



Summer 2006
Issue 22

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NEWSLETTER CHELMSFORD 1898

Welcome

Editors

Welcome to the (somewhat delayed) Summer / End of Season newsletter.

It's been a long season with mixed success throughout the club. Some notable highlights from the Ladies' and the Youth sections, and some lowlights from the Men's section. We won't list out all of the news, you can read about that yourself in the following pages.

This is our ninth and final edition as Newsletter editors. Over the past three years the Newsletter has turned from a slim sporadic publication to the behemoth that it is now. Some will rue the days of the newsletter that you could read in 20 minutes, but hopefully there is always something of interest, wherever in the cub your priorities lies.

If you are interested in taking over the mantle of Newsletter editor then please contact one of the Editors (emails on the left) or Spence.

Enjoy the newsletter and enjoy your summer break.

Chairman's Chatter

Nigel King

I have no intention of preempting either my Chairman's Report for this season or any discussions that should take place at the AGM in this article.

I would like to think there might be a bumper attendance at this year's AGM - there is a lot to discuss and let's face it, it is your Club and you should be involved with the decision making process. Please remember, an inadvertent sneeze or cough does necessarily mean you have volunteered for something - some say it is more dangerous to not attend there's something to think about ! Hope to see you on the 30th June, please.

Secretary's Corner

Spencer Wilcox

Now that the season is "over", my main pre-occupation is with the AGM, which is on Friday 30 June in the clubhouse tea rooms at 8pm. I am attaching in the newsletter the agenda, list of appointments and the minutes of last year's. Please print these off and bring them along with you - there will be only limited paper copies on the night. Those of you on email should have received notice a few days back.



Every year we really struggle to get people to attend. I know that Friday's difficult, but so is every other day of the week and Friday is often the day when most people are not travelling on business. Yes it gets in the way of the Friday night out, but that always starts late anyway - so start off with the AGM!! On the other hand we had an excellent turnout for the club open evening when all sorts of issues were aired with some new faces in attendance. We will be repeating this early in the new season.

Through the year we benefit from a huge amount of work from club volunteers. This year more than just a few are standing down from key posts. To both them and those carrying on I pass on your very sincere thanks for a fantastic job.

But that does mean that we have some gaps to fill. Aside from captains, we have to fill the roles of newsletter editor, press officer, and form a sponsorship group. And there are one or two longstanding officers who are continuing but want to hand over to younger blood.

You all have a variety of skills which you use at work or college and we desperately need to harness them for the club. For those into personal development plans, demonstrating volunteering and applying skills outside the workplace always goes down well! So please, let me know of any job you're interested in, including those where people



have said they will stand again (mine included) because every postholder could do with some help or will want to hand on at some point.

Summer hockey

Is going well and many thanks to Simon King and Richard Ross who are organising the sides; and to Tufty and Adrian Ericsson who have set up the online reporting and league table. Please contact Simon or Richard if you want to play. I'm also grateful to those of you who are giving time in the evenings to open, water and close the pitch. A great team effort all round and an important fund raiser for the club, quite aside from being able to make the pitch available to other clubs who seldom get the chance to play on water.

Email addresses

If you didn't get the email with the AGM notice, it probably means you've changed your address, got a full hotmail inbox or simply not told me your email address. Give me the details if any of that applies: spencer@wilcox51.fsnet.co.uk!!

See you at the AGM.....please!!!!

Bar Burblings

Ian Hunter & Nigel King

Our season for the bar has not quite been Burbling but more a minor slur only an average take for the year but thanks to all you supporters and those who have helped considerably serving behind the bar - Ian and I are most grateful.

Ian and I have started planning for next season and along with Laura, your Social Co-ordinator, hope to have some good events for you all to join in with. The old favourites should be there with some innovations as well!! Ideas are always welcome of course, anyone like to do a monthly Saturday Evening Supper?, please let us know

Facilities News

Jon Lambert

I hope that everyone has noticed the improvement in the water-based pitch since the end of last year. We seem to have beaten the algae for the time being but need your help to prevent it recurring, especially as the weather gets warmer (finally!).

Some of you will have seen that we have purchased a machine to clean the pitch (it looks like a bright yellow small sit-on lawnmower). There is a small team who are cleaning the pitch on a weekly rota, but we could do with 2-3 more volunteers. If you're able to give up a couple of hours once every couple of months to help, or we can give anymore 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!

Secondly, please avoid walking across the grass to get to the pitch and ask your opposition to do the same. We know that it is the shortest route, but it is exacerbating the algae problem as it gets onto the pitch from peoples shoes.

Finally, 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 or email facilities@chelmsfordhc.org.uk so that we can do something about them.

Social

Laura Cathro

Since agreeing to oversee the social events within the Club I have had some suggestions from members as to what kind of gatherings they would like to see during the 2006/2007 season (some of which have been a bit weird and wonderful!!). However, I would like to get an idea from more members (if not all) as to what events should be held to ensure that all members are truly catered for socially.

Apart from the regular whiskey night, beer festival, quiz night and Christmas party, I have included below a number of other suggestions, which I have received. Any further ideas for Social Events are of course appreciated so please use the form attached to add yours.

If you are interested in any of the below, or would like to add your own, could you please indicate which by either dropping the slip below off at the AGM on the 30th of June or alternatively emailing me at lauracathro@btinternet.com

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this and I look forward to seeing you all at the many varied Social Events for 2006/2007.

