



ASHFORD HOCKEY CLUB

Red & Black Newsletter - Xmas 2015



President's Chatter

First of all an apology for not publishing a preseason Newsletter, due to the main contributors (Luvvy & myself) being far too busy with other AHC jobs & matters. However, to recap, the Ladies ran their two summer leagues as normal, with Staines A beating AHC A in the A final, & BA Hayes defeating Gymkhana in the B one. The men just played A & B standard round robin events with the B team winning the 3 games they played. Peter Cottrell and his crew ran some Sunday morning colts training as well during the summer. Unfortunately as published in the last Newsletter in June, we are still looking for a **Men's Fixture Secretary** and a **Club Recruitment Officer**. Both are vital roles and Luvvy has done over and above her AHC duties to help the men with fixtures, so come on gentlemen please, can one of you help out the section and the Club. Most of the duties are done on-line now and no previous experience is needed. Likewise we are looking for new ideas and ways of recruiting players of all ages, gender and abilities, but especially for the men's senior sides. Please step forward if you think you can help in anyway and contact your Club Captain or myself for further information. The first half of the season seems to have flown by and the full playing records for the senior sides are shown in the table at the end of the Newsletter. The Ladies sides are all doing well, with the 2's chasing promotion and the 1's holding their own back in the Premier league, whilst the ever improving 3's are going strong too. The men's 1's are showing that they really are too good for MBBO leagues, but the 2's are battling in their division. However, the 3's are flying and are in 4th place, whilst the 4's struggle on in their friendly Thames Valley league games. The junior sides have struggled some weeks and scored some great wins on others. Several older colts are also progressing well into and up the senior Saturday sides, so the system is working and is essential to the Club's future. However, more players, coaches, umpires and helpers are also needed for the Tuesday and Thursdays early evening sessions and on Sunday mornings.

Moving onto A(SL)S matters, repairs to the boards around the base of the astro fences were undertaken during the summer (thanks to David Lawton and Ian Bothwell) and we would ask all players not to hit balls against the boards for practice, but use the goals or the railways sleepers either side of the pitch goals please, as the ordinary boards only get cracked and damaged by such use. Could we please also ask members to use the far end of the pitch for training and match warm up when they can, rather than the 'lazy end' by the Clubhouse, as the pile on the astro turf gets far too much wear and tear at that end if it is used constantly - thank you all. The trees along the far side of the astro were trimmed and many repair jobs within the Clubhouse and painting tasks (thanks for doing the dug outs Bod) have been completed. The grants sub-committee have now applied for two grants for the much needed refurbishment of the floodlights, and AHC has funded the two new towers on the Clubhouse side by the hard player area, which are now installed and working. Function room bookings and takings are still good, and help from both ACC and AHC members is still very much needed for general tasks as well as specific skills to reduce costs and maintain standards. In addition, we would ask you to help by saving energy where possible e.g. closing external doors or switching off lights (including Floodlights) and helping with the voluntary bar rota when you can - don't forget you get £5 off your annual dinner ticket if you cover 2 shifts or more. At last the repairs to the car park have been completed by the pipeline company, and some replacement trees have been planted recently alongside Short Lane, which hopefully will grow in the spring. Although we were very sad to hear that long time friend and tea provider Rosemary Alder had decided to hang up her apron this season, we all wish her well in retirement and thank her very much for her years of service and friendship. Come back and see us soon Rosemary. However, I'm sure you that you are all very pleased with her replacement David Hanks though, whom we appointed in September and is doing a sterling job to date. A(SL)S has recently purchased a defibrillator, which will be located in the Function room, once the planned, free training sessions (open to all) have taken place. Hopefully we won't need to use it, but better to be prepared! Finally, may I wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY, HEALTHY 2016 let's make it a good one for the mighty Red & Blacks.

