



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB
In Touch

Broadwater School, Summers Road, Farncombe, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3BW
Tel: 01483 422888 email: intouch@guildfordhc.com web <http://www.guildfordhc.com>
2008/9 Season Issue 25 11/3/09
This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Mens and Ladies 1s both win. Ladies need one point to clinch title. Why not come along on 14th at 1330 to cheer them on and on the 15th to support the men who are now 2nd.

England Hockey Men's League: Conference West 1st XI vs Whitchurch
Sunday
15th March
Sponsors/Vice-Presidents/'Friends of GHC' Day

Bacon sandwiches / Tea&Coffee / Bar open from: 11.00
Match starts : 12.00
Half-time analysis (bar): 12.40
Match-end analysis (ditto): 1.30
Lunch & wine (free to Sponsors/ 'Friends of GHC'. £12.50 for others
Meet..... the 2008/9 team / old friends / club members !

March 29th Row 2 Rome.

3 ½ weeks to go for you to get your sponsorship for the energetic event. 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...

Get your team parties up for
The Club & Awards Dinner
April 4th
See poster in Clubhouse

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

Men's fixtures for next two weeks

March 14th

2 nd	No game		
3 rd	No game		
Shadows	EUHC	A	1530
4 th	Kenley	H	1630
Pilgrims	Walton & W	H	1430
Gondoliers	Oxted	A	1500

March 15th

1 st	Whitchurch	H	1200
-----------------	------------	---	------

March 21st

2 nd	Southgate	H	1330
3 rd	Southgate	H	1500
Shadows	Sanderstead	H	1430
4 th	Epsom	A	1200
Pilgrims	Salisbury	A	1430
Gondoliers	Poly	H	1630

March 22nd

1 st	Univ of Exeter	A	1230
-----------------	----------------	---	------

Ladies Fixtures for next two weeks

March 14th

1 st	Basingstoke	L	H	1330
2 nd	Old Cranleighans	L	H	1500
3 rd	Camberley & F	L	A	1130
4 th	Croydon	L	H	1300
5 th	Croydon	L	H	1600

Fireflies

March 21st

1 st	Eastbourne	L	A	1330
2 nd	Old Kingstonians	L	A	1130
3 rd	UCL Accies	L	H	1300
4 th	Uni of Surrey	L	A	1500
5 th	London Wayfarers	L	A	1400

Fireflies

Mens Reports

EHL Conference West

Guildford 2 Univ of Birmingham 0 (Emery, Kochar)

A better performance than last week but still the opposition had the majority of possession. After early uncertainty we settled down and Danny Emery put us ahead from a short corner. Birmingham had a number of short corners but as usual Simon Mason was in fine form and his brilliant saves seemed to knock the confidence out of their short corner specialist who was top goalscorer in the league, Our defence played well and we were the better team in the second half and deservedly added to our first half goal with a superb display of inter-passing finished off by Mani Kochar putting the ball into the back of the net. This result moves us to second place and we now face Whitchurch at home next week, hopefully in front of a big crowd on Sponsors/Vice Presidents Day. 12 Noon pushback Sunday 15th March.

London League Premier

Guildford 2s 0 Reading 2

After failing to have met at Blackwater's infamous Tesco Car park, a location only known by El Captaino Big Face to start the convoy into Reading 'en mass', the day was only going to continue in disarray.

Pre push back, several comments had been made about the state of the pitch and perhaps we looked at each other in confusion believing we were on a West Indian test beach.

Their first goal was a comedy of errors found in 'slow motion' as Little big face decided to ignore the keeper cries and kindly deflected the ball into the on coming path of Readings striker who had an open goal to nudge into. This is clearly the way to score a goal, unlike Sean's fantasy reverse one handed attempt which was struck with the power of a mouse that was closer to killing some tennis players than going in the goal. In fact Sean managed to continually show the first touch of a serial rapist.

Scully's easy open shot on goal following a rebound from a short corner was as perplexing as the X files, series 5, and as wide as a certain player's face whose name escapes me. Answers on a postcard please.

Half time oranges were not presented, nor masseurs nor motivational speeches from Sir Richard Norman, which all would have helped as we headed back into the desert to play another Sahara half.

