



## GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB

# In Touch

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This newsletter will also be published on the web-site

Headlines of the weekend – Mens 1s only manage draw in front of good crowd including VPs, Sponsors and Friends of GHC. Ladies also draw, but retain league leadership on goal difference. Both teams at home next week, Ladies on Saturday, Men vs University of Birmingham at 12 on Sunday. Come along and support.

### Club Race Night Feb 20<sup>th</sup>.

GHC RACE NIGHT is back! **Sat 20th February**, 7pm. £10 tickets including dinner.

Please invite friends & family - everyone welcome. Get up a team & get down to the club for a great night!

Also you can buy, name and own your horse for just £5 a horse and be in with a good chance of winning a fantastic prize (see below).

There are 8 horses in each race, all we need to know is which race you want your horse in and name it. That simple folks!!

Money must be paid asap to Chip or Jade to prevent it from going lame or missing! You do not have to attend the event for your horse to win. However, shouting, cheering and encouraging your horse on the night most often produces a winner!! Horses selling FAST! To avoid disappointment please contact Jade or Chip now! ([jd\\_steady@hotmail.com](mailto:jd_steady@hotmail.com) or [charliechip3@googlemail.com](mailto:charliechip3@googlemail.com))

- Race 1: Meal vouchers at The Squirrel
- Race 2: 6 months free gym membership at 'The Gym'
- Race 3: Douwe Egberts Coffee
- Race 4: Majestic Wine
- Race 5: Box Genesis - Free Personal Training Session
- Race 6: TBC
- Race 7: TBC

GHC Russian Rowathon. March 28<sup>th</sup>. Let us repeat last years success for both club and the three new charities. Start getting sponsors for this important and fun day for the whole club. To help, you can set up on-line giving: set up your own page by going to <http://www.justgiving/guildfordhockeyclub/raisemoney>.

### Note for Pilgrims and Gondoliers who fancy representing England.

The South HA have sent notice to Clubs re players from 40 up to 65+ (up to 69) years of age. Any member of an affiliated Club may attend the relevant age group trials. These are held to decide the South teams at the various Divisional Tournaments from which the full England teams are selected. The letter shows contacts and dates of the various trials. For your interest two members of the Club are

managers for South. Mark Morris for the 40+ and 45+ with his trials at Guildford HC and Ian Russell manager of the 60+ & 65+ which are at Surbiton. The notice will be put on Club Noticeboard.

Fixtures for next two weeks.

Date	Team	Opposition	H/A	Venue	Time
Feb 13th	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Indian Gym	H		12.00
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Indian Gym	A		13.00
	Shadows	Croydon 1s	A		10.30
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Camberley & F 2s	H		10.30
	Pilgrims	Portsmouth & S	A		13.45
	Gondoliers	Woking Pitts	A		
Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	University of Birmingham	H		12.00
Feb 20th	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Richmond	A		15.00
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Richmond	H		12.00
	Shadows	NPL	H		14.00
	4 <sup>th</sup>	N/F			
	Pilgrims	N/F			
	Gondoliers	Epsom	H		15.00
Feb 21	1 <sup>st</sup>	Whitchurch	A		13.00

## Ladies Fixtures for next two weeks

Date	Team	Opposition	L or F	H/A	Venue	Time
13-Feb-10	1st	Wimbledon 1	L	H	Broadwater Water	13.30
	2nd	Basingstoke 1s	F	H	Broadwater Water	15.00
	3rd	Woking vets	L	H	Broadwater Sand	14.00
	4th	Windsor Vets	F	A	Windsor Boys school.	12.30
	FF	N/A				
20-Feb-10	1st	Eastcote 1's	L	H	Broadwater Water	13.30
"	2nd	Cheam 2's	F	A	Nonsuch School	13.00
"	3rd	Barnes Hounslow Ealing 3s	F	H	Broadwater Sand	12.30
"	4th	TBC	F	H	Broadwater Sand	14.30
"	FF	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

## Men's Reports

### Guildford 1 Stourport 1

On the first game back after the Christmas break and on Sponsor's Day, Guildford 1<sup>st</sup> XI were keen to make an impression and set a precedence for the rest of the season. However, this will have to wait until next week as a lacklustre Guildford team failed to break down the resilient Stourport defence and merely limped home with a draw that came very close to being a loss.