AHC Committee Members for this Season

President	Lynne Morgan
Chairperson	Ian Jenkins
Hon Secretary	Sue Westlake
Treasurer	Wendy Baker
Asst Treasurer	Doreen Brown
Men's Club Captain	Joe Lewis
Ladies Club Captain	Victoria Chudleigh (Freddie)
Colts Manager	Peter Cottrell
Men's Fixtures Sec	Tracey Holland - URGENTLY Need a volunteer to take over!!
Ladies Fixtures Sec	Tracey Holland
Press Officer/Webmaster	Elliot Smith
Entertainments	Abi Frith
Recruitment Officer	URGENTLY Need a volunteer

Coordinators

ASC Representative	Victoria Chudleigh
Men's Disciplinary Officer	Joe Lewis
Ladies' Disciplinary Officer	Victoria Chudleigh
Coaching Co-ordinator	Peter Cottrell
Umpiring Co-ordinator	Tracey Holland
Grounds Co-ordinator	Lynne Morgan
Men's Membership Secretary	Elliot Smith
Ladies' Membership Secretary	Tracey Holland
Sponsorship	Elliot Smith

******* SUBSCRIPTIONS *******

Subscription rates for this season are shown below. **Payments should be made directly to Santander, to Account No.: 79295702 Sort code: 090155.** Members can also pay by cheque or cash, but any member who does not pay something before the start of November 2015 will not be considered for selection until their subs are paid. The rates are:

Senior playing member 12 payments of £31 = £372
(Over 18 years at 1.10.15 and in employment)

Senior playing member 12 payments of £18 = £216
(Over 18 years at 1.10.15 and unemployed, student etc.)

Juniors who play senior hockey 12 payments of £13 = £156
(Under 18 years at 1.10.15)

For a second child 12 payments of £10 = £120

Juniors who play Junior hockey only 12 payments of £6 = £72
(Under 18 years at 01.10.15)

Non-playing Member £30

A form for any members who would like to start paying their subscription by standing order is available on the Notice Board and on the AHC Website. Please contact Wendy Baker treasurer@ashfordhockeyclub.co.uk or Doreen Brown to pay your subs by any means or for further details. **Please remember that your subs cover all matches (winter & summer) as well as training & coaching, there are no MATCH FEES to pay, so the more you play and/or train, the cheaper your hockey will be.**

****ALL PLAYING MEMBERS SHOULD BY NOW BE PAYING THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS!!****

AHC Website, Twitter and Face book

Are you aware we have a club website www.ashfordhockey.club.co.uk where you will find some match reports and all the latest news about our super hockey Club. We also have an AHC Facebook Group & Facebook Page so if you go onto Facebook find AHC & press the 'like' button on the page then you will get the updates feeding through to your news feed.

We are also on Twitter **@ashfordhockey** so tweet us your news.

Sponsorship

We are looking for sponsorship for kit, fixture cards, the website, pitch banners and/or equipment of any sort, so if you think you or your Company can help please let one of the Committee know. Thanks.

Hiring Club Facilities

For those of you who don't know A(SL)S hires out the astroturf, hard play area, field, cricket pitches, board and Function rooms so if you know anybody that needs to hire a pitch or room why not recommend Short Lane site. Details are available on the A(SL)S website: www.ashfordsportsclub.com or AHC one www.ashfordhockeyclub.co.uk/welcome-to-ahford-hockey-club/astro-turf-pitch-and-function-room-hire/ Catering can be provided on request.

Security

Please may we remind everyone not to leave valuables in your car or in the changing rooms. A secure storage unit is available for use behind the bar and please keep your valuables with you when watching or in the team dug out whilst playing or training. Also be alert and report anything unusual, especially in the car park areas to the bar staff.

Club Kit available to buy

AHC training kit, including hoodies, zoodies, rain jackets, bench coats, fleeces, tracksuit trousers, beanie hats, skorts and shorts in senior and junior sizes can now be purchased on-line from the Pro shop, website on www.proshopsport.com e.mail; sales@proshopsport.com or phone 0208 568 9929. The Club badge is shown in full colour on the website pictures, but it will just be red stitching on a black background on the actual items purchased. Pictures of some of the items are shown on the Club website <http://www.ashfordhockeyclub.co.uk/> and on the notice board.

Club socks £9 per pair (Small, medium, large & extra large) and Ladies league shirts £23 (extra large only), are still available from Lynne Morgan. Peter Cottrell has a supply of junior shirts and some Men's league shirts.

