

ASHFORD HOCKEY CLUB

Read & Black Newsletter: JUNE 2015



President's Chatter

Another season appears to have shot by and details of the full playing records and final league positions for the senior sides to date are shown at the end of the Newsletter. Looking at the Ladies section first, it was great to see the 1's bounce straight back to the Premier League in such style & to see the 2's make a marked improvement in the 2nd half of the season, with an 10 match unbeaten run. The 3's as always had a wonderful spirit & secured some excellent wins and gained more points than in the past few seasons. The men's 1's got stronger as the season progressed, and they were unlucky to lose in their relegation play-off game and thus return to regional hockey. Unfortunately due to work commitments 1's manager & player, Ahti Khan is moving up to Manchester, so he will be leaving AHC. Sorry to see you go Ahti & thanks for your efforts on & off the pitch, & please stay in touch. Likewise, the men's 2's have struggled and came 9th in the league with the 3's 11th, but have managed to avoid relegation. The 4's struggled with availability, but mainly enjoyed their first season back in the Thames Valley friendly league. The junior teams had some good results, but are struggling for numbers in certain age groups, but had an excellent end of season presentation evening. Alex Danson (GB, England & Reading HC) star player kindly came along to present the awards & gave a very inspiring talk & took the time to have many 'selfies' taken, sign a multitude of autographs and share her Olympic bronze medal with all. Alex got everyone involved & enthused & she enjoyed the evening and hopes to fit in another visit to AHC at some future date, when her very busy schedule permits. I'm sure she will have a lot of AHC members cheering her on at the GB Olympic qualifiers in Valencia this month & Euro's at Lee Valley in August. I have promised to keep her up to date with all things AHC & she intends to wear her personal AHC hoodie!! In an attempt to increase attendance, the AGM was held on the last day of the season (28.3.15) & congratulations go to long time members Jane English, Sue Westlake and Robert Evans who were all deservedly elected as Vice Presidents. The list of people who were elected to Club positions is given later in the Newsletter, and a special, very large THANK YOU must go to Doreen Brown, who has stood down from committee after numerous decades (yes decades!) slaving away as Club secretary, treasurer, press officer & Middlesex rep etc., a sterling performance, which we should all duly acknowledge. However, two vital posts have still to be filled, namely **Men's Fixture Secretary** and the position of **Recruitment Officer**. Recruitment of players of all ages and abilities remains a top priority for all sections of the Club. As a start, we ran 4 sessions linked to the England Hockey (EH) "Back to Hockey" scheme for Ladies & men in April, and got 5 new female and 1 male players. A Recruitment officer is still vital though as are help & ideas for schemes & successful campaigns to get new AHC players, umpires and coaches ,so please let myself or anyone on Committee know if you think you can help. Don't forget there will be new hockey rules implemented this coming season & they are being played in the summer league, so I hope you are all aware of them. Big THANK YOU'S are of course due at the end of the season to all members who have undertaken a job on or off the pitch, including the many Captains, committee members, umpires and coaches etc., who have given up their time to keep the Club running. Thanks are due to those who have helped with the voluntary bar rota I can't name all of you, but Keith Nash, Mark Doggett, Bobby Evans, Nicky Davis and Freddie Chudleigh in particular, deserve special mentions. The precarious financial situation at Short Lane is improving slowly, mainly due to the increase in Function bookings. However, maintenance costs are also rising and a lot of the equipment installed when the Clubhouse was built in 1998 is now in need of replacement e.g. we have had to replace a freezer & a fridge in the kitchen recently & an extraction fan in changing room 7. We are also currently struggling to find grants and/or donations for the vital refurbishment work which is required before the start of the season on the floodlights. Again if you think you can help in anyway let me know. Gary Denne in the Club office & Shane are both continuing to work hard to attract more customers and A(SL)S Management committee continue to look at ways to reduce costs and increase revenue. Can we therefore ask you all to try & use the Club more often, & bring your friends when you can. Also please turn off unwanted lights, close outside doors & let the bar know when you have finished using the floodlights on training nights it all helps. I am enjoying my role as Middlesex President & have been able to raise the profile of AHC on several fronts and within England Hockey, but it all takes time & I am still looking for assistance with some of my AHC roles, so again please contact me if you think you can help. Have a great summer on & off the pitch.
Lynne 07831 827690 lynne.morgan@live.co.uk

