

# **in touch**

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

**2012/13 Season**

**Issue 14**

**13/02/13**

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

**Men's 1s win on the road at Cheltenham to return to the top of the league with 6 games to go!**

**Men's and Women's 2s stay third in their leagues!**

**HUGE program of colts games to catch up!**

## **Current news:**

This week's home fixtures:

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> February

#### WATER BASED

**13:30** – Ladies 1s vs. Hampstead and Westminster Ladies 1s

**15:00** – Men's 2s vs. London Wayfarers Men's 2s

#### SAND BASED

**14:00** - Men's 4s vs. London Edwardians Men's 3s

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February

#### WATER BASED

**11:30** – Boy's Mavericks vs. Ashford Boy's U14D

**13:00** – Boy's U14B vs. Old Kingstonian Boy's U14

#### SAND BASED

**TBC** – Boys U16 vs. Wycombe Boys U16B

# 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	<b>Tony Hall</b>	01483 768832	National West Conference	<a href="#">1st XI</a>
	Coach	<b>Ian Jennings</b>	07802 886000		
2nd XI	Captain	<b>Tim Darke</b>		London League Div 1	<a href="#">2nd XI</a>
3rd XI	Captain	<b>Tom Pollard</b>		London League Div 2	<a href="#">3rd XI</a>
Shadows	Captain	<b>Steve Morris</b>	07788 784143	South League Surrey Div 3	<a href="#">Shadows XI</a>
4th XI	Captain	<b>Robert Leonard</b>	07796 400450	Surrey Open Div 1	<a href="#">4th XI</a>
Pilgrims	Captain	<b>Mark Lenel</b>		Wessex Masters Div 1	<a href="#">Men's Vets</a>
Gondoliers	Captain	<b>Andy Roberts</b>	01483 271206	Wessex SuperVets	<a href="#">Men's SuperVets</a>



[www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=67](http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=67)

## LADIES

Team	Captain/Email	Link to results, tables and fixtures
1st XI	<b>Kate Hutchins</b>	<a href="http://www.guildfordhockey.co.uk/ladies1.html">http://www.guildfordhockey.co.uk/ladies1.html</a>
2nd XI	<b>Tracey Henderson</b>	<a href="http://www.guildfordhockey.co.uk/ladies2.html">http://www.guildfordhockey.co.uk/ladies2.html</a>
3rd XI	<b>Karen Faulkner</b>	<a href="http://www.guildfordhockey.co.uk/ladies3.html">http://www.guildfordhockey.co.uk/ladies3.html</a>
4th XI	<b>Beth Fantastic</b>	<a href="http://www.guildfordhockey.co.uk/ladies4.html">http://www.guildfordhockey.co.uk/ladies4.html</a>
Fireflies	<b>Clare Edgington</b>	<a href="http://www.guildfordhockey.co.uk/fireflies.html">http://www.guildfordhockey.co.uk/fireflies.html</a>

... also see The Surrey Hockey Association Ladies League [www.surreyladieshockeyleague.co.uk](http://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 [andymatfield@gmail.com](mailto:andymatfield@gmail.com) by Tuesday evening.

## Men's Section

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013

#### Guildford Men's 1s 3 – 1 Cheltenham Men's 1s

Guildford HC returned to the summit of the Northern Conference after a bizarre 3-1 win over Cheltenham at Broadwater School.



The Gs recorded three goals within the opening 17 minutes and looked set to open up a very healthy scoreline. However, a combination of woeful finishing and sloppy turnovers resulted in a frenetic second period as Cheltenham began to edge back into the contest.

Two of Guildford's goals came as a result of speculative balls thrashed into the opposition D. The first of which was a deflected own goal, coolly slotted into the top corner. The second was arguably one of the finest finishers ever

witnessed on a hockey field: After a counter-attacking break, Will Blockley smoked the ball at shin-height directly towards Paddy Harman - positioned at the top right-hand-side of the D at a very acute angle to the goal with his back turned in the opposite direction.

