

DEESIDE RAMBLERS

SEASON REVIEW
2022-2023

F R O M

THE CHAIRMAN

DEESIDE
RAMBLERS

*H*ello everyone and welcome to the review of the 2022-23 season. Whether you are a current player, former player, family member or friend of the club – it's always interesting to hear from the Club's captains and coaches on the highlights, lowlights and funny moments of another season at the Pigsty!

Let me start with an enormous thank you to Howard – our former Chairman from whom I have the privilege, and somewhat daunting responsibility, to carry the torch forward from this point. It's fair to say that if I manage even half of what Howard has achieved for the Club it will be a job well done. And Howard's wife Sue has no doubt shared a huge amount of that burden – whether helping out directly at the club or wondering where that husband of hers has got to again! Howard and Sue will still be around the club on a regular basis, but hopefully more able to socialise now and not worry so much about cleaning the pipes in the cellar.

I would also like to thank my team on the club's Executive Committee for easing me into the role. Much of what the team do is carried out behind the scenes, unwitnessed by the wider membership, with a huge amount of hard work, grit, and perseverance to get the club and our hundreds of members fit to carry on for many seasons to come. So always feel free (if you are old enough) to buy a beer as a small thank you for Beth Alvey, Dickie Wallis, Simon Stacpoole, Lucy Woodside, Anne Allwood, Steve Cheshire and Graham Allwood. And if you are too young to buy a beer – a "thank you" is always appreciated! We all owe a debt of gratitude to our President, Alison Cheshire, who stepped into the breach to act as temporary Chair in addition to her other responsibilities before a suitable victim volunteer could be found to take on the role permanently.

My last round of thank yous – we have huge support from a number of unsung volunteers – Dave Pinnington has almost single-handedly extended the life of our pitch because of the care he puts in on the astro and the whole grounds themselves. We have all enjoyed amazing support from Alison Hill and her husband, Malcolm, for match teas and overall care of the clubhouse – not many members know of the unsung army who helped redecorate the clubhouse and then gave up time over last Christmas break when there was a burst pipe to clean up. You all know who you are, and we are incredibly grateful. I'd like to say that there are too many others to thank for running teams, helping coach, collecting money, doing admin, umpiring, running the 200 club, organising social events – but on a more sombre point – there are never too many to thank.

If I can make a request of everyone – whether it's just a few hours doing the Sunday café one morning, helping a skipper with admin, or manning the bar for an afternoon, it's really important that we share the workload across as broad a base as possible. We do this well but can do even better. Clubs who fail in this regard often see workload increase to an intolerable level for a small group who can eventually buckle – even taking down a big and successful club like Slough in the 1990's. And if you are not sure how you can help – just ask one of the Exec – and no one needs to sign up for a ten year stint!

F R O M

THE CHAIRMAN

DEESIDE
RAMBLERS

A few words from me on hockey matters before I hand over to the experts. Last year feels to me like a good solid season – no one got relegated, a few teams had to work very hard to stay put in their leagues, and two teams won their leagues – with the Women's 4th XI achieving the stellar result of going a whole season winning every single game – to deservedly pip my own Men's 5th XI, in my opinion, to team of the season. The new league structure introduced two seasons ago did have some teething problems though these are starting to settle down. Helped by better engagement across the club with Pitchero and availability allowing us to select more settled teams while still looking to reward talent with advancement to higher teams. We still have some congestion, particularly in the Men's leagues with two Deeside teams in one league and another team in the league above and below – ideally we'd like to stretch these out with a few promotions over the next season or so.

As a club we have a big impact on North West, and often national, hockey. And that is not just whether we are holding our place in the National League or Regional Premier leagues across the Men's and Women's sections, whether producing a huge amount of talent in our junior ranks that often we have to, sadly, say good bye and good luck as they go out into the wider world and take the Deeside character to benefit other clubs and university teams. Or frankly just seeing the fits and giggles on the "tiddlies" quarter as they try to catch Matt Cocks at stick in the mud. We should all be proud of these achievements, the big things (sometimes done by little people), and the little things (sometimes done by much bigger people).

The Exec and I have some new ideas and approaches we'd like to try over the coming season. We aim to keep building on the strong foundations previous generations of Ramblers have left us while ensuring that we continue to go from strength to strength. We won't be able to please everyone all of time, but we hope that by engaging with members and listening to views on various hockey matters that we can continue to be a club of members, run by the members, for the members.