SAD NEWS - Long time AHC player, umpire & Life Member Alan Gale died peacefully at the age of 92 on 11/1/2015. He joined AHC in 1946 and played at a high level (men's & mixed) until 1962 when he umpired (mainly for the Ladies 1's) until 1970, when retirement & later years ill health took over. He met his wife Shirley, also a long time AHC player, Umpire & Life member, in 1954 & Shirley still remains involved with AHC. There was a large turn out from the AAs at Alan's cremation, including the player he considered the best female to play at AHC, Maureen Thacker. RIP Alan a true AHC stalwart.

FUNDRAISING MADE EASY

Please help to raise funds for AHC and register for the above scheme and there are a couple of quick things to tell you before you start:

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Your Cause: Ashford (Middlesex) Hockey Club

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* Your unique easy fundraising URL is

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ashfordhockey>

This is the link you will need to register to support AHC. For more info, click here

<http://tracker.nmp1.com/H?a=C9X7CRvbqmp58SA9MKJYmrnnGHxKbT2pzgjtS5kGbs_hKrU

* To raise funds through your own personal shopping, just log in before you start shopping, using the username and password you gave, and up to 15% from each purchase you make will be donated to Ashford (Middlesex) Hockey Club.

* Take a few minutes to have a look also at the easysearch page. Every time your supporters search the web with easysearch instead of Google, they'll raise funds for you. Each supporter can raise around £20 a year for you just by searching 10 times per day. Click <<http://ashfordhockey.easysearch.org.uk/>> here to see your unique easysearch page.

That's it; you're ready to start raising funds! You should find everything you need on the site but if you have any questions or need any help or advice, please just let us know

<http://tracker.nmp1.com/H?a=C9X7CRvbqmp58SA9MKJYmrnnGHxKbT2pzgjtS5kGbs_nK08>.

Astro Fund Draw - Winners for the second part of the season

January	£50	Alison Boxell
	£50	Sarah Symes
	£100	Anna Protheroe
February	£50	Doreen Brown
	£50	Sue Westlake
	£100	Nick Robinson
March	£50	Sharon (Sherga) McGlinley
	£50	Wendy Baker
	£100	Elliott Symes
April	£100	Peter Cottrell
	£250	Gordon Smith
	£500	Wendy Baker

To be in with a chance of winning money from our Draw, which is held every month during the season, you need to purchase tickets from our Club Treasurer Wendy Baker. All proceeds go into the Astro Fund and help AHC and A(SL)S with the upkeep & future development of the pitch. Forms are available on the notice board and AHC website, so why not sign up & help AHC out.

AGM – The AHC AGM was held at the Clubhouse on Saturday 28th March 2015. The Agenda and Minutes from last year's meeting were sent out to all paid up members by e-mail prior to the meeting. If you have changed your e-mail address or would like to receive a hard copy please e-mail Club Secretary Sue Westlake on secretary@ashfordhockeyclub.co.uk or the Club Treasurer Wendy Baker on treasurer@ashfordhockeyclub.co.uk.

