



WHAT'S THE SCORE

NEWSLETTER NO.2. WORCESTER HOCKEY CLUB



SEASON 2008-2009

Potential New Clubroom

At the meeting on Oct. 9th of the potential five partners to this project it transpired that only three felt they were in a position to proceed to a more formal stage-The Athletics Club, the 6th Form College and ourselves. So there was no way the project could progress as was hoped originally. It was agreed that the group would meet again in Jan. 2009 to see if there was any mileage in considering a temporary building plus there remains the important issue of trying to arrange for new toilets near to the sports areas. However many of you will know by now that the Bar at N.W.S.C. is to close at the end of the financial year i.e. 4th April so we have to find another location for tea and bar facilities as quickly as possible. Andy Waters has been in touch with the powers that be at the University and had a positive first meeting. They do have accommodation which appears very suitable for us plus they are keen to welcome us. Clearly there are a number of issues to be resolved in detail and we are only at the beginning of these negotiations so fingers crossed. If all does go well we will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club hopefully in January as the membership needs to be fully informed in order to make the decision to move.

Junior Head Coach

All of you will be aware of the tremendous amount of work **Paul Merrell** has undertaken for many years in this very important role. The junior section is in many ways the life blood of the Club in ensuring a flow of talented youngsters into the senior teams and this development owes much to Paul's commitment and the work of all those who help with the coaching of the Juniors. Sadly Paul feels that he cannot

continue in this role and wishes to retire at the end of the year. I understand he is hoping to coach in Holland later on in 2009. Whilst we clearly wish him well we do now have a major issue in recruiting some one to replace him so the Management Committee is actively considering how best to achieve this.

Subscriptions and Match Fees

For some years now the committee has pursued a policy of trying to keep subscriptions on the low side relatively speaking and increasing match fees to cope with rising costs. The rationale for this has been that the more you play the more you pay. A quick scan of similar clubs to ourselves does reveal that our subs are at the lower end of the range whereas our match fees are at the higher end. However we all aware that playing hockey is increasingly expensive so the Committee has no wish to increase match fees unless this becomes unavoidable. We will be looking at this issue again in January. Meanwhile Reg. Sharratt and others are working hard to increase our income to offset the inevitability of rising costs. **There is one way all of us can help immediately.**

Use the Hockey Club Website. When shopping on line you can access over 100 retailers-such as Tesco and Marks and Spencer using our webshop. Every time you use our webshop to go to a retailer's website and subsequently buy something you will automatically earn Worcester Hockey Club money. Find our webshop at www.buy.at/worcesterhockey or click on the link on our website at www.worcesterhockey.co.uk.

News from the teams

Men's 1st XI

The 1st team are currently in 9th position having played 8 games but have the bottom 2 sides to play in the next couple of weeks and wins in these should ensure a mid table position at the half way point. We have played well in most games but have paid for defensive mistakes that have cost us goals. Last weeks result against a Northampton Saints which we won 6-3 and Jonathan Sprague's 14 goals so far suggest we are capable of retaining our place in the League. If we keep together next season we should be able to compete with the higher ranked sides.
Paul M
(written before 15th Nov.)

Men's 2nd XI

The team have had an excellent start to the season playing skilful and exciting hockey with a mixture of very talented youngsters and older more experienced members. The results to date exemplify this for of the seven league matches played to date we have recorded five wins, one draw and only one defeat at the hands of Harborne.

Men's 3rd XI

An encouraging start to the season especially as we have played most of the top sides in our league to date. So as yet we have not been beaten!! Reg.Sharratt has kept goal with distinction and Mike Perry has shown his experience by developing a real skill at penalty corners. Of the younger players great credit to Simon Dorrell, Tim and Chris Young and John Podmore for their consistent enthusiasm and no little skill .Ollie Parker showed his ability in the early part of the season before rightly being promoted to the 2nd XI. Results to date

P6 W5 D1 L- For 14 Ag 3 York Senior

Men's 4th XI

In the league we have performed brilliantly and demonstrated great maturity from the youngsters, and great leadership from the older members of the team. Out of 7 games to date we have won 6 and lost one- we did not concede a goal in our first 3 matches! The youngsters in the team have developed really well and fitted in to the team like they have been there for years. The most impressive thing for me as captain is the goals have come from all members of the team in all positions and have been great team goals, But what

sums up the 4's for me is the great team spirit and belief that we all share, we play together and drink together and no-one gets left out
Phil. Jones

Men's 5th XI

With a much changed team following the deserved promotion of many of last year's younger players up to the 4th XI and beyond, the 5th XI's second season in the West Midlands Premier Division is proving to be a tough on. With seven games played and just the one win to show for our efforts, we find ourselves second from bottom in the table. Andy Taylor

Men's 6th XI

Results for the 6th team so far this season have been a bit of a mixed bag. We lost all three of our pre-season friendlies and our league campaign has been up and down with a couple of defeats and five wins. Hopefully now the team is more stable in terms of players, we can start to build on recent better results. The younger players such as Gavin Hughes, Tom Neal, Ollie Bradley and Ben Pedric are all adjusting well to Men's hockey, aided by the older members of the team. Top scorers so far Ollie Bradley and Judd Doughty 5 each, Tom Neal and Jon Griffith 3 each, Nigel Haddock2
. Paul Simons

