

# Ashford Hockey Club



## Read & Black Newsletter: DECEMBER 2007

### Chairman's Chatter

Hopefully you have enjoyed the first half of the winter season, even though it has been a tough one for most of our teams, especially on the Ladies side. The good news for the Ladies is that attendance at Tuesday night training has increased and we have had quite a few new members join the club, whom are not only playing regularly but also supporting AHC off the field as well. In addition, several of the youngsters are progressing well through the teams and new coach Mandy Wain has safely settled in and is pleased with the progress being made, despite the poor results so far. Availability each week of players for Saturday's has been the main problem for the Ladies, and this, along with injuries has also affected the Men's section, especially the 1st XI who have also been struggling. The Men's 5th team are the one bright spot of the senior sides, but I am pleased to report that the Colts have been doing better and Peter's Cottrell's resume is printed within. On a more positive note, we have had several good AHC social events, with the third AHC Pop Idol event this month being especially successful. Congratulations and thanks to all those involved in organising all the social happenings, especially Wendy Baker, who despite being busy with domestic matters has kept things moving, along and her crew of staunch and reliable helpers. Deep Bassi also deserves our gratitude for his efforts with Pop Idol.

The new Company Ashford (Short Lane) Sports (A(SL)S) Ltd, formed by Ashford Cricket Club (ACC) and ourselves is moving forward slowly. Unfortunately, Bobbie Evans, who was an ACC member had to step down from the committee in September and has not as yet been replaced. We are now running the financial aspects of the facility and the demands on our time high. Please bear with us though and if you can help out in anyway with the maintenance or administrative aspects, let myself, Stacey Kenward, Sophie Smart or Dave Baker know. It is therefore still vital that the weekly voluntary bar rota continues and Gordon Smith has again being doing sterling work, along with key holders Mark Appleyard and now Bob Billins (thanks Bob and welcome onboard), to ensure our commitments are met. We would again like to ask more of you to step forward to help, so that the burden is shared out amongst everybody. We recently had Thornton's the company who laid the astro pitch, in to undertake an inspection of it and not surprisingly after nearly nine years of continual use, it needs to be professionally cleaned. The silt is visible during periods of heavy rain and this is slowing down the drainage of it. Sand is a natural abrasive so the pile has worn down and silt has contaminated the structure. We think the original carpet was 20mm thick when laid and had 120 tonnes of sand were laid onto it and is now 12mm thick. The cleaning process will be expensive and take probably a week (at the end of the season) to do and we may also get some maintenance work done of the seams of the carpet which are also starting to show through. Therefore can we ask you all to help by complying with the pitch rules and by keeping it clean and free from food, vegetation, liquids, bottles, china and other debris (soiled plasters, mud, chewing gum etc.) by using the four waste bins provided. Also please could you help us eradicate the smoking that appears to be taking place with the confines of the pitch, especially around the dug outs.

Unfortunately the new AHC website has not progressed as we had hoped and it has caused/is causing problems both for AHC members and visiting teams. It is another area where we are hoping for improvement in the New Year! On a different note AHC will be 90 years old in May 2009, so we would like to celebrate the occasion and would welcome your ideas on suitable ways of doing so. Finally, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year on and off the pitch and of course "COME ON U RED & BLACKS".

*Lynne (lynne.morgan@uk.bp.com)*

## Social News

Sorry forgot to mention in last newsletter that Laura Samouel and Scott got engaged and getting married in May 2008. Also Nads and John got engaged and are getting married May 2008. And of course Liv and Ben are also getting married in May, it's going to be a busy month!

## Stork Club

Nicky Daly had a baby boy on 27<sup>th</sup> September weighing 6lbs and 9oz and they have called him Noah Lucas Benedict.

George and Megan Clutton became proud parents of a baby boy called Jack in November.

Wends gave birth to a baby boy, Oliver Joseph Baker on 27<sup>th</sup> November, weighing in at just over 8lb.

Vidal gave birth to a baby boy, Freddy Oliver Symes on 30<sup>th</sup> November, weighing in at a magnificent 11lb 15oz!

