



Warwick Hockey Club Newsletter

Issue 9

November 2009

News...More News...and Information

At the end of October, we reclaimed VAT of £950. Almost as soon as this money hit our account, Helen was being asked to buy more goalkeeping kit. Much of the kit we bought came from the Obo sale, but our expenditure removed a significant amount of the VAT rebate.

At the start of the season, following retirements, career moves and changes in jobs, we faced a potential shortage of goalkeepers. Interestingly, a shortage of goalkeepers seems to be an issue for many clubs both locally and nationally. For the ladies, the problem was solved through recruitment and a return from maternity leave, whilst for the men, a new 'keeper joined leaving just one space to fill.

Goalkeeper kit is very expensive and whilst some of our 'keepers do own their own kit and so pay no membership and match fees, others use club kit. In recent years, a majority of goalkeepers have had their own kit, but this year a number are having to use club owned kit. With our goalkeepers coming in various sizes, we have invested heavily in new kit in a range of sizes and on page four you can see the range of equipment goalkeepers wear and we provide a guide to the prices of each item of kit/equipment.

Page two of this edition is devoted to information on the social events planned for the remainder of the season. Last week saw our first fundraising event of the year, our Race Night. Although financially successful, turnout was lower than anticipated. In recent years we have managed to avoid increasing player fees through a combination of excellent financial management, membership growth and fundraising. Please do note the dates of the events we have planned and try to attend. Monies raised do help keep our fees low.

We are also again running the Team Challenge. For those who don't know, the Team Challenge asks each Saturday side to raise a minimum of £250. How this is done is largely left to each squad to decide and no doubt captains will be asking for ideas. Last year's Team Challenge was led by the Ladies First Team who raised over £1000 from a Pampered Chef event which incorporated an Auction of Promises. This was a major factor in the squad taking the Team of the Year Award at our Annual Dinner.

The Ladies Firsts are looking to be early pace setters again this season and are running our Christmas Party. This is set for Saturday 12th December and will be held at the Club. Given the various financial and diary pressures people face around Christmas, the Party will replace the Christmas Meal we normally arrange, with tickets, to include food and a disco, costing only £10.

Also, for the next two Saturdays, ie 5th and 12th December, you will notice that tea arrangements will be changing. We have now found a caterer who will cook and deliver **HOT TEAS** !!! We are using the two weeks to trial the popularity of hot food, which will cost us more to provide.

If more players come back to the club after games, we will look to continue to provide hot food in the second half of the season.

Also, in the second half of the season, start times for home games are likely to change and vary from those published in the Club Handbook and Fixture Cards. The main reason for the change in start times is to aid the provision of umpires. As we knew, fielding nine Saturday sides has tested our volunteer resources and we are confident that revising start times will make it easier for players to play a game and then umpire immediately after playing.

Please keep an eye on the website for updated start times and please do get involved in umpiring and supporting the Club in the various ways referred to in this Newsletter.

Socials in 2009/2010



Club Christmas Party

Hosted by our Ladies First Team and taking place on Saturday 12th December to coincide with the last league games of 2009. Tickets only £10 to include food and a disco.

Expect party games, alcohol, dancing and a good night.

Tickets available now from Alex Fillmore, your Team Captain or any member of the Ladies Firsts !



Quiz and Curry Night

Our annual Quiz and Curry Night will take place on Saturday 6th February 2010, with Round 1 kicking off at 7.30pm.

The curries will be provided by Warwick Spice, the award winning restaurant based in Smith Street, which kindly contributed £200 as headline sponsor at last week's Race Night.



Quiz questions won't be too taxing, the bar will be open and with teams of four with entry fees of £10 per person, you are assured of a fun evening.

All welcome and a chance for parents to get involved too !



Annual Dinner and Club AGM/Awards Night

Following on from last year, we will be putting on two end of season events.

Firstly, we will hold a 'formal' Dinner/Dance at a local hotel or restaurant. The cost of this will be around £30.

Then, probably in April, we will hold a combined AGM and Awards Presentation Night at the Club using outside caterers for food.

As soon as we have confirmed dates and additional details, we'll be back in touch.



