

in touch

the e-zine - from Guildford Hockey Club

2011/12 Season Issue 21 05/04/12

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Well done to all teams this season – read on to see where you finished in the league.

Have you started raising money for the Hockeython yet? Make sure May 19th is in your diary!

Current news:

GHC HOCKEYTHON 2012

Saturday May 19th will be the all new GHC Club day raising money for Help the Heroes and GHC.

Click on the link below to set up your justgiving page, the quick & easy way to raise money online:

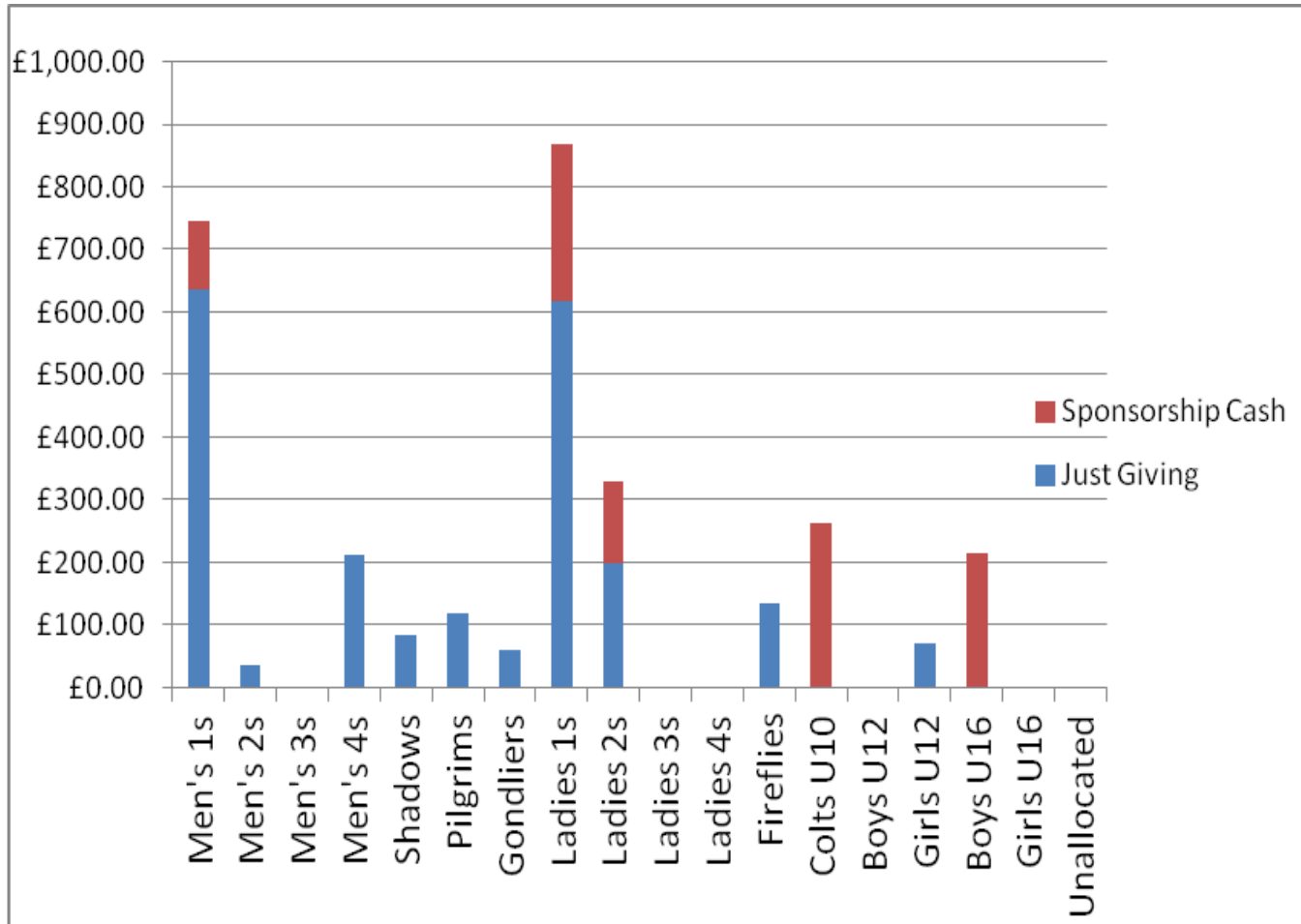
<http://bit.ly/zGGHYQ>

Or download a copy of the sponsorship form from the GHC website:

<http://bit.ly/An0R1d>

GHC HOCKEYTHON AND CLUB PARTY 19TH MAY 2012

50 people have set up justgiving pages and are currently raising money for GHC and Help for Heroes. So far they have raised **£3,129!** A great effort but we need **YOU** and **YOUR TEAM** to contribute like these great performers:



A big thank you to everyone who has already raised money – keep up the good work!

GHC HOCKEYTHON AND CLUB PARTY 19TH MAY 2012

There will be loads of events planned throughout the day, not just the hockey so come along and get involved with what promises to be a fantastic day for everyone!

A barbeque will be running throughout the day providing food to keep you playing and Dave Hall will be providing a gourmet buffet for the party in the evening.

