

# *Kettering Hockey Club*

## *Annual Awards Dinner 2022*



### *Summary of 2021-22 Season*

#### *Captain's Reports*

*Covering senior men's and ladies' teams*

# *Introduction*

At the start of the 2021-22 season we were a bit unsure about the future due to the Covid pandemic. We also faced uncertainty in terms of how the Ladies teams would fare upon their transition to the East.

Once the matches got underway it became apparent that player availability would be a challenge. The selection procedures were stress-tested and some cracks did appear. Fortunately, as the season progressed, the captains were able to modify their approach to solve many of the problems.

The Ladies 1, 2 and 3 teams enjoyed their start to life in the East and results were very good. The 4s and 5s struggled and unfortunately the 5s had to withdraw from the league. Pam stepped down as L4 captain but Carla, Sophie and Kate Jones volunteered to organise the team between them.

For the Men, initial results were mixed, with the notable exception of the M1 who were challenging at the top end of the table.

Throughout the season, captains had to constantly adjust team selection to ensure that we fielded nine competitive teams. It was not always possible and some weeks we fell a bit short of the selection principles we agreed upon. A particular disappointment was the need to concede two L1 fixtures.

I know from personal experience that the season was very energy-sapping and stressful for the captains, so I would like to thank all of them for their sterling efforts.

I would also like to thank all the players who made themselves regularly available, who doubled up or who demonstrated great club spirit by being flexible enough to play up or down when asked. Without this commitment we would have had to withdraw even more teams from the league, so once again I applaud you.

There were no promotions or relegations at the end of the season, however there were plenty of positives that can be drawn. Personally, I'm very pleased to see the high proportion of young players throughout all teams.

Next season I hope that we can learn the lessons from this one and continue to develop across all the teams.

I would also like to thank Mandy and Anthony for their help co-ordinating the Ladies and Mens teams respectively. The coaching team of Andy, Scott, Barry, Shez, Nick, Rob, Mark, Adam and Ben did a great job running the various training sessions throughout the week.

I hope everyone has a great evening celebrating with teammates, friends and family.

All the best.

*Neil Manley*

Senior Performance Chair

## Men's 1st team

Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
St Ives 1	22	19	2	1	124	24	100	59
City Of Peterborough 3	22	18	2	2	89	22	67	56
Kettering	22	17	3	2	100	34	66	54
Cambridge City 4	22	12	4	6	71	45	26	40
Long Sutton	22	10	3	9	108	82	26	33
Cambridge University 3	22	10	3	9	52	71	-19	33
Cambridge South 2	22	9	2	11	57	63	-6	29
St Ives 2	22	6	3	13	32	96	-64	21
City Of Peterborough 4	22	5	3	14	45	77	-32	18
Cambridge City Over 45	22	4	5	13	46	91	-45	17
Spalding 2	22	4	2	16	40	91	-51	14
St Neots 1	22	2	0	20	36	104	-68	6

With the hopes of finally completing a full season of games since the '18-19 season, the Men's 1s began with a solid 6-2 win at home. This set the scene for the rest of the season, vying for a top place finish to enable promotion to Division 1N. With numerous youngsters cementing their place in the squad, whose low average age, hampered only by the seasoned goalkeeper, fought for every point. Facing tough opposition in the forms of St Ives 1's and CoP3's, the 1s managed to secure 54 points from a possible 66, finishing 3rd. A solid season throughout, whilst maintaining an unbeaten at home run since November 2019! I'd like to thank all the players involved in making it a thoroughly enjoyable season, all those that stood in the wind, rain and sun to support us and the club for their support throughout.

### Top appearances (max 22)

Barry Coe, Grant Carlin – 22

Tom Storey, Adam Mills – 21

### Top Scorers

Lewis Pywell – 20

Grant Carlin – 19

Ethan Smart - 13

Total goals scored – 100

*Grant Carlin*

## *Ladies' 1st team*

Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Spalding 1	22	21	1	0	145	16	129	64
Kettering 1	21	15	2	4	59	25	34	47
Cambridge South 2	22	14	4	4	61	22	39	46
Cambridge City 4	22	11	5	6	41	36	5	38
Pelicans 1	22	11	2	9	52	42	10	35
City of Peterborough 3	22	10	4	8	36	39	-3	34
Bourne Deeping 1	22	9	6	7	48	50	-2	33
Cambridge University 3	21	8	4	9	47	56	-9	28
Cambridge Nomads 1	22	3	6	13	30	63	-33	15
Long Sutton 1	22	4	3	15	24	61	-37	15
St Ives 2	22	1	5	16	13	92	-79	8
St Neots 2	22	1	4	17	27	81	-54	7

We started the season out with nervous anticipation about moving over to the East league, all sorts of questions going through our minds; what would the opposition be like? Had we been put into a league where we would do well? What would the teas be like?

