



Our Women's 1s went straight from the first half of the outdoor season indoors. Read about their success on page 3.

Photo Credit: Peter Smith / © SmifSports Photography



It's push back for 2022!

There may have been a break for turkey and mince pies in the league calendars, but the CRHC family has managed to find plenty of hockey to occupy them over the end of 2021 and start of 2022 – including some of our most talented juniors facing their final trials for their national age-group squads, and our Women's 1s taking themselves indoor. Round-ups of their successes follow, but front-page news has to be the start of the new half of the season. With the Women's 1s secure in their top-six position in the Premier League, they faced Surbiton at home to kick off proceedings (see page 3). The Men's 1s met Ashmoor away to begin their Season / Part Two in Conference West, showing a truly spirited comeback from 3-0 down to take a 3-3 draw. Having secured their position at the top of the local EH League table, the U16Gs have embarked on their EH Supra League campaign facing some tough opposition, while the U14Gs have continued to show form in both the U14 Supra League and the EH U14 Cup. Throughout the club, there is simply no rest for the brilliant.

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!

26th February – Six Nations Social

19th March – Harbourside Boat Bar Crawl

20th April – End of Season Dinner

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Need kit?

Training kit: Click on the Grays link found at:
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Matchday kit: Contact Rod Naughalty directly on:
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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

Meet a CRHC Vice-President

Rachel O'Bryan



About Rachel

When did you play for Clifton Robinsons (or Ladies, as it then was)? I played at Clifton from 1994 to 2008.

What are your best memories of Clifton? Far too many to list! Best times were not only playing on the pitch but also the camaraderie off the pitch. But then, also winning the Women's National Cup Final at Milton Keynes in the 1997/98 season and playing in the Europeans in Barcelona in 1998. Repeating the Women's National Cup winning streak again in the 1999/2000 season. Indoor hockey was also a great love of mine and playing at the National Finals held at Crystal Palace on more than one occasion was always special. Changing-room banter, long bus journeys on a Friday night, weekly car journeys to training and match days all add to the fantastic experience of playing for such a great club and forging great friendships.

You've represented Wales. Tell us more: My first Senior Cap was at the 4 Nations Tournament in Ireland in 1991, and my final Cap was at the European Cup in Barcelona 2003.

How do you fill your time now? I still enjoy keeping fit, running with my local club, cycling with my triathlete buddies and general gym work. I am not sure my body could cope with the sport specific demands of hockey nowadays, though!

Senior news

Women's 1s Round-up



The Women's 1s went straight from their final game of the first half of premier league straight into indoor mode! They competed across 2 weekends in National Division 1. The girls played fantastically, and finished third in the league – narrowly missing out on promotion to the Premier indoor league for next season. A special shout out to Livvy Hoskins for being crowned top goal scorer of the league, and to Claire Jones for also making the top 10.

Now they look forward to the second half of the Premier League outdoor season. At Christmas the league split into two (top 6 and bottom 5), and the girls finished in the top 6. This means they are guaranteed to play in the Premier League next season, and that they have a challenging but exciting series of games coming up over the next few months! Their first game was last Saturday (5th Feb) against Surbiton at Coombe Dingle – a quick-fire start from Surbiton saw them 0–3 up in the first 15 minutes, but our W1s fought back hard, keeping any further goals for the visitors at bay for the remainder of the match, and with a goal from Livvy Hoskins to finish the match 1–3. As always, thanks to all our supporters – keep coming! **Kathryn Lane**

Women's 2s Round-up

After a long Christmas break the W2s sprung back into action in January and were raring to go for their first league match on the 5th Feb vs Cheltenham. End-to-end hockey made chances for both sides, in an evenly matched game that could have gone either way. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be for our 2s, as Cheltenham made a break in the final quarter for the match to finish 1–0 against us. With players returning from injury, the squad is stronger than ever and, despite the loss, the girls showed their best team performance so far. There is every reason to be positive for the rest of the season. Positioned 8th in the table the 2s need to secure wins to rise up to avoid relegation and hope to end in a comfortable position higher up. Time to climb! **Juliet Gardner**

Women's 3s Round-up

The Women's 3s got straight back into the swing of things after Christmas with a couple of intra-club friendlies against the U16s and the W2s, before a close match against Redland. We lost 3–1 but this was a marked improvement on the 7–0 loss we suffered against the same opposition in the first game of the season – a good step in the right direction against the team sitting top of the league and unbeaten. After a welcome BYE week, the 3s beat Cheltenham 1–0 to further cement their mid-table position. **Tom Appleby**

Women's 4s Round-up

We've had a really successful start to 2022 with three consecutive wins against Taunton Vale, Winscombe and North Somerset, followed by a narrow loss to top of the league, Bridgwater. This was our toughest match and we were disappointed with the result but we're optimistic that we can continue competing for the top spot! **Sophie Gordon**

Men's 2s Round-up

The Men's 2s have had a tough start to 2022, facing 3 of the top 5 sides in the league. Disappointing draws to Bath Buccs, having been 3 goals up, and Leominster were followed by one of the high points of the season: a fiery 4–2 win against Bristol University. A Chris Tidy hat-trick helped us keep breathing distance at the top of the table, which was breached when a side heavily depleted by injuries and Covid to myself lost away to Chippenham. However, we are still very much in the fight for promotion with 6 games to play, and will be looking to get back to winning ways against Swansea in February, as well as recovering some players over the slip week. **Alex Kirkpatrick**