The game started quite flat with Stourport stretching the pitch which didn't really create any opportunities for them but their deep defenders managed to negate any real possession for the home team. Despite this, there were some chances for Guildford, Duncan Marsh came close with a couple of tries and two short corners were well defended. For some reason Guildford's basics were not present today and this led to numerous promising attacks falling short.

When we did finally get a decent goal scoring opportunity, Will Blockley was on hand to fire it home into the roof of the net. 1-0 to us and a platform to improve on. At half time a disappointed Guildford team went back into the changing rooms for some Jenno hair dryer treatment that really should have jolted us to sort it out. Unfortunately, we did not lift ourselves and allowed Stourport the opportunity to strike back after half time with a well taken reverse stick strike.

In the second half we had the lion's share of possession and really should have created bags of chances, especially as they went down to ten men twice. It just didn't click today though and even though we came close a couple of times, no real opportunities were created. It could have gone horribly wrong in the dying seconds as Stourport managed to get three or four short corners in a row. The Guildford defence stood strong, despite missing the tenacious abilities of Justin Lyon Taylor who is out with a broken finger, and the final result was 1-1. Disappointment all round but we know what we need to improve on for next week's home clash against Birmingham University.

As always, the crowd at Broadwater was fantastic, ("IN WE GO!") and it was great to see so many supporters and sponsors enjoying the after match fare, excellently provided by Dave Hall. A good day all round and thank you to everyone who contributed.

## **Spencer 2s            2            Guildford 2s            3**

Brought to you by Sandy Bhogal

My first report in a while this. Usually it is a task afforded to the man of the match and I have yet to convince my comrades as being worthy of the honour this season. However, with Petty sidelined by work, rest and auditions for the next X-Factor, I agreed to step in and see if I could recall my literary prowess of old. That may prove to be a mistake, as I am (and often reminded by the guys) very old. However, I promise no Shakespearean quotes or middle English text from Beowulf. Maybe just the odd Duran Duran lyric.

Crunch game at the weekend vs Spencer, as we had spent the first 2 games after Xmas being put in our place by Surbiton and EGs. Not that we disgraced ourselves, it is just that we could not make our chances count and they could. We did, however, avoid taking the kind of beating OGs suffered. I say suffered, in that I assume it was a hockey game and that they did not decide to pay homage to the Six Nations by playing an impromptu game of rugby (with EGs winning by three converted tries to a drop goal).

Anyway, to the events at the weekend. The squad had a slightly changed look to it, as we lost Booty to the 1s after what can only be the worst bit of medical diagnosis I have ever seen. With my untrained and frankly talentless eye, even I could see that JLTs fingers would need weeks to be fixed after Snowy tried a Streetfighter style special move on him during training on Tuesday. Petty and Rawlings added much needed skill and pace to our forward line and we welcomed back Paddy to the team, whose meerkatesque physique cannot mask his tigerish defensive qualities. Or put another way, you must be hard if you can put that many forwards on the floor despite weighing less than Nicole Ritchie.

We also have a new addition to the squad in the shape of Richard Collins. Tall, talented and brave enough to bring his Mrs along to only his second game for the club. That kind of confidence does not grow on trees, although if it did Richard is one of the few players we have in the 2s who could reach it. Everyone turned up on time except for Henry, but I never found out exactly why. Max tried to explain, something about email, not meeting at Spectrum etc but everyone just got bored and stopped listening. In the end, we just decided that Henry was stupid and he was dealt with accordingly during fines (see later).