Rob's heading off to New York City to run a Marathon!?

Rob Wallbank

As some of you may know I've dabbled in a couple of London Marathons over the past few years but now I've been lucky (or unlucky!) enough to get a place in the 2006 New York City Marathon on the 5th of November.



I'm running for Breast Cancer Campaign, whose mission is to fund research into improving diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, better understanding of how it develops and ultimately either curing the disease or preventing it.

I would be so grateful if as many of you as possible would donate as much as you can to this really worthwhile charity. I've not signed up to one of those charities that offer you free flights and accommodation if you raise a specified amount of money, which means all of the donations you give to me will go straight to Breast Cancer Campaign.



If you wish to sponsor me, please log on to my fundraising website: <http://www.justgiving.com/robwallbanknyc>

Donating through this site is simple, fast and totally secure. It is also the most efficient way to sponsor me: Breast Cancer Campaign will receive your money faster and, if you are a UK taxpayer, an extra 28% in tax will be added to your gift at no cost to you.

I'd like to thank you all in advance for supporting me and this great charity.

Wish me luck for the big day!!

Ladies First XI Report

Janet Sutton

A brief round up

It is probably one of the best seasons ever for the Ladies 1st XI - regular reports have been in the newsletter and thanks to Mr & Mrs T for their excellent 'editorial' skills.

There has been so much happening - that a quick summary, is best, as follows:-

We said 'Goodbye' to Coach, Karen Brown (after 6 seasons with the Club) She was appointed England Women's Junior Performance Manager in



August and 'conflict of interest' meant that she could only coach until Christmas.

Lisa & Chloe were part of the England team, who won Bronze Medals in the Commonwealth Games in Australia and won the World Cup Qualifier in Rome.



They will be looking forward to the World Cup in September in Rome.

Hayley, Loren, Jules & Helen all took the field for England sides during the season.

Pixie also played in the Commonwealth Games for Barbados.

Emer captained Ireland (B) - unfortunately clashing with EHL games.

On the Club front



Indoor - double success winning both the League and Championship - Europe in Hamburg next February (top flight - as Slough won the B Division and England (us!) were promoted) - put it in your diaries Feb 23/25th - with a few days 'sightseeing' either side.

Outdoor Cup - Finalists at Reading

Outdoor League - Finished mid table - but it all rested on the 5 League games in May.

We were disappointed - but with 5 matches in three weekends - injuries and unavailability took its' toll, I'm afraid.

Already planning for next season

Simon Letchford has been appointed as Coach (he has a track record of gaining promotion to EHL League for his previous Club (Men's) and is England Women U16 Asst. Coach) - so exciting times ahead. He is also keen to get involved in Youth development and integration of players into the 1st XI training squad - so will help us develop

some strength in depth.

We are having a couple of months off and start training again on 16th August - with a fitness session at Chelmer 7.30 - see you all there?

Men's First XI Report

David Hunter

As most of the club will know, this season wasn't the most successful for our Men's 1st XI. We didn't manage to register one victory all season in the league, which is very little reward for the effort put in by most members of the s quad.

Our last report for the newsletter was before Christmas (yes we had 5 months off, courtesy of the Hockey Association), and we were very upbeat looking forward to the second half of the season as we had new coach, Phil Cobbald, bringing in fresh ideas. There were only 3 points between us and Canterbury, and we still had to play Canterbury, and we felt in control of our own destiny.

An encouraging draw in our first game back vs Hampstead and Westminster, sent us into the game vs Canterbury knowing a victory would see us leap-frog them in the league standings. As expected the game was a very tight affair in the first half, both teams were nervous knowing this could be the match to decide there season. As the game opened up in the second half, former GB striker Dave Matthews bagged four goals, and showed that little bit of class that we were perhaps lacking this season.

However the attitude and commitment of the squad was admirable, and even in our last match of the season, 4-1 down to East Grinstead we had a golden 10 minutes in which we banged in 4 goals to take the lead. Unfortunately, as has been the case for much of the season, we failed to hold onto it, and despite being relegated, we did go down fighting.

As always there are many thank-you's that need to be made, I'll resist going into details on why for each one but thank you to Woody, Fizz, Phil, Dups, Felly, Spesh, Terri, Ladies 2nd XI, Ball boys (who enjoyed playing a game against the 1st XI at our last training session, I remember one lad, making an un) and everyone else who has helped in the running of the team this season. Its great we get such support from everyone, its just a great pity we couldn't repay you with a few wins.

Awards:

Player of the Season

William Hales

Top scorer

David De Prez (helped by 4 vs EG)

Goal of the season

William Hales (reverse stick top corner vs H&W.....helping to win award above)

Idiot of the season

Andrew Fell (Felly lost his car keys one practice. After phoning every member of the squad, and going round half there houses courtesy of Hunter Taxis, he finds them in his stick bag the very next morning)

Worst physio in the league

Fizz (was on crutches for 3

months after an accident while ski-ing and was unable to run on the pitch with his trusty sponge and magic spray)

Congratulation to Owen & Fiona, and Ben & Mel. We are expecting new arrivals in the hockey world in October and December. Advice for you guys: Owen, call yours Tom (Thom), and Ben, call yours Parsnip (Farmer).

