



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB

In Touch

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Ladies 1s leave it late to keep their unbeaten record in 3 -3 draw.

Mens 1s have mixed trip west with 1 win and 1 loss. Another double header for them this weekend,

Saturday 21st Mens 1s at home to Firebrands at 1530.

Team league positions at 13/2/09.

Team	League	Pos
Ladies 1	South 3b	1st
Ladies 2	Surrey 1	4th
Ladies 3	Surrey 4	2nd
Ladies 4	Surrey 6	4th
Ladies 5	Surrey 9	5th
Mens 1	EH Conf West	5th
Mens 2	London Prem	11th
Mens 3	London 2	4th
Shadows	Surrey 2	9th
Mens 4	Surrey 4	4th
Pilgrims	Wessex Masters 2	3rd
Gondoliers	Wessex Supervets	7th

More fun in the Clubhouse – Race Night on Feb 21st. Get up a party.

Sponsors/VP/Friends of GHC Day is now on 15th March when Mens 1s play
Whitchurch.

March 29th Row 2 Rome.

The schedule is up in the clubhouse; please get your names up now.
This is a big day, will benefit the club and the charities, will be great fun and there are prizes too.

+ 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)
+ Luxury bedding from Dr Twiner

+ many more...

Another date for your diary.

The Club & Awards Dinner April 4th

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

Men's fixtures for next two weeks

Feb 21st .

1st	Firebrands	H	1530
2nd	Old Georgians	A	1330
3rd	St Albans	A	1500
Shadows	Wanderers	A	1230
4th	Thames valley	H	1200
Pilgrims	Alton	A	
Gondoliers	Haslemere	A	1400

Feb 22nd

1st	Bourneville	A	1230
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Feb 28th

2nd	Richmond	H	1500
3rd	Richmond	H	1630
Shadows	Croydon	H	1600
4th	Sunbury	A	1130
Pilgrims			
Gondoliers	Havant	A	1630

March 1st

1st	Stourport	H	1200
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Ladies Fixtures for next two weeks

Feb21st

1st	Richmond	L	A	1145
2nd	Epsom	F	H	1330
3rd	Walton & W	L	H	1100
4th	Merton	L	H	1230
5th	Walton & W	F	A	1000
Fireflies	Iver Heath	F	A	1100

Feb 28th

1st	London Wayfarers	L	H	1330
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2 nd	Old Georgians	L	H	1430
3 rd	Epsom	L	A	1330
4 th	Wanderers	L	A	1100
5 th	Mitcham	L	A	1200
Fireflies	Windsor Vets	F	A	1330

Mens Reports

Cardiff 1 - Guildford 3 (Emery 2, Kochar)

Because of cancellations this was our first league game after the Christmas break. Cardiff had already played a league game and it showed in the first half as they were better organised than us and scored from a short corner deflection. The game followed the same pattern as our encounter with them in the first half of the season. Having scored they sat back and we improved in the second half and equalised from a Danny Emery short corner. The opposition started arguing with the umpires each other and we took advantage with Mani Kochar scoring his debut goal for the club and Danny making it safe with a further short corner goal (although Jonny Haynes tried to claim that he touched it just before it went over the line! - his claim was overruled)

Bath 4 - Guildford 1 (Marsh)

Buoyed by our win the day before we travelled to the West Country again hoping to do the double against Bath who were on the same points as us before the start of the weekend. Unfortunately our optimism was short-lived and we were outplayed by the opposition in the first half and were 2 down at the interval. At half time Jenno told the lads that we were still in the game and that whoever scored the next goal would win. He was right but regrettably Bath scored their third and the game was effectively over. Duncan Marsh scored a consolation goal from a short corner and perhaps the only optimistic note was that the team did not give up and competed right up to the final whistle.

Next SATURDAY we play our re-arranged home fixture with Firebrands at 3.30 pm and not 6 pm as previously mentioned. We are then away to Bourneville on the Sunday at 12.30

Spencer 2s 2 Guildford 2s 2

Last weeks game against Indian Gymkhana was postponed due to the weather, so the 2s were well rested heading into what would likely be a competitive match. With the 1s enforced double header, the 2s were without Batch, Rawlings and Sean, which saw Scully return and Rhino, Henry and Robbie called up to the side.