Happy shopping and hopefully you will wear your AHC kit with pride

Astro Draw Fund Winners

For those of you who haven't joined our astro pitch fund raising draw as yet, the tickets cost £12 per ticket/per year and monetary prizes are drawn for each month from October through to April inclusive. You can pay by cheque, cash or standing order and if you would like to join the draw (or increase the number of tickets you already have), application forms are available on the Notice board and the AHC website. Help the Club and maybe yourself by joining today. The winners so far this season are:

October - £100 Elliott Smith, £50 Dave Brant, £50 Gill Waite

November - £100 Val Baldwin, £50 Ian (Sherpa) Jenkins, £50 Gordon Smith

December - To be drawn on Saturday 19th December 2015!!!!

FUNDRAISING MADE EASY

*Santa time is coming up and so I thought it was a good time to highlight that AHC has a partnership with **Easyfundraising** that enables you to raise money for the Club while you shop online. It doesn't cost anything and takes only a moment or two to set up. At present we have 9 members involved (The Cricket Club have a lot more & have raised over £800), and it is very simple once registered to put the Easyfundraising icon on your Tool Bar to remind you to use it. You can collect free donations for AHC every time you shop online thanks to <http://easyfundraising.org.uk>. There are nearly 3,000 shops on board, ready to make a free donation to AHC - it doesn't cost you a penny extra.*

It's really simple, all you have to do is:

1. Join - Head to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ashfordhockey/?t=Easyfundraising-li&v=a&u=3Z0359&=> and sign up for free.

2. Shop - Every time you shop online, go to Easyfundraising first, pick the retailer you want and start shopping.

3. Raise - After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to Ashford HC for no extra cost whatsoever!

Social News

We had a good start to year with good attendance at our club day. Lots of fun had by all during the tournament and on the bouncy castle. We then held a brand new social with the help of Shane Smith, OKTOBERFEST. We stocked up on some German beers, steins and with the help of our brand new chef, David, lots of German sausage!

In the lead up to Christmas we held a festive quiz and curry night with good attendance, good food and good questions if I do say so myself! The winners took the first prize of £60!

Coming up - we have a Swing night on Saturday 27th February! Get the date in your diaries now! Live music and yummy dinner. There will of course also be the Annual dinner, date to be confirmed. Keep a look out for information at the club!

Thanks, Abi and Joe

Weddings/Engagements/Babies

Stacey and Mark got engaged on Oct 4th and are expecting a baby on June 3rd (

Michele Igoe married long time partner Chris Jennings on July 28th on board a cruise.

Andy Sonden and Julia Stickler got married in Windsor on April 5th.

Chris Lunn became a dad for the first time on Saturday 12th December when Connie Abigail Catherine Lunn arrived at 8.41pm - 7lb 5oz. Mum and baby are doing well.

Recruitment

The ladies welcomed back Sarah Appleton, Elize Brown, Gemma Pyle, Val Urwin (who played for Ashford many years ago) and Liz Achengo (a previous Ashford Colt). On top of this we also welcomed Sarah Hopkins, Katherine Wilson, Alison Summerfield, Lauren Bewley, Tatum Colclough, two goalies Catherine Gordon and Jo Lawton, and Stephanie Bothwell and Felicity Lawton (colts now old enough to play ladies hockey). 14 players our best recruitment year ever!

In the mens section Jamie Hemphrey returned to the club, along with new recruits Tom Pittfield, Kabir Viridi, Adam Dunbavand, Chris Howkins and Pete.