I hope you can all find the time to take in the Captain's stories in the pages that follow, not just for your own teams. And don't forget our request for volunteers!

Ramble on!

Brian



WOMEN



Similar to the previous year, our Ladies 1st XI got off to a strong start to the season taking them over mid-way through and being 2 points off the top, very much in contention for promotion.

Highlights include a rather enjoyable 4-0 victory away to local rivals Chester and being able to celebrate this at the Christmas Party.

We had a disappointing run of games through February and March, conceding more goals in 8 games than we had in all the first 13; but managed to get back on track to finish the year strong with some convincing wins away to University of Liverpool and Kendal.

Overall, it was another successful season – finishing in the top 3, one place higher than last as well as being able to looking ahead to next season with bringing in some juniors.

1st XI Player of the Season: Daniella Marques

Women's Overall Young Player of the Season: Freya Diamond

P22 W12 D4 L6 F43 A27 Pts40

Alice Pym



The Women's 2nd XI faced a new challenge in the form of the North West Women's Division 3 West, following promotion last season. This is always a tough ask with the usual year-on-year variation in the squad; 9 players from the promotion-winning team had either moved on or up! However, after a successful undefeated pre-season, we were ready for our new league.

We had mixed results throughout the first half of the season as our new squad settled in. We enjoyed excellent wins against Chester 3rds, Neston 2nds and University of Liverpool 2nds, together with a few very close matches from which we were unlucky not to come away with 3 points. In particular a very close 3-2 defeat against Winnington Park 1sts, the eventually league winners, who we really pushed until the final minute.

We were sitting in the bottom third of the league table at the Christmas break, however it was clear that the team were beginning to start to play well together, with our youngsters such as Ellie Stammers, Eliza Chesworth and Sophie Hornby really starting to settle into their roles in the 2nd team having moved up from the 3rd XI last year.

With the guidance of coach Paul, we really stepped up our performances in the second half of the season. Players continued to move with fluidity between the 1st and 2nd teams as the youngsters developed their skills, confidence, and tactical awareness at a rapid rate and so earned well-deserved games with the 1st XI. However, despite ongoing changes we enjoyed many fantastic wins, most notably against Chester 2nds who we played off the pitch and beat 3-0...which is always enjoyable!

We finished the season in a very respectable 4th place. Special mention goes to our 2nd team player of the Year, Eve Runciman, who throughout the season consistently held our defence together, putting in some match-saving tackles week-in and week-out! It was also fantastic to have some really committed experienced players who were able to provide a solid foundation each week for Paul and I to work with. It's not easy juggling family logistics and hockey, so Liz Cookson, Kate Rosser and Cara Payne - thank you!

I would also like to thank our coach, Paul, for his endless enthusiasm, motivation and time! Also Cara for making my life as captain as easy as it can be by being the spreadsheet expert and taking on all of the admin responsibilities!

Role on 2023-2024!

Sarah Quinlan



The Ladies 3rd XI has, historically, been a team of youngsters and this year has been no exception. With the average age hovering around 16 or less, we saw huge progression from individuals as the season developed. This talent was recognised by the teams above and we lost several key players to the 2nd XI (even 1st XI)! Well done girls!

Our core of 'more seasoned' players remained small but have been highly influential in keeping level heads and guiding the youngsters. Special mention has to go to Ruth 'No Sub' Fearnall for holding up the back and showing the young'uns a thing or two about stamina!

Our goal was to finish in the top half of the table; after a couple of painful losses (9-3 and *redacted*) to the promoted Whitchurch team, we missed that target by just a couple of places!

On to the next one!

Beth Fiddes & Zoe Lockley



After narrowly missing out on promotion last year by just 2 points, it was fantastic to finish this season top of the table, winning every game we played!

We are now looking forward to a more challenging season in 2023-2024 as we move up a division. Special mention must go to Caitlin for turning up and never complaining, despite being cold and bored for the majority of our matches!

Helen Thompson



Debuting with our first season in the league, the Women's 5th XI proved to be a strong side this year featuring a passionate and enthusiastic mix of players of all ages. The level of morale in this team is second to none, resulting in enjoyable league matches in which every player gives their all and has fun whilst doing so.