Paddy, an impeccably humble man, will tell you that the resulting goal involved a great amount of pure luck. However, those watching closely and those familiar with the young man's exploits as an age-group county cricketer, will conclude that Paddy noticed the keeper's weight transfer to the left-hand-side of the goal as the ball was hit into the D and thus decided to deflect the ball in between his legs into the bottom right corner. It truly was a superb moment of breath-taking skill. Will also scored.





For the rest of the first half Guildford poured forward launching attack after attack onto the Cheltenham defence. Christ Boot, Mike Rippon and Mo Rahman were all at their destructive best, cutting through the opposition ranks with passes of surgical precision. The crowd was in a buoyant and pleasant mood, reminiscent of a packed house at Lord's enjoying a particularly tense evening of Test match cricket, as they witnessed some

marvellous attacking hockey. However, some criminal finishing and poor decision-making prevented the home team extending their lead.

Arguably, Guildford played some of their worst hockey of the season in the second half. Cheltenham undoubtedly performed with greater intensity after the break, but Guildford were very guilty of persistently conceding possession. It took a couple of superb saves from Simon Mason to ensure that the scoreline remained unchanged until the 62nd minute - the goal arising as a result of a poor defensive pass followed by a scramble in the D.

Choice words were of course said in the Guildford dug-out afterwards. However, three points were the most important outcome of the fixture. As Cardiff could only manage a draw away to Birmingham University, the Gs return to the top of the table with six matches to go. Still, a huge challenge remains. It's tough at the top, but boy do I love the view

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb

### Guidlford Gondoliers 1 - 5 Southampton Cockburns

Out into the prospect of a cold and wet Saturday afternoon of the windswept Southampton Sports Centre, the day worsened, no stop at the Hen and Chicken the usual resting place for the Gondoliers going south and now all the ale houses on the left of the A31 from Farnham to Winchester have now closed, so no refreshing sharp halves, oh dear Mr Bryers what ails this current society.

Still onwards we progress; news is good ten brave souls are congregating and the promise of a loaned goal keeper and umpire means we have a chance of full representation.

Linda the Southampton Ladies Masters goalie is introduced, the Gondoliers chivalry to the fore we welcome the addition and proceed into the game. It was cold and we were cold and disjointed, stick to ball was disjointed, hits were misses or passes directly to the open stick of the opposition, thank you they said and rattled a number of attacks on our defensive line, who to were disjointed and not sure of who or what they were doing collectively, and as it later transpired some did not even want to be there. So it was the Cockburns converted three of their many chances by half time.

The usual half time talk identifying the problems and concerns, the upbeat solutions of what we should and can do to remedy the situation. Did we apply them well maybe but that is a discussion for another day.

During the second half some minds were turning to the Chinese new year 新年快樂, Gong xi fa cai, hong bao n alai, 放鞭炮. Two Gondoliers were looking for their Red Envelopes but instead got the fireworks, Kuhle and Sturgess saw red, not the joyous occasion they were hoping for as they tripped, fell and pushed around the opposition.

We kept trying which is a good Gondolier trait and we hustled the opposition more and kept the ball away from them and with a sweeping move from deep in our own half Kuhle struck, a deft deflection from Bigos at the top of the circle to Gould unmarked who firmly slotted home for our goal.

The Cockburns were on the day a better unit and played a simple passing game well and picked up the pressure to convert two more chances into goals. The Gondoliers did have some more chances but it was not to be.

The saving grace was two Gondoliers did made it back to the Hen and Chicken for a refreshing pint, ahhh all is well with the world, and order is restored, and the Chinese new year is with us 年年有餘, nian nian you yu.

## *Ladies' Section*

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

#### **Guildford Ladies 2s 3 – 3 Spencer Women's 2s**

Waking up Saturday morning the snow was falling... would the game be on? We arrived at the club ready for a challenge as the last time we played Spencer it was a 4-3 victory. We retained possession putting the pressure on their defence winning a short corner. With a straight strike from Average we went 1-0 up. Spencer then upped the intensity winning a short corner after short corner and took the lead to 2-1 at half time.

There were some stern words from coach Kirsty at half time which lifted the team...we were not going to lose!

Second half more short corners from Spencer and they went 3-1 up but we were still not beaten. Driving the ball up the pitch the ball was slipped into the D and Kath put the ball past the keeper to take us to 3-2. Did we have time to equalise? We did!

