



## Men's 5s

A very successful first season for Wallingford's newest side. The 5th XI was established to act as a bridge between our thriving Youth Academy and the men's club.

Some very simple qualification rules. You are either aged 16 or under or 40 or over. If you fit anywhere in the middle, you are more than likely called John Stockings. It helps you to get selected if you have either retired from hockey at least once (if not the labour force) and / or if you are the (admitted) father of one or more of the other players.

Our league record reads played 21, won 13, drew 1, lost 7, scored 62, conceded 35 but this only tells part of the story. As a new side with many younger players being exposed to adult hockey for the first time, we lost an irritating number of games by a single goal in the first half of the season. A return of 13 points at Christmas was dwarfed by a spectacular 27 point haul in the return fixtures in the New Year to enable us to finish a highly creditable 4th in the league. Which just goes to show that our youngsters are improving faster than our old men are declining!

Our achievements are neatly summarised by looking at the first and last weekends of the season. We started back in October with a trip to Banbury with young George Griffiths playing in goal in his first game of adult hockey and an ex Banbury 1st team centre forward treating our goal as a coconut shy as they fired 7 past a brave and barely protected George. The season ended with George collecting a man of the match award for outstanding keeping at Wokingham on the Saturday and 2 of our youngest players Tom Sankey and Luke Casey scoring the goals that gave us a 2-1 revenge victory over Banbury the following day.

Throughout the season we have played good constructive and enjoyable hockey. Well done to our regular youngsters George, Tom, Luke, Hamish Wooding, Travis Green and Louis Williams for a great first season of club hockey. Thanks too to the older brigade of John Arnott, Guy Windsor Lewis, Chris Hamer, Mike Speight, Dom Taylor Lane and co for their commitment and on pitch organisation.

Special thanks to Alister Veitch for being an ever present and for enthusiastically leading the side when I have been away. A particular pleasure to record what must be a Wallingford first - David, Louis and Oskar Williams (admitted father and 2 sons) appearing together in a league fixture.

And finally 2 awards to celebrate - the first to Travis Green who has had an outstanding first season of club hockey and who has, at the age of 13, picked up the Men's Club's young player of the year award. Travis is a very level headed young man of much promise. The second to John Stockings who has not only won the player of the year award in the much coveted mens 5th team 20 to 40 age bracket (against no opposition whatsoever) but has also taken most votes for the overall mens 5th team player of the year. Above all though, it has been a season to celebrate the team because we have all worked really hard for each other and been rewarded with a great sense of enjoyment and camaraderie.

A great fun season and a great step forward for Wallingford Hockey Club.

JP

## Men's 1s

The euphoria of winning the league last year and promotion to the top of the MBBO leagues meant that this year had to be a consolidation year. We had a largely unchanged side from last year apart from the welcome return of Rowan Wheeler and the unfortunate loss of Dan Richardson through injury early on.

In many games we justified our promotion. Played 22, won 5, drew 4 and lost 13 is not that impressive on paper but if we take the doubles over Hawks 2nd XI and British Airways, and the first half performances against league winners PHC Chiswick into next season, then this will stand us in good stead wherever we end up after all of the remaining games and play-offs have been decided.

## Men's 1s (Cont.)

(After the playoffs it has now been confirmed that we will retain our place in MBBO Regional 1 for the 2010 / 11 season)

I'd like to thank the squad for their hard work and commitment throughout the season. I'd like to thank Simon for spending his only evening off each week coaching us rabble! It's a real privilege to have someone with his coaching stature here at the club. I'd also like to thank Angus and Buggy for thinking up some stirring words before the start of each game! Lastly I want to thank John for his tireless work on the side of the pitch every Saturday.

And finally the Men's 1st team Player of the Season goes to someone who always puts 100% to the cause, and just gets on with it with no complaints. He is hopefully the man who is going to replace me as captain next season. It is Charlie Chamberlain.

James



Members of the Ladies 1s enjoying a drink at the 2010 Annual Dinner.

## Ladies

The Ladies section have had a good season this past year, fielding three teams each week to play in the Trysports League. The 1st XI finished second in the Premier 1 league, having won 14 of their 22 matches. Second place is the highest position the Ladies 1 XI have ever finished in this league, a well deserved placing, just shy of promotion.

The 2 XI also played 22 league matches which included 15 wins to finish third in Division 1, also just missing out on promotion!

