

in touch

the e-zine - from **Guildford Hockey Club**

2012/13 Season Issue 01 24/09/12

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Welcome to the new season!

In Touch is back and is the place to go for all your match reports and current news about Guildford Hockey Club.

If you have a report or any other relevant article that you would like to include, please email richard.julian@gmail.com

Current news:

GHC Race Night this Saturday 29th September

They're at the post and they're off!

It's the first big social event of the year as [Jade](#) brings Race Night to the Clubhouse **THIS SATURDAY**. Horses can be bought for as little as £6 if you contact [Jade](#) quickly and there will be plenty of prize money for those lucky winners.

As well as horses, there will be a full bar, a curry and another opportunity to watch Jenno demonstrate there is more to auctioneering than you might just think. This has been an excellent night in the past so please come along and encourage your team mates to do the same.

FIXTURES

All of the Guildford Hockey Club fixtures are available through the following links:

MEN

Team	Role	Name/E-mail	Telephone	League	Link to results, tables and fixtures
1st XI	Manager	Tony Hall	01483 768832	National West Conference	1st XI
	Coach	Ian Jennings	07802 886000		
2nd XI	Captain	Tim Darke		London League Prem	2nd XI
3rd XI	Captain	Tom Pollard		London League Div 2	3rd XI
Shadows	Captain	Steve Morris	07788 784143	Surrey Open Premier	Shadows XI
4th XI	Captain	James Perkin		Surrey Open Div 4	4th XI
Pilgrims	Captain	Mark Lenel		Wessex Masters	Men's Vets
Gondoliers	Captain	Andy Roberts	01483 271206	Wessex SuperVets	Men's SuperVets



www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=67

LADIES

Team	Captain/Email	Telephone	Link to results, tables and fixtures
1st XI	Fiona Harley		1st XI
2nd XI	Tracy Henderson		2nd XI
3rd XI	Rosie Johnstone		3rd XI
4th XI	Beth Fantastic		4th XI
Fireflies	Lesley Wallis		

... also see The Surrey Hockey Association Ladies League www.surreyladieshockeyleague.co.uk

The latest 1st XI League Tables can also be reached via <http://www.southleague.org.uk>

MATCH REPORTS

Don't forget to send any match reports from the weekend to richard.julian@gmail.com by Tuesday evening.

MEN'S SECTION

Saturday 15th September



Guildford Mens 1s 5 – 2 Havant

(Marsh 14, Boot 19, Wood 30, Haynes 47, Rippon 62)

After an extremely positive pre-season that included games against Cambridge, Richmond, Oxted, Teddington, Old Loughtonians and two sides in Antwerp the new look Guildford squad 2012/13 was eager to get the season underway. This year Guildford boasts a young squad pushing 20 in size which means that competition for places will be fierce and our strength in depth will make us the envy of some other teams in our league.

As you can see from the scorers, this result was a team effort that required spirit and endeavor from everyone throughout the squad. With Greg Lewis deputizing admirably in goal for his first National League game for a number of seasons, the defence worked hard and held firm despite its relative lack of pitch time together. Guildford debutants Tom Herring, Simon Cox and Chris Shannon all performed well under the stewardship of new captain Ali Falconer and ensured that after a cracking opening few minutes, Havant weren't able to get a grip on the game.



Duncan Marsh:

"It's always good to get your first goal, especially in the first game and against your old team. If we are to succeed this year the midfield will need to contribute goals; hopefully there will be more to come from us."



Chris Boot (far left) celebrates scoring the second goal. How did he describe his goal? *"Incredible."*

The midfield six of Paddy, Booty, Mike, Snowy, Duncan and debutant James Ferguson linked up well and cause many problems for the Havant defence. They have been working hard in pre-season on creating a fluid unit, all contributing effectively and today showed some of that effort starting to pay off. A special mention must go to James whose first game for Guildford makes him the youngest player ever to wear the Guildford shirt in a national league match.



Matthew Wood:

"I was thrilled to have scored on my debut (even if it wasn't the prettiest of goals!). What feels even better is knowing that it was only one of three opportunities afforded to me by the team. It's great being able to work off a solid midfield who play high up the pitch. Here's to more this season!"



Jonathan Haynes scored from a well worked corner finished off by neatly executed deflection

Our forwards Jonny, Will and debutants Woody and Craig Mullan never gave up and created numerous chances, linking up well with the midfield and putting the Havant defence under real pressure throughout the game. There are also a number of players due to come back into the squad over the coming weeks so exciting times for us all at Guildford.

