



Timperley Hockey Club Review of the season 2015/16

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BLUENOTES END OF SEASON REVIEW EDITION – APRIL 2016

2015-16 highlights

2016-17 has been a busy season on and off the pitch and the start of a new era for hockey at Timperley as we merged to form one section! As we look towards to our 130th season in 2016-17 we have much to be proud of, the foundations are in place to grow and develop, as well as many opportunities to improve, on and off the pitch and as teams and individuals.

Our first AGM, as a single section, will be on Saturday 23rd April when our Club Captains will share their reflections on the season. With 11 senior teams, 2 vets, 1 Mixed and 19 Under 18 teams there won't be time at the AGM to share individual reports. So we've introduced this special editions of BlueNotes to share the highlights from the seasons. This edition focuses mainly on our senior teams and the Academy will be producing their edition for the Academy Presentations Day on 15th May.

We are also delighted to have been shortlisted by England Hockey for three of its 2016 National Awards:

- Club of the Year
- Women's team of the year
- Club Umpire (Nick Burnett)

We will be attending the Awards Dinner on 21st May so fingers crossed for picking up an award. We entered the Awards to help raise our profile and help put Timperley on the Hockey Family Map. The social media coverage so far has really got our name out there and we hope that small steps like this will help us attract new players and make our current players feel proud of what we are doing. We don't get everything right but with everyone's help we know we have huge potential as a club – based on our facilities and our people.

We hope that everyone involved at the Club will take on the challenge to do one thing next season to help make a difference to how we're run and perform as a hockey club and achieve even more

SCORES ON THE DOORS!

We've played over 18,000 minutes of competitive hockey this season in over 220 league games and 35 Cup and EH games (U16 to Masters). As #OneClub we've scored 630 competitive goals - we'll not focus too much of the ones let in !

Overall League Performance Table

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
MEN								
M1	22	5	2	15	50	93	-43	17
M2	22	9	4	9	65	47	18	31
M3	22	10	5	7	57	52	5	35
M4	22	5	4	13	43	80	-37	19
M5	22	7	2	13	39	56	-17	23
LADIES								
L1	22	16	4	2	55	28	27	52
L2	22	14	1	7	55	34	21	43
L3	22	19	0	3	78	36	42	57
L4	22	7	2	13	50	80	-30	23
L5	22	9	5	8	50	49	1	32

Overall our most consistent team based on average league points per game was the Ladies 3's with 2.6 points and they were also our top scoring team with 78 league goals (average 3.5 per game). The Mens 2's topped the scoring as a team this season for the chaps !

League Average Points Table

Position	Team	Ave. Pts
1	L3	2.6
2	L1	2.4
3	L2	2
4	M3	1.6
5	L5	1.5
6	M2	1.4
7	M5	1
8	L4	1
9	M4	0.9
10	M1	0.8

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Season Highlights

- Ladies 1's North Womens Premier Division Champions & promoted to Investec Womens Hockey Womens League
- Ladies 3' Runners Up Cheshire Division 3 and promoted to Division 2
- Mens 1s & Ladies 1s Cheshire Cup Finalists - Ladies 1 Winners
- EH National honours for Ben Nicholson (U16), John Donnelly & Sarah Impey (Masters)
- Shortlisted for three EH National Awards
- 68 'home grown' Under 18s played senior hockey (41 girls/27 boys)
-and we successfully merged !

Ladies 1s

North Womens Premier Div.

We didn't get off to the best of starts losing 1 and drawing 3 of our first 4 games, but confidence could be taken from our dominance in the 3 draws and we knew that with a little bit of fine tuning and good fortune the hockey we were playing would soon see us picking up wins.

In the first half of the season a lot of grit and hard work saw us go into Christmas 5 points off the top spot but with 2 games on hand.

January was going to a difficult month. Two Sunday away trips to the lakes to play 3rd and 4th, an away trip to Doncaster the league leaders and two games against 2nd teams fighting for survival while their 1s were on their winter break, was somewhat on a major obstacle to our season.

After a successful first double header weekend the gap had closed to 2 points with a game in hand and then in mid January came the turning point to the season. Travelling to Doncaster only to find a rock hard pitch and no game was a frustration but perhaps a blessing in disguise as that game got switched to the end of the season. Then an impressive 3-0 victory over Durham Uni on Sat 23rd followed by a 2-1 win over 3rd place Kendal the day after, after being 1-0 down with 12 minutes to go to score a last minute winner, to take us top of the league for the first time.

