



## GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB

# In Touch

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

**Two good wins for the Mens and Ladies 1s to get the season off to a flying start.**

**Welcome back to the new League Season. Results and reports below.**

**Reminder: All games must start on time, so do not be late !**

**Subscriptions are due. Club Handbooks** are available through your Captains.

**Keyholders:** please note that the keys to the clubhouse will be changed on Sat 1<sup>st</sup> November. Would all current keyholders confirm to Chris Connor that they will require new keys.

All results, league tables and full fixture list can be found through website.

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### Men's fixtures for next two weeks

#### 4<sup>th</sup> October

1 <sup>st</sup>	Firebrands	A	1230
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Canterbury	A	1445
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wimbledon	A	1200
Shadows	Richmond	A	1030
4 <sup>th</sup>	Woking	H	1200
5 <sup>th</sup>	Woking	A	1545
Pilgrims	City of Oxford	A	
Gondoliers	Woking	H	1330

#### 11<sup>th</sup> October

2 <sup>nd</sup>	East Grinstead	H	1200
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Tulse Hill & D	H	1400
Shadows	Barnes	H	1500
4 <sup>th</sup>	Cheam	A	1300

5 <sup>th</sup>	Croydon	H	1230
Pilgrims	Salisbury	H	1330
Gondoliers	Amersham	A	1330
<b>12<sup>th</sup> October</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Cardiff & UWICS	H	1200

## Ladies Fixtures for next two weeks.

### 4<sup>th</sup> October

1 <sup>st</sup>	Havant	L	A	1130
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Merton	L	H	1030
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Walton & W	L	A	1130
4 <sup>th</sup>	Cheam	L	A	1600
5 <sup>th</sup>	Addiscombe	L	A	1430
Fireflies	Byfleet	F	H	1500

### 11<sup>th</sup> October

1 <sup>st</sup>	Brighton & Hove	L	A	1200
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Woking	L	H	1030
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Spencer	L	A	1230
4 <sup>th</sup>	Reigate Priory	L	H	1100
5 <sup>th</sup>	Byfleet Rambers	L	H	1530
Fireflies				

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## Mens Reports

### Guildford 1<sup>st</sup> 3 Team Bath Buccaneers 1<sup>st</sup> 1

Guildford's first league game of the 08/09 season saw us host Team Bath, who beat us twice last season, in front of a good sized – and good humoured - crowd on a gloriously sunny afternoon at Broadwater.

This was our first outing as a new look squad with Jenno at the helm. We were expecting a tough game as Bath were one of the better teams we faced last season but the opportunity to put into practice everything we've learnt in pre-season was relished by everyone. Some sage tactical advice in the changing rooms from Jenno meant that we had a plan to stop Bath playing in the way that they have become accustomed and for the first 10 minutes we harried, pressed and gave them no time on the ball – they were shell-shocked. Our efforts were rewarded after some good skill from Craig Aqcauye won us two short corners in quick succession. The first was struck low and hard by Danny Emery and deflected into the goal by Tom Norman. 1-0 to the home team and Bath didn't know what had hit them!

More of the same for the rest of the half failed to create any more chances for Guildford but our strong press meant that Bath didn't have many either. 1-0 at half

time and more of the same was the call from the coach. However, Bath had obviously had more of a rollocking from theirs and they came out with all guns blazing and for the next 15 minutes we were under the cosh playing most of the hockey in our own 25 - the only outlet we seemed to have came from Simon Mason's volley into the opposition's D. Despite this constant pressure from the visitors, our forwards worked hard to press and our defence remained disciplined and Ed, Danny, Justin, Tim and Simon defended superbly and soaked up the pressure. Despite this, Bath got a lucky break and managed to wrong foot Simon to clinch the equaliser. With the game poised at 1-1, the next 20 minutes were crucial.

Our hard work in pre-season really paid off here as we didn't let our heads drop and we kept our formation and system well. As they got more tired, gaps opened and we had more chances to attack their D. Mike Rippon robbed the ball from their midfielder with a characteristically bruising challenge and was fouled as he set to shoot, Duncan Marsh stepped up and calmly converted the penalty stroke. The final few minutes saw the game open up as legs grew tired but while Bath were thwarted several times by some excellent goalkeeping from Mase, the same could not be said for the Bath goalie as a lovely vintage-Arsenal style passing movement resulted in a tap in for Josh Tester and 3 points for Guildford.

