



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB

In Touch

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Ladies hog the headlines : 1s are top of league, Fireflies (the slightly older ladies) hit 9.

Mens 1s suffer first Conference West league defeat in close match against Bournville.

Halloween party on November 1st; food and fun for £7 : be there.

GHC Kit for sale: starting this week various items are stocked and sold in the clubhouse.

Subscriptions are overdue. Pay now! Remember, no pay, no play.

Keyholders: please note that the keys to the clubhouse will be changed on Sat 1st 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.

Men's fixtures for next two weeks

25th October

1 st	Stourport	A	1400
2 nd	Surbiton	H	1200
3 rd	Hampstead & W	H	1330
Shadows	UCL Accies	H	1230
4 th	UCL Accies	A	1030
5 th	Addiscombe	H	1500
Pilgrims	Wimbledon	H	1400
Gondoliers	Postponed		

1st November

2 nd	Indian Gym	A	1300
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3 rd	Indian Gym	A	1430
Shadows	Univ of Surrey	A	1330
4 th	Spencer	H	1500
5 th	Thames Valley	A	1330
Pilgrims	Petersfield	A	1330
Gondoliers	Haslemere	H	1330

No 1st XI game

Ladies Fixtures for next two weeks.

25th October

1 st	Chichester Priory	L	A	1200
2 nd	Cheam	L	H	1030
3 rd	Cranleigh	L	A	1100
4 th	Merton	L	A	1100
5 th	Southampton	F	A	1030
Fireflies	Yately	F	H	1100

1st November

1 st	No game			
2 nd	Woking	F	A	1145
3 rd	Fireflies	F	H	1230
4 th	Surbiton	F	H	1100
5 th	Surbiton	F	H	1030
Fireflies	Guildford 2s	F	H	1230

Mens Reports

Guildford 1 Bournville 2

With two poor performances over the past couple of weeks, Guildford 1's needed a more assertive performance against Bournville HC. The call from Jennings was to replicate training moves into real game play and for much of the first half, Guildford managed some of their best hockey of the season to date. The deadlock was broken by the opposition, mid-way through the 1st period when their pacey SA winger penetrated down the right crossing for a easy tap in leaving Mason stranded.

Guildford stuck to their guns and having won a corner were rewarded with a goal from their inspirational skipper Emery, who found the corner with a solid strike giving their keeper little chance. Guildford were in control and had a chance to go ahead when a sweeping move found the rampaging Fordham at the top of the D pulling the trigger. The visiting keeper blocked the 1st shot to Tester, who did all he could, only to be denied by the keeper once more!

At half time, the call from the bench was to make the most of Guildford's superior fitness continuing to work the opposition into the ground. This plan however was not executed correctly, with mistakes arising all over the pitch. The momentum built up during the first period was lost and Bournville scored the eventual winner with 15 minutes to go. The final opportunity to wrestle a point came with 3 minutes to go when Marsh, after some impressive 'wabble' found himself at the top of the circle, but could only blast wide of the far post hoping for a deflection that never came.

Guildford were clearly down hearted after the match having expended so much energy and come away with nothing. But on reflection, we managed to play some of the best hockey so far this season with much to take forward to next Saturday's away trip to Stourport where Mason will hopefully arrive on time from India.

Guildford 2s 0 Hampstead & W 3

Guildford 3s 3 Hampstead & W 3

Shadows 1 Old Mid Whitgiftians 1

About two/three seasons ago we had some classic matches against the Old Midwhitgiftians: 3-1 up with 10 minutes to go, top of the table clash, Broadwater - November, 16:30, floodlights go out, replay a month later, thumped 7-2? More than I care to remember... Following their promotion two seasons ago to Division 2 the Old Midwhitgiftians haven't really played a significant part in the life of the Shadows. However, on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock, just outside Croydon the mist cleared and the two teams became reacquainted. There were a few faces from seasons gone by however both teams were looking quite different. Both sides started the match reasonably well with possession changing hands fairly evenly. Approximately 10 minutes into the game a goal-mouth scramble following a good save by Woody saw the ball creep over the goal line for OMW to take the lead 1 - 0. OMW seemed rather pleased with their efforts and it was clear this game really meant something to them as it did us. The goal shook the cobwebs from the Shadows and we really started to play with a couple of near misses at their end. On about 25 minutes a neat ball up the right hand side was well worked through the midfield, one touch stuff until the keeper was drawn by Craig and a slip pass under the shoulder and across the face of the goal was slapped home by Leon. Quality Team Goal 1-1.

Half time. Second half began and the hour hand hadn't even reached 11 o'clock. The second half was one of mixed form - both sides at times playing well and then, Not. Pass backs with not enough on them, missed tackles, very much made tackles, goal-line scrambles, goal line stops, one on ones you name it!The match finished 1-1 with both sides feeling they'd earned the point and could have got 3. A strong and spirited performance from the ever improving Shadows who appear to be going from strength to strength... We look forward to the return leg where we promise to keep the lights on...