AA's Chatter by LM

- * The AA's managed to regain the Challenge Cup in their annual, Xmas game v Sunbury Stars of the Past (SSOP). In a tight game the visitors were mainly on top, but excellent goalkeeping by AA's player of the match, YTS & Virgin AA, Kim Downs kept the SSOP's at bay and the score at 1-1 for most of the game; before Jackie (Yip, Yip) Parsons scored a typical late winner and brought the silverware back to AHC. Emma (Hynes) Bashford and Hannah Cole were the other virgin Antiques making their debuts. As always there was plenty of socialising after & this time Santa arrived by sleigh to add to the festivities, which were once again well supported. It was especially pleasing to see the Brant family back from the USA & at SL again & as always the Bundy's for travelling down to play & support.
- * It was good to see the Smith trio of life member & long time Club President & player Martin, along with former players Jodi and Olly supporting AHC men's 1's in their relegation play-off game in April. James Meers was also present & they are all fit & well & we hope to see them at SL sometime soon.
- * Former Ladies 1's, 2's & junior player Sarah Appleton has been having a great time on her travels down under, working for an Oz TV channel & travelling round the country & is currently in Sydney, so she hasn't seen winter for a while- lucky Apples!
- * Bex Griffiths, former star left winger celebrated her 50th birthday in style recently after recovering from another broken leg!
- * Another former AHC Ladies 1's south league player Sam Kendall is also recovering from injury & an operation on her long term heel/leg injury. Get well soon Sam (& Call!).
- * It is usually star player & AA Annie Neyton that we are reporting on in AHC articles, but very pleased to be able to write about husband Paul's recent success playing for the South over 45's in the recent Divisional Championships. The South played 6 games, won 5 and drew one to win the gold medal by a narrow win of the West in their final game. Congratulations Paul, very well deserved & the Neyton's now have two gold medals, as Annie also won one for the South over 40's in the equivalent championships back in 2013. A true winning hockey couple & two great & loyal AHC members to boot :0).
- * So many male and female players have been doing 5K, 10K runs, half & full marathons, tough mudder and even Ironman events that there isn't enough space to mention them all, but well done everyone. The Bakers in particular deserve a mention though for their forthcoming Ironman events. Dave will be competing in Austria in June & Wendy in Lancashire in July over a triathlon course longer than a normal triathlon, including a chilly dip in Rivington cycling some nearby hills & running round Bolton. Good luck both and it is rumored that Olly & Evie will be making their debuts in the Staines 10K before long!
- * The AAs annual, 4 day, foreign tour was to Barcelona in May this year, the group was 12 veterans strong, including virgin tourer Sue (Bod) Lane & Val (Value Added) Urwin, who was making her 2nd AA tour, 25 years after her 1st one! Part time Spain resident & AA Carolyn Dale joined us for a day of sightseeing & adventure when Bundle of Joy managed to leave her purse on the tourist bus, but managed to reclaim it later in the day. Whilst Joy, Bod, Brownie & yours truly had the pleasure of attending an excellent Barcelona game on the Saturday & picked up some positional tips from Messieurs Messi, Suarez, Neymar et al. The sun shone for 4 days & a lot of laughs, sangria, coffee & paella were had & places visited.
- * Alex Saunders, long time Ladies player, AA and fixture secretary was back at Short Lane recently, cheering Shepperton Ladies CC against Ashford Ladies in a T20 game (ACC won - yippee). Her shoulder injury is on the mend following her op, but she won't be playing hockey or wicket keeping for a while.
- * The Ladies entered a team in the Middlesex League 30 year celebrations tournament, held at Indian Gymkhana HC on 16.5.15. AHC were invited to play in Division 1 out of 3 Divisions, where only 1st teams were allowed in, when the League was first formed in 1984/85. AHC have fielded a least 1 team each season since, and at least 3 (and sometimes 4 sides), when the other divisions for lower teams were introduced. Brownie & myself have played every season since the start, as have two other players from other Clubs. In glorious sunshine, AHC were led by Annie Neyton and won 3, drew 1 and lost 1 game of their pool games & qualified for the semis where we lost to a golden goal in extra time to old foes Ealing. The squad comprised of Emma, Bash, Annie, Kirsty Bundy, Hils, Yip, Yip, Annie, Flippa, Louise Elliker & me. The supporters present were Lewy, Benny, Luvvy, Laura, Brownie & various associated children & husbands. Sunbury were the other defeated semi-finalists & we decided not to play for 3rd or 4th place & both were awarded commemorative bronze medals, and all attendees got commemorative key rings. Here's to AHC continuing to thrive over the next 30 years of competition.

