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Issue 24

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Newsletter Editor

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NEWSLETTER HELMSFORD 1898

Welcome

"Delivering the first issue late is probably not the most auspicious start for an editor," That's how I started the last edition, so..... where does that place me with a late second issue ? In my defence, most of the articles and reports didn't arrive until a week and a half after my deadline, so I missed the 'editing weekend' I had free and have had to patch this together in some not-very-free time. Overall we seem to have had a much better selection of reports this time which is always good news. Team news seems to be very mixed throughout the club, with some doing very well and others in dire peril of relegation. I don't like to pick favourites, but some, like the Mens' Mighty 5ths, seem determined to turn a promising season on it's head by losing their early form. Others, like the Mens' 2nd XI, have struggled from the start, but have a fantastic report to read.

The ladies first report is excellent, with the added advantage of a photo as well,



which is always good news (apart from for Bolly...)

Don't miss out the letter to the editor in this issue (at the back). This could be the start of a loooooong discussion.

Enjoy the rest of the season.

Andy Smith

Editor

Secretary's Corner

Half way through the season and a lot going on.

You all will have seen the new seating and everyone I've spoken to has said how impressive it all is. This should set us up well for some new, national events and making hockey viewing more comfortable for everyone.

We have also got a new catering team on board - Amita and Sam Pandya. They already cater for Chelmsford CC, but the demands of looking after up to 6 hockey games spread through the day is very different. But they have coped really well and everyone is impressed with the new teas, especially having them in the clubhouse. Amita and Sam have said how welcoming you have all been!

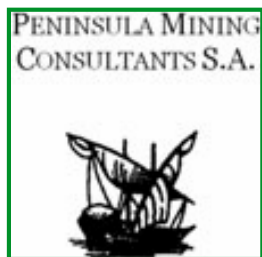
Men's dinner - Friday 16
March in the clubhouse.
Contact your captain or me
for tickets which are still £25 a
head - a price I have held for
the last 3
seasons.

Claire Lambert is resigning at
the end of the season - please
have a word if
you are interested in the
treasurer's job. Details are
elsewhere on the
website.

We have joined with
Chelmsford BC and other
clubs in a consortium bid to
offer our facilities as a London
2012 training camp. Our entry
went in on
time before the end of
January. We're very confident
of success not least
because of the excellent
proximity to the Olympic site -
less than an hour
away. I'll report progress as
soon as possible.

You will have noticed that
recently we have suffered
some vandalism with
broken windows. As a club
member please be vigilant and
watch out for anyone
acting suspiciously. And don't
forget, if you're the last to use
the pitch
or facilities please make sure
you secure them before you
leave.

That's all for now - enjoy the



rest of the winter season.

Spence
Spencer Wilcox

Facilities News

New Stand

You should all have seen the
new stands by now, installed
by Arena before Christmas
and providing us with 100
seats for supporters of all
matches. They are major new
asset to the club and will
greatly benefit our facility,
hopefully enabling us to land
some of the larger
tournaments. Particular thanks
must go to Crawf for the time
and effort that he put in to
make it happen.

Pitch

The cold weather has helped
us in our ongoing battle with
the algae. We are getting it
under control again, but need
your help! Please avoid
walking across the grass to
get to the pitch and ask your
opposition to do the same. A
couple of trays are currently
being built to go under the
gates to the pitch, these will
contain mats impregnated with
a mild algaecide to try and
limit what is being carried onto
the pitch.

There is a small team who are
cleaning the pitch on a weekly
rota, but more volunteers are
always welcome. If you're able
to give up a couple of hours
two or three times a season to
help, or if we can give
any more information, please
let Spencer or I know. It is

totally flexible, so that you can
do it at whichever time suits
you best. Training will be
provided but it's not too
onerous!

General

There are bound to be
problems with a facility the
size of the one that we now
have at Chelmer Park. If you
find anything, or have any
ideas for improvements,
please let me know. Find me
at the club on a Saturday or
email
facilities@chelmsfordhc.org.uk
so that we can do something
about them.

Jon Lambert

Crawford's view....

Come & try out the new
seating at Chelmer Park.
Superb match views & in
comfort. We also hope to be
able soon to provide some
refreshments from the new hut
as well. Come and watch one
of the first teams games, four
still to choose from during
March. Enjoy. See you in the
back row. !

Also, (some of you may not
know yet!) We have secured
the services of Amita Pandya
with effect from Saturday 3rd
Feb. Amita has provided teas
for the Cricket club for some
years and has
agreed to be with us for the
rest of this season. She will
use this period as a trial to see
if she is prepared to take this
further into next season. She

will provide a variety of hot & cold food, but will not prepare dishes using raw meat. However she will be ok to procure & serve pre-prepared lasagnes, pies or spag bol/chilli. She also does some excellent curries.

