



The Chelmer

The Newsletter of the Friends of Chelmsford Hockey Club Re-united

Edition 1 – Spring 2009

The club has decided to form the “Friends of Chelmsford Hockey Club Re-united”.

The aim of the “Friends” is to keep all current members “informed” – Junior, Social, Associates, Adults, VPs and Life Members, but also, as well, to reach out to any ex-members of the club that are interested in how the club is doing and what we hope to do. We expect to host an informal cocktail party in the club house in October or November inviting as many ex members as we can trace.

The Chelmer is our Newsletter that we will be sending out by mail to whoever we can trace, starting with VPs, Life Members and any others that we can trace, that may be interested. It will also be on the club web-site. The aim is to produce *The Chelmer* twice yearly, but we’ll see how we go and we can increase the frequency, if there is enough interest and copy.

The intention is to be “light”, informative and to have something of interest to all. This, the first edition, has as many season’s reports as I can assemble plus a few other contributions – quirky, stuffy or banal – whatever. It goes without saying that contributions, letters, advice and maybe even mild abuse will be accepted for future editions. I have agreed to be editor for at least a couple of editions to get it under way and that, inevitably, has meant that I have had to write some of it – so apologies in advance for the style, or lack of it. Most captains or managers have penned their own team reports so some are long and some are refreshingly terse. I have used bits from around the club including from the Men’s 2’s self styled “Super 2s Newsletter”, but not being a playing member means that I will inevitably have missed some things and some people. So, apologies in advance, let me know and we can put it in the next edition.

Anyway, welcome to the first edition of *The Chelmer*.

Ed. (Doug Denman)



Contents:

Chairman's Blog	3 - 4
Swagmen	5 - 7
Team Reports	
Mens	
1st XI	7 - 10
2nd XI	10 - 12
3rd, 4th, 5th XIs	13 - 14
6th XI	15
Ladies	
1st XI	15 - 16
2nd XI	16 - 18
3rd, 4th,	19 - 20
5th XI	21
Evergreens, Mixed and Ladies Indoor 2nd & 3rd	22
CHC Coaching and Development	23 - 24
Chelmsford Vets	25
Girls Indoor	26 - 27
Sponsorship	28
Donations	28
Events	29
Remembering	30
New Vice Presidents	31
Musings of a Virtual Treasurer	32
Contact Details	33
Alliance Sports advert	34
Capital Spreads advert	35
Edmund Carr advert	36

Chairman's Blog

I'm delighted that we are re-introducing the Chelmsford HC newsletter – now known as "The Chelmer". We published a newsletter for many years and it was always read with interest by members and friends. But the advent of email and our first class website (www.chelmsfordhc.org.uk), so well managed by the Adrians (Tufty and Ericsson), saw it overtaken by a faster communication channel. It took Doug Denman's enthusiasm for the newsletter, and his recognition that there are still some of us who like to "hold" the news, to ensure its re-introduction. So, many thanks to him, and I very much hope that you will enjoy its contents.

We also welcome the formation of the Friends of Chelmsford Hockey Club Re-united, which aims to revive contact with many members and ex-members who otherwise may not be aware of what's going on in the club. We hope that having our news in this format will encourage you to drop into the clubhouse when you're in the Galleywood area. A traditional, warm Chelmsford welcome is guaranteed!

As you will see further inside The Chelmer, we have had an "interesting" season, particularly for our high profile flagship sides: the Men's and Ladies' 1st XIs who enjoyed seasons of mixed fortunes. The men had a nail biting finish to the season, but survived in the East Conference and also became the inaugural winners of the national Indoor Trophy competition. The Ladies, despite a much improved second half of the season were relegated to the East Conference. Both sides are very young and I was very proud of the way, despite many narrow defeats, they remained determined and gritty right to the last game – well supported to the end by their managers and coaches. They played with true Chelmsford spirit and I'm sure will do well next year.

But they are just two sides, and we continue (with some hard work from the Chairs of Selection!) to field in total 8 men and 5 ladies sides which achieved mixed results, but again played with spirit and enthusiasm. I hope that all players have said a big "thanks" to their captains, who have worked tirelessly and burnt out the phone lines to get sides out and ensure that everyone enjoys their hockey. Truly 13 unsung heroes!!

Over and above this we have a large and very active junior section with around 150 members supported by fantastic coaches and parents; indoor sides; a mixed XI, take part in tournaments, cup-runs and host many events at our splendid hockey centre including most recently the British Universities hockey

semi-finals with whom Ken Lochhead was associated for so many years. We have also been selected as one of the training centres for London 2012 – so you can see the pace at Chelmer Park never slows!!

We're very fortunate that over the years we have had many dedicated workers for the club on and off the field. Ursula Heelis stepped down as President at the end of last season. Ursula led a team which secured £1.2m of lottery funding for the water pitch and new changing rooms. This was finally commemorated by a smart plaque hanging just inside the changing room entrance lobby – "Better late than never!" I can hear Ros Marsh saying!!

We also lost a number of players who retired or left and I hope you won't mind me picking out some very significant departees from the ladies 1sts: Tracey Wilmore and Lynn Bollington, "Bolly", who we thought would play until she was nearly 100, decided to retire early having given 25 years of her playing life to the club. There is more on Bolly's hockey career elsewhere in "The Chelmer". And also our Beijing Olympians Lisa Wooding, Katy Roberts and Chloe Rogers (so you can see why our 1st XI girls were up against it this season!!). And now, Lisa Baillie – "Poodle" is retiring from being manager of the ladies at the end of this season. I know they will continue to give support to the club – as was noted at a recent presentation event, "Chelmsford players' blood runs green"!!

Just as we note players moving on to new pastures and challenges, you will also want to read the "Remembering" section for some old Chelmsford friends that have passed away this season.

No hockey club can survive these days without the enthusiasm of its members and financial support over and above subscriptions and match fees. Chelmsford's aim is to get our 1st XIs back into the premier divisions of the national league; and to ensure that we are well equipped to bring children into our wonderful sport and help them play at the highest level their abilities allow. We can't do that without generous support from sponsors and I would like to thank particularly our principal sponsor for the last two seasons - Capital Spreads; the many advertisers in our match programme and Alliance Sports who have taken over our kit supply.

Roll on 2009/10!

Spence

The Swagmen drop in - *(Bits from a chat with both of them at the clubhouse)*



Jamie & Geoff

Two Australians , Jamie Bahnish and Geoff Mills joined Chelmsford in late January to strengthen the Men's 1sts and try to help stop the firsts dropping out of the English Hockey East Conference League. Chelmsford sponsored them to play here with the 1sts in February and March. Geoff was a forward and Jamie a sweeper.