Loads of events and activities will also be happening, including:

Dave's 12 ½ hour goalie-thon! Dave Cull, the Mens 4th team captain is planning on playing in goal for the entire duration of the GHC Hockeython. That's 12 ½ hours of saves, dives and probably quite a few backboard hits! Dave has already raised over £200 towards this event but he will need your help on the day to take shots against him, warm up for your game against him and he'll even play for your team!



Thanks to Dave for this great effort, I think you will have earned a beer or two at the club party! (If you make it, of course).

Your captains will be checking availability and numbers for the party during next week so please check your diaries and invite your friends!

If you have any ideas for activities or fundraising activities on or before May 19th, please contact Jenno on ianjennings62@hotmail.com or 0780 288 6000.

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	07968 004848	

... 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>

How the 2011/12 season finished

Mens 1s

EHL Western Conference

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Team Bath Buccaneers Men's 1s	18	15	2	1	57	22	35	47
2	University of Birmingham Men's 1st	18	10	3	5	44	34	10	33
3	Cardiff & UWIC Men's 1s	18	9	4	5	35	22	13	31
4	Havant Men's 1s	18	9	3	6	37	23	14	30
5	Guildford Men's 1s	18	8	3	7	31	31	0	27
6	Fareham Men's 1s	18	7	4	7	53	45	8	25
7	Whitchurch Men's 1s	18	5	6	7	35	35	0	21
8	Cheltenham Men's 1s	18	6	2	10	35	46	-11	20
9	Lichfield Mens 1st XI	18	5	1	12	32	62	-30	16
10	Bournville Men's 1s	18	1	2	15	27	66	-39	5

Mens 2s

London Premier Division

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Surbiton Men's 2s	22	17	2	3	103	42	61	53
2	Southgate Men's 2s	22	16	3	3	90	42	48	51
3	Wimbledon Men's 2s	22	12	5	5	76	47	29	41
4	Hampstead and Westminster Men's 2s	22	13	2	7	79	55	24	41
5	Bromley and Beckenham Mens 2s	22	12	3	7	70	49	21	39
6	Canterbury Men's 2s	22	10	5	7	77	50	27	35
7	Spencer Men's 2s	22	10	3	9	56	57	-1	33
8	Reading Men's 2s	22	9	4	9	64	57	7	28*
9	Tulse Hill & Dulwich Mens 2s	22	5	3	14	50	96	-46	18
10	Old Loughtonians Men's 2s	22	5	3	14	30	87	-57	18
11	Guildford Men's 2s	22	3	4	15	32	85	-53	13
12	St. Albans Men's 2s	22	1	1	20	33	93	-60	4

Mens 3s

London Division 2

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Wimbledon Men's 4s	20	13	5	2	54	25	29	44
2	Bromley and Beckenham Mens 3s	20	12	3	5	62	44	18	39
3	Reading Men's 2As	20	9	5	6	59	37	22	32
4	Old Loughtonians 3s (Foresters)	20	8	6	6	42	36	6	30
5	Indian Gymkhana Men's 3s	20	8	5	7	71	55	16	29
6	Guildford Men's 3s	20	8	3	9	44	49	-5	27
7	Richmond Men's 3s	20	7	6	7	41	53	-12	27
8	Kings Alleyns Mens 2nd XI	20	7	2	11	41	44	-3	23
9	Richmond Griffins	20	8	2	10	32	38	-6	23*
10	London Wayfarers Men's 3s	20	5	2	13	29	65	-36	17
11	Southgate Men's 4s	20	5	1	14	33	62	-29	16

Shadows

Surrey Open Premier League

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Surrey Spartans Mens 2s	22	15	3	4	75	41	34	48
2	Guildford Shadows	21	15	2	4	82	38	44	47
3	Oxted Men's 4s	21	14	2	5	68	46	22	44
4	Bank of England Men's 2s	22	12	4	6	71	44	27	40
5	Addiscombe Men's 2s	22	11	3	8	95	67	28	36
6	Surbiton Men's 6s	22	10	5	7	72	70	2	35
7	Cheam Men's 2s	22	9	4	9	55	43	12	31
8	Sanderstead Men's 2s	22	8	3	11	52	66	-14	27
9	Reigate Priory Men's 3s	22	6	3	13	51	73	-22	21
10	Barnes Men's 5s	22	6	0	16	53	92	-39	18
11	London Academicals Men's 3rd XI	22	6	2	14	32	72	-40	17*
12	Purley Walcountians Men's 3s	22	3	1	18	30	84	-54	10

*Shadows have a game in hand to be played next week. A win or a draw will see them champions!

