

The Martyr



The newsletter of Brentwood Hockey Club
www.brentwoodhockey.com

11/12 Season, Issue 2
December 2011

Chairman's Report

Crossed fingers we have avoided the snow so far - let's hope for some uninterrupted hockey and a clear Xmas break. The Ladies 1st XI is hanging in there with some fighting results being achieved. Just below mid-table at the half way stage leaves no room for complacency. The Men's 1's are also mid-table but have had inconsistent availability and with a smaller squad this year are suffering from an inconsistent run of form. The New Year could bode well for both teams if they play to their full potential every week. Both 2nd XI's have been struggling following their promotions last year but again recent form has shown marked improvements with some good results showing.

The Youth Section continues to play in the Alliance Sports Essex Mini League and good results are again being achieved, this year under the guidance of Ian Forbes. Thanks as always to all the Mums and Dads and team players who have helped with training on Sunday mornings. As always Ian could do with more help so please volunteer your services - don't wait to be asked. The Men's Academy and the Ladies' 5ths are in new hands this year. Bruce Lewcock and Helen Bourne are in control respectively and have some budding youngsters under their wings who are showing good signs of improvement. I can report good attendance by the higher teams at the revised Tuesday and Wednesday training nights, however Men's Club sessions on Wednesday are showing very poor attendance.

Thanks to Andy Rushmer for the successful social events so far this season, despite a prolonged injury that has kept him out for most of the season. We all enjoyed our Xmas Party very much, under the watchful ear of DJ 'No Mo' Lewcock, to him thanks also. Please remember that the Club will be open on New Year's Eve. Thanks to Pat, Roger and the Bar Staff for their continued good humour and patience.

As you would have seen the Clubhouse refurbishment moves forward at some pace. Apologies to all for the inconvenience caused. The Hall and Bar areas are due for work shortly after Xmas. You would have noticed, I'm sure, the new hockey goals at the Sawyers Hall Astro. Thanks go to the Sawyers Hall Community Sports Trust for their hard work in obtaining a 'Big Society' Grant. New Dug Outs and Sheds are to follow shortly.

Many thanks to all committee members, captains, vice captains, coaches and volunteers for their continued hard work. Here's wishing all club members a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.

Kim
Club Chairman



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Men's Club Captain's Report

As the weather finally cools down and we look forward to the Christmas break with the first half of the season done we can take the opportunity to reflect on the playing season so far and perhaps use it to influence our New Year resolutions! Here it is:

Division	League Position	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
D2S	7	Brentwood 1	12	5	3	4	43	33	10	18
D4SE	7	Brentwood 3	12	4	3	5	27	29	-2	15
D3SE	8	Brentwood 2	12	3	4	5	30	34	-4	13
D6SE	8	Brentwood 5	12	3	3	6	18	32	-14	12
D5SE	9	Brentwood 4	12	3	2	7	21	38	-17	11
D8SE	8	Brentwood 6	9	3	2	4	12	14	-2	11
D8SE	9	Bw Academy	10	3	1	6	13	39	-26	10
			79	24	18	37	164	219	-55	90

Overall, it has been a difficult first half of the season for many teams, a major contributor in this has been the previous successes. With many teams playing in higher leagues as a result of promotions in the last couple of years the standard of hockey required is inevitably trending upwards.

For the first team, their first year in Division 2 is proving to be a real challenge. In the games I have been able to watch they have battled hard and have deserved more points than they have gained. Recent results have seen them climb the table and I think a strong second half of the season will see them achieve a good finishing position.

We now have several excellent youngsters playing up through the XIs and our focus on youth needs to continuously improve. With Bruce captaining the Academy we have a wealth of new talent in this young side with selection policies that ensure less disruption for the team. We have always seen dads playing in the club getting their sons involved but it is now great to see it happening the other way too with several sons now introducing their dads to hockey through the Academy side!

Selection through the club has also been more difficult this year. Since the start of the season we have 2 further new captains stepping into the breach, with Bruce Lewcock taking on the Academy role and Mike Gray taking on the sixth team. Both deserve thanks and appreciation as we could not have got through the recent weeks without their significant efforts – as is also true for all the other captains. We generally have fewer committed players in the men's section of the club this year and this combines with weak availability to mean that some weeks it has not been easy to field all our teams. If you know of any potential recruits please let your captain know as every additional player will really make things easier.