Both play for Forestville in the South Australia league (see their web-site on www.fhc.com.au – they have a catchy club song which Hunts has promised the firsts will sing at the Men's dinner). Both have represented South Australia at under 21 and other levels, although, perhaps a bit modestly, neither think they will break into full representation in the Australia squad which is overwhelmingly based in the National Academy in Perth, Western Australia.

Forestville as a club - "proudly the oldest hockey club in Australia" - is one of 8

or 10 bigger clubs in South Australia and in fact the structure of the club is very similar to Chelmsford's with 6 men, 4 ladies plus Vets and Juniors although Forestville, at only 104 years old is a mere youngster compared to Chelmsford which is now 111 years old. However I don't suppose Chelmsford can boast having had a one armed captain, which Forestville had in 1908 (see the photo on their web-site) – I guess he was nick-named the Fugitive. Forestville are known as the Panthers.

Both Geoff and Jamie are studying in the sports industry, Geoff as a teacher in 3rd – 9th grade and Jamie hopes to coach either hockey or Aussie Rules Football.

As well as playing with us, they took the opportunity to travel round Europe – Rome, Barcelona and so on and seem to have used opportunities to join in socially with the club. They stayed with David Hunter whilst here.

They have found the rules interpreted less tightly here, particularly on the strength into tackles which get a warning here but would get a yellow card in Australia – bit surprising really as we tend to think of Australians as a bit hard (watch a bit of Aussie Rules Football if you don't agree). Fitness levels and technical skills are similar.

Anyway they thoroughly enjoyed their stay with us and are grateful for the chance to help. We are glad to have had them with us as it has broadened our (and probably their) outlook and probably helped the firsts to stay in the league.

The Super 2s newsletter's "Column Inches" also interviewed the Aussies.....

Column Inches Reporter: *"Hi guys, how are you settling in over here? Bet the weather is a bit different to what you're used to in Auckland?"*

Jamie: *Yeah, we're getting on fine, bit cold but that's it. We're actually not from New Zealand, we're Aus.....*

Cl: *Yeah, Yeah, whatever, same thing. So it must be crazy flying halfway round the world, leaving your homeland behind. What's it like back home, did you see any of the Lord of the Rings being filmed?*

Geoff: *As Jamie said we're not from New Zealand!*

Cl: *Yeah of course you're not, why the funny accent then? And answer the question Kiwis!*

Jamie: *OK, it's a bit of a culture shock. We can't barter with sheep anymore, we have to use "money".*

Cl: *Wow, bet you miss all those sheep, hey?*

Geoff: *Yeah we miss them loads. Jamie: For bartering purposes of course.....*

Cl: *Oh OK, if you say so. What's it like living with a Saffa, there must be some All Black/Springbok rivalry?*

Jamie: *Crikey mate, for the last time we're not Kiwis!* Geoff: *We're Australian mate...*

Cl: *Wow really?! Oh well, still a bit freaked out at your sheep comments, just for bartering hey?!*



Mens 1s Review 2008/9 - "Seve" - Ian Belchamber

We win the Essex Indoor Cup and the National Indoor Trophy and stay in the National League (just).

2008-09 will not go down as one of Chelmsford 1st XI's finest, but in the end, the side did just enough to ensure National League hockey next season.

The side, not for the first time, enjoyed a very promising pre-season, with wins against Sevenoaks, Bath, Canterbury and Bourneville, but once the league season started the side only obtained one draw from the first six games. This was not helped by having no coach for until November, due to Duncan Woods' decision not to continue in the role.

Pete Mephram however, stepped into the role alongside his trusty sidekick, Sandra Seleska as the side's Manager and one of the first objectives was to improve the discipline, and this was extremely successful, going seven games without a yellow card (which considering the double digit yellow cards, plus

one red was a remarkable achievement!).

At Christmas we were rock bottom, with just three draws. All of these draws were grabbed from the jaws of victory, as we imploded on more than one occasion to concede important late goals. In fact, I think if games were 68 minutes long we probably would have doubled our points tally over the course of the whole season.

Over Christmas we had a re-think about the side and we looked overseas for help and we were very lucky to obtain the services of Jamie Bahnisch and Geoff Mills. Unfortunately, this meant that we could no longer use the services of Kiwi goalkeeper Dean Armstrong due to the overseas player rules. Dean had done a sterling job for us, but we felt the introduction of outfield players to add quality and more playing depth was the key to our survival.

Both the Australians brought with them not just playing quality but also a fresh set of ideas which livened up the squad. This had an immediate impact with four points in our first three games after the Christmas break (more of this break, I will come onto later) and that included our first victory, by the small matter of 10 goals to one!!

Unfortunately, we then lost this momentum we had built up and went on a six game losing streak, although we could easily have got four points from those games, as again we imploded on too many occasions. This left us with a nail-biter finish in a must win game against Ipswich. A 6-3 victory was well deserved and guaranteed National League hockey for another season.

Part of the side's problem this season, was the unprecedented number of injuries we had to contend with. Only four players managed to play every game, and all but one of those had to be nursed through games. Josh Mephram would almost certainly have been close to being our player of the season, if only he had played more than the nine or so he actually managed – the fact that he ended up top-scorer says a lot of our chances of success if he can complete the whole of next season.

We were also able to welcome back after Christmas, Adam Hunter, Adi Palmer, Will Hales, Richard Nourse and Ross Henderson after long term injuries or travelling commitments, which made a huge difference to the strength and depth of squad. Carl Wright also came into the side in goal, and produced a number of impressive performances. When you combine this with the vast amount of work Carl does off the pitch for the club, he is now a vital cog in the

wheel of Chelmsford Hockey Club.

One of the major plus points we ended up with after Christmas, was a highly slick short corner routine, including our "banker" which worked four times out of five (the other being saved on the line). Having gone a couple of seasons scoring a single digit number of corners, we ended up with this being a major strength – our big problem was that we did not win enough corners (I think we won two in four games at one point).

The season also saw a couple of big landmarks, with Adam Hunter reaching the feat of 100 National League appearances, and becoming the seventh player so to do and David Hunter becoming the first male Chelmsford hockey player to the landmark of 200 appearances. When you consider that is at least twelve years of National League hockey, it is a very impressive achievement (although Bolly makes it seem incredibly insignificant!!!). Hunts was also deservedly awarded the Player of the Season award.

So, onwards and upwards for the team. Clubs do go through cycles, and hopefully, much like the British economy, history will show 2009 to be the bottom of the trough for the club and we can start to pick ourselves upwards. We obviously need to go away and work out the best way to strengthen the side, both for the short term and more importantly, the long term. The talent is certainly there in the squad and the players we have should not really be scrapping for their National League status. We have a good mix of young, raw ability and old farts at the back – maybe it is just that little X-Factor that perhaps we are missing.

The season though was not all negative. The Indoor season was almost an unparalleled success for the men. Firstly, the side won the East Indoor, which I think is a first for the men. When you consider we beat fashionable indoor sides like St Albans (who were promoted back to the National League Premier Division) it shows where we stand as an indoor team.