Mens 4s

Surrey Open League Division 1

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Spencer Hurricanes	22	14	3	5	88	40	48	45
2	Reigate Priory Cardinals	22	13	4	5	73	49	24	43
3	Sunbury and Walton Hawks Men's 3s	22	13	3	6	69	40	29	42
4	London Edwardians Men's 3s	22	11	4	7	45	48	-3	37
5	Croydon and Old Whitgiftian Men's 2s	22	10	5	7	56	48	8	35
6	Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian Men's 3s	22	10	4	8	49	63	-14	34
7	Old Kingstonian Men's 2s	22	9	5	8	58	51	7	32
8	Leatherhead Men's 1s	22	7	8	7	56	48	8	29
9	Kenley Men's 2s	22	6	6	10	32	47	-15	24
10	Camberley and Farnborough Men's 2XI	22	5	4	13	52	66	-14	19
11	Guildford Men's 4s	22	5	3	14	36	70	-34	18
12	Epsom HC Men's 4s	22	4	1	17	28	72	-44	13

Pilgrims

Wessex Masters League Division 1

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Oxford Hawks Men's Vets	22	19	1	2	153	33	120	58
2	Winchester Men's Vets I	22	18	2	2	130	34	96	56
3	Basingstoke Mens Vets	22	16	2	4	60	30	30	50
4	Chichester Priory Park Friars	22	14	3	5	84	43	41	45
5	Haslemere Men's Vets	22	9	3	10	48	70	-22	30
6	Havant Men's Vets I	22	8	2	12	64	73	-9	26
7	West Wilts Mens Vets	22	7	3	12	73	92	-19	24
8	Guildford Men's Vets	22	7	3	12	41	71	-30	24
9	Salisbury Striders	22	7	2	13	56	84	-28	23
10	Oxford Oxford Bulls	22	5	5	12	41	90	-49	20
11	Southampton Men's Vets I	22	4	4	14	29	82	-53	16
12	Bournemouth Men's Vets	22	2	2	18	22	99	-77	8

Ladies 1s

South Clubs' Women's League

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Wimbledon Ladies' 1s	18	14	3	1	44	12	32	45
2	Maidenhead Ladies 1s	18	12	4	2	49	15	34	40
3	Hampstead and Westminster Ladies' 1s	18	12	4	2	46	12	34	40
4	Guildford Ladies' 1s	18	10	3	5	40	24	16	33
5	Havant Ladies' 1s	18	7	3	8	26	27	-1	24
6	Reading Ladies' 1A	18	6	3	9	23	31	-8	21
7	Southgate Ladies' 1s	18	5	2	11	23	44	-21	17
8	Woking Ladies' 1s	18	4	2	12	19	47	-28	14
9	Epsom HC Ladies' 1s	18	3	3	12	16	39	-23	12
10	Southampton Ladies' 1s	18	1	5	12	15	50	-35	8

Ladies 2

Surrey Ladies' Premier Division

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Wimbledon Ladies' 1A	18	12	1	5	34	10	24	37
2	Guildford Ladies' 2s	18	10	3	5	35	23	12	33
3	Woking Ladies' 1A	18	9	4	5	28	26	2	31
4	Oxted Ladies 1	18	9	3	6	35	25	10	30
5	Sunbury and Walton Hawks Ladies 1	18	9	3	6	33	23	10	30
6	Spencer Women's 2	18	9	1	8	30	30	0	28
7	London Edwardians Ladies 1	18	8	2	8	31	24	7	26
8	Wanderers Ladies 2s	18	5	4	9	25	32	-7	19
9	Richmond Ladies 2	18	4	2	12	20	48	-28	14
10	Reigate Priory Ladies 1s	18	3	1	14	11	41	-30	9*

Ladies' 3s

Surrey Ladies' League Division 4

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Kenley SP Ladies 1s	18	12	4	2	44	20	24	40
2	Sunbury and Walton Hawks Ladies 2	18	11	3	4	36	17	19	36
3	London Wayfarers Ladies 4	18	8	6	4	32	20	12	30
4	Woking Ladies Vets	18	7	5	6	34	28	6	26
5	Cheam Ladies 2	18	6	6	6	29	30	-1	24
6	Barnes Hounslow Ealing Vets	18	7	4	7	44	36	8	22*
7	Addiscombe Ladies 1	18	6	4	8	21	30	-9	22
8	Wanderers Ladies 5s	18	7	3	8	28	24	4	21*
9	Guildford Ladies 3	18	6	2	10	28	47	-19	20
10	Barnes Hounslow Ealing 3s	18	1	1	16	11	55	-44	2*

Ladies 4s

Surrey Ladies' League Division 8

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	London Wayfarers Ladies 6	18	15	2	1	81	17	64	47
2	Sunbury and Walton Hawks Ladies 3s	18	14	1	3	87	31	56	43
3	Richmond Ladies 6	18	12	3	3	64	19	45	39
4	Guildford Ladies 4	18	10	3	5	43	36	7	32*
5	Merton Ladies 2	18	8	2	8	30	36	-6	26
6	Berrylands Ladies 1	18	7	1	10	33	59	-26	22
7	Mid Surrey Ladies 2nd XI	18	4	3	11	27	53	-26	15
8	Richmond Ladies 5	18	4	2	12	18	43	-25	14
9	Old Georgians Ladies 2	18	4	2	12	37	82	-45	13*
10	Woking Ladies 3	18	2	1	15	17	61	-44	4*

