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NEWSLETTER OF WEST BRIDGFORD HOCKEY CLUB

After the Lord Mayor's Show

Difficult season for our men, well done our ladies

Once again our ladies had a much better season than our men, with each of the teams promoted the previous season (1sts, 3rds and 4ths) consolidating their position in their respective leagues, with the 2nds narrowly missing out on promotion and the 5ths achieving some decent results. On the other hand, our mens teams struggled somewhat with the 1sts and 4ths narrowly avoiding relegation (the 1sts by 5 minutes - they equalised in their last game with that long to go, and that goal kept us safe). Well done to captain, Ben Farrar, who scored the crucial goal and also the winner in the key win at Stourport. Unfortunately, the 2nds and 3rds were not so fortunate, both suffering relegation, the 2nds experiencing two (!) 7-6 defeats during the season. The exception to these tales of woe was lower down the club where the 10ths were the only team to achieve promotion and the 5ths, 6ths and 7ths all had decent records while the 8ths and 9ths, also had some decent results.

Our ladies 1sts took a few weeks to get used to the higher standard in the Mids Feeder League, but came good after Christmas with some stunning performances and results. This was helped by the return after "maternity leave" of Faye Sibley, Ellie Howatson and Kirsty Hammond as well as by the improvement in some of our younger players, not least Player of the Year, Georgia Brown. They will miss inspirational captain Alice Lineker, known to just about everyone as Bambi, and we wish her well with her move to the West Country. The 2nds improved as the season went on and finished on a high while the 3rds and 4ths both consolidated after their respective promotions. The 4ths were frustrated that they did well against the better sides, not so well against the not so good sides. highlight for the 3rds was to (deservedly) beat the 2nds in January with a terrific performance. The 5ths played better than the record suggests, but struggled to score the goals that their play deserved.

Overall, our ladies consolidated well this past season and will be looking for further improvement in the season to come, with the exciting prospect of a new 6th team to come.

Playing Record

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Men							
1	22	6	4	12	43	65	22
2	22	5	1	16	68	110	16
3	22	4	3	15	32	89	15
4	22	4	2	16	28	107	14
5	20	9	3	8	54	47	30
6	20	9	3	8	40	44	30
7	18	13	1	4	61	34	40
8	18	2	2	12	20	65	8
9	16	3	1	12	34	60	10
10	22	16	0	6	63	41	48
Ladies							
1	18	9	1	8	45	33	28
2	20	12	3	5	47	27	39
3	20	6	3	11	27	61	21
4	20	6	8	6	25	29	26
5	16	3	2	11	13	45	11

However, this past season has put a massive strain on our chair of selectors and the team captains (remember, we all do this in our spare time!) in dealing with unavailabilities, etc. Please try to be available as much as possible during the

league season - all mens' fixture dates and oppositions are already on the MRHA website, www.mrha.co.uk so you can plan your holidays, marriages, births, etc, around this, while ladies fixtures will be on the fixtures live site www.fixtureslive.com soon - it's a nightmare for captains to have to promote and then drop players through no fault of their own, it's also really difficult for captains to have to deal with last minute cry offs, which were also far too common last season - if you say that you are available, please make sure that you are!

The club tournament took place on a decent day and was enjoyed by all. Once again, despite umpiring it, I can't remember the score in the **Mike Price Challenge** match. We were delighted that Joan was able to attend and present the trophy, I think to Doug, so his team must have won! The annual Grizzlies v All Stars, was keenly contested as usual, with the result being a draw, I think the first time ever that the All Stars have achieved this. On the ladies side, we managed to put a development team of juniors, Back to Hockeys plus a couple of ringers, who did well against the 5ths, although it never looked like anyone would manage to score. Highlight of the day on the ladies side was the fancy dress efforts of our various teams!

Team Captains

Here is the list of team captains for the forthcoming season:

Men: Ben Farrar, Ali Lewis, Richard Whittle, Josh Carroll, Richard Smith, Ian Johnson, Jon Cockcroft, Mike Barnes, Chris Garnham, Clive Notman
Ladies: Aimi Dickinson, Laura Smith/Robyn Wyles, Caroline Gates, Boo Smith/Sara Green, Jo Marshall/Louise Walton, Em Fox.

Firstly, a big thank you for all you have done to everyone who has stepped down, secondly please support your new captain on and off the pitch this coming season. It's not an easy job, particularly if you've not done it before!

Committee

Congratulations to **Phil Elliot** who has been elected Club President - a deserved recognition for a terrific contribution to the club.