More directly - if all players can work to make themselves available as much as possible and proactively ensure their captains know well in advance when they are available it will make it much easier for us all – there's New Year resolution 1 for all players please!

So resolution number 2 - Training & fitness – For many that was probably already on standard annual resolution list anyway, but making Wednesday night hockey training a regular part of your weekly pattern will genuinely help you achieve it. We have a good set of coaches lined up to run sessions that will give you an enjoyable workout and improve your hockey at the same time, so for those who are already training please try to make it every week. For those who aren't, why not give it a try? It is there for you as club members and you have nothing to lose (except perhaps a few pounds...!) CONT.

Resolution 3 – Pitch discipline has improved this season, but we must still improve further in terms of courtesy to both umpires and opposition. Let's all resolve to reduce the backchat and ensure games are fun for all those participating. The work on our clubhouse clearly creates inconvenience and without showers at the club please make extra effort so we can be confident that Brentwood remains a club where the opposition are made properly welcome.

We are lucky to have many really good playing umpires now who are developing fast. They make real sacrifices to enable our games to happen and deserve ongoing appreciation (and sometimes beer). Every extra qualified umpire makes the logistics easier so why not make 2012 your year to qualify?

With the outdoor Saturday season in full flow we often forget that Indoor Hockey and Mixed Hockey are also important parts of our club. In indoor hockey we have a strong team led by Ian Forbes playing in Essex Div2 on Thursday evenings at the Brentwood Centre with the bulk of their fixtures through Jan and Feb. We are running two mixed sides outdoor this year playing on Sundays and both are doing very well in Essex Div 1 and 2. If you are keen to get involved in playing mixed contact Andy Rushmer.

I wish you all a very merry Christmas, make the most of the prolonged break and come back enthusiastic and ready for the challenges that await!

Tretty.

Ladies' Club Captain's Report

“The Road is Long ...”

Ok so admittedly not the best start to the season for the ladies sides but I think the main thing is that it's just taken time to bed in the squads and we've had some turn around in results in recent weeks so I'm confident that the teething problems have been overcome and the only way is Brentwood now.....

The ladies 1s have had some new personnel (and old ones returning!) to keep the competition for places healthy and despite some mixed results, think the team is getting stronger and gelling more and more. A victory over Bas is always something to celebrate and they achieved that in great style so very well done ladies!!

The ladies 2s have had a tough start to the season in Essex Prem and are propping up the table but I think it's all in Jan's game plan.....lulling the oppositions into a false sense of security in the first half and whipping them in the second half of the season! Now with a more settled side the goals are slowly coming.....and so are the wins and draws so please keep focused ladies!

The ladies 3s are currently kind of mid table in Div 1 which is a great achievement. Again another team that have had great victories and some heavy defeats but being the middle team have had the biggest movement of personnel both up and down so that's an even better achievement.

The ladies 4s have had some quite hefty defeats as well but again have had changed teams every week. Some outstanding performances and victories against tough local rivals

make me confident they can stay in Div 3.

And finally the ladies 5s.....they've also had some great victories which I think is mostly down to the enthusiasm exuded by new captain Helen Bourne and the return of oranges at half time!

My message for the second half of the season would be please keep focused, please ensure you stay committed but above all, please stay positive. It's hard when the results aren't going your way but everyone needs to work together to resolve.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the main people in the Ladies side of the club who keep it ticking over.....Linds, Soph, Gezza, Mama Brimson, Hells Bells and Boycie. You probably don't appreciate the amount of time, phone calls, emails and texts these people put into running the teams and providing umpires, so that we can play.....thanks very much ladies.

Warmest wishes and a very merry Christmas to all.

Ali T
BHC Ladies Club Captain

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
The business minded law firm

YOUTH

The season is in full swing, with Mini training on Sunday mornings, Academy training on Tuesday evenings, Alliance Mini Hockey League tournaments once a month and plenty of young Brentwood players attending Essex Junior Development Centres and Junior Academy Centres. I'd like to say a big 'Thank you' to the dedicated band of people who help out with coaching, managing teams, umpiring, BBQing etc. We could always use more help, so anybody who would like to help out, please get in touch.

