



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB
In Touch

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

We are the Champions

Ladies 1s score 12 with no replies in two matches to clinch South 3B title.

Mens 1s in hard fought win in front of 50+ VIPs to keep chances of title alive. If you would like to support them in vital match against University of Exeter on Sunday 22nd, Coach leaves Club at 7.15. If so, contact Tony Hall.

1 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 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
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March 28th

2 nd	Canterbury	H	1500
3 rd	Wimbledon	H	1400
Shadows			
4 th	TBA		
Pilgrims	City Of Oxford	H	1530
Gondoliers	Winchester	A	1500

March 29th

1 st	Old Georgians	H	1400
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Ladies Fixtures for next two weeks

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

March 28th

1 st	Wimbledon	L	H	1200
2 nd	Tulse Hill & D	L	H	1330
3 rd	Richmond	L	A	1500
4 th	Reigate	F	H	1100
5 th	Walton	L	H	1230
Fireflies	Havant	F	A	1130

Mens Reports

EHL Conference West

Guildford 3 (Marsh, Rippon, Henn) Whitchurch 2

A brief report from the balcony (full report next week). This was another of the nail-biters to which spectators at Broadwater are usually subjected, the winner coming in the 69th minute. The game was full of energy, with flashes of excellence from both sides. Guildford took lead with Marsh finishing off good move down the right: half time 1-0. A number of short corners had gone to waste before Rippon scored in the 42nd minute. 43rd minute saw Whitchurch pull one back and their pressure was further rewarded in the 58th minute. 2 – 2. Victory and a sigh of relief came with Henn's goal in the dying minutes. So second in the league with an outside chance of hitting the play-offs for Premier; to do so we must beat University of Exeter on 22nd and then Old Georgians on the 29th (Row 2 Rome day). Supporters welcome on the coach to Exeter, leaving at 7.15 from club.

Guildford 2s No Game

Guildford 3s No Game

Shadows 0 EUHC Gamblers 6

Guildford 4s 2 Kenley 2

Pilgrims 2 Walton & W 2

Gondoliers 4 Oxted Moonshiners 1

The skipper does seem to have a thankless task at present getting a team of 11 Gondoliers together on the pitch at the same time, 14 possible on Thursday and only 9 on the day. Still we have engendered a good deal of friendship on the circuit and Oxted loaned us two players, thank you.

So on a sunny afternoon, match practice began, Richard was keen that we practised short corners and so Savage and Gould did with plenty advice from the others. We lined up and within the first ten minutes we were 2-0 up one "shortie" from Savage and one from Gould.

All was going well until our normally vocal goalie stood still and quiet after JB playing as fullback because he was not well, shouted "leave it" so Richard did! 2-1 was the result.

The Gondoliers got back into action and were fairly dominant creating a number of chances and were rewarded when Gould hit firm pass into the circle which on loan Oxted Mick deflected into the goal, which their goalie stood still and quiet because he was told to "leave it" 3-1. The other point of interest in the first half spotted by your on field skipper, penalty flick misser and sub-editor was, the Geoff Tonks over head pass – the one in a blue moon attempt that goes more than three feet and at least six inches above ground, well done Geoff.

The second half saw the Gondoliers team displaying comprehensive passing skills and rampant in attack, another short corner resulted in Gould scoring from a follow up. In defence, JB showed promise in defence, clearing a short corner tucked inside the post from the line, cause for gasps of amazement and respect all round. Up front again a goalmouth melee saw a Windsor-Lewis shot, an otherwise certain goal rebounded from a defender's foot, the whistle blew for a penalty flick, only for the follow up to rebound off the backboard. As implied earlier, Carney strode forward to take the flick and missed, despite practicing in the warm up – Tom, time to give those up.

We thank Andy for umpiring, but Steve would like to know why you disallowed his first goal of the season, he moved from sweeper to central midfield to outright attacker to get this opportunity.