Socials

The socials for the 2014/15 season kicked off with a fantastic club day in the sun in September. Lots of people turned out to watch the Men 1's team play a friendly before the mixed fun hockey and BBQ began! I think that this was the record attendance for club day in at least the last 4 years, so thank you to all that came down for even an hour! Next came race night in October a fantastic night which was well attended. The overall winner of the night was Ashley Bertrum a member of Heathrow Snrs Football team who share the facilities with AHC in the Winter and who have joined in with some of our events this year, so another massive thanks to them for turning up and to all those that made the boys welcome. The last social of the normal season came after the AGM to try and boost the numbers of people attending the AGM which I think we can safely say we did! The grand finale of the socials was the Annual Dinner at the Harte and Garter hotel in Windsor. Hopefully you have all seen who were the winners of this year's trophies and all photos from the night. If you haven't there will be an opportunity to see them and potentially purchase a picture in August. This was a fitting end to an awesome season. Thank you to everyone who attended the socials. Kirsty and I are hanging up our social hats for this year so thank you to all our helpers!

Tours/Festivals

Wayfarers (mixed) - 11th /12th July - At the moment there are about 17 people attending. Speak to Elliot Smith or Abi Frith if interested.

Weddings/Engagements

Hynes and Bashford got married on Valentines Day 2015
David Eastbury (Crabhands) and Miranda Hare got engaged

Stork Club - Polly Leiji-Patel (nee Shoebridge) gave birth to her first child Lana at the end of April; Katie Radford (nee Greene) had her second baby girl Meika at the end of 2014 & Georgie Sutch had a little boy Jayden in February. Chris & Kirsty Lunn are expecting their first child at the end of the year. CONGRATULATIONS ALL.

Goodluck on their travels

Goodbye to Luke who has gone to Christchurch in New Zealand but returned for start of season.
And to Freddie who has gone to Melbourne in Oz, but not sure when he is coming back.
And to Dan Holland who is going travelling for a year to Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia,, Laos, Philippines, and Australia.

Welcome back Jamie Hemphrey who is bringing Tom Pitfield who joins the Hallam revolution.

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 Face book Group and Face book Page so if you can pop onto Face book and 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.

AHC Committee Members for 2015/16 Season

President	Lynne Morgan
Chairperson	Ian Jenkins
Hon Secretary	Sue Westlake
Treasurer	Wendy Baker
Men's Club Captain	Joe Lewis
Ladies Club Captain	Victoria Chudleigh
Colts Manager	Peter Cottrell
Men's Fixtures Sec	POSITION VACANT
Ladies Fixtures Sec	Tracey Holland
Press Officer/Webmaster	freddie Cottrell, Molly Davis & Beth Jefferies /John Vocking
Entertainments	Abi Frith + sub committe
Recruitment Officer	POSITION VACANT
Membership secretary	Tracey Holland

AHC Coordinators for 2015/16 Season

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

Club Kit

AHC training kit, including hoodies, zoodies, rain jackets, 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. Club socks £9 per pair (Small, medium, large & extra large) and Ladies league shirts £23 (all sizes), are still available from Lynne Morgan. Peter Cottrell has a supply of junior shirts and some Men's league shirts. 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. Happy shopping and hopefully you will wear your AHC kit with pride

Sainsbury 'Active Kids' Vouchers

We are still collecting Sainsbury's vouchers to exchange for hockey equipment. The scheme runs until early July, so please pop them in the box in the Members Bar - thanks. We are sharing the collection with ACC this time, so there is only one collecting box located in the members bar.

Annual Dinner - Saturday 25th April at Harte and Garter Hotel, Windsor

A fabulous Annual Dinner organised by Kirsty Hull and Kate Thompson.....