Former Ashford Player Russ McQuillan has just had a baby girl on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December, weighing 7½ lbs, and she is called Evie Ann.

Last year's Ladies 1s Captain Jo Smith is due 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

## Entertainments -:

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December - Pop Idol 3

Was a storming success and we raised a magnificent £350+ profit. Thanks to everyone for buying tickets and supporting this event.

**Saturday 22nd December:** Children's Christmas party at 4-6pm - Child's Tickets £3. If you require tickets can you let Luvvy know on [t.holland@husonmedia.com](mailto:t.holland@husonmedia.com)

**Saturday 31st December:** New Year's Eve party 8-2am, children £5 and adults £10. Contact Kellie for further details and tickets are available from behind the bar.

## Senior Club Kit available to buy this season- contact Doreen Brown or Lynne Morgan

Socks - £6.00, Sizes Small (3-6) and Large (7-12)

Ladies league shirts (small sizes only) £20 each.

Unisex AHC black Warm up jackets @ £28

AHC Tracksuit Trousers @ £27

Unisex black hoody £15

Unisex AHC black Fleece @ £27

AHC Men's black Shorts @ £14

**Colts kit** - the Pro Shop at Brentford will supply AHC sweatshirts and hoody's in junior sizes and Peter Cottrell is dealing with colts shirts.

## Astro Draw Fund Winners

Oct - £100 Olly Smith, £50 Ray Edwards, £50 Digger

Nov - £100 Paul Neyton, £50 Matt Tomassi, £50 Gordon Smith

Dec - to be drawn on 22/12/07

## Training

Sunday Colts Training finishes 23rd December and restarts on 6th January.

Tuesday Colts Training finishes 18th December and restarts on 8th January.

Ladies Training finishes on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and restarts on Tuesday 8th January.

Men's Training finishes on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December and restarts on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

Lower team Men's Training finishes on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December and restarts on Thursday 10th January.

## AA's Chatter

- Not quite an Antique, but former junior star and regular Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI goalkeeper Leanne Sergeant left her teenage years behind a few months ago. Happy birthday Leanne and I hope the Police training is still going well.
- Raminder Vig put in a brief appearance at the club in November and umpired for the Men's 5<sup>th</sup> XI. On the same day, long time Club Chairman Jerry Haxton dropped in and although I only saw him briefly, he looked fit and well and reported that former AHC player's son Ian and daughter in law Linda are planning to retire to Spain in the near future and that neither are now playing any sport.
- AA's regular keeper Ali Boxell celebrated her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in November with a bash at the Club, organised by daughter Kirsty and club member Bryony Smith. Many happy returns Alison.
- Former regular Men's 1<sup>st</sup> player and Ladies coach Alan Watkinson did come down to the club for a meeting with Ben Washer and myself in October, and the only white ball Alan chases these days is a small dimpled one on a golf course!
- Colts coach and new 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Ladies regular, Sam Clarey has admitted that for years she played for Egham Ladies with ex Ashford player Alma Hughes Jones etc, never mind Sam, we are glad you saw the error of your ways and joined Ashford.....
- Long time AHC member Gordy Smith is celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> year of playing hockey at AHC this season, well done Gordy and after Mr Hockey (Peter Cottrell) we think you are the longest playing member of the Men's section. On the Ladies side, stalwart defender Doreen Brown is playing her 41st season, whilst following on, Jane English and myself are only in our 34/35<sup>th</sup> seasons'. In fact this summer whilst playing tennis for Walton, Jane met a couple of brothers (we can't remember their names), who were playing for AHC Men's 3<sup>rd</sup> XI when Jane first joined, the brother are now 70 years young.
- Whilst on the topic of long membership, we hope to get 90 year old AHC Vice President, Mrs Joan Wadmore along to our AA's annual Christmas challenge match against Sunbury Stars of the Past on 22/12/07. Joan isn't planning to play, just coach us from the sidelines or the comfort of the clubhouse. In addition, some AA's are

## \*\*\*\*\*2007/8 SUBSCRIPTIONS \*\*\*\*\*

Thank you to all of you who have paid or are paying your subscriptions by standing order, BUT MANY STILL HAVEN'T. Please could all regular members pay their subscriptions ASAP, as selection will be for paying members only in the New Year. The rates are shown below and standing order forms (which will need to be adjusted for the missing/late payments) are available on the notice board.

