

Men's Section report

It was a developmental season for all the Men's teams as they benefitted from a significant group of new players and in particular the emergence many young players who had made their way through the Club's Sunday Junior Section; a Section run so successfully under the guidance of Jason Dalby and Andre Tchakhotine.

These youngsters grew in stature through the season, supported by senior players in each side – players such as Men's 1st XI captain, Tom Harrison (a former England junior) and Jamie Clapham, Simon Russell and Shaun Bates in the 2nd XI, John Rice in the 3rd XI, James Gregory and Dave Higgins of the 4th XI and Ian Wilson, captain of the 5th XI. It is wonderful to see young teenagers making such huge strides in their hockey journey in all the teams. The results reflected their growing influence in their respective teams. It was not a season of promotions but adjustment and consolidation.

The 1st XI progressed in their skilled play through the season to finish comfortably in their league. For the 2nd XI it was more of a struggle as injuries played a significant part during the league season and the new players took time to integrate. It was about hardworking team performances. The 3rd XI built on a secure team foundation and progressed steadily in their league. The 4th and 5th teams play in the same league division. The young players in these teams profited from the guidance given and as the season progressed the improved results followed; the senior team finishing ahead of the junior side.

Thanks to all captains, to Nick Oppenheimer and Jon Cloke, joint Club Captains, for their support through the season, to the umpires, and to the Clubhouse staff.

The way ahead will see with more young players being mentored by the senior players making a greater contribution in what will be an unusual season in 2020/21.

Murray Creed
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