



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB
In Touch

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 This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Seven wins, one draw, two defeats makes it a pretty good weekend.

Ladies 1s go clear at the top, and Mens 1s earn a hard earned win against Old Georgians.

Pilgrims and Gondoliers do the double over Haslemere.

December 12th: Xmas Party – £25 for bubbly start, three course meal and wine plus music and your fun. Numbers via Captains to Dave Hall.

Fixtures Live: have you explored it? Go to your team page and see all the information available.

Fixtures for the month ahead_
 For away venues and times, check through fixtures page on website.

Men's Fixtures for next two weeks

Date	Team	Opposition	H/A	Venue	Time
28th Nov	2nd	Old Georgians	A		13.30
"	3rd	London W	H		12.00
"	Shadows	Old Reigatians	H		16.30
"	4th	Purley W	A		13.00
"	Pilgrims	Alton	H		12.30
"	Gondoliers	Oxted	H		14.00
29th Nov	1st	Havant	A		14.00
5 th Dec	2 nd	Canterbury	H		12.00
"	3 rd	St Albans	A		11.30

“	Shadows	Thames Valley	A		12.00
“	4th	Cheam	H		12.30
“	Pilgrims	Salisbury	A		14.30
“	Gondoliers	Reading	A		

Ladies Fixtures for next two weeks

Date	Team	Opposition	L or F	H/A	Venue	Time
28-Nov-09	1st	Tulse Hill & Dulwich 1's	L	H	Broadwater Water	13.30
“	2nd	Wanderers 3's	L	H	Broadwater Water	15.00
“	3rd	Addiscombe 1's	L	A	Ashburton School, Croydon	11.30
“	4th	Mitcham 1's	L	H	Broadwater Sand	15.30
“	FF	Maori Vamps	F	A	Feltham	13.00
5-Dec-09	1st	No game				
“	2nd	Oxted 1s	L	H	Broadwater Water	15.00
“	3rd	Mid Surrey 1s	L	A		13.00
“	4th	London Wayfarers	L	H	Broadwater Water	13.30
“	FF					

Men's Reports

Guildford 1s 3 Old Georgians 2 **Blockley (3)**

Another welcome win for Guildford takes us back into the mid table spot and out of those dreaded play-off positions. During a break in the Autumn wind and rain, Guildford started off the game quite tentatively against local rivals Old Georgians, allowing their forwards too much space and not putting them under enough pressure. We were, however, able to gain a short corner in the early stages of the half which Will Blockley duly dispatched into the bottom corner. At the other end Nicky Thompson capitalised on the space we afforded them and scored with a quality finish on the turn from the edge of the D.

The home side reacted well to this and began to put them under pressure and step up the intensity. The rest of the half was well contested and 1-1 at half time meant that both teams had to come out firing to secure the points.

Fortunately, Guildford had more in the tank and were able to make the most of some lengthy spells of position in the Old Georgians' half. Justin Lyon Taylor was the inspiration for the second goal, his visionary pass ripped the defence open and Tom Batchelor coolly slipped the ball to Will Blockley who slid his second goal under the keeper. Another good attack down the left fell to Duncan Marsh who was fouled in the D and a penalty stroke given. Will stepped up and converted, giving him his first hat trick for Guildford. Congratulations indeed.

It seems that we don't like to be winning in games and we clearly felt the pressure of being 2 goals ahead for the rest of the half, allowing Old Georgians to pressurise us and convert a second goal through David Tyler. However, we were fortunately able to hang on and claim our second successive win.

Social report

The first team squad braved the downpours and enjoyed the hospitality on offer at The Albany bar and restaurant in Guildford. After Mike managed to find his way through the complicated back streets of downtown Guildford, we sat down to an excellent 3 course meal followed by some additional excellent beers. Thanks to Duncan for the rounds of shots and to Jenno for educating us all in the ways of cold custard. A good night and I'm sure more stories will follow!

Guildford 2s 4 Bromley & Beckenham 2

So it came to pass that with a depleted squad Guildford arrived on a sunny Saturday morning in Bromley, Kent (Is it really in the garden of England or is it actually London overflow?). The fact that we all made it was a miracle as Gavin was recklessly running red lights on the journey earning the disdain of England U18 reject Sean. Unfortunately the call up for young George came too late to prevent him smashing it up on Friday night but his hangover wasn't to prove decisive on what was to be a cracking day for Guildford.