Guildford 4s 3 Surrey Old Boys 0

What a difference a week makes! After a poor start to the season the Mighty 4's really got the ball rolling with a resounding victory over top of the league, Surrey Old Boys. For the second year running, the visitors will be dissappointed at not really

playing to their potential at 'Fortress Broadwater', but this must take nothing away from a superb performance from the hosts. The entire team must be given credit for a job very well done but special mentions to Chris 'The Rock' Connor who controlled a magnificent back line and Tom Hales who added some much needed spark to the attack. In goal, Guildford welcomed back James Aljoe, who dealt with anything thrown at him. The goals came through a great individual effort from Hales, a well worked corner from Tom Moody and a great finish from James Parkin.

Guildford 5s 1 Goan Exiles 2
Pilgrims 4 Walton & Weybridge Hawks. 3. (Lenel, Gilliver, Gray, D'Mello)

Back to back wins and 4th place in the table this, OK couple of results to come in but who cares. We have played Walton 10 times in the last 5 years and this is first time we have won.

1-3 down midway through the second half and a draw let alone a win seemed to be a forlorn hope.

A long ball down the middle and Lenel managed to confuse their keeper who stopped the ball and as everyone stood still Gilliver nipped in to push the ball passed the still bemused and confused keeper.

Dom completely misses the inject from a shortie and the danger is cleared, but no, eagle eyed umpire Holt has spotted Walton breaking the line. Dom tells Matt if he does it again to get the ball and pass it back to him. Guess what, he cocks it up again, Matt retrieves the ball, to Dom to Morris on the top of the circle. Defence confused, Gray has taken his time (and believe me it takes time) getting to the far post and the Morris smash into the D is deflected in for the equaliser.

D'Mello is now fired up and sprints onto a through ball, rounds the keeper who is still confused, and pushes home the winner. The early exchanges were quite even, Lenel scored the equaliser after an early Walton strike and they went 1-2 up right on the stroke of half time.

Much excitement in the away dressing room as the fire alarm goes off and Dom tells us all that the misfiring injection was on purpose, yeah yeah!! Well done everyone, impressive hard work from our youngsters, Matt, Steve, Dom and James in midfield and sweeper Morris.

We are short on numbers again next week so please can everyone try and be available!!!

Gondoliers 1 Epsom Vagabonds 3 (Bigos)

Arriving early for once, we should have known better. The previous match was still in progress having started round 30 minutes late and naturally we started warming up on the side and end of the pitch. Two warnings later we were despatched to wait outside the pitch enclosure and perhaps this was what led to our downfall. Once the game started we started pushing forward, but had some difficulty penetrating the

Epsom 25, although there were early chances for Frew and Gould, good individual efforts attacking down the centre of the pitch. One skilful swerve too many and Gould pulled something - strangely this has happened to the Gondoliers before when visiting Epsom. With Gould compromised, Epsom took advantage of our weakened midfield and began attacking down the centre themselves, although stalwart defence by Windsor-Lewis, Tonks and the Gordons saw us finish the first half 0-0.

With Pearse coming on up front and Frew reinforcing the midfield with Gould retiring hurt, we were supposed to start the second half re-establishing control in midfield and then to build on this to put Epsom, under pressure at the back. Things went wrong only minutes into the half, when a strong ball forward on the right from Epsom, took a deflection past the already moving father Gordon, to be picked up by the Epsom winger who struck a well taken shot from close to the edge of the D to score, probably against the run of play at the time. Only three or four minutes later, we came under pressure within our 25, the ball was lifted into the D and the ball was again in the back of the net. The Epsom umpire knew something was wrong, but blew a goal anyway and we were suddenly 2-0 down. Responding quickly, we had Epsom under pressure again and again with the keeper making several desperate saves (including a new move for us, standing on Bigos's stick). Eventually Bigos was free and calmly slotted the ball past the keeper and we were back in the match, although with growing frustration and much grumbling at decisions and, on occasion, each other. This must stop!

We had several more chances, but with shots going wide and much desperate defending by the Epsom keeper, we were further disappointed when an Epsom break down the right took them down to our 25. A great tackle by Frew, a body check (and foot?) from Epsom and everyone stopped, expecting a free hit but no, the umpire allowed the ball to cross into the D, where just about the only player still moving struck home half-heartedly, 3-1. We could hardly believe it! Things then deteriorated further, when Frew was sent off two minutes before the end and a short awarded to Epsom, but with the final whistle gone, the short went wide and the game was finally over.

Ladies Reports

Guildford 3 (Kerry, Average, Kit Kat) – Aldershot & Farnham 0

Is it a bird, is it a plane no it's Super Alice! Having quite obviously eaten more than three shredded wheat for breakfast Alice began the game at warp speed, whizzing past her opposite number and putting A&F on the back foot from the off. Within 5 minutes her hard work paid off when she crossed for Kerry to sweep the ball in at waist height and open the scoring.