Ken Miller Colt of the Year (Boys) - Robert Forster
Simon Morley Colt of the Year (Girls) - Caitlin Davis
Ken Miller Ladies Player of the Year - Hannah Merchant
Ken Miller Men's Player of the Year - Elliot Smith
Ron Cooksey Progress Trophy - Nicky Davis/Matt Law
Bob Greatorex Team of the Year - Ladies 1st team
Ian Maloney Lower XI Player of the Year - Andy Ritchie
Maria Taylor Most Enthusiastic Player - Vanessa Law
Bar Team of the Year - Nicky Davis
Jubilee Plate - retired from use as fully engraved.
Auntie Audrey's Au der of Merit - Kate Thompson & Kirsty Hull
Ladies 1s Player of the Year - Lucy Downs
Ladies 2s Player of the Year - Gillian Clegg
Ladies 3s Player of the Year - Sarah Jacobs
Men's 1s Player of the Year - Shujah ur Rehman
Men's 2s Player of the Year - Ryan Croxon
Men's 3s Player of the Year - Stephen Law/Pavi Aulakh
Men's 4s Player of the Year - Jagdev Bal

And So The Season Ended Like This.....

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	GF	GA	League Position
Mens 1s	22	3	5	14	49	84	10th
Mens 2s	20	6	3	11	39	49	9th
Mens 3s	22	6	4	12	40	58	11th
Mens 4s							
Ladies 1s	20	19	1	0	114	12	1st
Ladies 2s	22	10	3	9	45	54	6th
Ladies 3s	22	8	3	11	23	50	8th

Prize for the most goals goes to Ladies 1s which is mainly down to the Division's top two goal scorers - Lucy Uttley (47) and Maria Cavilla (24). Ashford had 9 names out of the top 20 goal scorers.

The ladies 2s had top goal scorer with Gillian Clegg on 16 goals (with 6 Ashford names in the top 20 goal scorers)

Thanks to all the umpires that have done games this year -

Mick, Steve, John, Bobby, Ryan C, Yazdi, Gordon, Mark, Sherpa, Digger, Shar, Luvvy, Lesley, Gillian, Michelle, and anyone else I have missed off.

Summer Hockey

The Ladies summer league has already started and is running on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with Luvvy on luvvy1000@sky.com organising.

The Men's summer league has also started with Charlie Cottrell and Shane Smith running the two sides.

End Of Season Reports

Ashford Mens 1s 14/15 report

As you all know we were only made aware of promotion 2 weeks before the season started which meant little preparation for the south premier level but this brought the squad closer together raising the level of commitment for the challenge of survival. The team had a difficult first half of the season due to a growing list of injuries mixed with adapting to the faster pace and quality of opposition. The highlights before Christmas including a gutsy display against high flying Trojans where our back 4 managed to keep their South African international quiet and the first win against Eastbourne surviving a 2nd half onslaught with only 8/9 men. The best performance and result of the season came in January against Banbury, being 30 seconds away from beating the champions at their place. The second half of the season showed plenty of promise with new signing Ravi Verdi having a big influence on us and overseas player Andy Whiting making a late dash to catch top scorer Shujah (well done for scoring approximately 140 goals in 3 seasons, an absolutely astonishing achievement!). Let's not forget we made it to the quarter finals of the national trophy losing to Sheffield Bankers who went on to win the competition. However, all of this wasn't enough to survive the play offs.

It was a tough campaign and we are grateful to have had ultimately a free season at south prem. It has made us better individually but more importantly a stronger team who can compete and pick up points at that level.

A big mention to coach Khan who is moving back up north with work, for being a rock at the back for us for 3 seasons but thank you mainly for taking the team to the standard it is now, and managing a difficult bunch (at times!)

We look forward to bouncing back next season with Jamie Hemphrey returning from his loan spell at his former club with hopefully some more new faces to strengthen the squad.