Please extend to her all courtesies and a real CHC welcome.
(Remember she can walk away.)

If you have any comments at all regarding the variety / quality / quantity of food you must pass them through Spencer or myself, please do not comment directly to Amita. We have established with her what we expect, and we will pass on any comments we consider appropriate at the time.

Regards,

Crawford McKee.
Fixtures Sec. Chelmsford Hockey Club.

Club shop

Kukri Kit is now in. Check out all the kit in the Brochure dotted around the clubhouse and on the CHC website.

If you want it, Peter can get it.



Ring (01245-495441) or e-mail peter.hollebon@cofunds.co.uk
Peter Holleban

Social

Well it's been a fairly busy few months in terms of social events at the club. There was a fantastic turn out for our first ever Wine Tasting event in November and I'd like to extend a big thank you to Mia (and her lovely helpers!) for taking the time to organise this event for us.

In December we had two events, the annual whisky tasting and the Christmas party. The Whisky tasting was, as always, a great night and much fun was had by all, even the non-whisky drinkers like myself! Thanks to Ian Hunter for organising this again and to Liz for a brilliant spread! The Christmas party was a great success thanks to the efforts of the men's and ladies 1s. It was great to see so many of the youth attending and it certainly seemed like they enjoyed themselves. Fantastic costumes were worn by most people, as everyone really got into the festive spirit!

The Beer Festival started in January and I think there were a few sore heads after the first night (my other half included!). I think there may be a few tasters left so if you haven't sampled these already I'd get down to the club quickly to try some!!

There are some more great events still to come this

season which I've detailed below,

- Quiz Night on the 3rd of March is always a great night and thanks again to Fred Matthews for organising this.
- Men's Dinner on the 16th of March, please see your captains for tickets
- Ladies Night Friday 30th March, details to be released shortly
- Club Day Saturday 14th of April. For those of you who attended last year it will be along similar lines and for those who didn't attend try and make it this year as it's a really fun day and the evening entertainment isn't too bad either!

Finally.....On Saturday the 21st of April we'll be holding our Bi-Annual Furze Hill Ball. Posters will be going up in the club this weekend and details can also be found on the club website (along with all other Social Events). The night will kick off at 7pm, followed by a 3 course meal from 7.30(ish!). There will be a raffle as well as an auction of promises and judging from what we have received so far the bidding may be out of control!! There will be a band and a disco as entertainment on the evening and carriages will be at 1am. All this for the bargain price of £40!!! Please contact me to reserve your place at what I hope will prove to be a spectacular evening.

Thanks again to you all for your support for the various events this year and I look forward to seeing you at Furze Hill in April.

Laura Cathro

Check website Social page for dates of forthcoming events, etc.

Playing Committee

From feedback the playing side is going fairly well at this stage of theseason.

We have managed to get back two thirds of the sand pitch through to 10 p.m.on Wednesdays for Club training and sessions are being taken by Roger Krone for the Ladies and Gav for the Men. The whole of the pitch will be available from March. We are hoping that Lisa or Simon will take a couple of sessions before the end of the season and will put the dates on the website once agreed. The Mens 2s are now having a session on a Monday night with coachingfrom Seve.

This is the time of year when we need in teams to be thinking about who is going to run them for next year. Check if your captain is happy to stand again, ply them with beer if there is any chance they will, and start persuading good candidates to take over if they won't.

The Ladies chair of selection is going to be vacant as Jenny stands down after several

years of much appreciated service, so can we have some thought about who will fill that post - offers to Jenny please. As a Club we cannot run without volunteers who ensure the behind the scenes admin....and we don't want to see sides fold because we don't have anyone to captain or manage them – we are always open to alternative ways of running teams so long as there is a captain on the day and someone who can attend selection to make sure we are passing information up and down the Club about availability and how well people are playing. That has maybe not worked so well on the Mens side of things and Emu is looking at different days and times for captains or team reps to meet to get communication working better We could always do with more umpires and there is an umpiring course for anyone who would like to obtain their Level 1 umpiring qualification at Brentwood on 11th March – details on ECHUA website or contact Chris (01245 226693) for details. The Club will pay the fee if you will undertake to umpire at least 5 league games in the next season.....

Chris Randall,

Chair of the Playing Committee.

Ladies First XI Report

Ladies 1st XI

Having had the break for Christmas and indoor, this is now where the hard work really begins. If, in the words of Sir Alex Ferguson, the league is a marathon and not a sprint, then this is surely where we start our quickening our stride . . .