The results from the 3 XI do not have as many wins, but they certainly played some great hockey throughout the season. The 3 XI won 4 of their league matches to leave them in 11th place facing relegation - however this is under review due to another team in the league bending the rules quite considerably to avoid the relegation place themselves. We await the outcome and hope for one in our favour.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Captains for their efforts this season - Heather Merryweather, Emma McDermott, Steph Glover and Sheryl Cramp - all are stepping down this year, but have ensured that we had three teams out each week. Thanks also go to Erica Robinson for managing the fixtures and Helen Barber for ensuring we have umpires each week. Lastly, thanks to Rob McDermott for coaching this past year.

I wish everyone an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you on the pitch next season.

Sam Abrey  
Ladies Club Captain

# Newsletter

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## Ladies 2s

The Ladies 2's season has been very successful this year, we started the season well with 3 comfortable wins and finished on a high as we were unbeaten in our last 8 games. Kirsty Ross is our top scorer with 16 goals with Helen Barber a close second on 13.

We have finished 3rd in Division 1 of the Trysports Three Counties league. We played 22, won 15, drew 3 and lost only 4.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the season and would like to thank everyone who has played for the Ladies 2's this year. It has been a great team effort and a privilege to lead the team out this season.

A big thanks goes to our coaches Rob and Sam, their advice and encouragement have been much appreciated and a special mention also goes out to Louisa Morris. Without her performances in goal this season, we would not be fighting at the top of the division.

The Ladies 2's player of the year is Kirsty Ross. She has shown 100% commitment in her debut season for the Ladies section. She has become a key player for the team which can be seen with her increasing strength and determination and her tally of 16 goals this year.

The Ladies 2's are going from strength to strength and hopefully we can carry this forward through to next season.

Steph

## Men's 4s

Played 20, won 10, drew 2 and lost 8. Overall league position 6, goal difference +15.

A year of consolidation, as a number of last year's side went to support the 5th team with great success; this has led to opportunities for others. It was very pleasing to welcome Julian in goal, who indirectly earned more points for the side than anybody else. He was considered for team player of season but as we are all about youth, he missed out! However, it was a great pleasure that this year the award went to Matt Bright who was the sides leading goal scorer.

The team has built a solid foundation and thanks must go to Julian, Keith, Chris, Jay, Nick, Matt, Michael, Colin and more latterly Ed who have all been available most weeks. Thanks must also go to the umpires and coaches and we look forward to progressing next season.

Bill

## Upcoming Socials

Wednesday 30th June - WHCCC v Warborough & Shillingford CC at Warborough Green, a great place to watch quality T20 cricket.

Wednesday 14th July - WHCCC v Blewbury & Upton CC at Blewbury CC. All spectators welcome.

If you have any ideas for social events for the 2010 / 11 season please let me know at: [wallingfordhc.socials@gmail.com](mailto:wallingfordhc.socials@gmail.com)

Social events and tours will be posted on the WHC website and Facebook group so please keep checking for the latest happenings.

## Socials

After a number of great social events in the first half of the season including the annual Club Day and the Christmas Party, the second half of the season saw a number of memorable socials at WHC.

In March the Club hosted a skittles night at The Hithercroft, six teams entered the competition which was enjoyed by all and Andy Barber won the individual 'Killer' competition.

April saw the main social of the year, The Annual Dinner. Again a large number of Club members came out to support the event, where they enjoyed great food, the awards presentation and the after dinner dancing. Prizes were given to team players of the year as well as to Dan Richardson for his service to the Club.

The first weekend in June saw Tywyn HC (our friends from Wales) visit the Hithercroft for a weekend of hockey of all types. After a very social mixed match and a few beers on the Friday evening the weekend started for real on Saturday morning. Matches including juniors, men's, and ladies and mixed took place throughout the day. In the evening WHC hosted a BBQ for its members and guests followed by a quiz and disco at the Sports Park. It is hoped that next year Wallingford will be making the trip to west Wales.

For more photos of our socials events please check out the gallery on the website.

We look forward to another social pack 2010 / 11 season, we would love to hear if you have any ideas on what you would like to do.

Tim and Tazz



The first main Club social of 2010 was the Bavarian Night in January. A large turn out of members and friends, many in fancy dress, enjoyed the music of our live Bavarin Band and excellent buffet. Prizes were given to Mr Latham and Mrs Atkins for their fancy dress efforts.

Playing the game since 1894...