



# NEWSLETTER

## MILTON KEYNES HOCKEY CLUB



## FACILITIES AND PLANNING UPDATE

Club members will be aware that we are experiencing challenges with the quality of the facilities at Woughton-on-the-Green. Addressing the many issues affecting how hockey is enjoyed on the site is the key priority for the committee.

The site was managed by One-Life on behalf on the council until September 2022. After a hiatus of 3 months, it was taken over by MKDonsSET in December 2022. MKDonsSET is a part of the MK Dons organisation whose role is to maintain the site as a multi-sport facility. This includes football, hockey, cricket and rounders. The site was left in a poor state, leaving MKDonsSET with a huge and very expensive task to get the facilities back to an acceptable standard.

Nick, Beth and Paul have had three meetings so far with MKDonsSET to discuss use of the clubhouse, state of the pitches and lights and car parking. The main priority for the hockey club is to get the floodlights fully operational. The biggest challenge is the lack of investment in the hardware over recent years which means that significant sums are needed to fix the problems. We are working closely with MKDonsSET to support them as they address this with the local council however we are not expecting a resolution until later in the year.

The provision of facilities and teas on a Saturday match day will be limited for the foreseeable future, with MKDonsSET having no plans to reopen the bar or kitchen. Teas will remain our responsibility for now - so please can members who stay for teas ensure that the food for the next team is set up and the facilities are left as we find them. All rubbish should be disposed of and the clubhouse left clean and tidy. (cont. on next page...)

The aim is to deliver a better provision on a Saturday but we need to bear with MKDonsSET as they make decisions on the future of the building. We are also facing the cost of all the facilities and providing teas increasing significantly due to the economic backdrop so need to consider this as we make decisions on how best to use the Club's resources.

A combination of under-investment in the facilities we use and the pandemic has left us facing some difficult challenges which need to be addressed if the Club is to meet its potential. The committee is now working on a 5 year transformation plan with a view to presenting it for feedback at the AGM in June. We will be looking for support and expertise from all members who are willing to help so let us know if you have ideas and/or time to offer. There will also be vacancies on the committee so if you feel passionate about helping make our Club great again get in touch with Nick.

## HOCKEY UPDATE

### **Ladies Section:**

A mixed season for the Ladies section so far. The 1s have been battling to stay in their division, managing to stay just above the relegation zone for now. This is in contrast with the 2s who are top of their league but only just! Every game will count for both teams so please show your support if you are around for a home game.

With just three league games left, the 3s are 6th in their division and hoping to build on recent good form to remain in the division for the next season.

Ladies 4s are unbeaten in their last four games and are currently in contention for promotion with just three league games remaining. They play league leaders Thame at Woughton on 4 March.

### **Mens Section:**

The mens 1s had a tricky start to the season, but so far in 2023 have put in some really encouraging performances against the top teams in the league, and over the next few weeks are looking to pick up additional points to keep climbing the league.

Hamstrung by availability issues, it's been a difficult season for the Mens 2s so far, although helped provide a great platform for youngsters Kyle, Mikael and Conor to progress through the club.

The Mens 3s, Samuri and Ronin have all had success in patches so far this season with all teams sitting comfortably mid table, and will all be looking to finish the season on a high over the next month.

### **Mixed 1XI:**

After an unlucky result in the first round of the cup, the Mixed 1XI are through to the L32 of the Plate after beating Berko & St Neots. A nice mixture of players from the L1&2 and M1&2 have helped the team get this far - let's see how far they can get! Special mention to Dan's finger - the team (and club) wish it a speedy recovery

### **Mixed 2XI:**

2022 saw MK Mixed 2XI enter a team into the inaugural Northampton Mixed "Phoenix" Sunday league. The first half of the season saw MK play a series of friendlies against Northampton based opposition, winning around half their games, scoring many goals and conceding just as many. Unfortunately, due to the weather and poor availability (from the opposition) many games were cancelled, but 2 game were played and MK maintained their 50% win-rate. With 3 games to go the mixed 2XI will continue to strive for their goal of absolute mediocrity.

### **Junior Section:**

Junior Hockey Training takes place every Sunday morning at WOTG. Well done to Alexa and Anushka who play in the MKHC Girls U14 who took part in the National Schools Finals in February, representing Bedford Modern School. We are proud that several of our Junior players have also been selected for Buckinghamshire Academy Centre Squads.

# GOAL REPAIRS AND STORAGE

The goals at WOTG have been undergoing repairs over recent months. A big thanks to Paul and Jace who have done this work in their own time.

Please can teams move the goals off the pitches at the end of training and matches to the edge of the pitches. Firstly, this will ensure they are not damaged by any other users of the facility. Secondly, MKDONSSet requires us to leave the grounds clear of our kit once we have finished our sessions.

# UMPIRING

Hockey could not be played without Umpires so a huge thanks to everyone who has blown a whistle at a club game over the season so far. If you are interested in qualifying as umpire, the course can be done online and will be funded by the club. Get in touch for more info.

## SUMMER HOCKEY

Who's looking forward to the warmer weather and some fun, mixed hockey?

We've had 12 teams so far confirmed for MK Summer League which is great - please let Alex know by the 24th of March if you'd like to enter a team. We'd love to see all the Summer League regulars and any new teams wanting to join.

Summer League is a fun, low pressure way for the club to bond during the off season and, as a bonus, provides some income for the club. So let's get as many people involved as we can! Everyone is welcome to play - if you don't currently have a team to play for, just let us know and we can sort you out. We'll be in touch with the confirmed team captains shortly to finalise league structures and dates

## CLUB KIT

A reminder that Club Kit is available via the website:

[CLUB KIT](#)

## AGM

The Club Annual General Meeting will take place on 15th June 2023.

## JOIN US FOR SOCIAL FUN! DATES FOR THE DIARY:

### All Bar One Saturday 18th March

Join us for drinks in central MK

### End of Season Awards Dinner Saturday

22nd April Windmill Hill Golf Club

TICKETS ON SALE NOW:

Early Bird Discount £39 before 19th March, £44 after this date.

**TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY 31st MARCH - numbers will be confirmed and can't be changed after this date.**

Buy your ticket by Bank Transfer to:

Milton Keynes Hockey Club

Account Number 01491607

Sort Code 30-15-53

With your name as a reference.

