



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB
In Touch

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Another goal spree for the Ladies 1s, taking their tally to 13 straight wins to stretch lead at the top.

The Mens 2s notch a victory against Hampstead & Westminster.

Some heart warming results against old rivals: see the Colts reports.

Come along and join Sponsors, VPs and Friends of GHC at the Mens 1s home game vs Firebrands. 8th Feb at 12..

March 29th Row 2 Rome. The big club and charity fundraising event. Have you and your buddy booked your seats yet. This will be great fun, but to be successful for the club, every member needs to commit and take part. AND NOW we have lined up some superb prizes for you to win on the day including

- + 1 year gym membership & a Personal Training session at The Gym, Guildford (thegymgroup.com)
- + A meal for two (including a bottle of wine) at Zizzi, Guildford
- + A 40min sports massage (boxgenesis.com)
- + many more...

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

Men's fixtures from Jan 31st

Jan 31st			
2 nd	Surbiton	A	1430
3 rd	Hampstead & W	A	1200
Shadows	Old Mid Whitgiftians	H	1630
4 th	Surrey Old Boys	A	1130
Pilgrims	Bournemouth	H	1500
Gondoliers	Amersham & Chalfont	H	1600
Feb 7th			

2 nd	Indian Gymkhana	H	1330
3 rd	Indian Gymkhana	H	1430
Shadows	UCL Academicals	A	1430
4 th	UCL Academicals	H	1300
Pilgrims	Alton	A	1345
Gondoliers	Epsom	H	1600
Feb 8th			
1 st	Firebrands	H	1200

Ladies Fixtures from Jan 31st

Jan 31st

1 st	Brighton & H	L	H	1330
2 nd	Woking	L	A	1000
3 rd	Spencer	L	H	1300
4 th	London Edwardians	L	H	1430
5 th	Old Freemans	L	A	tba

Fireflies

Feb 7th

1 st	Aldershot & F	L	A	1145
2 nd	Richmond	L	H	1500
3 rd	Horley	L	A	1200
4 th	Merton	L	H	1630
5 th	Epsom	F	A	1500
Fireflies	Maori	F	A	1400

Mens Reports

Guildford 2nd 3 Hampstead & W 0

Despite a poor training session on Tuesday where notable absences included Mark – I tried cooking for the first time and poisoned myself – Williams and Simon - I still have an injury 10 days after Jenno's fitness session – Lavis, the lads went into the game with a positive frame of mind.

Not only was the squad bolstered by Simon Mason, who finally got the call up he craved after showing good form for the 1's, but also Richard Norman turned up and immediately started spouting tactical wizardry, remarkably without the aid of a white board. This combined with the Ladies crushing victory meant that a win was the only option for a second eleven stranded at the foot of the table.

Alan took on board Batch's pass right order from last week and the team started strongly. The early exchanges were tentative, reminiscent of the Karpov vs. Kasparov chess final of 1984. Then 20 minutes in Mark Williams attempted to win the ball cleanly for the first time since 2003. The tackle made about as much sense as a chocolate tea pot, the Hampstead midfielder collapsed and Guildford were down to ten men until half time.

At this crucial moment you sensed the game could have been lost and we could have all blamed it on Mark, but no – this team is made of stronger stuff. With Alan picking up an excellent square ball on the Hampstead 25, he drove towards the D. The ball broke to Rawlings who convincingly went round the keeper then completely topped the finish with the goal at his mercy. Luckily Sean was there to almost concentrate the ball over the goal line. 1-0 Guildford.

After some rousing words from at least five different people at half time Guildford were back to their full compliment and playing like a team who believed. Simon Mason continued to dominate the D and with Relphy and Scully roaming the defensive line like men possessed it looked like Guildford would claim their first clean sheet of the season.

With Rawlings and Mark playing so high, Guildford could exploit their pace and began to play counter attacking Hockey. A long ball down the line ended in a mazy cross field run by Mark who, unaware, enticed the keeper out with his clumsiness. He then checked back quickly on to his strong side and accidentally undercut the ball into the roof of the net. His first strong side goal since the credit crunch began, Guildford celebrated raucously. 2-0

Rawlings then completely ignored captain fathead's half time warning and was sent off for what can only be described as a heinous tackle from behind. Panic though was soon eclipsed by the delight of a third goal.

In typical Batch fashion the left back made a perfectly timed strong side tackle (has anyone ever seen him tackle on his reverse?) Delaying his pass beautifully he found Alan just inside the opposition half, the midfield dynamo had space to move into but played an early pass to Sean in the inside left channel. Sean drew out the keeper and slipped the ball square to Rawlings who quite unnecessarily dived to slam the ball home. 3-0 and with a goal from the Hockey gods the game was won.

