

Newsletter

Issue 4
September 2009



www.wallingfordhc.co.uk

Chairs Welcome

New Season; New ambitions; New Coaches; New Members; New fixtures; New opportunities to visit new grounds; New opportunities to get lost trying to find new grounds; New Chair!

Welcome everyone to my first despatch to the Club in my new role.

First I would like to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me. I have been around the club for about 12 years as, variously, Wildcat parent, infrequent umpire, occasional deputy team manager and impassioned supporter! My wife and son have both played for and served the club over the years and so despite never having picked up a stick for the club, I am steeped in the lore!

In my younger days I played to a reasonable level at school, Leeds University and my clubs which included Bracknell, Reading, Trojans and Old Edwardians in Southampton where I played with a young Jerry Unsworth!

Since being elected at the AGM the principle event has been the successful staging of the Wallingford Carnival which was organised by the WHC and raised over a thousand pounds for our funds. Congratulations to the outgoing Chair, Fon Leigh, and her team for an excellent job and to all the helpers on and off the Float on the day.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Fon for her superb work as Club Chair over the last 3 years and I look forward to moving the club further down the path she has been instrumental in setting out.

So the season is upon us and all the hard work you put in at fitness and skills training now has the opportunity to be put to good use. The Club day is a great way to kick the season off so we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 13th September. Bring the family, get that new colleague who is looking for a club in the area along or the friend you have known for years and never knew they played! Hey, bring the street!

Look forward to seeing you there.

Chris Hawson
Chair – Wallingford Hockey Club

Mens Teams

Well another summer has come and gone, I hope you have all enjoyed the break. Now another exciting hockey season is upon us again, which I hope you are all looking forward to dusting off the stick and Astro shoes and donning the green & white.

Last season the men's section went from strength to strength, with the combination of the new Astro, new website, and some good coaching. But I guess above all else was the commitment, enthusiasm of all the players and especially the captains. This ended with all teams easily maintaining league position, the 3s missing out of automatic promotion on the last game of the season and the 1s being crowned Champions of their League.

On to this season, Well we still have the new pitch, website is constantly improving, I believe we have better coaching planned for this year and 5 captains ready willing and eager to get your names on their team sheets. Yes 5 captains, for those that didn't know, following on from the success of last year and the ever increasing numbers of people wanting to play, we have added a 5th team to the men's section this season. This will enable us to make sure everyone wanting a game can have one and also allow us to introduce more of the academy players into the senior section of the club.

The new season should be a new adventure for everyone in the men's section, due to the league restructuring. All of the teams will be facing new oppositions, as well as some old foes. It may take the leagues some time to settle and teams finding their level, but I am confident Wallingford will show that it can take on what the league has to offer and again finish comfortable in their leagues, if not be pushing for promotion. So please all try and turn up to training on Wednesdays, and make games on a Saturday. Also help your captains out by giving your availability as far in advance as you can, also if you have not been contacted, then give your captain a call or send them an email. Failing that then contact my self and I will see what I can do to help.

So if you know of any hockey players of any age or ability, remember to mention WHC to them and point them in the direction of our website www.wallingfordhc.co.uk and explain how we are a good friendly, family orientated club playing at Regional standard of hockey, as well as a more friendly standard in the lower teams and mixed, that is always willing to take new players into the fold.

Remember, for your WHC Polo Shirts, Track Tops or lightweight rain jackets come see me, I will be happy to take your money from you. For all other kit and for any kit I don't have in your size, Sportswize in Wallingford will be happy to take your order and either sell you what you need there and then or order it in.

Training is on Wednesdays from 19:30 to 21:00 (you will need to warm up before the start) The showers and bar are open afterwards for socialising.

Coaches for the Season:

Men's 1s Squad - Simon Letchford (Assisted by Angus Jones)
Rest of the Club - Andy Barber

Captains for the season:

Men's 1s - James Lanyon - 07970724027 - james@lanyons.plus.com
Men's 2s - Andy Barber - 07818006972 - andybarber1@talktalk.net
Men's 3s - Dave Bell - 07745694058 - dbell@glanvillegroup.com
Men's 4s - Billy Allen - 07774832404 - northstoke@hotmail.com
Men's 5s - John Philips - 07786807408 - john@noha-agency.com
Mixed - Nich Golding - 07932580980 - nichgolding@blackberry.orange.co.uk

Good luck to everyone for the season!