Winning a final short corner, Average received the ball, put it across the goal and Kath deflected it into the bottom corner! Final score 3-3.

# Colts' Section

## Under 12 Boys host South Region 2012 winners

This tournament held the promise of some of the best spectating for 7-a-side GHC fans so far this season. Four Oxford Hawks teams made their made to Broadwater to meet five teams from the Guildford U12 Boys. An SJB team rounded it out for a perfect 10.

This was a re-scheduling of the snowed-off meeting between the sides from 20 January. The pitch was under 10cm of snow that day - not much better luck this time meteorologically speaking with the exception that what was falling from the sky was not frozen (it only felt like it).

The fans (especially those who watched from the warmth of the clubhouse) were not disappointed. All five Guildford teams showed how much they have progressed during the season in both their individual skills and their teamwork.

The tournament played out in two pools of five teams each. After 15 matches played out of a possible 20 – not a dry piece of clothing in site – we called it a day. Alas we declared no winner but can say that all Guildford teams put together some very good hockey on the day.

Overall, Guildford teams scored 19 goals in matches against non-Guildford teams and scored 9 goals in matches against ourselves. The visiting teams scored only 4 goals against Guildford teams with 3 of them coming in the same match. It was a good day for both offence and defence.

The *piece de résistance* was the match between 'Mike' and the 'Sparrow Hawks' in Pool 1. With both teams undefeated and having scored 23 goals between them in their previous matches (9 for Mike and 14 Sparrow Hawks), this was going to be the match to win.

'Mikes' boys' did not disappoint. They took up the gauntlet set down by Mike to make their passes as fast as possible. This leadership, coming on the heels of a special team training session days before with Ian Jennings and Gary, meant that after the first few minutes the opposition could hardly get hold of the ball. The passes were not only fast, they were just about as wide as they could get; the boys were dominating the possession and the space. They were there for each other, looking, passing, calling. The visitors were a bit shell-shocked (or maybe just frozen!?).



*One of several high five moments in the match*



*Elliot's 'over the goalie' goal v Sparrow Hawks*



*Ollie explains that the little white round thing belongs to the guys in maroon today*



A round-up of the tournament results:

	Wins	Losses	Goal Difference
<b>Pool 1</b>			
Guildford James	2	1	+1
Guildford Mike	3	0	+13
SJB	0	4	
Oxford Sparrow Hawks	2	1	+10
Oxford Kestrels	1	2	-7
<b>Pool 2</b>			
Oxford Kites	1	1	-1
Oxford Ospreys	1	2	0
Guildford Martin	1	2	-1
Guildford Gary	3	0	+4
Guildford Will	1	2	0

A huge thank you to Gary for persevering through snow, sleet, rain and a very busy GHC schedule to make this tournament happen! Also enormous thanks to the coaches Gary, Mike, Martin, Will and James. And no small mention for our stalwart umpires on the day – they were fantastic coming to help out in dire conditions on a day where club resources were stretched from Farncombe to Bournemouth to Havant. Thanks Genie, Katy, Jo, Dean, Maggs and Chris! Much appreciated.

## Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January

### Guildford Mavericks 2 – 1 Charterhouse School U14B

Felix, Raphael, William Fe, Max , Oliver, Dominic, Harry, Will S, Elliot, Alex , Johnny, Ben, Quinn

This was one of a series of games played over the weekend by the U12, U14 and U16 Guildford teams against Charterhouse School. The Mavericks (11-a-side U12 team) turned out against the Charterhouse U14B team and the difference in size was immediately obvious as some of the Charterhouse players were already fully grown in height and stronger than the Guildford boys, some of whom were not yet 11 years old.



*Difficult not to notice the difference in height – Mavericks v Giants*

But hockey is not about size and the Mavericks soon took the initiative and began to dictate the play against a team who had to quickly figure out how to play together in only their second match of the school season. After some heavy pressure, the Mavericks took the lead after 3 minutes when some good work by Harry led to a good low finish by Max. The next ten minutes consisted of more pressure on the Charterhouse goal and the Mavericks should have scored a couple more goals. The Charterhouse team though battled hard and after 9 minutes Alex had to be sharp to come off his line to block a breakaway attack by the opposition. From this chance Max then scored a second goal. After some good approach work by Elliot and Harry, Max finished the move with an excellent show low to the keeper's left. A fine move and goal.