Ashford Mens 2s 14/15 report

P 20 W 6 D 3 L 11 F39 A 49 Pts 21

Placed 9th from 11

A season that started out well with a win in the opening game soon turned to a nightmare first half of the season with the team only picking up one further point from the next 8 games, it soon became apparent that a relegation battle was on the cards. A lot of the games were characterised by gritty close fought battles that always seemed to end up with Ashford on the wrong end of the result and with team moral at a bit of a low Christmas couldn't come soon enough. Two Postponed games due to bad weather gave Ashford valuable games in hand over their relegation rivals and with the chance to re-group after Christmas, Ashford took full advantage and came out all guns blazing in the second half of the season. 17 points were duly collected to add to the 4 from the first half of the season and with a few games to go safety was assured. The second half of the season was certainly more fun than the first and it was good to see Matt Emmerton gracing the upper echelons of the League Top Goal Scorers chart with 15 invaluable goals. Special mention should go to the 2nd eleven player of the year Ryan Croxon who pulled off some outstanding saves during the course of the season and kept us in many a game, as a reward for this heroic effort he has agreed to take on the mantle of 2's captain for this coming season and we wish him all the best leading the team on another adventure in MBBO 1.

Ashford Mens 3s 14/15 report

W6 D4 L12 F40 A 58

One can look at our season in a number of ways. It was frustrating that we did not get enough reward for our endeavours, that adult teams started to lean on us when we started to boss the game and umpires did not protect us enough, that we played better against the better teams than we did the lower teams (which ultimately was to send us down) however...the best way to look at our season is this way. We had great fun and really enjoyed our hockey.

We played good quality pass-and-move hockey and looked to use the width of the pitch. All our youngsters and a couple of the older ones are ready, or soon will be, to step up a level and we were a proper team who never gave up. If I had a pound for every time the oppo said after the game how well we played, well, I would have a few pounds! Team make-up was normally 5 kids, a couple of 20-somethings and then the older boys up to Bubbles and I. We defended as a team pretty successfully bar one result and main scorers were Shane, Chris Lunn and Robbie Forster with 8/9 goals apiece. All the kids, Pavstar, Stevo Law, Mad Max, Stevie and Robbie Forster, had outstanding seasons. The player of the year awards deservedly went to 2 of our colts. Steve Law was fantastically consistent and I never had to worry about the left side of the defence. Pavi got trickier and trickier as the season went on and scared the bejesus out of opposing defenders.

The second half of the season, we won 5 games and drew 1 of our 11 which showed the improvement in the team as we went through the season but my 2 favourite games were in the first half. First up was Ealing Lions, runaway champions and at the time of playing had won 46 and drawn 1 of their 47 games. Playing us, 2nd bottom and bare 11. 2 nil down at half time, they then took their foot off the pedal forgetting that we were playing pretty well. Their keeper said afterwards that was the busiest he had ever been in 3 seasons! First goal, Shane capped a truly stonkingly fantastic team move and then midway through the half, he got another one! What a game and then our supersub colt for the 2nd half, Jagdev, nearly scored. Last 10 minutes, we were out on our feet but survived to achieve one of the best results in my 40 years of playing. We also drew with the other promoted team, Newbury, a more conventional side but they only equalised in the last 5 minutes. Second half of the season, I absolutely loved the 2-1 win over Wycombe, the winner scored 3 seconds from time by Shane (he tried very hard to miss the open goal from a yard), this was very enjoyable payback. Put together with beating 3rd-placed and 5th-placed, how did we go down? Well, we didn't perform at this level against the OMTs and Eastcotes of this league and physically (not just the kids) we were a little lightweight. We did improve as we went along and had we replicated the second half results in the first half, we would have been 6th

I must not forget all our umpires for their efforts, thank you very much.

Finally, I want to say thank you so much to the 12 players in my squad (and everyone else who helped us/me out) for their support, commitment and patience. It really has been a pleasure playing in the same team as you and I am proud to have been captain of you guys #best2ndbottom #Ford!!

