

in touch

the e-zine - from Guildford Hockey Club

2012/13 Season

Issue 03

10/10/12

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Another 1-1 draw for Men's 1s sees them drop from 1st place. Ladies 1s lose narrowly to Southgate in 7 goal thriller.

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

Current news:

You will be delighted to hear that GHC has a new website
www.guildfordhockey.co.uk

This new site has direct links to fixtures live for all teams, many thanks indeed to Ian Murphy who has developed this new site – a great improvement!

We have also migrated most of the adult membership data from the old system to a private members section on Fixtures Live – use your email as user ID and press forgotten password to get a password sent to you so you can log in – and then complete your personal data (we need it for insurance purposes and if you were to get injured badly etc) and also provide your availability.

Captains will get guidance on how to set up and use the team management capabilities shortly from Phil Harris or Finn Harley.

The September 200 club winners are:

1st	2nd	3rd
£50	£33	£17
M Rees	A Cairns	Chelsom

Volunteers needed!

I am sorry to announce that your humble editor of In Touch will be standing down from the position and leaving Guildford Hockey Club in December. I am leaving for pastures new and a new job in South America. In Touch therefore needs a new editor and I am appealing to any club member who might be willing to take on this interesting role. It's a great way to get more involved with the club and develop those creative skills! If you would like to volunteer your services or find out a little more about what is involved, email richard.julian@gmail.com

Thanks

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 Parkin		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	Clare Edgington	07881500818	

... 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

Sunday 7th October



Guildford 1 – 1 Fareham

(J Haynes)

Last Saturday saw the 1st XI travel to Cheltenham and grab a point to keep them top, this week was a local battle against Fareham with Guildford hoping to perform well in front of the home crowd. With the sun shining and a good home crowd in attendance both teams walked out onto the pitch looking forward to another EHL Western Conference game.



Fareham has been a team that the G's usually perform well against during the last couple of seasons but with some good results recently, we knew this would be a well fought fixture.

The aim was to play at a pace that the opposition could not match and both teams turn up ready for a battle. It was a shame that umpires didn't seem to turn up at all. This did not deter Guildford forward Craig Mullen who, after seeking inspiration from Nelson Mandela's autobiography before the game, was on fire from the get go. Both sides had many chances in the first half and Fareham probably had the pick of the bunch with some golden far post opportunities. The G's corner routine has an impressive success rate this season and had it not been for the well-logged keeper the percentage would have increased. Some brilliant skill from Chris Boot secured our only corner of the game – a ratio that needs to improve.

Craig Mullen in action for Guildford

The second half started as the first finished with both teams going for the three points out of the gate. Fareham's goal came in the 47th minute after a speculative hit into the D ricocheted off some Guildford defenders before a Fareham forward popped up to deflect the ball into the goal. However, as everyone knows, you are at your most vulnerable when you have just scored and with ex-diamond miner Craig in scintillating form, he was able to carve up the defence down the right after some good work from Paddy Harman and found the famous economics writer J. Haynes who slotted it home on the 49th minute.



Goal scorer Jonny Haynes vs Cheltenham

The game continued to be end to end, with Guildford making the best chances and feeling like they had done enough to secure maximum points. Unfortunately, the Fareham keeper had other ideas and made some epic saves to twice deny Mullen's trademark tomahawk shots. Woody also saw his shot saved onto the post after a worked move down the left saw the ball fall to him on the right post but again the keeper was equal to the shot.

The game finished in a draw with Fareham probably being the happier of the two sides. The next game is away to Bristol Firebrands who have struggled of late and the G's will be want to get back on the winning track before fixtures against Exeter and Bath.

Saturday 6th October

Guildford 3s 0 – 2 Richmond 3s

After a smashing start to the season against the relative newcomers in our league – where only the cruelest of last minute equalisers denied the us a record reading 2 wins out of 2, goal difference: +6 – the Guildford 3s were handed a fairly blunt reality check at the weekend by one of the league's tried and tested veterans, the Richmond 3s. With a team unrecognisable from the previous weekend, a strong match day squad bolstered confidence – even if the fact that half the team still weren't sure of

each other's names by the start of play underlined an unfamiliarity that ultimately undid us.