How ironic that a sand covered pitch would have such a detrimental affect on Sandy's ankles, that gave way like a full colostomy bag during the second half. Rhino's influential 15 minutes were best forgotten although the exercise did him good. A far better super sub is the one currently on offer at Subway for £5.99 including drink and crisps.

The second goal came from an average piece of dribbling from a Reading player and more importantly some lacklustre tackling from ours, a beautiful lay off and clinical finish, the shame of it.

The game finished 2-0 to Reading, though yet again, we thought we deserved 3 points.

Burder yet again showed some brilliant driving skills on the way to the clubhouse, by taking 5 minutes to decide which way he was going to go, and when he did make up his mind, pulled out straight in front of a jaguar, almost killing Booty.

Little Big Face managed to talk himself into the Dick of the Day title, despite being relatively safe at the start of the voting, and a special mention for Booty's continual dribbling skills, as exciting and productive as the dribbling found on a Reading girls inner thigh.

Big Faces record breaking fines total also deserves some recognition, almost £10, that's 3 Reading girls for 2 hours. A waste!

Mark managed yet again to not get a card, despite trying his very hardest to get in a fight when on the sideline.

Overall it was never going to be a nice trip to Reading. The lack of ' Ship Shore ' before the start was an Omen.

Man of the Match- Henry
Dick of the Match-
L...i...t...t...l...e....B...i...g...(zzzz)...F...a...c...e...
(Simon the sloth)

Guildford 2s 2 Indian Gym 3

Looking to bounce back quickly after a disappointing loss the previous day against Reading, the team was in high spirits, seeking to avenge the defeat in the reverse fixture and virtually guarantee survival.

Thankfully, with it being a home game, Big Face was protected from overseeing any repeat of the admin disaster that had unfolded the morning before, and everyone arrived on time to feast on the now staple pre-game diet of jelly babies to prepare ourselves for battle.

Against the well known agricultural tackling style of Indian Gym, Relphy had boldly decided to leave all items of protective clothing at home. Mark "I don't care for my shins" Williams nobly handed over his shin pads and the warm up commenced in the blazing sunshine. The warm up was good and after Scully's hissy fit for hitting the post 5 times in a row, we were ready to go...or we should have been.

Guildford started slowly and for some reason most of us had forgotten how to pass for the first 10 minutes of the game. Al "the playmaker" Williams was being well marked and Guildford looked a little short of ideas without their midfield dynamo running the show. Max pulled off a number of good saves in the opening exchanges to keep the scores level.

Midway through the first half, one of the Indian Gym midfielders seemed to ghost through the centre of the field untouched, untroubled and slip the ball through to their striker to open the scoring.

Shortly after the restart, the ball fell into a hole in between the midfield and defence...10 voices on the Guildford team, a few coaches and supporters all shouted "yours Batch". Thinking of which heels to wear that evening/dreaming of the time his passing doesn't resemble an artillery gun...whatever it was, no reaction came and an Indian Gym player ran through to pick up the ball from amongst 5 motionless Guildford players to run through and score. Guildford found themselves 2-0 down, but no need to worry, this score line usually results in the Guildford 2s starting to play the champagne hockey they are renowned for.

Rich made the call to switch to 4-4-2 in an attempt to close the space in the middle of the park, and to help in building the play from the back. This immediately began to pay off as Guildford started to take control of the game and, for the rest of the first half, were by far the better team. With Seany pulled back into the middle to help spread the play, Booty and Fathead made good use of the wide channels but Guildford were unable to finish off any of a number of promising moves created and thus 2-0 it remained until half time.

Guildford started the second half much more positively, switching the ball well around the back and much more purpose being shown throughout the team. On one rare foray by Indian Gym into the Guildford D, Max "flick concenter" Deeley came out and made a great tackle, with the ball flying away off his body. Despite this happening no more than 3 feet from the umpire, Max's reputation possibly blurred his vision and he astonishingly awarded a flick which was put away and Guildford trailed 3-0.

Despite this Guildford were in the ascendancy and good progress was being made down both sides of the field. Burder and Booty were linking up well down the right and opportunities started to come. It was a move down the left however that led to the breakthrough. The ball was worked well out to Simon "Christiano Ronaldo" Lavis who drove hard at the opposition's D. Nearing the edge of the D, he received the slightest of touches by their defender and threw himself like salmon miles into the D, stick launched towards the fence and let out a groan only heard before at Wimbledon by the Williams sisters...his theatrics worked wonders as, after a little uncertainty from the umpire, a flick was awarded. With his first open stick chance of the game "reverse stick" Rawlins cleverly sent the keeper the wrong way before topping his flick into the opposite corner. Clinical. 3-1. the comeback was on.