So after a mediocre warm up Guildford started brightly. Burder, Scully, Paddy and Batch moving the ball smartly round the back on a quick flat pitch. Chances were few and far between though as each team was not willing to commit too many players forward in search of the breakthrough goal. As the half wore on the game became more stretched and Guildford were punished through a Bromley short corner. Max made a good save initially but Batch could only push the ball away to the Bromley forward who slotted in from a tight angle.

In previous matches this sort of setback may have dispirited Guildford but this side is made of stronger stuff, particularly in Relphy's absence. Guildford quickly won their own short corner and (here I will just embellish a little) Sean powered the ball low to the keepers right from the top of the circle, 1-1. Personally I felt that the biggest benefit to come from the equaliser was to shut up Bromley's trumpet support.

For the first time in my six years at Guildford the Men's second eleven started the second half well. Luke and George were doing what we have been unable to do for a while – namely hold the ball up effectively to bring others into the game. Mark and Sandy were also worrying the Bromley defence with their wily dribbling skills. It wasn't long before Guildford took the lead through a well worked goal down the right. After a series of quick passing and some great individual skill the ball was pulled back to Sean who (here I will not embellish) got excited, swung like a lumberjack, and topped the ball into the near corner from eight yards.

Bromley were clearly ruffled and Guildford continued to play expansive total hockey. Ten minutes into the second half Guildford won a free hit on the top of the Bromley circle, it was played wide to Burder who, remarkably, beat his man for pace made it to the by-line and pulled it back for Sandy. Sandy showed all the coolness that you would expect from a 45 year old and slotted it for 3-1.

So I would love to say that we then shut up shop and the last twenty minutes were played out with no problems but of course this wasn't the case. A Bromley short corner was booted off the line by Burder and not even the twelve year old umpire was going to miss that one. P-flick to Bromley, 3-2.

And so it was to stay until 10 minutes from time. Yet another short corner for Guildford, this one found its way back to the injector Sandy who flicked it nonchalantly over the keeper from the acutest of angles. 4-2. Bromley came at Guildford strongly for the last ten but with Gavin's weaving/spinning/jinking dribbles and Scully's swearing at the Bromley supporters there was no way through.

Tea watch – Mongolian Lamb was an inspired selection from the Bromley Chef – an eclectic mix of flavours ensured this is definitely one of the better tea's in the league.

New for this week

Bar staff banter watch – Scully seemed to be enjoying much fruity talk with the Bromley barmaid who took quite a shine to him. She wasn't great but you probably would after a few.

MOM – Alan
DOD – Batch ‘mind you he.....ouch’

Guildford 3s 4 Bromley & Beckenham 4

Shadows 3 Leatherhead 1s 5

With a small squad, the Shadows began brightly, and enjoyed their fair share of possession. Leatherhead took the lead however after 10 minutes. Ross Henry levelled the score soon after however with a well struck short corner.

The game was fast paced and competitive, but Tim Wright gave shadows the lead with a fine strike after a well-built attack from the away side.

This was a lead that should have been extended minutes later when Ed Evans took a quick free hit himself and travelled at least 9 or 10 metres before firing the ball into the ‘D’ where Marcus Smith was on hand to deflect it into the net. Some appalling umpiring, however denied the Shadows a 3-1 score-line. To exacerbate matters Leatherhead grabbed an equalizer moments later.

The Shadows showed their character by forgetting this and Ed Evans restored the lead by shooting from a ludicrous angle and embarrassing the Leatherhead keeper.

The second half saw an all too familiar picture. Guildford got tired and complacent and conceded three second half goals in a lackluster performance that barely merits further comment. The Shadows have a tough few games ahead and will have to play well for 70 minutes to get the wins of which they are undoubtedly capable.