Gone was Chris Botma, the man always looking over his shoulder for the doom-laden shadow of the boys from immigration and to make things even worse, all three of our recognised centre backs decided to simultaneously take the weekend off. So gone was the bald, aggressive bear-like rock at the heart of our defence, along with most of the people who were young, youthful and full of running up front. On the plus side without Bungle we stood a decent chance of playing the entire game with 11 men on the field. Special mentions and thanks this week to Sloppy, Burder, Tom and Chris for saving the day and all putting in top performances.

The first half was a tight and uncompromising affair, the ball again contested fiercely in the midfield so both sides finding more luck attacking down the flanks, Guildford's best periods of possession seeing Polly and Alex receiving the ball wide on the touch line after solid work from Dr. Banner and Rich, and then taking on their full backs. Chances and even incursions into the enemy's D were rare for both sides, such was the dominance of defence over attack and slow pace of progression up the pitch, allowing plenty of time for returning defensive cover.

On the rare chances the home side broke down a stubborn opposition defence however, confusion reigned around the penalty spot and an error by the away side mid-way through the first half left Burder to flick agonisingly wide from about 6 yards. The game was starting to look like one of those where a Guildford side, perhaps looking slightly less dangerous than the oppo, held on and tried to steal a win late on in the game. Right before half time however, disaster.

A moment of hesitation by Sloppy on the top of the D and their chunky centre forward, displaying throughout the game a bizarre tendency to hit almost anything available with a bizarre, regularly useless, one-handed, left hand reverse slap, stole in to cause havoc and was promptly and unfortunately floored by the onrushing Andy V in goal. We couldn't argue with the flick being given, shocked as we were, and were unlucky that their player scored by the most calamitously flukey of miss-flicks.

Half time brought some changes, the slightly stropky Rhino shifted to centre back, reigniting an age-old feud from last season where the ambitious attacking midfielder saw his dreams of double digit scoring glory fading like a hazy dream. We also realised that if the under 8s could do it, then we might as well have a go at winning a short corner, accurately pointing out that we hadn't won one all game so far.

The second half was slightly more open with both sides feeling the effects of a busy first half, and in truth the greater cohesion, organisation and fluidity of the Richmond side gradually started to give them a clear advantage. Both sides had opportunities, but whereas Guildford's were usually undone by lack of communication, control or a quality final ball, Richmond often looked dangerous. What was probably a deserved second followed by the away side, and always seemed to be one too many for us to pull back. What we can say is that the oppo played well, and their greater familiarity was probably the main difference between the sides. Our complete lack of short corners, which were looking good in training, also probably didn't help. As always, consistency of availability and selection will define our season again this year – watch this space to see how it goes!

Seasons goal tallies: 2 – Pollard, Chris B, Sam HS

1 – Rhino, Alex F

MOM: A performance of widespread mediocrity saw almost everyone get a vote, more out of resigned camaraderie than potent, game changing excellence. The man receiving the most plaudits

was probably the affable, fox-like midfield predator Deano.

DOD: No Bungle this week so no yellow card, meaning this one was tough. Rhino and Polly came close but for a frustrating game where one of his more notable moments was squaring up (and not stacking up particularly well) to their mountainous centre back, Alex F sneaked it at the death.

Fines highlights: Retrospective for Rhino, forgetting to put his shinnies on last week, so having to sub himself off after about 20 seconds of the game to dress himself properly, Brendan didn't even play but Rhino continued to throw his toys out of the pram post-game for being relegated to defensive duties, Matfield/Matt/whatever-you-want-to-call-him-just-don't-learn-his-name for the worst and most embarrassingly poor elevated-push-and-follow attacking maneuver of the game. It would have been the worst of the season, but then again we have Fran.

Tea Watch – GHC Thai red curry, slightly on the watery side but good flavour, much improved rice. Better if you stole a march on the oppo and got tea in early and were rewarded with a glorious poppadum, although mango chutneys curiously absent. 7/10

Guildford Shadows 4 – 1 Merton 2s

Coming off the back of a heavy defeat by the Surrey Spartans a week before, the Shadows had everything to prove that they were worthy of the promotion from last season.

They started well with the team using the wide channels to deliver balls deep into the opposition's 16. One of these deep possession plays allowed for a strong delivery to the top of the D, where after a few select touches, Copeland managed to find the back of the net via a reverse stick; 1-0. Play continued end to end with neither teams utilising the attacking drives until a miscommunication between the Shadows' defence allowed for a soft goal to level the game. With the match tied at half time, our part time coach (AKA Rhino) gave the team talk and instilled moral into us to come out for the second half with a hunger to win!