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, Laura Smith;
Treasurer: James Cashmore;
Social: Sean Gauton, Jo Batten;
Fixtures: Mark Johnson, Jasmine Goddard;
Juniors: Bob Douglas, Nic King;
Welfare: Sarah Aaron;
Publicity: Michael Hart.

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

Richard Bonsall and Jon Clewes with the ladies reps still to be elected.

You will see that we have a new Welfare Officer, Sarah Aaron, who has taken over from Melanie (Hart). New captains and anyone else needing DBS (formerly CRB) cover needs to get in touch with Sarah (sarah.aaron@yahoo.co.uk) as soon as possible. The actual process is actually fairly simple!

Congratulations

Well done to all club award winners - these were presented at the AGM and the End of Season Tournament

Club Personality of the Year - Emma and Richard Whittle;
Top Goalscorers - Liz Taylder, Andy Pendlebury;
Players of the Year - Paul Sibley, Mark Richardson, Georgia Brown, Sally Enstone, Erin Smith, Hollie Kemp, Jackie Hollowell;
Goalkeeper of the Year - Andy Cooper;
Junior Players - Tash Marshall, Rob Walton;
Most Improved Players - Olli Latham, Claire Stuttard.

Members News

Firstly, I am sorry to have to report the death of life member, Roland Price, who despite having been unwell for some time, had maintained his interest in the club. I am also sorry to have to report the death of Ann Orchard, who was the mainstay of the curry part of our Curry and Quiz nights alongside Charlie (and Coops), for many years.

I see that last summer I wished good luck to Helen Richardson Walsh as she headed off for the Olympics. The rest, as they say, is history, and Helen took all the deserved accolades with her customary grace.

Congratulations to our treasurer, James Cashmore, who has attained the magic 60 over the summer - but still remains younger than me!

Finally, apologies to all those whose news I have undoubtedly missed.

Ladies AGM

The Ladies Section will be holding its AGM on Monday, July 17th, 7.30 at the clubhouse.

The main agenda items are

1 Season's/3 Year goals;

2 Juniors;

3 Training

Please make the effort to attend and also to raise other topics (advance notice would be useful!).

Family Hockey

Once again, we are running a series of Family Hockey nights on Wednesdays July 12 and 19, then Tuesdays July 25, August 1, 8 and 15, 6.30 to 7.30 at Becket School. These are designed for parents to bring along their (primary age) children so that everyone can play - youngsters on one half pitch, parents on the other. We first organised this as an Olympic year event, but it has worked so well, we have repeated it since, with up to 80 attending sessions last summer.

Get Back Into

Once again we will be running "Get Back into Hockey" sessions for ladies from September 5th, 6.30 to 7.30 at WB School, more details will be on the website. The focus is on enjoyment rather than preparation for matches, but if last season is any guide, we may encourage some quite handy players to reconnect with our sport. If you know anyone who might enjoy coming along, please tell them about it and encourage them to do so.

School Links

We are once again looking to link up with local schools to promote hockey to youngsters. If you have connections with any other of our local schools, please let them know that we are happy to work with them to help promote junior hockey.

Fixtures

Early season fixtures start in September as follows:

Ladies

Friendlies from Sept 2.

1st XI League starts Sept 23.

Other leagues start?

Men

Friendlies from Sept 2 including development games for our next crop of juniors.

1st XI League starts Sept 23

Other leagues start on Oct 7.

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

Our social secretaries, Jo Batten and Sean Gauton, did a great job last season. They need you help to do even better this coming season, so please try to make their lives easier by putting these dates in your diaries - and by letting them know if you have any ideas for further activities.

The first **Quiz with a Curry** will take place on Oct 14 and our main **Beer Festival** will take place from Thursday, Nov 9 until Saturday, Nov 11.

After the success of the inaugural **Cheese and Pork Pie** tasting evening, this will take place on Nov 25, so make sure you get to that (tickets only £3.00ish).

Other dates that are to be confirmed are the **End of Season Tournament**, including the Mike Price Challenge on April 21, the **Dinner Dance** on April 28, **Beer Festival 2**, March 1-3 and **Curry and Quiz 2**, Feb 3. Please keep an eye on the website for confirmation of dates, etc, and then make sure you put them in your diary!

Training

Mens training will be lead by Pete Bonnet on Mondays, starting August 7th as usual, from 7.30 to 9.30 through August and then in September from 7.45.

Junior boys from Y8 and older are from 6.30 to 7.45 on Mon-

days, from Sept 4th, led by Glyn Abba, Fred Notam and Clive Notman. As last season, we are keen to coach the U14 and U16 squads together so that we can prepare them better for the competitions that we enter. where appropriate, the coaches will be selecting squads through September.

