



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB
In Touch

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Congratulations to the Shadows on gaining promotion.

Please note that the National League game vs Sheffield UB is now on Saturday 15th at 5pm. This provides opportunity to give our boys very welcome support. Try to get there.

Monday night men's training has now finished.

Club and Awards Dinner will be on 19th April; book now with your captains.

All results, league tables full fixture list can be found through website.

Men's fixtures for next two weeks

Mar 15th			
1 st	Sheffield UB	H	1700
2 nd	Old Georgians	A	1330
3 rd	Oxford Univ	H	1500
Shadows	Addiscombe	A	1430
4 th	Epsom	A	1530
Pilgrims	Southampton	A	1500
Gondoliers	Havant	A	1630
March 29th			
2 nd	East Grinstead	A	
March 30th			
1 st	Chelmsford	A	
April 6th			
1 st	Brooklands MU	A	

Ladies Fixtures for next two weeks.

Mar 15th

1 st	Havant	L	H	1330
2 nd	Surbiton	F	H	1400
3 rd	Croydon MO	L	A	1200
4 th	Southampton	F	A	1200

5th

Mar 22nd

1 st	Wycombe Rye	F	H	1200
2 nd				
3 rd	GHC 4 th	F	H	1030
4 th	GHC 3 rd	F	H	1030
5 th				

Mens Reports

National league – Div 1

Guildford 0 - Southgate 3

The 1st XI game on Sunday was against the league leaders Southgate. Guildford started brightly and were moving the ball around the pitch with a control and intensity not seen for a long while. The Guildford defence looked composed at the back which allowed the midfield more space and freedom to create openings. Inevitably this led to chances but unfortunately the team could not convert any. Southgate struck before the break to go in with a 1-0 lead but there was an optimistic feeling amongst the players during the half time team talk. The second half started with a mini-monsoon passing over Broadwater for the first few minutes of play. Guildford's passing was not as crisp and precise as in the first half and this allowed Southgate to get on top for a period. A penalty corner led to a Southgate goal from a flick straight down the middle of the goal. This was followed by another soft goal from a reverse stick strike which again flew down the centre of the goal. Some strong running from the Guildford forwards could not create any clean openings and unfortunately the team failed to convert any of the short corners which were won.

This was an extremely encouraging display from the side and is indicative of the change which has undergone the team since the winter break. The difference between the two sides today was the application in the circle and there is a clear feeling that the team is not far off a well deserved victory. Next weekend sees the last home game of the season against Sheffield at 5pm. This will be an excellent opportunity for the guys to highlight the progress they have made and hopefully entertain our loyal supporters on a lively Saturday evening down at Broadwater. All support is most appreciated.

Guildford 2s 0 East Grinstead 5

We played well enough in the first half and went to the hut 0-0, in fact I'd say we were awesome. If we had defended this season like we did for those 35 minutes then we

would not be where we are today. However once again we failed to convert our chances and EG slowly started to exert their grip on the game. Early in the second half we started to fade. EG increased the tempo and started to score with ease, it was as though we had been gutted, and we were. I'm sorry avid fans, but I can speak no more of this, the hurt is so deep.

We would like to congratulate and cheer for the Shadows who have earned their promotion – well done boys!

MOM – The FatHead

Guildford 3s 1 Indian Gym 2

Guildford Shadows 2 (Ben G 2) - Leatherhead 2

As the end of the season draws near we met our local rivals at home for our penultimate game of the season. Leatherhead had brought the weather with them! Having played on their water-logged windswept high-quality hybrid pitch for our away match with them, earlier in the season, Leatherhead brought the wind and rain with them for their return match. Knowing that a win would mean promotion, we were anxious to succeed.

We were missing key centre back Mikey, Dave T at left back and Woody in goal, who is on paternity leave, so needed reinforcements at the back. Ben Proudlove stepped in as keeper and Alex 'Burger' Burgess joined us to help out at the back.

The Shadows got off to a fantastic start; what looked like a scrappy short corner turned out to be a string of nicely worked 1-2's, between Al & Ben G, in the D. Although he fell over Al managed to lay the ball square to Ben who slotted our first passed their flailing keeper in the 2nd minute!

Our second then came within 15 mins - a great ball from Chaz into the D through the "inside" left channel, Leon AKA Stato ran on to it and slipped it under the arm square to Ben G who powered it low and homeward.

With a tight defence at the back - Steve-o saving one off the line when faced with a one-on-one, Marcus sweeping behind our midfield, Dave running hard, Deano taking control in the middle and Ben P with a stick-save or two - Leatherhead did not look too threatening for most of the first half. Just before the break however, Leatherhead managed to get themselves into the top of our D and, from nowhere, struck a fast knee-high ball past Proudlove into the left corner to make it 2-1.

With the opposition squabbling for most of the second half, anyone would have thought that we had this one in the bag. Anxious to hold onto our lead we somehow let Leatherhead gain confidence, giving away a few short corners. Unfortunately one of these was not as successfully defended as the rest and a scrap in front of goal gave Leatherhead the chance to trickle one over our skipper leg, so to speak. The end was near so we gritted our teeth and worked hard to hold on and settle for a 2-2 draw.

