

WINCHESTER HOCKEY CLUB NEWSLETTER



END OF SEASON 2020

CHAIRMANS WELCOME



LADIES SECTION



CLUB CAPTAIN REPORT



JUNIOR SECTION



UMPIRE UPDATE



www.winchesterhc.co.uk

Welcome to our end of season Newsletter



Most importantly we hope that everyone is keeping fit and well, that our senior members and friends are keeping safe, our Juniors are keeping up with both fitness and education work, and all members are making it through. Don't forget that Our Club is of course Your club, and all members and friends remain as committed to each other off the pitch as much as on the pitch – just keep in touch!

At last EH have made decision on end of season outcomes, and this filtered down to the South & HA enabling them to make their decisions. All leagues are now completed and the results and outcomes have been posted on our website. Overall a pretty good season with three team promotions and both 1st XI teams retaining current league presence – well done to all.

England Hockey has confirmed all hockey in England is off until at least the 30th June, and are currently looking at future guidelines for coaching etc, so keep checking the website and twitter feeds for latest news as and when we have this.

Currently, the Committee team at WHC is continuing to work and plan for potentially every future outcome. If there is any summer hockey, leagues or summer camps, or back2hockey slots, we will be ready, and we are planning hard for the new season. We have currently re-scheduled our end of season Dinner and Dance Awards evening, and this is currently scheduled for the 5th September to coincide with a special weekend fest of new season hockey – so make sure that is in your diaries now, and be prepared to get your tickets when they go live!

From a Winchester HC perspective, we have overall had a great season so far, and what has become particularly clear to us over the last eight weeks is simply what fun and good company we have all enjoyed over this last season. Playing sport with a bunch of friends and fellow club members is something we can all truly appreciate, and the team spirit continues even if we can't train and play together at the moment. I have seen so many examples of friends keeping close contact, sharing jokes and good humour, and helping out wherever they can. Who knew we could all be so tech savvy in such a short space of time, share beers over Zoom, watch coaching tips on You Tube or divert the many talents of club members into every kind of e-commerce activity you can think of.

Our Club Captain's and Junior leaders provide a more detailed team update in this news letter – great work folks, thank you.

I would like to thank a few groups of people for their incredible support so far this year. Our Team Coaches and Managers – who have managed to provide a sensational amount of hockey coaching



to all our age and Team groups over the season, and many times in some of the most appalling weather we have seen in a while. They are truly awesome, and we all appreciate their help. We are also delighted to recognise Mike Crompton and Tim Lander who both completed their EH Coaching badges this year – great work guys and well done !! Just as importantly we have another group of six parents player coaches who will be working on their coaching qualifications too this summer – (or as soon as these courses switch on again!) – we fully support you and encourage others to join in.

Secondly our Club Umpires. For all those who have lifted the whistle we thank you greatly. Our own Graham Beck has been brilliant organising support across the Saturday sides this year (please do read his article), and we truly thank all those who have supported our teams home and away this year. Top work all!

And of course great thanks to all who put their time, enthusiasm and collective expertise into the running of the Club – our wonderful Committee members – our Junior Leaders, Team Captains, VC's & Team Treasurers – thank you so much.

We are lucky as a club to have great support throughout the season from all our providers and I bring you some news of what they have been upto:-

Our friends at the Fulflood are doing a brilliant job running a local beer delivery service, and if you can share a few beers, please book your order through them and mention you are from WHC – they will appreciate your custom as much as you will appreciate their beer! See www.fulflood.co.uk and follow on facebook.

Kings school has stayed open everyday over the Easter hols for those children with Key worker parents needing support – and collectively have made several hundred facemasks for NHS – good for them!

Importantly – if you have someone within the club who we can support or publicise to help, let us know and we will see if we can publicise through the website for you – please contact either me or Steve Hankin with details, and we will see what we can do.

As we "go to press", we are preparing our club accounts for the year, and asking for people who would like to get involved in the support and running of the club to make contact and speak with us as we get ready for our AGM. We will be shortly issuing all AGM papers, and all roles and vacancies will be advertised on the club website shortly. (Never been a better time to get involved!). At the moment we are planning for 10th July, venue tbc, but it is very likely this will be a virtual AGM using either Zoom or MS Meetings.

The AGM will confirm the following roles are up for nomination and if you would like to get involved just let me or any member of the Committee know:-

- Committee roles:- Ladies Club Captain – (1 nomination received), Club Secretary, Junior Chair
- Other roles:- Junior Sunday Fixture Secretary, Junior Membership Secretary, Club Communications Officer, Club Sponsorship Officer, & Club Coaches as advertised on website

Lastly – a small request. As a club in December we started to promote the www.winchesterhc.co.uk/fundraising easy fundraising campaign – see our website. If there is one thing you could do to help the club finances and support our coaching programme for next season it is to log-in and register and use this really easy and helpful fund raising programme. Thanks.