Guildford continued to press forward and more good work down the right by Burder put Booty in behind the defence who crossed for Rawlins to tap in at the far post. 3-2. Two minutes to go.

Guildford drove forward in search of the equaliser, throwing on an extra attacker going with 4 up front. In the final minute another reverse stick shot by Rawlins was blocked, but he regained possession, turned and shot open stick (finally) and buried the ball into the roof of the net. However, the umpire had decided something, somewhere, that nobody else saw was dangerous and blew to award a short corner moments before the net bulged. The team settled...was it destiny? The injection by Fathead was stopped by Booty, switched right, stopped for the shot, this was it...and...the whistle blows. Why everyone asks?! The answer "go away, speak to me in the bar". Unbelievably, the final whistle has been blown before the corner has

finished and Guildford rightfully feel robbed.

Most of us accepted the decision and proceeded to warm down...Batch decided to argue with and molest the umpire for the next 10 minutes. Somehow, despite this, and slamming the door in a strop when leaving the changing room afterwards, he avoided DOD. It turned into a bullying session of the younger members of the team resulting in a rock, paper, scissors shoot off between Robbie and Seany. Seany, a veteran of these duels from past weeks, went paper to the inexperienced Robbie's rock and thus it was decided.

Hope everyone enjoys the week off...

MOM: Burder

DOD: Robbie

Guildford 3s	4	Richmond	0
Guildford 3s	5	Indian Gym	1
Shadows 4 Turner)	0	Croydon 1st XI	0 (Dye, Burgess, Clargo,

The last time we played these guys we could only gather 10 to start the game and lost one at half time. No surprise we lost that one 1-8, but on Saturday the team was fully assembled and raring to go...

About 10 unsuccessful short corners into the game, the whistle went for halftime. Yes, not really much to add apart from we were all over them for 35 minutes and did well to create the shorty opportunities, but due to a lack of variation and some sound keeping, the score remained level at halftime. Nearly Iry forgot, one of their players got carded for taking offence to getting tackled and tried to start on Charlie - "pick on someone you own size" came the cry from the bench from our would be second goal scorer (minus the hungover expletives).

So, we started the second half and a few minutes in our hard work was rewarded when Ady picked up the ball on the right of the D and boomed a pass across goal where Johnny, at full-length, dived in mid-air to connect and spank the ball home for 1-0. This soon became 2-0, when we tried something different at the short corner routine - hoorah! A one-two between Burger and the Weeman saw Burger gobble a simple finish into the corner, and it was 3-0 in similar fashion, but Burger's shot hit the post with the resultant melee falling to the Weeman who squared for a tap-in for Ady. The icing was applied with a great piece of finishing from James, who, with his back to goal and surrounded by the Croydon defence, managed to create an inch of space for himself and spun to rifle it in for 4-0.

That was the final score, and well done to Woody for turning-up, possibly the quietest game of the season for him (and only our second clean sheet of the season!). That win moves us up a place and nearer to safety. Next game is against the high-flying Gamblers, so let's replicate the form from this game and get a run going!!

Thanks to the umps as well!!

Guildford 4s	4	Croydon	4	
Pilgrims	3	Wimbledon.	1	(Gray, Wylie, Gilliver)

Under lights away at KCS Wimbledon for a 4:30pm start, made 5 o'clock by late running earlier games, is never easy - for the umpires that is! Light coloured sand seems to glare very badly and its nigh near impossible to see the ball from the sidelines especially when hit hard into the d's, not surprisingly the umpires missed some early feet and we the players (both sides) got a little fractious. Maybe it's not sensible to play at that time, OK contentious I'm sure but a thought nevertheless.

Without Morris to steady the middle of the pitch we lacked our recent shape and looked decidedly mediocre to start with and a very even beginning saw us go 0-1 down when Wimbledon converted a slick shortie. We fought(!) our way back to parity when Gray put away one of our few shorties which reached the top of the d, difficult pitch to inject on Roso!

