



CRHC Ladies' 1s storm their way to the EH Championship Finals 2021.



Ending the season with flair

Welcome to the last newsletter of the season, before we take a break for a month and come back with news and info for 21/22 in September. And what an end to the season we have had. With an impressive third place for our M1s team in the Y1 Championships and our Ladies' 1s giving us so much to cheer about on their run through the England Hockey Champs, making it all the way to the final at Nottingham Hockey Centre last weekend. You can read about both teams, and their journeys, on page 5.

Our Juniors have been achieving amazing things, too - with both girls and boys receiving their first caps for their countries, and an impressive crop making their mark in the final phase of PC. Too many to mention by name have gained a place in the county Academy Centre, which is incredibly exciting and a measure of the wealth of talent we have coming through. Congratulations to all of you!

Finally, following our AGM, we are sadly saying goodbye to Janis Sinton as Chair of the Club after twenty years dedicating herself to its service, initially for Clifton Ladies and then, after the merger, for Clifton Robinsons. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has done. Thanks too to Al Kilfoil, who steps down as President, but who, we're happy to say, will continue to be an integral part of our onward journey (see page 3 for more).

As the season comes to an end, thank you to all our volunteers - committee members, coaches, managers, umpires, and so many more - who continue to make this Club what it is, and whose willingness to get stuck in is fundamental to our existence. See you all in September!

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This newsletter is produced by Clifton Robinsons' volunteer Communications & Marketing team. It is distributed to all Registered members of Clifton Robinsons Hockey Club, every month during the hockey season.

Our Newsletter is for everyone in the Club and we welcome contributions from all our members. Thank you to everyone who has sent articles for this edition. **If you have any stories you would like to share**, please contact Jude Barratt on:

communications@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk

Ladies' 1s featured player

Claire Thomas

Claire's fact file

Position: Forward

Favourite skill: The dummy

When not on the pitch, I can be found: Lambing and growing my vegetables

Favourite sporting moment: Playing cricket at Lords

Claim to fame: Being run out by England Captain Heather knight

What do we need to know about Claire?

Claire has been an integral member of CRHC for 7 years, captaining the Ladies' 1s team for 2 years and achieving Premier league top goal scorer for two seasons. Claire is stepping down as captain to pursue her lambing career (!), oh – and to plan her CRHC summer wedding with Dan, we wish you both the best of luck and hope you have a special day.

SmifSports
Photography

Committee news...

Thanks and welcome

Duncan Long

Prior to the AGM Janis Sinton (Chair of CRHC) had given her notice after 20 years' service. Janis has been Chair of CRHC since the merger and before that was Chair of Clifton Ladies. She has put a huge amount of time and energy into the club, so we thank her for this hard work and wish her the very best for the additional time she will now have to focus on her family and business opportunities.

In addition, Al Kilfoil has stood down as President of the club, a position he has held since 2016. Again, Al is a committed member of CRHC and he will continue to provide support to the Ladies 1s and also on wider club matters.

Duncan Long (current Men's Chair) was elected as Chair of the club. Duncan will be supported by Izzy Palmer as Vice Chair. Both have been heavily involved in the operation of the club pre and post merger.

Stephen 'Cuddles' Hounsell (current Men's Secretary) was proposed and ratified as President of CRHC. Cuddles is a longstanding member of Robinsons and CRHC; a regular umpire across the men's and ladies' sections; an avid supporter of the club and will be pleased to buy anyone a beer when we are allowed back in the new season (hopefully!).

We will hear more about Duncan, Izzy, and Cuddles in the next newsletter. In addition, we are also very pleased to announce additional Vice Presidents of the club: Al Kilfoil, Steve Rixon, Nick Sutcliffe and Alex Woster.

Kit price rises

Rod Naughalty

We have been advised of the Webshop Price Rises that are effective on all orders from 1st July (although, as at 4th July, it is not evident of the anticipated 5% rise being applied ☹️ – but I'm sure it will, very soon!)

Despite a mention that the bespoke match shirts were not being increased in price, the manufacturers have applied a rise that Grays has to pass on through us – with no increase in the cost of these bespoke shirts since they were introduced in 2019, a 9.6% rise is to be applied from 1st August.

If you want a shirt, or shirts, before this rise is applied, you will need to get your order to me by Weds 28th July. I will need to know:

- Blue, White or Both
- Size
- Club number – refer to Trina Isaacs (Ladies), me (Men) if you don't have / know your number.

Contact me on clubkit@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk

Don't forget to re-register for the new season! Check your emails for details.

