



SNAPSHOT

Edition 4 – January 2011

ContactUs@SilsHockey.co.uk

www.SilsHockey.co.uk

Welcome

Welcome to the fourth edition of **Sils Snapshot** – your regular look at what is happening at Old Silhillians Hockey Club (OSHC).

The aim of the newsletter is to share information, encourage inter-action, and generally generate more of a social atmosphere for everyone involved in OSHC. *Obviously, it would be great if people could print these newsletters off, and leave them lying around in places that might help us to recruit new members – whether playing, social, or supporting.*

Snapshot will look to provide news on Club Developments, Social Events, on the pitch and off the pitch performance and also a way for members to learn a bit more about what goes on with the running of the club. Please read on in this edition for:

A Message from your Chairman, News from the Juniors, a Spotlight on your President, and some details around the early developments of NewCo.



Newsletter for
Old Silhillians
Hockey Club

NEWS

The season has kicked off – the Mens 1st team have more points than any other 1st team in the Midlands, and we continue to attract new players. We are through to the 4th round of the cup, are providing a regular coach to attend local schools and deliver QuickSticks coaching, and have had Nick Oppenheimer successfully complete his Level 1 coaching course.

Other things that have happened at the club:

The club gets a mention in the England Hockey News magazine

The club is chosen as one of only 25 hockey clubs in the country to support the pilot roll-out of the “Gold Challenge 2012”

Things to look forward to:

The end of season dinner – which has been announced as taking place on the 2nd April, and promises a fresh new approach...

“Battle of the Teams” – a social event to get everyone up the club for a bit of a laugh on one of the Saturdays in the New Year.

Further members achieving their Level 2 coaching qualifications

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View from the Chair – Steve Tabb; OSHC Chairman



I am hoping that you are all finding these newsletters helpful and useful, though I have only had feedback from a couple of people (which was positive so thanks for that!) If any of you do have thoughts about what you think should be included, then please do let me know.

Failing anything else, I shall continue in my usual format, and am pleased to announce that currently within the Midlands we have the most successful Men's 1st team in the whole of the league! (Well, if you consider amount of points won to date anyway) The 1sts have played 13, and won 12 games, including 2 in the Cup (plus a 1st round bye), which means we are top of the league, and through to the 4th round of the cup. We have been drawn away against Lydney, and there have been rumours of hiring a mini-bus for those that want to come and support. Please let me know if you are interested in being part of the "Sils Barmy Army" – I know the team would really appreciate the support.

The rest of the club is also progressing well – the Men's 2nds and 3rds have started picking up points and moving slowly up the table, the Ladies 1sts are consolidating their position in their division, and the Ladies 2nds have won their last 4 matches, including one against the previously unbeaten league-leaders, and now only sit a couple of points away from a promotion spot.

The Vets and Men's 4ths continue to do a fantastic job of ensuring the club's social focus on hockey is preserved, and whilst the results may not have been quite as good as with some of the other teams, they are doing a great job of ensuring the club continues to make new friends in the hockey world.

Off the pitch, for those of you who read the "England Hockey News" magazine, you will hopefully have seen the Sils included in a feature article about Grass Roots clubs. The Sils continues to fly the flag for all of those non-elite clubs who provide the stepping stone to greater things for some, and a great sociable and enjoyable atmosphere to play hockey in for others. On this note, another thing you may well hear about in the next month or so, is a push to "brand" the club. Nick (Nobby) Oppenheimer, our in-house branding expert, has been asked by the President to come up with a branding message to deliver about what the Sils is truly about. If you have any thoughts on this, please do let me (or Nick, when he speaks to you) know.

There are various other very exciting things being discussed off the pitch as well, but they are still in their fledgling stage, so I cannot offer too much in the way of news right now, but hopefully by the next edition of Snapshot I will have some further details to share. Do remember to put a date in your diaries – 2nd April 2011 – for the end of Season Dinner. The President assures me this year will see a new approach to the dinner, and it is our aim to get the numbers of attendees up significantly on the last couple of years. Details as they are known will appear on the website, and more information will be included in the next edition of Snapshot as well.

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

If you have not paid by 31st January, your match fees will be going up to £10 per adult player, and £5 per junior.

Please get the membership form off the website, and contact Max Levenger (membership secretary) if you have any questions.



