



Aline de Visser doing her thing in goal against Surbiton at home in March.

CRHC march through March

What an amazing month this club has had! If you've been watching our social media, you'll know that every weekend has had its fair share of highs (and a few lows), with both our Men and Women's sides giving us plenty to cheer about. This month, the committee page is back with updates on our ClubMark accreditation, as well as England Hockey's move to align with the new Government guidelines on living with Covid. There are monthly match round-ups galore from our senior teams, and the back page is all about the celebration – if you haven't already read the email, please take a look for details of our End of Season Dinner, including menu options. The dinner is chance to put on your glad rags and for us to celebrate together – for the first time in an awfully long time. The deadline for getting your orders in is 22 March – so talk to your team captain as soon as you can. And, if you have anything that would make a great raffle prize, Abi and Conor want to hear from you.

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!

19th March – Harbourside Boat Bar Crawl
30th April – End of Season Dinner (see back page)

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Need kit?

Training kit: Click on the Grays link found at:
www.cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk/kit/

Matchday kit: Contact Rod Naughalty directly on:
kit@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk

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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

Ryan Dudley



Then

Now

Above (left to right): Phil King, Ian King, John Barrett, Ryan Dudley, Paul Underhill, Simon Sharp, Alex Robins, Pete Wheeler at an O50s match this season.

Main picture: Ryan Dudley playing for Robbies against Weston-super-Mare in the mid-late 90s, seeing off Weston's Stuart Lee (in the orange shirt). Our Chairman Duncan Long was probably somewhere on this pitch, too (playing in orange...).

“Ryan’s recruitment and subsequent contribution were absolutely pivotal to our success.” Ian King

About Ryan

My hockey career started at Robbies as a fresh-faced 19 year old. I was playing for Yate and told by Keith Board, my West U21 manager at the time, that I needed to move to improve. I'm not confident that Boardy had a move to Robbies in mind but Kinger convinced me that although Robbies were in North Division 1, I should turn down the Firebrands national league offer as the mighty Robbies would make my national league dreams come true. Some wonderful years followed with successive promotions with Kinger as skip and me as vice. We had a very attacking style, scoring plenty: we played it simply and quickly. We kept on winning and partying along the way.

I was a keen tourist in my younger years with Dolphins at The English Riviera where we would share Ebor Towers with the Esanders. We decided we should go further afield and we had a couple of trips to Barbados. It was on the second of these trips I met an air hostess at Dover Beach and we have been married for 20 years.

When we got to Prem 1, most thought our attacking hockey would be found out, but we kept on scoring and winning. Our main opposition were Weston, Bath Buccs, Yeovil and Whitchurch with games always hard fought. We had a great team but what set us apart was our spirit, which was second to none. We were teammates and great friends.

Toughest individual opponents were Stuart Lee, Duncan Haddrell and Rob Hill. We would leave the pitch battered and bruised but always share a drink in the bar. The one hurdle we couldn't get past was the national league play offs, where games were more tactical. Once I became skipper, I led the 1st XI for six seasons. We maintained the good form while trying to become more professional, winning the league again and playing some great cup games against Surbiton and Chelmsford. But we still couldn't get past the play offs. I began to think it would never happen in my playing time. I stepped down as skipper as the younger generation came along – Sonic, Wost, Fuller, Joe Naughalty, Jamie Mortimore. I became the veteran moving out of centre midfield to becoming a steady right defender as we started to creep up the league again. Eventually we got there – national league indoors and outdoors. What a ride it was. After 12 years, my ambition was realised. After a short time in national league and relegation, my first team playing time was ending and I became the coach for three seasons. With great pride we stabilised and rebuilt showing that solid team spirit.

In my 40s as the injuries took their toll and I gradually drifted out of playing every week – although still taking part in some great cup runs with the over 40s winning finals (2016 v Rugby & East Warwicks and 2018 v Indian Gymkhana) and pulling on the red shirt of Wales at the home nations! Now you occasionally find me hobbling around with the 50s, watching the odd game with pride and enjoying seeing the professional set up CRHC has become. I'm very glad I joined Robbies as a youngster. It's been a wonderful ride with wonderful friendships, teammates and coaches along the way!

Committee news

Becoming a ClubMark Club

Why are CRHC Applying for ClubMark?

We believe that as a club that we already meet and go beyond many of the ClubMark standards, but we do not necessarily have the hard evidence to show this in some cases. Applying for ClubMark has meant we can look at both our strengths and areas for development, then ensure the first are celebrated and the latter worked on so that we are both compliant and developing as a club.