..ps...except I have just heard we have stayed up!! Huzzah!! But I was not going to rewrite my report!!...

Ashford Mens 4s 14/15

After many years in the lower echelons of the Middlesex, Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire League, Ashford 4s moved for season 2014-15 to the less competitive and geographically more friendly, Thames Valley Hockey Conference.

This had many advantages, especially when for some of the games we did not have enough players. For example at Maidenhead where the two players borrowed from the opposition scored the three goals that enabled us to record a 3-2 triumph! Similarly against Meadhurst at home, we loaned the opposition a few 'ringers' from our threes and thus ensured a home defeat. But it was all played in the right spirit!

Several wins were recorded and far fewer heavy defeats than in previous years, which all meant for an enjoyable if frustrating season. Too often the side had barely a full eleven and on two occasions, no keeper!

Several players were pretty much ever-present and the team relied heavily on them. Cameron was splendid in goal and a tower of support to the captain, Jas Surinder wove his magic in midfield, up-front or defence - it didn't matter where he was put as he roamed at will. Bram, son of the great Surinder, scored a brace of goals in the away win at Ramgharia Slough and then became a regular.

Jagdev Bal was invariably the star of the show and scored many special goals. Sadly he and his father Ranjit are moving on to Indian Gymkhana. They will be missed at Ashford.

Harrison, Lewis and Luke were always great value, improved enormously as the season progressed and were very flexible about which position they played. They are all fine prospects for the Club and should do well in the higher teams in the years ahead. Luke suffered a nasty ankle injury but will hopefully have recovered for next season.

Jamie Tilt made his debut at Slough, scored a goal and became an integral part of the team. Having to play a couple of games on grass, did test some of the younger players who were unfamiliar with 'astro-mud'.

Satnam was a super new signing whose experience was much appreciated. Hopefully he will be more regularly available next season as he offers a lot to the side and brings Gujeevan along as well; another good prospect for the future.

Chris Mather was another useful addition to the fours but was snatched all too soon, by the threes.

There were touches of grace and magic from years gone by, in the occasional appearances by John Vocking and Raminder Vig, whilst work and other exercise activities restricted Graham Doggett's appearances.

The captain (who scored his first goal this century and went on to bag two more) thanks everyone who turned out, Gordon for his assistance, Rosemary for her teas, Tracey for the umpires, the umpires themselves and anyone else forgotten or omitted.

Robert Evans

(Captain Ashford 4th XI)

Ashford Ladies 1st XI Report 2014/15

P 20, W 19, D 1, L 0, GF: 114 GA: 12 GD: 102

Goal scorers:

Lucy Downs 47 (top scorer in the league)	Maria Cavilla 24 (2 nd highest scorer in the league)		
Kelly 10	Sarah Symes 7	Nicky Benedict 6	Laura Quinn 5
Hannah Cole 4	Anna Prothero 5	Stacey Kenward 4	Beth Jefferies 3

I believe the stats say it all, what a fantastic season we have had. The newspaper headlines demonstrate the influence our forwards had. We started with "Lucy-fied! Uttley hits four in Ashford romp" and "Mighty Quinn starts Ashford ball rolling". Not to be left out, "A girl named Maria makes sweet music in Red and Black romp". No headlines but Hannah Cole was involved throughout the season despite her marathon training (well done Stokes!). As a midfielder I am glad to say that the forwards didn't get all the glory. "Syme of the times and last-gasp Sarah nicks a win for the Red and Blacks" and "Hockey Win is Taylor made". Stacey Kenward should have had her moment in the lime light for all her supportive play throughout the season. Although no headlines for the defenders we couldn't have kept our goals against score so low without the commitment from our regular defenders Wendy Baker, Sarah Symes and Emma Bashford-Hynes.

But whatever their position, every member of the squad has contributed to this amazingly successful season. We have had 24 different players involved in our matches. It has been great fun playing such attacking Hockey and enjoying the glory of each and every win.