Boys Under 16

Mercian Home Counties Colts League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Teddington U16B	5	5	0	0	24	1	23	15
2 Guildford Boys Under16	6	4	0	2	28	17	11	12
3 Woking Boys U16	6	4	0	2	26	18	8	12
4 Wimbledon U15/16 Boys	5	2	1	2	7	14	-7	7
5 Staines U16 Boys	6	2	0	4	15	19	-4	6
6 Ashford (Middlesex) Boys U16	6	1	1	4	9	26	-17	4
7 Surbiton Under 16B	6	1	0	5	8	22	-14	3

Boys Under 14

Mercian Home Counties Colts League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Old Loughtonians Boys U14	5	5	0	0	26	12	14	15
2 Guildford Boys U14	6	5	0	1	25	12	13	15
3 Bromley and Beckenham Boys U14	6	3	1	2	21	12	9	10
4 Wimbledon U14 boys	6	3	0	3	21	21	0	9
5 Spencer Boys U14	6	2	0	4	13	22	-9	6
6 Ashford (Middlesex) Boys U14	5	1	1	3	6	15	-9	4
7 Surbiton Boys U14	6	0	0	6	4	22	-18	0

Boys Under 14 D

Mercian Home Counties Colts League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian Boys U14s	10	8	2	0	35	14	21	26
2 Guildford Boys U14D	9	5	2	2	19	9	10	17
3 Epsom HC Boys U14 D	9	4	1	4	18	18	0	13
4 Surbiton Boys U14D	9	4	1	4	21	23	-2	13
5 Spencer BU14 Cyclones	4	0	1	3	4	12	-8	1
6 Purley Walcountians Boys U14D	5	0	1	4	3	14	-11	1
7 Reigate Priory Polecats U14B	4	0	0	4	1	11	-10	0

Girls Under 14 A

Home Counties Girls League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Reading Girls U14P	5	4	1	0	22	3	19	13
2 Richmond Pumas U14G	5	4	1	0	20	2	18	13
3 Sunbury and Walton Hawks U14G Emeralds	5	2	1	2	10	14	-4	7
4 Maidenhead Girls U14B	5	2	0	3	5	16	-11	6
5 Woking Girls U14	5	1	0	4	5	14	-9	3
6 Guildford Girls U14 'A'	5	0	1	4	3	16	-13	1

Girls Under 14 B

Home Counties Girls League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Teddington U14G	6	5	0	1	24	2	22	15
2 Woking U14G Tornadoes	6	5	0	1	19	2	17	15
3 Guildford Girls U14B	6	5	0	1	20	5	15	15
4 Ashford (Middlesex) U14G	5	2	0	3	4	13	-9	6
5 Richmond Wildcats	5	1	0	4	3	18	-15	3
6 Reading Girls U14L	5	0	1	4	1	15	-14	1
7 Maidenhead Girl's U14	5	0	1	4	1	17	-16	1

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 25th March

Guildford 2 – 4 Cardiff
(Matthew Baggs x 2)

The final game of the season and a chance for both teams to finish on a high and move up in the league. Unfortunately it turned out to be the visiting side who were able to do this. Guildford used the game to experiment with a new system in preparation for next season's campaign but Cardiff were able to exploit the resulting lack of defence unity to create a couple of chances and bag two early goals.

This immediately put us on the back foot and a lack of basics all over the pitch meant it was difficult to get a hold on the game. Despite this, Baggsy popped up in the D to claim a goal just before half time ensuring we were still in the game, even though we probably didn't deserve to be.

The second half performance was better but not by much. Cardiff were allowed to create more chances and were again able to score two more goals and put the game out of our reach. Despite Baggsy's second goal, we were beaten.

So a season that has ended with a whimper and our lowest league position for several years. We will look back at games we should have won, particularly when we were winning and conceded late goals. There is also the seemingly perennial problem of too many draws meaning that we never really troubled first placed Bath in the league. However, the second half of the season was played by a squad of only 14 players and the feeling in the camp is that on our day, we can beat anyone in this league – we simply need to find more consistency and perhaps a couple more goal scorers.

Thanks must be said to all our sponsors who have enabled us to take part in the national league as as everyone who has come along to support us come rain or shine. It really is appreciated. Here's to next season!

Trinity Mid-Whitgiftians 4 - 3 Guildford 4s

After a string of disappointing results over the last few weeks, the 4s turned up at Warlingham School knowing that only a win would be enough to keep them in with a chance of avoiding relegation and with fellow league strugglers Camberley not playing their final game of the season until the following week, it was a real chance to heap the pressure upon them. As has become the norm over the closing stretch of league games, Guildford raced out of the blocks and dominated the first 20 mins and justly found themselves 3-0 to the good thanks to Tom Moody(2) and Jim Parkin. Not really sure what really

happened from this moment on, but it was as if a switch had been flipped and we were involved in a completely different game altogether. All I will say is we went in 3-3 at half time and somehow managed to concede again in the second half and lose from a seemingly unloseable position. Final score 3-4. The 4s doomed to relegation. Here's to a more competitive showing in division 2 next season!

MOM – Tim H -on a drink off with Alex F

DOD – Tom M – for missing open goal with the big wind up!