This was followed up with success in the inaugural National Indoor Trophy, beating Leek on penalty strokes in the final. Two trophies in one season must surely be counted as a roaring success and can hopefully lead to greater things for the squad, both indoors and out.

Finally, as I mentioned before, Pete Mepham and Sandra Seleska stepped into the coach and manager roles part of the way through the season. Both have done absolutely fantastic jobs and made my life so much easier! Sandra

stepped in following Woody's decision to step down due to the ongoing problems with his ankle. As I am sure everyone is aware Woody has spent many years being involved with the first team and has always done a great job. It is good to see that Woody has managed to make it to the majority of our home games and his foot is improving – I know that all the guys really enjoy having a beer with him after the game.



Standing – L-R – Sandra Seleska (Manager), Adi Palmer, Ian Belchamber (Capt), Adam Hunter, Elliott Seleska, Adam Carter, David Hunter, Richard Nourse, Luke Mepham, Ben Farmer, Pete Mepham (Coach).

Front Row –L-R Sam Rayner, Josh Mepham, Oli Wickham, Ed Stanhope, Will Hales, Geoff Mills, Jamie Bahnish, Shuhel Malique,

Laying Down – Carl Wright

Chelmsford Men's 2s – The Super 2s - Rob Wallbank

The Super 2s embarked on a journey into the unknown this season, leaving the East Leagues behind them and moving to Higgins London League Division 1. Our mission this year was to stay in the league and enjoy ourselves doing it. After 22 games we achieved our first goal (just), and for all involved I think we achieved the second as well.

To the untrained eye we seemed a very unorganised squad. But in fact we were very prepared. Starting in the summer break with fitness training once a week, we began before the 1st XI did.... This was a early indication of who our stars were going to be during the season - Adam Carter turning up to the first fitness session on grass with full hockey kit, and Jon Wilcox making a name for himself in the touch rugby but quickly suffering cramp in both calves causing him to perform an emergency dive and then having to stop again on the Army & Navy roundabout whilst driving home.

We had a number of preseason friendlies including the PLUM Tournament - mixed results, with hockey itself coming out as the winner on all occasions.

Although we had attracted some international talent for the new season (ok maybe not, but Mixie had been working in Hong Kong for a few months and Ryan moved up from Brighton which I hear you need a passport to enter) we were still at times short of players. I would like to say that this occasional lack of players effected the results but it was usually just due to the rest of us playing badly. All in all the team had an enjoyable run out in the London League and it was good to be playing at established National League clubs such as Surbiton, Southgate, Reading and EG even though they seemed to put out very different squads to when they came to play at Chelmer Park!

All the guys involved made it a great season, so I've recapped on as many of the players as possible (sorry if I've missed you out...)

Wrighty - Chief sieve for the first half of the season, letting in 33 goals in 11 games before being snapped up by the 1st team due to their "overseas player issues".

Briggsy - Stepped up to fill Wrighty's hole... Did a great job against many ex national league (and we suspect some current national league) drag flickers.

Gav - Grumpiest coach in the world, but thanks go to him as he got the team organised and without him we would have been in trouble.

Bruiser - The only guy who can hospitalise opposition and only get a yellow card! Made a big difference in some games, bagging goals in vital home wins against EG and Reading.

Pidge - Back to his best (hate to see what his worst was...) Drag flicks in both Southgate games helped off the ground but a defender's deflection...

Buddy - Inspirational centre forward. 15 games, 1 goal. And we lost 4-2 in that game, thanks for your input Buddy....

George - "Moral boosting stories from a very disturbed boy" is one way of picturing George's input to the pre-match talks. He played a bit of hockey too.

Ryan - 29 going on 9, but a great asset to the team. But for the safety of others should be separated from George when in public.

Hartley - One of the few 2s players from last season, still fitted into the new Super 2s regime well. But was subjected to Ryan's hair related puns.

Adam Carter - Great young player, but was demoted to the 1s on a few occasions. We did find out that he DJs kids parties...weird.

Noursey - I haven't got time or space in the newsletter to write all I want on Noursey. Chief snitch and fines master, and a reluctant defender for most of the season. His only goal of the season was spoilt by his ridiculous celebration.

Jon Wilcox - Top goal scorer in only 9 league games. Old school Chelmsford quality as you'd expect.

Mixie - Probably the most unorganised person we've ever met. Leaves for an away game with no Sat-Nav or map but figures that as he's an attacker he can be late for the team talk as we'll get to him last! Also the only person in history to call a 6 in a game of 5s.

Spesh - Promised so much, delivered so little. Played 2, lost 2, 1 yellow card. They were fun times Spesh, thanks for being on board.

So after what seemed a long season full of plenty of injuries (too many to mention) our final standings were as follows:

P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
22	5	3	14	48	67	-19	18

Player of the year - Adam Carter

Top goal scorer - Jon Wilcox



Men's 3rd XI

Played 22, Won 5, Drew 3, Lost 14, GF 33, GA 56. P18.

The 3s just avoided relegation by a better goal difference playing in the East League Division 3SE

Men's 4th XI - Div 4SE - Adrian Ericsson

Played 22, Won 9, Lost 13, Goals For 44, Goals Against 90, Points 27. Finished 7th.

After achieving promotion as Champions from Division 5 last year the team entered the season with some trepidation.

With nine wins and a respectable 7th place finish it might appear to have been a comfortable season. On the other hand it was a season that could easily have seen 22 defeats.

In a tight opening game of the season, playing with 10, we were edged out by Old Southendian. This did not prove to be an omen, from that match on there was a habit of winning close matches and getting hammered in others. The top teams in the league proved far too strong, the top three scoring nearly 50 goals in the six matches.

Only the bottom team in the league conceded more goals than us. At least we avoided conceding double figures in any game, even if Adrian Ericsson had to sacrifice his patella tendon at London Met University, bringing an end to what was shaping into a massacre.

In spite of the defensive record, the defenders were pretty decent this season. Adrian had a fine game against Upminster 3rds, as we won a dreadful game 3-2. Richard Ross and Matt Calderwood were a solid pairing. Tim Fox and Stefan Clough were marauding presences at full back and occasionally in other positions. James Shorey made good progress, being particularly important in a 2-1 win at Colchester.

Will Stanhope and Tim Clarke produced some good play and were always ready to spring attacks from midfield, partly because they rarely tracked back. This left Alistair Fergus firefighting at the base of the midfield, at the defensive end he found ruining attacks a much more difficult task. David Kitchiner was a reassuring presence, providing much needed experience and bite.

Elliott Ball worked tirelessly up front and generally played very well. He proved an elusive presence for both opposition defenders and those collecting the match fees. Adrian Tuff had some important cameos and Simon Bird made big improvements in the first few weeks of the season.