AA's Chatter

1. The vintage AAs had their summer get together in mid June at Sue Westlake's & there was a good turnout & Sue provided a large spread. Star of the night was Val (Dynarod) Urwin who cycled to and from Virginia Water to attend.
2. The Drambuie Sniffles also had a summer bash & although they didn't go on tour this year, they had a very 'sober' weekend reunion.
3. Three Antiques have had milestone birthdays this summer, namely Val Baldwin, Yvonne Travers and Wendy Baker, they ranged from 40th to 70th and I will leave you to work out who had which!
4. Congratulations to former AHC stalwart & AA, Alex Saunders, who gained a Master of Science degree with distinction in March. Well done Alex.
5. Great to see Val Urwin back playing for AHC, welcome back 'Value added' & it means that I am not now AHC's oldest playing member!
6. I heard from Arthur Bradbury in the summer and he asks to be remembered to all who know him at AHC, but reported that he is not playing much hockey or cricket these days.
7. Chairman Ian (Sherpa) Jenkins has also been studying hard by distance learning & obtained a Master of Letters (M Litt), post graduate degree from St Andrews, Scotland recently - great stuff Sherps.
8. Many AAs and former AHC members have competed in various charity & sporting events this summer and 5K, 10K & even half marathons look like a stroll in the park nowadays. 100 mile bike rides were under taken by Emma Hynes, Jacqui Bashford, Ben Washer & Stacey Kenward, & a triathlon by Adrian Simmons. However, pride of place must go to Ironman competitors Wendy and Dave Baker and Dawson Hardiman, whilst Dawson finished his in a magnificent 10 hours 35.55 minutes, how about our super Hon Treasurer who completed the Bolton Ironman in 14 hours 53.23 minutes, magnificent & mind boggling Wendy! For those of you who are wondering what the race consists of it is a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride followed by a marathon run of 26.2 miles. I'm tired out just thinking about it!!
9. I met one other AA who could probably have completed a triathlon in her day, namely Jean Gilby this summer, who is still cycling everywhere, but is now suffering with arthritis in her hands. She asked to be remembered to all.
10. Many AAs attended Wimbledon this year, including Joy Menage and Veronica Higgins as well as the usual suspects. Also lots went to the rugby World Cup at venues around England & to Cardiff, where I met up with Yvonne Travers, the Neytons and the Messengers after the Wales v Fiji game. Sam Kendall & Cal Antell were out supporting Wales of course, and I owe a massive thank you to Hynes and Bash, who not only fed me coffee & comfort after the last two Welsh games at Twickenham, but also provided me with a taxi from Short lane to Twickers for the Welsh quarter-final after my 2's game at Short Lane. Thank you both and I can recommend their hospitality.
11. The Donelan family travelled across the pond this summer to meet AA stars Claire and Dave Brant & the girls and had a super reunion and visit. Rumour has it that the Brant family may be moving back to the UK & area, which is great news for the club & country!
12. There was lots of International hockey this summer & Brownie & I were captured on Sky TV several times supporting the GB ladies in their Olympic qualifying event in Valencia, Spain along with the men in Antwerp, Belgium. More importantly so was the AHC flag, which caused a lot of excitement in the Clubhouse when screened!
13. The biggest International hockey event of the summer though was the men's & ladies European Championships in August at the Olympic Park. The Neyton, Boxells, Law family, Bubbles (Adrian Hewes), Paddy Fisher, Kate Thompson, Robbie Grant, Becky Hewes, Abi Hack, Sam Kendall, Cal Antell & Mr Spanky (Peter Cottrell) were among the attendees and they used some of the AHC complementary tickets I managed to obtain. Shane Smith, Bod (Sue Lane), Lesley Mitchell, Brownie & I worked in the Hockey Museum during the tournament & mixed/met with many of the current & former International hockey stars. Hollie Neyton did especially well as she was invited on the pitch at half time during one of the ladies morning matches & she won the shooting competition and a miniature Adidas stick - well done Hollie! Our own club photographer Steve McCarthy was also there & he got some incredible shots of the Ladies final which of course GB won - yes! I also had my moment of glory as International men's and ladies Masters events were taking place at Southgate and Old Loughts hockey clubs at the same time and many of the players visited the Museum when not playing for a look round & chat. The Welsh Old Birds (over 50 & 55) came in several times and we got to know them. Near the end of the tournament their injury list was long & they were short of players & yours truly was invited to play for the over 50's, but unfortunately I was recovering from a small cyst removal on my leg and had 14 or so angry looking stitches still in it. However, I can die happy knowing that yes I was once invited to play for Wales at hockey!!
14. Congratulations are also due to Annie Neyton who recently passed her Level 2 coaching course with flying colours - what a talented sporting family eh!
15. Former Ladies 1's player & skipper Margaret Huse participated in our 'Back to Hockey' sessions in the summer, but regular Saturday family commitments made her decide against rejoining for the winter season.
16. Finally welcome back from your stint in Guernsey to AA and long time Club member Peter Greatorrex, nice to see you back Orex.

