
The Newsletter of
Brentwood Hockey
Club

January 2008
07/08 Season, Issue 2

www.brentwoodhockey.com



ENGLAND HOCKEY
CLUBS 1ST



Editor & Club Administrator:
Jacqueline Johnson
88 Clarence Road North
South Benfleet
Essex SS7 1HT

administrator@brentwoodhockey.com
07779 153012

The Martyr

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The New Year is upon us already and we have reached the half way stage of the season, a first half of mixed fortunes on the playing side. Both Men's and Ladies 1st XI's find themselves in mid table of their respective leagues each having secured some good wins and to be honest some disappointing losses. Both teams finished with good wins pre Xmas and looked like they were beginning to show the type of form that will take them up their leagues in the second half of the season. The Club Captains and Team Captains Reports follow and here again mixed fortunes will be seen. Although we have seen the arrival of several new members, mainly in the Ladies Section, we are still in need of additional talent. All are reminded to keep the feelers out for fresh blood. We have again run the recruitment drive locally and again this has borne some reward.

The Youth Section continues to play in the White Knights Mini League under the watchful eyes of Jeff Woollatt. It would be good to see some of the higher level players lending a hand every so often on a Sunday morning to give the youngsters something to aspire to. Come on you 1st XI volunteers, Ladies you would be especially welcome. Progress continues in the Academy sides, lead by Tim Gingell with help from Jon Cote and Rob Wicks for the boys and Jenny Pearce for the girls. I have watched both sides a couple of times each this term and can confirm that there is a lot of talent coming through - keep the good work up folks. Training evenings are not being attended as well as I would have hoped so please all get down there on your allotted nights to make use of the coaching available.

There should not be any subscriptions outstanding now; any still out there not paid should prepare themselves for inactivity! Gemma is to be congratulated on some successful social events the last of which was the Xmas Party, an event sorely remembered by our illustrious President [I should say - sorely felt!]. Thanks to Pat and her Bar Staff for your continued good humour and patience. Congratulations to all who supported the Xmas County Ground Raffle, one of the best for a number of years, details of winners and the highest Team sellers will be posted on the notice board in the new year.

We may be close to getting the Web Site up and running. I have asked Simon Parsons to head a Working Party to bring closure to this long outstanding upgrade and with a fair wind this could be available early January.

Work is progressing slowly in the planning of the possible renovation / rebuild of the Club House. The County Ground is awaiting the first set of provisional drawings for review and once these are received, the various options open to us will be discussed with the respective Clubs. The Sawyers Hall Trust is also at the planning stage of building a half sized Astro Training Facility on the land next to the current Pitch. This would allow the Trust to offer an increased level of facilities, which would only be of benefit to us.

Well that's about it for now, it only remains for me to wish you an enjoyable New Year. See you at training 2nd week in January.

Kim

Men's Club Captain

The start of the season has meet with mixed results for the men's teams. Player's unavailability through injury/other commitments has had a knock on effect through out the lower elevens. The lack of stability within the teams has been reflected in the results that they have posted to date.

The weekly selection meetings have been engaging and I thank all of the captains for their attendance and input to date. A special thank you to Alistair Scott for accepting the role of 6XL captain for this season.

I would like to thank Paul Hewitt in particular, for co-ordinating the weekly umpiring pool for all teams. This has caused Paul a great deal of frustration on more than one occasion, backing up the fact that we need to get more members to take their level 1 umpiring course. If you are interested in taking the level 1 umpiring course contact Paul at paulhewitt75@yahoo.co.uk

I would like to wish all members of the hockey club a prosperous New Year.

Arthur

Men's 2nd XI Report

The season started well in September with a good win over Wapping 3s. It's always good to beat Wapping! But then we slipped up against Old Souths. Things have been up and down since then. We have lost to the strong teams and beaten the weak teams to leave us mid-table.

Thanks to everyone who has made the effort this season to come to both fitness on Mondays, and sticks training on Wednesdays. Our performances have reflected the improvements the team has made.

Thanks to Tretty and Owen for their input into the training sessions. Both of their support has encouraged the team to turn out and put 100% effort in.

The 2nd Team Player of the season award is still wide open, almost every game has seen a different Man of the Match voted for by his peers.