Roy Gemmill's skills were missed in the second half of the season. His constant criticism of the umpire was not, Jon Lambert proving an adequate substitute in that regard.

Some good hockey was played along the way although not usually by us. Gritty would best describe wins over Colchester, Maldon & Little Baddow, Upminster 3rds and East London.

The last few weeks of the season were a bit of an anticlimax because the side was broken up to try and help other sides cover unavailability.

Losing the last four games was a disappointing and undeserved end to the year.

Highlight of the season was a fortunate win over Witham. Holding on at 1-1 with ten minutes left an umpire finally got fed up with Roy and sent him off. As if that wasn't highlight enough, Elliott scored to make it 2-1. In the final moments of the game, Adrian Tuff finally succeeded with a lob over the keeper. The key turned out to be using what might euphemistically be called the outer edge of the D.

Not sure how, but Adrian Ericsson received the most votes for player of the season (Probably the sympathy vote). At least he will not be conceding as many next year with his enforced lay off.

Thanks must go to Chris Denman whose umpiring makes life much easier for the captain.

Men's 5th XI

Played 22, Won 8, Drew 0, Lost 14. GF 54, GA 80, P24, came 9th in East League Division 2NW.

Men's 6th XI - Paul Fielding

Played 18 Won 2 Draw 2 Lost 13 For 18 Against 87 GD -69 Points 8.

Team Relegated from 9SE

A very enjoyable season for 6th XI, where despite losing so many games we played with great enthusiasm in all our games. The team was its usual blend of youth and experience and it was particularly pleasing to see so many young players coming into the team and developing their skills in adult hockey.

Joshua Clark, Andrew Bird, Daniel Thomas, Alex Ryce, Harry Smith, Ollie Headon, Matt Need and James Ruff played in most of the games and all showed they have potential to progress up the club in years to come. The adults in the team also contributed to the great spirit in the team and special thanks go to Chris Randall, Alan Ball, Dan Burch and Steve Sale.

Finding a goalkeeper each week was always a challenge and it was really pleasing to see so many keepers from other teams willing to help us out - Crawford Mckee, Carl Wright, Tim Briggs, Adrian Ericson and Fred Matthews. It's a rare moment when the 6th XI is the talk of the club, but it certainly was when we lost 19-1 to Rhamgaria before Christmas - I'm not sure Fred has recovered from the experience!! It was, therefore, all the more satisfying to keep them to 6-1 in the return fixture and just showed how much we had improved as a team.

I would like to thank Bunny King for the excellent work she did in providing umpires' each week and also to our marvellous caterers for providing the best food in the league.

Chelmsford Ladies 1's - "Poodle" - Lisa Baillie

Following last season's win in the relegation play-offs, the Ladies 1st team knew it would be difficult for them to remain in the top flight of English hockey. Especially when it should be remembered that during the summer break there was a new coach appointed and 6 players from the previous season had either retired or left for new challenges.

Throughout the season, the team suffered some heavy defeats. It would have been easier for Alan Lindsay to have picked the team full of defenders in a bid to stop these score-lines. Instead, his continued enthusiasm was an example to all with his belief in that hockey should be played in an attacking manner.

Chelmsford won several admirers this season in the way they conducted themselves on the pitch and their 'never-say-die' attitude. This is largely due to the continued enthusiasm of Lindsay and captain Marie Arber.

It took till the last game before the break for the indoor season before the Ladies won their first point of the season – this was against old rivals Ipswich.

The indoor season was a welcome break and, with the inclusion of Chloe Rogers and Beccy McGuinness, the indoor squad narrowly missed out on 4th spot for the finals, which were held at the NIA, Birmingham.

As the second half of the outdoor season resumed the team began to score goals. The inexperienced squad was still much in evidence though and some soft goals were conceded. These began to count dearly as the gap between the other teams in the league increased.

Amazingly, the team still had a chance of climbing out of the automatic relegation position right until their penultimate league fixture. As it was, having lost to Clifton in their away fixture, whilst driving back along the M4, the team learnt that Ipswich had their match and so it was that Chelmsford were relegated.

With the last Slazenger Premier Division at home against Ipswich, Chelmsford showed all the fighting spirit which had been in much evidence throughout the season, and finished their season with a well-earned draw.

When reviewing season 2008/09, the Ladies first team were just not good enough to remain in the Premier Division. One reason is definitely the loss of so many players these past few years. It is now time to move on and the future does look positive with the current squad still consisting of a nucleus of experienced players who won silver in the Club European Cup and a draft of younger players who promise great things.

Next season, under the guidance of Alan Lindsay, it will be hoped that the team can get back into the habit of winning and it will not be long before Chelmsford Ladies return to top flight hockey.

Ladies 2's - Review 2008/9 - Lisa Crane

Final League Position: 6th, East League Women's Premier

Matches won: 6, matches drawn: 9 matches lost: 7

Goals for: 38, goals against: 50

The Ladies 2nd XI started the 2008/09 season a much changed squad with a number of players as well as last season's coach, Alan Lindsey, stepping up to

the 1st XI. We were extremely pleased to welcome a new player/coach in the form of Kath Macdonald who brought with her a wealth of national league coaching experience and helped the team to forge a fantastic team ethos both on and off the pitch.

The squad was strengthened further by the timely arrivals of four new players in Louisa Smith (transfer from Chichester), Judith Duffin (transfer from Bishop's Stortford), Van Smith (transfer from X) and Ruth Astle (transfer from X). There were also opportunities for some much-improved younger players to step up into the team with both Claudia Sidoli and Poppy Church moving up from the 3rd XI while Georgia Herron, named most Promising Junior for the Ladies section, jumping two teams from the 4th XI.

Despite the significant change to personnel, the team enjoyed a dream start to the season beating newly promoted West Herts followed by a win over Holcombe, who were hoping to emulate their success of the season prior. It wasn't until the end of October that the team suffered their first defeat of the season at the hands of eventual league winners, Cambridge City. This dip in form continued until the Christmas break and was compounded by the sidelining of both Lisa Crane and Anna Smith through injury. At points during this five week period, the team did show some great form but were unable to gain the consistency needed to grind out some much needed results, dropping points against Lowestoft, Canterbury and Sudbury.

The New Year break did little alleviate any player woes, with Lisa Crane again out for the media term as a result of a snowboarding injury and a further two players unavailable for the remainder of the season. On several occasions, the player shortage led to the team only being able to field the bare minimum of 11 players and in some cases injured players having to take to the pitch! On a positive note it was during this period that the youngster Church and Herron showed their potential as permanent 2nd XI players, while Katie Roberts showed some excellent form to become a major threat in the midfield line up.

