpriced it in past seasons. The amount is still being negotiated but it will be a significant increase.

We are also going to be paying a reasonable sum to our new coach (see above) although the team has committed to trying to raise as much as possible towards the cost.

We are also facing price increases in food and drink, utilities and, of course, we are increasing our mileage payments to a reasonable level.

Newsletters

Now we have such a good website, there seems little point in producing D Notices throughout the season, so it is likely that this will be the one and only copy for 2011/12. Please keep up to date by checking out the website regularly - once registered you will be able to access match reports, results, tables, news, socials, etc. However, if you have any items that you would like to include on the site please send it to by email to Geoff (geoff@wbhockey.co.uk).

Finally, I have discovered that many members link directly to their team selection page - this means that you miss all the news items that Geoff puts on the front page. Perhaps it might be worth that extra click to make sure that you don't miss things!

Have a great season!

Bob Douglas

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