

in touch

the e-zine - from Guildford Hockey Club

2011/12 Season Issue 12 18/01/12

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to
the second half of the hockey season!

Current news:

GHC Race Night Saturday 4th Feb

Horses and tickets still available. Contact jd_steady@hotmail.com to find out more.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday May 19th 2012 will be the all new GHC Club day. More details will be posted in In Touch over the next few weeks

GHC RACE NIGHT!!

- When:** Sat 4th FEB 7pm
Where: Guildford HC
Who: YOU & all your friends & family
Why: Points make prizes & there's money to be won!!



Tickets (includes a scrumptious dinner) = £15!
Contact Jade (07960443732 / jd_steady@hotmail.com)

Prizes this year include: Food vouchers at Zizzi, Nando's, Pizza Express, Jamie Oliver's, The Dog & Pheasant & more!

Horses now on sale! DON'T MISS OUT!!!!

**--SAVE THE DATE--
SAT 19TH MAY 2012
GHC CLUB DAY**

**Raising funds for GHC
and Help the Heroes**

**Further details will be
announced soon.**

For Sale



OBO Cloud 9 Kickers Medium



OBO Cloud 9 Legs Large



Jofa Ice hockey helmet 390.
Size 55-62



Gryphon chest and arm
protector (no size)



Gryphon Shorts (no size)



Gryphon Bag (pretty worn!)



Monarch Gloves Medium

Sadly this kit hasn't been used for some years now, it has just been sitting in the garage. The obo gear was only used for one season, so is in great condition. I would like to sell the kit as a complete set but open to offers.

Please contact Katie. Mob: 07789880770

Email: katiekerley@hotmail.com

FIXTURES

All of the Guildford Hockey Club fixtures are available through the following links or by going to the FixturesLive website www.fixtureslive.com

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	Coach	Guy Fordham	07725 959205	London League Prem	2nd XI
3rd XI	Captain	Phil Harris	07825027938	London League Div 2	3rd XI
Shadows	Captain	Steve Morris	07788784143	Surrey Open Premier	Shadows XI
4th XI	Captain	David Cull	07973 731402	Surrey Open Div 4	4th XI
Pilgrims	Captain	Nick Winn	07766 827461	Wessex Masters	Men's Vets
Gondoliers	Captain	Andy Roberts	01483 271206	Wessex SuperVets	Men's SuperVets

Mens 1s – EHL National Conference West details at <http://bit.ly/qubxys>

LADIES

Team	Captain/Email	Telephone	Link to results, tables and fixtures
1st XI	Sam Carr	07810 880153	1st XI
2nd XI	Claire Coles	07727 100118	2nd XI
3rd XI	Sarah Kilfeather & Rozzie Allen	07895 806832	3rd XI
4th XI	Katy Lee	07725 265498	4th XI
Fireflies	Kirsten Foulkes	07747 631731	

... 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>

Upcoming fixtures at Broadwater School

Water based pitch

2011	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5
	10.30 - 12.00	12.00 - 13.30	13.30 - 15.00	15.00 - 16.30	16.30 - 18.00
21-Jan	11.00 Ladies 2's / 12.30 Gondoliers				
22-Jan					
28-Jan			Mens 1's 1pm.		
29-Jan					
04-Feb			Mens 1's 1pm	Ladies 1's 2.30pm	Mens 4's 4pm
05-Feb					
11-Feb		Ladies 4's	Ladies 3's	Gondoliers	
12-Feb		Mens 1's			
18-Feb		Ladies 2's	Ladies 1's	Mens 2's	Gondoliers
19-Feb					
25-Feb			Mens 3's	Mens 4's	Pilgrims
26-Feb		Mens 1's			

Sand based pitch

2011	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5
	09:30-11:00	11.00 - 12.30	12.30 - 14.00	14.00 - 15.30	15.30 - 17.00
21-Jan	Mens 3's	Pilgrims	Mens 4's 12.30	2pm pitch for RGS	
22-Jan					
28-Jan			Shadows 1pm	Fireflies 2.30	
29-Jan					
04-Feb			Ladies 4's	Mens 2's	Gondoliers
05-Feb					
11-Feb			Fireflies 12.30	14.00 Mens 3's	15.30 Shadows
12-Feb					
18-Feb			12.30 Fireflies	14.00 Mens 4's	
19-Feb					
25-Feb			Ladies 3's	Ladies 4's	
26-Feb					

MATCH REPORTS

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

Here's a summary of hockey related events from the last two months and special thanks to those involved in the colts section for some excellent reports. Enjoy.

