

D NOTICE

NEWSLETTER OF WEST BRIDGFORD MONARCHS HOCKEY CLUB

Once More Onto the Pitch Dear Friends

You wouldn't believe how much thought goes into coming up with a witty headline each season no I thought not. Anyway, let's start with last season and what a start we made to it with a fantastic opening day for the new pitch, graced by the presence of Martin Gotheridge, Ben Rea from the NHF and Helen Richardson, who spoke of their links with, and affection for, the club before declaring the pitch officially open. We were also delighted to welcome many other guests including school head, Rob McDonagh, whose vision from the school perspective made the project possible and from the National Hockey Foundation, whose generous grants made the sums add up. Finally, a final word of thanks to all club members who contributed to the pitch square campaign and particularly to Martin Ebsworth, who drove the project forward, made us all believe it was possible and who pushed everyone concerned to deliver their part of it on time and on budget.

So, now we have the pitch , what next? Well, we have been looking after the pitch fairly well, but we need to do better.

At the moment, not enough players remove their water

bottles, etc, at the end of their games - we are looking at providing recycling facilities by the pitch, but please in the meantime put your rubbish in the bins that are provided. Please also don't come onto the pitch area until the previous game has finished - apart from the fact that it is dangerous, it is also bad manners! We also need to be clear that spectators are **not** allowed inside the playing area - only players, officials, coaches and subs should be in this area once the game is ready to start.

Playing Record

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Men							
1L	22	13	3	6	70	53	42
2L	22	11	3	8	79	63	36
3L	22	14	2	6	73	39	44
4L	22	10	3	9	66	58	31
5L	22	15	3	2	110	41	46
6L	20	8	3	9	56	46	23
7L	20	6	4	10	53	68	22
8L	18	13	1	4	60	24	40
GR	18	7	1	10	28	36	22
Ladies							
1L	18	5	4	9	42	44	19
2L	20	6	6	8	24	38	24
3L	20	15	3	2	56	10	48
4L	16	9	1	6	?	?	28

Once again our ladies sides took pride of place in last season's achievements. The 1st team

managed to maintain their place in the Midlands Feeder League, looking to establish themselves as a force to be reckoned with in the coming season, while the 2nds also did well in a higher division, following promotion last season. The 3rds had a superb season, comfortably gaining promotion while the 4ths just missed out. Next season sees the launch of our 5th team, a reflection of the hard work that has gone into making this a popular and successful club at all levels.

On the mens' side, we had one promotion (the 5ths), one near miss (the 8ths) and many creditable performances. The 1sts came fourth but were only a couple of points from 2nd place, behind runaway leaders Olton. The 2nds were doing brilliantly until Christmas, but did less well afterwards (too many turkey twizzlers?) although they gave us a great day out by reaching the 2nd XI Trophy final at Chelmsford, where they were defeated by a more worldly wise Eastcote XI. The 3rds had their best season ever, the 4ths had the same post Christmas problems as the 2nds. The 7ths briefly threatened to be relegated while the 6ths and the Grizzlies had steady seasons

notwithstanding a high turnover of players.

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 Doug Stuart's XI beat our President's Select XI fairly comfortably (despite umpiring the game, I can't remember the score). The day itself was enjoyed as much as ever, kicking off with the traditional match between the Grizzlies and the All Stars, won, also traditionally, by the Grizzlies!, after a hard fought and skilful match.

Team Captains

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

Men: Paul Sibley, Chris Berry, Ben Lambourne, Mark Johnson, Phil Elliott, Nick Hemm, Richard Bonsall, Jon Clewes, Brian Jones.

Ladies: Faye Wilkinson, Liz Archer, Lucy Blyth, Emma Bee, Carey Savage.

Committee

Congratulations to **Glyn Abba** who has been elected Club President. As well as having been a team captain for a number of years, Glyn has been heavily involved in coaching and managing our juniors over the past few years. The highlight was when we reached the final of the National U18 Cup in 2005. Glyn has also managed to recruit 2 of his children, John

and Liz, to play for the club, Liz also taking an active role in junior development. **Geoff Bail** continues as Club Chairperson. Thanks to everyone else 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, Joanne Kehoe;
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 Sean Gauton, Pete Bonnett and Fiona Lambourne.

Parking

This remains an ongoing problem and we need you to co-operate as much as possible on match days. This means:

- If you can, please leave your car at home;
- If you park on Swithland Drive, please don't create a nuisance for residents;
- If you park on Loughboro Road, please park completely on the verge and facing the hedge. The pavement on Loughboro' Road must be left clear

- Please use the extra spaces that we installed a couple of summers ago.

Fixture Cards

These will be available from your team captain at the start of the season and there will also be a stock behind the bar.

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 16th and our main 4 day **Beer Festival** will take place from Thursday November 11th and will include a Sunday lunchtime jazz session. Following the success of last year's event, the **wine tasting** evening will be on November 27th followed by the **Christmas Social (/fines night)** on the December 11th.

Watch this space for dates for the Dinner Dance (provisionally April 2nd), the End of Season Tournament, including the Mike Price Challenge (provisionally April 16th), Beer Festival 2 (Feb 4/5) and Curry and Quiz 2 (Mar 5).

Training

Mens training will start on Monday nights from August 2nd at the school, ladies also at the school on Wednesdays from September 2nd. "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.

Please remember to lock your car and hide any valuables away at all times.

Juniors

Junior coaching will be starting again from Sunday, September 6th, 9.30 to 11.00. This will again be at West Bridgford School. The cost per session has increased to £1.50 or, like last year, you can pay by the term

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 aeriels, 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 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!

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 to save trees by confirming receipt of this with **Geoff** if you have received it by email.

If you have received it by post and have a current email address, please put it on your reply slip (or better still register on the club website) so that we can add it to the 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.

We are also in the process of agreeing a deal with a kit supplier so that you can invest in club kit - trackies, hoodies, polos, etc, online. Keep checking the website for more details

Rushcliffe Awards

With our having been elected Rushcliffe's "Club of the Year" last year, Martin and Geoff nominated me as a candidate to be "Volunteer of the Year" this year. This is a way of keeping the club's profile high within the local sporting community, and I was delighted to be presented with the award. (I couldn't decide whether or not to include this in the D Notice but thought it might look a bit odd if I didn't!) We have an excellent reputation locally and this certainly helps with things like grant applications

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.

Subs

The not so good news is that quite a few (male) members still haven't paid last year's subs. This can't be allowed to happen and we are taking steps to make sure that these are collected. This year, please don't let your

name get on the list - if you are struggling financially, talk to either your team captain, James Cashmore or another committee member - we will always try to help if there is a genuine problem, but it isn't fair to the vast majority when one or two just don't pay.

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 2010/11. 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)

Have a great season!

Bob Douglas

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