Our first game against Spalding was a tough one and with a couple of our more experienced players missing, we narrowly lost. This made us wonder if this was a representation of the rest of the teams in the league and were we going to struggle all season.

However, we won the next game... and the next game... and the next game!

It wasn't a smooth season for several reasons, and we had a few issues with availability; whether that be injuries, work, covid, or the whole team not being available for the last game before Christmas!

But we brought the youngsters up (thank you to all the other captains for helping accommodate this!), all of whom improved week by week, and with them and our regular stalwart players we battled on to have some of the highest scoring games we've had since I can remember.

Every single person who played for the 1s contributed to us finishing 2nd in the league and should be so proud of themselves, thank you to them for showing up and putting 100% in every week. and thank you to Barry and Shez for coaching us, making the sessions fun and helping the youngsters, who wouldn't have come on like they did without the time and effort you put in.

So to summarise, we kicked ass most weeks, but still room for improvement and the team should be ready to face the challenges of next season!

*Beth Winfield*

## Men's 2nd team

Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Ely City 1	18	17	1	0	81	19	62	52
Wisbech Town 2	18	13	1	4	75	30	45	40
Cambridge South 3	18	13	0	5	58	26	32	39
March Town 1	18	12	1	5	76	44	32	37
Cambridge Nomads 2	18	8	0	10	47	48	-1	24
Kettering 2	18	6	2	10	29	58	-29	20
Bourne Deeping 2	18	6	0	12	37	57	-20	18
City Of Peterborough 5	18	5	1	12	28	60	-32	16
St Ives 3	18	4	1	13	27	71	-44	13
Cambridge City 5	18	1	3	14	17	62	-45	6

A season of 2 halves. Despite pre-season friendlies being unbeaten, the first half of the league had weekly challenges with player availability restricting the squads opportunities to settle into a playing structure and execute a season plan to finish high up in the table, based on the fact we had stepped down a league from last season.

The core 8 players had to be complimented by appearances from a number of players from the 5ths and 4ths with the occasional 1st XI and 3rd XI player doubling up once or twice. Amongst the core 8 were 5 x U18 with 2 of those U16. A total of 5 players were new to playing at this level with 1 player in his first league season. It meant by the half-way mark we had only won 1 game and drawn 2. So, the Christmas break was welcome and gave time to reflect and start thinking about improving our performances.

The second half of the season started very much the same in terms of player availability but as the weeks went by necessary changes were made and players were promoted up from the 3's which made all the difference. Increasing the core with bringing in Samuel Tattersall and Adam Duell meant we could play to our strengths and execute the game plan better than before. The results speak for themselves with winning 5 from 8 games in convincing style.

Highlights of the season are seeing the youth players progress and gain confidence playing in new positions. Playing with old friends, Phil Rowbotham, Paul Donnelly and Oscar Pacheco, brought back the good old days and seeing the return of Ollie Smith from injury was very welcome for both on and off the pitch laughs. Ben Smith was superb throughout the whole season and always available. Cameron James was promoted the 1st XI and my personal favourite successes were playing in the same team as Charlie Hawkins together with a few games where we had the May family playing in the same team (father and two sons).

Good luck to Ewan Scholtz and Tom Hampden-Smith who are going on to University in September and will be sorely missed in the new season – thank you for being part of the squad and the 100% effort you both put in each week. A huge thank you goes out to Make Tanser and Shaun Curtis for almost disabling their players when doubling up to support making up our numbers when desperate, Jason Clarke for being available last minute, Neil Manley for playing up when needed, Andy and Scott for coaching (the players who did show up every week for training showed improvement on the pitch on Saturdays) and the Executive Committee for all year-round unseen hard work.

*Mark Hawkins*

## *Ladies' 2nd team*

Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Newmarket 1	22	22	0	0	100	9	91	66
Cambridge South 3	22	16	3	3	69	27	42	51
Ely City 1	22	14	3	5	50	26	24	45
Spalding 2	22	13	4	5	60	26	34	43
Cambridge City 5	22	13	2	7	47	37	10	41
Kettering 2	22	12	0	10	55	44	11	36
Wisbech Town 2	22	7	5	10	43	50	-7	26
Huntingdon 1	22	6	3	13	26	49	-23	21
Bourne Deeping 2	22	4	4	14	19	51	-32	16
Shefford & Sandy 2	22	4	3	15	19	48	-29	15
Spalding 3	22	4	3	15	17	80	-63	15
City of Peterborough 4	22	1	2	19	14	72	-58	5

The Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> team had a fantastic start to the season. Not knowing what the opposition was going to be like, we tried to balance the team with experience and youth. This allowed the younger players of the club to find a settled team and learn from the experienced players.