MEN'S SECTION

Saturday 3rd December 2011

Gondos 1 - 2 Epsom

A glorious afternoon led to glorious availability led to a glorious match. The furious pace at which the match started meant all hands on deck to hold a versatile skilful Epsom in the first 15 mins. Things settled the pace slowed, Gondos passed, yes passed to each other, and balance was restored. Excellent coaching from the side lines by Messes Roberts and Bigos who duly teamed up on the touchline to conjure up a one goal lead (sorry can't remember the scorer- but this scribe was not on the pitch at the time). It is only fair to say it was a surprise to Epsom, but not to Andy Gordon. What was he doing so far up front? But like any juggernaut otherwise known as the Gondos team things slowed and the enthusiasm for forward play meant the back door was left open and the Epsom equaliser was better than taking a knife through butter as all defenders were turned on the half way line leaving our last line of defence, one Richard Gordon, vacating his circle to allow two Epsom players to guide the ball into an empty net without a Gondos outfield player reaching our own 25 as the ball was slotted into an empty net.

A fatal mistake then occurred as the scribe explained the shortcomings to his weary but proud team during the half time team talk only to be told there were plenty of supporters in grounds up and down the country who believed they could do better than the present company. The result was a reshaped revamped Gondos which included the scribe. This technique duly failed and the Gondos finally succumbed to relentless pressure when a dubious short corner was slotted away by the vibrant Epsom team. Despite great pressure and the introduction of Angus to his first game,(oh how we have missed those tackles, wrong side, wrong timing, wrong place) Epsom hung on and just deserved to run out 2 -1 winners.

Roll on next week and let's not end up with a hatrick of defeats please lads - otherwise the scribe might have to play a whole game , and just think what could happen then.

Saturday 7th January 2012

Guildford men's 4s 3 - 2 Camberley and Farnborough 2s

We came, we saw, we overcame.

With Camberley the obvious side to take our current 2nd relegation slot, this game really was a 6 pointer.

Fresh from a festive 4 weeks of grueling training, combining hops, grapes, bubbles and mince pies, we turned up with an attacking team sheet that was guaranteed to score goals but lacking in defenders. Thanks to Chris L and Rob filling in, we set about our task of damaging the opposition backboard.

Top performances from many players on Saturday make this second half of the season a mouthwatering prospect. Alex was busy everywhere at left mid, Jim marshaled the defence like a trooper, Moody dribbled and danced whilst Will was a menace up front (despite a double miss of the ball in their D in the first half!). Chris Sergeant showed his searing pace and fitness to great effect on the other wing rounded off with a neatly taken goal, Josh battled and distributed in the centre midfield and cracked a sweet strike to make it 2-1. Camberley's 2 goals were from the same move/ shortie routine- drag flick. It was the only way they were going to score and I personally plan to share that with the whole league from this point on.

My bro scored the vital winner with a first time strike mid 2nd half to earn the team 3 points and a joint MOM award with Chris S.

A great game to play in, a well fought win and a great feeling to go away with. Well done to every player, let's bottle and continue the spirit that we showed and bring on next Saturday!

Purley Walcountonians 3's 0 – 3 Guildford Shadows (S. Major, R. Casson (Pen. X 2))

The first game back after the Christmas break is always challenging, the over indulgence in Christmas food, far too many parties and not enough fitness can affect a winning team's mentality, not to mention the fact that *losing the first game back after the break last year cost the Shadows promotion* was always in the back of the mind. So to counter this problem the Shadows would meet at the pitch early, conduct a comprehensive warm up and engage in some in depth tactical planning.

Unfortunately this was not the case, three minutes before the game was due to start we only had eight players on the pitch and by the time the game started we had just about worked out where everyone was going to play. Despite the skip's best efforts, and two hours on the road, a broken-down train mean that midfielders Sy and Chris were re-directed to Wimbledon. With keeper Marcus in the car too, and Ryan in convoy, we were missing some vital players in the warm-up. Our only sub (correct, the 3's didn't have a game; Ryan was the only 3 to lower himself and kindly assist – we're not bitter) was Andy Valner (our previous keeper, who the 3's stole at the beginning of the season), luckily he made his own way to the pitch and brought his

pads, so he kitted-up to stand between the posts for the 1st half. Based on Marcus' last attempt at donning his keeper-kit, we didn't think 3 minutes was enough time to suit-up.