Spencer started the game like Speedy Gonzales bursting for a number 2. I could be mistaken, as my eyesight is not what it was, but they seemed to be playing the game on another level to us (unless someone put valium in our water). They dominated the first 20 minutes and should really have been a couple of goals up. We scored a goal on the counter, but I don't know who **[Note from the Editor: it was Sean]** or how **[Note from the Editor: from a cross by Petty]** as Henry distracted me on the sideline with stories of how much he loves his (soon to be) new job. Apparently it is well paid, safe from economic downturns and gives him the right to kick the bejesus out of anyone who looks at him

funny. I did ask him what special skills of detection he had, to which he merely replied that Miss Marple is his favourite TV show.

Anyway, that sucker punch took the wind out of Spencer's sails and we began to look dangerous on the counter. We may even have gone another goal up if Petty had not scuffed my scuffed cross from 2 yards out, but as Marcus Locklan said in 1734, "two wrongs don't make a right". We still could not help but cough up cheap possession though, which kept Spencer interested and gave the halftime scoreline a flattering look to it. **[Note from the Editor: Sandy has elected to forget that Batch got sent to the sin bin for bringing the ball down over head height, or that Spencer equalised minutes before the break]**

As usual, our halftime talk was a free for all and we had no idea what to change in the second half. In a way however, I think that suits us, because people just play naturally and concentrate on the basics. The second half was a more even game. Both sides created chances, and whilst Spencer had more of the ball we looked dangerous whenever we got into the final third. We contrived to find ourselves 3-2 up, based on some fine keeping from Max (with admittedly errant finishing from Spencer), great tackling from Batch, hard yards from Alan, Gav and Sean in midfield and the skill of Rawlings with sharp finishing from Petty. I should also point out my unrivalled ability to fall over convincingly whenever a defender enters the same time zone as me. At this point, the game got more scrappy, cards started to be handed out. **[Note from the Editor: Sandy has also elected to forget that the game's second yellow went to him minutes from time for some William-esque GBH]** and we were holding on at the end for the win. Spencer deserved more from the game but were typically gracious about it and provided great hospitality afterwards. The game was generally very well umpired, with I suspect high passions causing more arguments with the umpires than the game or their decisions warranted.

The fines session added a monumental amount to our burgeoning kitty as we continue to demonstrate the stupidity and comedy that Guilford 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs are famed for. In addition to swiping Henry's pocket money for the next month, contributions from all make the possibility of an end of season party in Las Vegas a realistic one (blackjack optional but Scully you will definitely be allowed to go Dutch steamboating). Expensive highlights include Rawlings and Gav having a distinctly feminine argument during the game about aials (not the washing powder variety although I can understand your confusion) and Batch continuing to mystify us as to how he is able to survive in higher education.

Next week we have Indian Gym at home and the inevitable re-creation of UFC which that entails. Maybe we should see if Snowy is available ...

**Tea Watch** - great choice of chicken or chilli, vital on such winter days. The hot sauce was pretty tasty, as Rawlings ring will no doubt testify.

**Bar staff banter watch** – all good. I even got invited to a speed dating event being hosted by Spencer next week. The barmaid was at least 15 years my junior, proof if needed that I still look toigt like a toiger.

**News from the Twos** – If rumours are to be believed, the man with the biggest face in hockey – so big he had to have both hips reinforced with adamantium to take the weight of it – will be returning to a hockey club near you soon. Welcome back Fat Head (coincidentally not seen since the last time we smash and grabbed three points off Spencer)!

MOM – Petty

DOD – Henry

**Guildford 3s                      4                      Spencer 3s                      2**

**Guildford Shadows 1                      Bank of England                      2**

After a disappointing defeat at the hands of top of the league Kenley last week, it was vital that the Shadows returned to winning ways. The last time these two teams had met they shared the points, but with a weakened squad this week Guildford were up against it.