The Shadows started strong straight off the mark and not before long Copeland picked up his second of the game to make it 2-1. Mikey and Ross were solid at the back closing down some attacking play from Merton's forwards; while Sam and Will were the crucial pivot men in the centre that fed the wide attacks of Tim, Tristan and Callum. Again one of these wide plays resulted in getting us deep into Merton's D and a deflected shot fell badly for a Merton defender and after a scramble for the ball, Mark managed to get something on it to see it dribble past the keepers left foot...not pretty but that was 3-1.

Merton started to lose steam with 15 minutes to go and the Shadows took full advantage of this by closing down the 50/50 balls and intercepting Merton's long ball attempts. The Shadows' continued the waves of attacks with Johnny Dye twisting and turning the defence inside out. After several unsuccessful short corners; finally one rebound landed nicely for Tristan who found the sweet spot and buried one past the keeper for 4!

Overall the temperament of the game was much better than last week with no cards being shown; despite Steve doing the Man Dance with one of Merton's attackers - our skipper had had enough of their No.42-shirt intentionally swinging his stick at his Shads Lads for the third (and final) time!! MoM went to Marcus Bentley for making some crucial saves to keep us in the game and despite Copeland picking up 2 goals, he received DoD for a glory-hunting attempt for a hat-trick rather than an easy slip to an unmarked Sam at the top of the D.

Goals from: Tristan Clark – 1, Mark Vowles – 1, Tom Copeland – 2 (DoD)

Teas: Excellent Red Thai Curry (even though “the popadoms are reserved for the L1’s only”!)

Croydon & Old Whitgiftians 2's 4 – 1 Guildford 4's **(Jan)**

An upbeat 4th XI went into this fixture full of confidence of getting their season started after an encouraging, but winless opener the previous weekend. The first 15 minutes saw a period of play with Guildford well on top, and playing some fine, passing hockey. All that was missing was a deserved goal. What happened next had a huge impact on the game for both sides for the remainder of the game. After some unnecessary verbals aimed at the visiting female umpire from a senior home player a yellow card was rightly brandished. This resulted in more unpleasantness and the player proceeded to dispatch the match ball over the perimeter fence in a show of immature petulance. The shaken umpire had no option but to show a red card and dismiss the player. This enraged the home team, especially their 'umpire' who let anyone who would listen know what 'he would have done'. With the score at nil nil, the team that dealt with this situation best would come out victorious and unfortunately the home side used their feeling of injustice to rally their troops and scored 2 crucial goals in a 5 minute spell that really won them the game. Guildford's heads dropped and it was too little too late when the exciting 16 year old Jan Nythil scored a consolation goal for the visitors.

Guildford will learn from this game. They will learn to not let things outside their control affect them so much and as importantly they will learn that they must take the chances they are given and be much more clinical in their forward play. There is still a lot of hockey to be played this season and it's not all doom and gloom for the 4's, though a morale boosting win would do them the world of good.

Salisbury Striders 3 – 1 Guildford Pilgrims **(Lenel)**

It seems like getting 11 players + 11 sticks on the pitch at the same time isn't enough to do well in Div 1 of the Wessex Masters League anymore. As for most matches this season so far, we found ourselves with a surfeit of defenders and insufficient strength and ability in midfield to expand the play beyond the halfway line. Although we stole an early lead with our first penalty corner, the final score flattered the Pilgrims somewhat. It was only relentless battling by our defensive lines - plus an inability of our hosts to convert the multitude of penalty corners against us - that kept the score as low as it was.

So we're now looking forward to a run of 6 (six!) home matches, where we hope better availability and midfield strength will allow the back lines a little more breathing space, and give the forwards a chance to flex their muscles...

Guildford Gondoliers 5 – 1 Woking Pitts (Belshaw, Savage 2, Sturgess 2)

Perfect weather conditions, a full side and an unbeaten record saw the Gondoliers take to the field in a confident mood. Credit to Rudy who turned up with a raging cold!