The game started and we had 12 players, this worried the opposition until they realised that our only sub was a goalie. Even with the bad preparation it was clear that the Shadows team spirit and cohesion had not been lost during the festive break. There was excellent interlinking passing that resulted in a number of good breaks being made, despite a typical hesitant Shadows start, it's a shame that the only person not on the same frequency was Capt. Nick who could not hit a barn door even if he was a meter away. Within the first ten minutes the Shadows had a number of chances to open the scoring, none more so than Capt. Nick's two 1-on-1's with the keeper, all he could do was find the keepers gloves. Perhaps a short corner after ten minutes will change things; nope he still managed to hit the wood work. But the Shadows can score from any position and after some excellent passing, neatly worked up the pitch; Sam "Muzza" Major scored a lovely goal by flicking the ball to the right, over the ever-logging keeper to open the scoring. Going into the break the game was still finely balanced and if the Shadows could score another goal then the nerves will be settled.

The second half was an even game with both teams having chances to score, as with the first half the Shadows front two had plenty of chances to score but could not zero in on the goal, or grasp the concept that the opposition goalie would log whenever he got the chance. But the break came thanks to the logging keeper who continued to play the ball whilst on the ground, a penalty was awarded and Ryan stepped up to take the flick, the ball bounced off the keepers shoulder and into the roof of the goal and the Shadows had that all important second goal. The third soon followed courtesy of a second penalty flick, caused by an oppo using their body to stop the ball from crossing the line, and Ryan scored again stepped-up with more confidence. The Shadows had a 3-0 lead and normally the flood gates would open. But no, for the last ten minutes the Shadows defence must have felt like they were at the Alamo, they repelled attack after attack and countless short corners. The defence may have been make-shift, but not to concede a single goal (the only team to do so in the league on the day) deserves praise. This is also due to the outstanding efforts from BOTH our keepers, Andy and Marcus, the former to make a couple of stretching stops in the first half, and the latter putting in some stunning shot-stoppers in the dying moments, one after another, to keep a clean sheet. The game finished with some end-to-end stuff; Weeman missing-out on a strike being saved, Capt. Nick not passing, Ryan not scoring, Sy Weaving through the oppo, Skip Steve getting injured again, Tim going AWOL, Chris having fun at bottom Diamond, Ross pressing and generally an oppo who threw their toys out the pram at the site of what they thought was a foul...oh and Mikey not rising to it.

The Shadows remain top of the table with a four point lead and a game in hand, though we do face London Academicals at home on the water pitch on Saturday, the only team to beat s this season. Bring it on.

MOM: "MCP 5" Mikey for his sterling effort at CB, especially as we were playing 3 at the back for a change, and as "Will, who?" had decided not to return to the UK for the first match back.

DOD: Capt. Nick (for not being able to hit a barn door)

Guildford Vets (Pilgrims) 0 – 0 Salisbury Men's Vets (Striders) ***County Show agricultural hockey at its finest...***

Blimey.

Phew.

The dull score – our third 0-0 draw in a row - betrays a hard-fought battle, a cliff-hanger, a war of attrition. Both sides could have come away victors; anything other than a draw would have been viewed as desperately unfair for the losing side.

Nick Winn had done a sterling job in shepherding no less than fourteen (14) - I repeat - fourteen (one-four) players to pitch-side by 3pm on Saturday afternoon. Personally I think it was the rubbish Alpine snow coupled with the threat of a UK recession that has actually prevented too many Pilgrims from exiting the country. Long live global warming, rubbish politicians and crooked bankers.

Although Salisbury arrived with just 12 men and a request for umpiring assistance, they were full of optimism, hoping to repeat their 6-3 win over us from the first half of the season. They clearly had the run of play for the opening 10 minutes, but gradually the drag of excess Christmas pudding gave way to more effort, more structured play and more and more chances for the Pilgrims. They were denied a penalty-stroke after Lenel was “accidentally” tripped on entry to the circle, with naught but a goalie in his way. Claims by his team-mates that “the ref was right - he wouldn't have scored anyway” provided no reassurance. Unfortunately we were unable to convert the resultant short corner.