CRHC is also interested in becoming a Talent Centre at the end of March 2022 and ClubMark accreditation is required for that process.

ClubMark is a celebration of all of the many volunteers who work behind the scenes, often fitting it in with busy work and family commitments to make sure the club runs effectively: our coaches, captains, managers, safeguarding team, media communications team, committee members and all who play a role in helping the club function behind the scene so our members can play and enjoy hockey.

It is also a good check to make sure that as a club we meet all of our safeguarding responsibilities at club and individual level.

What is required?

ClubMark consists of a number of sections to complete. The largest section is "Section 1: Leadership", including our policies and procedures such as risk assessments, financial and membership information, governance, constitution and committees.

Other sections look at: Coaching, Recruitment, Safeguarding and Induction; 'Ways to Play'; Social and Communication; Marketing and Stretch and Development.

How Near Are We to Completion?

As a club we have been working on ClubMark for six months and during that time have uploaded a lot to the platform, filled in some of the gaps we had and looked at our club through the microscope to both improve and consolidate it.

Clearly, two years of a COVID Pandemic have meant that limited hockey and social interaction have had some impact so it has been a really useful exercise to take our club forward.

Currently, most sections are complete, near completion or in the process of being written and finalised.

We are still waiting for information from some individuals – if you are one of these please forward the information required with urgency – approximately 3 weeks to application and we do need that information.

West Hockey Association

This week we were asked to share with you the new West Hockey newsletter, which you should all have received directly into your inboxes on Monday. Please do read it if you haven't. Here are a couple of important pieces of information from that newsletter.

The new WHA website

The new West Hockey website <https://west.englandhockey.co.uk/> is now live albeit still being updated; please use it as it will eventually contain plenty of information about activity throughout the Area.

WHA are looking for some good action shots of hockey at any level (or age) in the Area. If you can help with any photos for the website please email them to governance@westhockey.co.uk

West Hockey Ltd AGM - Monday 18 July 2022

Please put the date in your diary! The meeting will be virtual.

Living With Covid

England Hockey has issued the following updated guidance as a result of the Government's move to 'Living With Covid'.

From England Hockey:

We recognise that different participants in the sport will have different attitudes and perceptions of the risks over the coming weeks and months. As we have throughout the pandemic we recommend that all in the Hockey Family consider others in the decisions they make and respect personal decisions on whether to take part or not.

EH will still ask that clubs have a Covid Officer so we can maintain communication in the case of any future changes to guidance. This will exist into next season.

The main changes in the Living with Covid-19 plan:

a. Removal of the legal requirement to self-isolate following a positive test. Adults and children who test positive will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people. After 5 days, they may choose to take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) followed by another the next day - if both are negative, and they do not have a temperature, they can safely return to their normal routine. Those who test positive should avoid contact with anyone in an at risk group, including if they live in the same household. There will be specific guidance for staff in particularly vulnerable services, such as adult social care, healthcare, and prisons and places of detention.

b. No longer ask fully vaccinated close contacts and those under the age of 18 to test daily for 7 days, and remove the legal requirement for close contacts who are not fully vaccinated to self-isolate. Guidance will set out the precautions that those who live in the same household as someone who has COVID-19, or who have stayed overnight in the same household, are advised to take to reduce risk to other people. Other contacts of people with COVID-19 will be advised to take extra care in following general guidance for the public on safer behaviours.

c. End routine contact tracing. Contacts will no longer be required to self-isolate or advised to take daily tests.

Therefore, all forms of activity can now take place with no coronavirus-related restrictions on how many people can participate, and all sports facilities can open.

Senior news

Women

Women's 1s Round-up



The Wome's 1s have had a tough start to the second half of the season. At Christmas the league split into the top 6 and bottom 5, meaning the Robbies girls have been facing the 5 best women's sides in the country. They have shown an incredible amount of fight and pluckiness, including drawing 3-3 with top-of-the-table Hampstead and Westminster. Full results can be seen below, and the girls are looking forward to more battles in the coming weeks.

