



Our Men's 1s have made a flying start to their national league campaign.

## Everything to play for...

The first full month of fixtures has seen plenty of action from across our teams in what is already shaping up to be an exciting first half of the season – at times in rain that seemed biblical, even for hockey! The Men have certainly not let any freakish weather stop them in their tracks, without a loss to their name as we close the newsletter, in a form we hope is set to continue. Meanwhile, our Ladies' 1s have faced tough opposition across their first fixtures, resulting in three draws and one loss (you can read the round-up in the Senior News on page 2). For the juniors, EH league matches are now underway and everyone is delighted to see the re-start of the Girls' Performance Academy. More on that on page 4. Our social scene is also back with a bang – with the next event **this weekend**. All the diary dates are below, and there are more details from our social secs on page 2. Enjoy!

## Social dates for your diary

Keep your eyes peeled on Social Media for updates and dates added as time goes on, but for now, put these dates in your diary. Everyone welcome!

- 16th October – Pie & Pint & Quiz
- 20th November – Fancy Dress (theme TBC)
- 4th December – Team Christmas Curry Night
- 29th January – Treasure Hunt
- 26th February – Six Nations Social
- 19th March – Harbourside Boat Bar Crawl
- 20th April – End of Season Dinner

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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](mailto:communications@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk)

# Committee news...

## Thanks to Nick

Nick Sutcliffe has decided to step down from his Club admin roles, with the exception of his role as team manager for the Ladies' 2s. The Committee would like to thank him for his unquestionable service to CRHC. It's an understatement to say that his project management skills will be sorely missed, and Comms will certainly miss his stats!

## Welcome Rachel!

A warm welcome to Level 2 coach Rachel Shields, who has recently moved to Bristol from Northern Ireland with her family. Rachel joins our junior team as a Girls' U16 coach and Girls' Performance Academy coach and we are delighted to have her on board.

**Think while you drink!**



## Junior Zoom

Everyone should have received an email from Ian King, Junior Chair, about a zoom meeting at 8pm on Wednesday 13th October for anyone invested or interested in how our Junior section works now and will continue to work going forward. The meeting will include information about the implications of our selection as an England Hockey Talent Centre. If you would like to join the meeting and haven't yet contacted Ian, please email him on: [ian.king@aspirecb.co.uk](mailto:ian.king@aspirecb.co.uk) to request the link.

## Pie, Pint & Quiz

It was great to see so many faces (new and old!) at the three-legged welcome social back in September! In aid of keeping the social 'buzz' around the club, we will be hosting our next social – Pie, Pint & Quiz – on the **16th October** at the Redland Tennis Centre, a 7:30pm start. For those of you who have ordered a Pie & Pint, it will be charged to your ClubBuzz account. We look forward to seeing lots of you there.

# Senior news

## Ladies' 1s Round-up

The ladies 1s have had a mixed start to the season, against strong opposition. In their opening game they held former premier league champions Surbiton to a 2-2 draw, followed by a tense game against Buckingham, which also finished in a draw – this time 1-1. The girls' third game was a 3-1 loss against top-of-the-table Hampstead and Westminster. Finally, this weekend we travelled to Holcombe – our furthest match of the season – coming away with another draw (1-1). We're away again next weekend against Swansea and looking for that all-important win. **Kathryn Lane**

## Ladies' 4s Round-up

Ladies 4s have had a strong start to the season and are looking more confident scoring this year! With a shift around in teams, the players have already started working well together, showing the potential for another great season. With both Sophie TC and Rosie Milne scoring hatricks in the first games, we're hoping this can be carried on throughout the year. Will the ladies 4s be able to secure promotion again? Watch this space! **Amber Wilmshurst**

## 040s Ladies Avon Masters Tournament

After a two-year break from this popular tournament, the Ladies O40s (Team Turnbull as we are affectionately known) were pleased to be back. With a sunny start last Sunday, we began in high spirits. The opening match saw a 1-1 draw (with a very last-minute goal from the opposition). This was followed by a series of draws and a loss. We just couldn't secure that all-important win! After lunch, the heavens opened, spirits (and clothes) were somewhat dampened. Despite the results, it was great to play together as a team again and we are very grateful to Janet Wilson for organising the tournament each year. Thank you to Mr T for coaching us and to Al Kilfoil giving up his Sunday to umpire in terrible conditions! **Nic Prince**

# Meet Our Welsh Internationals

Tash Fortnam, Livvy Hoskins, Eloise Laity, Phoebe Richards and Izzy Webb



**October 21st–24th could see the conclusion of a very busy 2021 international period for five of our very own Clifton Robinsons L1s players.**

Following their European campaign in August, Wales Women secured a spot at the 2021 European World Cup Qualification tournament taking place in Pisa, Italy, later this month. Tash Fortnam, Livvy Hoskins, Eloise Laity, Phoebe Richards, and Izzy Webb all played a part in that European success and are looking to represent Wales once again on the world stage.