So, a good start to the season and a performance that we can build on in the weeks to come. Our next home game is on Sunday 7th September against Fareham at 12pm at Broadwater School, please feel free to come along!

Wessex Masters League Cup, Pool C

Guildford Pilgrims 3 - 1 Chichester Priory Park Deacons

I always forget how a long hockey season catches the very end of the summer, freezes its knackers off during winter, then suffers once again in the April sunshine. Last Saturday was no exception, with our opening game being played on a hot afternoon at Broadwater. Thankfully a burgeoning interest in the Pilgrims squad over the summer meant that our first match was supported by a squad of 15, allowing us plenty of, er, 'rest breaks'.

Not so much luck for the opposition who spent the 48 hours prior to push-back playing a cat-and-mouse game of 'got no umpire, got an umpire, got no umpire'. In the end they turned up with 10 players plus one, and only the last minute intervention of our very own Geoff Tonks on the whistle allowed them to field a full side. (As an aside, it always surprises me how teams that for whatever

reason, don't provide an umpire still feel entitled to complain and pass comment on the decision making. I mean, come on!) So a few early niggles from them plus our own nerves at the first match of the season made for a slightly awkward game.

Our opening goal was provided with newcomer/returning player Rich Crombie, all 17 foot 19 inches of him, pouncing on a nice delivery from Mark Howells to slot the ball in the net. Chichester had very little by way of response, relying on old-school hockey style of a sizeable sweeper smashing the ball down the pitch in the hope that it would arrive on the end of a friendly stick. On the few occasions when it did, they were able to string together a pass or two and make a little progress towards our D. Generally, though, their attacks were quickly snuffed out by our solid defence, now including the fresh faces of Richard Woods and Russell Alexander, as well as a healthy-looking & fully-convalesced John Asdell.

However, one good break from them was enough to deliver an equalising goal mid-way through the first half. Our reply wasn't long in coming. James Shelbourne, taking inspiration from the Olympic hockey, attempted a short-corner flick into the top right corner of the goal. The resultant dribbler into the bottom left counted as a goal all the same.

Gordon Wyllie extended the lead with his trademark move - a classic poach from no more than 6 inches from the goal line – and we arrived at half time with 3 goals to their 1.

The second half was pretty disappointing. I'll put it down to the heat, early season lack of fitness, and a general malaise that we weren't winning more comfortably. None of the attackers could find the net despite some very impressive linking play from defence through to midfield. James Shelbourne collected a bad knock to his hand (which we now think might be a fractured thumb), and Mike Kefford was on the receiving end of some pretty rough tackling.

Still, we clung on for the win, which starts us at the top of our pool for the League Cup.

Next week, a return to our old chums at Alton...

Saturday 22nd September



Whitchurch 1 – 4 Guildford (Mullon 15, Marsh 20, Blockley 35 + 52)

The last time Guildford Hockey Club enjoyed such a successful start to the season Shakespeare in Love had sealed Best Picture at the Academy Awards, England had plummeted to the bottom of the Wisden Test Match Rankings, and The Backstreet Boys were top of the UK singles chart with 'I Want It That Way'. 13 years and 465788 shuttles later, Guildford have yet again won their first two matches of the national league season.

This Sunday saw Guildford earn a comfortable 4-1 victory at Whitchurch in a fixture that had all the hallmarks of a classic 'away-day' in the amateur sport: 6am alarms, caramel-cream cappuccinos, 150-mile journeys, monsoon rainfall and three vital points.

The G-Strings, as the Guildford team have affectionately become known, started the stronger of the two sides providing regular probes into the Whitchurch defensive quarter. The away team deservedly opened the scoring when Craig Mullon latched onto a reverse-stick cross from Will Blockley to deflect the ball into the bottom corner. Whitchurch responded with a deep two-thirds press allowing the Guildford back four to rotate the ball with ease but preventing first phase passes into the midfield. However the G-strings soon broke down the Welsh side's press and began to slide balls into dangerous attacking positions. With 20 minutes on the clock, Duncan Marsh extended Guildford's lead with a well-executed 'back-of-the-hand' slower delivery serving to deceive an embarrassed goal-keeper.

Whitchurch reduced the cushion immediately after being awarded a penalty-flick, deposited with aplomb by Rupert Shipperley. The home side - cheered on by a crowd just as large and enthusiastic as one would expect for a County Championship match at the neighbouring Swalec Stadium - soon built up a steady wave of momentum and began to exploit any areas Guildford left exposed. However it was the Gs who responded next when Blockley roasted a drag-flick into the side-netting on the stroke of half-time.