Congratulations to the young lads who have broken into the team this season and held their own (Atom

Bannell, Kris Waites and Joe De Mello). Congratulations also go to the old boys who have made the effort this season and held their places in the team (Doyley, D'Arcy, Tretty, Peter Anderson, Ian Anderson, Johnno and myself). We have certainly got some experience in the side!

Finally I thought it worthwhile to share the top five team fines awarded so far this season. These are the clean ones!

Joe De Mello – asking for his nickname to be “Marsh”.

Richard Doyle – Jug avoidance after scoring two against whilst injured and unable to run.

Nick Edwards – requesting physio details following an injury involving a hair dryer

Jamie Agate – Late for the meet time after taking his dog to a hydro-therapy pool

Gary Waller – playing in his old P.E. shorts that are two sizes too small

Looking forward to the second half.
Simon Parsons

Men's Teams Positions at the mid way point:

	PI	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts	Position
Brentwood 1	10	3	2	5	18	17	1	11	7th
Brentwood 2	10	4	0	6	22	28	-6	12	6th
Brentwood 3	9	4	0	5	25	24	1	12	7th
Brentwood 4	10	2	1	7	15	39	-24	7	10th
Brentwood 5	9	2	0	7	10	44	-34	6	10th
Brentwood 6	5	2	0	3	13	14	-1	6	10th
Brentwood 7	8	2	1	5	10	19	-9	7	7th

Your Club needs new members.

Ask round at work, try your friends.
Would they be interested in playing hockey?
All ages and standards are welcome.
Bring them along to training.

Ladies' Club Captain's Report

And so here we are, halfway through the season with the really wintry weather and frozen pitches to look forward to in January!

One of the real success stories this year in the Ladies section has been the abundance of new players at all levels who have all been welcome additions, strengthening teams and integrating quickly into the club (some more noisily than others – you know who you are!!)

Despite this, we have had a mixed fist half of the season and whilst the 1st and 4th teams are both comfortably mid-table in their respective leagues, the 2nd and 3rd teams have yet to get the results they want or deserve, often losing games against the run of play. The Academy have been struggling too, following promotion last year but it is great to see that they remain enthusiastic and committed under the watchful eye of Jenny Pearce!

I am confident we can turn things around in the New Year and with Jan Lilley generously offering to give up his time to coach and manage the 2nd team this should really help both the 1s and 2s to focus on getting the results they need. That said, both teams have shown real commitment to training so far this season, both on Mondays and Wednesday night fitness and as well as thanks to Tim, Jan and Simon for their hard work at training a big thank you has to go to Rob Thickpenny for ensuring the fitness sessions

convince even lazy people like me to attend as much as possible!

The attendance at 3s and 4s training has not been great so far and we really need the players to show a little more commitment, particularly as Simon gives up his Tuesday nights to coach you all.

I would also like to thank all the captains for their hard work so far this season. Everyone has had to adapt to larger squads this year and I know it is not easy to manage an increased number of players on the sideline. Please bear this in mind the next time you are subbed on or off.

The captains have also had to revert to finding their own umpires each week which adds an extra burden to their already heavy workload (don't forget, all our captains have day jobs too!) so if anyone out there is willing to take on this coordination role, I am sure you would be one of the most popular people in the club!

Finally, I am really looking forward to the 2nd half of the season and I do really believe that if we all pull together, we will see the improved results we want as well as maintaining the social side that makes Brentwood such a great club to play at.

Bev

Ladies' 2nd XI Report

This season hasn't begun the way that we all hoped it would, with the league tables and results not reflecting what we are doing on the pitch. With only a couple of points we are currently at the bottom of the table but there are a few teams around us so a win or two and we'll be right back in it. The highlight of the season so far has to be our draw against Old Loughts, where after the final whistle all the Christmas fireworks went off at the club. If the club could do that everytime we get a point that would be great!

Everyone's commitment this year is fantastic and turn out to training is brill so keep going, thank you, and it will pay off soon - I promise!!!

I would like to thank Tim, Owen, Jan, Pinky and Fish so far this season for

all your time, help and support; for training, matches, umpires, and keeping us all positive. Without you we wouldn't be improving like we are.

So keep your eyes peeled as there are some exciting games coming up and you never know we might be celebrating in the bar after a few of them.