The next weekend saw us to travel to Bowdon, and with 10 players starting who did not play in the first game of the season, including their New Zealand international, it was going to be a tough day. 1-0 down at half time we scored 2 quick goals and held out in the hail stone to achieve a well-earned victory with a 3rd goal in the last minute.



The run in was tense and looking likely to go to a winner takes all game at Doncaster on the last day. However with 4 weeks left they had a shock draw at relegation threatened Didsbury and we went 4 points clear. A very tense 0-0 at Neston as our 3rd to last game on the same day as Doncaster drew 1-1 at Leeds maintained our 4 point buffer, allowing us to beat Chester 6-1 on our

final home game and achieve promotion before the dreaded head to head with Doncaster. Mike Power (Coach)



Mens 1s

North Premier Division

A tough and long season for the 1s, with many ups and downs along the way (more downs, it must be said). Our biggest issue throughout the season seemed to be lack of availability, injuries and impact on selection - it was very rare we had our first choice squad out all together.

Before Christmas, results weren't great, and we were in trouble at the wrong end of the table. In the 3rd game of the season we found ourselves 3-0 down inside ten minutes to bottom of the table Gateshead, in a game we already knew we had to pick up maximum points from. Thankfully, we woke up and managed to turn things around to win 4-3 in what was a great comeback. Another comeback the week after away to Formby was the other pre-Christmas highlight, as we recovered from 5-2 down to salvage a point at 5-5. Off the pitch, the minibus back home from Whitley bay will live long in the memory for those on it. What happened on that bus, stayed on that bus... Apart from the contents of one or two players' stomachs!

A bad run Christmas put us in trouble, but after the festive break our performances (and some results) improved, with our home form proving crucial in picking up big wins against Bowdon, Uni of Durham and Whitley Bay to retain our place in the North Prem league for next season.



Good performances in the Cheshire Cup gave us a run to join the Ladies 1 on

finals day to lift the team spirits as a nice distraction from the league. With a squad with six Under 18 we picked up the Runners Up shield against Brooklands 1s who came into the game on the back finishing 5th in the National Premier league their highest ever finish. We did win the award for the best song with Stu 'Disco' Heywoods very own THC anthem 'Man and Ball'

Overall, an extremely tough (yet still enjoyable) season in more than one sense – on wards and upwards next season !.....Alex Morley, Club Captain

Ladies 2's

North – Division 2 (South West)

There was mixed expectation coming into this season with goals for other teams being of high importance to the future growth and strength of Timperley Hockey Club. Although this was the case for other teams, the 2XI prepared to start the season with positive results to avoid the relegation scrap that occurred towards the back end of last season. The return of experienced players and the introduction of younger new ones gave the team a strong and developing balance that would prove to be a positive strength as the season progressed.

Starting the season with 3 wins against new opposition and old, this was the exact start that was needed. 9 points from the first three games gave the 2XI nearly half of the points that were achieved in the entirety of last season. A slip up against a mental bogey team in Oldham prevented the 4 wins out of 4. With holidays, half term and supporting other teams within the club to achieve pre-set goals, one of the toughest decisions to make as a team was to travel to Bowdon away on the water with 11 players and no goalkeeper. Bowdon away can be a very tough place physically and also more mentally but with the addition of no goalkeeper this seemed a near impossible task! But..... team talks and individual talks from experienced players and the coach, a battling Woody as kicking back, strength and resolve in numbers showed how determined this set of players were to play for each other and also play for the badge on their chest over 70 minutes. Exhausted over the course of the game a 2-0 win against the odds was what was needed to push the points total to 12 out of 15 for the first 5 games. Narrow losses of 1-0 against Wilmslow and a 2-2 draw

against Deeside and an unlucky 3-1 loss against eventual league winners Alderley edge were not in the plan, but these were key games for all players to learn and develop from, especially the younger new players who had not played at this level before.

2 convincing wins followed scoring 11 goals and only conceding 1 and a confidence grew within the team leading up to the xmas break but then 2 losses followed against opposition of a lesser quality to Timperley. These losses only spurred on the team and the players and this was evident in the return leg of Deeside with a 2-1 win at home taking the points total 21 heading into the xmas break. The points picked up in the first half of the season was 2 more than the whole of last season and showed the development and determination of the players coming into this season.