A special mention must go to the younger players – those who joined DRHC senior matches this year for the first time massively improved their game and will hopefully continue to work their way up through the ranks.

Spending the majority of the season at the top with Women's 4th XI, the fighting 5th team ended the season with a strong win and finished third in the league.

Our mission for next season: keep up the hard work and let's work towards our own promotion!

Jess Adie

MEN



2022-23 proved to be a season of 2 halves for the Men's 1st XI...

First half: P9 W0 D2 L7 2 Pts

Second half P9 W4 D1 L4 13 Pts

A big thanks to all the players that helped us maintain our EHL Division 1 North status. Never a cross word all season:

- o International recruits looking for goals: and still looking (BK & FT)
- o Man seen carrying a pear tree in A&E (NP)
- o Top defender injured after an incident with a shopping trolley (AL)
- o Thieves make off with club kit (R & A)
- o Player of the Season bribes scandal (AB)
- o Youngster deserves one on the back (PT)
- o Follically-challenged forward unable to stand (NW)
- o The best place for him is on a bonfire? (JG)
- o He's indahouse (AG)

- o Not a magistrate, but not far off (JP)
- o Selection made on merit – nepotism ruled out (TF & FC)
- o A flattened appendage on a cetacean (FL)
- o A minor, or not to be (TM)
- o Has aspirations for 'the number of the beast' less 659 (HP)
- o A timelord? (DM)
- o Can't play home games but can go to Durham! (HDM)
- o Made more goalline saves than the rest of the team put together (OB)
- o Cup winner when he's walking (LDL)
- o Bootstrap only manages one game (WT)
- o NFW (RW)
- o Big mate of Ryan Reynolds (RH)
- o A late addition – decked out with boughs of holly (CH)
- o Named after a popular Japanese adventure series from the '70s (GA)

Jon Marshall



The 2nd XI enjoyed a very productive season with over 25 different players being utilised, from talented young future stars to the golden older generation who just about still have it! There were plenty of highlights this year as the team finished a very respectable 7th, mainly competing against 1st team opposition. One such highlight was the journey on the team bus away to Keswick, when we finally convinced the driver to let us buy and drink beers after we told him we'd won 5-0.

Matt Cocks put in the most appearances (20), and is someone who deserves enormous thanks for his coaching and continuous help in developing us all on the pitch! Second to that is Harry Dodd-Moore (19) who has been a great captain and brings so much to the team that the players really respond to him. The season's top goalscorer was centre-back Bart Ryan-Beswick, who finished the campaign with 13 goals under his belt.

We must also thank Mark Goodyer who has been managing the team all season, having to control a bench full of prima donnas wanting to get on the pitch! We have played some very good hockey this season...away at Wilmslow with the bare 11 players, for example, where we showed Deeside fight to come away with a well-deserved 1-1 draw. These types of matches, where determination and the want to win amongst a brilliant group of players are what make the game so enjoyable. We look forward to another season pushing for a top 4 finish!

Bart Ryan-Beswick



The 2022-2023 season was a successful one for the 3rd XI. Our goal at the start of the season was to build upon the development we had started in the previous season which resulted in us finishing 3rd in the league.

This year we faced some tough competition from other teams in the league. This included teams that were physically stronger than us and teams that had more experience. But the team showed time and time again that having faith in each other's ability and mental toughness we could stay focused and confident under pressure, no matter what the score we had the ability to bounce back from setbacks and to never give up. Yes, there were times we 'should' have won and times that the whistle didn't go our way, but no matter what we always played with a smile on our face and had a joke after the game.

One of the most important aspects of the season was the development of the youth. We had several young players who made significant contributions to the team, and they all showed a lot of promise. A lot of the players are half the size (and age!) of a lot of the opponents we played this year and showed that they not only deserved to be there but outperformed them each and every week. The management agree that it was a joy to coach and play this year and are confident that they will continue to develop and become key members of the club in the years to come.

Everyone looking forward to the 2023-2024 season. We have a strong team returning, and we are excited to see what we can achieve. We are also confident that the young players who developed this season will continue to improve and make an impact on the team.

Achievements -

Geoff Price - top scorer with 17 goals,
 Jack Nash - Junior Player of the Year (before leaving us for the 2's 😊)
 Connor Lawler - D' of the Season for his many, many votes
 Barnaby Wallis - Player of the Season, thoroughly deserved for his efforts each and every week.