Both teams went steaming out the blocks and the early encounters were fast and furious, tackles flying in all over the shop and tempers (particularly on the Spencer side) flared up very early, in a game that would see "Up ten" called more often in this one game than you might normally see in a whole season. Too often, Guildford tried quick ball, which would normally be fine, only the only people ready for quick ball were in Spencer shirts. But Guildford held firm, and despite mounting pressure they help firm, limiting the home side to a handful of chances and just the one short corner

which was brilliantly saved on the line by Simon Lavis.

More concerning however, was the lack of presence in the oppositions D. Guildford's only short corner wasted because they took too long deciding what to do – perhaps summing up the first half. Mark Williams was green carded for his tenacity when one too many fouls tackling back drew the umpire's unwanted attention.

So all square at half time – a step better than against Surbiton, but still with much to do if they were going to get anything out of the game. With the half time team talk coming from Richard and Hamish, Guildford were sent out with the instructions to stop the rushed free hits, but at the same time, just getting the ball into the D when having it in wide positions to at least threaten the Spencer goal.

Unfortunately it wasn't long before Guildford's task was made harder when the umpires missed a stick block by the Spencer right back which saw Mark – adding a yellow to his green card – sent to the sin bin. Switching to four in midfield to counter the overlapping right back that Mark had been forced to track back with before his dismissal, Guildford set about their task, trying to keep possession for as long as possible, wearing down the time with 10 men.

All the hard work when down to 10 was undone shortly after going back to full strength, when pinned back in the left back position, Guildford conceded possession and Spencer crossed to their unmarked centre forward who slotted the ball home from close range. But unlike any time this season, Guildford struck back almost immediately, when Big Face found him self in front of goal with a clear path to goal, which he slammed into the bottom corner. 1-1 and now the game was on. The pace, already frantic, jumped up another notch, and possession yo-yoed between the two sides as the game got stretched out.

Guildford were undone again as a through ball found Spencer's centre forward breaking away from his marker and wrong footing Max to deflect it past him into the goal. But with only minutes left on the clock, Spencer were reduced to 10, and when Guildford won a short corner, they slipped left to Mark Williams who's shot deflected off the on rushing defenders foot over a stranded keeper. 2-2, and it could have been won in the dying minutes, but Big Face couldn't convert his second chance of the game, and that's how it ended.

2-1 down with 5 minutes to go it could be argued this was a point saved, but the opportunities were there for the win, and there are encouraging signs ahead of next weekend's clash with Old Georgians, only one point, and one place above Guildford in the league. The formation is now starting to work with the Midfield of Big Face, Alan and Booty starting to gel, and hard work from the likes of Robby and Mark upfront stopped the opposition from overwhelming Guildford in defence.

Although his goal line save and good defensive work earned him some Man of the Match votes, Dick of the Day fell to Lavis Jr, criticised for being ridiculously slow yet still managing to beat people. Just imagine how good he'd be if he had some pace and a turning circle less reminiscent of the Titanic!

MOM: Max Deeley

DOD: Simon Lavis

Guildford3s 5 Spencer 2

Shadows 2 Univ of Surrey 3

Spencer Harlequins 1 Guildford 4's 2 (Will Vernon, Neil Dolling)