*But Max was not going to give up the ball just because they were taller*

The rest of the half continued in the same manner with Guildford on top. Ollie and Will were passing the ball around well and there was some excellent, incisive, passing and movement on the right wing involving Ben, Harry and Max. Quinn also was having a good game and his passing and control of the ball appears to be improving with each performance. The defence was also playing well with Raphael having a very good match and distributing the ball well from the back. He was ably supported by strong tackling from Felix who had 'raised his game' from last week and was extremely determined in the way he protected his keeper and the goal from any attacks by the Charterhouse team. It was 2-0 at half time and despite the team playing well they perhaps should have been further ahead.

The second half started in the same manner with Guildford on top with some good work in the middle involving Will, Dom and Johnny. Max and Harry continued to provide a real threat to the opposition's goal but the Maverick boys were unable to add to their score and the 'age' difference and the opposing teams higher levels of stamina began to show with Charterhouse coming more and more into the game. They scored half way through the second half and sensing that they could achieve a result they began to push forward at every opportunity. This led to several chances in the last five minutes of the match with Alex making two fine saves to keep them out including one which a full length dive tipped the ball onto the post and the rebound was knocked off the line by a great intervention by Felix.

The match ended 2-1; the Mavericks were certainly the better team and deserved their win but were nearly caught out by a combination of not putting away more of their chances earlier in the game and tiredness creeping in towards the end of the game.

Some of the Maverick boys then stayed on to play for the U14 teams in their games with Charterhouse. Alex played for the U14 'C' team in their 3-1 victory and Felix, Max and Will played for the U14 'D' team in their 2-0 win. The feedback from the coaches of the two teams was that all of them settled in well playing alongside the older Guildford players and produced good performances that were important contributions to their respective team's victories.

## Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January

### GHC U12: Mavericks v Surbiton – January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Alex, Felix, Ollie S, Ben, Max, Ollie G, Michael, Elliot, Jack, Will F, Harry, Lawrence, Will S, Quinn

The game got off to a fast start with Surbiton putting immediate pressure on GHC with an early opportunity, cleared by Felix. Guildford took the game immediately back to the Surbiton end securing a short corner that was shut down decisively by Surbiton. With a quick break-out and a short corner for Surbiton, they scored on their second attempt to make an early score-line of Surbiton 1: Guildford 0.

The next phase of the game was evenly balanced with Guildford creating two or three goal opportunities including some spirited work between Harry and Max with Felix leading a very solid defence. Guildford set the tone early in the game for great use of space which was a differentiator to Surbiton throughout. The team as a whole created opportunity and individual play was always followed by a look for the pass. It was only a matter of time before Elliot found the back of the net and Guildford evened the score at 1:1.

Where Guildford were superior was in their passing and use of space, Surbiton had the edge on breakouts and after one such charge, they found the net again with a goal which was simply impossible to stop; 2:1 to Surbiton at the end of the first 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The second 3<sup>rd</sup> maintained the intensity of the first. Max was always in the action, Ben and Will were continually hassling Surbiton at the front and Jack showed some quick turning ability but all efforts at this stage of the game were shut down by Surbiton and to turn the screws further, Surbiton surged with some quick passing and an agile solid shot to give them a 3:1 advantage. This might have created worry or confusion in Guildford but it didn't. They never wavered. Elliot and Max continued with supreme pressure at the front and Ollie G single-handedly shut down two Surbiton players on a break-out. With possession now very much in Guildford's favour, Guildford drove again into Surbiton's D and a one-touch hook from Elliot gave Guildford their deserved second goal to draw the score-line back to a more credible 3:2 to Surbiton.

Guildford were relentless with their pressure and the brilliant combination of individual flair and great passing had Will find the back of the net with a fantastic reverse-stick shot to level the score at 3:3. Surbiton were not lying down and fortunately a powerful strike went well wide as the second 3<sup>rd</sup> came to an end with the balance of power having been clearly with Guildford.