11 junior members from Brentwood attended an Essex Young Umpire course in November, held at Sawyers Hall College

Leah Carter, Ryan Chapman, Joe Coker, Samuel Crispin, Max Edmonds, Jude Ellis, Ellie Hendrick, Alex Lewcock, Ellen Swailes and Guy Westcott all passed their theory and practical assessments meaning they now have the young umpire award! Sadly Max Young had to go home before the assessment due to illness, but I'm sure he'll complete this soon. Some will be doing their level 1 quite soon judging by their ability, which means that not only do we have some great young players coming up through the club, but some good young umpires as well. Thanks to Will Davey (and the rest of the Davey clan and the Woollatt clan) for arranging and running this course.



Leah Carter, Ellie Hendrick and Ellen Swailes with their certificates

Alliance Mini Hockey League

So far this season we have had 4 rounds of the League, 3 of which have been at home. This involves a lot of work so many thanks to all those who have helped out. The main aim of this league is to encourage participation and many new players have had their first taste of competitive hockey this year. We have even had boys and girls as young as 5 happily playing for the under 10s! From a competitive point of view performances have been improving, with the U10 boys still unbeaten this season.



Joe Coker

U10 Boys

1	Brentwood	Tower Hamlets
	0	1
	Brentwood	Southend/Thurrock
	0	0
	Brentwood	Old Southendians
	1	0
	Redbridge/Waltham Forest	Brentwood
	0	0
	Brentwood	Southend/Thurrock
	0	0
	Brentwood	Maldon
	2	0
	Redbridge/Waltham Forest	Brentwood
	1	1
	Brentwood	Tower Hamlets
	0	0



Ryan & Ethan

U10 Girls

Southend/Thurrock	2	Brentwood
		0
Brentwood	0	Tower Hamlets
		3
Redbridge/Waltham Forest	1	Brentwood
		0
Southend/Thurrock	2	Brentwood
		0
Brentwood	0	Old Southendians
		3
Redbridge/Waltham Forest	0	Brentwood
		1
Tower Hamlets	0	Brentwood
		0
Brentwood	1	Maldon
		0



U10 Girls



Jude Ellis

U12 Boys

Brentwood 4	Tower Hamlets 0
Brentwood 1	Southend/Thurrock 1
Brentwood 0	Old Southendians 2
Redbridge/Waltham Forest 0	Brentwood 2
Brentwood 0	Southend/Thurrock 1
Brentwood 1	Maldon 0
Redbridge/Waltham Forest 0	Brentwood 2
Brentwood 3	Tower Hamlets 0



Rosie Power

Ian Forbes, Youth Chairman

Team Reports

Ladies' 3rd XI

The Ladies 3s ended last season on a high, having gained promotion to Division 1 of the Essex Women's Hockey League. Our aim for this season was (and still is) to stay in the league and not bounce straight back down again, whilst playing the best hockey we possibly could and above all, having fun!

It was obvious that the new league was going to provide plenty of challenges, and this proved to be true in the opening game of the season against Essex University, when we sadly lost 6-3 in blazing sunshine at Hannakins Farm. The following week the team returned to winning ways, beating a shocked Phoenix 2s team (who gained promotion with us) 2 – 1, with both goals scored by Charlotte Caddies, making her

debut on the left wing – quite a change from her normal position of centre back! The following weeks saw losses against Basildon 2s and Wapping 4s, but an extremely strong performance against Havering 2s resulted in a 0-0 draw. The rest of the season continued with mixed fortunes, with a number of wins, draws and losses. As of December 10th, the 3s are in 8th place in the league, a reasonably comfortable position to be in at the end of the first half of the season.

The 3s provide a training ground for players making their way through the club to the 1s and 2s, and it has been delightful to see so many of our young players grow stronger week by week, having progressed through the Minis into the full club sides. Notably, Charlotte Caddies, Josie Carver, Natasha Patient, Hannah Scammell, Lizzie Tyler and Sarah Woollatt have all been invaluable members of the team and are improving their game and skills all the time. Providing an excellent supporting role has been the ever strong defensive team of Cheryl Birkett, Ruth Fry and Elaine Williamson; and the midfield was ably managed by Julie Angeli, Suzanne Birkett (before leaving for University), Ali Forbes, Faith Newland and Mary Paton. The forward line has been a moveable feast, with Lorna Parsons beginning the season as a centre forward until reverting to her true calling as a GK, and Sue Mitchell, Jo Palmer, Julie Snell and Ali Twidale all proving strong fire power up front.