Tim knew it was his day when he managed to find a pair of shoes in lost property that fitted and quickly opened the score sheet with a head height rocket. This was quickly followed by a second from Tim following a deflected shot from Sturgess. Half time followed with all the usual advice on short passes and don't underrate the opposition however I started listening when fines of beer jugs and empty score sheets were mentioned.

Woking started off the second half well however any penetration was regularly snuffed out by our more youthful back line and they had few opportunities on goal. There was no doubt that our forward line was more effective with some strong runs from Nick Kuhle and Rudy and hard crosses from the flanks. One of these caught a nick that their goalie was oblivious to and the goal was awarded. Their goalie never got over this and was still moaning when another miss hit bobbled over him for Guildford's 4th.

Woking managed to pinch one back which from my viewpoint seemed well taken, before Chris Belshaw (uncharacteristically) showed calm nerve on a one on one with their grumpy goalie to seal it at 5-1!

Great effort from all especially Rudy who struggled for oxygen throughout the match and thanks to Peter for his excellent umpiring.

Saturday 29th September

Old Loughtonian's 3s 1 – 1 Guildford 3s (Botma)

A third Saturday of blue skies and sunshine in a row greeted the Guildford 3s as we emerged from the central line and arrived at Old Lought's London 2012 smurf-turf for our first away fixture of the season. Very much hoping to continue last week's scintillating form, but expecting a much tougher outing, we picked up striker Francesco from the 2s and were saying goodbye to Vidal Sassoon who has been poached by future opponents Oxford Uni.

After a familiarly comical warm-up – interrupted almost as soon as it had begun by a hail of water from the water cannons – both sides started what would turn out to be a tight stalemate of a first half, packed with plenty of endeavour, but little clinical finishing. As ever, the Guildford back 4 were solid, distributing the ball up the flanks and whilst play was congested in the middle of the park, Chris B, Alex and Polly again gave their defence the run around, although with slightly more competent opposition this week, shots on goal were few and far between.

As the first half progressed, Guildford again controlled the game in impressive fashion, dominating possession and territory but failing to find a way into and through the packed OL's D, smacking many a hopeful ball at goal that the oppo either intercepted or managed to clear with a little bit too much ease. This even continued when they lost a player to the bin for a wild slash just before the half. So 0-

0 at the half was probably fair on both teams, given Guildford had failed to come up with the necessary guile to trouble the scoreboard.

Straight after the half, short corner to the away side, and variation number 1 (of a possible 2) was pulled out of the bag with immediate and lethal effect. After making an embarrassing hash of this incredibly simple manoeuvre maybe 20 times in a row at training, this time it worked like a dream, Matfield collecting a scrambled clearance on the P spot, and then shooting so weakly from 5 yards that it needed a Protea smash right in front of the keeper to put Guildford 1-0 up. In a game this barren of real attempts on goal, it felt hugely significant at the time, like a superior but complacent Arsenal nicking the one goal they thought they needed away at Newcastle and then gambling on sitting on the lead for the rest of the game, already thinking about what they were having for tea that night and where they were going for beers.

And this is how it transpired, as the second half deepened Guildford sat further and further back, OL changed to a full pitch press when we had the ball, Guildford curiously stopped passing to each other and gradually appeared to grow disinterested of harrying in midfield. A green came out for Dr. Banner (who said afterwards he feels he is building early season momentum now after not having scored an own goal in this game), their forward with the most over-gelled, over-styled Essex hair of a quite outrageous team collection then saw yellow for a petulant push on Rich, and feeling left out Bungle channelled his days as an east end club bouncer, coercing their centre forward off the ball by basically hugging him and trying to fall over.

Allowing the oppo so generously to dominate the midfield and play almost entirely in our half did create space at the other end however, and Guildford were left to forever rue at least three chances when our forwards were released either 2 on 1, or even 1 on 1 (FRAN!!) with their keeper. It was generally agreed afterwards that a second would quite definitely have killed the game as a contest and Dr. Banner could have happily resumed his second half hobby of punting the ball past an incredulous keeper whenever he wanted.

As it happened...with OL all over the away team like a plague of locusts, the second half lurched past the 35 minute mark and Matfield's failure to count out 5 yards meant a convenient short corner was awarded to the home team shortly followed by, wouldn't you know it, the final whistle. Deano, it should be pointed out here, was spotted at this juncture joshing with the umpire on the halfway line, swaggering around telling anyone who would listen that it didn't matter, the game was sewn up and there was no need to run back. And then with all the predictability of finding out that Mitt Romney hates poor people...goal, game over, gutted.