Look forward to catching up with everyone next season.....number one target is promotion, where we can slug it out with the big boys again!

Enjoy your summers everyone, preseason for the 1's will start in early August for fitness training. Everyone at club welcome to join us running round a cricket pitch for a couple of hours!

Youth Report

Judith Krone & Liz Nourse

Chelmsford Hockey club continues to have a thriving and exciting youth section. Comprising somewhere around 200 members aged from 5 to 18, it probably represents the largest group within the club and teams and individuals get involved in hockey at all levels and all over the place!

The children aged 5 to 13 play mini hockey, a 7 a side game

played on half a pitch. Coaching takes place at Chelmer Park on Sunday mornings from 9-11.30 and is run by volunteers. These volunteers are parents, most of whom have taken the opportunity to get at least a Level 1 hockey coaching qualification. The children are split into age groups: U7s, U9s (both mixed), U11 boys, U11 girls, U13 boys and U13 girls; all of which involves at least 18 helpers, as well as numerous other volunteers.

These children play in the White Knights League. This is made up of the 12 clubs in Essex who run youth sections. Fixtures are organised so that on 5 Sundays, during the season, groups of 3 or 4 clubs get together and play matches. The results are recorded and the clubs compete to win the League. The ethos of the League is to enable every club player to get a chance of playing a competitive match and our club tries to ensure that we really use this opportunity. Chelmsford came third this season, allowing us to play in the top cup play-off at the end of season.

We also entered teams in the Essex U11 and U13 Mini Championships. Our U11 boys showed just how much they have developed this season by reaching the semi finals. The U13 girls' squad found that school takes precedence over club in this competition, so Chelmsford players played as part of the Brentwood School team,



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Chelmsford County High team, Felsted Prep team and Great Baddow High School team. Despite this, the Club team ran out as Essex runners-up, losing only to Felsted who went on to be the runners up in the National competition. Here our own Sophie Nehammer was named as the player of the tournament. Pride of place however went to our U11 girls, who were named as Essex Mini Champions at this age group.

Many of the teams also organised additional friendly fixtures with the U11 boys competing all over the place. We were invited to a number of tournaments which were greatly enjoyed.

The minis work is backed up by the tradition of the club-house being open and drinks, sweets and bacon rolls are sold – very much a staple part of the Sunday morning activities. This has in recent years been organised by Hilary Patterson and as well as being intrinsic to the social structure is a very useful fundraiser to the club. Hilary has now stepped down from this and we want to say a big thank you to her for this work. We are on the look out for more people to run this important aspect of youth life.

Mervyn Patterson linked up with friends from Old Loughtonians Hockey Club to set up an exciting new event – namely an indoor hockey tournament for all the mini age groups at the Brentwood Leisure centre in January. This was preceded by two weeks where the indoor training moved to the indoor facility at New Hall and was a huge hit with the children. It is hoped that the tournament will become a

national event and Chelmsford aim to become leaders in it, having won the U9 and U13 girls age groups.

The U15 girls train on a Monday evening at Chelmer Park. This age group has no league to play in but we were able to organise a number of friendly matches against local clubs and entered into the England HA U15 Cup. The girls had a very good run and arrived in Canterbury at the end of April 2006 in the National Finals. This was run as a round robin contest for the final four, and Chelmsford became national runners-up.

Similarly the U18 girls have no league in which to play and with school and senior team commitments the girls have trained with the senior sides and entered the England Hockey U18 Indoor tournament and Cup competition. In the Cup they too had a good run and finally lost at the quarter final stage, a long way from home in Poynton, Cheshire. In the Indoor tournament they won through the Essex and East rounds and played in the group stages of the National Finals at the same time as the ladies were winning their competition.

The boys have Mercian leagues organised for them and the U14 and U16 boys have been training on Wednesday evenings. The U14 boys have played in a development league and have done extremely well. Travelling

vast distances they had many convincing victories. The U16 boys have really matured as a team and again have come away with some very good results. The U18 boys, like the girls, have trained with the seniors. School and other commitments have presented the perennial problem



of being able to field a consistent team, but again good quality matches are being played and good results achieved.

Not only have our teams done well, but individuals have had great successes this season. At the age of 10 and over we enter our more able youngsters into Essex trials and many were selected this season. There were Chelmsford youngsters in every Essex youth team with the Essex U11 boys, Essex U13 and U14 girls' becoming regional champions and the Essex U17 girls being national champions. Essex selects the elite and invites them to the Essex Academy and a significant number of the girls come from Chelmsford. Essex also puts players forward for regional assessment and we have a number of girls in the younger developmental squads and players in the Girls U15 and U17 squads. Finally we have Chelmsford Youth players representing the country: Helen Fagg and Jules



Butterworth have been with the club for many years and have played in the England U18 squad, joined by Loren Sherer, who joined us last season. Josh Mepham, old for his years and always playing as a senior, is in the England U18 team, as is Sam Burrett who joined this season.

Reading this report will highlight that currently we are achieving greater success in the girls' game than in the boys' game. This directly correlates to the balance of numbers joining – we have far more girls than boys. This is a reflection of the fact that there are many schools in the area that play girls' hockey but only one boys' school. We are exploring ways to sell the game to the younger boys; trying hard to ensure that the coaching provided will enable all to achieve the highest level possible and working on the principal that success attracts success.