Other scoring opportunities came and went, with all the attackers (Wylie, Howells, Sampson, Lenel) and midfielders (Shelbourne, Rees, Turner, Kefford, Gilliver) having fruitless stabs and forays into the opponents' D. Five short corners in the first half alone went without a result. Special mention to almost of our players who both kept their cools and kept their umpiring decisions to themselves, despite facing a pretty physical onslaught from Salisbury's attack. How shall I put it politely? A number of the Salisbury players had a 'momentum-to-control ratio' greater than one. The funniest moment was seeing one of their midfielders literally run into Sammo and then bounce right back off again. The match had to be paused whilst he regained his coordination.

Meanwhile, back at the other end of the pitch, the sterling defence of Jenkinson, Basey, Toplas, Winn and Taylor were tested on an almost continual basis but – thankfully – they kept us in the game. Particular special mention to the disappearance of The Pussy and the return of The Cat; Adrian was responsible for redirecting away & saving both of the opponents' short corners, as well as a spectacular tip-of-the-stick nudge-of-the-ball over-the-crossbar deflection that would have made the likes of Peter Shmeichel proud. Had he been watching. Which he wasn't.

Our last and best opportunity came from our sixth(?) or seventh(?) short corner; a sideways pass to Sammo who sent it screaming into the back of the net, unfortunately denied due to its slight (3 feet) height above the backboard.

All in all a very encouraging start to this half of the season, and although we are still far from

safe from the relegation zone, if we can keep up today's standard we should have nothing to fear.

Saturday 14th January 2012

Guildford 4's 1-2 Old Kingstonians 2's

After our win the previous week the Guildford 4th XI arrived in Kingston relaxed and in high spirits. The sun was out and the pitch had enough sand on it to resemble a beach but this was not a day for lounging around. Oh no, we had a hockey match to play.

With London traffic being the way it is, not all of the team was there at the prescribed 1hr before, so our warm up was more of a gentle swinging of the limbs. This being the case we ran on to the pitch (which was more of a beach) to knock a few balls before the whistle blew for push back. Both teams started off well running the ball to either end of the pitch, as the half time whistle was looming, the opposition managed to get a shortie. They managed to get the ball past an unmanned post. Giving them a 1-0 lead at half time.

With a blast of water and some war like words from the team's loudest members, we came into the second half determined to settle the score. With some fantastic passing and running of the ball, we were constantly in the oppositions 'D', eventually getting a short corner. A strike to the post and with Will popping it onto the back board, we had equalised. The oppo came back hard, having more subs, they rotated fresh legs regularly. Giving the defenders a tough job of keeping up with the attacking forwards.

Although we gave it our all and chased them on our weary legs, they managed to get on to the end of a pass smacked through the covers, beating the defenders and slipping it passed the keeper to give them the lead and win. In all the team played well, all gave what they could, till there was nothing more to give. David. B got DOD and Charlie Hislop got Man of the match, with the bleeding knee to show for it.

Guildford Shadows 5 : 1 London Academicals 3's (Copeland/OG, Henry, Hyett x2, Nate)

Having suffered our only loss of the season to London Academicals, in the second week, the Shadows were eager to drive home their dominance and prove that the Academicals just got lucky that day. As always, a professional and meticulous warm-up was on the cards to focus and prepare the team thoroughly for the game ahead. However, the late arrivals were greeted at the club house by the remainder of the team carrying pots and pans of boiling water. It soon became apparent that the team warm-up would consist of trying to thaw out two corners of the water based pitch. After a number of attempts and a good 20 minutes of procrastination we simply moved over to the sand based pitch, with the Skip in negotiations with the Fire Flies. Warm-up complete.

Below – Left: Mikey De-Frosting. Mid: Tim with his drop in the ocean. Right: Si with his steaming bucket.



I am pleased to report that despite an extremely casual warm-up, something of a ritual now, the Shadows started strongly, contrary to their other ritual of starting slowly. The Shadows managed to pass the ball around and control possession, using both flanks to get in crosses. Although no goal was produced in the first 15, plenty of chances were created. A combination of some good/fortunate saves from their keeper, Capt. Nick missing a 1-on-1, and a number of shots flying by the uprights kept Academicals in the game. The opposition hardly threatened the Shadows goal, however, they were gifted a few chances by momentary drops in concentration by the best defence in the league, featuring a new all star line-up of: Tim 'plays down the right' Wright, Steve 'Skip' Morris, Will 'TBDITL' Gibson and new recruit Mike '5MCP' Powell.