Craig Mullon in action for Guildford



Will Blockley was in devastating form against Whitchurch

Whitchurch reacted superbly after the interval and tore into Guildford's D, alerting Simon Mason for only the second occasion of the match. Mason was left helpless as a beautiful lob floated over his head, destined to dip under the bar and to bring the Welsh back into contention. However, captain Ali Falconer rushed back to produce a spectacular goal-line clearance of the finest quality.

Guildford soon took full control of the fixture as Whitchurch began to tire. The closing 20 minutes saw the G-strings in full attacking stride, attacking effectively down both wide flanks. Blockley put the result beyond doubt with another drag-flick to continue Guildford's strong success rate at penalty corners.

The victory launched Guildford to the outright top of the West Conference.

By Paddy Harman, follow him on Twitter [@PaddyHarman](#).

Guildford 3s 7 – 2 Kings Alleyn's 2s

Regime change can often be a tricky beast. So, with former captain Phil Harris moving up in the world at the end of last season to become men's section captain, new leadership was providing as much curiosity as how well a squad sporting 5 new players would gel in our first fixture of the season.

Luckily for the 3s, filling the captaincy void was none other than a 3rd team stalwart for many years, the man who is rumoured to have the quickest push in the league, and without doubt the most dangerous finisher from 1 yard I have EVER seen – Thomas "Polly" Pollard.

Considering first game nerves, and the fact that we had never played together as a side before...Guildford's dominance of the first 20 minutes came as a bit of a surprise. King's Alleyn's were harried and pressured when on the ball into turning over possession so regularly that they found themselves camped in their own half, with the energetic Guildford front 5 running riot in their D. Early season rustiness showed however as initially great opportunities weren't given the finishes they deserved, with the oppo goalie plenty busy and the ball regularly flying off the end of the pitch. But then the floodgates opened...

First on the score sheet was the Alex Foster, heroically turning in a great performance after a night shift ending at 8am, although if we're honest, not looking that much more awake than normal. After careful build up play, a great ball was played into the box by Sam HS for Alex to pop up on the far post and flick it over the keeper. The second came not much later after good controlled play around the top of the K.A. D saw the ball rocketed to the back post and slammed home by captain fantastic, Tom Pollard. At this point it is hard to remember Kings Alleyn's mustering a shot on goal on their rare forays into Guildford's half, and this dominance was soon underlined with Guildford's third, which was as usual greeted by the demented Geordie roar of approval from the outstandingly named Kit Fantastic on the clubhouse terrace, roughly 8 ciders in at this point. Captain Pollard again got in on the action, exchanging passes with Alex F before beating the keeper one on one...boom, 3-0 halfway through the half.

We were getting very used to playing in the oppo's half by this point and any breaks made by the plucky visitors were unintentionally but brutally shut down by some of the more agricultural tackling you will see this season, just before the end of the half. First Matfield earned himself a green and a talking to for clumsy swipe on his opposite man, before – not wanting to miss out on the fun – Bungle combined with Matfield to crunch one of their unlucky forwards, the former receiving a yellow for his troubles.

Having put in an impressive work rate in the first half, we were shattered at the break, and resolved to keep things simple to give ourselves a bit of a breather in the second. Im pretty sure the last watchful words offered by Deano were, *"The next goal's really important lads because if they score they could be all over us"*...and unsurprisingly, they then scored within about a minute. Keeping things too simple, we allowed KA into our D, something which surprised Sam Hansen so much that he casually side-footed one of their wayward passes into the backboard. Under the new rules: a way back for struggling opposition.

No fear though, an almost instant reply came from our resident hair-care expert, Mr. Hill-Smith. Sam

wasn't available for comment, so it remains for me to say that his first goal was probably quite average. His second, and Guildford's 5th, was definitely noteworthy however, as after great work from Guildford in the visitors' D, the ball was squared across goal for a virtual embarrassment of 3 Guildford players to tap in. Centre back Bungle, quite stunningly out of position but probably still trying to atone for letting everyone down earlier, was all ready to claim a rare goal when Sam used his youth to outpace the big man and steal the score. For the 6th, scorer Chris P describes the action in his own unique style *"I dragged the keeper out, went around him and popped it in!"* Indeed.

Finally, after a consolation from Kings Alleyn's, Rhino fulfilled at least some of his personally-generated pre-season goal machine hype by stealing the ball in midfield, trading passes with Alex and finishing on the turn after an initial save from the keeper. KA had come back stronger in the second half, but ultimately could not stem the flow of goals and in all honesty had been fortunate to have finished only 5 behind. All in all, an outstanding start to the season, well done to everyone involved and the only reason we're not top of the league is because Indian Gym capitulated to a 10-0 thumping away at Oxted. An away day at Old Lought's next week, which promises to be a much sterner test of a promising season.