Thank you to all of the players, coaches, and parents for their hard work and dedication this season.

3rd XI Management



The Men's 4th XI enjoyed a mixed season, with a number of good performances where we weren't quite able to score the winner, or earn the draw...6 draws was the most in the league, and a -15 goal difference suggests we were a goal or two short most weeks. However, we finished comfortably above relegation in 7th place, so we can work on putting the ball in the net more next season!

While we seemed to have more players available this season than last, we struggled to find the balance of youth and experience. That said, all the youngsters made great contributions to the team effort, with honourable mentions to Francis Unett, Hugh Houghton, James Hall, Ben Pold, Aiden Coopman, Oliver Kinder, Harry Foulkes and Will Mason. Big thanks also to the senior players including Nathan Moss, Guy Harland, Steve Williams, Pete Lawlor, Leigh Wakefield and (Get Out Of Jail Free card) Oliver Unett.

Thanks once again to Marcus Williams for getting us to Saturday with enough players and umpires to have a game, and to the umpires and others behind the scenes that allow us to have our fun!

Nick Cook



From the pit of despair in losing 19 out of 22 games, drawing 2 and winning 1 last season – we have now ascended to the top of Mount Olympus! Played 20, won 16, drew 3 and lost only 1. We finished 6 pts clear at the top with a goal difference of +65. The squad was much more settled than last year, when we seemed to change most of the team almost every week. That stability proved beneficial to the younger players to find their feet in men's hockey. We used around 24 players throughout the season and, as victims of our own success, had to wish farewell to 4 of the younger ones halfway through to support the 4th XI – but they were ready...I suggest they were forged in the fiery cauldron of the Men's 5th XI! Nonetheless, despite our best efforts, we couldn't stop winning games and soon abandoned our short-term target to stay in this league, where learning and development opportunities for youngsters (and breathers for oldies) are more common. We approach next season with a certain amount of trepidation given the disparity in playing ability between the 2 leagues – but with a more settled squad and a few younger oldies coming back out of retirement it will be a challenge, but again, we hope to create the right development environment for the next crop of youngsters.

A last few words of thanks to supportive parents who understand that development hockey is about rotating between teams (5's & 6's), to Steve Lawlor and Marcus Williams for being helpful when selection and availability became challenging, and to the stalwarts of the oldie brigade who give so much of their time and effort to pass on the love of hockey to the new generation of Men's players.

Brian Tenner



It's been another successful season for the Men's 6th XI, achieving the ambition of finishing mid-table of 7th out of 12 teams. Before we look back on it, I need to say a big thank you to Jeff Clarke, who has been the captain for a while and ran the team fantastically; Jeff has decided to step down this season and hand the reins to me.

We found ourselves in the same league as the Men's 5th XI so had two grudge matches to look forward to. The first of them was a bit of a non-starter being that it was just the second game of the season - starting without a keeper for the first 15 minutes meant the 5th XI were leading very early on, and eventually they won 10-3. The second game pitted the youths against the oldies. We held out until the second half, always looking dangerous on the counterattack with Mike Verity galloping down the wing, unfortunately eventually losing 2-1; a vast improvement on the first match.

We have had over 40 players play for the 6's this season, of which there are far too many to mention individually, though firstly I do need to call out some stand-out performances of the core team...

Mitch Clarke, although very loud on the pitch, has been a stalwart in front of the defence and his distribution of the ball has been first-class. Rob Cooke has been fantastic up front, and Dougie Kinnear and Peter Lawlor have always looked dangerous in the D.

Secondly, I also need to mention Steve and Dan Thompson, Rupert Gill and Jamie Phillips for playing week in, week out.

Mike Cope, Steve Cheshire and Mike Verity returned to the team towards the end of the season, and all helped to secure good results against the teams at the top of the table.

That's a wrap for another year!

Thank you to all the players and teams, and to everyone behind the scenes that help the club run the way that it does.

Steve Lawlor



What can we say about the Men's 7th XI this season?

It's proved to be a disjointed year, with one team dropping out of the league and another fielding a development side that wasn't able to complete all the fixtures, meaning many a weekend with no game to play. However, it was still a successful season for the 7th XI, and the team enjoyed some good victories against Wilmslow and Northern 2's, as well as a hard-fought draw against Alderley Edge.