Right from the off, the Shadows failed to stamp there authority on the game. On the unfamiliar waterbased pitch the basics were lacking. Bank were more composed and deserved their lead when it came midway through the half. Guildford did not respond well, and Bank began to win the majority of 50/50's. In general the

battle was being lost in midfield and the Shadows lacked the necessary movement and creativity to carve out any meaningful chances.

Bank doubled their lead just before half time, to end what was the worst Shadows first half performance of the season.

Despite the half time talk, the performance did not improve a great deal in the early part of the second half. With no substitutions legs began to tire and inevitably more mistakes crept in.

Things picked up however as the home team finally found a little bit of their touch. Ross Henry fired home from the second of three consecutive short corners and perhaps the Shadows then began to believe they could salvage something from the game.

Guildford had the majority of possession in the last ten minutes, however they did not have the cutting edge required to open up an organised defence.

It is important that Guildford grab three points away at Croydon this week to begin to climb back up the table.

### **Kenley 2's    2        Guildford 4's    2 (Moody, Luscombe)**

A determined 4th's team on the up after last week's well fought victory and clean sheet travelled to Kenley on the weekend to grind out a well deserved draw. We started out very positively although unfortunately a few shorties later, we let in two goals on the line and hence the well deserved Dick of the Day award. Always a favourite..

So, we started the 2nd half 2-1 through a Moody moment of 'ok' skill and made our efforts from head to toe in the team to seek redemption. We really battled hard as a team for this and it was a real stand up performance, even if it only earned a point. Our reward came from a 40 yard run and smash from me and then the game was set for extra time but as it happens, we finished 40 seconds early (their umpire's call) when pressing deep in enemy territory.

On to next week with a point and the beginnings of an unbeaten run..

### **Pilgrims            7            Southampton            0                    (Morris 4, Gray, Rosoman, Howells)**

With only 11 available players today (from a squad of 20) and a surfeit of midfielders a change of formation was needed. Not to universal approval Gray went to left wing and promised to push high with Howells supporting a 2-1-3-1-3 formation. This first of a numbers of plans that eventually worked but maybe not as expected.

The early exchanges were quite close although pushing forwards high up the pitch did seem to cause confusion in the Soton defence as they hadn't come across this before. Gray struck the bar having been put through by Shelbourne and then opening the scoring by roofing a rebound from a shortcorner. As planned the fast and fit midfield trio of Morris, D'Mello and Shelbourne began to revel in the acres of space in midfield and intelligent running created wide open areas for Morris to latch onto D'Mello's through pass and slot coolly home. Rosoman then got a deflection on a fierce short corner strike and Morris popped in his second.

Half time chat centred around keeping the movement going and maintaining the pace of ball and body.

Things went even better when a slick shortcorner involving everyone but Shelbourne was dispatched by Howells. Soton were by now completely demoralised and the midfield and defenders seemed to be able to pass the ball around at will. JT even found himself in the ippo circle during open play but his attempt at goal was well saved by the Soton GK who to be fair made a number of good saves. He could do nothing about a Morris piledriver or indeed another Morris open play goal following a deft pass from Howells.

As the game came to an end Soton mounted a good attack only to be foiled by Adrian “the cat” patting the ball to safety with a large and solid paw.

Final analysis of the game showed that everyone played really well and that this formation was a winner bearing in mind that it only worked because of the work rate up front and in midfield added to the defenders picking up their men when required, coupled with the sense to find space and the ability of all to pass the ball firmly into that space! Easy eh!! All in all a thoroughly good game that had everyone full of enthusiasm delighted to have played in such a good performance.

Memorable moments.

Howells great shortie followed by then missing an open goal from 3 feet. Gray being put clean through by Asdell for a 1 on 1 with the keeper, unfortunately he had no idea how to turn this into a goal and it showed!! Proving of course that if you have never practiced something it’s difficult to know what to do when the chance presents itself to you.