Guildford 4s 4 Woking (Moody 2, Broad, Hall)

The local derby kicked off with constant rain and Woking warming up way before our boys were prepared even to get wet. We were up for it and it showed as from the off Guildford were distributing, calling, running off the ball and pushing intently into the Woking 22. A few close chances went by before the ever involved Luca cut a delicate reverse chip into the back of the Woking goal. Woking tried to come back but resistance was futile. A few cheeky short corners later (our complex route 1 solution via Moody proving far too much for our poorer neighbours defence) and we were 3-nil up and cruising. Following on, a few dinky runs from Tom, lot's of pressure on the Woking play from the Midfield (Joe and Luca always involved) and with our solid defence never giving Woking a sniff (Jean and Deano marshalling with ease), the bacon was always coming home to Broadwater with 3 points and a tasty rise up the table. A further well taken goal from Dave and a charity offering of one consolation score for Woking ended in a well deserved 4-1 home win. A great team effort and enjoyable afternoon despite the weather. All the best for Dave Banardo on his wedding day next week - nobody tell the next opposition our left flank will be our makeshift underbelly without him..

PLEASE HELP! I am currently raising money for the Prostate Cancer Charity by growing a Moustache for Movember. What many people don't appreciate is that one man dies every hour of prostate cancer in the UK, more than 35,000 men will be diagnosed this year and that prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK. Facts like these have convinced me I should get involved and I am hoping that you will support me.

To donate & support the grow in my Mo, please: Click this link <http://uk.movember.com/mospace/450735/> and donate online using your credit card, debit card or PayPal account Oliver Luscombe.

Pilgrims 2 Haslemere 0 (Wylie, Morris)

Last season we had a slightly unfortunate game at Haslemere so nerves were slightly on edge today. Having watched the first half of the 1's and then successfully negotiated the road works around Hindhead we gathered on the pitch with a careful eye on the approaching storm, weather or oppo I wasn't sure. Thankfully all was calm and the game was excellent with no controversy.

Welcoming our "international vet" back from Hong Kong and new boy Ben Proudlove, making an outfield debut for the Pilgrims, we fielded one of the youngest and nippiest looking sides for many a

long year. However Haslemere weren't to be outdone and they started well with some speedy forwards of their own combining with ex GHC man Colin Evans. Sensible umpiring from Geoff Ledger and Graeme Dilworth also ensured that this time all the players were focused on the game, lo and behold the standard of hockey improved.

Rosoman was making good progress down the right wing and was seeing a fair amount of possession, this was always likely to be a good source of attacks. From one such attack the ball was played back to Shelbourne who found Wylie lurking in the oppo circle. Wylie being 7 metres from goal was definitely too far out to trouble the goalie, but against all the odds he turned and fired the ball past a startled keeper into the net. In fact we were all pretty startled.

Adrian (aka Dr Pain, The Tortoise and The Cat) Jenkinson was then confronted by an on rushing forward in a rather worrying 1 on 1. The Cat turns into a Tiger and pounces on the loose ball, the danger is averted for the moment and normality returns along with some rain.

Gray forces a shortcorner after more good work by the right midfield and wing and Morris (having just seen a rerun of Robbie Williams on Jonathon Ross, does anyone else think that Robbie looks like Mark Morris?) calmly slots directly past the keeper for a 2-0 lead.

The second half was a close run affair with Haslemere pressing hard to get back in the game and a couple of excellent saves from The Tiger. The midfield trio of Morris, Shelbourne and Gilliver worked tirelessly and their hard work and running in midfield was crucial in keeping Haslemere at bay. Proudlove showed unPilgrim like qualities in the tackle and some Pilgrim like qualities in distribution, however for a "come back" game it was impressive. Good to have you with us Ben, and good luck with the impending new arrival. New births not allowed on a Friday or Saturday, hockey takes precedence.

The Pilgrims created some clear cut opportunities but some less than clinical finishing and some excellent saves from the Haslemere keeper, making his club debut, frustrated the attempts of Asdell to return to the fray, "I'll come back on at 3-0" turned out to be a tad fanciful. There was some encouraging hockey played today and everyone from the back to the front had a good game, well played everyone and let's keep it going.

The rain held off until after the game and we all adjourned to the bar for gossip and the rugby. All in all a good win and 3 wins and 3 clean sheets on the trot. Everybody played well and the pace of the game was the highest for some time, really good fun.

Memorable moments. Moustache Man sprinting back 50 meters and make a great recovering tackle. Geoff Ledger practising running backwards and then falling over, more practising needed Geoff! A great aerial kick from the GHC keeper with the most names (30 meters up and 15 forwards).

