



# ASHFORD HOCKEY CLUB

## Red & Black Newsletter - Xmas 2016



### President's Chatter

First of all an apology for once again not publishing a preseason Newsletter, due to the main contributors (Luvvy & myself) being far too busy with other AHC jobs & matters. However, to recap on things since our last publication, the Ladies ran their two popular summer league competitions as normal. Staines A again made the A final and beat BA/Hayes A's to retain the Trophy for another year. The Swans B team weren't able to complete the double as they drew with TV Chertsey in the B Final and the teams decided to share the trophy. The men's section didn't have formal leagues, and just played a few friendly games. The junior section continued with free training sessions on Sunday mornings during the summer, which were well attended. As a result, numerous new members have joined and this was before the GB Ladies won their gold medal in Rio. I know many of you saw the AHC flag proudly on display by the GB dug out during the last 5 of the GB Ladies 8 games, sorry one of the tie ups broke during the final and I didn't get to fix it amid all the celebrations. It was seen globally though & recognised by the players & staff. The gold medal really was a massive achievement by the squad that has resulted in lots of new players taking up the game or old ones returning to play and we have felt the benefit at AHC. The squad in Rio kindly signed an AHC shirt for me before their Quarter Final game and it is now framed and on display in the Members bar. Unfortunately during the summer we were unable to find anyone to take on the role of Men's fixture Secretary or Club Recruitment Officer. Kate Thompson (Ladies Fixture Secretary), has done a sterling job for the men & now handed over to the respective Team Captains, all of whom owe Kate a massive vote of thanks. Press Officer, Elliott Smith has also recently stepped down from his role and we think we have a replacement as one of the junior's parents is offering to help. We are also still looking for people to help with our floodlight replacement grant applications, as the original sub-committee has been disbanded. The two floodlight columns nearest the Clubhouse will be refurbished on January 16th and 17th 2017. This means that we have only four floodlight columns, all on the far side of the astro, left to refurbish, costing roughly £18K in total if anyone wants to sponsor the work or help get grants for it. The AHC website built by James Meers and run by John Vocking for the past 10 years, has been shut down & replaced by our new Pitchero site. Some parts are still under construction and details on signing up for it are given elsewhere in the Newsletter. Thanks are due to Ryan Croxon, Victoria (Freddie) Chudleigh, Catriona Barron & others for setting up the new site & hopefully storing all the historical data from the old one. 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 welcomed two new coaches to the Club in the summer, but long time 3rd team coach Adrian (Bubbles) Hewes decided to take a year out after coaching the lower Ladies teams for more years than we can remember. Thank you very much Bubbles, and glad to see that you are still playing. Our new coaches are Adam Wilkins, who is now playing for the men's 1's as well, and youngster Jamie O'Connell, son of former AHC Colt, senior player and coach Shay O'Connell. Very pleased to report that not only are all three Ladies League teams near the top of their respective Divisions, but we have on four occasions fielded a 4th/development side on a Saturday as well. Unfortunately despite an influx of new players, the men's 1's and 2's are battling in their respective Divisions. However, the 3's & 4's are faring better and we are all hoping for improved results for all teams in the New Year. Very pleased to report that subscriptions are coming in more readily this season, but we need to have a big drive to raise funds for the future replacement of the astro surface (the current one is now 4 years old). Please sign up to the Easy Fundraising site & Astro draw if you haven't already done so, to help boost Club funds. Details of both are included within.

Moving onto Ashford (Short Lane) Sports (A(SL)S) matters, repairs and maintenance work were carried out on the pitch, surrounds and Club House during the summer and thank you to all who have helped. New Bar steward Colin Dyos has settled in well. Unfortunately we haven't as yet obtained any grants towards the replacement of the remaining six floodlight towers, so AHC has agreed to pay for the refurbishment of a further two, with funds from the Astro Draw. The Function room bookings & takings are still good, but bar takings are down and maintenance costs are rising. Therefore 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) & 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. Unfortunately due to pressure of work & other commitments Ben Simper (ACC) has stood down after numerous years from his role as A(SL)S Treasurer. Thank you very much indeed Ben for all your hard work & excellent guidance over the years, you will be missed. We are in discussion with a possible replacement at present though. Plans are in hand to replace the Function floor which is damaged in places and is now very difficult to clean, early next year. In closing, may I wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY, HEALTHY 2017 let's make it a good one for the mighty Red & Blacks on and off the pitch.