It wasn't long before the Shadows possession ended in a goal. A great through ball was given by Mr. Murray?? (his last game before he continues his hunt for that first grand slam) to Tom Copeland. Tom was through on goal and positioned perfectly to take his strike but no, he turned away from goal onto his reverse stick, and struck a shot across goal that took a deflection off one of their defenders and into the back of the net. 1:0. The Shadows possession continued but a lucky break from the opposition led to a short corner. The short corner was defended well with a block on the initial strike, great pace off the goal line, yet the referee deemed there to be another foot and awarded another short. The defence was less lucky this time and despite the great pace off the goal line and getting his stick to the ball, it could only deflect to the post boy ('Skip') who in turn couldn't react quick enough to deflect the shot away. 1:1. Evidence that even the best defence in the league lets in the odd goal. The Shadows were determined not to let the opposition back in the game and pushed forward with chances coming from Johnny, Murray, Tom and Nate. The pressure was rewarded with a short corner in the last play of the half, so everyone piled forward eager to get on the score sheet. Ross took the hit which was blocked, but the ball came back to him and with his second strike he buried the ball in a keeperless goal (credit to Johnny).

The second half began and the Shadows were beginning to get into their stride with slick passing around the back and good ball retention. The next goal was a thing of beauty. The ball was transferred from the left, around the back, down the right; couple of one-two's and then

centred with Nick finishing first time. The fourth goal came from the midfield with Marcus, Johnny, Ross and Si linking up to find Nick, who once again pushed in from close range. This fourth goal spelt game over and the opposition heads dropped and attacks dried up. Goal 5 was good play that ended with Sam having a shot, which he should have scored. The save came to Nate who expertly flicked in from the angle into the side netting. 5:1. Credit to the Shadows who now have a win against every side in the league, and maintained their points cushion at the top of the table. As always, a special mention to the defence who are steadfast throughout and to whom the team are ever grateful.

DOD – Ross for clowning around on the left side of the pitch and completely wiping out.

MOM – Steve and Will for expert defence and generally being the best players and blokes in the team...OK, Mikey played well too:

DOD		MOM	
Tom		Tim	
Ross	✓	Nick	
Steve		Will	✓
		Mike	✓
		Marcus	✓
		Steve	
		Sam	
		Ross	
		Simon	

Gondoliers 6 - 1 Sevenoaks (Bigos2,Hayley1,Steve2,Andy1)

Despite the flattering score all is not what it seems! Arriving with only 8, we agreed with 7oaks to concede the match (1-0) and this incentivised them to find three good players from the earlier internal game between a younger vets and youngster side. Energised by this input, the Gondoliers began playing a skilful, fluid passing game with a variety of different moves and a confidence at the back not seen this century. The result was that a 7oaks side (currently topping our league) then simply fell apart and were left watching the game flow around them. This is our second game against them and the last this season and they have proved to be one of the more sociable and skillful sides to join our league

Havant Men's Vets I 2 – 1 Guildford Vets (Pilgrims) (Lenel x 1)

The morning of Saturday 14th January saw the British winter of 2011/12 finally sputter into life. The brass monkeys were feeling the pinch. Jack Frost had done his rounds with vengeance, casting his sugary sparkles over every exposed surface, knackered the daffodils prematurely poking their heads above ground, solidifying the earth, encasing cars parked outside with a glistening sheet of brick-hard ice, and putting a painful chill to the floor tiles in the bathroom. From the security & warmth of my duvet I logged on to check my emails (thanks to iPad, WiFi & Virgin Broadband), and immediately wished I hadn't (thanks, Hotmail). Our stalwart Captain

Nick had just opened communications with his counterpart at Havant, stating that we only had 9 players (groan – where’s the support from the rest of the squad?). Could we borrow a couple of their players in order to have a game? We would offer them the walkover as a result, anyway, of course. You see we didn’t want to cancel at such a late stage and forfeit the match outright – this would have resulted in penalty points being incurred, something we desperately wanted to avoid given The Hounds of Relegation have been snapping at our heels for a few weeks now.