Ladies training is on Tuesdays from August 1 from 7.30 to 9.00, and there are also fitness sessions on the Embankment on Thursdays, 6.30 to 7.15. Each of these sessions is for all players.

Training then mainly moves to Wednesday nights from the beginning of September, Girls training (Y7 and older) is from 6.15 to 7.15 and Back to Hockey 6.30 to 7.30. Days and timings for ladies training is still to be finalised so please check the website for more details and don't forget that there is no mens' training Bank Holiday week.

Juniors

We have run out of space for our very young Sunday morning group, so there are changes to timings for next season as follows:

Yr 2-4: 9.00 to 10.00 led by Sarah Aaron, Ben Barlow and Steve Middleton;
Yr 5-7: 9.00 to 10.30 led by Jon Wells and Ian Freegard,
Yr 8+: 10.30 to 12.00 led by Ian Johnson and Phil Elliott,
Goalkeepers from 10.00 led by Lee Reynolds and Andy Cooper.

There will be some discretion about who goes into which

group but this will be down to the coaches.

Everything starts with a registration session from 8.45 am on Sept 3rd - we will also have a further registration session the following Sunday. Anyone can join in subsequent weeks, it's just easier to do it right at the start of the season. Registration forms are on the website (via a button bar in the juniors section) and it would be helpful if you could fill one in and bring it along with you. You will also be able to pay subs, etc on line this year - but we still need a form off you!

Our Becket Sunday coffee mornings will be continuing this season with a new organiser, Alison Devlin, please let her know if you can help with them. Finally, membership is still £20 but we are increasing the seasonal charge to £40 (ie £60 total including membership) or for those that pay weekly to £2.50.

We are also offering coaching on Wednesday nights to older (Y7) girls (but please speak to Marshy first) as this is only suitable for those with reasonable basic skills; and Y8 boys and older are welcome to attend Monday night training (similarly, please speak to me before turning up).

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 - you won't be dropped in it if you offer to help and it is surprisingly good fun!

Last season's Hockeyday was graced with the presence of Helen Richard-Walsh. The weather and the forecast looked terrible but we were fortunate that it all cleared up just in time to go ahead with a good programme of mini games, etc. It was wonderful to see Helen, who spent the whole 2 hours plus signing autographs, smiling, chatting, having her picture taken and generally being brilliant. It was lovely to see her (and her mum and older brother) and there are a load of photos from the day accessible through the website.

Finally, well done to the boys U12s who were narrowly runners up in the Notts tournament and then went on to come 4th overall in the Midlands.

Sunday Funday

On Sunday Sept 10th, this event takes place at Rushcliffe Country Park, Ruddington, from 12.00 to 5.00. We will be there in force with Quikstix and a number of other activities in order to publicise both hockey generally and also WBHC. It would be great if loads of club members and your children could attend, (after coming to coaching first, of course) maybe play in a demonstration game or two and generally have a good time. More details from Mick Hart on 01509 853935.

Hockeyday

The Hockeyday will take place at West Bridgford School on **Sunday, Oct 8th (probably, tbc)** from 11.00 until 1.00. For those who haven't ever taken

part, this is an opportunity to bring youngsters along to "have a go" at a few hockey related activities, in the hope/expectation that they will catch the hockey bug. Please let your friends, colleagues and/or neighbours know about it and we may then unearth the next Helen Richardson!

Please

Anyone who has managed to plough through this for, please read this bit, even though it looks a bit tedious. We now run 16 teams, this makes us one of the largest clubs in the country. The club is run by volunteers, who work very hard to keep the club running smoothly. Their job would be much simpler if players could make themselves (this means you!) available regularly and also give as much notice as possible when not available. We have had all sorts of problems, particularly on the mens' side, due to late unavailability and also ... 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.

Getting Involved

We are still very keen to get more younger members involved in helping with the running of the club. It's a big club and maybe the idea of taking over from us old stagers is a bit daunting. However, please bear in mind that none of us knew much about our roles when we took over and have learnt (not much in some cases!) as we have gone along. Most of what we do is fairly straightforward, and is

easiest to get the hand of working alongside someone who has done it for a while. So, it would be great if a few younger members could do just that - take on part roles, help out, etc, and find out that they are well qualified to help run our club. Remember, we all do it in our spare time, so it can't take up that much time!

Finances

So far, we have managed to ride the increases in our costs fairly well, and Match Tax for the coming season remains at £10, students/unemployed £5, juniors £3. Subs remain £100 for adults, £50 for students/unemployed (£10 discount for payment received on or before October 31st) and £20 for juniors. There is also a further charge of £20 for new members and for juniors starting to play for adult sides, which pays for your home and away shirts.

Have a great season!

Bob Douglas bob@wbhockey.co.uk