Men's Masters O40s

Could this be another winning season?! The Men's O40s are now into the last 16 having beaten old rivals Isca 2–1 in a highly competitive game. Mark Pullin put us ahead in the first half but we failed to capitalise on further opportunities to put the game to bed. Isca slotted a late PC and it seemed the game was destined for a shoot out. However, Graham Herring's deflected shot soared high into the net with just a minute left to give us the win. Indian Gymkhana await in the next round – the side we beat when we last won the tournament in 2019. **Duncan Long**

Men's 3s Round-up

The Men's 3s have continued the good form shown prior to Christmas recording 2 wins out of 2 in January. First up was a 5–2 win away at Whitchurch – Tom Jarvie returning to the side to score 4 of the goals. This was followed up with a snatch-and-grab win against Bristol University last week. Sam Sharp and Sam Leigh scoring in the 2nd half to give the 3s a 2–1 win. The side remains 2nd in the division and needs to maintain a winning run in order to give the team an opportunity to take out leaders Cardiff Uni in March. **Duncan Long**

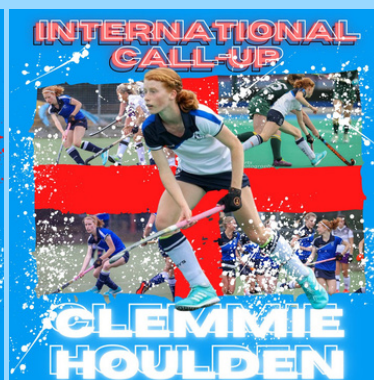
Men's 7s take a friendly win against Yate Hockey Club in February



Junior news...



CONGRATULATIONS!



National Age Group success!

Huge, huge congratulations to Eloise Moat (CRHC GU16), Toby Day (BU16), Clemmie Houlden (GU16) and Ollie King (BU18), who have all been selected to represent their home nations in their National Age Group Squads. For Eloise that's Wales U16, Toby England U16, Clemmie England U18 and Ollie England U18. All four have shown dedication, resilience and commitment throughout the intense and demanding assessment process since Futures Cup, and we are incredibly proud of them all. Enjoy every minute of your international journey! You have all totally earned it.



GU16s

A tough start for our EH Supra League Tier 1 U16 team, who have met strong opposition from Cheltenham Cougars and Team Bath Buccs since the start of the new year. Narrow losses in both matches don't reflect the hard work these girls display on the pitch and immense talent in the whole squad. The girls now face Repton and Stourport in their last two Supra League matches, to be played in March.

Training Kit

We know turnarounds times after school can feel superhuman, but we'd like to encourage all our juniors to train in neutral (non-school) kit in our quest to become one CRHC family.

Neutral is perfect, but if you want to go one step further, members can buy discounted, branded CRHC training kit from Grays through the link on our website kit page. There are junior training T-shirts and hoodies, and small adult sizes for our older juniors. If you think anything is missing that you'd like to see available, please feel free to contact Rod on kit@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk and he can see what Grays can do. #oneclub #bleedblue



GU14s

The U14Gs have enjoyed a really positive start to the New Year with a number of new players joining so we now have girls from 7 local schools. The T1 squad have continued their Supra league winning streak and recently played on the newly built Federation International Hockey pitch at Sutton Coldfield, which will be an official training venue for the hockey teams competing at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The squad have also reached the semi final of the England Championship Tier 1 Cup by beating Bournemouth 7-1 in a wonderful spectacle of flowing hockey. The T2 squad have played a number of closely fought local fixtures including Cheltenham, Old Bristolians & Lansdown and have been invited to play in a tri-tournament against Wotton-Under-Edge & Bath in April. Congratulations to you all on an excellent start to 2022.

And finally . . .



A trip down Memory Lane – John Fielder

It was great to read VP Bob Cresswell's reminiscences of his recruitment to the Robinsons cause 44 years ago, in The Stick, Dec/Jan 2021/22. Great photo! I took it at Torbay, Easter 1982. I couldn't play as I was nursing a broken collar bone from a hockey injury a few weeks before at Hereford (as it goes, it's still broken, never healed, so I've got an extra joint!). It was Bob who recruited me to Robs, from playing Jackdaws Sunday morning mixed hockey together.

Continuing the look back into Clifton Robinsons history – I'm sure Bob won't mind if I add a note about a slightly earlier initiative at introducing Junior Hockey at the club. In 1996, inspired by the late Bob 'Buddha' Griffin, and a vague aim of trying to introduce men's hockey to boys from non-hockey schools, we started informal training sessions for a small group of boys at UWE on Tuesday evenings. As skills and confidence grew we were able to enter various 6-a-side tournaments at U12 and U13 levels. As the squad grew in age, and encouraged by increasing numbers at training, we were able to complete many 11-a-side fixtures over the following seasons at U14 and U15 levels. Some of the squad went on to represent Avon at County level. Our coaching ability at that time clearly didn't match Bob's – we didn't produce a First Team Captain! The photo is the U14 squad 1997 – at least two are still with the club today.

Next issue due out in March 2021

Send your news to

communications@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk

Deadline for submissions

Monday February 28th

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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