Guildford Mens 4s – 2011/12 (SOHL Div 1)

Having narrowly avoided relegation last season and lost a number of players over the summer (and the first few games) this season was going to be a tough battle from the first whistle. In fact, we managed to lose both pre-season games against the run of play which didn't fill us with confidence!

Season Overview

Over the first few games we had up to 25 players on our books and plenty of player unavailability which led to a huge inconsistency in the team we were able to field week-to-week. This combined with early season lack of fitness and god knows what else resulted in an early loss to a weak Camberley side and a string of losses which I don't want to talk about!! As ever, we kept our heads held high, genuinely believing each week that we could win. We got our first points against Trinity at home and we played out of our skins to get a draw against London Edwardians in a 4.30pm fixture in Battersea Park, much to their dismay and confusion! With 2 games to go before Christmas we beat Epsom away to swap places and leave them on the bottom of the table. With a little coaching help from Jenno we played our most controlled and organised game to-date, completely dominating the possession and territory but struggling as ever to score. We eventually let them pull up level on 2-2 and with a penalty corner on the full-time whistle they, heartbreakingly, slotted the winning goal inside our exposed right post.

After Christmas we all came back looking surprisingly fighting fit and up for a fresh start. We got our revenge on Camberley with a 3-2 win (very flattering to them), then managed to upset all of the top 3 teams by recording 2 wins and a draw against them over 3 consecutive weeks. With the wind in our sails we felt the season had taken a huge U-turn for the better and set our sights on mid-table. Unfortunately, we didn't win another match, collecting only 1 point from our final 6 games!!!

Due to the final 3 games, all of which were against the weaker league opponents, the mighty Guildford 4s finished 11th and will be relegated. However, never after the first few games did I feel we were out of contention with any of the opposition. We may struggle with fitness and goal-scoring, but we could easily have won all of those matches. Hopefully the team will stabilise over the next couple of seasons, train more often and develop better fitness and they will be able to show the league what they're really capable of. This is not a team in decline!

The Team

As well as losing players, we found a few new regulars too. I think a special mention needs to go to Alex Frankland (self-named "Engine Room"), Chris Sargent, and returning legend Dave "pull the trigger" Nugent who really upped the tempo and dynamics of our game. We also have Josh Smith, Rob Leonard, Chris Luscombe, Tim "never won a game" Hasslehof and Hugo Layard Horsefall who helped the team out a lot and I'm hoping they are all around next season. And of course all of the

regulars who turn up each week, keep doing what you're doing...just maybe a little better! Captain and goalkeeper David Cull was voted as man of the season but I think this is more for organising 11 or so players each week rather than any actual talent! We didn't have a vote on it but I imagine the majority would agree with me that the goal of the season was Alex's against Epsom – he took the ball pretty much straight from the hit after their scrappy goal, down the right wing to the base line, cut in and a clinical finish from a tight angle.

Happy 40th to Dave Hall – “HE KICKED HIM!!!”

Dave Barnardo always deserves some kind of mention – this time for injuring himself before a game...WASHING HIS HAIR! Classic; keep it up DB!

Guildford Shadows -v- Addiscombe 2's

With the season coming to its climax, the Shadows knew that a win would virtually guarantee promotion, a situation that was a certainty only a few weeks ago with the Shadows holding a 9 point lead over their rivals. However, following a dip in form, the Shadows were now in second place, 1 point behind the leader albeit with a game in hand.

This mightily important game against Addiscombe, who had scored 60 goals in their last 11 games including 5 past the Shadows only two weeks before, meant that the Skippers call to arms was a whole hour before push back. Surprisingly, everyone turned up (reasonably) on time including Tim (a notorious last minuter) and after a solid warm up and team talk (“attack, I want a goal in the first five minutes”) the game was on.

The Shadows duly obliged, with Sy and Ross providing width, Leon anchoring the middle and Sam, Tom and Nate linking well up top. The Shadows were camped in the Addiscombe 25 but somehow not putting the ball in the net. Short corner followed short corner with Ross putting in the big hits. Eventually, there was a call for “Option Number 2” (throughout the course of the season, the Shadows have been working hard on their various short corner options). Leon pushed the short ball to the leftside of the D, to Sam, who duly buried the ball in the bottom corner of the goal. It was with a cheer of relief that the Shadows had managed to score after a spell of domination.

Not resting on their laurels, the Shadows continued their assault, both the wingbacks Skipper and Tim, were seen stretching the Addiscombe defence and it was a good ball from Tim that set Johnny Dye along the by-line. With a bit of 50:50 pushing with the defence Johnny squared the ball to ten-touch Tommy Copeland, who only took two touches; committing the keeper and duly flicking the ball reverse stick into the roof of the net. After a bit of celebrating and resuming of positions, it was with some surprise to find the Addiscombe Ref trotting over to Tim (ump) to give his opinion on the matter. Much discussion took place between the ref's but it was the Addiscombe Ref's view that was taken and then dismissed. The goal stood.

Further opportunities came and went for the Shadows, with Nate somehow dribbling past the goal, Marcus marauding from defence and Johnny shooting just wide. Then Addiscombe came on the attack. With practically their first time entering the Shadows 25, they won a short corner. From the previous match their was already knowledge of the threat of the Addiscombe short corner routine and Marcus produced a stunning save from a shot that would have hit the top of the back board. However, after another short corner, the ball was worked wide and Addiscombe managed to scramble the ball in.