The weather undoubtedly played its part in the season, allowing the team to re-group and take advantage of a back to strength squad for the rearranged games. Having changed the team's formation to strengthen the midfield and allow the pace of the forward line freedom to roam, we entered the rearranged fixtures against league leaders Cambridge City and Dereham with renewed confidence. Encouraging performances in both matches, lead by a strong defence marshalled by Anna Smith and Sarah Williams who both performed solidly throughout the season, saw the team erase the two heavy defeats pre-Christmas, narrowly losing out on closely contested battles on both occasions.

With the season nearing an end, the team failed to pick up three points against bottom of the league Bury St Edmunds and relegation-threatened Sudbury. These were both disappointing results given the strong team performances during which joint top goal scorers of the season, Ally Farrar (player of the season) and Karen Cooper, featured on the score sheet.

This resulted in the greens needing a win in their penultimate game at home against Thurrock to be certain of avoiding relegation. It was this game where the team managed to a pull out the sort of performance that they had threatened all season. In an emphatic 5-1 victory (in a game full of drama), the Ladies 2nd XI capped off a solid season and showed excellent form that we will be hoping to carry through to next year.

The team again will undergo some player changes moving into 2009/2010, losing Sarah Williams, Claudia Sidoli and Sophie Stock who all head off to university. We wish them all well.



Back row left to right: Kath Macdonald, Karen Cooper, Poppy Church, Sarah Williams, Claudia Sidoli, Katie Roberts, Anna Smith.

Front row left to right: Lisa Crane, Sophie Stock, Chelsey Claridge, Judith Duffin, Ally Farrar, Georgia Herron.
(Missing – Van Smith and Louisa Smith)

Ladies 3's – Review of the 2008/9 Season

Having just been promoted from the Essex Premier League to East Second Division in 2007/8 the team were somewhat apprehensive coming into a league with all the other teams being other clubs' first or second elevens. Also with us having a squad with only two players over 28 and the rest being 15 to 18 year olds, we faced a potentially difficult season. And the first part of the season was mostly losses and draws, until we settled down later in the season, although one notable game was against Wapping whom we beat 4-2 and we played so well that they thought we had played ringers - but we had not.

It was not until the weekend before the last of the season where we had to get 4 points over two games that we could be sure of staying in the division. And we did it. That weekend we played brilliantly and beat Cambridge Nomads 6-3 and drew 1-1 with Waltham Forest who were second in the league.

The player of the year was Rosie Patterson, whose second season with us was in a new position.

The 3's had a number of girls nominated for club young player of the year and Georgia Herron won it. Also to be mentioned as having excellent seasons for us were Angharad Knill and Jenny Spindler.

Everyone in the team had a job so that the captain's job was mainly on the pitch. A big vote of thanks to Simon Price for his coaching and for Hilary Patterson who was manager which took a load off me.

Also particular thanks to a great set of parents who supported in all weathers, home and away – even Newmarket and Cambridge. With such a young squad there are not many drivers....or drinkers!!

Bunny King and Janet Sutton did much of the umpiring and many thanks to them as well.

A great squad and a good first year in the East League.

Andrea



Ladies' 4th XI - Sarah Hingston

Its been another tough season for the Ladies 4thXI in Essex Division 1. The team welcomed a number of new players at the start of the season with youngsters Emily Acorn, Adrienne Devonish and Maddie Newlyn joining us from the Under 15s. Last years defence of Sue Miller, Sarah Eagar, Sarah Hingston and Nikki Tuff continued to add some experience at the back whilst the younger members of the team were expected to run their legs off in the mid field and up front (it all looks very easy from the back!).As no one had volunteered to Captain the team Sarah Eagar, Sarah Hingston and Janet Sutton agreed to do the job between them.

The first half of the season started badly with 4 straight losses which left us propping up the table with Southend 4th XI. With some of the team having never played 11 a side hockey before the start of this season the team took its time to gel and it was our next game against Essex Uni that we managed to use our experience at the back and young speed and enthusiasm up front to get our first point of the season. We then played East London in the worse weather of the season, with horizontal rain lashing down. A mention must be made for the parents and the Tuff family who braved the weather to watch us loose 5-1! I think Jessica Tuffs wellies had 3 inches of water inside them when she poured them out all over the changing room floor! (Nikki, I am sure you will be returning the favour when she is running about in a Green shirt in the future!) We picked up one more point before Christmas against Southend 4s which left us just above them in the league.

After the Christmas break the teams performances improved vastly much to the travelling parents relief! We managed wins against Upminster 2s, East London 1s (thanks to their Captain for turning up with 9 players and a horrendous hang over! Every point counts!) and importantly Southend 4s. The team suddenly started to realise that they could play hockey and even score the odd goal. Consistently strong performances from everyone but in particular Charlotte McGuiness, Emily Acorn and Maddie Newlyn has meant that we had ended the season on 11 points.

Looking forward to next year, we loose Sarah Eagar off to Uni but hope to keep the rest of the team together so we can build on the improvements we have made this year.

A huge thanks for the 25 plus players who have played for us and the various parents who have taxied us around Essex and cheered us on. Also thanks to Janet for all her hard work in getting a team out each week and to Bunny for sorting umpires out.

Ladies 5th XI - Gill Hickman & Tina Parrish

A tough season with lots of “minuses” but plenty of “pluses” too. Having finished 4th in Division 3 last season, we were surprised, to say the least, to find ourselves in Division 2 for 2008/9. When September came round, several of last season’s players disappeared to higher teams so we were up against it from the start.

However, to set the tone for the season Tina Parish adopted a “never say die” attitude. She spent huge amounts of time and effort every week in simply getting a team out, though after Christmas in particular the “team” often numbered only 10 players, sometimes 9 and, on one occasion, only 8! Some people might have given up the struggle, but not Tina, and only on the penultimate Saturday of the season (when the 4ths couldn’t raise a team so the 5ths players filled in for them) were we finally removed from the League for defaulting on 3 matches during the season. Tina certainly deserved her nomination for consideration as Club member of the year.

Apart from Tina’s heroic efforts there were other pluses too:-

- Regular commitment from some of the juniors, especially Jess Langley and Olivia Ball and of course from several stalwart “oldies” who I shan’t name in case they’re offended by the title!
- Having regular umpires, thanks to Bunny’s very efficient system.
- Support from families and friends. On several occasions, mums (they know who they are!) having unsuspectingly turned up to watch the game, found themselves co-opted as players to make up the numbers. One even scored a goal!
- Team spirit, a positive attitude and support for each other. We hope that everyone who played for the 5ths enjoyed the experience.
- We had no headaches over making substitutions as we never had any “subs”

As I said it was a hard season but we’re still smiling. Let’s hope there can still be a 5th XI next season (remember Chris, you’ve got to get your moneys worth from that new stick!)

