



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB

In Touch

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2008/9 Season Issue 23 26/2/09

This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Mens 1s have fruitful weekend with 4 points. Ladies 1s resume their winning ways. Mens 2 notch big win.

Sunday March 1st Mens 1s vs Stourport at home at 12; support very welcome.

Congratulations to George and Simon (Jackson) on their newly born daughter.

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 28th

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

March 1st

1 st	Stourport	H	1200
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March 7th

1 st	Uni of Birmingham	A	1430
2 nd	Reading	A	1030
3 rd	Richmond	A	1630
Shadows			
4 th	Croydon	H	1300
Pilgrims	Wimbledon	A	1630
Gondoliers	Oxford Hawks	H	1500

March 8th

2 nd	Indian Gymkhana	H	1530
3 rd	Indian Gymkhana	H	1530

Ladies Fixtures for next two weeks

Feb 28th

1 st	London Wayfarers	L	H	1330
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

March 7th

1 st	Horsham	L	A	1200
2 nd	Raynes Park	L	A	1130
3 rd	Tulse Hill & D	L	H	1330
4 th	Surbiton	L	A	1130
5 th	Barnes & H	L	A	1400
Fireflies				

Mens Reports

Guildford 4 - Firebrands 1 (Kochar, Julian, Rawlings 2)

What a difference in the weather - we played in spring sunshine our re-arranged game with Firebrands which was called off on 8th February due to heavy snow. Once again we seem to perform better when we go a goal down. Our first half performance was not very good and Firebrands went in one up at the interval. In the second half

our fitness levels showed and we played some of the best hockey of the season. Mani Kochar opened the scoring with his debut home goal following a quickly taken free hit which was something that he had suggested minutes before in the half time team talk. Snowy then put us in front with a powerful shot (he told me to say this) which was deflected by a defenders stick into the net. We created numerous chances as the opposition tired and Chris Rawlings found the net twice to give us a comfortable win and three valuable points. Justin Lyon Taylor had an excellent game in defence and of course Mace made a number of important saves.

Bourneville 2 - Guildford 2 (Haynes, Kochar)

Another double header weekend - this time up to Birmingham. Our opponents had not played on Saturday and therefore fitness would probably play a big part in this game. However we competed from the start but as in previous weeks went one down in the first half. Jenno's half time team talk did the trick and Jonny Haynes equalised fifteen minutes into the second half. We continued to battle and Mani scored what we thought was the winner with only two minutes to go. We celebrated the goal in a reasonable fashion but the umpire unbelievably decided to restart the game with five or six of our players still in the opposition half. This enabled them to win a free hit just outside our D and they scored with a deflected shot. The final whistle went and we were not happy. The scoreline was probably a fair reflection of the whole game but the appallingly poor umpiring decision robbed us of moving into second place in the league. Next Sunday we face Stourport at home at 12 noon.

OGs 0 Guildford 2s 6

Guildford ventured to Old Georgians on Saturday intent on avenging their 2-1 defeat earlier in the season. Following a strong post-Christmas run, a core 11 warriors, lacking the formidable James "Zoolander" Relph but with the addition of Batch – who decided at the last-minute to grace us with his presence – and Captain Big "I'm not sure whether I'm playing or not" Face were greeted by relentless sunshine and the glorious sight of two coaches ready to drive their team to victory.

The team was warming-up on the pitch a massive half an hour before the whistle and this change from the rest of the season continued into the match itself. Previous games have seen us walk away commiserating a loss in the face of strong play, possession and wasted chances. In contrast, this week's emphatic win masked an at times lacklustre performance with varying degrees of composure during the 70 minutes. Let's focus on the six that we scored and the none that we let in...

Chances came thick and fast in the opening minutes of the game and particular dishonourable mention must go to Sean and Robbie who both showed an inability to stop the ball dead when through on goal. One such moment illicited a rare crack in the otherwise ice-cold facade of Hamish and the yell of "Robbie, you're better than that!" was heard for miles around.