Lynne 07831 827690

## **AHC Committee Members for this Season**

President	Lynne Morgan
Chairperson	Ian Jenkins
Hon Secretary	Vanessa Law
Treasurer	Wendy Baker
Asst Treasurer	Doreen Brown
Men's Club Captain	Patrick Fisher
Ladies Club Captain	Victoria Chudleigh (Freddie)
Colts Manager	Peter Cottrell
Men's Fixtures Sec	Kate Thompson
Ladies Fixtures Sec	(Kate Thompson)
Press Officer/Webmaster	Alex Dyos-Sadie
Entertainments	Abi Frith
Recruitment Officer	<b>URGENTLY</b> Need a volunteer

### **Coordinators**

ASC Representative	Victoria Chudleigh
Men's Disciplinary Officer	Patrick Fisher
Ladies' Disciplinary Officer	Victoria Chudleigh
Coaching Co-ordinator	Peter Cottrell
Umpiring Co-ordinator	Tracey Holland
Grounds Co-ordinator	Lynne Morgan
Sponsorship	<b>URGENTLY</b> Need a volunteer

## **\*\*\*\*\* 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 2016 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 1.10.16 and in employment)**

**Senior playing member**                                      **12 payments of £18 = £216**  
**(Over 18 years at 1.10.16 and unemployed, student etc.)**

**Juniors who play senior hockey**                              **12 payments of £13 = £156**  
**(Under 18 years at 1.10.16)**

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

**Juniors who play Junior hockey only**                              **12 payments of £6 = £72**  
**(Under 18 years at 01.10.16)**

**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](mailto:treasurer@ashfordhockeyclub.co.uk) 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](http://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](http://www.ashfordsportsclub.com). 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](http://www.proshopsport.com) e.mail; [sales@proshopsport.com](mailto: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. New design junior & Acorns hoodies are also now available to ourchase Club socks £9 per pair (Small, medium, large & extra large) are still available from Lynne Morgan. The new junior hoodies can now be ordered on line via the Proshop <http://proshopsport.com/ashford-hc-179-c.asp> link.

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, the AHC website and on page 8 of this Newsletter. Help the Club and maybe yourself by joining today. The winners so far this season are:

**October** - £100 Gordon Smith, £50 Alex Saunders, £50 David Sutch

**November** - £100 Chris Evans, £50 Ali Donelan, £50 Hannah Cole

**December** - £250 Sarah Symes, £100 Martin Smith, £50 John (Handbag) Tomkins

## 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

Annual Dinner Dance is booked for 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017 so please put this date in your diaries.

## Weddings/Engagements/Babies

Polly Shoebridge has had her second child. Dawson Hardiman is going to be a Dad again.

Sam Clarey and Darryl Kelly got married and are now calling themselves Jackson-Howard, which I think is a combination of their maiden names!

Beth Jefferies, Louisa Jakubovic and Matt Law have gone off to University. Molly Davis has gone on a 1 year round the world trip with her boyfriend.

## Your Captains for this Season

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

Ladies 2's - Captain: Luvvy 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: 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 Cottrell, Adrian (Bubbles) Hewes, Ian Parker, Kevin Cuffe, Paddy Fisher, Kate Thompson, Jon Long, Claire Brant & Jackie Parsons .