Lisa

Coaches Corner

So far training has been going very well this season, and in most cases has been well attended. Owen and Tim have been doing a great job with the 1st and 2nd teams, with high turn outs every session. On-going minor issues are being worked on and will hopefully be addressed soon.

Club training has been reasonably well attended but there is still room for improvement. Please try to get to training whenever you can. The coaches are there to help you improve your hockey so please use them!

I hope you have enjoyed your Christmas break and don't forget that training restarts next week, beginning Monday 7th January 2008.

Training Nights

Mondays:

Ladies 1st & 2nd team squad
8 – 10 pm at Brentwood school.

Tuesdays:

Youth 7 – 8pm,

Club training 8 – 10pm at Sawyers Hall.

Wednesdays:

Men's 1st & 2nd team squad
8 – 10 pm at Sawyers Hall.

If anyone has any comments or requests regarding training please feel free to talk to me in the club at any time.

Jonno

YOUTH CHAIRMANS REPORT

Half way through the season and this year the youth committee had a huge early Christmas present for the club. Fourteen of our players have been successful at Essex trials and have been selected to play for their county and development sides! This is a great achievement not only for BHC, but for all the players and coaches who train every Sunday, tirelessly throughout the season. This is an unprecedented success at Brentwood. Well done to you all.

The White Knights league is again up and running as well as the U15's girls and boys league. We are seeing mixed results, but on the whole my coaches are very encouraged by the standard of play.

Our next White Knights home fixture is 27th January, so please come down to the astro and support your mini's!

Happy New Year from the Youth Committee, Coaches and Players.

“Stop Press” We have just received a late result from the Witham White knights league fixture. The Brentwood Mini teams won every single one of their matches!

*Jan Lilley
Youth Chairman*

We are pleased that the local law firm Wortley Byers has agreed to sponsor the County Ground Club for a period of 5 years. Wortley Byers are keen to support the local community and acted as the CGC's solicitors when we purchased the ground. We are very appreciative of their support.



Wortley Byers

So You Think Computers Save You Time?

Mike Kaye

In the old days, when I started umpire coaching and a blackberry was something you put in a pie, and an iPod was a patch you put on to hide a black eye, it was all so simple. You would be phoned by the Head Coach and he/she would say “Mike, can you coach Jim Bloggs at Chelmer Park on 12th October, start 2pm?” You would agree and Jim would ring you to confirm. Total time 30 seconds. After you would write a report on the official form, which was sent to your earlier, and you photocopied and sent one copy to the Head Coach and one to the umpire. Total time 30 minutes max, total cost to you: 2 second class stamps. At various times during the season you would include an expenses claim with your report. Oh happy days.

What happens now?

1. Buy a computer and learn how to work it. Total cost from £300 to God knows how much.
2. After ringing the help line at £1.50 a minute premium rate line 7 times to iron out faults, finding you can't understand the accent of the person trying to help you, you give up and send for Arthur Pelling. You can understand him. Just.
3. Now comes the difficult bit. You bring up the Erhua website and click on 'Appointments.' You have to scroll through Premier A, men and women, Premier B, plus Sunday appointments to see if you are wanted. You are. The person wanting

coaching then has to switch on their computer so he/she can email you to confirm. You then have to constantly check yours to receive this email confirming. If they forget you have to email asking why they haven't emailed you. He/she then has to email to apologise. This whole performance takes 1 ½ hours minimum (3 if you haven't got broadband).

4. You then have to download a report form and email it to the umpire and the Head Coach, at a cost - including broadband fee - of much more than 2 second class stamps.

The next logical step, and don't think it's not coming, is for the East to outsource its administration to a call centre in Outer Mongolia. The conversation will go something like this:

“This is the Erhua call centre. If you want assessments press 1. If you want appointments press 2. If you want a report form press 3. If you want to claim expenses press 4. If you want to dictate an email press 5.”

You press 1, you get: “Your call is important to us but all our operators are out yak herding at the moment. We will connect you as soon as possible. In the meantime here is a recording of Jack Warner giving a lecture on advantage.

After 30 minutes and several reminders of how important your call is, you get to speak to a human being and can't understand a word he is saying. You give up umpiring and coaching, and take up Brain surgery - it's quicker and simpler.