By the time we got to Christmas, we had a settled squad with a good balance and won 9 out of 12 games. There was an excellent team ethos and spirit, with all the youngsters doing incredibly well.

The second half of the season didn't go quite as well as the first. Players moving up to the 1<sup>st</sup> team and a number of injuries meant we had to reshape and start again.

However, everyone played their part and some lovely hockey was played. We won 4 out of our last 10 games finishing 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone that played, supported us and umpired.

*Michelle Tanser*

## Men's 3rd team

Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Long Sutton 2	22	20	1	1	105	16	89	61
Cambridge South 4	22	17	2	3	84	26	58	53
Cambridge City 6	22	14	2	6	52	33	19	44
City Of Peterborough 6	22	14	1	7	67	45	22	43
Spalding 4	22	10	1	11	56	53	3	31
Kettering 3	22	8	5	9	36	39	-3	29
March Town 2	22	7	4	11	40	76	-36	25
Cambridge South 5	22	7	2	13	27	65	-38	23
Bourne Deeping 4	22	7	1	14	37	60	-23	22
Ely City 2	22	7	1	14	39	63	-24	22
St Neots 2	22	6	2	14	43	62	-19	20
Wisbech Town 3	22	2	4	16	24	72	-48	10

The season started with a new look team including James Gibbs, Stu Mitchell, Samuel Tattersall, Logan Flemons and Alistair Brooking all coming up through the ranks.

The fixture list wasn't particularly kind and we played some of the top teams in our early matches. We had a solid defensive platform based on the central defensive partnership of Nick Cusk and Jake Coleman, but goals were few and far between.

As they became old enough, we introduced youngsters Barnes Platts and Joe Diaz-Osborn into the squad and they added some attacking verve alongside the experienced duo of Adam Duell and Jason Clarke.

As the season developed we picked up valuable points and started to climb the league table. Whilst goals didn't exactly flood in, Stu and Ethan Roberts started to demonstrate the knack of being in the right place at the right time.

In the second half of the season, Samuel and Adam were promoted into the 2s, so the team was bolstered with the introduction of Richard Lashbrooke, Ludwig Roder, Ben Mayes, Caleb Fox and Jonathan Dalley.

We played our best hockey in the games that mattered the most – against the teams below or near us in the league table. Consequently, we finished a creditable 6<sup>th</sup> in the league.

We had a good spirit in the team and we enjoyed our season. There were memorable moments including two abandoned games, multiple concussions and facing illegal players!

Many thanks to the players that doubled up or agreed to play at relatively short notice, including Adam Mills and Theo Crick.

I'd also like to give a shout out to Nick for being my unofficial vice-captain and for organizing the team for the last two weeks of the season while I was away in Italy.

All in all, it was great to be play a full season and get back to playing the sport we love. Fingers crossed it carries on next season!

*Neil Manley*

## *Ladies' 3rd team*

Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Cambridge South 4	20	14	1	5	68	40	28	43
Pelicans 2	20	10	4	6	46	29	17	34
Kettering 3	20	10	4	6	51	39	12	34
Newmarket 2	20	10	3	7	49	39	10	33
Ely City 2	20	8	7	5	23	20	3	31
Haverhill 2	20	7	5	8	33	38	-5	26
Haverhill 1	20	8	1	11	38	39	-1	25
St Neots 3	20	7	4	9	27	37	-10	25
Cambridge Nomads 2	20	6	4	10	33	31	2	22
Cambridge City 6	20	7	1	12	30	63	-33	22
St Ives 3	20	5	2	13	24	47	-23	17

L3s started the season with a significantly changed line up from the last season we played (which seemed like long ago with the pandemic intervening). We were also playing in a new (East) league with an unknown set of opposition teams, so we didn't quite know what to expect. For the first match - unfortunately missed by both the joint captains! - the team were finding their feet and learning to play together and lost 4-0. From there on in the team really began to gel and put together some lovely flowing hockey, passing well and using all the players to dominate the games. Telf marshalling the defence, Shez dominating the mid-field and Kirsty slotting in the goals made us formidable opponents. We won 8 of the remaining 9 matches before Christmas, only drawing with the eventual league winners and would have topped the table at the half-way mark but for one of our wins being recorded as a 5-0 loss as a penalty, which we felt was very harsh.