It would have been nice to have had a stable team in the first half of the season, but this has not really been the case, with a total of

U12 Girls

Southend/Thurrock 3	Brentwood 0
Brentwood 0	Tower Hamlets 1
Redbridge/Waltham Forest 1	Brentwood 0
Southend/Thurrock 2	Brentwood 0
Brentwood 0	Old Southendians 2
Redbridge/Waltham Forest 0	Brentwood 0
Tower Hamlets 1	Brentwood 0

Pictures taken at the Alliance Mini Hockey League

28 players having played in at least one game for the 3s. There has been a lot of movement up and down from the team, principally due to the peaks and troughs of availability – consistency has been far less than it was last season, with correspondingly variable results. Despite all these movements, there is sometimes not the space to bring on all the players from the lower teams and continue to nurture the young players for the higher teams in the club. There are a group of players who are destined to play higher up the club, and will within a few years form the core of the 1s and 2s.

We are grateful to Will Davey, for coaching us every Tuesday evening, come rain or shine; and thanks to Jo Davey who has stepped in to cover for Will on the occasions he has not been able to make it.

So to the second half of the season and the 3s will be aiming to consolidate our position in the middle of Division 1, and win as many of our games as we can. This will depend on taking our chances and becoming ruthless in front of goal. If we can do this, including improving our short corners, we will enjoy the second half of the season and meet our target to stay in Division 1.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas, and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Geraldine Woollatt

Men's 1st XI

Half Time Summary

The Men's First XI went into the 2011/2012 season full of hope and optimism with a new

management team in place. We also welcomed big summer signing Simon Barrass to the club to fill the vacant goalkeeper slot.

Preseason showed encouraging signs against higher placed opposition, with a closely fought win against local rivals Upminster the pick of the games.

The first league game was a trip to Stevenage on a hot day and set the standard for what was to come for the rest of the season. It was a hard fought 3-3 draw but probably two points dropped in Brentwood's opinion. It was clear now to Brentwood that teams in this league were going to be no pushovers.

Over the next seven weeks Brentwood fought hard, picking up some comprehensive wins over Crostyx and Thurrock, but throwing away leads against East London, Wapping and Potters Bar. However, following a management reshuffle, Brentwood have refocused and of late started picking up points and climbing the table again. This has coincided with the return of Ian Forbes following injury in preseason.

Brentwood know they have the firepower to climb the table in the second half of the season with the team the highest scorers in the league. Huge credit must go to the forward line, lead by talisman James Duggan who has already chalked up 19 goals this season.

Defensively Brentwood must improve, but this has been hampered by inavailabilities and injuries to key personnel. The defence will soon get back to its normal watertight self with Simon Cannon improving game on game following his promotion from the twos and the heartening

debut made by new keeper James Stock.

As well as the encouraging first team starts made by Cannon, Stock and Barrass, this half-season has seen the emergence of Alex Haynes as a vital attacking threat as well as key personnel Robert Fryer and Paul Haynes taking more influential and responsible roles within the team structure.

The second half of the season has always been Brentwood's strong point, but better availability and training attendance will be necessary if Brentwood is going to push for promotion this season.

Token

Men's 3rd XI

The 3rd XI have experienced the highs and lows this season, availability in the club has been the main cause as a settled side is a luxury we have not experienced this season. A few old regular heads have turned up for another season trials joined by some younger players willing to offer some flair and pace. The team have showed some true Brentwood spirit during the first 11 games of the season, obtaining 4 wins and 3 draws. The high point was thrashing the league leaders two weeks ago 6-1 showing what can be done with a full squad. Will Davey and Mark Laskey joined the team and have become key players in the team, one scoring goals and the other saving them. Andy Conner has stepped up and shown he is a quality keeper. Most encouraging of all, two of the academy have stepped up and shown us a few new tricks, Mike Lowe has shown us all how to score easy tap ins at

the far post and Aaron Doyle is showing his old man pace and skills down the right side. Our aim for the next half of the season will be to turn the three draws into wins.

Ian Anderson

Umpire Matters

Hey folks

Is it just me or has the first half of the season shot past? It doesn't seem like nearly 4 months since the pre-season Martyr. Quite a lot has happened on the old umpiring front since then.

We've had 3 new people do the L1 course in October - let's make sure they get some good practice games under their belt ahead of their practical assessment. If you'd like a game to get practicing on, then do let me or Boycie know, it can be arranged!