Child Welfare Officer - Gordon Smith

## AA's Chatter

- \* Once again many AAs (male & female), have been competing in 5K, 10K half marathons, marathons and Ironman events this summer, including members of the Baker, Benedict, Cole, Fry & Hardiman clans, amongst others. Most are going from strength to strength with their performances & raising some serious money for cancer research & other good causes. Well done all & keep going.
- \* Ex South League & 1's players Sam Kendal & Cal Antell treated themselves to hospitality at Old Trafford when the Red Devils were playing Cal's favourite team AFC Bournemouth at the end of last season. Everything was going well until a suspect package was found in one of the loo's at the ground and the game was abandoned just before kickoff. They had eaten well and seen the ground, but had to drive back without seeing a ball kicked in competition!
- \* Numerous female AAs are now playing at Yateley Hockey Club (YHC), namely Hilary Hull (Hils), Philippa Messenger (Flippa) & Jules Steer. All attended the YHC annual Dinner and Hils picked up an award. Great stuff & come & see us all again soon Ladies.
- \* Ex 1's players & married couple Adrian & Georgina (Tate-Davies) Simmons have been busy on & off the pitch in the last 6 months. Adrian & son played in the final of the 2nd team National Cup competition at Lee Valley for Banbury HC. Georgina meanwhile was performing in a local "Strictly Come Dancing" competition. Adrian also did a triathlon in Leeds in rather a good time!
- \* Ex popular men's 2's player Andy Carney made a guest appearance for Gordy's 4's when he was working in London for a short while at the start of the season. He managed to not only play, but also arranged a good drinking session with many of his ex team mates. Good to see you again Andy, but please can we have payment for your subs cheque that bounced years ago!
- \* Many AHC & AAs players attended the International Men's & Ladies pre Olympic, Champions Trophy event at Lee Valley in June, at which AHC got allocated some free tickets from Notts Sports. Despite neither GB teams doing very well, AHC members enjoyed watching some world class hockey and meeting some of the GB players.
- \* At the same event, yours truly was invited to play for the Media side against the Hockey Makers in the annual match that is held during International competitions at Lee valley. It was great to use the GB dressing room & play on the main pitch with the big screen, electronic scoreboard & empty stands! Despite having Holcombe HC reserve Goalie (deputy for Maddie Hinch) performing miracles in goal, we got well beaten. However, one of the top hockey journalists wrote a full match report of the game, and praised my performance, which was nice. However, he got his facts badly wrong when he described me as an ex-England International. As most of you know, I am certainly not an ex-International player (traveller maybe) & certainly not English, but it was great to be asked and to play in the game.
- \* The Ladies AAs have been busy holding several coffee meetings and their normal summer bash as well as another very enjoyable summer tour. This time it was to very sunny, interesting & friendly Cologne, where fun, mayhem, local beers & food were enjoyed by all.
- \* Regular BP, International jet setter & former 1's goalkeeper Stewart Fry recently made one of his regular trips down under & managed to meet up with numerous ex AHC players. Katie Radford (formerly Greene)," Wild man", Dave Greenfield (who was recently turned 50!) & the Cotton's were amongst those he met up with. Well done Mr Fry.
- \* In the summer former regular top AHC players Dave (Silver Fox) & Claire (Barbie) Brant returned to the UK, from their 7 year work exile in Florida USA. Not only were we all very pleased to see them back, both on & off the pitch, but even more pleasing is to see daughters Catherine & Madeline turning out regularly in Colts games & training sessions. An added bonus is that Katherine also managing a few appearances in the Ladies 4's development team - it is great to have you all back.

Lynne AAs Scribe & Captain

### **POLITE REQUEST TO ALL**

- \* Please don't park in any of the Disabled bays in the car park. We have reduced the number of Disabled bays from 6 to 3, so all 3 need to be kept for any disabled visitors.
- \* Please don't practice your hitting against the boards around the astro; please use the goals or practice against the railway sleepers placed either side of the pitch goals. Please keep practicing though!
- \* Thank you for using the far end of the pitch for practice as well as the Clubhouse end, to save continual wear at one end.

## The Season so far

### Ladies

It feels like only a few weeks ago that we were looking forward to the new season and started fitness training in the warm and light summer evenings. I can't believe that we are now at the halfway point and it is now time to take a break for Christmas.

The season kicked off with the "Gold Effect" of the GB ladies win in Rio making all players want to pick up their sticks and it showed the juniors what can be achieved with a lot of hard work and determination. This, combined with a new coaching team of Adam Wilkins and Jamie O'Connell meant high attendance at training (up to 44 one week) and excellent availability for games thus giving the coaches, captains and myself with a "nice" problem of too many players for each team. We have tried our best through taking larger squads for each team and by fielding a friendly team (aka Ladies 4s) whenever a fixture could be found. We have also had to make a few difficult decisions and I know that a few people have been upset over the last couple of months which I apologise for. However it is for the benefit of the club as a whole as by fielding our strongest squads, all three league teams have an excellent chance of promotion by the end of the season.

Ladies 1s are in second place in the Premier Division and the only team to beat top of the table Hampstead & Westminster 3s. Ladies 2s are also in second place in Division Two with the leaders Indian Gymkhana only 4 points away. The Ladies 3s in Division Three are currently sitting in 6th position but with two games in hand for the mid-way point and a recent string of wins, there is all to play for.

Thanks to everyone who has supported me in some way so far this season; Captains, Vice Captains, Coaches, Umpires, Kate for fixtures, Jackie for supporting the 4s, Kimmee for organising the Ladies Christmas do, Ryan Croxon for the new AHC website, everyone who has done a bar shift so far and Lynne for everything else!

Merry Christmas everyone and see you all in the new year.