Booty and Fat Head deserve a special mention; they played with limitless energy in midfield and were thoroughly excellent for the entire match. Also an honorable mention should be made of the Dick of the day contest which was a three way tie. With Batch, Booty and Mark all initially shooting scissors the later was found wanting in the ensuing rematch – unlucky. I'd like my water next week somewhere between freezing and room temperature please!!!

MOM: Alan Williams

DOD: Mark Williams

Guildford 3 rd	2	Hampstead & W	0
Shadows	3	Barnes	4
Guildford 4 th	3	Cheam 2's	1 (Pompheroy, Moody, Gray,C)

What a turn around! After an awful end to 2008, the Mighty 4's have begun 2009 with two fantastic results. The latest came at home to second placed Cheam. To be fair,

Cheam only had 10 men but had lost only once this season and were a tough side. On an almost frozen pitch the 4's took the game to the visitors from the off and were in charge for the majority of the match. Goals from Steph Pompheroy, Tom Moody and 4's newcomer Chris Gray, home from Uni for the weekend did the damage and the team head to Surrey Uni for the local derby with renewed optimism. I like hockey again!!

Pilgrims	1	Andover	3
Gondoliers	2	Woking	1

The usual hard fought tussle with old friends, Woking Pitts. One or two frights at the back, but generally the Gondoliers had the upper hand. A number of shots went wide before Belshaw finally slotted one home. The second half was similar with Messrs Tonks and Windsor Lewis providing a strong and creative central spine. Finally Frew was rewarded for his efforts with a fine goal from a tight angle. Woking pressed in the last few minutes to get one back before the final whistle went and we could all adjourn for a much wanted pint.

Ladies Reports

Guildford 8 (Alice x 2, Lucy x 2, Kerry x 2, Jade, Kate) – Havant 0

If ever there was a game more suited to ducks it was this one. When we arrived at the pitch there was a covering of water a couple of centimetres deep across 70% of the playing surface and the local avian population were surveying the new pond with a gleam of delight. Bad Cop hastily negotiated a delay to the start and all hands took to the pumps to sweep off as much water as possible. Kit Kat was the leading exponent of water removal and for future reference this is a time when use of the back of her stick was the best policy!

When we finally started the match half the pitch was a sodden mire but both sides played through the damp patches creating some decent hockey in parts (usually the dry parts!).

Havant appeared more resolute in defence than during our last match against them and Guildford appeared to be suffering from a collective hangover so the first 15 mins were a reasonably even affair. As the pitch dried the passing improved and Guildford took the lead when Lucy laid on a lovely pass to Alice who threw in a couple of ball bodies and rifled the ball into the bottom left hand corner of the goal.

Within a few minutes the game was effectively put beyond Havant by some lovely finishes from Lucy. The first was a one on one where the keeper closed quickly but Lucy remained calm and passed the ball over the keeper into the net.

The second was from a short corner which was going wide. Somehow Jade managed to keep the ball in play at the right post and laid the ball back to Lucy who calmly slotted it over the diving keeper again.

However, Guildford still seemed off their game slightly. Passes were not quite as crisp and sharp as they should have been, goal chances went begging and we were not particularly good at marking in defence! This meant that Havant did make it into our D on occasions and with some calmer heads could have tested Tappy. As it was she only touched the ball once all match.

Needless to say we got a talking to at half time and with the pitch now dry there should have been no excuse for not putting in a brilliant second half performance....except we didn't! Yes we scored 5 goals but we played in second gear for most of it.

Jade got us off the mark after only a few minutes with a cracking finish and then set up Kerry for two more, both with Kerry finishing flowing moves at the back post. Theika showed us all how diving could be done, flinging herself all over the place but another goal didn't seem like it was going to come so it took the defence to show them how it was done with Kate placing the ball into the net from a short corner. Not to be outdone Alice decided to through a few more ball bodies and finish off the scoring with another crisp finish.

To win 8 nil and not play well is a positive thing, we will all want to improve for next week when we host Brighton at home. Please come along to cheer us on to a much better display.

Man of the Match – Theika – for her marvellous diving moves.

D. of the Day – Alice – who smelt of cheese and onion monster munch and even voted for herself!

Guildford 2nd 0 Merton 0

Guildford 3rd Walton & W

Guildford 4th 1 Reigate Priory 4

We knew this was going to be a tough match, as Reigate's style of play (standing still and hitting the ball incredibly hard!) always seems to be a challenge for us. True to form, they were all over us in the first quarter and it seemed impossible to clear the ball from defence because of the slowness of the pitch (as Harriet pointed out, it was more beach than astro!). We settled down a bit midway through the first half and Fin was unlucky not to capitalise on a cracking cross from Aisling. They came back hard at us though and Ruth was forced to make some excellent saves. They kept the pressure on and stunned us by scoring two goals in quick succession before the half-time whistle blew.