The Xmas break was welcomed and the confidence and momentum from the Deeside game before Xmas was taken into 2016 with a run of 7 unbeaten games and picking up good wins against Wilmslow and also doing the double over local rivals Bowdon. 2 losses followed and on the final match day of the season a convincing 6-2 win against Prescott was what was needed to secure 3rd place in the league and a final points total of 43 more than doubling that of last season.

The development of the team and of individual players both young and old has been tremendous and the attitudes and commitment shown has been excellent too. The support shown from the 2XI this season for the 1st XI and 3rd XI has been tremendous and has contributed into promotions for both teams. The 2nd XI have been sandwiched between 2 teams pushing for promotion but has continued to develop and show the Timperley fight in games that has earned them a 3rd place position in the league.

Special mentions must go to all captains this season, Hannah Jefferies, Clair Herdman and Amy Cunningham who as always have been brilliant and enabled players to play and the team to move forward in the right direction. Thanks to all the players who have been available and have been drafted in at last minutes notice and for those who have moved between teams, without the flexibility and team attitude none of the above for

the 2nd XI would have been possible and certainly not in the cases of promotion for the 1st XI and 3rd XI

Thank you for all involved both players, parents, other halves and children... Thank you for a great season as a team and as a club, onwards and upwards into next season
Jamie Buxton Coach

Mens 2's

North West Div 3 (South)

Mens 2s finished a solid mid table. In the league we won 9, drew 4, lost 9. Lost 6 games by 1 goal, never lost by more than 2 goals. We also had a good EH plate run, made it to the ¼ finals, but unfortunately couldn't put a team out for a Sunday trip to Boots HC, Nottingham.

The main thing we focused on this season was the continuing development of the academy players. This season saw a core number of younger lads solidify their places in the 2s, with a number of them also making their 1st team debuts. Other academy players made debuts and were given the opportunity to experience playing at higher level and develop hopefully to regular places next season. Coaching from Rik Kenefick is building solid foundations and 2's should be proud of topping the mens team scoring league for the season.
Alex Morley, Club Captain

LADIES 3s

Cheshire Division 3

So, we've wanted to get the 3s promoted for a few seasons now and have kind of had that as a strategy but have never actually thought about how we ensure we achieve it. So this season it all felt a little bit different.... As a committee of Captains and coaches we met right after the end of last season to start setting a strategy for the season ahead and agreed a plan for how we were going to achieve it. The crux of that plan was to get the 3s promoted! Key changes were agreed to training and selection to support this and whilst understandably this wasn't always a popular plan it did prove to be successful.

We got off to a fantastic start with a convincing win against Wilmslow 2s who had just been relegated from the Division 2n, and who were then hot on our heels for the whole of the season. I think its fair to say that our hardest games of the season (and the most

unpleasant from my perspective) were against Timperley 4s who put up amazing fights under very difficult circumstances. Whilst we beat them in both legs both were very stressful games and I'm really pleased we don't have to play them next year.

We ended the season Runners Up and achieved our goal of promotion to Division 2, having won by won all but 3 games including twice to run away League Champions Rhyl 1's and one very strange loss to Northop Hall after the new year break ! That makes it sound a bit easy and quite honestly it really wasn't – as a club a huge number of sacrifices were made to support this achievement and this impacted individuals as well as the section in general.

Huge, huge thank you to Jamie for amazing support in selection and coaching and to all players for your support even when we had tough calls to make. We have so many people to be grateful for but need to mention Kieran for organising umpires every week and the whole selection Committee for sticking with the strategy and support of the 3s even when the going got tough. Jo Robinson, Captain

Mens 3's

North West Div 3 (South)

1st season in Div 3S following promotion, meaning that a top 5 finish was a really positive result.

Whilst a few youngsters continued to play regularly on the 3rd XI, due to selection policy of the 2's in particular the 3's became a bit of an "old man's team".

As Stu is relinquishing the captaincy, this seemed a good opportunity for him to pay thanks to all those that supported him over the past 4/5 years captaining the 3's. Its been a real pleasure to see so many of the young lads that have played for the 3's during that period now playing for the 2's and in some instances the 1's and we all think it is something that as a club we should be proud of, the way youngsters are encouraged and more importantly given the opportunities to play senior hockey earlier than they would in other clubs in the area.