Thus we started the day with the prospect of spending an hour driving down to the coast, in the certain knowledge that we were certainly going to lose, with only the cold and dark as comfort. I, for one, was desperately hoping that Havant’s pitch would be suffering the same fate as Guildford’s from a few weeks ago when it was too frozen to play on. A rescheduled match would at least have given us some breathing space. No such luck.

At about the same time, James Shelbourne finally put down the Job Seekers Allowance application form that has been challenging him for the past few weeks and turned to his schedule for the weekend. It was at this point that, not having a PA to organise his life any more, he realised that he actually *was* free, able and willing to make the journey to Havant and join the squad, for which we were all grateful.

Simultaneously, and at the same time, The Much Honoured Laird Adrian Jenkinson of Dunans* turned from his lady wife, The Much Honoured Lady Angela Jenkins of Dunans*, got on the blower, and rustled up further support from non-executive member of the Pilgrims, a certain Mr. Sean “Cooky” Cook.

We had eleven! So the mood was much improved, particularly as His Lairdship* escorted us down south in His Lairdship’s* Lairdmobile, regaling us with tales from his former life as a paramedic (and the various body parts that involved), as well as the various forms of formal address with which we are now obligated by law to use in His Lairdship’s* presence.

As for the match itself, well, there’s wasn’t actually a great deal to report. We knew it was going to be a bit of a struggle with no substitutes and no friendly umpires to ease us on our way. The opposition won the opening half courtesy of firstly a dribbler into goal and secondly an impressive reverse stick thwack that should be banned at veterans level (none of us can get that low to the ground any more). Our first, last and only goal (a Mark Howells Exocet deflected into the goal by Lenel) was a small consolation prize but it wasn’t enough to make up the difference, nor could it make up for the numerous short-corners that YET AGAIN we failed to convert. We were very grateful for Cooky’s presence in defence which offered solidity and distribution.

Thanks also must go to Bournemouth and Southampton for continuing to lose more games than us, leaving us languishing mere points clear of the relegation zone. A tough 2 weeks follow now with games against top-of-the-table teams, then some easier opportunities to stamp on those teams currently beneath us.

¹It may interest you to know that titled gentry walk among us. Our veritable goalie and his good lady wife have recently acquired an estate covering an impressive 0.000022957 acres in the Highlands of Scotland, around 6 miles west of Loch Lomond, and with it a high quality

photocopy of some document or other that grants him the Lairdship². Whether His Much Honoured bloke has the kahunas to follow this up with a change to his passport, driving license, etc. remains to be seen. Challenge accepted?

² Wikipedia defines the etymology of the word 'Laird', stating that it originates from the Middle English word 'lard'...³

³ I think there's more to it than that, but my eyes started watering⁴ and I couldn't read any further.

⁴ Tears of laughter.

LADIES' SECTION

No reports

COLTS' SECTION

Sunday 11 December 2011

Boys Under 14 development vs Trinity MidWhitgiftians

The team ascended on South London again this week and this time there were some opponents. Despite the sub-zero temperatures 20 boys had braved the night before (well done for perseverance) the pitch was cold but not frozen. The team arrived in good time to see some Regional Under 18 Schools indoor hockey which may have given the players some ideas of what hockey is about. We all then went out into the cold for a warm-up.

The match was fairly even; both sides had players with a range of skills. If anything, the TMW players were slightly quicker to the ball and a bit more forceful in the tackle. TMW scored first with a scrambled goal despite some desperate work from Henry in goal and the defence. Guildford equalised just before half time with a follow up by Will to Angus's well struck short corner that brought down the TMW goalkeeper.

The coaches' half time talk emphasised the importance of strength in the tackle and the need to cut out the dangerous passes.

The talk seemed to work and Guildford's second half tackling was stronger, the ball carrying firmer and the distribution better. TMW scored another scrambled goal. On either side of this goal Guildford forwards had powerful shots just wide of the post. The final score could easily have been 3-2 up; it was 2-1 down!

Individually all the team played well; Henry in goal, Christopher and Elliot at the heart of the defence, Felix and Alexander on the left, Josh on the right, Angus in the middle and Will on the right wing. Tom, James, Josh and Ben ran around well in both the attack and midfield. However, as a team it did not quite all hang together; this will come and is why we are playing these development matches. There will be a chance of revenge on April's Fools' Day.

Many thanks to Sean for umpiring (and coaching advice) and to all the parents who braved the cold weather to give support (and transport).