We've been fortunate to have had a wide selection of players to choose from this season (too many to mention!) though there have been a few particular stand-out performances that should be highlighted...

Ed and Geoff Riley played continuously, combining with Dave Siddorn to complete the solid defence that was needed all season. Paul and Harry Hudson, Hector Walsh, Dave Pinnington (AKA Psycho) and Andy Cook also played every week! Thank you to Will Wesson for keeping the scores low with some tremendous goalkeeping all season. Finally, I want to say a special thank you to Tom Mclean who has had to step down as captain this season, passing the baton on to myself. He has been a fantastic captain and I hope he can continue to play for the 7's next year.

James Lawlor

WOMEN'S OVER 45s

We met Alderley Edge in the 1st Round of the championship, a team who are always geared up to win it, and unfortunately they proved too strong for us, winning the match 7-1. So into the plate competition we went, a place where we are happy. One match was postponed for bad weather - we played Aire Valley in a well-played competitive game, sadly letting them slot one solitary goal past us and we weren't able to come back. Post-match teas were sociable, and ultimately, everyone enjoyed a fun afternoon.

Rachel Crocker

MIXED NW500

The North West 500 is, essentially, a summer league for veterans, where the total age of the outfielders has to add up to at least 500!

14 teams from across the North West competed, split into 2 leagues - north and south. Last year the competition ran for the first time. Originally, we played with a group of players from the 'Overs' teams, but this year decided to open the door to all vets. Several players joined in from the Tuesday morning 'Back To Hockey' and 'Walking hockey' sessions. We had a great mix. We played 7 matches home and away, winning one, and drawing two. We didn't make it to the final where the north and south leagues play off, but everyone who played thoroughly enjoyed the matches and the socials that followed.

A big thank you to all the umpires, especially Dave Pinnington, who stepped off the field to take charge.

Rachel Crocker



After a highly promising return to the England Hockey Men's O50 competition the previous year, Deeside entered once again with high hopes of improvement and progress.

This feeling of optimism was enhanced significantly after we were drawn against Bowdon in the first round, and we were pleased to welcome back our squad from the previous year, with the significant boost of the availability of Dave Cheshire, together with the emergence into the 50's bubble of Lee Wakefield. Bowdon did not field some of the expected players, including our own former Ramblers Mark Jones and Phil Brown, but nevertheless offered a decent challenge. However, Deeside made light work and Bowdon were dispatched by the impressive score of 5-1.

This of course meant that Deeside now advanced into the Main Cup competition proper, whilst Bowdon entered the Plate/Tier 2 Competition.

Our optimism was enhanced with the 2nd Round draw granting us a generous bye, before the 3rd Round draw threw up a potentially mouth-watering tie at home to Alderley Edge, the previous year's Plate Winners, so we knew we faced a challenge ahead. The scheduled Round 3 game fell foul of the weather for the second year running, so for the first time in many years, Deeside were still in the EH Cup competition at Christmas!

Following his recovery from a broken hand (suffered whilst playing for Wales in the World Cup), we were delighted to recall Mark Ritchie to our defence for the rescheduled fixture in mid-January and arrived at the game in confident mood.

However, such positive conviction proved mis-placed, and after 10 minutes was completely shattered, as we prised the ball out of our net for the third time. The look of confusion on the pitch matched that of our opponents when they were asked what team they played for, on arrival at the club hours earlier. Sadly, despite a valiant effort and a much-improved second half, we departed the competition to a vastly superior team, by a lot of goals to not very much at all. Our opponents proceeded to beat two of the three most recent winners in the following rounds also by a lot of goals, only to fall to Reading, a genuine National Premier League club, in the semi-finals.

I must place on record my thanks to everyone for their efforts on the pitch, the understanding of those who didn't make the team but supported us nevertheless, and for those who assisted behind the scenes, whether umpiring, clearing the pitch, draining the clubhouse to allow hockey to resume after the Christmas flood, and for preparing our delicious food. Dave Pinnington, Howard, Jack, Alison and Malcolm Hill and Dave Jones along with any I have erroneously omitted.