Travelling to Spencer is never an easy trip but heading there for a 4.30pm push back on Valentine's Day was most unsociable! The Mighty 4's buoyed by an impressive winning streak took the game to the hosts from the off and began carving out chances right from the first whistle. The team welcomed back, returning hero Ade Rolfe after a stint with Ross Kemp in Afganistan and his rapid attacking down the left wing caused all sorts of problems to the Spencer defence. Debutant Neil Dolling began to take charge of the midfield alongside Tom Moody and this could be the begining of a much needed partnership in the middle of the park. The 4's also welcomed Adey Stell to the side, a footballer by trade, his fitness and speed will add alot to the squad. An early goal was needed to settle the team down and it arrived via Will Vernon, who finished off a great move in style. The game only seemed to be going one way but Spencer had other ideas and against the run of play equalised after a smart deflection from a strong hit in to the D. This shook Guildford, though heads did not go down, and new boy Dolling put the visitors ahead before the break to regain control with a well worked goal. The second half saw some tempers flaring after a couple on contentious umpiring decisions but it must be said that both teams played the game in the spirit it should be played and in the way Guildford and Spencer games usually go. Guildford held out to record their 4th consecutive victory though a tough match awaits at the weekend as we entertain table toppers Thames Valley.

Pilgrims 8 Petersfield. 1 (Morris 3, Wylie 3, Gilliver 2)

Back into action after another week off thanks to the snow and the side was quickly back into its stride. Goals came at regular intervals during both halves and although only 3 came from open play many chances were created.

Morris slammed 3 shorties, one into each corner and one through the keepers legs, and a couple of rebounds were added to the tally.

Highlights of the game were many, Wylie set up the first goal by feeding the ball to Morris on the 25 who then found Gray right of the circle, a good cross then found Wylie 1 metre off the far post for his opening goal. Wylie is the ultimate poacher, his second goal was pushed in from 1.5 metres and the third was scored after a Rosoman break down the right wing found Wylie 2 metres from the open goal. 3 goals - total distance 5.5 metres, "Are you Jimmy Greaves in disguise" sang the crowd.

Petersfield did create some chances, especially in the first half and Proudlove was called upon to make a number of fine saves, he got bored in the second half and decided not to marshal the defenders in front of him so that he would have more to do - result goal!! Good plan though as we were 7 up at the time.

Wylie definitely gets "man of the match" for 3 goals for Guildford as well as a blinding save for Petersfield, Rosoman's shot is heading for the top corner only to be brilliantly saved Wylie's chest - well if he cant score no-one is going to!

Well umpired by Messes Holt and Burgess, what Rees had against Jeremy I don't know but it's not the best idea to fell Jeremy with an errant shot to the chest!

Next week away at Alton which requires all team to be fit, rested and having had an early night on Friday!

Gondoliers 1 Wokingham 2 (Savage)

Sun shone, Gondoliers 1 - 0 up after slick move involving Hadleigh, Windsor Lewis and finally Savage. Things looked good but ...Wokingham goalkeeper pulled off a number of good saves before Wokingham scored from a short corner.

The second half saw plenty of Wokingham pressure and stout Gondolier defence before in the dying moments, Wokingham scored from another short corner.

Ladies Reports

Guildford 3 (Lucy, Sals, Chip)

Chichester 3

They say all good things come to an end but I think secretly we were all hoping that it would never happen and that this unbelievable winning streak would continue, at least until next season. But in traditional Guildford style, just when it all looks rosy we let ourselves down.

This match was so similar to the game before Christmas against Chichester I was tempted to use the same match report. However, unlike the last match our wonderful "back from the brink" efforts fell one goal short of making it a case of déjà vu.

Just to keep the crowd entertained, we allowed Chichester to lead 3-nil with 8 mins remaining before seeing if we could rescue the match. And we very nearly did it with the ball hitting the post in the last minute. The forwards who were celebrating before it went in (or not) were rather red faced as the rebound passed them all and the moment for glory was gone.

Rather than lamenting the loss of our 100% record I suppose I should let you know what actually happened, and give lots of credit to Chichester who played very well in both matches and should consider themselves very unlucky to only have a point from both meetings.

The match began quickly with both sides passing well and we nearly had the perfect start inside a minute. Jade threw a few shapes, distracting the opposition long enough to allow her a clear shot at goal. Her spectacular shot beat the keeper but not the combined post and crossbar. Usually, this sort of start leads to us powering a number of shots at goal and a few hitting the back of the net, however, this shot was probably the best we had in the whole of the first half. We toiled and battled and created a number of openings, plus we forced 7 or 8 short corners, but no-one could

find their range. The one shot which was hitting the target hit a foot on the line but was missed by the umpire.

