



SNAPSHOT

Edition 9 – January 2012

ContactUs@SilsHockey.co.uk

www.SilsHockey.co.uk

Welcome

Welcome to the ninth 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.

As always, if anyone has any contributions they would like to make to the Newsletter, then please do not hesitate to get in contact, and we will endeavour to get your news shared with the club.



Newsletter for
Old Silhillians
Hockey Club

NEWS

Even with the run-in to Christmas, there was still a lot of activity going on at the club, though with much of the focus shifting to off-pitch activities as opposed to matches themselves.

Having said that, the club continues to do well in its matches, with the Ladies' 1s and Men's 2s still lying second in their divisions, and the Men's 1s and Men's 3s also with promotion still within our grasp. The Badgers also beat Stratford 2-0 with the Vixens dominating their 0-0 draw with the same club.

- Off the pitch, the new kit has started to get delivered (though somewhat later than initially hoped – sorry to those few of you who missed out on giving Christmas presents!) – **remember you can buy kit online by visiting the club website, and clicking on the link on the right-hand side (www.Silshockey.co.uk).**
- The Club held a rather amusing Secret Santa and Bowling evening – the highlight definitely being the box of Lucky Charms that were bought for our very own Irish Leprechaun Paddy!
- The annual Boxing Day game against Olton was as entertaining as always – a very high scoring game that we were in control of until the last 10 minutes, and then I gather we came 2nd
- With the club continuing to grow in numbers every week, additional Fixtures have been lined up on Saturdays for a Ladies 3rd XI and also for a Mixed Badgers side – keep an eye on the Fixtures on the website for more details.

Following the Club's success in the England Hockey Board Club of the Year awards, we have also been nominated for European Club of the Year! Results are announced in March.....

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The club **NEEDS** your help – so PLEASE GET IN TOUCH! (Chairman@SilsHockey.co.uk)

With the club increasing the number of teams it is running, we are DESPERATE for assistance with managing / organising these teams.

PARENTS in particular, please GET INVOLVED – you do not need to know anything about hockey to help and your kids will not get hockey without your assistance!

OPEN ROLES

You do NOT need to be a Hockey Player to get involved – parents are more than welcome (in fact, encouraged) to help shape the future of this club

- **Social Secretary:** HELPING to organise and coordinate regular Club Socials (not necessarily involved in actually organising each event). Time commitment – about an hour a week, mostly can be done from home.
- **Commercial / Fund-Raising Officer:** helping to tap into the various bits of available funding, and linking in with Social events, to help raise funds for things such as Junior Kit, hockey balls etc.

View from the Chair – Steve Tabb; OSHC Chairman



Firstly, **Happy New Year** to you all. I hope you have had a good break, and are re-energised to get back into the swing of things. I am personally keeping my fingers crossed that the cold and frosts do not hit too hard and cause too much havoc with our already busy match schedule!

So, half way through the season, I get a few weeks to sit back and reflect on how things have gone for the club so far, and also to think about plans for the second half of the season, and then, of course the Olympic Summer.

In terms of the reflection, I would probably give us a B+ so far for the season – all playing sides are doing well, our new coaches have bedded in well, our finances are looking ok, the new kit is looking good (though we have had a few production / delivery issues that are now being ironed out) and the Club Day was a massive success. We have now had over 120 Juniors “sign up” for various sessions this year, we have recruited extra adults, and we have been successful in getting regular Vixens and Badgers matches – in fact, we are just in the process of securing some Saturday Ladies 3rd XI and Mixed Badgers games, such has been the success of our recruitment.

We have also been shortlisted for the European Hockey Club of the Year, and will find out how we fared in March/April. Also, keep your eyes out for future Snapshots detailing what is going on with the clubhouse developments, and a really exciting Olympics related weekend of hockey in the Summer.