Half time reorganisation saw Shelbourne move into the centre midfield with Gilliver and things looked better although our basics were still out of touch. A disorganised shortie fell to Shelbourne whose shot was scrambled home by the prowling Wylie from the long distance of 3 metres. This deserves special mention because it is Wylie's 50th (or is it 51st) goal since web site records began for the Pilgrims, Wimbledon were heard to remark that he was the difference between the two sides and its true to say his holding up of the ball and continual availability is a big part of our success.

At 2-1 up it was never totally in the bag and it became a midfield battle with Rees, Gilliver and Shelbourne all working hard to limit the time Wimbledon had to create anything of danger. Basey, Taylor, Winn and Jenkinson were thankfully alert to all that came their way. Asdell suffering with a coldy thingy went off to prepare for a wedding reception and Howells had an uneventful (euphemism for boring) time at right back, we don't swing the ball around the back enough although their left winger did think he was doing a man to man job on our right back which probably made it difficult in fairness. Rosoman made another good run down the right and from the short corner a slip move was enough for Gilliver to score the decisive third goal.

We had a couple of 2 on 1 breaks we failed to capitalise on and we were a little relieved when the final whistle went.

Memorable moments were few and far between so it has to be Jenkinson saving it with his chest, letting the ball drop slowly to the ground and then launching the clearance, Mason like, to the 25 yard line. OK it was our 25 not theirs but you have got to start somewhere! I may be the only person who remembers this but I promise you it happened.

Once again thanks to Jeremy for umpiring, one week soon we'll make it easy for you!!!!

Gondoliers 0 Oxford Hawks 2

Against high riding Hawks side, the Gondos fought hard throughout the game showing flashes of class but were thwarted by a good goalkeeper. Meanwhile at the back, the stout defence against faster running Hawks were only eaten by a well taken shortie, that whistled past two Gordons. The second half saw both goalkeepers bringing off fine saves and it was only only a soft goal in the last minutes that eluded Richard Gordon to give Hawks a just deserved 2 - 0 victory.

Ladies Reports

Guildford 7 (Alice x 3, Kerry x 2, Jade/Sals, Kit Kat) Horsham 0

I have to admit I did have a little ditty or two lined up for a possible “league winning” match report but in theory, Spencer can still catch us at the top of the league. Okay they would have to win their last four, we would have to lose our last four...and they would have to score 12.25 goals more than us per game but hey, you never know. So I will save my little treats for next week, I bet you can't wait...!

This weeks match was a curious affair played on a pitch so close to the A24 we had to learn sign language to understand Good Cop's match instructions and a certain amount of telepathy to hear each others calls. What this did add was an air of calm and reassurance. Or at least it sounded that way from back in my hutch.

Carrying on from last weeks excellent performance we kept calm, moved well both with and without the ball and kept our marking tight. We restricted the opposition to two short corners all game and only one shot.

Whilst the defence were marshalling the opposition, the midfield somehow managed to make it look like they had a numerical advantage despite having one player less than the opposition. They worked their socks off to create chances for the forwards. The forwards badgered the opposition, drawing them all over the pitch and created a number of opportunities throughout the match. The Horsham keeper played superbly otherwise the goal tally would have been much higher.

I am getting old now so my little grey brain cells don't work like they used to so forgive me if I get any of the goals out of order (or just totally wrong) but I think they went like this:

Goal 1 – A quick slip to Jade, despite the oppo running out early (caught on camera) set up a strike that smacked the back board inside the left post. From my hutch it looked like Sals got the last touch but you can congratulate either when you see them.

Goal 2 – The second goal was the Horsham keeper against half the Guildford team. She pulled off a couple of great saves, but when the ball fell to Alice there was only going to be one result as she dinked the ball in from 2 metres out.

Goal 3 – I think Kerry scored this one with a sweep in but for the life of me I cannot

remember who set it up so sorry whoever you are!

Half time

Goal 4 –Kerry’s confidence is definitely back and she showed all the calmness in the world to bury a ball at the back post after some excellent creative play from Jade.

Goal 5 – Alice nipped in to finish from close range after a series of tackles and interceptions in the Horsham area.

Goal 6 – From yet another short corner, the first strike was saved and the rebound went to Alice who used all her pocket rocket skills to rifle the ball into the roof of the net.

Goal 7 – Not wanting to be left out of the short corner parade, Kit Kat fired in another strike, the keeper again saved but the rebound fell to Kit who returned it with interest into the bottom right hand corner.