Final point again – All Gondoliers - We need to deal with the Row to Rome requirement gentlemen on Sunday 29th March, the charity fundraising day, please volunteer. We have a morning slot so you can do your bit and then enjoy the rest of your Sunday knowing you have done something good. The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, CHASE and Cardiac Risk in the Young are three worthwhile charities that do need our help. Let Peter Gordon know what you can do, there are spaces to be filled by the Gondoliers.

Our thanks to the Venerable Scribe; borrowing from some chap long departed, “Modo descripta est. Bene, consummatum est; veritatem dixisti”.

Ladies Reports

Those of you who have ever met a hockey goalkeeper will know we are a little, how can I put it, quirky! It comes from spending a long time standing around doing nothing followed by a period of time trying to throw your body in the way of a hard ball travelling at 80mph. It may also be the fumes off the kit. When you then ask a keeper to write match reports, well you are just asking for trouble! The self indulgent moment following the brief report should be read in the style of Freddie Mercury singing **“We Are The Champions”**.

Should anyone feel the need to prance around the room pretending to be this legendary singer...have you ever considered playing in goal?

Guildford 5 (Chip, Kerry, Alice x 2, Lucy) – Basingstoke 0

Good Cop couldn't be with us for the team talk, so it fell to Captain Fantastic Chipster to put us all in the right frame of mind for the game – although we only needed one point to win the league we had to concentrate on playing good hockey and the result would come – SIMPLES!

A superb vocal crowd cheered us from the off and helped settle a few nerves. Within a couple of minutes of the start Guildford were camped in the Basingstoke half and never left it. On the two occasions they broke over the halfway line, Kit Kat put in two superbly timed tackles and we were back on the attack.

The Basingstoke goalkeeper had a fabulous game, diving left, right and centre to block our chances but even her best efforts were not enough to stop Captain Fantastic from putting us in front with a deft flick into the net. Five minutes later her defences were breached again, this time Jade drove along the back line and set up Kerry for a simple(s) sweep into the net.

Alice obviously didn't like being left out of the scoring fun as she ball bodied round half the Basingstoke team and rammed the ball past the keeper from the top of the D.

At half time we changed things up resting a few players for the double header on Sunday and giving Nick plenty more time to show off her tackling skills. Theika brought her giggles to the back and Alice was allowed out of her box for a while as she went to play up front.

Soon we gained the rewards as Theika was able to play an interchangeable role with Chip the ball eventually finding Alice in the D who needed no second chances putting the ball passed the Basingstoke keeper.

We all expected more goals to come but in our excitement at the thought of winning so comfortably we stopped doing our basics properly and ended up not getting the rewards our dominance should have brought. Indeed we had to wait until after the final whistle for our fifth goal. A short corner was awarded as the final whistle blew and a battle commenced in the Guildford team to see who could seal winning the league with a goal. Lucy is rapidly learning the poachers instinct from Average and popped the ball in at the post to make it five much to the delight of our supporters.

Thank you once again to our faithful supporters who have made this season even more fun.

Congratulations to M.o.M – Chip – who ran all over the place, including places she wasn't supposed to be!

Commiserations to D.o.t.D – Good Cop – for forgetting the proper balls at practice on Monday and what is that strange ball carrier all about?

Aldershot & Farnham 0 – Guildford 7 (Sally, Average, Jade, Sam, Theika, Emily, Lucy)

Following the champagne, balloons, photos and pasta loading on Saturday, we could have been forgiven for having a slow start on Sunday but let's face it Bad Cop wouldn't have forgiven us and no one could bear the thought of sprints on Monday evening! So we put our foot on the gas from the first whistle, we drove down the left side of the pitch and drew a short corner. Our conversion rate has definitely improved in the second half of the season and today was no exception, Sally diving full length to drive the ball over the line. One nil within the first 2 mins!

With our third short corner we stretched our lead, this time the deflection we have been searching for in training worked like a charm. Average applied the final touch to lift the ball into the roof of the net. Jade managed to get over the shock of making a tackle on Saturday and started the game a warp speed, running rings round her opposite number. Soon she was reminding herself what it is like to score a goal too. The only problem is that I can't remember for the life of me how she scored – sorry Jade!

