



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB

In Touch

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 2007/8 Season Issue 29 08/04/08
 This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

All members are urged to attend meeting on April 15th.

Please bring a raffle prize to the Club/Awards dinner.

Invitation to GHC Festival of Golf – 26th April (see below).

Season League summary

Ladies	Position		Mens	Position	
1 st	5 th		1 st	8 th	
2 nd	7 th		2 nd	10 th	
3 rd	1 st	Promoted	3 rd	8 th	
4 th	2 nd	Promoted	Shadows	2 nd	Promoted
			4 th	5 th	
			Pilgrims	11 th	
			Gondoliers	6 th	

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

Mens Reports

National league – Div 1

Brooklands 4 Guildford 1 (Usher)

Aussie Tom's last words.

Well the 2007/08 season has come to an end, it has been quite a hard year for the boys and the loyal supporters of Guildford but in recent weeks with a win and a draw we have managed to pull ourselves off the bottom of the ladder. It was mentioned at the Christmas break that the rest of this season would be used to kick start the 2008/09 season and apart from the Chelmsford game we have improved from week

to week. I would like to thank Coach, Mark Morris for what has been a difficult year after losing most of last season's core players. The time & development you have put into the new lads will only make us stronger in the years to come. To Uncle Tony, you are like a father figure to most of us, making sure we all have the correct socks, picking up things left in the dugout, telling us off when we step out of line, the list goes on and on. We can't forget Pam either, the time and commitment you have both put into the club in particular the First 11 this year without Danny around has been outstanding. I can't thank you enough, we would all be lost without you on board. Do-Ron & Mr Marsh we thank you for filling in and helping out when Tony has been unavailable and to the supporters, thanks again for those who turn up week in week out your support does not go unnoticed, especially through these difficult times. The future looks bright for The Ford, stick with us and you too will enjoy in our future success.

Ok, on to this week's game, we were up north facing Brooklands, who with a win could secure a playoff position in a bid to gain promotion into the Premier league for the coming season. I think I can start this week's report in similar fashion to a couple of weeks ago, We awoke at the Holiday Day Inn at Stoke on Trent to a typical English summer's day, the sun was out shining brightly and there was around two inches of snow on the ground, with the possibility of having the game postponed to next week!!!! This however was not on the minds of two members of our squad, the sight of snow to the two Aussie's was irresistible, within minutes there were snow men and snowball fights all over the place!!

The call came through at 11am confirming the game would be going ahead as planned and we were off. Upon arriving Morris gave us his final words of wisdom for the 2007/08 season, I was handed the Captaincy from fellow Australian, Dush for what would be my final match for Guildford. We headed into the game hoping to upset Brooklands plans of making the playoffs. When the game started it looked like this might be the case, with several attacking moves deep into Brooklands defence. A great cross from Usher sent Baxter's deflection just over the bar. This seemed to give Brooklands a bit of a wake up call and within minutes they had stepped up a gear and we found ourselves down 1-0 through a deflection that beat Dov on his near post. We kept to the game plan creating further attacking moves to no avail, it was a defensive error that led to Brookland's second goal and we were down 2-0 at the break.

Morris was confident we could secure points from the match if we capitalised on the chances we were creating through pressuring Brooklands into turnovers and the build up we were creating from defence. We started well and some neat saves from Dov early in the second half kept us in it. Brooklands patience paid off as we reverted to half court to stop their lobs deep into our defence, an overlap was created and they were in the circle, the resulting short corner was converted and the game seemed to be out of reach. Usher did his best to inspire the team into a late come back, after Marsh showed off his silky skills and slipped him the ball, within feet of the base line he slammed the ball over the keeper's shoulder and into the roof of the goal. This lifted our spirits but it was not enough to get us over the line and we eventually ended up 4-1 down.

We were happy with our performance considering we were playing a team that

finished second in the league and felt we were competitive for most of the game, some fine tweaking here and there over the summer should see some big improvements over next season and the new team song sung on a few more occasions!!!

On to a more personal note, as some of you are already aware and those that are not, I'm heading back to Australia, yep that's right you've finally gotten rid of me!!! I would like to take this chance to thank you all for the support and encouragement you have shown me over the last 2.5 years I have been with the club, I have made loads of great friends (possibly a few enemy's throughout the other clubs and umpires, but not to worry!!!!), I have really enjoyed my time here and will drop in too say hi next time I'm back. Drop me a line if your ever in Melbourne and we'll catch up for a for a real beer!!!

