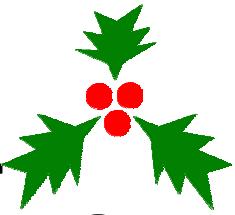


NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS EDITION



EDITORS CORNER

Here we go again another Christmas. This marks the half-way point in the Hockey season, and we hope everyone is doing well. Sorry about the delay in this Edition but as with Christmas comes New Year and we have been waiting for confirmation on licensing hours. At this point I would like to thank Mr Blair and company for granting the 36-hour licence. It would be a shame to waste it..... And we have no plans in doing such a thing. So without further ado wack ya turkey in the oven, put the spuds on the stove, pull ya slippers on, get in front of the fire with a nice glass of wine and read this fine edition of the CHC Newsletter.

Have a great Xmas and hope to see you on the 31st.

Carl and Rob

SECRETARY'S CORNER

Half way through the season and quite eventful so far:

- Lottery bid in and at the time of writing waiting for news
- Fund raising going well-ish, but a long way to go yet
- Up and down on the playing front at all levels
- Some organisational issues to sort out, particularly around one or two of the ladies teams and the Evergreens
- Issues about kit – have we got what everyone wants. If not where do we go from here?
- Sponsorship – with great support from Teakglobe still, but not much else and difficult in the current climate
- More than most years, a lot of off the field pressure on just a few people

But

- We're still getting out 14 sides
- We've got a great set of captains, though not all getting the best support
- Youth section going from strength to strength
- We've gained new players this year who are very welcome and will be an asset to the club

- The social side is still buzzing with more to come in the New Year
- Great web site
- A massive re-development in view

So as 2001 comes to a close, now's a time for us all to think about:

- What do we want from the club in 2002 and beyond
- How are we going to make a personal contribution which makes a real difference and not just in the game
- How do we move the club on – hopefully with the new development – in a way that is meaningful to all our members
- Where's the new generation of club workers – are you one?

I'm feeling positive – and that's after being a member for over 30 years! Think about your club New Year's resolutions, decide on 2 or 3 new ways in which you want to contribute in 2002. Do something about it!!

A very happy Christmas and healthy New Year!

Spence

MENS 1ST XI REPORT

It has been a very tough first half of the season for the men's 1st XI. Having lost 6 key players from last year's squad that so nearly won promotion to the National Premier league, it was always going to be an uphill battle. As it stands after 7 games, rather than being in a play-off promotion spot, they currently occupy the play-off relegation spot (9th) at the wrong end of the table.

Pre-season was not great mainly due to the unavailability of player coach Craig Fulton, South African colleague Steve Evans and Tasmanian Nick Gillon. Some of the performances at the Indian Gymkhana tournament did however remind the squad of their capabilities, with solid victories against non-league Ashford and Richmond. A magnificent first half display against Barford Tigers in the semi final was then spoilt by an undisciplined second half which saw them lose a two goal lead. Friendly fixtures vs Lewes

and Crostyx both resulted in narrow defeats and on each occasion the team did not perform to its full potential. It was proving difficult to fill those voids left by the departing players, but the introduction of Rob Taylor (Ex Havant) at the back has been a big bonus in filling the hole left by Rob McKay. The league campaign started with a visit to St Albans who had comfortably won Division Two last year and were clearly still flying high. With David Carter still away on the England U21 World Cup trip to Hobart, Dan Tilley deputised and saved the side from total embarrassment. St Albans completely dominated the game from the 2nd minute when they took the lead and never looked back, and it was only thanks to poor finishing and an excellent display in goal by the Badger that the result only ended at a very flattering 2-1. The following two weeks against Beeston and Bournville proved to be equally frustrating as the side failed to gel and failed to create goal scoring opportunities. In three games they had scored just once and this was decidedly dubious.

Doncaster were then the visitors to Chelmer Park and the boys finally got their act together, ripping them to shreds but only taking a 1-0 lead into the break through Iain MacKay's first National League goal. Donny equalised against the run of play only for Chris Wilson on his return to first team action to deflect home to restore the lead. But then they were reduced to just 9 men as yellow cards became the order of the day and Donny pounced to equalise and nearly snatch an unlikely victory. But it was the first point of the campaign in the bag - things were looking up! Indeed the next weekend the 1st XI put in their season's best display in brushing aside bottom club Barford by 4 goals to 1, thanks to two Steve Evans strikes and a dominant performance from all concerned.

The final two league games up to now then had to be played without the services of coach Fulton and Chelmsford suffered. Defeats at the hands of Lewes (2-1) when a victory was probably deserved had it not been for poor finishing, and Brooklands (3-1) when a lack of a will to win seemed to be their downfall, means they continue to struggle at the foot of the table.