The first 2 weekends in January saw the girls travel to Birmingham for the National Indoor League. First weekend was hard going. Nice hotel though, and lets face it, we need to get our priorities right. If you are waiting to see some match reports in this space I feel that you could be disappointed. Writing a report on the matches would only prove how little time I actually spent watching the hockey!

The highlight of the two weekends' was that the spirit of Frank Sinatra lives on under the disguise of Tracy Willmore. Having announced her retirement from the indoor game at the beginning of the season, she successfully returned to the indoor arena and inspired Chelmsford to finish a respectable 6th place. It should be pointed out that Willers came out of retirement for one weekend only and only after much pressure from team mates. It was very much appreciated Willmore and it was great to see you strutting your stuff – pure entertainment! Thanks.



A partner of Chelmsford Hockey Club over many generations

I had promised you all an exclusive in this Newsletter with a sneak preview of the memoirs of Bolly & Willmore. It may not be the exclusive that we were expecting, but there is proof that Bolly is working hard on the first chapter.....



The first three EHL matches after the break saw the team win 7 points out of a possible 9. The girls showed true grit and determination in their away matches against Olton and Hightown. The goals that have been scored have been excellent, with Bolly and Ginge well, just making the opposition look silly with some slick one-two's moves.

Thoughts now turn to the European Indoor Finals Championships and a very intense couple of months for the team. The girls are under no illusion that the competition out in Europe will be the tough. Realistically, playing with the elite from European Ladies Indoor hockey, it is unlikely that Chelmsford will

be medal contenders. First objective will be to avoid relegation. In the words of Bolly, our inspirational leader, 'a mountain is there to be climbed' and Team Chelm will be right behind the girls in their quest to reach the summit of European Indoor Hockey. Good luck girls.

Poodle

Men's Team Reports

2nd XI

If you look at the East Prem A league you will see Chelmsford languishing close to the bottom and we have been there since the first match of the season when we turned up with just 10 men !

The results don't lie. We have had a small and erratic squad with 3 only being available for home matches, Spesh being on international umpiring duty, Vasan going out injured before Christmas and now losing Thurro's and Pete with hand injuries.

Seve took on coaching the team when we changed our training time in January and this is beginning to turn our form around. The squad is now a distinct entity. Those results however, totally underestimate what is happening. The team has taken in many new club members; David Robinson, Neil Walker, Pete Krone and Ben Wilkinson. Having been asked to play up, Richard

Nourse, Rob Hartley and Tim Briggs are having the most fantastic season. Jon Wilcox is having a purple patch with another hat-trick at Bury. The matches are only just being lost by the odd goal – they are close run things, and we are putting out a team that is made up of 10 people who are 20 years old or under !

The end of the season is going to be close, but it is a good team to be part of and there is no lack of effort in each match by every player

3rd XI

Men's 3rd Team Report

PI	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
15	7	3	5	46	47	-1	24

The first few games of the season were close but went our way. But due to having a varied team each week because of unavailability throughout the club it has meant that we are now having varied results!

We have also lost Ed Hutley who went travelling at the beginning of 2007, Phil Goode who has retired from the game due to recurring wrist injury and Ed Stanhope who has had a small promotion from the 3s to the 1s.

At the time of writing we are in 4th position but only 6 points above 4th from bottom! Hopefully even with a varied team who at least have played together once already this season we will be able to pick up some points in the remaining games to secure a top 3 spot.

Rob Wallbank

The Mighty 5ths A Tale of two halves?

Following the report in the Autumn news letter the run up to Christmas saw the fifth eleven continued to maintain pressure on the league leaders Harwich with two good wins, the highlight of which was a 3-2 win against Harwich themselves, pleasant revenge for the 6-0 drubbing dished out by them on the first day of the season, (a game I was not involved in incidentally).

So the Christmas break came and went with the team well positioned in second place in the league, a comfortable gap to third place, the same nucleus of a squad and Jon Lambert still telling us all what to do. The season restarted with a friendly against the 4xi, a narrow 3-2 defeat against a team 3 leagues above us was ok and we were ready for the league.

Or so we thought! picture the scene, we were playing Romford a team second from bottom, only one win all season, a goal difference not to talk about and we lost **1-0**.

Putting that one down to experience things have not get any better, we have since drawn one (despite some marvellous penalty corner coaching from Emu) and lost

another, which has seen us slip to fourth in the table!

Being an optimist as I am, there is still plenty of time to put things right and push for promotion to the lofty heights of div. 6SE – We shall see!!