Excellence is great, but playing hockey is what is really important. We are looking at trying to make hockey part of an individual's lifestyle, whatever the level the individual plays at, and this is what the youth section

is about. We encourage kids to learn how to play and to enjoy playing so that they will grow up in the club and continue playing the sport wherever they eventually arrive. Therefore we see it as a very positive thing that so many of our youngsters are playing as full members of the senior teams. We are grateful for the captains who are prepared to chase round after them and organise everything for them, but would point out that two of the ladies' teams have actually been captained by sixth formers – well done Jo and Sarah! We realise that it means that some are feeling a little old and out-numbered once they reach the age of 22, but the response to that needs to be to go out and remind the 20 somethings that we are here, and to come and join us so we can increase the numbers playing and, if necessary, put out more teams.

What probably epitomises hockey to all players is the 'tour'. This year Zevenbergen came to us and over 150 young people from two countries had a wonderful weekend playing competitive and mixed hockey. It was great!

Men's Club Report

Adrian Tuff

It's been a tough season. After last season's excellent raft of promotions it was always going to be difficult to maintain that high level.

In the end the 1st XI struggled in the Premier League but will undoubtedly come back strong next year, and hopefully end it with promotion back to where they deserve to be.

For the rest of the league club sides it was a bit of a mixed bag. The 2nd XI finished 7th, well clear of relegation but they will be disappointed following last season's strong display. The 3rd XI initially struggled in the dizzy heights of Division 2S but managed a solid mid-table finish. They will be heartened by how close the league was and how near they were to promotion (and relegation). Perhaps the best result of the club sides was the 3rd XI 8v5 demolition of the league leaders Berkhamsted away. A result that ensured the league went all the way to the last game of the season.

The 4th, 5th and 6th XI struggled in their new leagues, especially the 6th who happened to have been promoted twice because of league reorganisation. The 4th XI finished clear of the relegation zone (just) and will be contesting 4SE again next season, but the 5th and 6th XI were not quite so lucky, with both teams slipping down into Divisions 7SE and 8SE respectively.

The Evergreens and Vets sides continued to play a mixture of friendlies and league games (Vets played some league games) with mixed results. I won't spoil Fred/Peter's extensive report below, I'll let you read that one!

The Vets will be joining a new East Vets League next season so good luck to them. Hopefully this will mean some more competitive games and a lower average distance to travel! Although the Evergreen's no doubt will still be happy to travel all over Southern and Eastern England in search of the fine bitters, sorry competitive matches.

At the annual Club Day the following awards were made:

Player of the season

1st XI - Willy Hales
2nd XI - Alan Martin
3rd XI - Neil Stanhope
4th XI - Phil Hunt
5th XI - Jack Moss
6th XI - James Stock
Evergreen's - Fred Matthews
Vets - Crawford McKee

Top Goalscorer - Phil Goode (26)
Clubman – Jon Lambert

Young Player - Andy Fox

It just leaves me to say thank you to all of the captains / managers / administrators, I know and appreciate that it is not an easy job trying to deal with selection, umpiring, the team and me. Thank you for all your efforts.

There are a few key people in this club who without them many sides would struggle to fulfil their fixtures. Namely our umpires. We (and I know I'm not at fault) give them a hard time some/most of the time but we are immensely thankful to you for turning out every week for the good of the club/team. You know who you all are and if I list people then I'm bound to miss someone off.

Also, this is my last year as Chairman of Selectors, what with a growing family and the expansion of the website I don't have the time I need to carry out the others jobs. Adam Hunter / Emu will be taking over the reigns (assuming he gets voted in on Friday) so I wish him all the best, and be nice to him.

having a smaller squad than last year.

Although never in realistic danger of relegation, a bottom half finish can be considered nothing short of a disappointment. The long list of injuries included Richard Skilton (severely fractured hair), Alan Thorogood (back and extreme old age) and Chris Wilson (this year's snowboarding casualty) to name but a few!

With the excuses out of the way, the report card should read something like "could do better"! Some promising performances such as beating Broxbourne 3-1 were following up with some humiliating performances, losing 11-0 at Bedford seems to stand out here for some reason! The EHL 2nd XI Cup didn't provide any respite either as Havant came to Chelmer Park and left with a 4-3 win thanks to a golden goal in the quarter finals.

So onwards to next year. With the prospect a few new players to breathe some extra life into the squad and a new captain yet to be appointed, the new season should be a good one and with plenty of room for improvement, hopefully a better one!

So that's all folks! I'd just like to thank everyone who played this season and anyone who was ever bored enough to come and support us!

Over and out.

Men's 3rd XI

The long awaited answer to the most exciting question in Chelmsford Hockey Club's history can now be answered officially – "Simmo did not manage to score a second goal

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during the 2005/06 season". The confidence level was extremely high as reported in the Newsletter before Xmas, but the end result was unachievable. Was Simmo setting targets outside his comfort zone? Was the pressure just too much? Nobody really knows but the man himself. Maybe he should aim for an average of 1 a season for the rest of his playing career – any takers – I'm sure there will be good odds.

Note: Neil Stanhope won player of the year for the 3rd Team season 2005/06!

After a shaky start to the season, the 3rd team finished well clear of the relegation zone in 7th place on 34 points from a possible 66. Top of the league Berkhamstead secured 43 points and we beat them 8-5 away! Had the 3's started the season with the team that we ended with then I am sure the table would have looked very different. It would have been possible for the 3's to get promoted 2 seasons running. If, but, if but...