The third 3<sup>rd</sup> started with both sides a little more tentative after such a high energy first couple of thirds and a nail-biting tied score-line. Ollie S was tenacious making a vital clearance early on. As both sides found their rhythm again, Max sustained a ball to the ankle and hobbled off. Max was carried off after contributing hugely to the game so far. Soon after, it looked like Surbiton had crept ahead to 4:3 but the ball literally hugged the goal-line for its entire length before trickling off wide with gasps from the Guildford supporters. Jack also headed off after getting a stick in the knee and worked hard throughout.

As the match reached peak intensity once again, the play was end-to-end with lots of running for all. Quinn found space to execute a blistering shot which sadly didn't find the back of the net but as in the rest of the game, it was Guildford's use of space overall and very fine passing that separated them from Surbiton in quality of play. After securing a short corner Felix scored a wonderful goal after a rapid push out from Harry which gave Guildford a highly deserved score-line of 4:3 over Surbiton. Surbiton retaliated immediately but Michael's clearance from the goal line denied Surbiton an equalizer. Their short corner created a big wind-up from their centre which went well wide.

Guildford didn't let up one inch for the rest of the game and had a couple more attempts on goal but as the whistle blew, Guildford players, coaches and supporters were very happy indeed. To come back from 3:1 down to win 4:3 was a tremendous feat. From the side-line, the game was incredibly entertaining; a joy to watch. Thanks to the boys for a wonderful display of some very mature, high quality hockey!

## **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December**

### **Under 12 Boys bring home Silver Medals whilst parents further postpone last-minute Christmas Shopping**

**Guildford A: Alex (GK), Raphael, Ollie, Jack, Will, Isaac, Max, Freddy**

A difficult choice....being dragged around the shops on Christmas eve looking for last minute presents before desperately plumping for Michael Buble's Xmas album five minutes before the shops shut...or the Annual Teddington Christmas Invitational. After five seconds contemplating this tough decision Teddington got the nod and on arrival at we discovered that the draw placed Guildford 'A' team in the same group as Sunbury, Worthing, Teddington A and Canterbury. Last year we came third in this tournament and the boys were determined to better that this year. They all appeared to be pleased to see each other and confidence was high after the recent International success.

#### Game 1: Guildford A v Sunbury (4 – 0 win)

It was clear from the start that the boys had continued with the standard of performance they had shown in Barcelona and immediately put pressure on their opponent's goal. Within two minutes we were 1-0 up after a goal by Harry following good work by Isaac and Max. Shortly afterwards Isaac scored after some more good work on the right wing by Max. Jack then proceeded to take it past two defenders before finishing well and Raphael scored the fourth following a well-executed short corner.

### Game 2: Guildford A v Worthing (2 – 0 win)

Guildford A's next game proved to be more of a challenge. The Worthing team opted to defend their goal in depth and to frustrate our attackers. This they did with success and despite heavy pressure we were unable to find the net. With two minutes to go and with the team needing a victory if they wanted to do well in the competition, Isaac collected the ball in midfield and skilfully dribbled past at least three Worthing players before putting the ball into the corner of the net. A really excellent goal. This was followed by Max setting up Isaac for his second and the score ended 2-0. This was a harder game for the team but in the end we were on course for a good tournament with two wins in two games.

### Game 3: Guildford A v Teddington A (3 – 0 win)

This was the game that those present thought would be our toughest competition as the hosts had their strongest U-12 team out for the tournament. In fact Guildford, after taking a few minutes of gaining the momentum against their opponents, actually won this game comfortably. The defence remained strong and Teddington were unable to trouble Alex in goal. Goals from Max, Will following a great pass from the back by Raphael and finally Harry led to a 3-0 score line. So to our final game which we had to win to proceed through to the final...



*Definitely beats Christmas shopping*

### Game 4: Guildford A v Canterbury (5 – 0 win)

This was our best performance of the competition. There was some really fine attacking play supported by a strong defence that never allowed Canterbury to gain any momentum in the game. The first goal came from Isaac who somehow squeezed the ball in after a fine run. Harry then made a fine run and set up Isaac again for 2-0 and this was followed by one of the goals of the tournament when Freddie smashed the ball in from the edge of the D for 3-0. Max then followed this up with another fine finish from a tight angle for 4-0 and Isaac then took the ball around their keeper for a cool finish to finish the scoring. This was a great performance by the team and one of the best of the season so far. So, we were through to the final which we soon found out was against Surbiton who had narrowly won their group by beating Reading to first spot in their group.

