



SNAPSHOT

Edition 5 – April 2011

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www.SilsHockey.co.uk

Welcome

Welcome to the fifth edition of **Sils Snapshot** – your regular look at what is happening at Old Silhillians Hockey Club (OSHC).

The aim of the newsletter is to share information, encourage inter-action, and generally generate more of a social atmosphere for everyone involved in OSHC. *Obviously, it would be great if people could print these newsletters off, and leave them lying around in places that might help us to recruit new members – whether playing, social, or supporting.*

Snapshot will look to provide news on Club Developments, Social Events, on the pitch and off the pitch performance and also a way for members to learn a bit more about what goes on with the running of the club. Please read on in this edition for:

A Message from your Chairman, News from the Juniors, a Spotlight on your President, and a review of the season.



Newsletter for
Old Silhillians
Hockey Club

NEWS

Welcome to all of you who are reading this at the dinner – here is to a fantastic night!

The 2010-11 season has been one of several successes, and this newsletter will look at celebrating those successes, and keeping an eye out for what to expect over the coming months and next season.

Successes at the club this Season:

Men's 1sts are West Mids Div 1 Champions (clear by 6 points)

Girls U10s are Warwickshire Champions; Boys U10s + Boys & Girls U12s all finish 3rd.

Men's 4ths more than double the number of points they won this season compared to last!

Juniors numbers have increased by over 40 new members.

Things to look forward to:

Silz Festival – August Bank Holiday weekend; please support if you can!

Summer League – Men's and Ladies both have a team playing

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View from the Chair – Steve Tabb; OSHC Chairman



Well, what a year it has been!

It has been my pleasure to be part of the most successful 1st team squad in many years, and also to note all the efforts made by everybody to promote the club, not just from a playing perspective. The club is now scored far more highly for its hospitality and behaviour than it has in recent memory, the Vets continue to go from strength to strength to not only make friends, but also attract more players to the club (both new and returning!), and of course, there are the FANTASTIC achievements of the Junior section.

Coaching has been well attended by the Ladies – and it would be great to see the Men's section mirroring the Ladies commitment! Informal Social events have continued to bond the club further, with the Men's and Ladies' sections now more closely linked than I can ever remember. Whilst the Ladies have not quite matched the Men's 1st team, they have had very encouraging seasons, with both teams finishing only a few wins away from promotion places.

So, what does the future hold?

Well, local clubs continue to look enviously at the Sils, and whilst neither of the two recently talked about mergers have come to anything, that does not mean the club is in a bad position – membership numbers are increasing, our coaching structure is getting more and more established, success is coming on the pitch, and the club finances and facilities continue to get better and better. Our online presence continues to improve as well, with the club website appearing in the top 3 on Google, Bing and Yahoo if you type in "Solihull Hockey Club", and also the development of a new online portal for buying club merchandise – check out www.Silz.co.uk, and you will see that we are setting up the facility to order kit online that can be paid for, and delivered to the club for collection from behind the bar.

The club this year has been re-accredited with the Clubs First accreditation (the first club in the County to be re-accredited, so we continue to provide the direction for all other clubs to follow in the area), the Sils provides more coaching and support to the County than any other club, and we have also made some ground-breaking progress with the schools in North Solihull, providing QuickSticks coaching and getting over 100 kids involved in hockey who had never played before. Off the back of all this, the club has been nominated as one of the shortlisted clubs for England Hockey's Club of the Year – fingers crossed we can make it to the last 3!!

As always, as we look towards next season, the club is keen to hear from anyone who is happy to help out. REMEMBER, there are all sorts of different roles that do not necessarily require a huge amount of work, nor time, but would make a huge difference to the 5 or 6 members of the club who currently do EVERYTHING!

We are keen to promote the development of our Juniors next year, so assistance with Vixens, Badgers and U14 / 16 / 18 teams would be great. Also, remember that the club is happy to pay for you to get any coaching or umpiring qualifications, so please don't let that put you off!

SUMMER LEAGUE

Please speak to Ruth Dovey for the Ladies and James Clapham for the Men if you are interested in paying Summer League; or Ian Rosser if you want to play Vets.

**Ladies will be playing in Stratford,
Vets will be playing at the Sils,
Men will be playing across
Midlands**



The club **NEEDS** your help – so
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!