Chichester on the other hand seemed to know where the goal was at all times. They broke clear of the defence on a number of occasions leaving Tappy as the one woman defensive line putting two narrowly past the far post. Eventually they found their range and tanked one from close range into the roof of the net. The second was almost a mirror image of the first with Tappy making a stop, only for the rebound to land perfectly for a Chichester player to tap in. Chichester almost made it a third with Tappy having to hit a player on a one on one then having sprint across the D to prevent the re-bound being put away.

The conversation at half time was that we were all a bit out of sorts, not playing to our strengths, panicking unnecessarily and generally not in the match so we need to sort it out and quickly.

So we tried to turn up the gas with Chip playing a true captains role, always wanting the ball, orchestrating the attacks and encouraging everyone onwards. We again had multiple short corners, shots on goal, chances past the post and generally everything except scoring. Chichester didn't provide anywhere near as much in attack but the one chance they did created they scored.

With 8 mins to go it all looked over to the Chichester supporters but we are made of tougher stuff these days. As Chichester started to tire the ball rarely left their half and the chances came more and more often. Finally the ball was put in by Lucy, just making sure the ball hit the backboards – she is learning well from the arch-poacher Average! The goal sparked us into life, we starting putting play together like we know we can and within 2 mins Sals buried a rebound at a short and the match looked on again.

For a short while it looked like Chichester may hold out, their defenders staying strong and the keeper tidying up behind but then Captain Marvel stepped up to a short and thumped it so hard into the backboard I could hear it at the other end of the pitch.

Then in the dying moments the chance came to win the match....but the ball hit the post and those closest to it were celebrating...until it went passed them out of harms way!

Based on chances created we should have won comfortably but Chichester highlighted a lot of our flaws which we will work on for next week...watch out Richmond.

M.of the M – Chip – Bryan Robson has nothing on you.

D of the Day – Jade – apart from the high pitch squeal on the pitch... just because apparently.

Guildford 2s 1 Cheam 1

Guildford 3 4 Cranleigh Ladies 0 (Kelly x 2, Glam x 2)

The day began early with the sun shining brightly and a pitch inspection at 8.40am found the pitch sparkling from the severe overnight frost! The team arrived with hope

that we would not have another postponed fixture and gradually the pitch began to thaw and both sides agreed the game should go ahead.

A good team talk from team coach Cas had us all fired up and within five minutes the ball was hit into the D and Kelly's first time shot hit the back board to make it 1-0. Guildford continue to play well passing the ball and stretching the Cranleigh defence until Kelly received the ball just outside the D, she took the ball in and with a powerful strike the ball rifled into the far right corner of the goal to make it 2-0.

Later in the half there was a melay in the D and Glam touched the ball clearly over the line but the umpire's glasses appear to have steamed up at the moment and to the disgust of the team the goal was not given. A heated debate between Mrs Chug and the umpire followed and to the amusement of the viewing spectators she was substituted!

The second half began with Cranleigh putting the team under pressure but the solid defence of Rachel, Kirsty, Jo, Slick, Jane and her body, cleared any danger and with the belief that nothing was going to get past them Guildford played some good flowing hockey. The midfield of Tricky, Kate, Emily, Charlie and Man-Chie battled hard and fed some great balls to the forwards of Kelly, Glam who calmly created opportunities in the D which resulting in Glam scoring two well taken goals to make the final score 4-0.

A good team performance and it is now in our own hands to win the rest of our games to win the league! We take on close rivals Walton & Weybridge at home on Saturday 11am on the Sand and as much support as possible would be really appreciated to cheer on the team.

MOTM – Glam for running her socks off and being unlucky not to be awarded a well deserved hat-trick.

DOTD - Slick for misplacing her gum shield and thinking a plastic whistle would do the job!!

Guildford 4s 2 Kenley 0

Colts Report

Guildford U18 1 Surbiton U18 1