A great start for us but it is important to not get carried away and realise that it is exactly that – a start. We are still a new squad and have a lot of work to do to get to where we want to be. But with everyone pulling in the same direction and showing more of the same commitment as they have over the last few months, I believe that you will continue to see improved performances. Thanks to Jenno for all his work over the last few months to develop the squad and thanks to everyone who came to watch – the support from the sidelines, as always, was superb.

## **Guildford 2s    0    Bromley & Beckenham 2s    2**

The second team lined up on Saturday in glorious sunshine ready to do battle with Beckenham & Bromley.

The team was missing its skipper and Simon but still put out a strong team after some good training in the week. The game started with a reasonable level of intensity and the team did well to try and play at a reasonable tempo and move the ball early. Even though we managed to have the majority of the possession and get a fair few short corners we did not convert the 2 or 3 chances we had. B&B did well to hit us on the break and meant the back 4 had to scramble at times to cover. Relphy managed to avoid being hit in the head by a hefty undercut and luckily saved a certain goal.

B&B struggled to keep their discipline at times and a harsh yellow card was handed out to their ginger ninja centre forward. Even with the extra man we could not convert but we produced some good phases with Booty at the heart of the midfield and Mark making some incisive runs.

The team came out after half time with a concerted effort to shift the ball laterally early. This did occur but with the heat and tired legs we struggled to find people making runs. B&B started to find their rhythm in the second half and scored 2 goals

from short corner. One came from a good first save by Max and then was finished via Henry's shoulder and the other was from another corner (I think). Adam had a good game and showed a return a confidence at right back too. We were reduced to 10 men when Andy made a comedy attackers tackle in a Paul Scholes style!!

There were plenty of positives from Saturday. There was the intent to keep the ball and a high effort level but we need to be more incisive and move after we have made the pass. We have a top bunch of lads and we can look forward to some more positive results in the future after some hard work during practice.

### **Guildford 3s    0    Teddington 2s    0**

Another day that a number of the older members of the 3's wished they had brought their sun cream for those smooth hairless heads. The 3's had an imposed new back 4 for the day as Liam and Sam were away, so firstly all credit to Dan Caesar and Ross for stepping up and performing really well.

Though the score was 0 – 0 the game was not without incident and was hard fought and competitive (competitive being borderline vicious, the way the 3's like it). We had near broken knee cap for Bungle, who continues to be a magnet for hockey balls. Tom Pollard did have a chance to nick the result but it was not to be, the problem being it fell to his strong side.

All in all though a pleasing result and a point to get us off the mark.

M of M – Bungle

D of D – Tom Pollard (who having not written the match report for being D of D the last two weeks, is running the risk of being dropped)

### **Shadows        4        London Edwardians    5**

After a somewhat shaky start to the season the Shadows really pulled together to put up a good fight against the London Edwardians.

At 3-1 down at the break the sun kissed Shadows could very easily have seen things go from bad to worse in the second half but instead produced their best spell hockey this season wining the second half 3-2. Unfortunately just not enough to force a draw.

The final score however could very easily have been 3-4 but for two identical great own goals where the defenders standing on the post managed to pull a shot from a shot corner going wide into the back of the net. Could not do that again if they tried.

Now I am not really sure if that goes down as an own goal or to the striker? Someone will need to help me out here because that would have been/ was Tom Moody's hat trick goal! I think we should give it to Moody because we never got the defenders name. Craig Schlebusch scored the other his first in a league game for the club and hopefully of may more to come.

Forgive me for not knowing too much of the factual information but I was too busy running my socks off trying to keep their centre forward at bay. I would however like to mention that apart from everyone having a great second half I thought that Charlie B, Mark W and Tom H deserve a mention. As well as the chap who kept their centre forward at bay...

Really looking forward to this weekends game against Richmond where we can hopefully get our first points on the board.

<b>Guildford 4s</b>		Walkover to NPL.	
<b>Pilgrims</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Haslemere</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Guildford 5s</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Horley</b>	<b>1</b>

## Ladies Reports

### **Guildford 4 (Average, Sam, Kit, Kate) Spencer 0**

Greetings and salutations one and all, here we are once again at the start of a new season.

Followers of the exploits of the Ladies section will know that in traditional Ladies 1's style, we usually start the season in spectacular fashion, comfortably losing the opening game of the season with half of us looking like we are running through a vat of treacle, the other half looking like we have eaten a vat of treacle.