Iain Johnston

Veterans XI

We have now played sixteen of our twenty six league fixtures in the new East Veterans league of fourteen teams and, having more recently come up against stronger (and younger) opposition, we are now in mid table with six wins, six draws and four defeats, although with a plus fifteen goal difference. There were expected but close defeats against the top two (Ipswich and Harleston) where we played well and competed in both games but worse was a very poor 4-1 defeat at Bedford. The other defeat (undeserved) was to a last minute goal at Shefford (a new venue for us).

It was very difficult, having to call at The Scole Inn on the way up and back from Norwich Exiles but the Adnams worked wonders as we sneaked a 1-1 draw against the run of play. We will just have to adopt the same tactics for the away trip to Harleston. We did not have the same luck with the watering hole on the way to Kings Lynn, as we allowed

Pelicans to come back to draw 2-2.

Injuries have certainly contributed to a fall away in our performances with key players John Meer being out for two months and Mike Abel managing one and a bit games in the same period. We have relied heavily on Crawford in goal, Phil Hutley at sweeper, Ken Wooding in the middle and David Gill for the goals, with Spencer and Toby Wheadon getting onto the score sheet in more recent games. Simon Denham had an excellent game at Shefford and it looked as though Andrew Hodge had scored a late winner against Peterborough before we let them in for a last minute equaliser.

The Veterans enjoyed the beer festival and team (Christmas) social, joined by Martin Fuller flying in from South Africa – already there is talk of a tour to SA in 2008 or 2009. We look forward to more good games and after match beers, with league fixtures until after Easter, before settling into the Divisional over 50s and 55s through until the end of May – cannot think why the younger ones finish their leagues so early!

David Carr

Treasury Consulting Lines
www.TreasuryConsultingLines.co.uk

Ladies Team Reports

2nd XI

Having been sitting 5th after the first nine games, the middle third of the season has proved more fruitful for the ladies 2s with the team now sitting 2nd in the league with seven games remaining.

Following on from the Autumn newsletter, our next fixture was against local competition Thurrock with a 3-1 victory, denied a clean sheet in the dying seconds. The next match saw us away to newcomers into the league Sudbury, the physical element of the match took us by surprise and we were unfortunate to come away with a narrow loss 3-2. The following week saw an unexciting draw against Wisbech which was redeemed by an inspired performance against Canterbury 2s which gave us a 2-1 win over our biggest rivals. Special mention should be made of Helen Fagg in this match, who has been on fantastic form all season. She pulled out some fantastic instinctive saves despite only having 5 minutes warm up time due to a navigational error!

The final game before Christmas saw us away to Tunbridge Wells sitting 3 places and 1 point above us in the league. Despite some further navigational errors (I blame TomTom) Chelmsford produced an enthralling performance full of desire and came away 2-0 victors and a

place in the league table leaving them fourth over the Christmas break.

Following Christmas the ladies have produced some fabulous displays of hockey and are currently on a run of 6 wins with five clean sheets! The first saw us beat St. Albans 2s 0-1, before overcoming the Cambridge University students 2-0. The next match was probably the most committed and exciting performance of the season, taking on unbeaten league leaders Cambridge City at home. With a desire that was evident from the whistle Chelmsford were keen to exert their authority and keep Cambridge from settling into their stride. This was achieved but still Cambridge came closest to scoring in the first half from a PC, however we did not slow our game and were rewarded five minutes from time by a Kirsty Smith rebound, breaking the leaders' unbeaten record and closing the gap on the leaders.

We were drawn against St. Albans 2s away in the 2nd XI Cup first round. Due to absences we were given the opportunity of bringing up six promising youngsters from the 3s and they excelled themselves. With debut performances from Jess Ecott and Katy Roberts, the ladies put on a worthy performance to come away 5-0 victors taking them into the last 16. The draw has been made and we have our fifth consecutive away fixture in this

competition (!) – this time to Maidstone 2s on the 4th March.

The top goal scorer at this point is Kat Letts on 7 closely followed by Helena Roberts on 5 but with many others in contention this could all change. At the other end of the pitch the statistics are even more exciting with Helen Fagg having played 10 games and held 7 clean sheets!

Points to Note:

Some map reading / navigation lessons are required!!

Sophie breaking her foot jumping over a rock whilst on holiday in Egypt!

Charlotte's impressive performance at the beer festival!

Caroline falling over her own feet again!

Gavin being uncontrollably excited about the Cambridge City match!

Congratulations to Kate Maxey for being selected for the England u16 tests against Ireland!