Evergreens

The Men's Evergreens side played some 24 friendly games. They Won 8, Drew 5 and Lost 11 and seem to have managed both to score 61 goals and concede 61, which is very friendly and they probably enjoyed most of their outings!

Mixed

Played 6, Won 3, Drew 2 and lost 1 and came 2nd in the Essex Division 1 East Mixed League.

Ladies Indoor 2nds – Kat Letts

Champions of Essex Ladies Indoor Division 1

Playing in their last game of the season, Chelmsfords Ladies 2nds needed a win in their final game to be champions. In a nail-biting finish Chelmsford scored the winner from the final short corner of the game against Old Loughtonians to win 4-3 and finish with the same points as Waltham Forest but with a much superior goal difference and become Champions.

Ladies Indoor 3rds. - Kat Letts

Second in Essex Ladies Indoor Division 2

Due to popular demand, in their inaugural season, the team of Ladies 3s finished a very creditable 2nd, only losing one game and with a goal difference of +31, the same as Upminster, the unbeaten champions.

CHC Coaching and Development

It is an obvious thing that good coaching is the only sustainable route to a strong club. Unlike football teams, and indeed some other hockey clubs, we are not able to buy players and although this year we have been able to use funds to bring in some temporary support players we need to consider our coaching and development policy.

This season we have had Alan Lindsay coaching the Ladies 1sts and whilst we have not been able to stay in the premiership this was due mainly to the departure of senior players, mostly known about in advance, but too severe to be able to ride out. When a team loses the services of four current internationals and the likes of Lyn Bollington and Tracey Willmore - leaving a team of promising youngsters - Alan's job was always going to be uphill. The youngsters came on well as individuals and as a team through the season but the strength and experience wasn't there to survive in the top flight. The expectation is that this group of players can be kept together and then the work this season will be rewarded next – particularly if we can add one or two older heads in the off-season.

Kath McDonald – a former 1st XI player who has been away from the Club coaching elsewhere and has had a baby – has been coaching the 2nd XI. They have again held their own in the East Premier League, although Kath has been disappointed that player availability has been patchy – resulting in a lack of competition for places at times and bringing players up and down from the 3rd XI inevitably disrupts team patterns of play. The 2nd XI and 3rd XI have both had a good share of under 18s – illustrating the success and strength of the club in youth development.

Simon Price has coached the Ladies 3rd XI and provides a helpful link with the youth section where he coaches the Girls Under 15 team. The 3rd XI were promoted into Division 2 SW at the end of last season and while they found it tough won 5 and drew 6 of their 22 games to retain the status for next year.

The Men's 1sts suffered when Duncan Wood decided not to stay on after pre-season preparation and, after a period without a coach, Peter Mephram stepped in to make a real difference to fitness, organisation on the pitch and morale. The 1st XI clinched the retention of their place in the East Conference with the last match of the season, beating Ipswich and condemning them to relegation. The team played very well at times and if they had had a natural goalscoring centre forward they would have ended up in the top half of the

table. They were strengthened in the second half of the season by two under 21 Aussies who came across to experience life in the UK for 3 months. Our thanks go to them and to Peter Mephram.

The Mens 2nd XI this year joined the London League – partly for the consistency of level of competition and partly because the travelling is much easier than to Wisbech and Lincolnshire. They had a thoroughly enjoyable time in the 1st Division – and probably enjoyed more games than they won! Nevertheless with Gavin Spencer's coaching they secured a second season in the 1st Division of the London League and should really have achieved more wins for the quality of their play at times.

Liam Dowling, who is County Under 16 boys coach, took on the job of coaching the 3rd XI to try to maximise on the Mens side the preparation of our under 16s and under 18s for 2nd and 1st XI hockey. He worked hard to try to install discipline and professionalism in the team but many of the older players struggled to make training and were not keen on a meet 2 hours before the game started for a tactics talk with a whiteboard before warm-up!

This illustrates an important point that the coaching strategy needs to be joined up across the club so that all teams at the higher end are playing to consistent approaches and the youth section are preparing players for styles of hockey and a standard of basic skills that will enable them to play at a high level. This includes decisions on how much we are going to reflect in the club's teams the single system of England Hockey with an emphasis inter alia on 5:3:2 (which our older readers will be more familiar with than those under 40!) We do not at the moment have a Club Head Coach but need to think about this as a position. In the meantime the coaches meet every 4 to 6 weeks to share plans and experience and to do our best to ensure we are joined up in what we do.

This article focuses on outdoor and adult hockey. Future articles can look at the indoor game and the youth section.



Chelmsford Veterans 2008 / 09

The squad has completed another enjoyable and to some degree successful season. Despite a number of injuries which seemed to affect the forwards in the early part of the season and the defenders towards the end of the season, we managed to fulfil our fixture list with invariably a full contingent of players and in some cases we had the luxury of substitutes. Overall some 23 players have turned out for us which included a number of new players but unfortunately despite this the average age of the team is still the 'wrong' side of 50. This is a bit of a hindrance when we come up against teams in our league who have a number of 40+ somethings in key positions but it hasn't stopped our enjoyment of the game.

We participate in the East Veterans League which because of its lack of promotion and relegation means that we come across the same opponents twice a year every year meaning good competitive games and a good social time afterwards in the bar. This year we finished in 5th place out of 10 teams which is pretty good going. We ended up winning as many games as we lost and our performances ranged from the abysmal (thankfully in only a couple of games) to very good (even in games where we ended up losing).

With 23 players involved during the year it is difficult to praise everyone in this short resume but the following deserve special mention. Rob for all his goals (he ended up leading goal scorer in the club) and for the fact that he was prepared to delay his goal scoring celebrations until he rendezvoused with the rest of us at the half way line! Graham Wood for playing in a different position every week (except goalkeeper) and also umpiring whenever he was injured. Spence for also doing more than his fair share of umpiring.

Because of our age most of us managed to qualify for inclusion in the Chelmsford Vintage (over 50's) Cup team. This year we managed to get to the third round by beating Cambridge City on sudden death penalty flicks, which for us old men is probably not the way you would want to win and Old Victorians (Jersey) away before succumbing to Canterbury who reached the semi finals. The trip to Jersey to play Old Victorians was especially enjoyable and for this we must thank Fred Matthews for his great organisational skills.

Final congratulations to Graham Wood as our player of the season. We look forward to next year, current ailments permitting.

David Woods

Girls Indoor Hockey 2008-09 Report: Hilary Malicka

- Girls Under16 Indoor squad 2008/09 were Essex champions, East r/up and National Finals semi-finalists.
- Girls Under 18 Indoor squad 2008-09 were Essex and East Champions and National finalists

The Girls Indoor Hockey teams have enjoyed another extremely successful season with both the U16 and U18 squads winning through to the National Finals in Worcester.