We are far too reliant upon one or two people to do all the umpiring in the club – so please speak to Steve Tabb if you are interested in getting some Umpiring Coaching

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Club Welfare Officer:

Steve Tabb

welfare@silshockey.co.uk

OSHC Juniors

Sunday Mornings

10.30am – 12.00pm

Silhillians Sports Club



Juniors Co-ordinator:

Lucy Steele

lucysteele@live.com



Each edition, there will be specific articles dedicated to the Junior Section at the club – this will highlight upcoming events, remind people of Welfare Contacts, and identify what to expect from the Juniors in the next few weeks

Junior Success

The Junior section has had its best season in at least 5 years. Numbers of members have increased, the juniors have been playing regular matches against other clubs, and all of this has combined to mean that in competition against other clubs, our juniors are getting better and better results – not only did they win many games in the Warwickshire minis, we secured 3 x 3rd places, and 1 Warwickshire Champion side!

Young Leaders

Are you interested in getting more involved in sport? Did you know that many schools and Universities look favourably upon people who have Young Leader qualifications? Most importantly, do you want to have some fun with your friends? Email Louise (The Course organiser) on Louise_Hirons@hotmail.co.uk if you would like more details about the Young Leader training due to be run at the club.

Badgers & Vixens

The Vixens side has successfully run again this year providing a great opportunity for some of younger girls to experience 11-a-side hockey without the competition of a league match. They are however looking for a new Captain for next year – please let Ruth Dovey know if you are interested.

On the Boys side of things, the club is very keen to resurrect the Badgers team to mirror the opportunities that the girls have. If you are keen to play / help out etc. please speak to Steve Tabb.

Junior Development Centres (JDCs) & Junior Academy Centres

Congratulations to all Sils juniors who have played in the JDCs and JACs this year – particular congratulations should go to Tom Gayle, Rob Wigley, and Katie Craddock for playing in the the JAC stages. If you are keen to know what this is all about, speak to Steve Tabb

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The Silz Festival

The festival has been running for almost 30 years, and whilst it has evolved over the years, having suffered a dip in popularity in the late 90s, it is now once again regarded as one of the leading Mixed Festivals in the Country, with almost 400 attendees coming to the club every August Bank Holiday weekend. Many claim it is the best Festival in the Country, and recent highlights include the hot-tub last year, the fantastic social atmosphere with many teams returning year on year, and plans are looking just as promising for this year.

What can we look forward to this year?

The theme for this year will be "Computer Games" so look out for many wacky costumes on the Sunday night – current suggestions are that there will be Tetris pieces, Mario Brothers and Donkey Kong gracing the clubhouse!

What things make the Silz Festival unique?

Several things make the festival unique, but ones to mention are:

- The free massages on Sunday afternoons
- The watering cans of purple nasty
- The fantastic mix of grass and astro hockey with 8 and 11-a-side games
- The social activities in line with the annual theme – for this year, watch out for the weekend long Mario Kart challenge, and the Laser Clay Pigeon shooting

What can you do to help?

The club and grounds needs work on it to help prepare the site in the week before the August Bank Holiday weekend; there are various jobs including umpiring, waking teams up to make sure matches start on time, collecting results, and simply tidying up the site – you can do as little or as much as you like – all in return for free drinks!!!! Or, of course, you could come and play, Jamie Clapham organises a team each year.

What does the festival give to the club?

Fairly simply – money, and new players!!! Match fees and subs are cheaper than almost every club in the Midlands because of the Festival, plus last year brought us 2 new players, and continues to promote the club amongst local players and works towards attracting more people to join the club. So, please support the Festival as much as you can!!!!

As a final word:

Don't forget the Silz Festival

It is the major fund raiser for the club and needs as much support as you can provide – please speak to Steve Tabb if you are happy to help in some way

The Future Looks Bright!

The club is currently going from strength to strength, but remember you can all do your part to make the club an even better place to play hockey by doing any of the following:

- Encourage new players to join the club
- Support the Silz Festival
- Use the website more to show we are an active, lively club – www.SilsHockey.co.uk
- Volunteer to support some of the admin roles required – MANY DON'T REQUIRE MUCH TIME !!!

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