Lynne AAs Scribe & Captain

Your Captains for this Season

Ladies 1's - Captain: Anna Prothero and Vice Captain:

Ladies 2's - Captain: Kirsty Hull and Vice Captain: Becky Hewes

Ladies 3's - Captain: Megan Hurley and Vice Captain Abby Cowell

Men's 1's - Captain: Luke Cottrell and Vice Captain: Charlie Cottrell

Coaches: Ravi Viridi and Paddy Fisher

Men's 2's - Captain: Ryan Croxon and Vice Captain: David Eastbury

Men's 3's - Captain: Chris Lunn and Vice Captain: James Berresam

Men's 4's - Captain: Gordon Smith and Vice Captain: TBA

Colts Teams and Coaches

Teams - Mixed U8's / U10 Boys and Girls / U12 Boys and Girls/ U14 Boys and Girls / U16 Boys and Girls

A number of coaches help out over both the Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday sessions. They include Peter Cotterell, Mark Appleyard, Adrian(Bubbles) Hewes, Ian Parker, Kevin Cuffe, Paddy Fisher, Kate Thompson, Luke Cotterell and Jackie Parsons.

Child Welfare Officer - Gordon Smith

Juniors Report

All the sides have made improvements over the season so far.

Training

Tuesday training for U8, Boys U10, Boys U12, Boys U13, Girls U10, Girls U12 and Girls U14 finishes on the 22nd December and recommences on Tuesday 5th January & senior men has finished and recommences on Tuesday 5th January 2016 -18:30-19:30.

Wednesday training (Ladies) finishes for 2015 on 17th December and restarts on Wednesday 6th January 2016 - 19:30-21:30.

Thursday training Boys U14 and Boys U16 & senior men has finished and restarts on Thursday 7th January 2016

Sunday training for U9 & U11 and U14 boys and girls finishes on 20th December and it recommences on Sunday 5th January 2014 -09:30-11:00.

The Season so far

Ladies

The ladies first half of the season has been great with high attendance at training and good availability most weeks. The 1s returned to the premier division with a core team from last season now led by Anna Prothero as well as new players Liz Achengo and Sarah Hopkins and they wanted to show this is where they belong. It proved a little bit tricky to start as it took 3 weeks to get their first win but as the team have gelled more points have been gained. Sitting in 9th position over the Christmas break they are hoping for more luck (and umpiring decisions) to go their way in 2016. The 2s have the objective of being promoted this season and with the continued excellent captaincy of Kirsty Hull they had a great start and were top of the league for a few weeks. However after a couple of losses and a couple of draws they are now third in division two but still pressing for promotion. The 3s squad have seen a few changes this season with youngsters Ellie Sutton, Flick Lawton and Steph Bothwell being regular players in the team and learning from the more experienced players. It's been an equal mix of wins and losses bringing them in at sixth position in division three with some excellent play and enjoying their hockey with new captain Megan Hurley.

Mens

Mens 1s - With an injection of Hallam/Hounslow personnel, the men's 1s are off to a flying start in the MBBO sitting narrowly behind Middlesex rivals Eastcote, with a better goal difference and Shujah Ur Rehman on course to break his record of 51 goals in a season. The squad is looking to strengthen after Christmas with players getting back to full fitness and perhaps a new addition or two. December 2015 marks a new challenge with the men's 1s entering an indoor team to the south prem tournament for the time in many years. Thanks to everyone who has come down to watch up this season so far. (Luke)

Mens 2s - AHC 2s started their pre-season campaign with a couple of tricky away friendlies against teams much higher up the league pyramid. It was a chance to introduce a new formation and press whilst diving into the 3s squad to give a number of new players a chance to impress. Andy Ritchie was also the latest recruit into the side between the sticks following the disappearance of Captain Anonymous (Ryan Croxon) into the 1st XI side - though did return sporadically to kindly play for the side he captains!