Seasons goal tallies: 2 – Pollard, Chris B, Sam HS
1 – Rhino, Alex F

MOM: Andy Valner, our heroic keeper, who made two top draw saves to keep us in front as OL piled on the pressure in the second half. Honourable mentions for Rich and Alex.

DOD: The most shocking outcome of the day was that the skipper missed out on this one, meaning he still has as many DOD nods as he does goals, an interesting race that we will watch play out over the season. Bungle took the shirts home this week, now having a 100% record of yellow cards in games so far this season, just easing ahead of Matfield, nominated for giving away the short corner at the death that basically cost us 2 points.

Fines highlights: More girl like squealing from Chris as the water cannons came on, Chris again for

mistaking a small child for a dwarf, Fran mumbled something about Matfield not liking people from Hong Kong, Andy V for abusive behaviour towards his helmet when we conceded, Dr. Banner for failing to stop the ball on the line for their goal...we basically just turned on each other like feuding infants, each seeking solace in blaming someone else for not winning the game.

Tea Watch – Smash, toad in the hole and generic meaty fingers masquerading as sausages – 5/10.

LADIES' SECTION

Sunday 7 October

League Master Game

Firefiles 6 – 1 Oxted

(Kirsten, Edge, Whitey, Genie and Boots)

Well it was a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon, so we were very keen to crack on with our league game, we feel ready to play and with a full 11 players !!!! (well done Lipstickxx) Of course and fabby Umpire Rohanna!!!!

We all played out of our skins and it was like watching Swan Lake, players gliding across the pitch, the ball flying around the pitch from front to back !! Everyone seemed to really want to win and that was great to see...

Every goal that was scored by us was definitely a team effect and it felt at times that it was difficult for Oxted to keep up with us on the pitch, (as a few of them said as the game when on).. Which is nice to hear, as the team worked well together, if I hadn't know better, I would have said that we have been training in the week!!! (Maybe be a few!!).

We seem to be getting good results and that from us all contributing to a success spirit... Rest for us under Wimbledon !!!! in a few weeks!!

COLTS' SECTION

Girls U12 Match reports for Sunday 30 September

1. 11-a-side match versus Camberley and Farnborough at home.

Result : 2-0 Guildford A Squad

Our A team turned out a squad of 14 for this, our first 11-a-side match of the season. We started strong from the beginning, with some excellent and accurate passing and team-work. The occasional break by Camberley was nicely contained by Guildford's defence. Mia, Autumn and Eliza communicated well to transfer the ball across the pitch and allow midfield to drive forward once again. Hannah, Rebecca and Lucie all had strong runs in midfield. An obvious improvement from last season was the strong strikes on goal. Hannah....did well to put the goalie under more pressure in the D in the second half and was close to scoring.

Second half we really put the pressure on with our first goal coming from Rachel Dickson – following shortly afterwards with one from Coca Hall. Excellent pressure put on the keeper by all the forwards and a very pleasing first performance by all and great work rate by everyone.

2. U12 – Mini Development tournament 7-a-side at Horsham.

We put out 2 teams for our development squad at Horsham, against 6 other teams. For some this was their first experience of a match situation. Several parents stood at pitch side little knowing quite how stressful the next 60-70 minutes were going to be. By the end I'm not sure who were more exhausted, the girls who ran their socks off, or the spectators who gasped at every close miss, cheered at every goal scored and groaned at any goal conceded by the team.

Team 1:

In the first game the fact that 5 girls were going to play against 7 didn't seem to matter as the girls all played fantastically to win (1-0) and gain 5 points. The next game should have been another win, only for the other team to score the equaliser as the final whistle was blown (2-2), 3 points.

Games followed non-stop and with the other teams benefitting from their greater numbers, tiredness set in. 4 very close losses followed and 5 very disappointed girls started the last game.

They all put in 100%, with Amelia terrorising the defence several times with some fantastic runs. Emma's inch perfect pass from the half way line to Hannah Egerton, who then scored with a great shot, must have been the pick of the goals and brought a big cheer from the stressed spectators. They were only able to attack so freely because Catrina was so strong in defence, only really being beaten when she was outnumbered by the opposition and Hannah Ewer made vital saves over and over again. Conceding a last minute goal again was very much against the balance of play.

