



## Mens 5s

The Mens 5th XI is a new venture this season and has proved to be a major success with the team playing high quality hockey and having great fun. As we come towards the half way point of the league we have won 4, drawn 1 and lost 4 with a positive goal difference of 10. All of our matches have been thoroughly enjoyable and the standard of hockey in the league has been surprisingly high. While we have selected from a large squad this has been a sign of the health of the club rather than selectorial desperation. Once players have discovered the 5ths they seem oddly reluctant to seek a berth in a higher side! If you are aged between 18 and 45 you are unlikely to have played for the 5ths unique blend of youth and experience. Nominations for the season's highlights so far:

·14 year old George Griffiths in goal. George started his Wallingford career with a baptism of fire as Banbury's ex 1st team centre forward fired the ball at and past him from every conceivable angle in what has proved to be our only heavy defeat. Since then George has excelled and grown in confidence and authority. Ask the Bicester Vets centre forward who George unceremoniously cleared out of his area last Saturday as he made a diving clearance. George has quite deservedly picked up a couple of man of the match awards.

·Louis Williams and Travis Green who have more than held their own in the midfield of adult hockey way, way before their 16th birthdays and contributed goals to boot.

·Hamish Wooding, Tom Sankey, Luke Casey, Michael Sladden and Hamish Sherry who have all progressed immeasurably as the youngest forward line in the league. Their positional sense and running off the ball is now creating chances and, as confidence continues to grow, they will convert more and more of those chances into goals.

·Alister Veitch for his calm presence and leadership from the back.

·John Stockings for being our token 18 to 45 year old, for his enthusiasm and clear enjoyment of the talent and purpose within the team.

·Chris Carter-Keall, Chris Hamer, Guy Windsor Lewis and David Williams – the parents of the next generation – for their rediscovery of the joys of playing.

·The 5th XI's ability to persuade past talent to pull on a Wallingford shirt and enjoy themselves again. Step forward John Arnott, Dom Taylor Lane and Andy Evans (yes Andy Evans!). John Evans to join this list in the second half of the season.

·An 8-1 demolition of Witney and 11-1 annihilation of Rover Oxford.

The side has a tremendous team ethic and is playing the right kind of hockey seeking to keep the ball and move it at pace. I am very confident that the results in the second half of the season will reflect our improvement in the first half. A top four place should be within our reach.

JP



# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Mens 1s

After the triumphant promotion season last year, aspirations in the Mens1s for this season were a little more modest. 'Consolidation' and 'mid-table mediocrity' were the buzz words floating around during pre-season and with us effectively promoted two leagues to MBBO Regional Division 1 this season, relegation avoidance must have been our priority. The return of some familiar faces in Rowan Wheeler, Alun Lloyd, Grant Barber and Nich Golding were very welcome. After an initial scare in the summer when it looked as though we were going to start the season with no coach, we are extremely pleased to welcome Simon Letchford to the Club as our new Mens 1st Team Coach. Pre-season friendly matches during September came and went with a good performance at the Oxfordshire Cup tournament, finishing in the top 4, and two good wins over Abingdon and Reading 2As. Our regular meeting with Burton was more of a challenge to us and provided us with the perfect preparation for the tough season ahead. The league began for us in promising form with an away draw at West Hampstead 2s and a very close 2-0 loss at home against Maidenhead (currently 2nd in the league) where two short corners were really the only difference between the teams. We have continued in reasonable form currently with 3 wins, 2 draws and 6 losses which leaves us lying 8th in the league. I have been really impressed that team spirits have remained high, despite our disappointing results; in fact, to experience some of our lowest ebbs after the draw at Newbury and our win at Staines 2s reaffirms the belief in our team that we want to and can do better. If we can play at the same intensity we played at against Eastcote and keep it up there for 70 minutes then I am confident that we will convert those draws into wins and some of those close wins into emphatic, satisfying wins after Christmas. Finally, I'd like to wish all members of the Mens 1st team squad and their families a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to re-starting the league preparation with you all on January 6th.

James Lanyon

## Ladies 1s

The ladies 1's had a mixed start to the season. At the start of the season we suffered with availability which resulted in 2 losses and a bit of a shaky start but as the season progressed we picked up more players and our game. Mid way through we had our big Reading 2's clash, where we all played our socks off to have a convincing 5-0 win. The following week saw us hold our nerve for a 1-1 draw with top of the table and we have won every match after that. So a great start to this season, rounding off this half with 7 wins, 2 draws and 2 losses and currently sitting in 3rd place. So with lots of hard work for the second half of the season, who knows what can happen..... watch this space. Our top 3 goal scorers at this point are Heather Merryweather - 8, Emma McDermott - 7 and Jess Bryson - 5, all from the mid field come on forwards, give us some competition!!

Emma McD

# Newsletter

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## Wildcats

The Wildcats continues to blossom with over 175 children on the books for our very popular Sunday morning sessions and over 65 slightly older children attending our Wednesday evening social (sorry that's should read serious...!) hockey sessions. In addition we run competitions for our U8, U10 and U12 junior sides and are doing well in the Oxfordshire league for our U14 boy and girl and our U16 boy and girl teams. Our annual tournament comes up at the end of January – last year we organized 106 different games of hockey on the same day!

Guy W-L

## Comedy Night and Christmas Party

In the first half of the season we have had a number of great socials. In October 40 Club members and friends went to Jonglueurs Comedy Club in Oxford, although the humour of the acts varied everyone enjoyed the evening.

Saturday 19th December saw the annual Christmas Party joint with WRFC. With the theme set as S&M a wide range of fancy dress was on show. With the live band 'Good Question' putting on a good show this proved to be a good way to start the festive activities.

These Club Socials are put on for WHC Members, money made from the events goes to the Club to help with the day to day running costs. If you have any ideas as to socials we can hold in the future please send an email to [wallingfordhc.socials@gmail.com](mailto:wallingfordhc.socials@gmail.com) and please try to support your Club by coming along and having some fun with your Club mates.

## Socials

As many of you will be aware Wallingford Hockey Club enjoy an active and healthy Social life. Nest half of the season is no different to the last with a number of new events taking place throughout 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](mailto: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

**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 30th December** - WHC Bavarian Night - Bavarian Night with Umpar Band, food and drink, fancy dress welcome! Tickets £10 / head available from Captains.

**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 throughtout the season so keep an eye out.

Tazz and Tim  
Social Secs

## Club Day

This years Club Day was another great success with many new and old members coming down to teh Club to enjoy the day.



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