Due to work commitments the face in goal has changed regularly, it hasn't been the best season to be a GK but thanks to Kim Downs, Chloe Russell and Hannah Merchant for keeping the kit warm and the goals out. We have welcomed back a few experienced faces (Kim Fry, Tracey Holland, Jackie Parsons, Annie Neyton, Cal Antell, Victoria Chudleigh and Hannah Gallagher) but sadly lost a few to injury too (Cal Antell, Laura Quinn, Beth Jefferies and Annie Neyton), we hope to see you back on the pitch next season. It was also great to see Caitlin Davies making her first team debut, I am sure it will not be long before she is a regular.

A special mention must go to those players who week in week out are there at training despite the weather and numbers; Jacqui Bashford, Emma Bashford-Hynes, Molly Davis, Anna Prothero, Sarah Symes and Kelly Taylor (well after a phone call to Anna to check she will be there!). Hopefully next season regular attendance will increase as we need to be top of our game to take on the higher calibre opposition in our new league.

A big thank you to Cuffie for his continued support, perhaps not always as positive as we would like (how many cards have you had this season??). But on a serious note it's not easy to be responsible for us lot and we hope that you have enjoyed being such a big part of a championship squad. Also a thank you to all those that have umpired our games this season, especially those that have been willing to trek around the north circular with us.

I will finish with one final newspaper headline "Red and Blacks in premier class - Ashford bear down on Tedds to bounce back on top flight". Onwards and upwards to the Premier league, let's hope we can continue the winning ways we have got used to!

Ladies 2's End of Season report

Last season the Ladies 2's ended with a fabulous winning streak and I would like to say this season started the same, unfortunately it did not. In the first half of the season we only drew one game and won two. However, it is not like this team to just give up! Being led by a combination of Kirsty Hull and I we came back out after Christmas with determination to win some games. We also had Hannah Merchant as our regular goalkeeper and boy can she save some goals!!

The second half of the season was full of goals and glory. The likes of Gill Clegg and Jenny Tippell were up front putting the ball away on a regular basis; Gill Clegg was the top goal scorer for the league and for our team, hence, winning her player of the year! Although we had a winning second half it was by no means an easy ride for the defence, a battle each week commenced and we held strong throughout each game. Solid performances consistently from Kate Thompson, Kirsty Hull and Becky Hewes helped to lead us to victory. Recently graduated from University, Abi Hack, was back for a great season and stood strong to help the defence every week, she even took the odd tumble for the team. Midfield had their work cut out for them in our up and down the pitch games. Lynne Morgan, Freddie Chudleigh, Louisa Jakobovic supported by newcomers, Sue Lane and Caitlin Davis fought tirelessly in getting the ball down the right end of the pitch. Beautiful link ups were made and balls placed in the right pockets led to attacks that Alex Danson would be proud of!

Overall, this was a season of well fought games and determination to win. We ended 6th in the league but were unbeaten in the last 10 games. Huge congratulations to all teams that played in the Ladies 2's this year and a massive thank you to everyone that gave their time to support us. Last but not least, a huge thank you to the umpires that come and give up their time every week, we are so grateful!

Choi for now,

Abi Frith

Ladies 3rd Team - 2014-2015 End of Season Report

This season has seen a real progress in several players not only the colts who have now played a whole season in the ladies section, but with several of the existing team. I would like to say how proud I am of the team and it has been a pleasure being the Ladies 3rd Captain.

Like previous seasons it has at times been tough to get a team out, due to overall ladies section availability, but we did it. We played some friendly teams and some not so friendly, but at all times with 100% effort.

Match Info - Finished 8th in the league

Won 8

Drew 3

Lost 11 (Conceded 1)

My wish for the upcoming season is, for more people to attend training. This will benefit all the teams from improving fitness, skills and things that happen in matches can be practise and improved for future games especially with all the new rules.

Nicky Davis (Retired Ladies 3s Captain)