Note: Neil Stanhope was 2nd top goal scorer with 14 goals!

The Stats:

After 9 Games: Won 3, Drawn 0, Lost 6, GF 21, GA 37

After 22 Games: Won 10, Drawn 4, Lost 8, GF 69, GA 70

What do the Stats tell you? Well, once we got our backsides in gear and started playing like a team with a regular line up, we only lost 2 games from 13. This was mainly down to the experience and wisdom of the stable back row of Tim Briggs, Neil Stanhope, Simon King and Andy Simpson.

Note: Neil Stanhope plays sweeper for the 3rd Team!

Winning 7 of the last 13 games was entirely down to the midfield and the new look forward line. The 3's welcomed home Mr Goode. After a spell in the 2's, Goody decided the pace was too slow and life was just too easy in the 2's and decided to come home to the 3's. After the welcome home party, which resulted in a few of the team suffering with gastric ulcers from all the coke drunk, Goody went on to score 15 goals. It would have been 16 had his captain not cleared one off Berkhamstead's goal line. This did however save the captain another £3 being paid out to honour contractual obligations!

Note: Neil Stanhope provided the most team supporters in Clan Stanhope!

A special mention to one of the most illustrious players ever to grace the field for the 3rd team in Vasan Veera. Our Malaysian international appeared during the second half of the season and brought some long awaited skills to the team i.e. someone that could actually perform a drag flick at short corners. After several attempts by many of the team, Vasan turned up and said he would give it a go. After a couple of practice sessions, all the likely candidates stepped aside, which meant the 3rd team could confidently select the number 2 short corner option once again. Welcome to the team Vasan and hopefully we will be seeing a lot more of you – especially at fitness training!!

Note: Neil Stanhope is a lot younger than he looks!

So, now that the 3rd team captain has gained promotion in 2004/05 and secured a middle of the table position in 2005/06, it's time to step down and let someone younger take the reigns. I really hope we are not going to follow in the foot steps on the 1st team!

For the coming 2006/07 season I wish the team all the very best and really believe that promotion to Division 1 is a worthy target to set the team. The number of regular 3rd team supporters will be increased by 1 as Clan Tuff increases imminently (good luck Nikki). Clan Gould will be joining the fan club soon after the arrival of Misty Lulie on 11th March 2006 – she's definitely got the kind of vocal support we are looking for!! More support, more chance of promotion.

Note: Neil Stanhope will carry the "3 second rule" through the upcoming season!

Richard Ross (Men's 4th XI)

No report was received from the Men's 4th XI.

Andy Smith (Men's 5th XI)

The 5th's started the season badly as we tried to learn how to work together as a team. We suffered a string of defeats which left us in a very poor position at the mid season break. As the second half

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of the season got underway we were producing much better performances, with several wins, and some very closely contested draws and losses.

By the end of the season, most of our opponents were wondering why we were in such a poor position when we could obviously play to a better standard. We were turning up expecting to win games and we had a proper team instead of a set of individuals.

Unfortunately it was all too late and we were left waiting for someone else to lose to keep us safe. Ultimately, luck wasn't with us and we ended up just the wrong side of the demotion band and will be playing in division 7 next season. This time, we'll come out fighting.....

Tim Burrows (Men's 6th XI)

The 6th XI ended the season with a win which, although not saving them from relegation, meant they did not end bottom of the league.

Our Player of the Season was, deservedly, goalkeeper James Stock, and we had an excellent end-of- season bash at the Fox & Goose, highlighted by an interminable speech from captain Fielding.

The season, while not obviously successful, brought forth some bright young talent which, if the team can hang on to them, will lead, I am sure, to much improved results next season. All the youngsters who played for the side this year are capable of moving up through the club and one of the most positive aspects of their play was that, in spite of being on the wrong end of results

week in and week out, none of them ever gave up during a game and were all keen to play the following week. Long may it continue..... and good luck next season.

Fred Matthews and Peter Hollebon (Evergreens)

The final third of the season saw the Evergreens continue to enjoy Hockey at its finest, following the Porto adventure previously reported, preparations for future tours and tournaments proceeded at full speed. In the final fixtures of the season the results can best be described as being as expected, with victories over sides of Evergreen standard and age but defeats to one or two sides who were at the top of the Kent Vets league and also 10+ years younger.

The season as a whole was very successful and only those results against much younger sides stopped the Evergreens having the best percentage win ratio in the club. It is not the Evergreens style to pick out individual players as is usual every member of the squad contributed in their own way from Fred in goal through Danny, Bryan, Chalky (welcome back!) Martin M, David L, Bert, Tim B, Peter H, Deryck, Ian, Ed, Nigel, Gerald, Simmo (6 inch!), Bob S, Drapes and any one else we have forgotten.

An Evergreens season sees no end and since the rest of the club went into summer mode (apart from both 1's although we also

out ran them). We have played our Tonka trophy against our best friends and rivals from Canterbury, Enfield and Sutton Valence for those of you who doubt the existence of the Tonka you can see it being accepted for the Evergreens here as we won it back from Canterbury.