Dan Richardson
Men's Club Captain



2008/09 Championship winning Men's 1s

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Ladies Teams

The Ladies section are looking forward to another good season coming up, with three teams raring to start the league season on the 19th September. All three teams play in the TrySports League, the 1st team in Premier 1, the 2nd team in Division 1 and the 3rd team in Division 3.

I would like to welcome two new Captains - Steph Glover is the 2nd team Captain and Sheryl Cramp is heading up the 3rd team. Heather Merryweather and Emma McDermott are tag teaming the 1st team captaincy once again this year - good luck to all!!

We are very lucky to have a full coaching staff once again; Pollyanna Fitzgerald joins us as Head Coach with both Rob McDermott and Craig Turner continuing as Assistant Coaches. Training is on a Thursday evening - 7.15pm start and will focus on both technical and tactical work for all players.

We are hoping to get off to a strong social start this season too, with all three teams playing at home for the first league match of the season (19th September) - so it would be good if we all try to come early or stay after your match to support the other teams. Staying on the social side of things - we are going to make the 1st Thursday of each month "Social Thursday" - so make sure you come in for a drink and chat after training on these dates!

We are always looking to welcome new players into the club, so please feel free to turn up to training or email/call Sam on 07976 658810.

Sam Abrey
Club Captain - Ladies

Sponsors

WHC would like to thank the following for all their support to the Club and their continued help throughout the 2009/10 season. For more details please check out the website.

Hankinson Duckett Associates
Gladstone
Boshers
Lesters
Rowse Honey
Fugro
Avanti
Richard Wheeler
The Dolphin
Fon Leigh
Wilders
Scotlands Ash Garage
Howbery Park
SportsWize
Apex Digital Graphics



The Glads Cup winning squad

Mixed Team

The Mixed Team has just returned from their annual enjoyable tour to Barnstaple in Devon. Although matches were won and lost in equal measure, the main elements of the trip were always going to be sunshine, camping and drinking...

The team did enjoy success on the pitch over the summer too, in their return to the Gladiators' Cup. (It had been a couple of years since the team last played in this cup, when they drew with Hawks, spawning the term Fortress).

And this year the results were just as impressive. The side remained unbeaten in all 6 pool games, earning them a playoff against Bicester 1s. It was not until the end of the tense replay at The Hithercroft that promotion to League A was secured, ensuring games against top sides next summer.

The mixed side has several friendlies lined up for the coming season, as well as a tournament on 27th September. Anyone interested in playing this year, please contact Nich on wallingfordhc.ontour@gmail.com

Nich Golding
Mixed Captain

Socials

As many of you will be aware Wallingford Hockey Club enjoy an active and healthy Social life. This coming season is no different to the last with a number of new events taking place throughout the season as well as some of the old favorites. Please keep your eyes open for emails from this years Social Sec Tazz and Tim and try to support the events as much as possible as they are a great way to get to know each other better as well as raise much needed funds for the running of your Club. If you are not on the mailing list and would like to be added please send an email to: wallingfordhc.socials@gmail.com. You can also keep an eye on the website and the Facebook group to see what is going on.

Upcoming Socials

Sunday 13th September - WHC Club Day - The Club's Annual Club Day, Junior training, Senior matches, bar, BBQ, hockey stall, socials stall.

Saturday 17th October - WHC Comedy Night - Fundraising social to Jongleurs Comedy Club in Oxford, all the money made from the tickets goes to your Club. Over 18s only, £12 - Adults, £10 - Students / Unemployed. Tickets will be available at the Club Day and from Tazz and Tim.

Saturday 21st November - WHC Bavarian Night - Bavarian Night with Umpar Band, food and drink, fancy dress welcome! More details to follow.

Saturday 26th December - WHC Boxing Day Match - Come down and have a run around to burn off all the Christmas calories.

Saturday 23rd January - WHC Curry Night - A Club outing to a Wallingford curry house for food and drink.

Saturday 6th March - WHC Skittles night - More info to follow.

Saturday 17th April - WHC Annual Dinner - The main event of the hockey year.

There are sure to be more events added throughout the season so keep an eye out.

Tazz and Tim
Social Secs

Playing the game since 1894...