Right chaps we have a problem here. Two great games over the last 2 weeks but we have a worrying availability issue. Last week we had 9 unavailable and this week we have 10 unavailable. This means we only have 9 or 10 available for this Saturday. To quote Delia “Come on, lets be having you!!” Please get in touch with Nick asap if there is any chance you can actually play.

**Gondoliers 2 Wokingham 3**

The team shorn of the lambs in the side (off to the rugby) , and requiring old rams to hold the fort, almost managed to do so. Wokingham had most of first half and only a short corner got through the Gordon\*2, Tonks and Holt defence. Gondos mounted a few counter attacks, but to no avail. The second half again saw the defence hard pressed and Wokingham scored again before Bigos extended his run of goals to make it 1 – 2.

Another sweeping Wokingham attack meant 1 – 3, but with Dave Hall joining the fray, Bigos scored again from a melee in the circle. Despite more attacks

From both sides, it stayed 2 - 3.

## Ladies Reports

**Guildford Ladies 1s 1 Maidenhead 1**

Guildford ladies 1s drew with Maidenhead in their 2nd league game back after xmas. In a game which saw both teams attempting to play (but not always achieving) some good hockey & missed opportunities from both sides, the deadlock was to be broken in the 62nd minute with a successful short corner routine from Guildford’s Kirsty Chapman. Maidenhead equalized from a shortcorner strike with 3mins left on the clock.

**Guildford 2s 0 Merton 1s 2**

We were good in patches. Unfortunately the patches weren’t long enough and this allowed a less skillfull Merton team to net two.

Injuries hampered Guildford's challenge, it was a blow to loose Genie and her battling spirit was needed in this game. When we got stuck in we looked good, when we didn't Merton took advantage in keeping the ball. Defensively, we had the measure of Merton's attack, Jo Lee made some great saves on the times Merton did get through. Good spells of possession didn't lead to enough pressure in Merton's D. We came closest with a nicely worked short corner which was well saved by the Merton keeper.

Its tight at the top of Surrey Div 1. Skill wise, play wise and looks wise Guildford should get promotion - we will return to winning ways!

MOM - Clare - great challenges and defensive tidying

DOD - Ash - affection related superficial neck injury

**Walton & W Hawks 1’s 0 Guildford 3’s 1 (Sammy “Bling Bling” Goldshoes)**

**News Flash:** Is it a bird, is it a plane....no it's Super Slick. Fresh from her starring role as Mrs Grumpy pants last week, young Slickster took on the role of her life this weekend pulling on the costume of that well known superhero ~ a goalkeeper! Surely an Oscar must follow after such a performance?

Of course her life was made a little easier by the quality of the Supporting Actresses: Kirsty "my stick is so flat on the floor that mice could use it as a hurdle" Collier, Sally "Ha - you may think you can score but you are sadly mistaken" Johnson and Cas "today Matthew I will be arguing with my own shadow" Bush. But it was still Slickster who stole the show.

Lacking in some of the usual suspects of the team due to trips abroad and general poaching by other teams our Director/Coach/Captain/Defender Cas had to do some last minute rifling through the Actors Guild directory to pull out some versatile players to fill in a number of roles.

Normal centre back Slick felt she was up for a challenge and volunteered for the hardest role in goal. Sals brought her Great Tackles to the right back role and Bushy dusted off the cobwebs to wheel herself and her zimmer frame into the centre back position.

Midfield brought some legs and glamour to the line up with Jo "Man of the Match last week" Newman as sweeper, Ellie "my legs are nearly as long as Charlie Cox is tall" Ellis, Charlie "mighty mouse" Cox, Roz "what do you mean that was a stick tackle" Allen and Sammy "Gold Shoes" Case. The glory hunting, sorry, starring, positions up front were taken by Jess "Weebles Wobble but they don't fall down" Sweeney and Vicky "my bruise is so large that it looks like a third tit" O'Reilly.