With half time approaching, the Shadows launched one last attack and with Johnny in the D, steaming one-on-one with the keeper, the Addiscombe Ref blew the half time whistle. The call of "You can't do that" was met with a response of "I can blow the whistle whenever I like". Unfortunately with no sound knowledge of the rules, Sam could not challenge this decision. The half time team talk came and went with the usual rousing speech from the Skipper. As the teams lined up, Sam was presented with a retrospective green card for the "dissent" he had given (not sure you are allowed to do that?!). Somewhat slightly shocked, the Shadows started off slowly and were under the cosh. Addiscombe's slow, pony tailed, right winger made a "burst" down the wing somehow beating the combined forces of Ross and Skip and managed to squeeze a reverse shot that beat Marcus at the near post.

With nerves spreading its tentacles across the Shadows team, passes went astray including a suicide ball from Rhino and the defence was stretched. Will TBDITL was called into desperate action on numerous occasions and Marcus pulled off a couple of good saves. But it was only a matter of time before the 3rd Addiscombe goal crept in. The Shadows head dropped, it seemed that today would not be the day but with a roar from the Skipper, the Shadows were driven on. Tom Annable with quick feet and a quicker stick terrorised the Addiscombe defence. A scrambled attempt on goal that may have crept over the line was eventually awarded with a penalty flick for the Shadows. Ross stepped forward and rifled it into the top left of the football goal behind the hockey goal. Other attempts followed including a flick from Sam that went just over the bar. Eventually Tim, with a driving run down the wing won a free hit in the Addiscombe 25. Leon took the hit to Sam who was free at the top of the D, who then drifted in and drilled it into the bottom corner. At 3-3 and the momentum with them, there was only going to be one team who was going to win but would they get that final, vital goal?

On the offensive and with three minutes left on the clock, shots rained down on the Addiscombe goalie with Tom Copeland smacking a crisp half volley onto the post but eventually the Shadows were awarded a short corner. The ball was fizzed across the turf to Marcus who passed to Ross who brought a smart save from the goalie. Fortunately, the rebound went straight to Marcus again who drew the defender and slipped to Ross who made amends for his earlier miss and slapped the ball into the bottom corner.

Victory was assured and promotion (provided there is not a 25 goal swing in the last match) was gained. Despite this the Shadows will be looking to end the league on top with a victory at Oxted in a few weeks time.

Final Score = Shadows 4 – Addiscombe 3

MOM – Sam for two well struck/important goals

DOD – Sam for getting a retrospective green card, flicking over the bar and falling off the horse into a gatepost. I can't believe Ross who wore his shorts inside out and MISSED A PENALTY FLICK did not get this!!! Special mention to Tom Copeland for not getting a single DOD vote (is this a first Statto?)

Guildford Shadows – Skipper’s Season Round-up – 2011/12

As the season draws to a close, with one final re-scheduled match away at Oxted on 14th April, the Shadows are faced with almost certain promotion and a potential league win on our hands. If Oxted beat us 12-0 then we (probably) won’t get promoted, but a draw or win will see us finish in the deserved No. 1 spot! In my eyes there’s no other option – we have to win. Our record this season was 9 points clear at the top of the SOHL Prem-Div., so it would be a crime to finish in any other position.

With one or two new faces in the squad, we started the season with a sluggish response to Academical’s home crowd on their very hot OC’s turf. This was not, however, a sign of things to come; we soon found our stride. Capt’n Nick (RAO, 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery) was soon running circles around the opposition and, despite not playing for the Shadows during the second half of this season (*looks at the thieving 3’s*), he will probably (unless Copeland scores 4 at Oxted) claim the Golden Stick Award. It’s a great shame that he’s just been posted to Canada for a year! The Capt’n was soon linking up very well with our strong attacking mids (Sam “Muzza” Major, Sy Valner, “Weeman/Statto/Daddy-o” and Rossi) and selflessly assisting Nate-Dogg, Copeland and Johnny up front on numerous occasions. Shout-out to Nathaniel who, despite seeming a bit under the radar this season (compared to last), added 6 to our tally, dribbling the ball to the base-line and committing well to the team.

As the goals started mounting-up, our confidence grew... S.Valner (a contender for Most Improved this season) weaved his way through many-a-defender, supplying assists and scoring a few. Shortie-striker & Treasurer, Ross James Henry (lucky man, he’s got 3 forenames!), started the season late due to a hernia op - yes, he’s only 25. With his WAG/coach/boss Hayley on the side-line, he was soon hitting the backboard (9 goals to date, even scoring in open play) and was a strong Shadow throughout the park...I must also mention his crucial winner against Addiscombe in the dying minutes, setting us up for a league win!