Following a shaky start Ashford came back in the next two games with a 0-1 win away to Wycombe and a 4-4 draw with Witney at home. (Ryan)

Mens 3s - The men's 3s have had a solid start to the season, sitting 4th in the table at time of going to press. The 3s have utilised their (predominantly) youthful squad to play an attractive attacking style focussed on shifting the point of attack and exerting pressure on the oppositions 16s. With 5 league wins, 2 draws and only 3 narrow defeats to the top 3 we will be looking to build into the 2nd half of the season with the potential of pushing for promotion. Thanks to all club members who have kindly doubled up at short notice or covered the bar to enable Shane to play. (Chris)

Mens 4s going well this season. We have had some positive results but I've always (with one exception) been happy with our performance. Nearly all games are played against veteran sides and some of these guys have played a high level so the standard of some oppo has been a bit of a surprise to me coming down from the 3s. We are a mixed age team and Ollie and Reece have come in for their first season and often marking players 40 and 50 plus years ahead of them; wily and evergreen doesn't even come close! Spine of the team has been Cameron, Ollie, Reece, HopaLong, Orex, Jamie (playing really well helping me in midfield), Surinder (with his WarHammer trickery), Harrison, new player Peter, Bram when he'll stop studying (get your priorities right!), Stevie F (who has played majority of games for me as his second game!) and myself. Favourite game and achievement for us was to take a full team all the way to Havant, great game against a good team losing 3-2 and looked after very well. A good example of what 4s hockey should be all about. That trip was atypical as we play in the Thames Valley Conference and no trip bar Wimbledon is more than 30 mins - a couple of dropouts has meant us picking up matches from Wessex Masters hence some of the teams being pretty strong. Thanks to all who have helped me out but have to pick out Stevie Forster for always being available if required and Yazdi for umpiring, driving, playing one game and buying the oppo drinks! Also thank you to anyone who braves the weather to watch us! (Gordon)

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	League Position
Mens 1s	11	9	2	0	56	14	2nd
Mens 2s	11	2	2	7	16	36	9th
Mens 3s	11	6	2	3	32	19	4th
Mens 4s	10	1	4	5	11	23	Not applicable
Ladies 1s	12	4	1	7	20	36	9th
Ladies 2s	11	7	2	2	42	25	3rd
Ladies 3s	12	5	2	5	24	19	6th

Umpires

Thank you to all those that have umpired so far this year, you really are appreciated even if the players don't sometimes show it :-)

A huge thank you to Steve Smith who retired at the end of last season, Steven has given many many years of service to AHC.

Welcome to Chris Howkins, a Northern Premier Umpire who has moved down South, who also happens to be a Goalkeeping Coach (so the ladies have nabbed him already). He joined the club as a goalkeeper but promptly broke his arm in his first game within 7 minutes, and has decided it's safer to umpire instead.

We currently have only a few non playing umpires to rely on: Mark when not on circuit, Sherpa, Chris, Mick, Yazdi, Surinder, Lesley and Michelle,
Then several playing umpires: Gordon Smith, Digger, Paul Neyton, Ryan Holland, Bobby Evans, Ryan Croxon, Luvvy, Sarah Symes and Gillian Clegg.

We currently have Bubbles and Annie Neyton waiting to be assessed following their completion of the new EH Umpiring Course.

However this is still not enough umpires so if you are interested in doing your Level 1 Umpiring course, then please let me know and maybe Ashford can host a course, numbers need to be around 25 though!

Season Starts again – Get ready to go...

Saturday 9th January -

Mens 1s v friendly home at 15:00
Mens 2s v Henley friendly home at 13:30
Mens 3s v friendly home at 10:30 or 16:30
Mens 4s v South Bucks Wrinklies Away at 14:15
Ladies 1 V Eastcote 2s Away at 12:00
Ladies 2 V OMT Duchesses Home at 12:00
Ladies 3 V Gymkhana Ladies Away at 14:30

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!