There was a certain irony (no it's not like goldy or silvery) in that Good Cop had advised us in the team talk not to practise things we never use in a game....like playing the ball at waist height.

Being one nil up after 5 minutes you would have expected Guildford to kick on and score a hatful but A&F had other ideas. They tightened up their play, improved their tackling and fought for every ball. Soon it was they who were winning the 50:50's and

whilst they couldn't breach our awesome defence of Kit, Sals, Kate and Emily we certainly didn't have the number of chances we would have expected at the other end.

Having said that, we did have our chances. We put a couple over the bar following some good work from Chip and from Lucy. Their keeper had to make a couple of saves from Jade (and others) but there were no nailed on goal scoring chances.

Needless to say we got a good kick up the whatsits at halftime from Good Cop and that seemed to do the trick. From the off we were quicker, stronger and looked like we wanted it more. We began winning the 50:50's and drawing short corners. However, A&F also stepped up their game and there were a few "hearts in mouths" when Kit passed a 16 hit out right to their centre forward in the D. No need to worry though as Tappy saved cleanly. I think she felt sorry for me not touching the ball for a game and a half.

A&F were a little annoyed with our second goal. They had a break into our D and put a ball on Kits foot. The umpire ruled play on and within 3 passes we drove into their D & put a ball on a foot. This time we got the short corner and Average scored from it pouncing on a loose ball. It was however, what we deserved as we had 70% of the play. Our forwards and midfield kept their defence busy and drew a number of good tackles to prevent a glut of goals.

Within 5 minutes of the second goal, came the third. Kit followed up quickly to a save from her own short corner strike, lifting the ball in to the back of the net. We nearly had a fourth, also from a short but Averages goal bound shot was cleared off the line.

A&F did have a couple of attacks in the half, with some GREAT TACKLES from the defence and a couple of saves from Tappy but all in all Guildford deserved the win and the clean sheet.

Thank you once again to our supporters and Dave H for the purple nasty!

Man of the Match – Alice – for her super play

D of the day – Kit Kat – for donating a glorious chance to the opposition forward.

Richmond 2's 2 Guildford 2's. 1 (Genie)

We travelled to Richmond for our next game of the season and after 3 wins so far the pressure was on to keep it going especially as Richmond were near the top of the table last year we all felt it was essential to take the points away from them.

After having a few nominations for dopey already we took to the pitch. Richmond came out very strong and we struggled to settle our nerves which resulted in them winning a few early short corners and converting one of them. We were 1-0 down after 5 minutes, which is not where we like to be. We fought on strong but Richmond were playing long balls through us to their high forwards which kept the pressure on our defence which resulted in us being 2-0 down after 10 minutes. We battled on with some fantastic saves from Jo Lee, great play in the middle and up front but we struggled to find our footing and half time came.

It was much of the same in the second half until the last 15 minutes where we started to really fight. We pulled it back to 2-1 with a shot on goal followed up by Genie clearing up the deflection to stick the ball in the back of the net! We rallied round but followed up with a yellow card at the other end of the pitch and we were down to 10 players. We stepped up a gear and kept the pressure on Richmond but failed to penetrate their defence. Tensions were running high with the oppositions umpire and there were some very dodgy decisions and short corners weren't given to us even when Chloe was taken out on the post in the last minute of the game.

Final score 2-1 and a very frustrated Guildford team, some may say too little too late. We all realised that if we want to win the league this season we must fight for it from the start and throughout every match and not for only part of it. We're home against Cheam next week and the battle this season is very much so on!

Man of the Match = Stringers which was thoroughly deserved for great play throughout

Dopey = Laura for leaving the shirts behind last week and for road rage on the way to the match.

Guildford 3s 3 Horley 0

Guildford 4s 2 London Edwardians 2

Fireflies 9 Iver Heath. 0

(Kirsten x2, Shevs x2, Barbara x 2, Annabelle, Jules, Edge)

This should have been an away fixture but we couldn't raise enough players to travel, so Iver Heath came to Guildford. Sophie kindly agreed to play for them in the first half as they only had 10, and we leant them Katy for the second half.

The defence didn't have a great deal to do, but Rachel made a couple of good clearances and with Mel finding lots of space for the hit-outs, several chances were created early on and Guildford soon took the lead.

By half time we were 5 – 0 up and it could have been more! It was good to see Edge playing again, and she set up a couple of goals as well as scoring one. Shevs scored straight from a short corner and each of the forwards managed to add a goal or two. We took advantage of the amount of space Iver gave us and the passing was exquisite. (Edge, by the way, did you ever find out which one was Ivor??) 'Rent-a-crowd' also took on the title of 'chief Brewster minder'(who said men can't multi-task??) and was shouting more encouragement to Iver Heath than to Guildford!! But I suppose it was only fair, on reflection.

Thank you to Tricky for helping to swell our numbers and big thank you's to Slick and Martin for umpiring.

Colts Report

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