Kat letts

3rd XI

The Ladies 3s have had a pretty mixed bag of results so far this season. We are sitting not entirely comfortably bottom middle of the table but with a game in hand which if won could take us joint 5th and in the running for our target 4th

Shutterspark

www.shutterspark.com

place. Since the last newsletter we have lost out to 2 of the top 3 clubs (who can now not be caught) which was to be expected but we did hold a draw against top placed Havering which proves we have got it when we want it! Disappointingly however we lost 3-1 to Maldon and Little Baddow which was a game we should have fought harder for. Since then we have beaten Colchester and Thurrock (much to the relief of new players Ally Farrar and Sam Wilkinson who moved to Chelmsford from there this season and who have bolstered our team) but we narrowly lost out to Wapping which was against the run of play. For the most part our defence has been pretty solid with Sarah Williams being a key player for us at centre back and Katherine Roberts stepping up from 4s to settle in well as sweeper. We have struggled more to hold the ball in midfield and attack and the challenge for the next few weeks is all about getting goals and getting more confidence up front. Having said that Sophie Green scored some cracking goals for us last Saturday and we'll be looking to her and Jess Ecott who has played well this season to create more chances in the next few crucial games.

Sally Symes

Mixed Hockey

There have been 2 mixed league games since the last newsletter. The first was

away at Upminster the day after the Whisky Tasting! This obviously resulted in a team hangover and a not-so-great performance, although we were able to sneak a 4-3 win thanks to 4 stunning goals from the skipper. If I am honest they were from AT LEAST 2 1/2 yards out!! The most comical moment of the game (apart from Noursey's eyebrows, sorry I meant umpiring) came when Rob Wallbank and Pidge decided to see how many passes they could make to each other before getting tackled. Unfortunately for us they did it on the top of our 'D' and lost the ball to leave the Upminster striker with 1 of the simplest goals he will ever score!

The other game just after Christmas was at home to rivals Southend. This game was after Rob and Laura's house warming party so again the team was fairly hungover (pattern starting to emerge). We had a fairly big squad so Rob decided he was just going to sit on the bench and drink whisky from his hip flask to keep himself warm. A fairly strong Chelmsford side went an early goal up via Gav and seemed quite comfortable with the Lamberts and the Krone's holding firm at the back. Then 1 of the Southend player's (not mentioning any names but he used to play for Chelmsford) decided to dribble past 3 Chelmsford players before unleashing an unstoppable reverse stick shot past Anthea. The goal would not have looked out of place at National League level but certainly did look out of place in the Essex Mixed League.

This prompted a few comments from the Whisky drinker on the bench but he need not have worried as we were soon 2-1 up again through Anna and it stayed this way until half time. Kat had a few mazy runs in the first half and then had to come off (I think she was feeling the effects of the wine from the night before and the dribbling had made her feel dizzy) whilst Helen and Nat ran hard up front winning us numerous short corners. Goodey was also up front but was definitely not running! The 2nd half was all about Richard Nourse and how many easy chances he could fluff. He must have had about 10 one on ones, 10 open goals (alright I'm exaggerating slightly but not by much!). Finally he took one of his chances and we were 3-1 up with a bit of a cushion. There is a lesson to be learnt here as he had decided to have a quiet night in on the Saturday night as opposed to going out and this definitely affected his performance!! Kroney tried his best to keep Southend in it by presenting their forward with another reverse stick opportunity but fortunately he was bailed out by his sister who managed to rob him of the ball as he was about to shoot and we held on for the win.

We have a league game against Crostyx coming up which is a top-of-the-table clash and also a nice trip to Wisbech (Cambs/Lincs



border) in 2nd round of the cup.

Thanks to Rob and Andy Nourse for umpiring and to Bec for helping with the teas. Also to Laura and Kat for helping to find players. Any girls that are not playing but would like to, please speak to one of us.

Nick Bastian

Youth Section Report

(in no particular order – sorry about that ! Andy)

The youth section continues to go from strength to strength with over 200 fully paid members so far this season, significantly out-numbering the senior membership. Our U14 – U18 members train at various times during the week, and play in all of the Senior teams - even knocking on the door of the 1stXIs. Both pitches are a hive of activity every Sunday morning from 9am – 11.30am. – why not pop down and take a look at our stars in the making! If there isn't anyone there – they'll all be off at a White Knights Tournament, playing a Friendly League game or maybe an Indoor fixture.....

A number of managers,



coaches and committee members are standing down at the end of the season so volunteers to help with one of the teams or on the committee would be much appreciated. Please form an orderly queue at the bacon roll counter on Sunday mornings or talk to any manager, coach or committee member. They will all be very pleased to have your assistance. With squads of up to 40 in the younger (up to U13) age groups there is always room for more volunteers. There is a coaches and managers meeting in the clubhouse on 11 March so why not come along and see how you can help.