This was quite some achievement this season, as our usual training facility at New Hall school was no longer available owing to the expansion of the Boys dept and their need to use it for 5-a side football. However a few sessions were hastily booked at Sandon school, which is slightly smaller than required, and these were enough to prepare for the Essex championship in mid-November. Both squads were crowned Essex champions and progressed to the East round. Here, the U18s won their tournament and the U16s also booked a National final spot by finishing as runners up to Harleston Magpies.

In the New Year, the U16s took their revenge on the Magpies by beating them in the final of the Brentwood Youth Indoor Tournament. This gave them a real lift in their build up for the Nationals.

At the National Finals this year, the coaching teams were once again very stretched as both tournaments were scheduled at the same time and thirty miles apart! The coaching team for the U18s was Lisa Wooding (who flew in from Hamburg especially), Lynn Bollington and Rosie Maxey. The U16s coaching team was Alan Lindsay, Hilary Malicka and Mervyn Patterson.

Both squads played well and gained massive experience from the event but you can't afford to have any poor matches at the National finals and both teams were punished for lack of focus in their key matches. The U18s lost their crucial first match in their tournament and were left facing a real uphill task to qualify in their extremely tough pool. (Results below) The U16s started brightly in their tournament, producing some thumping victories in their pool matches. This propelled them into the semi-final, but they were unfortunately unable to reproduce their top form in this key match and lost out to an aggressive Horsham side who went on to be beaten in the final by the squad's old rivals, yes, Harleston Magpies!

All the girls should feel proud of their achievements in Indoor this year. Chelmsford HC have built on their reputation as a club that plays Indoor hockey properly. However we need to work to identify a sports hall where we can practice. This year we had very little opportunity to add to our squads and we were unable to provide facilities and coaching to any new younger players coming up. We relied heavily on the groundwork put in by Lisa Wooding and Simon Letchford last year. This is a major issue facing the future of Indoor hockey the club.

The players and coaches would like to extend their special thanks to their sponsors:, Greentarget, XMCS, Alliance Sports and Fasttrack Compliance and Consulting for their terrific support and assistance at the National Finals this season.

Girls U18s Indoor squad 2008-09: Essex and East Champions and National finalists

Squad: Kathryn Ecott, Chelsey Claridge, Jess Ecott, Sarah Williams, Sophie Stock, Kate Maxey, Harriet Price, Claudia Sidoli, Helena Roberts, Sarah Glanvill.

National Finals results:

Bradford Wakefield LHC	3	-	2	Chelmsford HC
Chelmsford HC	6	-	1	Isca Dragons HC
Belper HC	4	-	1	Chelmsford HC
Chelmsford HC	2	-	4	Kingston Grammar

Girls Under16 Indoor squad 2008/09: Essex champions, East r/up and National Finals semi-finalists

Squad: Martha Jenkinson, Isobel Hare, Katie Roberts, Sophie Nehammer, Rosie Patterson, Charlotte McGuinness, Georgia Herron, Jocasta Staines, Phillippa Went, Jenny Spindler

National Finals results:

Chelmsford HC	5	-	1	Millfield School
Sharnbrook School	0	-	6	Chelmsford HC
Wakefield GHS	2	-	3	Chelmsford HC
Chelmsford HC	1	-	1	Trojans HC
Chelmsford HC	2	-	4	Horsham HC

Sponsorship

Capital Spreads. The club has been extremely lucky to have major sponsorship in the last two seasons from Capital Spreads – a London Financial Firm whose owner is a club member. The club has decided to commit these funds to coaching and development in it's broadest sense and has set up a specific with this money for this sole purpose.

Alliance Sports. Until the end of 2007/8 the club had been sponsored by Kukri who supplied some of our kit and some funds as "part of the deal". From this last season we welcome Alliance Sports as our kit sponsor in a 4 year arrangement in which they pay some money but supply us with kit through the club, already having kitted out the two flagship first elevens. This seems to be working well. Alliance Sports is Neil Stanhope's firm and he is often at the club with his stall selling kit.

There have also been other sponsors during the season, some supporting individual events and some in the form of donations from friends, well-wishers, parents and some sponsoring teams such as Hill and Abbot for the Ladies 2nds. A number of sponsors from previous seasons are "still with us", Edmund Carr, W.E.Cox Claims Group.

The club are hoping by next season to find someone to take on the role of Sponsorship supremo to produce a Sponsorship Strategy and to liaise with our sponsorship friends.



Donations

There have been a number of donations this season already but we want to be sure that we have mentioned everyone that is prepared to be thanked publicly and so we will publish a list of names in the next edition, when we have checked it out.

Events of the season

There have already been a number of events – Ladies Night, The 3 Day Beer Festival mainly run by Nigel King, the Whisky Night, the Christmas Party, the Club Day and the Quiz Night.

The Men's Dinner is on Friday the 1st May at the clubhouse.

In future editions we hope to get fuller reports on some of those

(hint from the Editor)

The bi-annual 2008/9 end of season ball

This took place on Saturday 25th April at the Waterfront Place in Chelmsford with over 100 guests and was a great success. The evening was packed full of entertainment with casino tables for those who fancied a flutter, a fantastic auction of promises (run by our very own Nigel King) and great live music provided by Deryck Breinberg and his band "Life of Brian". Thanks go to everyone who organised it (particularly Lisa, Kat & Anna says Ed), all who attended and supported the event through the donation of prizes. Whilst the main purpose of the evening was to provide an enjoyable event for members of the club, their friends and family, it also raised over £1400 for the club on the night.

As we go to press the Juniors are off to Zevenbergen in Holland – report hopefully in Chelmer 2.

The Evergreens are off to Lisbon in June for a tournament also involving Zevenbergen – also a report for next time.

Summer Hockey takes place of course (not surprisingly), during this summer.

The AGM is on Tuesday 23rd June, which is your chance to have your say (hopefully briefly).

The "Friends of Chelmsford Hockey Club Re-united" hope to have an inaugural cocktail party in the clubhouse in October or November. Date and details to be announced.

REMEMBERING

Some old friends and VPs of the club have passed on in the last year or so and we have tried below to give a short background on some (what someone described to me as "Oh I see, you mean a short Biopsy on each one", but we think that is a bit too intimate and we are going to stick to a short biography).



We would welcome stories about any of them and others for future editions.

Ken Lohead.

Ken was associated with the club for over 30 years and was a widely respected umpire with a wry sense of humour. I was pleased to have been sat next to him at the men's dinner two years ago when he regaled me with many stories of his time as an umpire and a few repeatable ones as a tax inspector. He passed away in June 2008.

Ron Puddephat.