In the second half, we had the run of play and began to stretch their defence with some quick runs from Kath Morris on the left and Aisling on the right. Ten minutes in, Claire made a cool cross to Fin, who calmly put the ball in the net to reduce the deficit. It seemed as though we were sure to equalise, but we were unable to convert the opportunities we had. In the last ten minutes, Reigate stepped it up a gear while we went to sleep and made sure of the win by scoring a well-executed short corner. Our heads were down and they finished us off with a fourth goal, which left us all

feeling rather shell-shocked!

Although we clearly need to work on a few things in training, I know that if we can start playing the hockey we did before Christmas then we'll soon start winning again.

Man of the Match goes jointly to Kath (who was superb in attack and defence and never gave up) and Ruth (who saved our blushes on many occasions and pulled off some astounding saves).

Guildford 5th Old Kingstonians

Colts Report

Boys U-14 A squad

Jan 18th v East Grinstead (home) 8 - 0

Well a reverse scenario from our previous match. This time we had the power and the organisation and the opposition the naivety. This 8 - nil win should have given the boys a lot more confidence following our first match and they should be proud of how they are beginning to think team hockey.

For much of the game, I was pleased with how the squad played together, most players trying to use the ball effectively with their team-mates around them. Obviously, as the opposition was a little weak, it was tempting to 'show-boat' on occasions, you can be forgiven for a giving yourself a little fun.

A special mention and thanks should be made for Marcus Bentley, who stood in for Freddy in goal, literally stood (and froze). He only had to wake up when we lost our discipline and all decided to walk into their 25. A few to mention perhaps are Matt, Oskar, Ed and Scott, who all played strong power games. Stuart who unfortunately was paired against the largest and most skilful of the opposition, it was the large part that was significant in this case. The goalscorers, Oskar (3), Frazer (2 but should have had more), Ed, Stuart and Matt. [PS: Apologies if I missed one but in the second half, what with umpiring and managing substitutes, I lost count].

Jan 25th v Surbiton (Home) 10 - 0

The boys were really ready to play and started very quickly. It was good to have Tom Annable free from County duty, he added a pace and cutting edge on both wings to our forward line that worried our visitors all game. We were only a few minutes into the game before Tom calmly placed the ball into the net beyond the reach of the keeper.

From this point on, the backbone power house of the team dominated, with Ed Iley at the back, providing power on the ball and strength in the tackle, James Ferguson never willing to give any ball away and Matt Connolly working unselfishly all over the park. The rest of the team responded to this good support with everyone contributing fully.

At half-time we were 4-0 up thanks to a hat-trick from Tom and a super follow up goal from Nathan Barnes. However, we were not really playing team hockey, especially around the circle, a little too much solo working. A pep talk from the coach on this matter at half-time, a few positional swaps and we were playing again.

In the second half, we began to play hockey, six goals and five scorers (Tom, Ollie Baker, Frazer Groom 2, Stuart Callander and Ed Iley) nearly all coming from passing moves. At one point, Guildford's defence had gone to sleep and we had three against one at the back (Coach crying), a quick recovery and desperate tackle by Matt Connolly at the top of our circle knocked the ball away and ten seconds and four passes later the ball was in the back of the Surbiton net. What a joy for the coach to see.

A magnificent effort from the whole squad. A word of appreciation once more for the goalkeeper, Freddie Money this week, who touched the ball probably only once in the whole match.

Next week, it is training as usual at Broadwater 9.30h and the following two weeks we have games, Marlow and Maidenhead away.

Guildford U14 Development Team v SJB

Result: Lost 7-4

Scorer: Freddie Wyn-Griffiths (3), Matthew Cockerill

This was a difficult match played in very difficult conditions. Thanks to all the parents and boys who gave up a Sunday lunch to play in torrential pouring rain.

SJB were well organised up front and it was clear from their first goal in the first few minutes that they play their strikers well up field. We didn't mark them and as a consequence they went into an early lead with two goals. To our credit though we did not give up and by half time it was 4 -2 to SJB, but we were always chasing the game. The second half was similar to the first, and the final result ended up 7 -4 to SJB. We probably had an equal amount of play and our passing at times was good although we still need to be able to develop the longer pass with a slap or hit. Our defensive marking needs to tighten up – we are always going to struggle to win a game if we let 7 goals in! We also need to practice hitting the ball out from the 16 yard hit. We were putting ourselves under a lot of pressure from not being able to move the ball away from defence.

However at each game I see all the boys developing and improving their individual skills. For many it is your first season of hockey so please don't get disheartened and keep trying, and most of all enjoy the game! Freddie Wyn-Griffiths had a great game in midfield, and Marcus Bentley in goal saved us many times from an even greater defeat.