Elected officers

The following volunteers were elected as officers of the Club during the AGM. Some roles remain vacant. If you would like to get involved, please get in touch with any committee member, or contact us on enquiries.ladies@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk / enquiries.men@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk

Chairperson Duncan Long

Vice Chairperson Izzy Palmer

Honorary Secretary Phil Bailey

Honorary Treasurer Kathryn Rendell

Fixtures/Facilities Secretary Nick Sutcliffe

Marketing & Communication Officers Molly Benbow,

Judy Barratt, Claire Blacker, Alex Kirkpatrick

Sponsorship Officer TBD @ Executive Committee

Social Secretary (Women) Abi Porter

Social Secretary (Men) Matt Attwood

Welfare Officers (Women) Charlie Wakefield & Jade Williams

Welfare Officers (Men) Ed Johnson & Bill Springett

Umpire Coordinator TBD @ Executive Committee

Umpire Secretary (Women) To be appointed

Umpire Secretary (Men) To be appointed

Kit Officer Rod Naughalty

Chair of Women's Sub-committee Vacant (Izzy Palmer remains as interim chair)

Chair of Men's Sub-committee To be appointed

Secretary of Women's Sub-committee Vicky Plimmer

Secretary of Men's Sub-committee Stephen Hounsell

Coaching Co-ordinator TBD @ Executive Committee

Technical Lead Caroline Meads

Men's 1st featured player

Scott Davidson



Scott's fact file

Hometown: Morpeth

Position: Defender

Other roles & responsibilities: Mens 1st XI Assistant Coach and Umpire Secretary

Previous clubs: UWE, Morpeth

University: UWE

Honours: CRHC Gillette Cup 2018/19, CRHC 1st XI Player of the Season 2016/17, West Premier League Champions 2016/17, Student Coach of the Year (UWE)

Sponsor: Beikou

Favourite sporting moment: Beating Firebrands in their backyard 3-0 to gain promotion to national league.

Favourite quotation: 'I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can't accept not trying.' Michael Jordan

What do we need to know about Scott? Scott has been immense for the club since joining us from UWE. He is a formidable defender and a member of the infamous bash brother partnership! Scott works very hard for the club, having just stepped down as umpire secretary after doing a great job for three years. He is currently the mens 1st XI assistant coach and is working hard to prepare us for the upcoming season. Scott has also been a vice-captain for years and years. An all-round top bloke that the men could not do without! He loves hockey.

Senior club news...

National Cup Final for our Ladies' 1s

L1s Captain Kathryn Lane and Coach Juliet Rayden talk us through the 2021 EH Championship journey

The route to the Final

BAC @ home: Goals from: Abi 4, Lily Webb 2, Laney 2, Liv 2, Holly S 2, Maz 1. Clifton started instantly, scoring 2 goals in the first 2 minutes to set the tone. A convincing start to the cup to come away with a final 13-0 win.

Newquay away: Goals from: Lily Webb 5, Maz 1. 6-0 win, having travelled down to play our second match in Penzance (yes, that is the furthest south hockey club in the country). We played well which resulted in a 6-0 win. Big shout to coach Juliet Rayden for playing!

Gloucester away: Goals from: Catherine 2. Gloucester were off to a good start, scoring an early goal despite it being against the run of play. After equalising in the first half, CRHC fought back hard with Catherine Macaulay delivering in front of goal to score another in the second half, resulting in a 2-1 win.

Repton away: Goals from: Laney, Claire and Holly. After a good run of play, Repton scored an early goal from a short corner, which was followed shortly after by an equaliser as Laney fired the ball into the goal from a CRHC short corner. A tight first half resulted in a draw at half time. However, straight after the whistle for the second half, two more goals from Thomas and Savage gave CRHC a 3-1 lead. Both sides demonstrated some quality attacking and defending, play but in the end, Clifton's experience enabled them to hold the lead and they came away with a 3-1 win. **Kathryn Lane**



Finals Day: 10/7/2021

On a warm day at Nottingham Hockey Centre, East Grinstead made the early running in the Women's Championship Final putting CRHC under pressure and scoring the first goal after 15 minutes. We responded well, creating a number of chances and scoring from a penalty corner follow-up by Kitty Chapple. The first half remained close until a match-turning 5 minutes, during which EG scored 3 goals to take a 4-1 lead. The second half was dominated by a more confident CRHC side, creating a number of opportunities. We got our second goal with a finish by Abi Porter. With 7 minutes to go and still two goals behind CRHC took their keeper off to try and take it into shuffles but their defences were undone by Sophie Bray for a fifth EG goal and her fourth. CRHC responded immediately with a third from Abi Porter, but time was against us and EG won 5-3.

Huge thank you to all the players who have played in the cup run and the supporters who have travelled over 900 miles to support the team. **Juliet Rayden**



Y1 Cup Top 3 for M1s

The Y1 hockey league was a fantastic success for the Men's 1st XI, who finished in third position having played 6 matches altogether. It was a great opportunity for new players joining the club to have a run out and settle in, U18s to be pushed into top-level men's hockey and for everyone else to get back to playing competitive hockey again. We hosted the final at Clifton College, which saw us beat local rivals Firebrands in the 3rd v 4th place playoff and then Bath Buccs beat Bristol University in the final.