Although I'm sure the girls would have liked a few more wins it had been a great opportunity to get lots a match experience. It was also felt that with a full team the scores would have been very different.

Team 2:

Similar situation for team 1 consisting of: Charlotte, the 2 Molly's, Anna, Abi and the Horsham keeper kindly helped us out. Charlotte was tireless up front and the 2 Molly's defended well. Anna was a great worker in midfield and Abi showed great bravery after coming off worse in a couple of tackles. Although there were losses in all the games we did manage to score 1 goal in the game against Burgess Hill.

Girls U12 Match reports for Sunday 7 October

Minis 7-a-side tournament at Broadwater

Guildford hosted a mini tournament at Broadwater against development teams from Old Kingstonians and Horsham. Each team fielded 2 teams.

Team 1: There was a massive improvement over the 3 games, which unfortunately was not reflected in the first 2 scores (2 defeats). Abi found her place in defence and Catrina again showed some solid work at the back. Alice, Anna and Hannah forged a good unit in midfield and Sophie made some good tries at scoring. In the final match there was a 3-0 win for Guildford 1 team, finishing up 5th from 6 teams.

Team2: Seemed to have the run of the ball in their 2 games and had wins against both teams in their group. Guildford held off an early attack in the first game from Horsham 2 with Hannah Ewer showing some fast foot work in goal, spurred on by the great defence provided by Molly Worthington and Anna Cookman Guildford managed to keep a clean sheet. Emma Tomlinson, Katherine Wallis, Charlotte Miles and Abbie Windel attacked consistently but were unlucky not to score until the final minutes when Abbie Windel got the goal Guildford had worked for. Game 2 against Old K's had a hat trick scored by Katherine Wallis. Guildford worked well as a cohesive team, Annie Molden joined the midfield attack with Katherine, Abi and Emma managing to get past the Old K's defence by strong teamwork and coverage of the pitch, new arrival Georgina worked with Anna in defence to ensure the Old K's were denied an opportunity to score. In the final game Guildford put in a last minute goal to draw the game 1-1, finishing joint winners. Guildford showed great spirit and well deserved their joint first position.

Well done to all the girls who took part, parents who supported and helped, and umpires for their work.

Below: The 2 Guildford Teams



Under 12s Show Depth and Versatility: four teams in action Sunday 7th October in two different formats

The South East Mini Hockey Round 1 (of 5) was hosted by Cheam. Guildford entered three teams into this 7-a-side competition, all of whom did well.

Team Giraffe – Won 3, Lost 1

Due to a small pool 'Team Giraffe' played a Cheam team and Wimbledon's strongest team twice. The boys played well in all games but particularly in the final game where they sought revenge against Wimbledon having lost narrowly to a last minute short corner in their first encounter. They played with much determination and got better as the tournament went on. They learned the value of passing to beat teams and using the full width of the pitch. There were many individual highlights but it's the great team effort that stood out for me.

Well done boys!

Martin

Team Gibbons – Undefeated in all 3 matches

Guildford Gibbons played 3 matches and were unbeaten. First match they beat Wimbledon Cheetahs 4 - 1 (official score) although those of us watching the match believed it was 5 - Nil. The second match against Wimbledon Lions was a much closer affair, but our boys managed to win this 1-Nil. Final match was between our two Guildford teams (Gibbons and Gorillas). Gibbons drew it 2-2 and came back from 2 Nil down to get the draw. It was a fantastic performance from all our Guildford boys, well done to both boys and coaches.

Hammad

Mavericks 8 - 0 Indian Gymkhana U14D

This was to be the boys first match on a full-sized pitch, first match against players who were likely to be much bigger and older, first match playing 11-a-side, first match playing with each other. In brief, we didn't really know what to expect. The pitch seemed so long ... and so wide ... and the D was so much bigger than on the half pitch where they had cut their teeth.

The boys took the pitch with confidence, coupled with an air of excitement. With Gary never far away offering up his best moral (and vocal) support, they very quickly came to grips with how to fill up that much space and get the ball moving from one team member to another.