The second half of the season was a different matter as across the ladies teams we struggled with availability and players moved up from us to play for the L2s. It was great to see Millie Brading, Charlie Bennett and Holly Chapman all move up and get well-deserved opportunities to play at a higher level, reflecting the progress they have made over the last year or two. With the loss of some of our experienced players too, our results were much more mixed in the second half - 3 wins, 3 draws and 4 losses. The results did not, however, reflect any diminution of determination and effort - which remained fantastic from every player on the pitch, we fought hard and gave our best in every match. Some of the juniors who came up from the L4s/5s - including Erin Grant, Kate Campbell, Tilly Guyett and Connie Harvey - really grew in confidence and we hope to see them building on this next season. Big thanks too to Nat Irons who stepped down from the L2s to help us out in the latter matches and made a great contribution mid-field.

Despite the headaches which the ladies captains had with trying to sort out teams each week, every match day was a positive experience with great team spirit and a lot of development and learning which we will take with us into next season. Thank you to each and every player who contributed to a very enjoyable season.

*Lin Leach & Julia Telford*



## Men's 4th team

Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Cambridge Nomads 3	21	17	2	2	92	15	77	53
St Ives 4	21	15	4	2	58	18	40	49
Kettering 4	21	11	6	4	47	32	15	39
St Neots 3	21	11	4	6	36	26	10	37
Long Sutton 3	21	8	3	10	44	56	-12	27
City Of Peterborough 7	21	6	0	15	33	68	-35	18
Bourne Deeping 5	21	3	3	15	23	60	-37	12
Cambridge South 6	21	1	2	18	11	69	-58	5

Too many draws to challenge for promotion I'm afraid but as the season progresses, consistency in selection, tactics and a new formation brought about improved performances especially in defending as a team.

One thing the 4's doesn't lack for, is goals - thanks to Lee Paris and Michael Lavender having a great season in front of goal, both unlucky to miss out on the golden stick. Coming 3rd in the league we are in should and is a great achievement but we know we could have done better.

Two freak results away at the league leaders lots to nothing, yet beating those same opponents at home and some draws against those teams around us. Throughout the year there was far more good hockey than bad and with a good blend of experience and youth, some exciting players have already started showing promise and that is the really pleasing thing for me as 4's captain.

The players I see moving up after spells in the 4's feeling like we've really helped them in their transition from youth hockey to men's and long may that continue as it's the life blood of the club. To round off in what has a struggling season, which at times can only be likened to herding cats, I'd like to thank all the support I've had from the other captains.

**Shaun Curtis**

## *Ladies' 4th team*

Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
March Town 1	18	15	1	2	93	17	76	46
Cambridge South 5	16	15	0	1	84	5	79	45
Long Sutton 2	18	10	4	4	23	8	15	34
St Neots 4	16	10	2	4	44	22	22	32
St Ives 4	16	9	0	7	25	32	-7	27
Wisbech Town 3	16	7	1	8	29	34	-5	22
Pelicans 3	16	6	1	9	33	52	-19	19
Newmarket 3	20	6	1	13	52	79	-27	19
Cambridge South 6	18	4	2	12	36	53	-17	14
Ely City 3	16	3	2	11	16	66	-50	11
Kettering 4	18	1	2	15	15	82	-67	5

## Men's 5th team

Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Spalding 5	21	18	2	1	74	11	63	56
Ely City 3	21	14	2	5	75	41	34	44
City Of Peterborough 8	21	9	4	8	29	33	-4	31
Wisbech Town 4	21	9	3	9	59	44	15	30
St Neots 4	21	9	1	11	36	50	-14	28
Cambridge Nomads 4	21	8	2	11	39	46	-7	26
Kettering 5	21	4	2	15	24	65	-41	14
St Ives 5	21	4	2	15	23	69	-46	14

The biggest challenge this year was to get a full team out every week which was achieved every week bar one which was brilliant.

I bet there aren't many teams who can still give an octogenarian a starting place (Bill THE ARIEL Greenwood).

Although most weeks we finished second on the day nobody came off moaning and whinging (well maybe the captain once or twice in private of course!!!) but the historic day came at St Ives. A 5-2 away win was celebrated like the champions league and World Cup rolled into one. We had turned the corner and the second half of the season proved a lot better than the first. It came down to super Saturday - better St Ives' result and we don't get the wooden spoon - which was achieved!

Highlights for me are seeing the youth progress which was achieved, one or two moving up teams, and general improvement in everybody's play.

Just a couple of thank you's;

to Martin for a couple of slightly amusing match reports (still haven't had the call from the council regarding the Christmas light switch on)

And Nigel and Paul (for their "we will fight them on the beaches ..." half-time team talks)

It's been a pleasure being captain this year and let's hope we can push on as a club next year

*Mike Tanser*