Miles Lewis

JUNIORS

SUNDAY JUNIORS

We welcomed over 100 individual players to Sunday morning training and match play this year – with an average training attendance of around 50 and match play increased on last year to around 30 as we opened it up to the more gung-ho and confident Year 2s. Small-sided games are a key development experience for junior players, and one that they very much seem to enjoy – they seem almost genetically-programmed to compete and this was borne out in their clear appetite for tackling and goalscoring.

A whole host of coaches make it all possible (too many to name) and a number are now graduating to Beavers and Badgers as their own kids move through the club age ranks. Special thanks to Robin Newberry who took a major task off my hands in managing the check-in and money collecting – come rain, hail, snow or sunshine. We also had a very welcome large cohort of Duke of Edinburgh helpers this year; they are invaluable in supporting the adult coaches, and the junior players really relate to them. It's a great way to give something back and to learn new skills, so I'm hoping to see many of the DoE's returning next year and a new crop joining the fold. I'd also like to thank those parents who were able to volunteer a little bit of time – whether it was in the café and at the various mini-tournaments at different clubs. The Sunday Morning Café WhatsApp group is a godsend and long may it continue. Again, special thanks to Nicola Couch who is now passing the organiser baton having run it for the last 4 or 5 years.

As I said last year, Deeside is known throughout the North West for being a friendly and family-oriented club in which children can make friends, grow in confidence, develop team skills, learn a bit about hockey, and enjoy the benefits of healthy exercise. And it's all only possible because of the commitment and support of our coaches and parents, so I would encourage everyone to figure out how you can support Sunday juniors – and if that means chatting over hot coffee when it's cold outside and serving the occasional fairy bun in the café – then work away! And a message to the dads – everyone who does the café recommends it, so don't be shy, and put on a metaphorical pinny!

A last note from me – I'm now hanging up my Sunday boots and passing the baton to Matt Cocks who I know will do a great job carrying on and improving our Sunday Juniors offering of hockey. As most of you know, I'm still around as club Chairman and 5th XI Captain (not sure how much longer I will deserve that honour, but we shall see). Over the last 14 years I've watched my second son Patrick grow from the scared 4 year-old who wouldn't let go of my leg to the Men's Club Player of the Season and M1's Player of the Season. I look back fondly on those 14 years of helping out at junior hockey, being in charge for the last 6 or so – it has been immensely rewarding.

Brian Tenner

U8

The U8s enjoyed a fantastic season. Lots of fun was had, and all the youngsters made great progression in the development of their skills and match play. It was amazing to see the young players working as a team so well during training and match play sessions both amongst themselves and against local teams. Well done everyone!!

Phil Coney

BEAVERS

The Beavers have had yet another fantastic season; the level of commitment has been excellent, with an average of 50 kids attending training on a weekly basis in all sorts of weather conditions. Nearly every Saturday we have been able to field 2 teams.

This year the North West Consortium made the decision to make things more equal in terms of oppositions and split the leagues into 2 abilities;

Beavers – aimed at the more experienced Beaver aged players
Otters – aimed at those who are new to hockey and new to 11 aside games.

I have felt this has been a great success because each week we have had great consistency in turnouts of players which has given the players game-time and allowed them to gel together as a team. The standard of hockey has continued to develop and improve week-on-week which couldn't be done without the expert coaching skills of Ali, and more recently, Beth. It is so rewarding to see the culmination of the skills developed in training come through into matches.

Across both Beavers and Otters we have played around 31 fixtures – W20, L7, D4, scoring a whopping 108 goals and conceding just 63. Fulfilling the fixtures this year has been so much easier thanks to the support and willingness of more parent volunteers to either manage teams, umpire matches or provide refreshments.

In2Hockey Competitions

Our U12 Boys and Girls competed in the County In2Hockey tournaments. The Boys gave solid performances in the group stages and were unlucky not to progress through to the NW Finals. The Girls' squad enjoyed a clean sweep in their pool games, in which they scored a whopping 27 goals, conceding only 2. In the semi-finals they drew 1-1 with Brooklands which took it to penalty flicks. Our amazing goalkeeper Anna Birkett-Evans (who has only recently taken up the position) saved the day and we went on to face Chester in the Final, where we were unlucky to lose 1-0. However, we still qualify for the NW Regionals which are due to take place on the 23rd April so we wish them well in that competition.