The tournament consists of the bottom 3 teams from the 2021 EuroHockey Championships (Ireland, Italy and Scotland) and the top 5 from the 2021 EuroHockey Championships II (Belarus, France, Poland, Wales, and Russia). The tournament has a knockout format, with the overall winner joining the top 5 teams from the 2021 EuroHockey Championships at the 2022 FIH Hockey World Cup. However, teams that find themselves knocked out will continue to play each other across the course of the weekend, for those all-important world ranking points.

Wales Women face hosts Italy on the 19th of October, with the winner playing either Scotland or Poland in the next round. We wish our ladies and the rest of the Welsh squad all the best leading up to the tournament.

You can watch the live stream of the tournament matches using the details that will become available on the Hockey Wales website, or if anyone fancies popping across the border, the Welsh men play the equivalent tournament in Cardiff, the same weekend.

<https://www.hockeywales.org.uk>



HOCKEY WALES  
HOCI CYMRU

# Junior news...

## Junior Performance Update

Performance development for our young talented players continues apace as the new domestic season kicks into top gear. The whole approach is overseen by the Junior Performance Group and the opportunities for boys and girls beyond the foundation sessions is tailored to meet their differing requirements.

The boys have integrated their stronger players into Men's 1s, 2s and 3s training and entered the EH age-group events. Depending on age and stage of a player, there are 4 environments within the Club that our junior girls can become involved: adult and junior teams, in the academy and through the mentor scheme.

From a girls' performance perspective, young players were assigned to adult squads during pre-season. They make up a significant proportion of those squads and levels of commitment will be important for them to maintain their team place and challenge for a training place with the team above. There is plenty of opportunity for hard-working, fast-learning and regularly available young players as squads are reviewed frequently by coaches. As with the boys, girls also have teams in the new EH age-group competitions to provide scope to challenge players across the performance spectrum.

In addition, the Girls' Academy, in its 6th year, began this month with selected players from age 12 to 15. It focuses on the development of cognitive, stick and physical skills in an environment that supports experimentation. The first session concentrated on communication, the use of the backhand to pass and shoot, and the art of goal setting to sharpen focus. The players benefitted from a full coaching team of Maz Jones and Lou Bell from the 1s, newly arrived Level 2 Coach Rachel Shields, Al Kilfoil working with the keepers, and Mike Leatt. It was a lively session and it didn't rain! There is a little 'homework' and subsequent sessions will have a similarly specific focus.

Our team of girls' academy coaches, who were back in action this month.



The Club has also started a mentoring programme for junior players. Juniors in the Ladies 1s and 2s have been paired one-to-one with an experienced player, who has volunteered to help their young charge settle more quickly into the performance environment. This scheme has been extended to the 3s, where Abi Porter is introducing the young players to the mentoring concept, which will also help them with their progression.

We often lose sight of one of the greatest assets this Club has to offer: watching hockey training and matches played at the highest level. We strongly urge all aspiring stars of the future – a future that is not so very far away – to take a close look at our Ladies 1s and 2s and our Men's 1s in action. And, if you want to get a real taste of the atmosphere, volunteer to do some ball patrolling for the 1s – now that is seriously close to the action.  
**Mike Leatt (JPG)**



## Super start for the U16 Tier 1 Girls

Our U16G(A)s made a strong start to the EH T1 league with two convincing wins at their first triangular fixture away in Exeter. The team was first up against Cirencester, who had just claimed victory against ISCA in their own first match of the day. Fantastic play from our girls secured a 6-0 win with goals from Martha (2), Tilly (1), Evie (1) and Steph (2). With just a 15-minute break, the girls were back on the pitch against ISCA, taking a 5-0 victory thanks to superb teamwork that led to goals from Martha (3) and Steph (1), and a clinically executed penalty stroke from captain Clemmie H. Congratulations to Greer Barnes (GK) for a notably clean sheet! Thanks, as always, to coaches Mike and Rachel for their fantastic support and guidance and to ISCA for hosting us (with superb teas – the bar has been set very high!). The girls meet Cheltenham in the competition later this month.

And finally . . .

*Congratulations!*

**Turloch O'Siochain**  
(M1s Coaching Advisor)  
on the birth of your baby.

We look forward to welcoming you  
all back to Bristol from Japan very soon!

With best wishes from everyone at  
Clifton Robinsons Hockey Club.

## *Did you know?*

The founding members of the FIH  
were Austria, Belgium,  
Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary,  
Spain and Switzerland.

*Next issue due out in November 2021*

**Send your news to**  
[communications@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk](mailto:communications@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk)

**Deadline for submissions**  
Thursday November 4th

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.



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