DECEMBER 2011
GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB UNDER 16
TOUR OF BARCELONA



Team: Marcus Bentley, Rohan Browning, Lewis Bowerman, James Ferguson, Harry Jones, Matt Cockerill, George Malim, Jon Payne, Philip Haggart, Jan Thilakawardana, Toby Robinson, Louis Rickard, Marcus Mahne, Richard Burton, Jake Charlson, Ed Harris, Chris Hunter, Nathanael Farrant.

Before: Parents will recall Coach's dire forecast of a possible whitewash and, indeed, it might have been so. Our former defensive frailties would be severely tested and there were to be the best in Spain in our group. The plan was to improve-and massively-in the three days. A squad of 18 (probably 3 too many for all to get what they should in pitch time) was from 8 schools: RGS Guildford, Reeds, George Abbott, St Peter's, Churchers, Duke of Kent, Charterhouse and Dulwich.

During: After smooth trip (small problem of Philip Haggart's kit left at Heathrow), settling in at Hotel and easy ride to the RC POLO Club, the team could only admire the facilities and relative opulence of the whole Tournament which involved over 1,000 players in different age-groups. The first match against an Italian team HC Toscana produced a 1-0 win but also our worst performance - a slow nervous start, typical of an average game in the League. Words from the Coach!! Second game .v. Pedralbes was a different story. The need to hit the ground running and increase the intensity was obvious from having watched some games in between. A 0-1 loss to an improper 'goal' could have been depressing but players were somewhat amazed when the Coach congratulated them because this was a performance way beyond anything

produced this season-or any other-and was to set the benchmark for the next day. Late breakfast on Saturday and the big game against Club de Campo of Madrid - some say the best in Spain and all would say in the top three. Brilliant play all over and a narrow 1-2 loss in the last few minutes racked up the performance levels - the men were learning -and fast! Not surprisingly, a 1-1 draw against Pozuelo ensued with another real performance , but, possibly a win might have been a fairer result-certainly very tired legs did not help, but, by now, the boys knew what had to be done-the learning process nearly complete. Pizza dinner at 10 p.m. and watching Real Madrid .v.Barca at soccer and asking to go to bed at half-time says it all!! Day 3 is for a respectable place in the table, but a 'banana skin' match against Catalunya U14(U15 in our rules)-in reality Spain's U16 of 2013 - with us being bigger for the only time and a local crowd meant all sympathy (and almost all umpiring decisions) were going only one way! A superb performance and a well-earned 1-0 win was merited without doubt.

So, we finished with two wins, a draw, and two narrow losses. No doubt about it - if we were thought of as cannon-fodder on Friday we were now accorded great respect - and deservedly so! The boys essentially had cracked it - they realised quickly that domestic U16 hockey is a duckpond and playing in an ocean is tricky - lots of sharks (very good Spanish players who train four times a week) waiting for lunch!! They may have got it but not an English menu!

In general, a 4-4 goal difference says it all. Our goalies were outstanding, defence excellent(only conceding 4 goals in 5 games) and the keepers being asked whether they played for England!! It is usual here to go through the names and the individual performances but I refrain because everyone contributed in their own way - they know what they did and while complacency is never acceptable they can enjoy a brief period of self achievement.

After: What next? Manager and I spent some time discussing what to do in the future and there will be some initiatives to come - we will be welcome back and maybe we will take some younger ones who can learn earlier what the top level demands. The learning curve was steep and the boys delivered, but it is not the end, and to borrow from a mighty man, it is not even the beginning of the end but it may be the end of the beginning. The boys must now reach the intensity levels without the pressure of a tour - they must do it day in, day out, in domestic hockey.

In general: My thanks go to the very supportive parents both present and absent. The Manager managed effortlessly and the boys behaved well, learnt, and now know what it is about. Every time they play, they must just think 'those 20 minutes against Campo Madrid when we had them on the rack' !

We will have more notice of tours, in future, and we will have to consider numbers carefully, but we have 'broken the ice' and can move forward. They now can measure themselves against a bar several feet higher than before. On a personal note: I knew (and should have done in view of my experience) what was to happen, but the boys did even surprise me a little. I am extremely proud of them and they should be very pleased and, indeed, proud of themselves. A note of caution! One never 'arrives' in Sport and we need now to translate the progress into results in 2012 and beyond.