Despite hanging onto the ball FAR too much (n-o-t p-a-s-s-i-n-g), doing his stupid spinning trick and 9/10 hitting it on the reverse (along with the deserved abuse he got for it) I would like to give Copeland his due; he’s up there with the goal-count, and considering the amount of abuse (and DOD votes) he’s received this season, he is yet to be sectioned, let alone breakdown, and always remains in high spirits. Fair play mate, but please, for the love of God, start passing! ...Talking of spirits, TBDITL really should start pacing it. There have been a number of occasions when he has turned up steaming from the night before, intoxicating the entire defence with his breath when defending shorties...perhaps this accounted for this slow start to the season? That said, he redeemed himself, earning many-a-MOM vote, and knows, in his heart, that he will always be a Shadows player. *The Best Defender In The League* – will this stick if we get promoted?

I think a special mention is needed for our keeper this season – Marcus Bentley. He had very big kickers to fill, with Andy Valner becoming one of the first victims to the 3’s. He was only 15 (Bentley). He has kept us in a lot of the close games, pulling out some brilliant saves, even legging it to the edge of his D to slide and surprise oppo-forwards with his signature trailing stick.



Not even a frozen pitch got in the way of the almighty Shadows...

The goal-growth positive trend was a contrast to our squad size. The natural hierarchy understandably meant that, when the 3's were short, we started to travel to games with limited numbers. The theft of Nick, on a more-permanent basis, along with TBDITL-Will's growing absence, meant that the score lines were getting tighter. The other casualty at the beginning of the season was Deano, our trusty springbok centre back (get well soon!). This meant that a hole in our defence needed to be filled – M5 MCP Mikey stepped up and impressed. Last season saw Mike...showing his versatility and filling-in where needed. I think the rest of the team will agree when I say if it wasn't for Michael, the Banker, 27, with a Z4 and personalised number plate, we wouldn't be sitting where we are now. Too many to mention, but one performance that sticks with me is Surrey Spartan away (a very tough game, where we clinched a 3-2 win), I remember Mikey rescuing us on several occasions. A special shout-out to his bro-mance with Copeland, they make a great couple.

Thankfully we had a couple of old faces join the ranks, including Stumble who brought a sigh of relief at the back, Chris Sanderson in the middle who distributed well with a couple of sturdy performances (one or two blunders? ..fair enough, he scored 1), and Tom Annable who went on some amazing-weaving-runs to assist *and* score 3 of his own. A special Mention to Timmy Wright, despite a couple of blunders, he's driven up the line from right-back on many occasions, assisted a few and has scored 4 this season. It just worries me when he starts to drift north...Perhaps that's why his name's on the score sheet and mine isn't?! But as for his time-keeping, mate; please can you try better next season, 15mins before pb is, well, crap! Even if you Glympse me!

Despite losing some to the 3's, we were compensated with Kit Fantastic (his actual name, amazing I know) joining the ranks. Earlier in the season this psychotic Geordie had a guest appearance for us, on the water, scoring a hat-trick against Surbiton, adding to our 9-3 victory. He then started his Shadows Career away at Cheam and has since been working hard upfront, encouraging us to drink, probably eating too many pain killers, motivating us, shouting at us, assisting many-a-goal...did I mention he drinks a lot? Shame about the goal tally, still...Ledge. It was this match away at Cheam that saw the Shadows take a turn for the worse; our heads had dropped; only a handful turned up on time and we lost 2:0. There were no excuses, we got ahead of ourselves and weren't prepared for Cheam. The helpful 4's lads incidentally all played really well – much better than some Shadows' performances! We picked ourselves up and came back to our winning ways, only to switch off for 10 minutes against Surbiton a few weeks later and end up with a 4-4 draw, having been 3-1 up. The knock-on effect meant that we didn't travel well.

Our confidence remained high at Home games, as well as our skill on the pitch; we benefitted from Marcus Smith (composed and reliable as ever at CB, placing him in defensive mid-field whenever I could, saving my bacon on several occasions) and Johnny Dye (weaving his magic up front) at Broadwater, but these family guys couldn't travel much this season. At this point I must point out Jon's...passion...for the game; I think it was this season, where he managed to pick up a card while on the bench, for his *view* on a particular challenge....oh and there was when he launched his stick over the fence of the water-base - Full marks for hunger FTW! On a more serious note I'd like to thank these three aging Shadows for their input, in terms of motivation this season, rallying the troops

when we went quiet and giving constructive wisdom.

Talking of getting on a bit, Weeman/Statto/Daddy-o/Leon Shrewsbury turned 30 before the season pushed-back, he must now be pushing 8 years in The Shadows! Now, as the season draws to a close, we congratulate him and Holly on their ever-growing bump, knowing that we'll probably see less of him next season due to parental duties. Leon's been my floater all season – dumping him wherever I had to, he's dropped a log when needed, picking nuggets from the turf and even dropping the kids off (scoring) 4 times this season (so far)!

Don't know where the poo-theme came from, oh yeah, my floater; the versatile Forward/Centre Forward/Winger/Bottom Diamond (I think you even had a spell at defence a couple of times!) getting as much sport in as he could get away with (conservatories and antenatal classes permitting). With one game remaining we pray that our Top Diamond, Andy "Muzza" Murray/Sam Major, won't fall off his horse into a gatepost again, with considerable bruising, or have a horse-related excuse for not playing, and will continue to gallop upfront. Muzza has had a stonking season, adding 7 to our GD, slicing up defences and serving-up various assists. Hi many MOM votes were amusingly accompanied by several DOD's!