Wally of the week. Gray's tackle to give away a shortie and then moaning about it. Gilliver wondering who collects the kitty and Howells forgetting that he hasn't washed his squad shirt for 3 years and trying to take it home.

Gondoliers 4 Haslemere 1

The Gondoliers performance was marked by excellent defending by Andrew Gordon and Stephen Windsor-Lewis and some snappy Jimmy Greaves finishing by Chris Belshaw (2 goals). First fifteen minutes with no goalkeeper was hard but that stout defending meant Peter Gordon between posts did not touch the ball. With Ladies 3 goalie esconced, the game became more open with chances both ends. Half time 1 – 0 through Belshaw goal. Both Bigos and Gordon P missed 'fairly' open goals. Three more goals, Chris Gould squeezing one over goalies head. Haslemere scored a consolation goal close to the final whistle.

Ladies Reports

Guildford Ladies 1s 5 Sunbury 0

Uneventful game. Alice scored 3, Jade scored 2. the oppo were poor.

Guildford Ladies 2s 1 Old Kingstonians 0

Guildford Ladies 3's 7 Cranleigh 1s 0

(Sam x 4, Man-Chie x 2, Charlie Cox x 1)

The team started this game all fired up and determined to prove to Cas and Kelly that they have the ability to push for promotion. From the first whistle the passing and movement created attacking opportunities. Within 5 minutes Man-Chie drove down the right wing and slipped a pit ball to Sam who made no mistake and fired the ball into the back of the net. Two minutes later a carbon copy move put us 2-0 up. Man-Chie was on fire and a few minutes later managed to drive into the D and make it 3-0. I am not sure if it was complacency or lack of concentration but after the third goal we allowed Cranleigh to come back into the game and only some good defending and a couple of great saves from Eilish ensured we didn't concede. Just before half time Jules got hit in the face with the ball after it took a big deflection off a defenders stick. A trip to A&E followed and fortunately nothing was broken but poor Jules was left with nasty swelling and bruising. The team wishes her a quick recovery. The half time talk was all about keeping our concentration and letting the ball do the work. From the whistle Cranleigh came back at us but we kept our heads and absorbed the pressure for 15 minutes. For the final 20 minutes we got our heads back in the game and started playing the ball around with confidence and ease and 4 quick goals followed to make the final score 7-0. Very encouraging play in pockets and hopefully with hard training we will start to sustain the concentration for the whole game. MOTM – Man-Chie for great all round play.
DOTD – Slick for too many reason to explain.

Guildford Ladies 4s 1 Spencer 5s 3 (Phyzz)

Spencer are top of the league and so we expected a really tough game, only made worse by the fact that it took us an hour and a half to get there! With the bad traffic we didn't have long to warm up, so it was a quick team talk and we were off. We started well, soaking up all the pressure they could give us. There was some great defensive work by the whole team and we hit them on the break a few times. After frustrating them for 25 minutes, they scored a scrappy goal. At half-time we were upbeat with our performance and we didn't let the goal get our heads down. In the second half we started to get into a rhythm, and the team were working really well together, even though the rain was pouring and there was the odd firework in the background. The defence were well organised and reliable, with Sarah making a great save off the line! Their second and third goals came from short-corners, one was lucky and the other well worked. We didn't let the score line affect our performance, and we started attacking with force. There was some excellent linking play between the mids and forwards. With Charlie and Nadine working really well together up the left. Phyzz and Claire both worked hard all game. After an attack down the left we switched the play to the right and Claire made a surging run into the 'D' and took a shot, which Phyzz slid in on reverse stick to ensure it was in the goal. We worked really hard in the last quarter to try and pull another goal back and we must have started to seriously challenge them as they were given a number of "final warnings" and one green card. It finished 3-1, but the team performance particularly in the second half was fantastic, and everyone came off the pitch really positive despite the loss and the fact we were soaked! Man of the Match nominations included 8 of the team...shows what a great team effort it was... thanks guys ☺.

MoM: Claire – relentless in attack and defence!

DotD: Leah – for getting out the car to go to the shop while we were stuck in traffic and not making it back before the traffic started to move again!

Colts Report