Finally, a special thank you from Stu to all those individuals who have taken the time to umpire the 3's, a thankless task,

but please rest assured it is very much appreciated by us all. Alex Morley

Ladies 4s

Cheshire Division 3

We started the season hoping to build on the mixed fortunes we experienced last season. With a core of senior players we added to our skill set with some promising youth. A series of mixed results gave us some well-earned points by Christmas which we hoped would help avoid a bottom of the table fight towards the end of the season. Supporting the higher teams inevitably means the loss of important players sometimes and we experienced some negative results as a consequence. But the positive experience of playing so many youngsters was felt by the older players - young legs!

All in all we played nearly 4 dozen players, had some great wins, a day trip to Rhyl and made some great friendships. The 4th team table certainly provided entertainment at the dinner dance.....a fantastic end to the season.

Onwards and upwards for next season. Ruth Maddocks (Captain)

Mens 4's

Overall, a disappointing season with some real challenges in getting any sort of consistent side out. The low point was a crushing defeat at home to Alderley, whereas one of the highs was a narrow, backs to the wall defeat away to the same team. At times we played some great hockey and the aim for next season has to be to do that more often. Alex Morley, Club Captain

Ladies 5's

Cheshire Division 4

The start of the season on the 5ths / Development side is a learning curve all round ...

- Learning how to use Teamer – AND Respond
- Learning a new set of names (parents and U18s)
- Learning that someone's age does not define their skill levels
- Learning to keep track of forgotten match fees

The season started well – 3 Wins, then we went on run of Draws and Losses before the second half of the season with 6 wins from the 9 matches post Christmas including an 11-2 win against Wrexham 2s

High & low points of the season were:

- Oct 24th – Half term Saturday – about 38 players unavailable across the sides. We went to Oxton (who were top table) with 10 players, Lily Maddocks in goal, 4 U18s making their debut in senior hockey, 2 adults, 8 juniors, almost no umpire
 - We ended up losing 7 -0, having a Mens Northern Prem umpire (fantastic), great debuts and 10 players who played their hearts out – and we beat them at home!
 - Elysia – the best seller of the Bonus Ball in the Ladies section
 - Sinead Quigley playing in goal to help out for 5s or 4s
 - Long drives – Whitchurch, Wrexham
 - Not losing to Sale (a Win and a draw)
 - Rotating 33 players on a regular basis
 - An 11-2 win against Wrexham – we just kept scoring
 - Shelagh umpiring for us on her way to qualifying as a Level 1
 - Coming back each week to find that the 1s and 3s won and that the 2s were right up there – with or without a keeper!
- Overall Finished a very credible 5th. Helen Cue (Captain)

Mens 5's

The 5s had a real up-and-down season again this year, playing in a league that was incredibly competitive and taking it down to the wire to guarantee survival in a number of very tight games at the end of the season. Big high-points came when the club captain managed to fracture his finger, making him unavailable and leading to the team finally starting to win again!

Low-points included the same club captain managing to get two yellow cards in the space of 2 minutes, neither of them being his own fault, but taking the flak for the transgressions of other players on the team.

A lot of good points with some great performances from young players, showing once again that the future of the club is very bright indeed.

Mens 6's

The curse of the bottom team is getting the knock-on effects from problems further up the sides and that was very evident. We ended up playing only about half of our scheduled matches due to either ourselves or the opposition not being able to get a side together.

Some real positives - our more "experienced" players showing the younger lads how to do it, fantastic performances by some of the Badgers, and Academy parents giving hockey a go and helping the team out.

We are totally committed as a Club to running a Mens 6s team and its vital to a Club of our size and we will be focusing on recruitment over the summer – so please help spread the word to help us build a bigger squad of players. Alex Morley, Club Captain

Masters

Mens (O 50) and Ladies (O 45)

Our Masters got out there again this season entering the EH national competitions. Wins in the first game gave both men and women tough second games that sadly meant no trip to Lee Valley for the Finals this year !



We also continued to host our two successful Mens and Ladies vets tournaments which remain a great advert for promoting the spirit of what club hockey stands for !