Men's 7th XI

After losing to the 6th team in the initial league game of the season, the severners had a couple of very good wins including a convincing win against Droitwich and an away win against the league leaders Olton. Since then the form has dipped a little with a couple of narrow defeats in the last 2 weeks away from home, including one with the final hit of the game. On a positive note the Severners have made a number of valuable additions to the squad this year including Andy Tayler, James Bullock, Jordan Kirkland and Phil Hodgeson. We have an impressive squad and no shortage of willing players each week. The SW2 league is proving to be surprisingly strong this year, but I'm confident that when the team clicks we'll return to winning ways. I'm also confident that I can avoid falling on my head yet again this season! Andy B

Womens Section

The 1st XI has had a turbulent start to this season with up to 20 different players playing for the team at different times. Most Saturdays we have not even had the luxury of substitutes We started the season off slowly because of that and as the team got to know each others style and habits of play on the pitch some of our results reflected that. We are joint top scorers in the league BUT also the team that have conceded the most.

The resolve of the team and the hard work of every player selected each week is there for all to see and can be seen especially in our result against the University of Birmingham where we came back from 2 – 0 down with 2 minutes to go to score 2 goals and pinch a draw.

Against Olton 1st XI in the EHA Cup we were 10-0 down but scored in the last minute. In fact in most of our games this season we have scored in the last 5 minutes of the game. With that sort of determination and spirit it will not be long before we climb even further up the league. Our record to date is:-

P7 W2 D2 L3 For 14 Ag18

Terry Duffy

2ndX1

The team has experienced a really difficult start to the season with much disruption caused unavoidably by the needs of the 1st XI. However the younger players ably supported by Becca Bramhall and Helen Brown have played with great spirit and determination even when losing heavily. More recently the morale of the team was boosted by the win against Kidderminster 5-2 so here's hoping there are more to come. Helen Brown (Many thanks to Helen for agreeing to take over the captaincy RRB)

3rd X1

This team has also struggled with the demands of higher teams so ensuring a full squad each week has been difficult. Consequently the team has inevitably lacked consistency but never the less has often acquitted themselves well even if this has not always been reflected in the results. Two good victories over Redditch 3-0 and Bournville 2-1 have helped to keep the team spirit buoyant.

(Also many thanks to Emma for agreeing to captain this team. RRB)

4thX1

The 4th XI has had a very encouraging start to the season, despite bearing the brunt of unavailability problems higher up the club. There is no shortage of junior talent feeding through into the 4th XI and the new junior players have stepped up remarkably well to the challenge. So much so that we recently beat Droitwich 3rd XI 3-1 and Cresconians 2nd XI 6-0 in the league! It has also been great to welcome some new senior players into the team but we need more, so please spread the word! Mary Travers

Junior Section

Congratulations to the Boys and Girls Under 15's and Under 18's teams who have all progressed to Round 2 of the E.H. Plate Competition. to be played on 30 November. Check the website for details of the venues and do try to support our teams if you can.

We are very dependent on the loyal band of members who do so much to support, coach and transport the ever growing number of juniors. **We do need more of you and the club is very happy to help with the cost of gaining coaching qualifications and a reduction in match fees depending on the number of coaching sessions you are prepared to undertake in a season. Please do consider helping in this way. Further information is available from Paul Merrell or Mary Travers.**

Congratulations To Hattie Lloyd

who was recently selected for the successful Midland Under18 Mercia Lynx squad.

Commiserations to **Mary Ball** who sadly suffered a nasty road accident recently and has not been able to umpire as a result. We wish you a speedy recovery.

Badgers- Last but not least of course !!

With only 7 of last years' regular Badgers available for the 2008-09 season, there has been a large influx of new young players ranging in age from 12-14. So far Pippins and Potters have each played 8 matches with **Pippins** winning 3, losing 3 and drawn 2. GF 14 & GA 13 **Potters** have Won 4, lost 2 and Drawn 2 GF 21 & GA 9.

The main goal scorers are Lasse Bachem 9, Christian Holden 5, Daniel Ferrier 3, Ben Cooke 3, Joern Bachem 2, and Edward Brown 2.

In particular we have been delighted to welcome two German twins Lasse and Joern Bachem who play excellent hockey. Of the 12 year olds Ben Cooke, Daniel Ferrier, Dan Rushton and Scott Smith have settled in well and 11 year old James Neal shows much promise for his age. As expected of the 13-14 year old players Tom Dalton has excelled in goal and promising performances have been displayed by Brindley Jones. Ben Darlow-Jones along with Christian Holden, Robert Wilkes and Chris Pedrick have put in very solid performances with good support from Sam Grew, Alex Wagner, Alex Swan, Tom Massingham and Henry Ingles. It all looks good for the rest of the season.

Barrie Roberts

Dates for your Diary

29 Nov. at N.W.S.C.

The Women's Section are organising **A Curry and Quiz** night to raise funds for new kit for the 1st X1. It is only £2.00 a ticket so please support this event. Prizes for the raffle will also be much appreciated.

04 April 2009

The End of Season Dinner and Disco will be held at the Worcester County Cricket Club once again.

Apolologies to **Worcester Wolves** who were incorrectly described as Worcester Bears in the first newsletter. A senior moment I am sad to say.

Robin Brighton