## Tournament Final: Guildford A v Surbiton (0 – 1 loss)

A summary of the final was that despite controlling the game for the majority of the match Guildford 'A' made their first defensive error in the entire tournament, went 1-0 down and were unable to get the equaliser and lost 1-0. We had started the game brightly although the difference from our previous games was that Surbiton did not stand back and admire our play but were prepared to scrap and close us down from the very start. Each time Max or Isaac received the ball they were immediately challenged by the opposition players and therefore found it more difficult to create chances. Surbiton's marking also put pressure on our passing which was not as incisive as in previous matches. It was clear though that despite the game being a tight affair that Guildford were the better team.

After about four minutes, however, the Surbiton 'No. 15' who was their best player received the ball in midfield. He then made a direct run through the midfield into our D, passing at least three of our players without being challenged and ended up with a '1 v 1' against Alex. His shot was very well saved by Alex who dived to his right to keep the ball out with his glove but the ball then rebounded out to two other unmarked Surbiton players and one of them scored. Guildford responded well and put pressure on the opposition goal including winning a couple of short corners but in the end we ran out of time. One of the lessons from this game was that in 10 minute matches we cannot afford to lose concentration and fall behind against the better teams as it is always difficult to come back. In the final, one lapse of concentration led to no Guildford player putting in a challenge on the Surbiton player before he entered the D and no player responding quickly enough to the rebound once the initial shot was saved.



*Waiting for their medals*

So the boys received their runners-up medal and the defeat in the final should not in any way cast a shadow over the general performance of the boys in this tournament. They all had played very good hockey and scored some excellent goals from skilful attacking play. They had scored 14 goals which was the highest total of all the teams in the competition and were only scored on once, in the final. The defence also worked extremely hard as a unit and, tellingly, only conceded one goal in the entire tournament. This was the lowest goals conceded by any team in the competition with the winners, Surbiton, conceding several more in their games than we did. This was another step forward for the team and a good indication of their continuing development. The entire team, ably supported by their coach, James, should be proud of their performance and by being runners-up had improved on last year's position.

## **Guildford B: Toby, Bart, Oliver G, William S, Henry S (GK), Johnny, Zac, Jasper**

This was an excellent tournament and Guildford B's put in a strong performance against some of the best A teams in the region narrowly missing out on a 3rd place play off place. Well done to all who played.

### Game 1: Guildford B v Teddington B (2 – 0 win)

Guildford got off to a flyer with Jasper Wilson opening the scoring in the first few minutes. We dominated this match and Will Sampson was able to make it 2-0 finishing off a strong move from the right.

### Game 2: Guildford B v Woking A (0 – 0 draw)

This was a really tight match with very few opportunities at either end. Guildford defended well but found it difficult to make headway into Woking's D. A couple of half chances late in the match but ultimately 0-0 a fair result.

### Game 3: Guildford B v Surbiton A (0 – 1 loss)

The eventual winners of the tournament, Surbiton were a strong team. Guildford soaked up plenty of pressure and struggled to get control of the ball. In goal Henry Spence made some good saves and there was some strong defending disrupting the Surbiton attacks. Towards the end of the game Surbiton deserved to score and they did this with a well taken goal. 0-1 was a really good performance when you consider that the majority of the Guildford team were U11!

### Game 4: Guildford B v Reading A (0 – 0 draw)

Another tight game with Guildford battling out for a draw. In this game Guildford struggled to find any space to pass with too much bunching down the centre of the pitch. They made it difficult for Reading to play, but they were unable to break away and build any sort of pressure.

### Game 5: Guildford B v Southgate (0 – 1 loss)

For the final game Guildford probably had their best game despite losing 0-1. They found much more space on the flanks and passed the ball well. In many ways the Southgate goal went against the run of play.