Freddie

### Mens

Off the back of a successful Olympics by TeamGB we have seen a jump in interest in playing hockey, this has resulted in a good jump up in numbers for the lower men's teams. A note on each team:

•1st XI, have had a difficult return to South Prem 2, being in every game for 50-60min but not having the rub of the green to get more points it was felt something needed to change. With this in mind they have taken the bold steps to bring in a new coach (announcement shortly) and have moved training to a Tuesday (and possibly still Thursday). Hopefully this will bring a change in fortunes. 3 word note from captain: Scrappy But Optimistic

•2nd XI, comfortably mid table often with a young team and are holding their own in a league with several 1st teams in. Hoping for a stronger second half of the season. 3 word note from captain: Poor Better Good

•3rd XI, also comfortably mid table with some results affected by availability issues, providing availability stays on a high we should see them creeping up the table in the new year. 3 word note from captain: Lots Of Promise

•4th XI The Mighty 4s have swept all before them this season except for the teams that have beaten us. We are on an unbeaten run i.e. more than one game!! And (I apologise for starting a sentence with 'and') we have already won 4 games which is one more than we did all season! We have 6 new players in the squad who have really knitted well with the rest of us old 'uns, a huge range in playing experience illustrated by our 3 top scorers - an old first team player who hasn't played for 9 years and two lads who picked up a stick for the first time during the summer, one is 16 and the other 50! Couldn't really be going much better and really looking forward to the second half of the season, 3 word note from captain: On A Roll

With numbers on the increase on the junior section and a strong U12 team the junior/mens coaching staff are looking forward to integrating these players over the next 12-24 months.

Paddy

### Juniors

At the end of the 2014/15 season our Junior Membership had sunk to 78 and we were struggling to turn out the teams. 18 months later the membership now stands at 123 which is back to the level we were at when we were winning leagues and having long cup runs. The turnaround has been down to Jackie Parsons, Paul Harvey and Claire Brant joining as coaches, developing links with schools particularly with Buckland which has proved to be a catalyst, running schools tournaments, schools training sessions, Laura getting the Sports Coordinator's job at Laleham, success in the Olympics, running training throughout the summer, success on the pitch, club members bringing their children down, the well maintained facilities, David Hank's help with recruitment and sheer hard work from the existing staff of Ian Parker, Paddy Fisher, Kate Thompson and Bubbles. This is the level our club needs to survive financially. Next season is when the first tranche of the new players will start to trickle into the adult teams. As a club this process needs to be managed; when this happened before young talented players forced their way above the existing membership causing a loss of adult membership.

More help will be needed in the New Year as Mitch and Max have returned to New Zealand; fortunately Matt Sutch, Jade and Shane have stepped in. If you want to pitch in and help with the umpiring, coaching or admin give me a shout. Peter - Junior Coordinator

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	League Position
Mens 1s South Premier Div 2	11	2	2	7	24	34	11th
Mens 2 MBBO Div 1	11	4	1	6	16	28	7th
Mens 3s MBBO Open League Div 6	10	4	2	5	20	23	7th
Mens 4s TVC league	9	4	1	4	18	17	N/A
Ladies 1s Middx Prem	12	7	2	3	40	25	2nd
Ladies 2s Middx Div 2	12	10	0	2	44	19	2nd
Ladies 3s Middx Div 3	9	5	0	4	15	11	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 ;-)

I need to do some recruiting for more umpires, so is there anyone interested in doing their Level 1 Umpiring course, then please let me know.

We currently have a few top goal scorers in our leagues

Shujah ur Rehman is second top goal scorer with 15 in Mens 1s league

Lucy Uttley is top goal scorer in Middx Prem league with 19 goals, with Caitlin Davis and Kelly Taylor also featuring in the top five goal scorers.

Jackie Parsons is top goal scorer in Middx Div 2 with 11 goals followed closely by Maria Cavilla on 10 goals. Ashford also hold 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place with Jenny Tippell, Gillian Clegg and Kim Downs/Sue Lane. And in Middx Div 4 Chloe Russell is in third place.

### Training

Tuesday training for U8, Boys U10, Boys U12, Boys U13, Girls U10, Girls U12 and Girls U14 finishes on the 13th December and recommences on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 & senior men has finished and recommences on Tuesday 3rd January 2017 -18:30-19:30.

Wednesday training (Ladies) finishes for 2016 on 14<sup>th</sup> December and restarts on Wednesday 4th January 2017 - 19:30-21:30.

Thursday training Boys U14 and Boys U16 & senior men has finished and restarts on Thursday 5th January 2017.

Sunday training for U9 & U11 and U14 boys and girls finishes on 18<sup>th</sup> December and it recommences on Sunday 8th January 2017 -09:30-11:00.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!**

**ASHFORD (MIDDX) HOCKEY CLUB**

**AHC ASTRO FUND STANDING ORDER FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Standing order directive to:

Your Bank: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch sort code: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A/C Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay to: Barclays (Ashford (Middlx) Branch)

Current Account No. 10126543

Sort Code: 20-81-11

The sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ (per month in words) \_\_\_\_\_

**NB The minimum payment is £1 per month for one year, which buys you one ticket for the draw.**

Date of first payment \_\_\_\_\_ and thereafter each month on that date.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This form may be in addition to other standing orders for Ashford (Middlx) Hockey Club.