Also we've seen Paul Colman graduate on his L1 assessment (well done, Paul!). He's already done a fair share of umpiring this season, along with some other stalwarts who have again shown tremendous loyalty and commitment to ensure everyone can get a game. Just as selection has been unusually difficult at times this season, so has making sure we've got umpires in the right places at the right times on the right games, especially with the men's 2's rarely getting a pool umpires these days and some unexpected unavailability amongst some of our regular non-playing umpires. We've had some really sterling support from a precious few who again have done the club absolutely proud. They deserve more colleagues so they can have a rest now and again too - so please do give it some serious thought.

2012 is going to be an exciting year for hockey and umpiring in Essex and a great opportunity. We've got the best players in the world coming to

contest a hockey tournament in one of the oldest sporting competitions on the planet, right on our doorstep. There'll be lots to learn from and admire as we get the chance to see some top level hockey. The best players become the best players because of commitment to doing well - their own commitment and that of those around them. That means a fair chunk of healthy individual discipline, as well as looking out for and encouraging each other. None of them will have got there without the time, commitment and sacrifice of others who have all pulled together because they love hockey. It's the same with umpires. We're all human and we all need encouragement too - that's the surefire way for us all to get better.

So let's make 2012 a learning opportunity. If you find an umpire you think needs a 'learning opportunity' (and let's face it, we've all been there), give them a chance and help them to learn from it rather than run from it. If you're confused by a rule or a decision, chat it over - that's what the bar is for! A lively chat about the finer points of what happened in your game is a great way to keep the money rolling over the bar. Don't forget to chat about stuff that went right as well as the stuff that didn't! There will be more Level 1 course(s) opportunities too - there's no better year to find out how the rules are applied in practice, so keep your eyes peeled. There's normally one near the end of February or early March.

Oh, and if you're tempted to have a go during a game, well, don't, because the umpire may just be making a list (or you may be prompting them to start one) - and don't make them check it twice cos they're never noting down the players that are nice!

Have a great Christmas and a successful 2012!

Fishy

Gibraltar 2013

After a successful tour in 2010, we have decided to revisit "The Rock of Gibraltar."

We propose to tour from 24th to 29th (or longer) of May 2013. This gives us plenty of time to save up. If people want to come out on the Saturday, this is possible to arrange with a group booking. We'd fly out from Luton to Gibraltar with Monarch and hopefully stay at the same hotel as last time - the Caleta Hotel.

The Gibraltarians are strong hockey players and the game is challenging in the sun. Hockey tends to be one men's match, one ladies and one mixed match a day.



Flights, hotel, transfer and kit would be approximately £500 - take a look at the photos in the bar it is worth it!

Everyone is welcome to join us. If you want to come along, email bruce.lewcock@gmail.com or fiona.lewcock@gmail.com or sign the list in the bar by the Gib poster.

SOCIAL DIARY

The first half of the season has been a blur of social events and looks set to continue. The social events are your nights and we would welcome ideas or feedback on events so get in contact. As the building works progress we are going to lose access to parts of the club house and we'll have to plan events accordingly.

Upcoming Events

New Years Eve
Pub Golf: 25.02.12
Fines Night: date TBC
End of Season Ball: 24.03.12

A quick recap for those whose memory is a little blurred:



Halloween Fancy Dress: JD as Edward Scissor Hands



Halloween Fancy Dress: Tim Gingell as the Grim reaper

Join our
facebook
Group

Don't

forget: You can follow us on Facebook! Join the group 'Brentwood Hockey Social', for all the latest information on planned social events at the club. We are also on Twitter @Brentwood_HC

And the club website continues to carry all information on the club.
www.brentwoodhockey.com

2011/12 Team Challenge
Winners: Men's 1st XI

2011/12 Team Challenge runners
up: Men's 2nd XI

We would like to send a big **thank you** to everyone that has attended an event, and a special thank you to resident DJ Bruce Lewcock for keeping the music playing at the Halloween and Christmas Party and to Owen Dearing for running Team Challenge.

Andy

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of The Martyr. I really appreciate your help, especially at such a busy time of year. The next edition will be sent out at the end of the season, so please feel free to send your reports, anecdotes and photos to share, to me, at brentwoodhc@yahoo.com. Reminders will be sent closer to the time.

News and information is also shared via email and on the club website: www.brentwoodhockey.com. Please ensure that I have your correct email address.

I'm off on holiday ... now! So have a great Christmas and see you in the New Year.

Jacqui