Fortunately, this turned out to be prophecy rather than criticism. With fury in his eyes Robbie drew fresh power from his hair and seized on well-worked moves down the centre of the park from Alan and Mark to pound home two waist-height far post deflections. Jenno would have been proud and OGs were stunned. With OGs on the back foot Guildford pressed forward and the home side struggled to

create any meaningful chances. A continuing lack of self-discipline from the visitors, particularly within the opposition 23, prevented the game from turning into a one-sided massacre but even the mighty efforts of one OGs parent on the sidelines (“they’re rubbish – you’ve got them now” as the score line grew) were not sufficient to allow OGs to regain control of the game.

Half time saw the ‘Ford lead 2-0 and brought sage words from Richard: “go for the 3-pointer from the top of the key”. Some confusion followed...

The restart saw more comprehensible if conflicting calls of “Composure!” from Richard and “Think of the goal difference!” from Hamish – who may at this time have been getting a little excited. Certain commentators went so far as to suggest that this may reflect an unspoken rivalry between Hamish and Jenno for the award of turnaround coach of the season but this is as yet unconfirmed.

More pressure from the ‘Ford was rewarded with chances for Mark and Robbie, with four penalty corners suggesting that we were starting to understand the principle of getting a result in the ‘d’. By this time the OGs were in disarray and, despite having an arguably fresher-faced side than Guildford, looked fatigued.

Goals soon followed from Big Face, Mark and Sean (x2) with no answer from the home side. OGs only managed to create three viable, if tenuous, chances, each time being repelled by the impenetrable combination of Max and Batch. Indeed, Batch’s tackling was so solid that he seemed to develop a perverse delight in hitting the ball back to the opposition solely so he could dispossess them again. Given the frequency of this tactic it was presumably an enjoyable, if risky, strategy.

On the final whistle Guildford celebrated their first truly resounding victory of the season. Both coaches emphasised one great strength of the side: continuing discipline in the face of significant provocation from the opposition. This, combined with improving structure across the field, should mean that the team becomes a force to be reckoned with for the rest of the season.

In spite of an impressive mid-week Dick of the Day charge by FatHead, the Sandman’s comic inability to utilise both of his feet to maintain balance gave him the inauspicious honour of the title. There were several worthy candidates for Man of the Match but Scully benefited from some tactical voting by the-society-against-Booty to make it into a rock-off for the honour of Man of the Match. “Snake Eyes” Boot was shocked to see his unbeaten run of rock-paper-scissors victory cut short, particularly by Scully who was described by Hamish as “looking tired” during the game. This comment will not be forgotten.

Next Saturday sees Guildford host bottom of the league Richmond at 3pm. Guildford will look to avenge a 2-2 away draw from the first half of the season but Richmond will be feeling confident after a 4-2 home victory against Indian Gym at the weekend. Game on...

Guildford 3s	3	St Albans	2
Shadows	1	Wanderers	7

Fixture manfully fulfilled despite serious lack of players.

Guildford 4s **1** **Thames Valley** **3**

Pilgrims **3** **Alton** **0 (Morris 2, Wylie)**

Oh what rejoicing on the Guildford side at this important win. Postponed by the snow and ice 2 weeks ago we played in bright sunshine and warm temperatures. Not only the climate temperature was warm as this was a slightly (!) fractious affair with some raised tensions and a couple of cross words. To be fair the atmosphere for this game was set in the previous encounter and we were determined not to be bullied and hacked out of it this time by Alton. They left the pitch this time as annoyed and frustrated as we were last time.