All the best in the coming season's... Go The Ford!!!

Aussie Tom.

Ladies Reports

Guildford Ladies 3rd 4 Surbiton 4th 0 (Slick x 2, George, Tricky)

The team arrived slightly nervous in anticipation of our final league game. We had secured promotion a few weeks back, but we wanted to finish in style and a draw would secure our place as champions.

After a good warm-up and team photo session we were raring to go! The start coincided with the heavens opening, dampening our first touch and we spent the first five minutes on the back foot! Gradually the team found their feet and we start to play some flowing hockey which soon resulted in a short corner which Slick drove inside the right post to go up 1-0. As the rain eased off we found the form which had been missing for the last few games and we put Surbiton under huge pressure, passing the ball around with style and flare. Another Short Corner was awarded and once again Slick stepped up and smashed the ball through the Goalkeepers legs to make it 2-0. We continued to play with confidence but were unable to increase the score line before half time. Quote of the half came from the Surbiton umpire who advised Phzz that "she was ok to swear because the whistle had blown!" after nearly losing half her shin bone when the ball was battered at her from 10 inches away!

We continued the second half passing with such speed and accuracy, Dom would have been very proud! It wasn't long before another short corner was awarded and Slick stepped up to the D knowing it had been 15 years since she had last scored a hat-trick. Tricky pushed the ball out with great accuracy, George stopped the ball with precision and Slick swing her stick with absolute power.....unfortunately the ball spun away at the last moment! Slicks swing connected with thin air and a loud chant of "jug avoidance" erupted from our party of supporters! We continued dictating the play and after several 100% passes, Tricky slotted home our 3rd goal. Several more short corners were awarded which we were unable to convert, then a spell of complacency allowed Surbiton to hit us on the break several times only for them to be thwarted at

the last minute by some brilliant last ditch saves by our saviour in goal Kirsten. A quick shower of hail stones soon had us coming to our senses and a final spell of attacking play led to a driving run into the D and a well placed shot by our Captain Fantastic George to make it 4-0.

The final whistle blew and we could finally sing that little known Freddie number "We are the Champions".

MOTM – George, Tricky & Slick
DOTD – Slick

Thanks to our army of supporters, Mr & Mrs Renshaw, the brown dog, Mr Roberts, Jane's Boyfriend, Kit Kat, Ren and Simon Jackson for coming out in the bitter cold weather and giving us all the encouragement and abuse from the side lines!

Finally the team would like to say a big thanks to George for all her hard work as captain, Dom for his brilliant coaching, Martin for his ever reliable umpiring and Kirsten for saving our bacon and coming out of retirement to play in goal for 1 season only. We love you all ☺!

--- INVITE to Golf ---

Ladies & Gentlemen,

If you're already beginning to miss chasing a ball around on a Saturday afternoon then look no further! You have been cordially invited to attend the GHC Open - an afternoon of golf and entertainment on April 26th.

Whether you're an aspiring professional, keen amateur or absolute beginner, this is the event for you. This is the kick-off event of the 2008 Summer of Golf. Let me explain how this works...

Bacon bap, tea and coffee on your arrival from 11 o'clock
Groupings will be announced at 11:45
The first group tees-off at 12:00

You thwack a little white ball around the countryside for a few hours
Tired and emotional, you return to the clubhouse for a little post game banter before...

2 course 'late lunch', a few drinks and...
Prize-giving ceremony, a few laughs and tears, and awards

Reply quickly to ben.gray@guildconsulting.com because places are limited. WAGS and HABS (husbands and boyfriends, obviously) are more than welcome to join us for either the golf or the meal or both. The more the merrier.

Thanks to our good friends at Wildwood Golf Club (www.wildwood.co.uk), we are able to offer you all of this for only £25. They've also offered GHC members further discounts on weekday and weekend green-fees and we're hoping to arrange 4 or 5

'very social' rounds this summer.

We look forward to seeing you at Wildwood on the 26th.

On behalf of The Organising Committee,

Ben Gray