The 2009/2010 Team Challenge

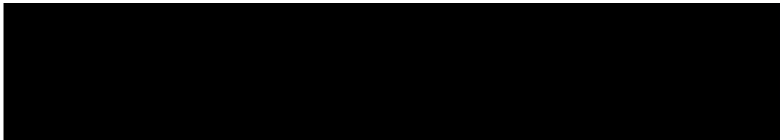
As described on page one, each Saturday side is challenged to raise at least £250, with the income generated from Team Challenges being ring-fenced towards coaching costs.

Last year's success, as led by the Ladies Firsts, ensured we could increase our coaching budget whilst not raising membership and match fees.

Fresh from their success in raising over £1000, a factor which contributed hugely to the Ladies Firsts walking off with the Team of the Year award, the Christmas Party is being hosted by the squad as an element of their fundraising activities.

Other ideas being bandied around include a game of hockey played in fancy dress, a poker night, wine tasting and a parents versus youngsters game. Please watch the website for news on the dates of these events.

News from Warwickshire and England



The County based JDCs' have now finished with players waiting anxiously to see if they will progress to the JAC level. Thanks to the hard work of our Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches, the Warwick HC based JDC ran successfully with many of our club youngsters doing well in their assessments.

Also, with our own Steve Tabb (who we share with Old Sils, MRHUA, his job and his family amongst others) as Chairman, the Warwickshire Hockey Association has been re-vitalised and we can expect to hear of various new initiatives to provide more hockey and more opportunities for club players of all ages.

Watch www.warwickshirehockey.co.uk for more details. The site layout may look familiar !



November saw England Hockey unveil its new Three Lions logo ahead of the men's squad's departure to Australia for the ABN—AMRO Champions Trophy : see www.Englandhockey.co.uk for details and for information on watching England's games.

The announcement, which follows recent European success for the men and ladies, continues the journey for hockey as a national sport on its way once more to a greater world ranking and Olympic success.

Core values of 'Passion', 'Speed' and 'Respect' underpin the evolution of the new identity while the Three Lions logo gives England a national emblem of pride – bringing hockey into line with football and cricket and other top tier national sports.

STOP PRESS !

Men's Over40s versus West Bridgford Monarchs Over 40s at Warwick School. 2.00pm start, Sunday 6th December.



Warwick Hockey Club

Exercise...Socialise...Energise...Enjoy!



Goal keeping has come a long way since the days when one player put on a pair of cricket pads for protection and a woolly hat to keep out the cold. These days there is a huge array of equipment to not only suit different sizes of men, women and children but also different styles of play as well as different sized wallets.

Many companies long known to outfield players for their sticks now have their own ranges of GK equipment and some have based their entire business on it.

So what else does the player behind the mask wear, apart from the mask?

Helmet – Amazingly GKs didn't used to wear helmets and when someone finally decided it might be a good idea they were limited to ice hockey helmets which aren't ideal. Now helmets custom designed for the sport cost around £40 - £300

Body armour – Some keepers prefer a full set of chest, shoulder and arm pads where as some prefer not to wear arms in order to give greater manoeuvrability. £40 - £260.

Stick – GK sticks tend to have larger heads and some times a kink in the shaft to provide a larger area to stop the ball with. They also have very different balance points to outfield sticks. £20 - £70

Shorts – Again there are many different options available from loose all in ones to tight fitting with thin overshorts to reduce wear and tear. - £50 - £330

Kickers – These fit over standard hockey boots to give both protection and enhanced kicking ability. They wear out quickly and at top level may only last 1 or 2 seasons. £70 - £300

Neck guard – These come in 2 types, one type hangs down from the helmet, the other is tight to the neck. Both are designed to stop balls and sticks finding a way through to the keeper's neck. £5 - £30

Smock – To show your number and team colours as well as stopping the ball getting trapped in the joints of the body armour. £15 - £45

Gloves – Not just to keep hands warm anymore a GKs gloves now have to stop potentially bone crushing blows from both balls and sticks. Some gloves are suited to keepers who dive more and some to keepers who prefer to stay on their feet. £40 - £260 per pair

Abdo / Pelvic guards – Different design and name depending on if the keeper is male or female. Many keepers will tell you this is the most important piece of kit they own. £15 - £55

Legguards – Probably the most expensive part of any kit these come in different heights, widths, thicknesses and foams which have different rebound properties. £70-£380

All this means that a full set of GK kit can cost between £400 and £2100 which is why the club does not charge subs for a goal keeper who owns all their own kit. For those that don't the club currently owns and maintains 6 sets of kit to suit players of all sizes.