Wishing everyone well, keep in touch via email, website, facebook and twitter, and look forward to meeting up asap – Take Care All

Best Wishes

Andy Craig

chairman@winchesterhc.co.uk

Mens Club Captains News

Here we are again at the end of another season, just not quite the way we expected. I hope everyone is coping with lockdown in whatever way it is affecting them. Don't forget your hockey family is here for you all, if anyone needs anything just reach out.

Across the men's section results have been varied, big up to the 3s, Covid may have stopped them winning the league but they are promoted and looking forward to a 2s v 3s showdown next season. Everyone else generally holding their places in their respective leagues. The 1st XI pulled of a couple of great results, foughting all the way to the end and are now confirmed to remain in South Prem 1 again next season. Both the Academy side and the important Whippets provided great entry and development to the next generation of Winchester players coming through. They will remain in their respective leagues and we expect to see more young players progressing through.

A good season for both Vet's teams – Wizards coming second in Wessex league, and a revitalised Wanderers having a much improved season – good to see John Wiggle appearing for his 50th season!

Thank you to all the captains leading their teams.

I would like to thank everyone who has given something to help the other teams at the club, every team has helped another team at some stage of the season, umpiring, coaching, stepping up or down to play when needed. It's an important part of club life so well done.

It doesn't look like there will be a summer league this season but I am working on plans for next season, looking at squads and talking to your captains. Please keep in touch with them and if you know anyone who we could recruit to the club please let them or us know.

Tip tap,

Swiftly

menscaptain@winchesterhc.co.uk

Make sure you stay in the know and follow all the latest Winchester HC news:



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Ladies Team Update

I hope you're all well and enjoying the glorious sunshine at home. What are the chances... it rains throughout the season and from the moment we stopped, the weather has been amazing!

I can't write this short report without mentioning our valuable key workers. I'm aware that a number of you have been out working incredibly hard over the last few weeks to keep us all safe and healthy. So I'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to you all for continuing to help the rest of us through these difficult times. If there's anything we could do to help, please do let me know.

Hockey-wise...

- At last thanks to EH decisions, Hampshire HA has managed to confirm the final outcomes for the leagues, with all remaining & outstanding fixtures cancelled. Big congratulations to both our 2nd XI and 5th XI Tigers teams on their successful league promotions, with 2nd's finishing in third place and the Tigers in second place. Our 3rd's managed to stay in the third decision in a development year, while unfortunately for our 4th XI, with two matches outstanding and six points to play for, there was no opportunity to escape the relegation this year.
- South Womens Hockey were ahead of even EH to make their own decision to deem the season complete, which means our Ladies 1s have finished

their first season in South 3B in 4th place. A massive WELL DONE to Ellis Williams and the team, and huge thanks to our coach Kev Boniface, who is unfortunately taking a rest this coming season!

- Unfortunately the ladies Summer League has been cancelled

All in all we've seen another eventful season across the ladies section, with a number of great performances, and a terrific amount of player development and team commitment. The club is looking to be in an excellent position for continued progress and success next season.

A special mention to our captains, coaching team and all of our players who kindly volunteered to double up, to umpire and to help coach from the sidelines. It wouldn't be the same without you. And of course a massive thank you to all of our wonderful players - It's great to see so much talent out on the field and once again you've all been amazing!!

Although the season is now over, it would be nice to take some time to remember the best bits of the season- there is lots to celebrate. If you have any photos, videos or quotes you'd like to share with us, please email these over to me at ladiescaptain@winchesterhc.co.uk.

In case you missed the update on Club Dinner, this year's event has been moved to the 5th Sept, in hope the current situation has improved by then.

You can still register. Full details and updates can be found on facebook and the website.

Take care and I'll hopefully see you all soon.

Holly

WHC Ladies Club Captain

ladiescaptain@winchesterhc.co.uk

Dates for your diary.

Provisional plans booked at the moment.

CLUB DINNER DANCE & AWARDS 2020

Saturday September 5th

CLUB DAY SENIORS

all Teams matches – Saturday 5th September

CLUB DAY AND JUNIOR BBQ

Juniors – Sunday 6th September

AGM DATE

Provisionally Friday 10th July – venue / e-meet to be confirmed

The 100 Club

**Our club lottery.
£24 per year.**

Half of the takings are paid in prizes and the rest goes directly to club fundraising.