With still 11 games remaining though and the new squad slowing finding their feet, anything is possible. All the defeats have been narrow ones, and can easily be turned around in the return fixtures, and their aim this season is now simply to find a comfortable spot in mid table so that they are not involved in end of season relegation worries. The squad can then

develop, and along with a few new additions will be back to challenge for promotion in subsequent seasons.

In the background the 1st XI have reached the last 16 of the EHA Cup, with victories over Andover (6-0) and Dereham (2-1). Both were weak opposition and Chelmsford failed to convert their superior talent to a dominant performance on the pitch, but they will find the going much tougher in the 5th round as they travel to Doncaster on the 3rd February 2002. The squad is extremely young and inexperienced at this level, but is improving by the week. Iain MacKay goes from strength to strength and David Carter in goal is proving to be a saviour on a number of occasions. Ian Belchamber has come up from the 2nd XI and acquitted himself well in midfield and defence, and Phil Goode has shown flashes of brilliance up front. The squad must now stick together as a team unit and look to improve their individual performances to ensure their survival.

Andrew Kennedy
Spesh

MEN'S 2ND XI REPORT

The 2nd XI have had a fantastic start to season in the Pintwize premier A division. Early wins away to Cambridge University and at home to Harleston Magpies (national league team last season!!) ensured that we gained momentum early and made a few clubs recognise the fact that a 2nd XI can compete at this level. The team has bonded well with a cultured blend of maturity combining well with the young 'wet behind the ears' attitude of some of a junior members of the squad. This is our second season in this league and we are already just 1 point away from our total points haul for last season. The big difference this year is that we are scoring goals freely (yours truly the exception, I've turned provider - well it gets boring after a while!!) Matt Brown has been in prolific form inside the D scoring 9 goals in the last 4 games -outside the d is another thing, physically moving seems some times troublesome!!! Phil Goode has also notched a couple of excellent hatricks including possibly the best 3 goals I've seen in our away game at Clacton - I can only dream Goodey!!! At the back we have in truth struggled a little conceding a number of careless goals however, with continued work on the training ground from our newly appointed coach Neavey we have now become a tighter ship only conceding 1 goal in the last two games.

Stats:

Played 11
Won 7
Drawn 1
Lost 3
F 35
A 27

All in all an excellent start with some great performances, the younger members of the squad Royce Waters, Ian Patterson and Matt Bell have all put in some good performances and Neil Walker and Nick Bastion have done well on their debuts. Both Seve and Wilkinson have added some flare to the midfield and nothing more needs to be said about the forwards... oh other than Kitch's missed flick against Colchester!! We are three points off the top of the table at the half way stage and the way we are playing I wouldn't bet on us not being the first 2nd XI to win this title!!
Cheers

Spike

MENS 3RD XI REPORT

What a difference a year makes.... Now I've always come to believe that any hockey team should consist of a goalkeeper, some defenders, midfielders and forwards, but so far the Men's Thirds seem to be doing just fine without any midfield whatsoever (no offence Flash!). Last season the team failed to find any consistent form until after Christmas, fortunately for us the form (to a certain extent) seemed not to dissipate over the summer break. There have been several changes to the side, we have new (ish) recruits Trevor Waspe, Luka Ross, Freddie Clough, Rob Dyer, Simon King and David Heard who have all contributed in their own special ways! With 9 games gone of the season so far, we have under our belt 5 wins and a draw (no comment on how long it took us to get 5 wins last season). We are currently sitting in 5th in the table but there are two important factors: a) we (and Brentwood) have a game in hand, after vice-captain Nick Bastian managed to blag an abandon on a waterlogged Chelmer Park 2 minutes before the score would have been a result! and b) we are presently only 6 points off the 2 leaders: Little Baddow and Maldon. Unfortunately we have narrowly lost to the top three, and to ensure that we are there or thereabouts at the end of the season, we can't see this happening again. The belief in the team is very good, we have been playing some "sexy" hockey but also some functional hockey, we have one of the best defensive records in the division. This is mainly due to our exceptional stalwarts Andy Simpson and

Neil Stanhope and to our keepers Ben Wallace (for a brief spell) and Carl Wright. Our forwards (when not playing in midfield!) are providing the goals, with Nick currently heading the scoring charts with a plethora of people in his wake. Congratulations to Nick and Neil Walker who have already had an outing each for the 2's. In summary: Good defence and attack, no midfield but going okay so far, good team spirit and as long as we never have to play on the Maldon pitch again we could be vying for promotion come the end of the season. Last year...seems half a world away.