We have since also played the LX club in two matches to help them prepare for the European over 60's/65's tournament and will have represented our club in Holland against Zevenbergen in a vets tournament in mid June; tour rules may let any interested members have a potted tour history at the AGM. Our season then continues on July 2nd with a second LX game which only serves to confirm the continued success and strength of Vets social hockey within our club.

David Carr (Vets)

An enjoyable season finished on a high note with a good win over local rivals Bishops Stortford, to ensure that we won or drew at least half of our games. We have a strong fixture list and find it difficult to compete against younger Veterans sides such as Harleston and Ipswich, but it is a full list with fixtures from mid September until early April (we

cannot understand why the sides higher up the club only play league fixtures and finish in March!).

Next season, we are joining a newly formed (official) East Veterans league of fourteen teams. It is not clear whether this will be one division or split in two but most of our usual opponents are participating. This means that we should still be able to retain competitive “friendly” fixtures such as Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury and St Albans.

Crawford McKee was our player of the season, closely followed by Phil Hutley and David Gill was leading goal scorer. With a squad of only fourteen, there is room for new recruits if only to play a couple of games a month, and we look forward to the return of some former regular players to strengthen us for what is likely to be a tough league season.

Whilst most of the rest of you put your boots away before Easter, in the last month we have been providing players (and opposition) for the East over 50s, East over 55s and England LX. Have a good summer.

Ladies Club Report

Jenny Stonebank

It has been a busy and pretty successful season for the Ladies XI's. No promotions or relegations, however, 4 out of our 5 teams finished in the top half of their respective leagues and the 3rd XI narrowly missed out on promotion for the second year in succession. The 3rd XI also won the Curry Cup, a fitting award for

such a talented young side who played some excellent hockey throughout the season.

The highlight of the season, I should think for all of us, was watching Lisa and Chloe in the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, culminating in a much deserved bronze medal. We wish them every success going forward with their England careers.

The 1st XI were unable to gain an Outdoor play off place. However, they were commanding Indoor, winning the National Championships in Birmingham for a place in the European Indoors. I know a number of us are looking forward to a weekend in Europe next season supporting the players. Congratulations to Katy Roberts, player of the tournament.

Both the U18 and U15 girls had successful seasons both Indoor and Outdoor, progressing to the semi or final rounds of their cups. We are very fortunate to have such a committed youth section which provides the Ladies' teams with a wealth of talented players.

Our annual Ladies Dinner and Awards was held at the end of March. A big thank you to Mrs L for organising the raffle. Half of the proceeds were donated to a charity of her choice which, for this year, was Farleigh Hospice. We were very fortunate to have Liz Pelling, President of Essex Hockey, as our guest speaker. Liz kindly agreed to give out the awards which for this season were presented to:

Player of the season

1st XI – tbc
2nd XI – Sarah Wilcox

3rd XI – Kate Maxey
4th XI – Sophie Stock
5th XI – Olivia Stratton

Top Goal Scorer

1st XI – tbc
2nd XI – Kat Letts
3rd XI – Charlotte Roberts
4th XI – Jo Eager
5th XI – Harriet Price

Club member – Anthea Hunter (very well deserved, Anthea has been our fixture secretary for a number of seasons. She is, as the award says, an excellent club member who will be greatly missed as she returned to her home in South Africa at the end of the season)

Indoor Player of the season – tbc by Ladies 1's

Most Promising Junior – shared by Toni Speakman and Louise Paterson.

Overall Top Goalscorer – Charlotte Roberts.

As usual the overall success of the Ladies XI's is thanks to the hard work of a number of people. In particular I would like to say a big thank you to the captains/managers: Janet, Bunny, Lisa, Kat, Sarah, Jo and Helen for making my job so much easier throughout the season. Thank you as well to everyone who has umpired, supported and taken on other roles within the club and generally helped in so many ways.



I hope you all have a good summer and return refreshed for a new season.

Ladies Team Reports

Anna Smith (Ladies 2nd XI)

The Second part of the season once again brought mixed results, despite this we finished in 4th place.

The last few games of the season showed our mixed form. We were on good form against Sevenoaks where they only managed to beat us 2-1, this however, was not the case a week after against Letchworth. We dominated the possession in the first half and looked like we were going to win but after only a few periods of good play we scraped a 1-1 draw.

We were pleased with our performance in the 2nd XI cup, reaching the semi finals. Unfortunately we didn't make the finals, this was made even more gutting as they were being held at Chelmer Park.

In the first round of the cup we got a bye, we were then drawn away to Bowdon Hightown in Manchester for the quarter finals. This was a very good game and one of our best performances of the season, it finished 2-2 after extra time, we went on to win on penalty flicks.

In the semi finals we faced Woking away. Luck wasn't on our side and despite doing everything we could to secure a win the game finished 2-1 to Woking, who went on to lose to Old Loughtonians in the final.

A big thank-you to all of our travelling supporters, you were and always are appreciated.

The 2nd XI player of the season went to Sarah Wilcox who has been the backbone of our defence this year and occasionally venturing on a run up front!

We are sad to lose Anthea Hunter, one of our keepers this year, after she decided to make the move back to South Africa. She will be missed by both the players and the club members.

As we look forward to next season we have a lot of potential players coming up through the 3rd XI and a few moving on. Good luck to Jules in her exams and at university next year.

Finally a big thank-you to Gav Spencer for coaching this year, he put a lot of his spare time into training and the rest of his coaching duties. We do appreciate you!

