



chester hockey club

Chester Hockey Club Newsletter December 2007

Well Done!

We'd like to pass on our congratulations to Phil Roper who has been selected for the U16 England Squad. A thoroughly deserved achievement and we wish Phil lots of luck with the progression of his hockey career.

Well done to Stu Field and Daffyd Jones for passing their level 2 coaching awards. Kirstie Sneyd, Sarah Mallion and Graham Church (Annabelle's Father) are currently in the process of obtaining their Level 1 umpiring award – good luck to them!

A special congratulations to John and Debbie Painter on the new addition to their family, baby Joe. We look forward to seeing much more of him around the hockey club on a Saturday and will no doubt be a welcome addition to the gang of young supports on a Saturday!

Mid Season Team Updates

Men's 1st X1

Season review so far –not too great! Injuries are destroying our season! But luckily everyone else is making mistakes!

When we are full strength we are going to destroy this league!!

Individuals - Phil Roper has been awesome and we would like congratulate him on his selection for the England U16s training squad.

Debut season for Gareth Thomas, good addition to squad.

We would love to see more people coming down to watch the 1st team when at home.

Currently 4th in the North Hockey League Division 1. Played 11, Won 6, Drew 2, Lost 3, Goals For 32, Goals against 23, Difference of 9. Total points 20. Eleven points off top.

Men's 2nd XI

With the International age and weight restriction now lifted from the 2nd XI and a 2yr sponsorship deal signed with Help the Aged, all players have been on a challenging journey of personal discovery to find their inner selves. The strength of the 2nd XI has historically come from propping up the league at this stage in the season, rather than suffering from vertigo. Dudley has returned to the fold from work placement at The Early Learning Centre and Harvey has signed up for Anger Management classes between the hours of 12noon and 4pm on a Saturday. Captain Boothroyd's "Happy Face" approach to management is working well and Chris Moulson still promises to attend at least 3 training sessions before the Christmas break (or hell freezes over, whichever comes first!!). Vice Captain Daf "The Kitten" Jones is still looking for work (preferably paid but he will work for treats) during the week, so if anyone has any cleaning or childcare duties call 0898 KITTEN. The students still have no money for subs, but apparently free beer is served most nights in the Chester College Students Union. Yatesy has some new shorts, after the British Museum requested he returned his pervious pair and Specky, well Specky is just Specky!! Mark Townsend is back from injury after a stint on the podium in Bar Sixty-Nine, J . P . hopes that his impending selection for the Welsh Vets will not automatically get him dropped to the "cloaked" 4th XI, Sean is still trying to beat Phil and Steve in a race across the pitch on a Tuesday night and you can find Steve Hall down Chester market flogging designer jewellery with Del Boy and

Rodney. Selley has doubled his contribution to his BUPA cover to ensure his calves will last the whole season. The Gimp, Tim H, Ashley and Ian E have all been dropped to the 1st XI to increase their squad numbers to 18.

Played 16, Won 11, Drew 1, Lost 4, Goals For 46, Goals against 26, Difference of 20. Total points 34.

Men's 3rd X1

Played 15, Won 6, Drew 2, Lost 7, Goals For 31, Goals against 31, Difference of 0.
Total points 20.

Men's 4th X1

Played 12, Won 5, Drew 4, Lost 3, Goals For 27, Goals against 26, Difference of 1.
Total points 19.

Men's 5th X1

Played 11, Won 5, Drew 2, Lost 4, Goals For 25, Goals against 19, Difference of 6.
Total points 17.

Men's 6th team

Played 9. Lost 6 won 2 drawn 1.

Goals for 11: goals against 26

With only 8 teams in the league (two teams cried off at the start of the season), the 6ths were going to have a short season punctuated with hastily arranged friendlies. On top of that, we have played 5 games away with only one home game.

There are two strong sides in the leagues and we have played them once conceding 13 goals against them (Lymm 8: Colwyn Bay 5). The other games have been well fought encounters though with some teams, their youth have been somewhat tetchy causing frustration at times.

The team spirit is good and we are playing much better hockey than we did last season. As a result, the team have enjoyed the season so far with the defence playing as solid as their years of experience tell. The most regular players being Phil Warren, John Crinson, Steve Byrne and Alan Turner. Pete Clewes has had to play in goal twice when Chris Ward couldn't play.

In mid field Richard Sutor, Andy Hampson, Nick Jones and Gareth Thomas have gelled together feeding the attack of Peter Cunningham, Greg Lowlor (our top scorer with 4 goals), Ian Bones (2 goals) and Ian Thomas.

We are grateful to Terry Parkin for umpiring for us. At this level of hockey it is important to have an umpire as correct decision making can affect the outcome of games.

Ladies 1st X1

We have many new faces in the team this season, Nicola Sutcliffe, Nicole Haigh, Martine Brown and Katherine Baker all joining Chester. Jess Ollerhead, Sian French, Sarah Underhill and Sophie Clough have made the step up to first team level. All three are under 17 and are starting every week. A new vice captain in Becky Horan who gets better every week she plays at centre half. The 'oldies' of the team - Tommo, Twisty, Ropes and Deb Painter (and me now although I hate to admit it!!) are still going strong and producing the consistent performances every week. We have developed a mini Tommo in Sophie at the back, who is very composed and calm for a 15 year old. Martine Brown scored 2 crackers in the game against Nelson on the 10th November and has definitely put one of the goals in contention for best so far this season. We look forward to Donna Jones returning from injury and pushing for a first team place. This season has also brought Corrinne Boothroyd back into the Ladies 1st team.

We had a difficult start to the league after being relegated last season and lots of changes have meant getting used to each other, and the wins were a little while coming. Best team performances so far have been against Deeside and Bowdon who are both currently in the top three in the league.

This season is all about us rebuilding and playing as a team after an extremely hard 2 seasons getting beaten most weeks!

Our new coach, Stu Field is keen to ensure a mid table finish with a look to finish higher up next

year. Team aims are to (of course) beat the Darkside in our rematch in February and enjoy playing hockey (for the first time in a few years!)

The whole team would like to wish Deb and John Painter all the best for their new arrival and remember every hockey baby has at least 10 hockey aunties to do the babysitting!

Currently 9th in the North League Premier Division. Played 11, won 2, drawn 3, lost 6, goals for 14, goals against 27, difference of -13, 9 points in total, 18 points off the top.

Ladies 2nd X1

Currently 2nd in Cheshire League Division 1, played 11, won 7, drawn 0, lost 4, goals for 28, goals against 17, difference of 11, 21 points in total, 7 points off the top.

Ladies 3rd X1

Currently 3rd in Cheshire League Division 4, played 7, won 5, drawn 1, lost 1, goals for 25, goals against 2, difference of 23, 16 points in total – joint with 2nd place, 2 points off the top.

Ladies 4th X1

Currently 5th in Cheshire League Division 5, played 7, won 3, drawn 0, lost 4, goals for 14, goals against 17, difference of 3, 9 points in total, 10 points off the top.

So finally, Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you back in the New Year refreshed and raring to go for the second half of the season.