It nearly started oh so badly, when a mistake right from the push back presented Alton with a clear cut chance inside the first minute, Adrian says he closed down the angle and thankfully a weak shot dribbled past the post. We could even been 2 down before Morris smashed our first shortie against the backboards. Some extremely crude tackling from the Alton midfield produced an angry response from Morris and a talking to him from the umpire. Rosoman drove down the right wing and won another shortie, a by now, highly motivated Morris evaded the first man out and flicked high into the net for 2-0. More crude Alton tackling resulted in a dispute between Morris and the umpire, a difference of opinion only had 1 outcome and a yellow card meant a 10 minute rest. Quick reorganisation in the Pilgrims line up, the midfield set up with Rosoman, Shelbourne, Gilliver and Rees and we set out to absorb the pressure. A break down the left, smart play between Rees and Gilliver and a cross to the near post was cleverly flicked home, from 3 metres, by that art sniffer Gordon "call me Jimmy Greaves" Wylie. No time to restart before we go in 3-0 up at half time.

The second half was much as the first with Guildford playing with much thought and passing the ball well through the midfield with Morris playing a completely dominant and crucial role in holding it all together. Shelbourne, Rees and Gilliver worked tirelessly to limit any space to the Alton midfield who became increasingly frustrated by their lack of progress. Rosoman and Howells continued to make good breaks down both flanks and Asdell, Winn, Basey and Gray swept up well what came their way in defence.

Alton did come back well for a period and earned a penalty stroke which although it hit the post Jenkinson promised us he had covered, two further Alton shorties were well saved by Jenkinson and then well cleared away by the Pilgrims defence.

We did have a couple of good chances as well as a number of shorties but we couldn't add another goal to the tally. Wylie had a great game up front, holding the ball up well and often finding himself in great positions. At the other end of the pitch, Basey was a picture of calm maturity at the back and gave the rapid Alton centre forward no chance to get into the game in a meaningful way.

Light hearted moments included Gilliver's great effort at a reverse stick shot on the run, difficult at the best of times but not easy with out loads of practice, Outcome with little practice is, cut knees when you fall flat on your face and a 16 to the oppo as you fail to make contact with the ball by some distance. Not so light hearted was a

smash on the knee to Toplas after a very well executed jab tackle took the ball off the end of an oppo stick.

Man of the match, definitely Morris, but to be fair everyone (and apologies if you aren't mentioned enough in dispatches) more than played their part in this rugged and hard fought game. Thanks for umpiring to Jeremy (and to the oppo umpire), that was difficult!

Gondoliers 2 Haslemere 2

The opposition were keen to avenge early season defeat; the Gondos short of a few of their stars took delivery of old friend Mike Regan, who proceeded to make the centre of the park his till he ran his legs to a standstill. With such speedy wingers as Russell and Gordon, Haslemere must have felt safe, but plenty of pressure and the timely appearances from midfield of Haley notched two goals. Meanwhile The Haslemere, rather faster wingers had put pressure on the Guildford defence leading to a well taken goal.

The second half looked safe till Gondo legs began to go and in the dying minutes, Haslemere managed to scramble in one of their many short corners.

Ladies Reports

Guildford 3 Richmond 1 (me, big bad, jade)

A seemingly well prepared team parked up at sunny Richmond in a military formation that Bad Cop would've been proud.

We started well, playing 10mins of some seriously sexy hockey. There was passing and moving and it was good. Our 1st goal came from a short corner won by the Little John. A speedy injection from Sals allowed time for the Little John & myself to link up and put the baby to bed.

Our 2nd came from Average (who has been promoted to Big Bad for her big badness).

In her head it was. "a dive from top of the D and because of my pure speed and agility I slid on my 6 pack all the way to the keeper and touched it in at full stretch...woohoo!!!"

In reality she admits, "it was a lot less exciting.... Jade took a shot which the keeper saved and I pounced like a cat (or some kind of pouncing animal) and hit the rebound in."

The 3rd came from Jade driving in to the D for the 4th or 5th time but rather than passing – which frankly wasn't working - she turned all three defenders inside out and hit home hard.

After this first spell we gave up playing sexy hockey, forgot our balls or our bodies, stayed stubbornly ON the line, marked a mile away and were frankly pretty rubbish. Richmond had a run of short corners and if it were not for Emily, Tappy, the Little John, Sals & Hutch defending them like troopers, they would have scored more. Well done to Em for picking one off her post and to the Richmond forward who prefers football.