Also a big thanks to Lisa Crane for being Vice Captain once again and Kat Letts for captaining this year.

We are pleased that Kat has agreed to captain us again next season.

pleased with ourselves for finishing second after our first year in this league.

The team is very proud to have been named team of the year so thank you all for thinking of us.

Just to say good luck to all taking exams at the moment and to wish all the girls playing in east camps during the summer all the best.

I have had a great season as captain and will be sadly handing the armband back to Sally Symes next year as I head off to uni, but I'm sure she will do an awesome job - thank you for having me! Bring on next season!

Jo Eager (Ladies 4th XI)

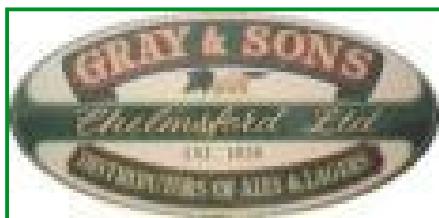
The Fourths this season finished fourth in the Essex 2nd division, I feel we have bonded really well, the whole team works together and gets on really well which I think has helped us to some really good results this season. Including a 9-0 win over Oakway.

The season has also seen injuries which has seen Sarah Eagar get hit in the head with hockey balls and saw an early end to the season for Denise Hayes when she injured her knee. She was sadly missed from the team but it saw some of the young players of the club getting a chance to play which I feel has given them more confidence with Rosie Patterson scoring her first goal near the end of the season.

The player of the season was Sophie Stock who has improved all season and was available every week and was very committed.

Sarah 'Fish' Sturgeon (Ladies 3rd XI)

The 3's had a brilliant end to the season and are exceedingly



I would just like to thank everyone who has played it has made it so much easier to captain you.

Helen Alexander (Ladies 5th XI)

No report was received from the Ladies' 5th XI.

Mixed Hockey

Rob Wallbank

When you last heard from us, we'd played 5 of our 8 Mixed League games and were on the maximum 15 points.

We had a few initial problems getting a team together for the game against Havering, mainly due to the Ladies 1's, 2's and 3's all having Cup or rearranged league games! But after a week of grovelling and plenty of phone calls, a new, youthful team had

been created. This youthful team was no more once Hunts signed up to play and caused the average age to shoot back up!

Considering the circumstances, the team played really well together for their first outing and the fact that it was the day after Club Day! Special thanks go to the girls who really helped us out at the last minute; Sophie Stock and Abi Krone who did all the work for me and Hunts in defence! And Emma Gibbins and Sarah Eager who showed Goodey up time and again up-front.

Also even though Laura scored her first mixed team goal of the season, I'm not allowed to mention that she also won a penalty, took it herself and managed to miss the goal by a metre!

After this game we had nearly secured the league title and could only be beaten on goal difference by Crostyx IF they could get

around 16 goals in their last 2 games.

Our penultimate game was versus Redbridge and Ilford. With a slightly depleted squad of only 11 players for the first time this season, we had a really hard time against Redbridge who seemed far too keen to be playing mixed hockey! After a close game, we managed to come away winners (just) with the game finishing 5-4.

Our last game, due to be the morning of the day that Chelmsford were holding the EHL cup and league play-off games was called off by Crostyx due to them not having enough players.

So we ended a very long and tough season on the maximum 24 points, 36 goals for, 13 against. With Kat Letts netting 10 of our goals in only 5 games and Sarah Wilcox 7 from 4 games also winning the Mixed Team player of the year.

500 Club News

Peter Woodward

I REPEAT MY USUAL PLEA.

As we only have limited sponsorship, to help the club, fill in the form and send to me. If we had 500 members, the club would make £18,000 per annum.

Therefore, you wouldn't have to exert yourself, only lift up a pen, to do your bit! Not much, is it?

Latest 500 Club Draw Results

Peter Woodward

April 2006	Prize	%	166 qualifying members	Amount	"Winners"
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<i>1st Prize</i>	15%	£124.50	Tracy Comber
<i>2nd Prize</i>	10%	£83.00	Roger Thompson
<i>3rd Prize</i>	5%	£41.50	Andrew Kennedy
<i>4th Prize</i>	2.5%	£20.75	David Woods, P. J. MacKay, Mrs Doreen Carr and R. V. F. Morris

May 2006	169 qualifying members		
Prize	%	Amount	"Winners"
<i>1st Prize</i>	15%	£126.75	Mrs D. B. Fox
<i>2nd Prize</i>	10%	£84.50	Spencer Wilcox
<i>3rd Prize</i>	5%	£42.25	R. J. Barker
<i>4th Prize</i>	2.5%	£21.15	Mrs J. A. Wahlers, Ian Belchamber, D. A. Carr and Roger Gaffney
<i>Quarterly Bonus</i>	7.5%	£63.40	Tony Clough

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

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500 Club Standing Order Mandate

Please pay: -

LLOYDS BANK PLC CHELMSFORD BRANCH SORT CODE 30-91-85

TO THE CREDIT OF: -

CHELMSFORD HOCKEY CLUB ACCOUNT NO 0997023

The sum of £.....

Amount in words.....
(Minimum £5.00 per month)

Commencing And on the 7th day of every month

Account to be debited:-

Your name.....

Your Bank's Title.....

Your Bank code.....

Your account number.....

Your Banks Address.....

.....
Signature (s).....