Sam seemed to be unstoppable, her opposite number tried a number of times to bash her off the ball but she wasn't having any of it. Staying strong and calm she passed the ball passed the keeper and in. I think Average tried to claim it... "what a liberty".

Freed from the restraints of Saturday's sweeping role, Theika used her giggling up front, lulling the opposition into a false sense of security before lifting a ball past everyone into the top of the net – great goal Theks.

You would be forgiven for thinking that as we scored 5 goals in the first half that it was a completely one sided game but it was not. A&F worked very hard for each other and were physically challenging. On a slow, sand based pitch the Guildford midfield and defence had plenty of chances to practice their flat stick tackling but didn't always manage it. This led to A&F having a couple of short corners and a couple of shots on goal but in all cases the defence were all over them like a rash, meaning that I didn't have a tough shot to save.

At half time Good Cop reminded us to play hockey like we know we can, making the ball do the work and using our strengths. Whilst we continued to create chances to score we just lacked the final killer touch. A&F stepped up their game slightly and when we felt some decisions weren't going our way we stopped tackling and allowed them to come on to us.

Those of us in defence are very proud of our Scrouge-like goals against column having conceded only 9 league goals so far and we are absolutely 100% determined not to allow it to creep into double figures so we battled and fought for every ball. No matter how hard they tried we were not going to let them score.

At the other end we kept knocking on the door and eventually got some reward. Nick made a wonderful driving run and was felled by the keeper when about to score. Emily bravely stepped up to bury the flick and score her first of the season.

This left us on 99 goals for so far this season and the battle began again in earnest to be the scorer of the 100th ...and guess who snuck in again to steal the glory. Yes, Lucy was there again.

Congratulations Lucy.

Now we just need to keep two clean sheets and score 9 more goals to make sure we have a +100 goal difference....bring it on.

Now put on your best Freddie Mercury white lycra suit and join with me in singing..."We Are The Champions" Guildford style.

We've paid our dues -
Ball-bodied time after time -
We've trained till we're sore -
Dived, put our bodies on the line -
And bad mistakes
We've made a few
We've had our share of upsetting Jenno with our pace -
But we've come through

We are the champions - my friends
And we'll keep on winning - till the end -
We are the champions -
We are the champions
No time for losers

'Cause we are the champions - of the League -

We've scored the goals -
One hundred in all -
Yet our defence has been so awesome -
I thank you all -

We know it's been no bed of roses
No pleasure cruise -
But it was a challenge to which we all rose -
We never wanna lose -

We are the champions - my friends
And we'll keep on winning - till the end -
We are the champions -
We are the champions
No time for losers
'Cause we are the champions - of the League!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Guildford 2s 1 Old Cranleighans 0

Guildford 2s 2 Richmond 3

After all being inspired by watching the Men's 1's and Karen's team talk we took to the pitch with high spirits and the drive to win. The game started quickly with great play throughout the team, really putting the pressure on Richmond's defence. Richmond had a lucky break with a counter attack from their defence playing a long ball through and their zippy centre forward nipped passed our defence to slot their 1st goal in. We built up the pressure and battled on with the majority of play in their half again, a number of free hits and long balls were put through the D but we just couldn't find the end of them to get our 1st goal. Then unfortunately Richmond broke free again to make it 0-2 at half time. We knew that we were a better side and that we could win this so we started out again with 110% effort from everyone and the plan to take their centre forward out of the game. With sheer persistence and great play up the right from defence through JB, Colesy put the ball through the D which, after lots of to-ing and fro-ing across the goal mouth Judith put an end to it by forcing it onto the backboard to get our 1st goal. Richmond's next attack came down the left resulted in a strong ball across the mouth of the goal which was unfortunately deflected in. Another Richmond attack left every Guildford player with their heart in their mouth as their umpire gave a goal which we were all sure wasn't, but after the umpires liaising a 16 was given. We produced some great hockey from sound saves from Jo Lee, solid tackles from the defence and skills and movement throughout the midfield and attack to produce quite a few near misses. This resulted in a free hit taken by Liz out side the D at which point Kath drew her player out of way to make space for Heather to deflect the ball off the far post into the top of the goal. We were on the attack constantly from then but the final whistle blew and we just ran out of time to pull the score back. Although we were all deflated after the match every member of the team put in every ounce of effort into the match and are ready to fight again next week to gain a win.