Come on – it's no wonder an oppo's defender shouted "Someone mark Andy Murray!!" last season. His Look-alike-Award is still sitting proudly on the mantle, I'm sure

Last but by no means least, a massive thank you to our Ump Tim Davidson, who has done some serious millage (missing 2 or 3 games at most). His commitment, encouragement, jugs of Ale and words of wisdom have inevitably had a positive impact on our success over the years, with 2011/12 being no exception.

Yes, I know, I know, perhaps I didn't get on the score sheet again this time (Oxted still to play!), I *have* to score next season...but I vividly remember a conversation between me and Rhino at training that made it all worthwhile, along the lines of "so, no goals again this season Steve?" ... "no Phil, I would prefer to lead my team to victory, rather than selfishly focus on scoring/moving up the pitch" ...i believe this was soon followed by Hamish commenting on how I am his Most Improved player for the 3rd season running...(not smug at all) Oh well Phil, at least I took £20 off you...2 season running...for leading the Shadows to a higher spot than the 3's...oh no, wait, you still haven't coughed up from last season! Annoying I am indebted to Mr. Harris, not just for various reasons over the last 20-odd years, but for dragging me along to the GHC Open Day 5 seasons ago! Come on Shadows – effing win the SOHL Premier Division!! I'll buy you all a pint!



GHC Men's Shadows XI - 2011/2012 - The most successful team in the club (second year running?)

LADIES' SECTION

Sat 24th March 2012

Ladies' 1s 1 – 0 Hampstead and Westminster

The final match of the season saw a depleted, but very energetic Guildford side take on the 'need a win for any chance of promotion' H&W opposition. I say energetic, but I should clarify that refers mainly to Ellie who, even before her red bull, was bouncing off the walls with enthusiasm and had enough energy for us all. After the new, and slightly disconcerting, 12-piece box of mini-cupcakes, and a rousing chat from Jenno about the new system of 1, 3, 2, 2, 3 drawn out in the helpful yellow marker pen provided by Baggsy, we were ready and sun-creamed up to play.

It was soon apparent that the 2 high of the middle 4 had a lot of running to do, so there was some movement of players between positions to keep our 22 legs fresh. H&W clearly struggled to work out what formation we were playing, helped in part by our own difficulties at times with knowing what we were doing. Nevertheless, persistence paid off and half time saw the score at 0-0, with H&W frustrated. Some changes at half time took us back to a more traditional shape and we were able to capitalise on the fantastic distribution from defence; both Kirsty and Hutch providing some fantastic balls through to the forwards. A lovely pattern of play led to a goal from Louisa that could not have been more welcome. Holding on to the lead until the end was then the priority and everyone gave everything to ensure we came away with the win. We'll agree that at times it wasn't the prettiest hockey, but a victory over H&W to round off the season tastes sweet.

Congratulations to our joint players of the season: Kirsty Chapman and Kate Hutchings. Thank you to all our supporters who have come to games throughout the season and to Jenno for all his coaching expertise. We came in 4th this year; now we're looking ahead to next season to push for National League status.

COLTS' SECTION

GUILDFORD THROUGH TO CLUB HOCKEY NATIONAL FINALS

Guildford Hockey Club Under 12 Boys are through to Club Hockey National Finals.

It was a nerve wracking finale to April Fools Day for The Surrey Champions, but after beating Oxted on penalty flicks in the semi-final, Guildford knew that they had qualified for the National Finals and losing 1-0 in the final to Oxford Hawks was certainly not the end of the world.

Guildford had not lost any of their pool games in reaching the semi-final and goal keeper Alex Smith had ensured that Guildford were the only team in the pool matches not to concede any goals. The Southern Counties Championship had the best teams on top form, but Guildford brushed past East Grinstead, Tunbridge Wells, Reading & Eastcote with strong defensive performances from Marco Van Raalte and Ben Russell helping to keep clean sheets. Cameron Rodgers, Benji Thomas & Sam Moldon put in some strong performances throughout the afternoon as the beating sun started to influence the energy levels.

Having drawn 1-1 with Oxted, the other Surrey team represented, it came to the dreaded penalty flicks to decide who would be going through to the National Finals in Cannock on the 12th May. Josh Powell, Harry Gough and Nathaniel Hallam were given the daunting task of taking the flicks. One by one each of them showed nerves of steel as they converted all of their first attempts. Finally after Josh and Harry had converted their second shots during sudden death, Alex Smith saved Oxted's 5th attempt giving victory to Guildford.

An exhausted Guildford side went on to play some of their best hockey in the final but were beaten by a single goal which saw Oxford Hawks through as champions. Guildford coach Mike Kefford said "the boys worked hard and played as a team throughout the tournament, fully deserving their place in the Nationals"



from Left to Right: Nathaniel Hallam, Marco Van Raalte, Cameron Rodgers, Harry Gough, Josh Powell, Ben Russell, Benji Thomas, Sam Moulden - Alex Smith Goalkeeper.

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LADIES 1ST XI

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