John G

## **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> February**

### **Bournemouth U16 Girls 4 - 1 Guildford U16 Girls**

Sunday saw Guildford en mass travel to Bournemouth, with both the girls and under 14 boys with matches in the EH Cup. A coach was organised and we left for the trip to Dorset at 10am in the rain. As we got closer the rain got heavier and heavier and we did wonder if the games would be cancelled!!

The girls were in surprisingly buoyant mood given there were only ten of them due to an injury the day before to our eleventh player. Even, sitting there singing songs from Grease (don't know why, but they were and not sure the whole clubhouse wanted to hear the recital??!!) It was clear that the pitch we were due to play on was water logged and we moved to a nearby school for the game.

A quick warm up and we were off, rain being blown sideways, first couple of minutes we were attacking well, but Bournemouth got a quick break and scored. Unfortunately, they followed with a second. However, we settled down and the tenacity of Tali, Hannah and Eloise in defence kept the Bournemouth forwards at bay. We had most of the possession and Georgie, Jess and Johanna were able to pass the ball around the pitch and with patience created opportunities for Hazel, Poly and Annabel up front to attack the opposition goal, but we could just not finish.

The second half started as with the first and Bournemouth got two quick goals, but there after we took control of the game and spent the most of the time in the Bournemouth half, indeed the Bournemouth "D". I heard the word "upgrade" (they were paying attention at training on Friday night!!) and we got several short corners. Finally one went in. Now we thought more could come and we again camped out in the Bournemouth half. We continued to work very hard and had more chances and shots, which on another day could have gone in.

It was a really good game, played in foul conditions and the girls rose to the challenge and gave Bournemouth a very hard game. This was confirmed when I saw their coach later after they had played their second game, she said the team so tired after our game they struggled against a team we had beaten 6-0 the week before. Well done girls – we can now concentrate on the league and think about going to Barcelona in the Summer!

## **Guildford U12 Girls 5 - 1 Woking U12 Girls**

### **Guildford U12 Girls – Remain undefeated**

Guildford fielded a strong side and had the lion's share of possession for most of the match. Great communication and teamwork resulted in flowing hockey during the first 20 minutes but several opportunities were put wide by Guildford's forwards. Tenacity prevailed and a breakthrough arose following a great strike by Ella Banous to put the U12's ahead of their local rivals.

Unfortunately, as Guildford pressed high, they lost possession and a rare breakaway meant Woking soon leveled the score. Unflustered the girls continued to battle and largely dominate play. Shortly into the second third Autumn Brown dribbled the ball to the edge of the D and shot at goal, beating defense and goalie, 2-1 Guildford. The U12's were strong in midfield, with Lucie making some great runs and Rachel putting some great crosses into the D, but also in defense with Mia, Hannah, Rosie and Alice coordinating well and pushing forward given a chance.

The girls transferred the ball well. Hannah Edgerton and Olivia Lord were very useful subs and worked hard when on the pitch, Olivia using her speed to chase down the ball and hassle the opposition. Lucie Bishop scored twice in the remaining period, a nick into the goal and strong strike which hit the post and went in. Alice scored a super goal but was unfortunately hurt shortly afterwards.

Well done girls - more of the same!



## **Under 10 Girls drenched – spirits remain high despite the damp conditions!**

Two teams of girls from Richmond Hockey Club travelled to Broadwater on Sunday 10 February to play a round robin friendly tournament with four Guildford teams. The Guildford girls were stoic in their approach to this fixture; 80% of the squad were available and super keen to play and all made their way to Farncombe despite the driving, cold rain and temperatures hovering only just above freezing.

Guildford Gannets, Geese, Grouses and Gulls played against Richmond's Swallows and Swifts in two pools of three. A Guildford team met a Richmond team in the play-off for first place and the Gannets got the better of the visitors for a 2-0 score.

The individual skills and the teamwork have progressed hugely since the start of the season. Keep it up girls!

A huge thanks to Maggs, James and Will who umpired and coached in the cold rain – and this was a mere warm-up for the three more hours they would spend in the rain with the Under 12 boys.



*Not sure it's possible to be more wet if not in a swimming pool*





*Maggs carrying out the end-of-tournament debrief with the girls – umbrellas and all*

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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](mailto:richard.julian@gmail.com).


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