So, more members = bigger prizes = bigger the benefit to the club!

To join this select club, simply email the treasurer@winchesterhc.co.uk with your name, and set up your standing order for £6 every three months to pay the 100 club account –
Lloyds: 30-99-71
a/c 00570197 – thanks.

WINNERS FOR 1ST QUARTER 2020 ARE:

1st Graham Beck
2nd John Kalb
3rd Sonia Carver

Payments on way!

Junior Club News

The minis section continues to go from strength to strength. It once again reached its player limit before the season even started and this was evident in the vast number of children training at Kings each Sunday morning. Bad weather inevitably hurts more when you are this age, and this season seemed worse than previous one. However, most sessions went ahead and thanks to the commitment of Lucy and an army of volunteer parents and young coaches, many logging volunteer hours for DofE qualifications, the children trained in multiple small groups which maximised their opportunity to develop. Many represented the club in festivals. The older ones took part in their first competitive hockey at the Hampshire In2Hockey tournament. Both boys and girls performed well, the boys finishing 6th and the girls mid table in the group stage. It's great to see so many highly promising players progressing to next year's under 12 groups.

The boys and girls split as separate groups at under 12. All groups, except the under 16 girls fielded 2 teams in the Hampshire leagues so that competitive hockey was available for many children. Most groups had sufficient committed parents, supplemented by other qualified coaches and some of the club's older junior players to deliver consistently high quality training sessions, although the junior section is always on the look out for more help.

On the girl's side, the club has another strong season up to under 14s, with large

player bases and decent success on the pitch. We have struggled to maintain this at under 16 level this season but are planning with your help for a great 20-21 season!

The under 12s had a really promising season, led by Mike. The girls started getting to grips with larger pitches, building a structure to their game, all of which was recently demonstrated in a tightly fought draw against a strong Alton side. The enthusiasm and commitment from the squad was unquestionable in all storms, whether against a stronger opposition or just the driving rain. The team spirit was strong throughout, and one of the highlights of the season was a trip out to Lee Valley where the girls were inspired watching the GB Ladies and Men's teams play.

The under 14s were a lively bunch, with the coaches' first task on Friday evenings to persuade them that they were there for hockey and not just a social occasion! That said, the girls developed tremendously well during the season. In terms of results, for the A-team, led by Howard, it felt a little like a season of what could have been ... several of the key matches were lost by the odd goal. That said, 3rd in the Hampshire league and 2nd in the EH Cup local pool was a creditable achievement. The B-team, led by Swifty and Kwame, developed well during the season, learning and refining core skills and finishing mid table in their Hampshire league.



WHC Girls U12 Team

The under 16 girls had a very tough year, starting the season with no coach, manager or dedicated training slot. Understandably a number of players left the club and so by the time a semblance of organisation was introduced by Holly & Kate it was a struggle to raise a team. The junior committee are determined that this will not happen next season.

The boy's section had a solid season across the board, without the outstanding successes that we have seen in recent season.

The under 12s grew in numbers through the season, with Tuesday evening training sessions always lively affairs. Although we ended up with almost 50 players, many had other weekend sporting commitments

which made it difficult to field 2 teams at the same time. Several players doubled up and we managed to fulfil all our commitments. Fixtures seemed to be badly affected by the weather, and we struggled to get much game time early in the season. However, as the season progressed, we had more matches and the teams improved considerably. The highlight was the excellent hockey played at the Hampshire In2Hockey tournament, where the team finished a creditable 6th, only missing out on a semi-final place in a penalty shoot out.

The overall under 14 squad regularly welcomed new members to reach nearly 50 boys by the season close, many starting from scratch and developed fast. The

under 14s A-squad had a new coaching team in men's 1st team players, Ben and Harry, who quickly established a great rapport with the players who worked hard at the coaching sessions and all wanted to play for the A team. The team developed rapidly during the season, reaching the semi-final of the Hampshire cup and the regional round of the EH Cup, both of which were sadly never played. The B squad, coached by Richard and Mark, struggled in match play against Clubs with only 1 team (containing strong year 9 players) to suffer some heavy defeats before Christmas as the team rotated 5 or more players each game to give a large number of players the experience of match play. In the 2nd half of the season results and particularly patterns of play improved immensely, and a good set of year 8s have now developed to challenge for the A squad next season.