5th March - vs EG lost 6-0
28th Feb - vs Wimbledon lost 2-1
19th Feb - vs Beeston lost 3-2
12th Feb - vs Hampstead drew 3-3
5th Feb vs Surbiton - lost 3-1

Kathryn Lane

Women's 2s Round-up

Since the Christmas break the Women's 2s have played five games, securing 1 win and losing 4. Cheltenham and Penarth just had the edge against us and walked away with three points despite some good performances. The ladies gained the well-needed win vs Basingstoke at home last weekend off the back of a loss to Exe the day before. The 3 points set the ladies up well for the local derby against Firebrands, which unfortunately didn't go our way after a tough battle, coming from down 3-1 to 3-3 until Brands scored a short corner before the final whistle making it 4-3. With Oxford Hawks, Bath Bucs, Bristol Uni and Witney to go, the 2s will have to battle hard to stay in the league. **Juliet Gardner**

Women's 3s Round-up

The Women's 3s continue to make good progress in their league, with a good win against Cheltenham and a much-improved performance against top-of-the-table Redland. The upwards momentum was evident in their game against Westberries - the team avenged a 4-1 loss back in the autumn to secure a 3-3 draw, and were moments away from a win before the visitors snatched an equaliser. The team has some individual and collective targets to focus minds for the final few weeks, and we're on track to end the season above Firebrands 2s! **Tom Appleby**

Women's 4s Round-up

The W4s have had a tough few weeks experiencing the first few losses so far this season. This has been extremely disappointing for us with certain factors out of our control but we are still doing well in the league (joint 3rd) and hoping to win our last 2 matches and finish the season off on a high! **Sophie Gordon**

Women's 5s Round-up

The Women's 5th team have had a tough few weeks, we recently played 1st and 2nd in the league, which were both difficult matches, but we all put up a great fight. Unfortunately we lost them, but we took lots of positives from these matches. We've played two other matches: we won one and drew the other. We are starting to get a solid squad of players, which is helping us develop as team. The last three matches of the season we have a great chance of winning, which will hopefully help move us up the league table. **Jess Adams**

Women's 6s Round-up

Women's 6s have been on a fantastic roll and currently sit in 2nd place in the Brunel 3 division. We have won our last 4 games in a row and haven't lost since Nov 20th. The team gives our juniors an opportunity to play in a senior league. They have all embraced the opportunity, with a couple of stars that have been a huge part of this success - looking at you Sophia and Izzy! The backbone of the squad has been the fantastic contribution of our TT ladies who have risen to the challenge. Thanks to everyone who has played. With 2 games to go, promotion is still a possibility. The battling spirit was shown last weekend when we fought back from 0-2 down to beat OBS 4-2. Fingers crossed for a successful end to the season. **Nic Prince**

Women's 035 Cup Match

After a slight defeat in the finals to Olton 18 months ago (11-2, if you really must know), Carla Dunnett had '11 bones to pick'. And pick them we all did! We had a tight first half whilst Olton waited for Sally Walton to arrive. Half time score was 2-2. We were awesome, in control, great team link up play and calm under pressure. Chris (GK), and our player of the match, had a 1 on 1 with Sally Walton and won. It was a lesson in stepping in front to get the ball, from all areas of the pitch. Great determination. End result 4-2 winners. Goals from Jo Walton, Charlie Wakefield, Carla Dunnett and Caroline Meads. Marching merrily into the semi finals we go!! Special thanks to Nick as manager and Rebecca Jones for coming up as chief supporter. **Charlie Wakefield**



Senior news

Men

Men's 1s Round-up

The Men's first XI have had an indifferent start to the second half of the league campaign. Knowing a few wins would be enough to ensure safety in the West Conference, we went into the second half of the season feeling confident following some strong results and performances before the Christmas break. In our first game back, we got a well fought 3-3 draw after going 3-0 down away to Ashmoor, who are in the hunt to win the league. This gave us further confidence that we have the ability to mix it with anyone. Since then, three games in which performances didn't reflect the scoreline meant we went three games without anything to show for it and were beginning to look down rather than up. Off the pitch, much work was done by all involved to halt this form and the result was a fantastic, battling 2-1 home victory against high-flying Fareham on Sunday! Next up is a huge local derby against top-of-the-table Bristol University, and following that some important matches against teams below us in the table. We hope that with players returning from injury and to form, we have enough in the tank to complete what has so far been a very successful season. It would mean a lot to the players to have big crowds at all matches between now and the end of the season to cheer us home! **Jamie Mortimore**