NOT ONE SINGLE PERSON has volunteered to get involved with Umpiring or supporting social events.

The club **NEEDS** your help – so **PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!**

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OSHC Juniors



Club Welfare Officer:

Steve Tabb

welfare@silshockey.co.uk

Sunday Mornings

10.30am – 12.00pm

Silhillians Sports Club



Juniors Co-ordinator:

Lucy Steele

lucysteele@live.com

Each edition, there will be specific articles dedicated to the Junior Section at the club – this will highlight upcoming events, remind people of Welfare Contacts, and identify what to expect from the Juniors in the next few weeks

Young Leaders

Are you interested in getting more involved in sport? Did you know that many schools and Universities look favourably upon people who have Young Leader qualifications? Most importantly, do you want to have some fun with your friends? Email Louise (The Course organiser) on Louise_Hirons@hotmail.co.uk if you would like more details about the Young Leader training due to be run at the club.

Junior Development Centres (JDCs)

.....have now finished. Congratulations to all who took part, and particularly those that have been invited for assessment for the next stage – the Junior Academy Centres; these are like the old County squads, and at most recent count, the Sils has around 5 of its juniors invited to attend.

Sunday Mornings

The Junior sessions continue to progress well, with matches now having been played in the mini-tournament format at Rugby, Stratford, Warwick, Hampton, and Sils. These fixtures will be replicated in the New Year and involve matches for U10, U12 and U14s. We also have the County minis to look forward to in the New Year – please put the 13th and 20th March in your diaries for the U10s and U12s respectively.

Badgers & Vixens

Aimed at providing 11-a-side hockey for primarily 10-13 year olds, playing alongside a couple of adults against other local clubs, we have the following dates pencilled in for matches, so please put them in your diary!

30th January – Badgers v Sutton (a) & Vixens v Nuneaton (a)

20th February – Vixens v Stratford (a); 13th March – Badgers v Rugby (h)

17th April – Badgers v Stratford (a); 8th May – Sils v Warwick (h)

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Jon Mayo

Jon joined the club around 2005, and was lured here by his godfather Alan Cave. The club has been extremely grateful to Alan for getting Jon here as he has become the defensive lynch-pin of the first team, Captains the Men's Summer League team, and has also been mad enough to run various long distances to help raise funds for the club.

He is currently the Men's 1st team Vice-Captain, and "fitness general" (oh, and proud father of 2!)

What would you attribute the First Team's success so far this season?

I have felt for several seasons that we weren't far off being an excellent team, we just needed a more professional attitude and one or two extra players to bolster the midfield and attack. With the arrival of our new coach we

have someone who is at the prime of their playing career and who can therefore not only tell us what to do but show us too and that's important. He also places a heavy emphasis on the correct preparation for games and, my personal favourite, fitness! Also of course the return of Andre and the recruitment of Jamie Glynn have filled those crucial midfield and offensive roles.

What are your thoughts about the potential merger with Hampton-in-Arden HC?

I think it could be extremely mutually advantageous. All clubs thrive financially by gaining extra members and thrive on the pitch by bringing players through the ranks so by joining a club with a very successful youth set up we should stand to gain in both ways. The only potential drawback is the club having to play on 2 different sites but I'm sure that after a while it would feel entirely normal and for me the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.

Having just suffered their first loss of the season, do you think the Men's 1st team are in danger of "choking"?

We have beaten some very good teams both home and away and assuming we can regain the poise we had before Christmas then we should also rediscover our winning ways! It shouldn't be seen as solely a First Team endeavour though - we need the support of the whole club to go on and win promotion and the best way of doing that is by coming to training! It's so far been really quite poorly attended and that limits what we can do. To get the best out of an enthusiastic coach we need as many people to come as possible.

New-Co – the next steps.....

The Hockey club has joined the list of attendees at the regular OSA management meetings.

At present, this is simply to have an input into the meetings without any formal commitment or positions held. However, in the not too distant future, this will change, and the club will need to get people involved in the new structure. If you would like to get involved in this exciting development please contact the Chairman at

Chairman@silshockey.co.uk

As a final word:

Happy New Year to you and all your families

Perhaps you could make a New Year's Resolution to either a) attend training, or b) use the website more????

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