From the whistle, the ball spent only seconds in Guildford's defensive end and it was only a matter of minutes (or minute?) before the silky skills and determination paid off in a first goal from Will off of a pass in from his teammates. It was another good few minutes before the ball crossed the line into defensive territory, but a quick touch from Raph out to Michael - who was learning quickly to stay wide - and the ball went into attack for probably the rest of the first half.

Ten minutes in came the second Guildford goal that saw a few teammates involved in getting the ball to Elliot who put it squarely into the goal with James, Toby and Will all effective. The first half finished

as it started, with the Guildford boys on the attack, quickly getting the ball back up to their offensive end if ever it strayed backwards. In goal, Alex had not much to do and one of the parents was wondering if it was indeed Alex or just a cardboard cut-out of him there in front of the goal.



Cardboard cut-out of Alex

The opposition were fighting hard – they were not giving up and were giving everything they had. In one hard fought battle in the D, Freddy’s thumb got the worst of a hard pull through on a stick and he was down for the count. Those of us who know Freddy, know that a bit of pain is not about to get in his way so when he wasn’t up after a minute, we knew it was more than a scratch. The team’s only substitute was about to get into action not long before the half-time whistle blew.

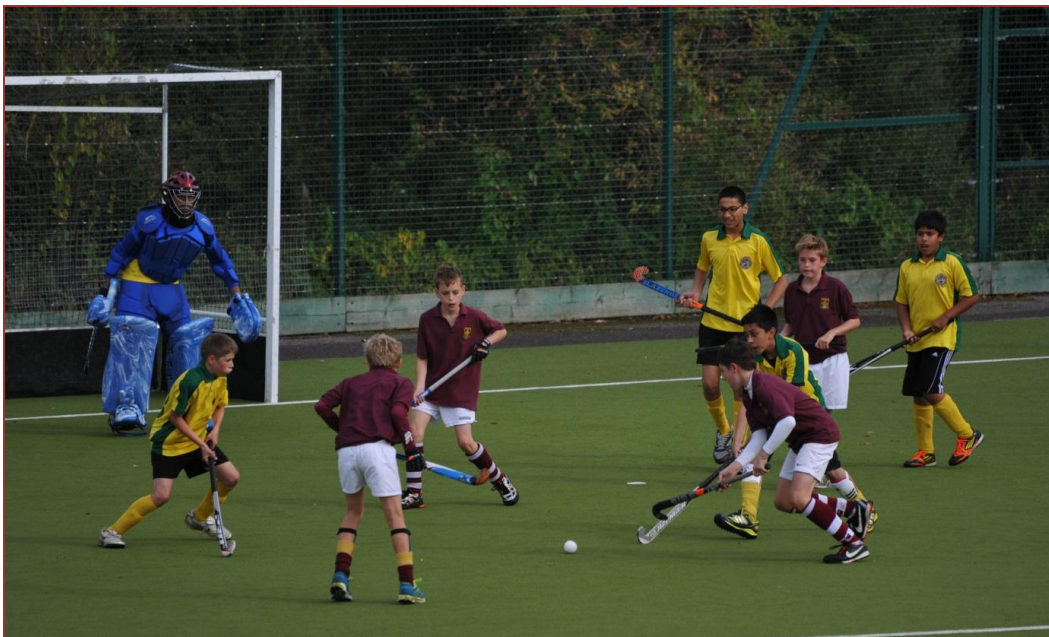
On the re-start, it wasn’t long before the second half showed signs of mirroring the first – one minute in and a quick goal from Isaac off of a pass from Max. Four minutes later came a Max goal off a reverse stick (seconds after being told off for attempting a reverse stick). Ten more and it was Elliot who stole from the defender and put it in the goal. Two minutes...one more...3 minutes...another...2 minutes...another...2 minutes...final whistle. Good thing, too, as the match reporter was having trouble keeping up with it all.

Alex did manage to get a touch on the ball in the second half (though ‘self-inflicted’ as he was unnecessarily clearing a pass from outside the D).

The visitors were gracious before, during and after play despite having been through an increasingly tough match for them – a good lesson for all to see how they handled themselves in tough circumstances. Handshakes all around and the coach’s friendliness even extended to a photo op with our boys – a gold medallist in their midst.



The team with Kulbir Bhaura, Men's Field Hockey Gold Medalist, 1988 Seoul Olympics



Part of the Guildford Scoring Machine in action



Man of the Match Max

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.