We have managed to get some lovely snaps of everyone in action which I am sure you will be delighted to hear will be appearing on the Internet shortly...

Thank you once again to our hardy supporters.

This weekend game is a home match in which we could clinch winning the league, why don't you pack your pom-poms, pop along and soak up the atmosphere. Push back is at 1.30pm on the water based pitch.

Guildford 2s

Raynes Park

Guildford 3s 1 Tulse Hill & D 1 (Kelly)

We were off to a very slow start at the beginning of the game, all in weekend mode. However within the first 15 minutes of the game we were attacking strongly and were constantly in the oppositions half, however we were unlucky not to score a goal when the whistle left us nil – nil at half time. During our half time team talk we concentrated on our motivation and when we went out in the second half we went out strong however they managed to slip a goal passed us from across the 'D' and we realised we were one down, this increased the pressure on the team however we rose to the occasion and when Ciara made a super pass up the pitch to Kelly who entered the circle there was a look of fierce determination and the goalie had no chance of stopping her and the ball went into the goal after a cracking shot! Well played Kelly. The rest of the half was played well by both teams to leave the final score at 1-1.

MOTM – Kelly

DOTD-Morris (for suggesting we play Twister as a warm up!)

Guildford 3's 5 Horley Ladies 1's 0 (Kelly x 3, Morris, Ciara)

A quiet night in on Saturday eve (much to Slick's disgust) ensured the ladies 3's were bright and breezy for a Sunday morning push back over near Gatwick airport!!

Everyone arrived and the commitment of the team to gain promotion this season showed with not a hangover in site! The team started quickly and nearly scored in the first minute when Kelly deflected the ball towards goal but it somehow pinged off the far post. We spent the next ten minutes running round like headless chickens, but calmness was restored when we went 1-0 up from well taken goal by Kelly. For the rest of the half we played good flowing hockey and came into the break 2-0 up. The half time talk was about more aggression and communication and more goals. We started the second half in our usual slow fashion and almost managed to gift the oppo a goal, but calm goalkeeping by Rachel kept them out. This assurance flowed through to the rest of the team and we started to play how we know we can, resulting in 3 second half goals to make the final score 5-0.

MOTM- Kelly (well done for scoring a hat-trick-we are expecting a jug of beer at the next home game!!)

DOTD-Slick (just because! ☺)

Guildford 4s 1 Surbiton 2

Guildford 5s 3 Barnes H & E 2

Colts Report

Boys Under 18's vs Woking. Lost 1-4. (Robbie Gray)

I drove to GHC thinkingSo how good are we ? On paper we were fielding a strong side, and the signs after Surbiton and Ashford suggested we had the potential to make things click....the issue was could we maintain shape and pace as a team for the full 70 minutes ?

What was it....a sunny day but chillier than it looked...the over-crowded car park, the locked gates, the delayed start, for many players the second game or third match of the weekend, and more still to follow with the 2nds and 3rds (and for some the 7th in 7 days).....how much energy was left, or to leave ? Ah...yes, I know...that most frustrating of things, niggling away...it was our rivals Woking....many known faces, a sense of scores to settle after they refused to cancel last year's U'16 game when we were short.....anyway...to the game....

For the first 20 minutes today we competed and out-gunned Woking, and the tide of play was in our favour when our short corner was powerfully flicked home by Robbie Gray. But once Woking settled down, and pushed and spread our positioning, we began to be exposed...they had the left and right back stretched to the side lines, and the pushed out in numbers, and drove across our D...scoring a good flick via a shot as we left players unmarked.. and they kept hold of possession for long periods.

The 1-1 score at half time was perhaps a decent enough score, but hid the way in which we had been stretched, and as they cornered in our stronger players such as Robbie, George, Tom K and Chris R, we began to play more as individuals than as a team - good bursts, moves, passes, but not sustained. Strange how, as we began to tire, that 50:50 balls, or decisions, seemed to go the other way..and 1-2 (short corner)

slipped to 1-3 (stunning individual play), and unfairly 1-4. Woking in the end showed little weakness from defence through midfield to attack, always pushing out fast, and in numbers.

Hopefully we can take the good parts of the last 3 games and deliver a complete 70 minutes of team hockey next Sunday