Mom – Chloe: great skills up front throughout the match
TFC – Karen...

Guildford 3's 1 Camberley & Farnborough 0 (Izzy)

Spring had finally arrived and to this away match so did we, on time for a change, yes I think it's the first away match that A) the team has not got stuck in roadwork's etc B) Emily has not got lost (well done Em). Away to C&F though, is not a hard one to find.

I (Cas) had finally been awarded dick of the day, for knocking around with the ball and stating "the ball rolls on here", I think Slick's aim for the season was to get me with one. As a result I have the pleasure of writing this report.

Izzy won a well deserved man of the match, for working solidly throughout the match - putting the defence under a lot of pressure and scoring the all important fab goal. Well done Iz.

This week we had a bit of a depleted side, one or two away, Kelly being given Alina's tummy bug (its

good to share) and Charlie still playing although her seizing quads prevented her from running and she eventually had to stop. So with this all going on we were going to be 11 fit - with few strange looks in the changing rooms, I dusted the cobwebs off my stick bag and popped on my kit (super sub).

And so to the game - we started with some real fire, and had a couple of really good chances in the first few minutes, one whistled passed the goal, but we were to be goal dry for the first half. The team played a reasonably good hockey in this half, but it was to be the second half that we would show our determination.

From the off we dominated the pitch, pressing from the front more determined to get the ball and keep it. Everyone in the team put in 100%, and after a string of passes, Iz popped the ball away, great goal ladies. We kept our heads and almost were rewarded with another goal or two, but it was not to be. The last 5 minutes C&F picked up their game and had a chance to draw, the post was kind to us and the defence kept calm to see off the end of the match.

We left the ground in the hope that we have given ourselves the best chance of winning the league, and so it is, we are top and with UCL at home 1pm next week, it will be a good challenge.

MOTM – Izzy

DOTD - Cas

Guildford 4s 1 Croydon 2s 2

After losing the past three games, we were desperate for a win today but with many of our key players missing we knew this wasn't going to be easy. Croydon were more awake than us in the first half and seemed to be playing five people up front, which caused the defence a bit of a headache! As a result, the mids had to come back and support, which left us very deep and lacking firepower on the break. When we did get through, we were able to win a couple of short corners but just couldn't capitalise on these chances. With Harriet off the pitch, the defence were flailing and Croydon won about six short corners in a row. It was thanks to LJ and some desperate clearances from the backs that we weren't made to pay.

With all things equal at half time, Maggs stressed the importance of making early and accurate passes. But Croydon upped their game and within ten minutes had taken the league with a sneaky reverse-stick hit that surprised us all. The play seemed to be all in our defensive circle and it wasn't much longer before they managed to score another one. At 2-0, drastic action was needed and I decided to push Harriet to centre-mid and bring Vix and Phyzz into defence. The change paid off and we started to play some nice hockey, with Harriet being instrumental in setting up our goal (it was a bit of a goal-mouth scramble but apparently Jo had the final touch). We pushed on in the last five minutes but it was a case of too-little, too-late and Croydon felt relieved to grab the victory.

It's the last league game next weekend so let's all try to be on top form (and not too hungover- not mentioning any names, Louisa!!) and finish the season on a high.

Man of the Match goes jointly to LJ (for some cracking saves) and to Harriet (who was outstanding in both attack and defence).

Guildford 5s 1 Croydon 0

Colts Report

Boys under 18 5 Canterbury 7