MOM: Matfield, the man rumoured to have been born without a first name.

DOD: A two horse race between yellow-card Bungle and a captain still recovering from man flu. Always going to be harsh on a day like this, but Bungle proved the man with more cunning this time, successfully lobbying for a crestfallen captain to take the shirts home on a day when he scored two and lead the team to a resounding victory.

Fines highlights: Dr. Banner went all green and angry in the second half for handbags with the captain; a selection of passes from centre back Will Evans straight to their centre forward; keeper Andy for conceding more than his 16 year old stand-in last week; Sam Hill-Smith for screaming like frightened ladyfolk when the water cannons threatened to ruin his immaculate Vidal-Sassoon hair-do; Polly's Alan Shearer style goal celebration.

LADIES' SECTION

Saturday 8th September

Fireflies 2 - 4 Guildford 4th

Sarah (1) Edge (1)

This was the first game for us and we knew this was going to be hard.. Hard due to the fact of getting 11 players on the pitch.. Afternoon game and “god” it was a hot hot hot day... We went out with 7 player and no keeper against a whole Guildford 4 team.. We had a good game and used our amazing technically skills to play the pitch well, giving the opp a good run around!! We scored 2 GREAT goals and with no keeper their games were ok!! We were strongest in the first half, however the hot weather and numbers on the pitch got to us a bit in the second half (but I know the opp felt the same).. All in all it was a good start to our season and the 4th said that they were glad we only had 7 players!!!! So, there you go..... Nice to see a few new players “welcome to you all”

See you at the next game.....

Saturday 22nd September

Guildford Ladies 2s 2 – 1 Woking Ladies

The Guildford Ladies second eleven made a promising start to the season with a 2-1 win against local rivals, Woking. A powerful goal resulting from KitKats straight strike was unfortunately disallowed but gave Woking a taste of what was to come. The team stayed strong against the tough opposition and ended up one goal up by half time by a one touch wonder by Laura Burns - having her first touch on the ball being an almighty strike at goal. A hairy moment came when a Woking player took on Kerry who was doing a fab job in goal, after diving KitKat took one for the team putting her body on the line to stop a goal inches from the line.

Half time came as a welcomed relief. Setting a goal to get something in the D Average managed very smoothly to get a foot in the D and after a great deflection from Kath; we were 2-1 up. It was a well fought game against a tough opposition and the team was very pleased.

Sunday 23rd September

Surrey Master League Game

Fireflies 5 - 5 Staines

(Cas(1 own!), Kirsten (3), Their keeper (1 own) and another (1) I think Shev's

Let's first take a moment to reflect on the Fireflies as a team.. GHC ladies formed this team to bring together individuals who had at one point or another had played high level hockey, however at this point in their life just wanted to come back to play high level hockey together and enjoy this social element, but with no league pressure...

So, I am asking myself WHAT HAPPENED LADIES!!!!!! We the fireflies have played our first league game and yes this was truly a turning point.. And I hear the TEAM saying "God we played well" and yes I do agree, we were a team that were on form for the WHOLE game..

BIG THANKS to George, who umpired for us and are a star and will always be one!!

Game Summary: Well the weather was amazing for a Sunday afternoon, we knew that if we were wearing our wet suits and armbands we would be fine!!! Us changing in the bar was great! We were like 11 warriors going out to battle the weather as much as Staines.. The game was quick, end to end stuff.. Not sure of whom scored when but, Kirsten had a great game (3 goals), her first goal was a sweep in from the left post (however I have to say her goal face, was much better!!). We had a few short corners, unfortunately we were unable to gain anything from these (sorry guys!.. will do better next time around).. their keeper score for us (Bushy, followed her! So counted each other out!) 2 more goal, which added to our confidence in the game, however each time we scored, Staines came back. The whole team put their heart and soul into it for the whole game!! I can say out of the whole game, the team agreed the finest moment was a near miss from Kirsten.."The ball moved quickly down the pitch and slipped into the D, Kirsten saw this opportunity and with her whole body went for it, she was amazing, her whole body spun 360% in mid-air.. no goal, but 8 out of 10 for gymnastic effect!! "

Lipstick and I, take our hats off to each and every one that played!!!! Thanks Guys and George! Here's to the next one!!!

COLTS' SECTION

No reports this week.

NOTICE BOARD AND SPONSORS PAGE

Coming soon...

If you have any notices that you would like circulated to members and friends of Guildford Hockey Club, please email details to richard.julian@gmail.com.