So what do you get out of it? Apart from the obvious satisfaction of being actively involved in helping young players grow and develop their skills to international standard (see below) there are regular opportunities to get soaked or freeze during the cold Winter mornings (or evenings for senior groups) and then to meet in the clubhouse to thaw out over a few cups of coffee and bacon rolls or, when the ladies' or men's 1st XI's are playing at home, a few drinks at the bar. The rain and cold might sound horrible and off-putting but it does generate a great 'team' feeling when you see everyone else with steam rising from their clothing in the heat of the clubhouse.

Added incentives include convoy driving to away matches, late call-offs for matches and other parents who don't agree with team selections. The whole experience is one you shouldn't miss out on – it really

is worth every minute of your time and there are many more 'ups' than 'downs'. Just as a taster I've noted some of the 'ups' below.

Coaches and Managers have recently attended First Aid and Child Protection Courses, all of which goes towards our bid for Clubs 1st Accreditation. Umpiring and Level 1 Coaching courses are also available and encouraged.

Matches, both friendly and competitive, are taking place regularly during the season. Chelmer Park has successfully hosted two White Knights league weekends for the U7 to U13 age groups and the 'senior' sides U14, U15, U16 and U18 boys, U15 and U18 girls, are all playing (with varying success) in friendly leagues, Mercian leagues and EH Cup and Plate competitions.

Congratulations to the girls who have reached the 4th round of the HA Cup. The U18's play Dereham at Chelmer and U15's play Harleston Magpies at Harleston, both matches on 18 Feb. Not quite so much success for the boys, who were knocked out of the EH Cup and are now in the Plate competition. The U15's play Tulse Hill & Dulwich and the U18's play Upminster in the 2nd Round on 4 March, both at Chelmer Park.

The youth section continues to be well represented at both County and East level in all age groups. Congratulations go to Kate Maxey (U16), Rob Wilson (U18) and Sam Burrett

(U18), all of whom have been selected for England against Ireland (details on the web site). We look forward to seeing their names in the 4 Nations squads to be announced on 21 Feb.

Our end of season celebrations are coming up soon, with presentation nights and parties (?). The undoubted highlight is, however, the May bank holiday trip to Zevenbergen in Holland for the U14 to U18 age groups. We are already nearing the maximum numbers we can take to Zevenbergen (There is a waiting list in some age groups!) so anyone who has not yet signed up needs to do so very soon. Speak to your team managers or coaches.

Bob Smith & Liz Nourse

Youth Team Reports

U13 Girls

Chelmsford Under 13 girls are still enjoying a good season with enough regular attendees to field 4 teams! In January we entered 2 teams for the Brentwood Indoor tournament, Chelmsford Chicks and Chelmsford Cheetahs and the Chicks won the tournament overall. The White Knights has proved fairly successful too, winning all but 2 of our matches, and with an excellent all-round team performance on 4th February against Romford/Upminster winning 8-0. The Essex Minis proved difficult with many of our older

girls playing for school. We entered a young team and didn't progress from the group stage but the girls enjoyed themselves and it was good experience. We now have the Bishop's Stortford Indoor Tournament coming up and hope to arrange to play 4 teams against Bishop's Stortford Club and once again give everyone the chance to play.

Trudy Speakman

U18 Girls

The story so far:

In the HA Cup, we played Sevenoaks away and won 4-1. The next round was played at home against Wimbledon, but without Becky M who had broken her hand; we won 3-1. The next round is on the 18th of February at home to Dereham HC. We're all hoping that Sophie Stock has her plaster off and will be fit enough to play!

We have a great many parents who are super supporters and many great cooks who have helped with the teas. – 'Thank you' for all your support!

Sally Speakman

U18 Boys

The U18 squad is 15 strong this season – the largest it's been for a few years. All the boys are playing in Senior teams, which is just as well as unfortunately we have only played one U18 match so far, losing narrowly to Bromley and Beckenham in the Cup. We now look forward to Upminster at home in the Plate on March 4th.

The Mercian League has been a bit of a disaster! Southgate and Thurrock have dropped

out, St Albans couldn't get a team together for our match in January, which leaves Old Loughts and us in the League..... We meet on Feb 25 at Chelmer Park. Being one of two teams left in the League, it looks like we'll go through to the knock out stages, with the possibility of the Finals weekend on May 5th and 6th – when we'll all be on tour in Zevenbergen.....
... We'll cross that bridge when we come to it!