The bench was almost as glamorous as the starting 11 with El Presidente bringing some class to the occasion, Jane "Chester" Hampton and Tash "hand warmer" Ferguson waiting in the wings to steal the show.

Once the whole team finally arrived at the pitch and everyone had regained their sight after being blinded by Sammys golden footwear, Bushy gave everyone a positive team talk whilst doing an impression of The Hunchback of Notre Dame. Needless to say we went to the pitch in good spirits and with a distinct desire to start the match more positively than the game last week.

Following some hasty top tips from stunt co-ordinators Katy R & Tappy, Slickster took to the field in confident mood and was called into action almost immediately. Following a scrappy start the ball pinged around the 25 ending up at the feet of a W&W forward who only had Slick to beat. Slick pulled off a text book dive (with double tuck and somersault) and saved cleanly, leaving the forward a little confused as to how she didn't score. This seemed to spur Guildford into life with Ellie & Jo disrupting the W&W attacks and Sam, Roz & Charlie breaking at pace into the opposition half. Sadly though, the game then went through a funny five minutes with Roz green carded for a stick tackle and then the opposition had a player yellow carded for a similar offence. Unsurprisingly this put everyone off their game for a short while allowing a number of chances to score at both ends of the pitch. Jess and Vicki O combined well to create chances but their half was summed up when Vicki tried to head Jess's shot into the goal leaving a rather interesting bruise!

W&W had another two clear chances to score, Slick again diving at the feet of the forwards to stop them in their tracks and had two short corners cleared off the line by Sals and her concrete flat stick tackling. The half was pretty much summed up when 5 mins from half time Roz tried to make a scything low flat stick tackle on our 25 only to meet the oppositions stick rather than the ball. The yellow card appeared immediately and it seemed as though the last minutes of the half would be a struggle to keep W&W out. However, Golden Shoes had other ideas and after running from the half way line she powered the ball into the W&W backboards to put us one up!

The half time team talk was all about staying calm and positive and that's exactly how the second half was played by both sides. The hockey improved as did the amount of possession Guildford had. Mel, Sam, Vicki and Jess all spurned a number of glorious chances to put the game beyond W&W and their keeper made some great saves to keep the score line at 1-0 which made for a nervy last 10 mins.

Kirsty was determined not to allow anyone an easy chance, running the full width of the pitch with her stick cellotaped to the floor and both Sally and Jane making vital last chance touches to deflect the ball out of danger. With Cas concentrating on closing the channels the oppo found themselves out of space and out of time to do anything about the score line. A win was a fair result in terms of chances but in truth the game could have gone either way.



And the Oscar goes to ~ Slick – for being a total hero.  
Commiserations to D of the Day ~ Sammy – for her golden shoes and her new b\*llock – move over David Beckham we have a new Golden Balls!

Match report by super supporter/GK coach/comedian ~ Tappy

**Cheam 3's      3                      Guildford 4's      2 (Fin 2)**

A game that we really needed to win, and I think the pressure made us start nervously... but the encouragement from the subs on the side-line helped knock it out of us and we survived the spell of pressure. After those first ten minutes the game became pretty evenly matched with plenty of attacking and defending! After a few contentious short-corners they managed to slot a goal in. We weren't fazed and continued to pile on the pressure, some great play from the midfield set up Fin to knock the ball in from the post. We continued to push forward and a cross from Maggs set up another goal for Fin on the post! Just before half-time they hit back scoring again making it all even at the break. The second half was a lot tighter, but with yet more contentious umpiring decisions! Both sides had chances but the defences held-out, and Ruth made some excellent one-on-one saves in goal! Unfortunately just as the last ten minutes started they scored a scrappy goal. The final ten minutes saw us have all the attacking play but they threw players back and we couldn't convert. It was a close game and a shame to lose... but we have a couple of weeks off from the league now to work on our game.

**MoM:** Leah – who had a great game including making a save off the line!