Although slightly frustrated that we should have been victorious, as we got into the clubhouse we learned that Wanderers had beaten Old Rs putting us 6 points clear in 2nd place with 1 game to go, so we are now successfully promoted!!

MOM - Steve-o

Guildford 4s 5 NPL 2

Gondoliers 4 Amersham & C 1 (Pearse, Jones, Gould, Carney)

Well done to skipper Andy for getting this game together. The opposition were very short of players and an umpire, but due to Andy's efforts the game went ahead. Thank you to Norman and Terry for umpiring and thank you to luscious legs Russell, General Gordon and not so quiet Jonny for volunteering to play with the oppo along with an old friend Donald Dunbar who was umpiring the previous game.

The Gondoliers started crisply and were awarded their first half short corner, Commodore Pearce navigated his way from the back to the edge of the circle, weighed anchor and waited for LWGOTW to firmly push out the corner, it duly arrived and the Commodore sent a firm shot goal wards where General Gordon was stationed but to no avail 1-0. Amersham settled and their four newcomers made a very positive contribution to the cause, but the Gondoliers were rewarded when Carney moved well into the circle and yes he passed the ball to Jones who was running in on goal 2-0. The Gondoliers then lost the midfield to Amersham and they created a number of chances one of which the not so quiet Jonny steered past David, who said he was unsighted and Goalie Gordon 2-1. Now David was supposed to be on a MAPF course this week after last week's moment, but he delayed his departure, thank you for that David but you will have to go on the course next week. The Gondoliers needed another goal and it came after good interplay between the sprightly Belshaw and LWGOTW 3-1. The second half was a hard fought affair with both sides having a number of chances. Goalie Gordon getting ready for his management team building away day event decided to chase the opposition centre forward around and around the circle ending up in a heap. Read your instructions before setting off next time Richard. When the Gondoliers got their second half short corner LWGOTW firmly pushed out to Carney who put his shot away 4-1.

The game ended at 6.08pm, so the Gondoliers were hampered as the convention is no talking about the game after 6.00pm. I am reliably informed that most if not all members broke the rule and suitable fines will be levied over the coming weeks by the fines committee, start saving now.

In the bar we enjoyed the Barnsley win and started drifting off, the Commodore put on his hat and took his barge down the Wey Navigation to moor up at home. We were nearly embarrassed by the Oppo who stayed, but the Gondoliers face was saved by LWGOTW who out stayed them.

This week's Gondolier of the Week was Peter Gordon for his fine play for the opposition and for generally being a nice chap.

Key: MAPF = Missed a Penalty Flick

Ladies Reports

Guildford 3 Basingstoke 1

Guildford 2nd 0 Barnes 1

Guildford 3rd 1 Barnes 0

Guildford 4th 3 Kenley 1

Plus a report from yesteryear (March 1st on grass)

Fireflies 1 Burnham 3

The day had arrived that no-one had been waiting for.....our first match on grass! We sat in the changing room dusting off old football boots that we had begged, borrowed, or stolen from our sons, husbands, or partners. We cautiously walked out of the changing rooms to be met by a surprisingly flat and well manicured pitch. This led to some concerns that the opposition must be pretty good on grass because if this pitch were at Guildford it would be full of divots!

The match began with a shaky start by Guildford and it was not long before Burnham had scored, but unfortunately their scorer was supposed to be playing for us at the time! But Guildford did not lose heart, it was just taking some time to get used to playing with a slower ball...that said, Julie Sloper seemed to be in her element! Perhaps this was a game for the old dogs in the team! (just kidding, personal joke).

Katie Taylor made some cracking runs up the right wing past the defence but wasn't so chuffed when she found out her defender was 70 years old!! Helen C made some great moves and put us back in the game with our first goal! However, Burnham fought back and scored another 1 before half time.

In the second half, Guildford began to step up a gear and started to dominate play. Karin Kern did a fantastic job in defence, marking their top player, whilst Kirsten made some incredible saves on goal....one that even ended in the splits (and by the way you're not getting your tenner back)! Jules found her calling as Centre Back, whilst Tricky dazzled us as Centre Mid and made some great defensive decisions as left back. Unfortunately Burnham managed to get one more in before the whistle blew making score 3-1. All in all a good game, if for nothing else but the comedy value!

Colts Report

Guildford U14 Development Team v Woking

Result: Won 4-1

Scorers: Joe Kirk 2, Nathanael Farrant, Tom Foster

The first half was very close and both teams had chances to score, but at half time it was still 0-0.

In the second half we gave the ball away a lot less and put together some excellent

close passing moves. Our short corner routine also worked a lot better than in previous games. Joe Kirk scored our first goal from open play and the second from a short corner. Nathanael then scored a fantastic solo goal having run almost the full length of the pitch and beaten every Woking player single handed! Finally Tom Foster scored another well worked short corner.

It was never easy though and a tight defence made sure we didn't let in a goal until the final few minutes. This was a great team effort and everyone played his part. Thanks again to Nathanael for playing at very short notice. Congratulations to everyone for a great result.