The core of the under 16 boys A-team comprised a talented group who reached the under 14 national finals last year, supplemented by a few older boys. Led by coach Howard, stepping up to under 16s

with a fixture list including many of the top teams in the country was always going to be a challenge, and so it proved. Tough early season encounters against the likes of Surbiton and Canterbury showed the team the level of hockey needed at this level. Nevertheless, there were a number of fine performance and results too, particularly the 2nd place finish in the regional round of the EH Cup Tier 1 competition. The team also reached the semi-final of the Hampshire cup, which was never played. The B-team suffered from a lack of regular coach, with training run in rotation by various volunteer parents, but still managed to complete a full round of fixtures in the Hampshire league.

It was a shame that the season was cut short. The under 14 and 16 boys in particular still had unfinished business. However, the junior section remains in good shape, and we will be back next season in force.

Peter Jenkinson & Tim Lander

Junior Chair



U16 Boys Indoor Team



SPONSORED BY:



We welcome conversations and support from new sponsors to join our successful team – please contact the Chairman at

Chairman@winchesterhc.co.uk

We also thank The Girdlers Hall Company for their kind and much appreciated donations towards the running of the club and coaching resources plus our anonymous donors – thank you!

Easyfundraising.co.uk

With all of us using the internet more than ever before – you could all really help the club by supporting us by using this portal to buy through. It doesn't cost you a penny, it can really help us a lot, and if every player and member could just download the link to their PC, mobile and laptop, register and use, we could really raise a lot of money to support our planned coaching programme for the coming season. Please check it out, please download, and please please remember to use this every time you buy something online. Let's make this a brilliant success for our Club. Thank you.



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Umpiring with Winchester this Season

Each week throughout the season the Club has needed 26 umpires every Saturday to support all senior league games of which just 8 umpires have been appointed by Hampshire Hockey Umpire Association [HHUA] or South [SCHUA] leaving a further 18 Club Umpires required to support the remainder of the Club fixtures. Fortunately, most clubs have been able to provide one umpire for each game but quite often this season, WHC has been requested to provide both umpires which has meant at least 9 Club Umpires have been in action every Saturday and sometimes more. In order to cover all club games some people have been umpiring two games or playing one followed by an umpiring appointment.

To all those people who have volunteered to umpire this season a huge thank you to everyone. It is with some reluctance to mention individuals for their particular dedication because so many people have contributed but, **Peter Wedderburn** and **Richard Gaunt** have umpired the greatest number of Club Games this season and there is no doubt without them we would have struggled. The Lady's 2nd XI and the Men's 3rd XI's have been particularly supportive closely followed by the Men's 5th XI.

During the season it was decided to reward all Level One Club Umpires undertaking club appointments with our WHC Umpire polo shirt. Regrettably, due to the coronavirus, it has not been possible to distribute the shirts before the end of

the season but the following club umpires - we have a shirt waiting for you;

- Richard Gaunt, Peter Wedderburn, Pip Hart, Maz Atadika, Roberta Hartley, James Hartley, Peter Lelliott, Holly Cameron, Tim Loescher, Simon Hazlitt, Richard Macer & Freddie Coulson

If anyone else in the Club wishes to undertake club umpire appointments and achieves the Level One Assessment, the Club will give you a Club Umpire polo shirt as a small token of its appreciation.

LEVEL ONE UMPIRING ASSESSMENTS

Congratulations must go to Stuart Swift and to Freddie Coulson who both passed with flying colours - both may now consider taking appointments for HHUA into the future having displayed a high level of competence in their umpiring. Well done and thanks!

NEXT SEASON

Don't forget that in order for HHUA and SCHUA to appoint neutral umpires to WHC fixtures, the Club is expected to nominate volunteer members to take such appointments for other clubs. At the present time WHC has just five nominated umpires but we should be aiming for a few more. If there is any current Level One qualified umpire who would like to take neutral appointments, please inform Graham Beck or Andy Craig.



As part of the preparation for next season there is no doubt that more club umpires are needed. If more people volunteer to undertake the Level One Umpire Course to help teams each week, the easier it should be finding willing umpires because umpiring duties can be spread wider. Please see the website for more info on how to get involved.

During the last season, the most difficult appointments have been for away games as most umpires also play hence it is crucial to ensure that every team in the Saturday leagues have players who are competent umpires. The Men's 4th XI together with Lady's 3rd XI, have possibly provided the greatest challenges and for this reason, anyone who anticipates playing in these teams next season

will be offered a high level of priority to achieve umpiring competence. If you are associated in any way with these teams, be a player, parent, or friend, and you want to help, please contact Graham Beck. Without more volunteers to umpire next season, it is highly likely that the quality of the game will suffer and teams could be reduced to ten players on the day as the league rules specify that in the absence of an umpire an eleventh player be taken off to umpire!

If anyone wishes to learn about umpiring, please let us know and we will help. We now look forward to next season and thanks again to all those who took up the whistle.

Graham Beck