Tufty

MENS VETERANS

Unbeaten with 5 wins and a draw we are top of the SE Veterans League. David Carr, newcomer Simon Denham and Martin Fuller have been ever-present, while Mike Abel and Martin Fuller have been piling in the goals. To date we have used 20 different players, so thanks are due to those who have played in unaccustomed positions and, especially, to those who have umpired.

SUPERVETS

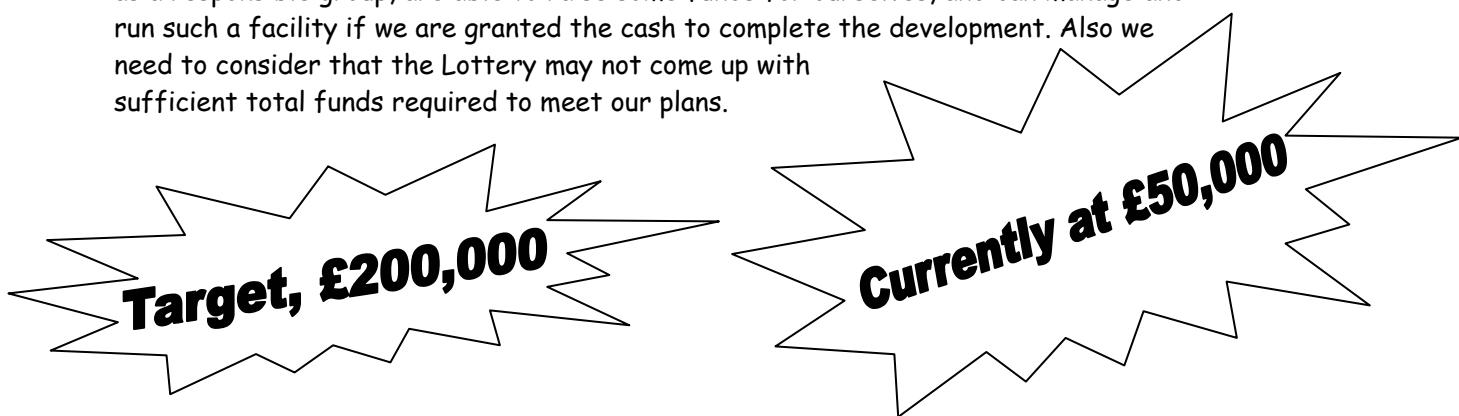
In the first round of the H.A. Vintage Cup, our over 50s team travelled to Haslemere and won 6-0 with goals from Mike Abel (3), Peter Woodward (2) and Alan Draper. Next round is at Chelmer Park on Sunday 25th November against Old Wulrufians from the Midlands.

US AGAIN!!!!

Ok Hope you enjoyed it.
As per last Newsletter please be advised that the next deadline for reports or comments is **16th February 2002**.
Sorry about lack of reports etc. However we can only publish what we are given!!!!

WaterPitch 2002

As you should all know The Club is maintaining its pace to establish the new Water-based pitch next year at Chelmer Park. This will really enhance our hockey as players and as a Club, and will focus our games at home where we will all be better able to enjoy the improved facilities. Part of our Lottery submission requires us to demonstrate that we as a responsible group, are able to raise some funds for ourselves, and can manage and run such a facility if we are granted the cash to complete the development. Also we need to consider that the Lottery may not come up with sufficient total funds required to meet our plans.



To that end we have established a Club fund raising target which recognises what we need, and sets up various plans to get there. We need the support of all members and friends to actively agree to participate in our various proposals.

The major fund raising item is the **Promise Covenant scheme**. A successful response from you all will get us past our half-way point. This is crucial to our lottery bid and will demonstrate that we can not only provide some cash for ourselves, but we may need to raise some early enabling cash which banks should provide against such covenants.

Member Promise Covenants. These will extend over 3 years at a set monthly amount. We are offering benefit packages at Gold, Silver and Bronze which provide levels of recognition of participation. Bronze standard package will cost £15 / month, Silver will cost 25 / month and the Gold package will be £50 / month. It is our expectation that all members will take this on board as a key element, either personally or as a family group, in order to meet the Club expectations for the new pitch.

- Remember, we could be playing on the new facility next season!
- No more travelling to "home" games!!
- Improved "Club" identity at Chelmer Park.

We can repeat the efforts we made in 1988 when we opened the current sand pitch. This was the catalyst that has taken the Club to the heights we have achieved today. The future will be even better, for both young and not so young.

For information and a form please contact Chris Randall

Chris Randall, 32, Jarvis Field, Little Baddow, Chelmsford. CM3. 4TP. Tel 01245 226693.

Remember: Target £200,000

Crawford McKee.