As always CRHC showed how to host a fantastic occasion with plenty of support from the sidelines! Ollie King won overall player of the tournament which is testament to his ongoing progress considering the standard of teams and players in the competition. We would like to thank George Carson at Y1 hockey for organising a fantastic event and I would personally like to thank all of the players and umpires who made themselves available! We look forward to next year's tournament! **Jamie Mortimore**



Junior club news...

Girls' performance on the up

Many congratulations to Clemmie Houlden (England) and Eloise Moat (Wales) who recently made their international debuts at U16 level! They competed against each other in a series of matches on the weekend of 4th July, in which England came out on top. There was a penalty shootout as a fun finish to the last match of the series: Clemmie dispatched hers with a reverse flick into the roof of the net and then finished off the job with a sudden death decider!

The EH Performance Centres have moved into the competition phase with players seeking selection for the Futures Cup. CRHC is well represented at U15 (Martha Barratt, Tilly Edwards, Evie Grindal, Steph Hamilton-James, Grace Harwood, Lilly Holmes, Izzy Maloney, Alice McMichael, Flora Thomson) and at U17 (Greer Barnes, Jess Hazel, Millie Isaacs, Scarlett Pearce-Lynch). Last week, the Club ran a preparation session to help PC players to focus on and consider some of the finer aspects of the process. We wish them good luck! Additionally, the selections from the EH Development Centres for the EH Academies have been announced, and include a host of Club members. Huge well done to all.

Following the success of the U14s squad in the EH Cup this year, a Girls Junior Performance Group met to start planning for next season with the aim of finalising management and coaching teams for each age group, putting in place training opportunities and co-ordinating player development through adult teams. The CRHC Academy will run from September on a Monday as part of our Club player development pathway. More information about all these activities will be announced over the summer.



Eloise Moat (CRHC U14G) and Clemmie Houlden (CRHC U16G) gain their first caps for Wales and England, respectively.

Many of our junior players have enjoyed playing for one of four adult Summer League teams and Sticks-In sessions over the past few weeks, and although there is soon to be a break before pre-season, with a feast of Olympic Hockey on the horizon, there is no shortage of opportunity to pick up new skills and ideas!

Mike Leatt

NAGS U16 call-up for Finn

Huge congratulations to defender Finn Browne (CRHC BU16) for achieving his first caps for the Wales BU16 squad on the first weekend in July, at Millfield, playing in a series of matches against the England U16 boys. An amazing achievement!



Finn Browne (CRHC BU16) in action for Wales.

Boys' EH Champs

The U14 & U16 boys both had great runs in the revised knockout format EH Championships. The U14s campaign was via wins over Wotton (w/o), Taunton Vale 4-2 on penalties & Cheltenham 3-1 before eventually losing in the semi-final to Trojans, who on went to be crowned Champions!

The U16 boys had 5 exciting games; winning at home versus Cheltenham 4-0, Leamington Spa 9-0 & Millfield Mid Somerset 2-0, before travelling to Rugby & East Warwick 4-2 and Bowdon (Manchester) for the semi-final where we lost 3-7.

This makes both teams among the top four in the country, which is an outstanding effort & shows the quality and commitment of the players, along with amazing commitment from their parents who support them on every step, stop & hit on the way.

Thanks to the coaches & managers: Axel Walther, Andrew Maxwell & Nikki King (U14s) & Ed Johnson, Alex Kirkpatrick & Andy Warren (U16s). **Ian King**

Girls' U14s season roundup

In what has been an extremely challenging year for children, I'm delighted that the U14 girls played 14 matches, and 42 children got to play the sport they love. The girls played against a number of teams that CRHC hasn't played before and we've now been invited to play friendly fixtures against Gwent, Trojans and Bromsgrove this summer.

The year ended with a squad managing to qualify for the Semi Final of the England Hockey Championships, against Trojans HC. The girls gave the match their all, but it wasn't to be this time. However, in a way that speaks volumes for the quality of team spirit among our U14 girls, the squad was cheered on noisily by a number of their friends from the age group.

A big thank you to everyone who stepped up to coach and umpire throughout the season – without you, such a successful season wouldn't have been possible. **Dominic Titcomb**

And finally . . .

The newsletter will be back in September, but keep an eye on your emails for details about pre-season training. And, if you haven't already, don't forget to re-register!

Have a great summer
Clifton Robinsons!

Did you know?

The word 'hockey' is thought to derive from the French *hoquet*, the name for a stick game played in France during the Middle Ages.



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Next issue due out in September 2021

Send your news to

communications@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk

Deadline for submissions

Thursday September 2nd

Thank you to Pete Smith at Smifsports Photography for his brilliant photographs of our players, which go such a long way to making our newsletter special.