Mixed

Restarting a mixed team was one of merger objectives and it was great to see Mixed Hockey being played again at the club. Two wins in the EH Cup was cursed by an away draw to Durham and whilst a good day was had by all sadly we were knocked out at the last 16 stage. Onwards for next year and more mixed hockey. Thanks to Wez and Sophie for getting the team organised.

Under18's

Boys and Girls EH Championships

The girls had another good run reaching the 1/4 finals of the EH Cup coached by Sophie Robinson and the Boys had

another short run in the Plate after a tough game in Round 1 verses City of York.

Under 16's

Boys and Girls EH Championships

The Girls probably had the most fun of any of our teams in the EH competition and showed how hockey can be fun even if you're not winning. The Boys, coached by Steve Bolton, made it to the Regional Finals and lost out narrowly on a National Final place to Leek.

REPRESENTATIVE HOCKEY

England

Ben Nicholson (Under 16)
Sarah Impey (Masters)

Wales

John Donnelly (Masters)

North Masters

Jo Nicholson
Stu Nicholson
Sarah Impey

North Under 21 Squad

Fiona Small
Annie Williams

Pennine Puma's (North)

Ben Nicholson (U16)
Ben Jones (U16)
Ben Entwisle (U15)

UK Lions (U14 touring team)

Ben Nicholson and Ben Entwisle

Lancashire

Leonie Molloy (Captain)

EH North West Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC)

Jack Entwisle
Annie Williams, Fiona Small, Ciara Bass,
Siobhan Driscoll

Congratulations also to all other academy players who represented Greater Manchester (JAC).

COACHES

Thanks to all our coaches and to Caroline Small whose been developing a coaching framework for next season that covers all ages / genders and we hope will help more people to get involved in coaching and playing

Ladies coaches: Mike Power; Jamie Buxton and Danny Higgin

Mens coaches: Duncan Rudge, Rick Kenefick and Ed Strope

UMPIRES

We took a big step this season and with the support of Kieran Jeffrey set up a signal approach to finding and allocating umpires to all senior games. Finding 13 umpires a week is no small feat and thanks to everyone who has umpired for us this season – often doing two games or playing and umpiring and travelling across multiple North West venues !

We also started to make headway on our umpire development pipeline co-ordinated by Nick Burnett. This work has been tough with lots of good intent and support but few making the step to blow the whistle. Nicks tenacity to stick with this and give time to coach and develop new umpires was used to nominate him for EH Club Umpire of the Year and we're delighted his grassroots contribution has been recognised as finalist.

Timperley @TimperleyHockey Feb 27
Umpire dev feedback in full flow from Nick Burnett! Well done to Jackie & Matt umpiring today #umpirepipeline



AWARDS

We presented a number of Awards at our 2016 Dinner and the Ladies presented their additional Awards at the AGM. Congratulations go to this seasons winners.

The Academy Awards will be presented on Sunday 15th May

MEN'S WINNERS

Who	What
Wes Wareham & Steve Bolton	1 st Team Player of the Season
Sam Small	Most Improved Player
Ben Nicholson	Young Player & England U16
Jenny Cup	3s
Top Scorer	Rick Axon
Club Man	Kieran Jeffrey

LADIES WINNERS

Team	Highest Goal Scorer	Most Player of Matches
1	Jay Mortimer	Kate Goalen
2	Sarah Impey	Ciara Bass
3	Jodie Jones	Alex Mulligan
4	Sue Emms	Zoe Murphy
5	Shelagh Entwisle	Susi Lacon

Award	Winner
Most improved young player	Siobhan Driscoll
Most improved senior	Amy Cunningham
Terry Horan Award (team of year)	Ladies 1s
Players Players	Sinead Quigley
Chairs Award (jointly with men)	Shelagh Entwisle

TSC VICE PRESIDENT

We are delighted that the Timperley Sports Club AGM voted to elect Dave Halkyard as one of the Club's Vice Presidents. Hockey nominated Dave for his unstinting service and contribution to hockey over many years.

And finally

Timperley @TimperleyHockey Feb 25
A big thank you to all our volunteers! We wouldn't exist without your time and efforts! #HockeyFamily @EnglandHockey

Behind every game, every team and every hockey ball that's hit sits a small army of volunteers who make it all happen and without whom hockey wouldn't happen.

Thank you to everyone whose made hockey happen at Timperley this season, especially all our captains, and all committee members.

Volunteers are not paid not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

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