MOM – Sam, relentless running, tackling & distributing.

DOD – Hutch should have won this for having hearts on her pants but instead I won it for being pants.

p.s. A massive thank you to everyone who came to the club Race Night on Saturday. Maggs & Jenno are both banned from coming next year due to suspicious winning streaks. Jade & Dave Hall deserve medals for their organisational skills. Thanks a million guys! See you all at Row 2 Rome.

Guildford 2s

Richmond

Guildford 3s 1 (Ciara) Walton and Weybridge 1

In British winter terms, it was a scorching hot day. Not a base layer in site – or skirt for Glam, who got a bit distracted and didn't remember all her P.E kit! Instant dick of the day.

Guildford started off well with good possession, good passing and good tackling. It was no surprise when Ciara slipped the ball past the keeper into the goal. It was a surprise however, when Walton and Weybridge had a quick break and equalised. Good was not good enough. Perhaps what we lacked in the first half was a bit of aggression and determination, but there was no doubt we made up for it in the second half. Nothing was going to get past Slick 'solid.....solid as a rock' Slickster, Rachel literally doubled in size as she made her runs out from the goal, the mid fields were speeding up and down the pitch to support the team and the forwards did all they could to get the ball in the goal. After a long run of long and short corners we finished the game frustrated that we did not manage to conclude a win. Thanks to Keith and Gobby, who worked as hard as the rest of the team from the side line. Man of the match Charlie for another ace performance, and we have to give Judith a mention, who got a hard hit on the head by a volleyed ball – we hope you're ok.

Guildford 4s 1 Merton 3

Fireflies 3 Iver Heath 2 (Edge, Roz, Emma.)

We left Guildford at 9:30 on Saturday morning with only 10 players – 6 of our regular Vets and 4 borrowed from the 5th X1. When we reached Burnham Cricket Club we surveyed the **GRASS** pitch and shared nervous giggles! This was going to be an interesting game. However, the sun was shining, not only on the pitch but also on Mel, who having confessed to the Iver Heath captain that we'd arrived without a keeper, was told that they had a spare player and.....guess what?!? She's a goalkeeper!!!

So we took to the 'field' with Edge and Lesley showing off their studs, and immediately put pressure on the opposition. You'd think we played on grass every week! Edge and Kellett linked up well with Kelly and Vicky up front, and Roz made some great runs and crosses from the left. Ali found her feet and gave good support on the right, and even Lesley was seen wandering up into the attacking 25, so Edge had words with her and got her involved in taking a free hit! Not long after this, Edge scored with a straight strike from a short corner giving us a well deserved lead. Iver had a couple of forays towards our goal, and at times our defence looked rather shaky to say the least, but we held firm until one of their players squirmed through for a one on one with our borrowed keeper. 1 – 1. Then we came back into the game and after a few more shorts, Roz followed up Edge's strike to add her name to the

score sheet. At half time we were confident that at 2 – 1 up we could hold them off and score more goals, but soon after the re-start they ventured into our'd' again and pummelled away until the ball crossed the line. 2 – 2. It then became a comedy of errors as we battled for possession and forced more short corners. Kellett managed to save Vicky's shot just before it crossed the line as she threw her stick in front to take the credit, but the ball deflected off the back line! However, we forgave her as she then dribbled the ball in, beat all the Iver Heath defenders one by one in her usual fashion and slotted the ball past the keeper. Then 5 minutes before the end she set Kelly up with a sitter, but I think Kelly was blinded by the sun....or was the sun in our eyes in the first half????! Unfortunately, 2 minutes before the end at the next short corner, their keeper kicked the ball into the face of one of her own players, so we agreed to stop the game before it got any messier.

Many thanks to Finn for umpiring. It was a nice game, played in good spirit and enjoyed by all.

Colts Report