Liz Nourse

U15 Boys.

A mixed season so far with good turnout to training (thanks Royce) and 12 members available for selection.

Friendly League fixtures have seen us lose 13 – 3 against Bishops Stortford and 2-1 against Saffron Walden (with 3 U12's in the side). With a 'bye' in round 1 of the EH Cup we lost 11 – 0 to Tunbridge Wells in round 2, finishing with 10 players after Joe Chitty had to be taken to hospital with a broken thumb. We were pleased to see him back at training last week and looking for his place back in the next match. A 'bye' in round 1 of the Plate leaves us playing Tulse Hill & Dulwich in round 2.

The team's fortunes have taken a turn for the better in their last two Friendly League matches, winning 4 – 2 against Romford and 7 – 3 against Old Southendians. There have been some good individual performances – Lewis Bartlett has played very well in goal, with Phil Barrett

and Nick Horne showing their true potential in the last match.

Consistently good performances from Ed Luke, Elliot Ball and Scott Smith have helped other squad members develop, with noticeable improvements from the newer players – Martin Lee and Jonathan Levis. Gerard Wiley has joined us from Essex Rugby (sensible move) for the rest of the season and shows good potential.

Elliot has been playing for the Men's 6th XI, with Gerard, Nick, Phil and Scott starring for the 6's. All good development work – but they are in a 'comfort zone' and need to be challenged by having the opportunity to move up to higher teams.

There are encouraging signs for the rest of the season, with a possibility of a mid-table finish in the league, and who knows what might happen in the Plate competition!

Bob Smith.

U16 Boys

A difficult start to the Mercian League season with postponements outnumbering the matches. We finally got under way with a 3 – 2 win over Harrow but, two months later, lost 4 – 3 to Gerrards Cross in a very close but frustrating match that we should have at least drawn. Keeping our momentum, we beat St Albans 1 – 0 in our most recent match (talk us through the hat-trick of misses please James) and have high hopes for the rest of the league season.

Captained by Adam Carter (Essex & East), the team has played well, with guest players from the younger age groups fitting in and playing their part. The other U16's (all Essex – James Beardwell, Patrick Croot, Jack Mallett-Vickers and Joe de Mello) have encouraged the U14 and U15 regulars – Elliot Ball, Phil Barrett, Lewis Bartlett, Nick Horne, Matt Lewis, Scott Smith and other more occasional players – Jack Tyson, Ollie Lane and James Seager into a cohesive unit. As with the U15 boys, coach Royce Waters deserves great credit for their development and improvement over the season.

Adam also plays for the 4th XI, with Patrick, Jack and Joe in the 6's. James currently plays his senior hockey at Thurrock. Unfortunately Joe broke his collar bone last week in a 6th XI match so is out for the rest of the season – but back for the Zevenbergen trip! A great pity when he was in a keen competition with his father to see who would score most goals this season.

The biggest single frustration is probably the lack of opportunity for these boys to play higher up in the senior teams. Senior players, please note. These boys are the future of the club. Unless they are given the opportunity to have their abilities challenged they will never achieve their true potential. The club will suffer and the boys may well go to play elsewhere. Although it is good to play 'with your mates' season after season, that is effectively creating a

bottleneck to the developing the future of the club. Senior club captains, PLEASE 'adopt' two or three boys into your squads to assess their potential and allow them to play in their normal positions, not just where you happen to have a gap due to unavailability. It serves absolutely no purpose in, for example, playing an excellent sweeper as a stop-gap centre forward!

Bob Smith.

U15/16 Girls

As last season, the girls are a force to be reckoned with! Their U15 Cup victories so far give a good picture; 9 - 0, 15 - 1 and 13 - 0. Indoor they are equally strong, representing the East at the National Indoor Tournament and only losing to the eventual champions (Belper) in the semi finals.

Regional/National Honours

CHC girls – Kate Maxey, Helena Roberts, Charlotte Higgins, Emma Higgins, Helen Fagg, Toni Speakman and Louise Patterson – represented the East in the Regional Tournaments earlier in the season.

Kate, Helena and Helen were then joined by Becky McGuinness and Ed Stanhope to be given England Trials at U16 and U18.

Kate has now progressed to being selected for the England U16 squad to play against Ireland in the forthcoming training matches. After this, she then hopes to earn a place in the England U16s for the annual Easter 4 Nations Tournament, to be held in

Barcelona. - GOOD LUCK,
KATE!

12 Hour Hockey Marathon

We're just about recovering from this event, held in October! The last few cheques are being rounded up – if **YOU** still have to hand in your sponsorship

money or make a donation, please do so NOW. We hope to announce the final total very soon and present Farleigh and Little Haven Hospices with their cheques.