Ron died late last year and about a dozen old stagers from the club attended the funeral in Little Baddow. We sat mostly in a respectful group at the back of the church so that if any of us also passed on during the service, the others could prop him up and there would not be a fuss. Ron was over 90 when he died and played well into his 30's which was VERY old for those days. He was a head-master in London, was tall and slim and played a very upright style with one of those old English hockey sticks, carved from oak. He used to cycle back to Little Baddow after games from the old club house at what is now the county cricket ground at first on a very old upright bicycle with the handlebars known as "North Road Raised" and then later on a moped, usually very wobbly from a deal of Gray's bitter and he must have fallen into the ditch on many occasions, presumably in severe cold. At least there was not much traffic then, maybe the odd hay wagon or a steam omnibus. There is now some discussion amongst the VPs and Friend's of Chelmsford Hockey Club Re-united as to who is the oldest surviving male ex-playing member – probably Alan Gemmill – (to be decided!)

Owen Gale.

We cannot trace anyone who remembers much about Owen Gale (which points up a good reason for starting The Chelmer, so that we do keep some record).

If anyone has any information about Owen please let us know so that we can publish it.

LATE NEWS >>> We have just heard that John Quill passed away last month. Details in The Chelmer issue 2

New Vice Presidents

We elected a number of new vice presidents to the club last AGM. We show their background and past exploits for those that don't know them.

Lyn Bollington ("Bolly")

Lyn joined Chelmsford Ladies HC in 1976/7 and has been with the club ever since. She played for England Indoor for 10 years and was captain for 5 of those. She has a haul of medals in the European Indoor Championships – bronze in 1987, and then silver in 1993 and gold in 1996, the last two when she was the captain. She also has 3 caps for England outdoors. Whilst Bolly has "officially" hung up her playing boots she still does some coaching in the club, particularly for the indoors squads but, as she says, "never say never play again".

Sue Dewar & Rob Dewar

Rob & Sue had been involved with the club for many years because their children came through the youth section. However it was their support for Ursula Heelis around 2003 at the time of getting the new changing rooms around 2003 and the pitch that were of such assistance to Chelmsford by allowing Ursula to use their office facilities and also attending meetings with architects and so on. In short, we could not have done it without them.

Jenny Stonebank

Jenny has been with the club since she was a 13 year old coming through the youth teams and then up to the ladies 1st X1 and even now still plays for the ladies 4th X1. She was chairlady of selection for many years and her children are also now involved.

Peter Woodward

Peter has been involved with the club for many years both playing and as manager of the Men's 1st Eleven with Alan Draper during its years in the upper English League. Peter also raised the profile of the 200 club dramatically for it to become a major fundraiser for the club. He is known to many players around English Hockey who visit the clubhouse.

Peter has been severely incapacitated with an ankle injury which required surgery last year but managed to get to a number of 1st eleven games.

MUSINGS of a VIRTUAL TREASURER

The trouble with emails is that they enable you to “correspond” with people for years without meeting them. They have their good points because most folk do actually read the emails, some even reply to them and it puts a record down, but in the end it’s not the same as standing face to face at the club bar, preferably with others around, so that you can try to shame some serial non-payer into paying the club – either subs or match fees or whatever (or even, to have a nice conversation.)

Some people, of course are completely immune or averse to paying money and will say that they will pay “when they get paid” or “when they can”, anything to get onto another subject. In the end I am nervous about going to the club because people think I am there to collect money (which is, of course, usually true) and probably they don’t want to go to the club either, in case they meet me. It’s a tricky job but someone has to do it. It would be nice to go to the club and not have to try to figure out who owes anything, but I guess it comes with being Treasurer.

Anyway, the real point of this ramble is that I have had some great “conversations” over the last 18 months or so as Treasurer through emails and phone calls with many club members but have only actually met a small proportion of them. When I have been at the club, some of them have been there, I suppose, but I am not good at going up to people and saying “Hi, I’m Doug the club treasurer, who are you?” – quickly followed by me trying to remember who that person is, what they do, or even worse not having a clue who they are, they could be from another club, or have even just wandered in from the park to have a drink. It’s made worse by so many nick names – Poodle, Bunny, Seve, Cough-drop, Hunts, Hils, Bruiser, Emu and so on and anyway we have hundreds of members. I had a 20 minute conversation a week or two ago with someone and I didn’t have a clue who it was, except that he wanted to help (I know who it was now, but it is embarrassing when they assume you know them). Last night I spoke to Ursula and said I needed information on Bolly’s career and had to admit that I had never met Bolly – I have spoken to her since, so I know she exists, or at least someone answering to her name does.

So if you see some white hair old boy, wandering or standing round the clubhouse, clutching a half pint of lager and carrying an old back pack, it could be me, so walk up to him, shake his hand, say who you are, what you do (if anything) and, if its me, we can take it from there.....unless you owe money of course.

I just hope for your sake that you pick the right white-haired bloke.

Doug



The Chelmer

Contact details

"The Chelmer"
Friends of Chelmsford Hockey Club Re-United
c/o Doug Denman
Homemead Farm
Woolmongers Lane
Blackmore
INGATESTONE
Essex CM4 0JX

Phone: 01277 823479
Mobile: 07837 397351
Email: friends@chelmsfordhc.org.uk

The Friends of Chelmsford Hockey Club Re-United

*We hope to start gathering contact details this summer
and any help would be appreciated.*

We will also work out a short constitution

Aims are:

1. To send out The Chelmer, free, to as many ex members as possible.
2. To encourage contact by whatever other means for those that want to stay in touch.

alliance
Sports

t: 0870 890 3663



KUKRI

SKINS

HOCKEY



**'for when
the score
matters!'**

TK

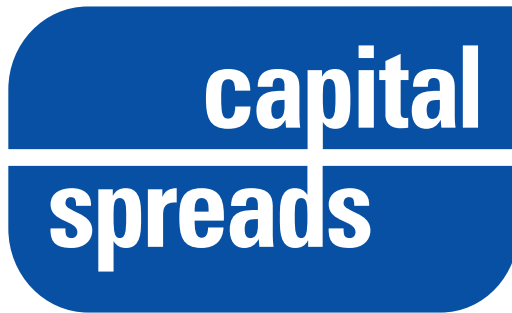
asics

Grays

gryphon

HOCKEYSTUFF

www.alliancesports.co.uk



Capital Spreads
are delighted to be
one of
Chelmsford Hockey Club's
sponsors



- **Struggling with your tax return?**
- **Looking for a pro-active accountant who'll help you make more profit and pay less tax?**
- **Starting out in business?**

Whatever your needs, we can help. Edmund Carr is a firm of Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisers based in Chelmsford, Essex offering accounts, taxation and business advisory and support services to a wide range of businesses and individuals.

At Edmund Carr we provide a cost-effective, high value solution to meet all of your financial needs. We work hard to get to know you in order to deliver timely, individual advice on how to improve your business and personal wealth.

To find out more about how we can help you and your business,
please visit our website

www.EdmundCarr.com

146, New London Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW

Phone: 01245 261818 Fax: 01245 492812