.....
Date.....

Please return the form to: -

Peter D Woodward,
Torc Cottage,
3 Garden End,
Stock,
Ingatestone,
Essex
CM4 9LD.

You may copy this to pass on to other prospective members.

Social Events – 2006/2007

Since agreeing to oversee the social events within the Club I have had some suggestions from members as to what kind of gatherings they would like to see during the 2006/2007 season (some of which have been a bit weird and wonderful!!). However, I would like to get an idea from more members (if not all) as to what events should be held to ensure that all members are truly catered for socially.

Apart from the regular whiskey night, beer festival, quiz night and Christmas party, I have included below a number of other suggestions, which I have received. Any further ideas for Social Events are of course appreciated so please use the form attached to add yours.

If you are interested in any of the below, or would like to add your own, could you please indicate which by either dropping the slip below off at the AGM on the 30th of June or alternatively emailing me at lauracathro@btinternet.com

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this and I look forward to seeing you all at the many varied Social Events for 2006/2007.

Laura

.....

Wine Tasting

Race Night

Jazz Evening

Karaoke Night

Under 18's Night

Team Competition Night

Your Suggestions:

Notice of 2006 AGM



CHELMSFORD HOCKEY CLUB

Spencer Wilcox
Hon Secretary
Rutherford's
72 Chignall Road
Chelmsford
Essex CM1 2JB

Tel: 01245 490946
020 7438 6624 (O)
07768 105184 (mob)

email:

spencer@wilcox51.fsnet.co.uk

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CHELMSFORD HOCKEY CLUB WILL BE HELD IN THE TEA ROOMS, CHELMER PARK ON FRIDAY 30 JUNE 2006 AT 8 PM

1. Apologies for absence
2. Adoption of the minutes of the AGM held on Friday 24 June 2005
3. Matters arising
4. To receive the Chairman's report
5. To receive the Treasurer's report and to approve the accounts for the year ending 31 May 2006
6. To set the subscriptions and match fees for the 2006/7 season.
7. To receive a report on the Chelmsford Sports Club.
8. To receive a report on the Youth Section
9. Election of Officers
10. To appoint the Auditor
11. Any other business

Spencer Wilcox
6 June 2006

AGM Officers

OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED AT THE CHELMSFORD HC AGM ON FRIDAY 30 JUNE 2006

Office	Present holder	Standing for 2006/7	Candidate	Comment
President	Ursula Heelis	Yes		
Chairman	Nigel King	Yes		
Treasurer	Claire Penketh	Yes		
Secretary	Spencer Wilcox	Yes		
Fixture Secretary (Ladies)	Anthea Hunter	No		Crawf will cover in run up to season
Fixture Secretary (Men's)	Crawford McKee	Yes		But needs cover through the season
Facilities manager	Jon Lambert	Yes		
1st XI manager (ladies)	Janet Sutton	Yes		
1st XI manager (men's)	Peter Woodward	Yes		
Chairman of Selection Cttee (ladies)	Jenny Stonebank	Yes		
Chairman of Selection Cttee (men's)	Adrian Tuff	No	Adam Hunter	Continuing with webmaster role
Chairman of Playing Cttee	Chris Randall	Yes		
Youth section representative	Judith Krone	No	Bob Smith	
Chelmsford Sports Club rep	Nikki Tuff	Yes		
League liaison officers:				
Ladies EHL	Janet Sutton	Yes		
Men's EHL	Peter Woodward	Yes		
Ladies - senior league	Jenny Stonebank	Yes		
Men's Premier Holidays East League	Adrian Tuff	No	Adam Hunter	
Umpires Secretary (East league)	Jenny Stonebank	Yes		
Umpires Secretary (Essex league)	Jenny Stonebank	Yes		
Captains:				
1st XI ladies	Lisa Wooding	Yes		
1st XI men's	David Hunter	Yes		
2nd XI ladies	Katt Letts	Yes		
2nd XI men's	Jimmy Smith	No		

3rd XI ladies	Sarah Sturgeon	No		Going to uni?
3rd XI men's	Derek Gould	No	Neil Stanhope?	As capt but not organiser
4th XI ladies	Jo Eagar	?		Going to uni?
4th XI men's	Richard Ross	No		
5th XI ladies	Helen Alexander	Yes		
5th XI men's	Philip Mumford	No		
6th XI men's	Tim Burrows	No	Paul Fielding	As capt but not organiser
Vets XI men's	David Carr	Yes		Took over from Ralph in year
Evergreens	Peter Hollebon	Yes		Supported by Fred as organiser
Ladies Veterans	Jenny Stonebank	Yes		
Indoor ladies	Lisa Wooding	Yes		
Indoor men's (national)	Ian Belchamber	Yes		
Indoor men's (Essex)	Simon King	Yes		
Mixed XI	Rob Wallbank	Yes		
VPs	As now			
Auditor	Mary Ansell	TBA		
Sponsorship Sec	David Lines	No		Need a group to support
Press officer	David Lines	No		
Media relations	Helen McDonnell	Yes		

Please note:

1. This is the position as at 11 June. There may be a number of changes between now and the AGM so if you are interested in taking on *any* particular post, or helping in any way, please let Spencer Wilcox know as soon as possible.
2. The Management Committee should be consulted on any nominations for VP before the AGM. Nominations will not be accepted at the AGM