Zevenbergen Tour 4th – 7th May 2007

Planning is well underway for our trip to Holland over the

Bank Holiday. There are still a few places available – especially if you are an U14 boy! There is a meeting for all participants in the Clubhouse on Monday 26 February. See website link for more details.

Liz Nourse



[hooked on hockey website](http://www.hookedonhockey.co.uk)

EASTER HOCKEY COURSE (OUTDOOR)

Where: **Chelmsford County High School**

When: **11th-13th April**

Time: 11-14 yr olds 9am-11.30am

15-18yr olds 12 noon - 6pm.

Cost: **£49 junior** (or £20/day)

£99 senior (or £40/day)

Please make special note that any players 13/14 yrs old who believe they are good enough for the senior course to send us their hockey CV with their booking form.

Lisa Wooding and Simon Letchford

500 Club News

The 500 Club – it's 500 pence, not pounds !

500 Club - 25/01/2007 (63rd Draw)

175 members qualify

Position	Percentage	Amount	Winner(s)
1st	15%	£131.25	Paul Fielding
2nd	10%	£87.50	Owen Thom
3rd	5%	£43.75	Adrian Hibbert
4th	2.5%	£21.88	Philip Hutley, Roly Charlton, David Carr and D. K. & J. Thomson

It costs £5.00 per month and we have 7 prizes per month and 4 quarterly bonuses

I have just drawn the 64th Monthly draw, since I took over. After two more, I am retiring from running the 500 Club. CHC needs someone to take over. Spencer has informed me that if all else fails, he would do the job, but wouldn't it be brilliant to find a willing volunteer! The total membership hovers around 175.

Pathetic!!

Ask yourself why you can't put the cost of half a pint of beer per week, or a coke, to pay for a membership of £5.00 per month, which in turn could win you a hundred pounds or so in prize money and help the club, financially ??

Peter Woodward

There is a standing order mandate at the back of this newsletter.

JOIN UP NOW

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor

I cannot work out whether England Hockey is stupid, incompetent or downright arrogant. Whichever it is, they are self-evidently not working in the interests of the national game. What else can one conclude when the Ladies GB squad (a.k.a. England, complete with coach) is sent off to South Africa on the first weekend of the National Indoor League? While the simpletons might say "it was just one weekend", it amounted to the whole season once player recuperation was enforced and, of course, was critical for qualification to the Indoor Championships. Take nothing away from Slough, Bowdon Hightown and the other qualifiers, but even they must feel that the competition must have been tarnished by the absence of the country's top players. Sour grapes might be the cry, but when last year's finalists fail to make the cut, the most hardened cynic will have to admit something is not quite right. Somewhat ironic also there has been much fanfare about this year being the one to field a national indoor side once more.

Yet there is some consistency in this cavalier attitude by EH to our top domestic competitions. Both the outdoor league and cup competitions have been affected in recent seasons (as many of the top clubs will agree) and the success of last year's Indoor Championships ensured that few noticed a situation that was simultaneously farcical and outrageous. This was the decision (without research or consultation) to insist that all participants wore the new EH sponsor's kit, riding roughshod over the (legal) agreements that many top clubs had made long before with their own kit sponsors. One could guess what will happen when it comes to renewing those arrangements – the result being that hard-to-find money is "transferred" from the

clubs' pockets to the national organisation, with no overall increase in benefit to the national game. The farce occurred when the official supplier provided kit the night before the start of the tournament with wrong sizes, wrong colours, incorrectly-spelt club names, and over-printing – this, despite having several weeks and all the relevant information to get it right. It was a shameful and shameless situation – if this is professional management, give me amateur every time.

Everyone is aware that success at international level is a key factor in funding, but a strong and consistently supported series of national competitions is the (only) foundation stone of long-term success. Bleeding the senior clubs dry of finance and their top talent at critical times is clearly not the way to go about it. The huge army of volunteer coaches, officials and helpers that EH is looking to tap in to at the moment will rightly be having second thoughts when they see that England Hockey's strategic philosophy is to ask with one hand and take away with the other.

David Lines

If you have any burning issues that you feel you want to convey to the rest of the club and/or management officials, but do not know the best way to do it, why not write a Letter to the Editors?

All letters will be treated with the utmost importance and in the strictest of confidence (if necessary!).

I am awaiting your input.....

Feedback

Along with any Letters to the Editor that you feel you may want to write, now that you've had a chance to read it through, do you have any ideas concerning the Newsletter? All feedback gratefully received.

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