Men's 2s Round-up

After a tough January, the M2s kickstarted their push for promotion with emphatic wins over teams at the bottom of the table. Knowing goal difference could be crucial, 6-1 and 9-0 wins against Swansea and Marlborough provided a welcome boost. Most pleasingly for the captain, goals came from all over the pitch from both regular and fringe players who stood up when they got a chance to impress. The month ended on a high with possibly the most satisfying win of the season so far, when a team featuring 3 players on return from injury travelled to Gloucester and picked up the grittiest of 2-1 victories. While we aim to play good hockey, winning in this style when the chips are against you is always marked as the sign of a team on the up! We now look forward to a week off, with three huge fixtures to come to decide the league. It will go down to the wire, and the Robbies 2s are up for the fight! **Alex Kirkpatrick**

Men's 3s Round-up

The M3s now have a 10-game winning streak and are back at the top of West Division 2 on equal points with Cardiff University 2s – the students having the edge on goal difference. Recent wins have been:

4-2 v Yate
4-1 v Bristol & West 2s
7-1 v Swansea 3s
2-0 v Bristol UWE
6-1 v Cardiff & Met 3s

Too many goal scorers to mention, but Sam Sharp has suddenly hit form. Also great to see Ewan Hammond progress from the 4s and establish himself.

This Saturday sees the big one v Cardiff University 2s – 2pm start at Badminton School. Support would be welcome! **Duncan Long**

Men's Masters O40s

Gutted is an understatement! The O40s bowed out away in London at Indian Gymkhana going down 6-4. You had to be there to witness the "neutral" umpiring, but that said the talented Indian Gymkhana side still outscored us. Some questionable yellow cards and some even more questionable penalty corners were the difference and we'll have to wait until next season to get our hands on the trophy again. Oli Fuller and Mark Pullin scored 2 each. Big thanks to Pete Wheeler, AKA Squealer, for making the trip to manage. **Duncan Long**

Junior news...

Junior Boys

The U18 boys are out of the EH Cup but could still win the West U18 League. The U16 Boys need to beat Repton & Sutton Coldfield to reach SupraLeague Finals day & the U15s are unbeaten in the EH U16 T2 competition & have a comfortable lead in the Bristol Badgers League having beaten nearest rivals Firebrands both H & A. The U14 boys narrowly missed out on the SupraLeague, but had an enjoyable West finals day at the end of January. Like the Girls, the U12 & U10 Boys have their EH In2Hockey regional finals in the next few weekends! There are two training sessions for the boys, Tues or Thurs with anyone U15 or above generally joining the Men's open Club training session, if not invited to the M1 or M2/3 sessions.

GU16s

The GU16s missed out on their opportunity to play their next SupraLeague match, as Stourport took the decision to concede without travelling to Bristol. This gives the girls an automatic 8-0 walkover. While it counts as a win, our girls would still rather be out on the astro to prove themselves. Nonetheless, not wishing to miss an opportunity for some training, the team took to the pitch on a chilly Sunday morning for some extra time with coach Rachel Shields, helping them to prepare for their final league group meeting against Repton on 27th March at home.

And finally . . .

End of Season Dinner

This week you should have received an email from Abi and Conor (our Social Secs) about the end of season dinner (the first since 2019!). All members over the age of 14 are welcome. There will be a three-course dinner, speeches, awards and a live band, as well as a fundraising raffle. Tickets are £38 each and dress is black tie. At last – a reason to put your glad rags on! Please come! Menu choices are below. Please make sure you let your team Captain know before 22 March if you're coming and what you'd like to eat.



Starters

- Warm mature cheddar cheese tartlet, pickled grapes, walnuts and pea shoots (V)
- Watermelon and cucumber salad, sunflower seeds, honey & mint dressing (VE) (GF)
- Butternut squash and sweet potato ginger soup, herb oil (VE) (GF)
- Roast tomato and red pepper soup (V) (GF)

Mains

- Pan-fried chicken breast, thyme & sea salt roasted new potatoes, port & shallot jus (GF)
- Roast pork fillet wrapped in pancetta, celeriac & potato, cider & sage jus (GF)
- Grilled sea bass, white wine braised fennel, herbed potato, tomato and coriander dressing (GF)
- Wild mushroom & potato gnocchi, rocket pesto (V)

Desserts

- Mascarpone tiramisu, espresso sauce
- Sticky toffee pudding, sticky toffee sauce
- White wine and spiced, poached pear, meringue crumb & fresh strawberries

Next issue due out in April 2021

Send your news to

communications@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk

Deadline for submissions

Monday March 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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