The squad comprises Anna Birkett-Evans, Amy Innes, Lucy Innes, Lollie Arkle, Maisy Parker, Hannah Couch, Amelia Ruddick, Amelie Hartley, Luba Hall, and Izzy Stammers. Well done to all involved.

Finally I would like to say a huge thank you to you parents – without you committing your child to play each week and transporting them back and forth to training and to matches all over the north west, we wouldn't have the players we have today.

Most committed/played most matches –
Beavers – Thomas Rawlings, Angus Leonard, Sol C, Lexi Pattinson & Annie Williams & Izzy Stammers.
Otters – Joe Briggs-Harris, Noah Rogers, Samuel Scott.

Most improved Beaver – Izzy Stammers, Hannah Couch, Luba Hall.
Most improved Otters – Otto Masaloma, Sophie Montgomery, Isabella Holdcroft.

Thank you.

Nicky Stammers

BADGERS

For me, there are two forms of success for any youth team:

- Winning games/Scoring Goals
- Developing players and helping them move up the club.

Needless to say, the Badgers have had great success in both this year. We played 16 games, won 14 of them, drew 1 and provided the opposition with 2 of our best players for the game we lost! We scored 96 goals and only conceded 12.

This was achieved whilst moving 5 players from Badgers to Mens throughout the year – Jasper Tang, Teddy Rothwell, Ieuan Morris, Sam Mason and Robbie Honeyset – and bringing new players up from Beavers – George Davis, Izzy Adams and Thomas Sinclair.

The rest of the squad consisted of Eben Fitton, Owen Prigg, Miles Henry, Seb Cawthorne, George Connolly, Arlo Curran, James, Cook, Louis Hardstaff, Braeden Mackenzie, Gus Jones, Gus Bramhall, Josh Hornby, Conor Hartley, Thomas Rimmer, and Nathan Thompson.

I have really enjoyed seeing the friendships develop, and the associated banter; a testament to the commitment of players (and parents) regularly attending training and matches despite all the other activities available to them. A special shout out to Braedon who played in all the games this season and attended almost every training session.

A huge thanks to Ali for running the training sessions which focussed on playing as a team as well as on individual skills. It was fantastic to see the team apply these lessons every week leading to the amazing results achieved this season.

I would also like to call out Mike Hartley, Nick Cook and Russ Hornby, along with Will Mason for helping with umpiring / running the team, and all the parents for supporting on the sideline and helping with teas – Badgers wouldn't have happened without you :-)

Ed Cawthorne

U18

We managed to scratch a squad together for the opening game of the campaign against Timperley at their shop. The great news of having Juniors in the Men's 1st XI squad also leads to the bad news that they are usually not available for Sunday games! Nonetheless it was a well-fought match in which converting opportunities to goals was the dividing line between the teams. Timperley came out 4-0 winners.

Moving swiftly on to the Plate competition, we caught a break and drew Telford & Wrekin at home on the same day that the Men's 1st XI were at home, which meant with permission from the Men's coach Robbie gratefully received, we were able to call up 4 boys for back-to-back games. After the first half I was not sure this was a good idea as we went in all square at the break. A few well-chosen words at half-time along with a few positional changes and a different team appeared to take the field for the second half. Goals started rattling in and we emerged triumphant with 5 goals to Telford's 1.

The hockey gods obviously felt we only deserve done break all season and our next match was drawn against Leeds away on a Sunday that again saw the Men's 1's drawn in action a long way from Leeds so a quick transfer was not an option. Negotiations with Leeds to move to an alternative date were unsuccessful. With some other boys not available for various reasons, in the end we could not raise and team and conceded the fixture.

Thanks to all the parents for support and my lovely assistant Tomo! It's always a bitter sweet season with the U18's as for many it will be their last game for Deeside for a number of years as they head off to pastures new. Hopefully friendships made to last and they will come home again soon – even if just for the holidays and Boxing Day hockey! Thank you, it's been fun.

Brian Tenner



DEESIDE
RAMBLERS



DEESIDE
RAMBLERS



MANY THANKS TO OUR
SPONSORS

DEESIDE
RAMBLERS



RAMBLERS

23

DEESIDE RAMBLERS HOCKEY CLUB
GARDENHURST ESTATE, WHITCHURCH ROAD, TIVERTON, CHESHIRE CW6 9NA

www.drhc.co.uk