December 2011

Guildford U10s at the Teddington Festival



The U10 Guildford boys made the journey up to a fairly chilly Teddington ready to take part in the U10 Christmas Festival. The competition was of a great standard and this is always a good opportunity to see how much the team have learned in training and then applied out on the pitch. The competition consisted of 2 pools with the top 2 teams competing in the final so it meant we had to win our group. Both pools were very strong and Pool 1 consisted of Richmond, Reading, Wimbledon, Teddington and Spencer. We were in Pool 2 with Sunbury, Surbiton, Canterbury and Woking. The boys were pretty excited and were gagging to get out on the pitch and play (and get a bit warmer!!)

v. Surbiton (2-0 WIN)

Game 1 saw us overcome a good Surbiton team 2 nil after a bright start and some saves by Jack Jenkinson in goal. The first goal came from Will Firth after a neat pass from Will Ferguson and some great defence by Bart Baker. Surbiton continued to press but the boys did well to maintain their shape and when we passed early looked like a solid team. The second goal came towards the end of the game with a great piece of skill from Will Ferguson after a nice square pass from Will Sampson.

v. Sunbury (2-0 WIN)

After a bright start the boys continued to pass the ball and plenty of solid defence from Toby Armstrong and Johnny Thompson meant Jack in goal had little to do. Harry managed to control the game in the middle and plenty of running from the right and left flanks gave Will Sampson and Jasper Wilson plenty of chances. The first goal came from 'fox-in-the-box' Firth

after 2 quick passes and then Will Ferguson rounded off the win with a second goal to make the most of the possession.

V. Woking (1 – 0 WIN)

Woking started brightly and passed the ball well. Despite their early losses Woking pressed us and we struggled to pass the ball square and wider on the pitch to the flanks. However, the boys stuck to the task and Will Firth managed to nick a goal after an interception. The boys managed to battle through to a win and learned the lesson to not pass straight down the middle of the pitch ala the Crazy Gang of Wimbledon FC circa 1988.

v. Canterbury (0-0 DRAW)

The last group game saw us take on Canterbury who were probably the biggest threat to us. The boys learned the lessons from the Woking game and started to pass the ball more like Barcelona than the direct approach of Wimbledon FC. This paid dividends and saw us have several goal mouth scrambles and hit the post. The Canterbury keeper played a blinder and kept out our 6 chances. Jack Jenkinson did well at the other end to save a couple of the Canterbury shots and we managed to draw 0-0.

FINAL v Richmond (1-0 WIN)

The final saw the squad take on Richmond who they had recently played in a friendly and saw us high on confidence after the group and keen to win. Having beaten back all types of weather, rain, sleet and almost snow, the boys were keen to get warm and try to win the final game. Richmond started brightly but we managed to press the oppo and keep our passing going. The defence managed to hold firm and Harry distributed the ball well and plenty of work from the whole team meant we had a fair few chances. Will Ferguson managed to cut in from the right and slap the ball home to 'nutmeg' the keeper.

Thanks very much to all the parents for all their support and to the boys for a great effort. It was great to see the boys playing some good hockey and putting into practice what we teach them on a Friday night. Overall the tournament was really well run and of a great standard. The squad played some great passing hockey and won an awful lot of the 50/50 tackles against some really good opposition.

A lovely way to round off the first half of the season and I look forward to seeing all of you in the New Year. Have a well earned rest boys and see you in the New Year!! A final thanks to Genie, Sparky, Sean, Jeremy and Mike for all their efforts at coaching on Friday night in all types of weather!!! Also thanks very much to Maggs for her overall organization and time devoted to the Juniors at the club.

Please send me through any photos you have from the day and I will get an article into the club magazine and the Surrey Advertiser.

Squad – Toby Armstrong, Bartie Baker, William Ferguson, William Firth, Jack Jenkinson, Daniel Reed, Harry Relph, William Sampson, Ben Stott, Chan Thilakawardena, Johnny Thompson, Jasper Wilson

Unfortunately I could only bring one team to Teddington but will always endeavour to get 2/3 teams out so as many boys as possible can get some game time. If you have any concerns or

questions about any of the coaching and your son's hockey development please drop me a line or any of the coaches who assist on a Friday.

Date for the diary – Please put **Sunday 1st April** (no joke this time) as a date in the diary. We have been invited to Havant for a very good tournament and I will be in touch soon with more details.

Notice Board and sponsors page

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.

A.M.J.


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