However, not this year - after 2 months of sprinting, vomiting, more sprinting, more vomiting with the occasional raised voice and word of encouragement from our the new coaching duo of Jenno (bad cop) & Ian (good cop) a group of fit(ter), better prepared athletes took to the field (well, 10 athletes and a goalkeeper but I am just here to make everyone look good!).

Good Cop gave us a very positive pre-match team talk and after reassuring Alice "Big Toe" Littlejohn that she would need 5 ball bodies to get round some of the defence and Kate "The Specialist" Hutchings admitting that she wasn't a penalty flick specialist she was just special we are ready to go.

Chip (our new captain – CONGRATS CHIP) gave us a very positive pre match talk in our huddle reminding us of the work we have put in and to stay patient. Wise words as in this weeks game Guildford had the vast majority of possession for the first half but were just lacking the final pass or shot to beat the defence. Our new players Alice, Jade, Chip & Kate slotted into the team very smoothly belying the fact that this was the first time we had all played together. Theika, Chip & Alice patrolled the midfield like the Navy in the Gulf sweeping up any miscreants who dared to try to attack our defensive team. Kerry, Lucy, Average & Jade worked like Trojans to put the Spencer defence under pressure often creating turnover ball. We also kept things very tight at the back, the new defensive unit of Emski, Sals, Kit & The Specialist

breaking down all attacks and preventing Tappy having to touch the ball all half. It looked as though we would go into the break nil-nil when a fluid passing movement practised every week in training paid off resulting in the first clean clear strike on goal for Jade. It beat the keeper for pace but looked as though it might also beat the back post until Average put her stick on it to make sure.

We all felt we weren't playing well at half time, but equally we felt as though more opportunities would come. Good cop warned us of a Spencer backlash at the start of the half, and again, so it was. They drew a series of short corners, forcing Tappy into a couple of saves. But in pressing forward they left plenty of space at the back and as our superior fitness began to tell opportunities came from everywhere. Jade had two chances in one on one situations, two short corner strikes went narrowly passed the post, Theika drew two good saves from their keeper with strikes from the top of the D. We all felt eventually something would go in.

Sam Carr hassled her opposite number so often she finally broke, giving Sam a chance to break & have a one on one with the keeper. Rather than strike she went round the keeper like a Sunday stroll in the park to place the ball into the back of the net and the relief was palpable.

Less than five minutes later Kit struck gold with a cracking short corner strike giving the keeper no chance. And then a last ditch challenge by a defender resulted in a penalty stroke being awarded. When The Specialist volunteered to take flicks in our pre-match talk she probably didn't expect one so soon into the season but nevertheless buried it with calm assurance.

We then had another effort go over the line, which the umpire missed, and a hatful of other chances but we had to settle for 4 Nil. If you had offered it to us at the start we would have taken it, but no-one felt they played well so we came off feeling disappointed. However, if we play badly and win that well, then who knows what might happen when it all comes together.

As it was our first game we didn't do man of the match etc but would like to say a massive thank you to the many supporters who turned up to cheer us on.

**Wimbledon 2A' 1 Guildford 2's 4** ( Kath, Emily, Chloe and JB.)

On another very hot weekend we travelled to Wimbledon for the 1<sup>st</sup> match of the season. We started reasonably well passing the ball around Wimbledon and had lots of excellent runs up the right half from Laura and gained a number of short corners. Unfortunately we were unable to convert them mainly due to a rather sticky pitch. Wimbledon fought on but were held back by our formidable defence and the first half ended 0-0.

We started very strong in the second half and didn't take long before we won a short corner which Kath belted in for goal number 1! Our next opportunity came from great play in the middle by Guildford which resulted in Emily taking on Wimbledon's defence to put goal number 2 past their keeper. Wimbledon fought back strong and broke through on a counter attack which consequently made it 1-2.

We had to keep subbing on and off the pitch due to the heat but we managed to keep composure with a lot of encouragement from Keith and Karen on the side line; goal number 3 was a result of another strong attack from Guildford with a shot on goal being deflected in off the left post by Chloe. Wimbledon failed to get through our defence and JB sealed the deal with a great goal whizzed in past their keeper.

Man of the Match – Laura for great play throughout on the right.

Dopey – Sally for nearly making half of our team pass out before the match!

**Guildford 3s      4      Wanderers              0**

**Guildford 4s      0      Old K's                  2 (Friendly)**

**Guildford 5s              0      Spencer                  3 ( Friendly)**

## **Colts Report**

For current Colts information, go to Colts page on website.