So, what needs to be improved? Well, 4 main things:

1. From a playing front, getting teams out etc. is one thing, but playing success is what it is all about – we are well on the way to getting on-pitch success, but in order to maintain/guarantee this, we really need better availability of players, and also improved attendance at training by the senior members.
2. Payment – whilst we theoretically have around 180 members, this is not reflected in the amount of money we have collected in Subs – so, if you are a member of the club, and have not yet paid your annual subscription, please do so!
3. We still have an over-reliance upon a small number of people to run everything in the club. These same people organise these teams, run the coaching, raise all the funds for the club (to keep Sils as the cheapest hockey club in Solihull to play for) and also do the umpiring. It does not take much effort by a few extra people to make the lives of this over-worked minority much easier!
4. Our Social side – which is something the club likes to take pride in – is really dwindling. Very few people stay behind after games, almost none drink in the club bar on a Saturday night, and we have NO Social Secretaries to organise Club Socials (please see to the left!) We have always been a social club, so PLEASE make an effort to socialise a bit more.....and do give consideration to the Social Secretary vacancy.

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Club Welfare Officer:

Steve Tabb

welfare@silshockey.co.uk

OSHC Juniors

Sunday Mornings

U10s: 10.00am – 11.00am

Over 10s: 11.00am – 12.30pm

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

MATCHES

Remember to check out the website (look for the Fixture List under the Youth Hockey menu on www.Silshockey.co.uk) as matches are coming thick and fast in 2012. We have our usual local festival matches, plus Vixens and Badgers matches every few weeks including 1 confirmed Saturday fixture on the 3rd March against Solihull Blossomfield, and then also the County In2Hockey (MiniHockey) championships on the 11th March (U10s) and 18th March (U12s).

Coaching Times Change

Remember that due to the massive success of our Junior Sessions, we have decided to make changes to the times that our Juniors train. We have decided to split the age groups, with Under 10s now starting earlier, and only running for 1 hour (but with more pitch space!), and Over 10s, moving to a slightly later slot. Times are as follows:

U10s: 10.00am – 11.00am

Over 10s: 11.00am – 12.30pm

Next Season

Because of the success we have had in growing our Junior Section this year, we will be looking to enter teams into the England Hockey Board National Competitions at U14 age groups next year. This will add to our offering for Juniors which will then provide the following at the club:

U10s – Junior Training on Sunday Mornings with Friendly Matches against local clubs in a tournament format once every 4-5 weeks, plus the County Minis at the end of the Season (now called **In2Hockey Championships**)

U12s – As above for Sunday mornings + Sunday afternoon Badgers and Vixens (roughly 6 games a season)

U13s – As above for Sunday mornings + Saturday Afternoon matches for a Mixed Badgers team for some of the stronger players (N.B. No County Minis)

U14s – As above for Sunday mornings + players older than 13 can now take part in Adult hockey on a Saturday if they want (N.B. No County In2Hockey Champs.)

U13s & U14s – National U14 Competitions playing against other clubs

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Rage Hockey Stick Sponsorship

What is it?

The Club Chairman has been lucky enough to secure Sponsorship from Rage Hockey for its hockey sticks – and they have also granted him permission to sell these sticks on at a **MASSIVELY DISCOUNTED** rate.

How much discount do we get?

You can get **40% OFF** all sticks available within the Sponsorship range (about 80% of the total Rage Hockey range).

How can we take advantage of the discount?

1. Email the Chairman Steve (Chairman@silshockey.co.uk) – he can offer advice as to what stick you might want
2. Check out the sticks available at www.ragehockey.co.uk (remember to take 40% off all the prices shown on the website)
3. In the short term, speak to Steve about how to order – by the end of Feb, the club online store will be set up for you to make purchases through.

A Huge Thank you to our Sponsors

Junior Kit sponsored by Roxhill



Men's 1st Team Kit sponsored by Arkade Property



There are still opportunities to sponsor the club, so please email contactus@silshockey.co.uk if you would be interested

As a final word:

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Remember to check out the Club Website on a regular basis for all the latest news, and don't forget, you can buy all the latest club kit online at www.silz.co.uk/silshockey

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www.facebook.com/Solihull.Hockey.Club

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