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Senior playing member<br>(Over 18 years at 1.10.07 and in employment)            | 12 payments of £24 = £288    |
| Senior playing member<br>(Over 18 years at 1.10.07 and unemployed, student etc.) | 12 payments of £15 = £180    |
| Junior playing member<br>(Under 18 years at 1.10.07)                             | 12 payments of £8.33p = £100 |
| Junior playing member<br>(Under 14 years at 1.10.07)                             | 12 payments of £5 = £60      |

Cheques should be made payable to Ashford Hockey Club.

Thank you Doreen Brown (Hon treasurer)

## The Season So Far....

### Mens and Ladies leagues

| Team      | Played | Won | Drawn | Lost | GF | GA | League Position |
|-----------|--------|-----|-------|------|----|----|-----------------|
| Mens 1s   | 11     | 2   | 1     | 8    | 22 | 34 | 11th            |
| Mens 2s   | 11     | 3   | 2     | 6    | 17 | 27 | 9th             |
| Mens 3s   | 11     | 5   | 2     | 4    | 28 | 34 | 7th             |
| Mens 4s   | 11     | 3   | 0     | 8    | 16 | 33 | 9th             |
| Mens 5s   | 9      | 7   | 0     | 2    | 29 | 22 | 3rd             |
| Mens 6s   | 7      | 1   | 1     | 5    | 8  | 30 | 8th             |
| Ladies 1s | 10     | 1   | 2     | 7    | 9  | 24 | 11th            |
| Ladies 2s | 10     | 1   | 1     | 8    | 10 | 28 | 9th             |
| Ladies 3s | 10     | 1   | 0     | 9    | 3  | 52 | 10th            |
| Ladies 4s | 9      | 0   | 1     | 8    | 4  | 36 | 10th            |

### Juniors

U9 Mixed - have won 2 tournaments and are so far undefeated.

U11 Boys - have won 1 tournament, finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in another and are also undefeated.

U12 Girls - have won 2 tournaments.

U14 Boys - after a hammering away to Southgate (0 - 10) in our main league we have gone from strength to strength, winning our next games 5 - 4, 13 - 1, 8 - 0, 13-2, 11-0 and 9 - 2 (against Staines no less!!). The boys have shown character beyond their years to come back and get the team into 2nd position, with the top 2 qualifying for the regional quarter finals.

U14 Girls- have had limited opportunity to shine and have only played 2 games so far, 1 draw and 1 defeat.

U16 Boys -like the U14's took a pasting at the start of the season against Woking but subsequently defeated Surbiton which included 1 national league player.

U16 Girls - have play 4 won 3 and drawn 1 and are top of their league.

U18 Boys - were comprehensively knocked out of the cup by Southgate but have come back strongly in their only league game defeating Teddington. Teddington's team had 5 boys who had played national league.

Despite all this success we are desperately short of players at all levels. Unless we get the players the production line will stop and we as a club will start to unravel. Please help by recruiting more kids.

### \*\*\*\*\* UMPIRES \*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations to Dean, Dan, Ian and Lianne who gained their Level 1 Umpiring badge in October. Ben, Ashley and Donna-Lee are part way through their training but the club still needs more umpires, as the more umpires we have the less burden it puts on our existing ones and the less point deductions we will incur. Teddington HC have kindly agreed to host a Level 1 umpire's course on Tuesday 15 & 22 January 2008, both evenings to start at 7.45 pm. Course fee £40. This can be reimbursed to you once you have qualified as a Level 1 Umpire and are umpiring AHC games. If you are interested and can make the dates please send a cheque payable to M.H.U.A to Luvvy ASAP as entries need to be in by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 and let me know by email [t.holland@husonmedia.com](mailto:t.holland@husonmedia.com)

**Have a good Christmas and New Year**

**Ed**