



Happy days for the Men's 2s in their Bristol derby against local (friends and) rivals Firebrands in February with a 3-2 win.

Photo © SmifSports Photography

Storming into the second half

The second half of the season got off to a chilly start – with several matches cancelled or postponed as a result of very icy weather, but now we are back and fully underway.

With the Women's 1s in the top 6 of the National Premier League, this half of the season guarantees top-level hockey from the best women's players in the country – on our doorstep.

With that in mind, we're giving the front page of this newsletter to the Women's 1s Home Fixtures – starting this weekend:

February 18th 2023
CRHC W1s vs Wimbledon
Push Back @ midday

February 25th 2023
CRHC W1s vs Surbiton
Push Back @ midday

Please get down to Combe Dingle and give everything you've got in support.

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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 Andy - Men's Chair

This season, the Men's Committee welcomed Andy Hughes as its new Chair. Here, we get to know him with a quick Q&A.



When did you start playing hockey?

I didn't start playing until I was about 13 or 14 – I had dreams of being a Premier League footballer before that.

How did you get into goalkeeping?

I started my hockey life playing outfield. However, my brother is also a (less talented) hockey player and used to like to have someone to hit tennis balls at in the back garden when we were younger, so I got used to trying to stop goals with just a stick and baseball glove and went from there. Although, pretty much anyone at the club who knows me will also be well aware of my dislike of running, so it all really worked out for the best.

What kit do you use?

OBO

How long have you been at CRHC and which team do you play for?

I've been lucky enough to be with the club for 6 years now, playing for the Men's 1st team for the majority of this time, with a few appearances for the 2s and 3s when the opportunity has presented itself.

What's your proudest hockey moment?

Internationally – getting to play for Wales U21 in the top division of the Europeans; at club level – helping CRHC secure their highest ever finish in National League last season.

What brought you to the position of Men's Chair?

Longer's love of delegation, with potentially some element of desire to give back to the club...

What are you most likely to be doing when you aren't playing hockey?

Usually looking for my golf ball in the trees at my local course or walking my dog Tikaani.

What are your go-to TV shows?

The West Wing, The Office, The US Office and Parks & Rec.

What's your advice to our junior hockey players?

The best advice I ever received was when I was 16 and it was pretty simple – 'Be a sponge'. Absorb all the information, advice and support you can, but also realise what works for some people might not work for you. Retain what works and, over time, discard what doesn't.



SmifSports
photography

W1s

Since Christmas the W1s have spent half of January playing indoor hockey and half preparing for the next phase of our outdoor season. The indoor season was an opportunity for us to bring back some ex-players to join the squad, Kitty Chapple and Pip Stewart and bring on some juniors. In a very competitive league, we finished 7th which meant we were relegated. Livvy Hoskin was second top goal scorer in the league. Our outdoor season, in the top 6, started on 11th February where we had a challenging game away to Hampstead and Westminster. A very promising all-round performance from the squad saw us come away with a well-deserved 2-2 draw and congratulations to Caitlin Withan who made her PNL debut. We are also still in the cup with home game v Beeston, date TBC. **Juliet Rayden**

Photo © SmifSports Photography

A chilly Cup match for our W1s vs Gloucester at The Lawns in January saw the match cut short at 4-0 to CRHC on an icy pitch.

W2s

The W2s have continued our winning streak with a couple of convincing 3-pointers from the double header at the weekend, putting 5 goals past Lydney and 9 past ISCA, walking away with two clean sheets. This firms our spot at the top of the league comfortably with a game in hand due to frost rearrangements. We travel over the bridge to Howardians on Saturday to try and one up our previous 7-2 victory against the side at 'fortress Lawns'. The weekend after we're away to Taunton, followed by a double header weekend at the end of Feb vs Gloucester and Gwent. So lots more excitement to come! **Jules Gardner**



Photo © SmifSports Photography

W4s

The Womens 4s have had continued success after the Christmas break and we have successfully maintained our top of the league position with a total of 10 wins and only 3 losses. A particularly highlight was how we bounced back after a disappointing 2-1 loss to Corsham, to beat Keynsham 6-1 the following week - a big shout to Molly who managed to get a hat trick playing as a full back! With five games left of the season, promotion is within touching distance and we are going to work hard to maintain our top-of-the-league position! **Anisha Cullen**

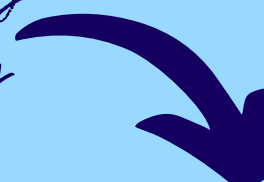


W6s

The 6s are made up of both juniors and TT ladies and nearly every week we have come together form one team (6s) and Wow what a season it has been for us. So far we have played 10 games, Won 7, Drawn 2 and Lost 1. WELL DONE 6s.

Sam Lippiatt

Men's news
this way



Senior news

Men

M3s

The mighty 3s continued to benefit from Smithy's Aussie absence and chalked up wins against Royal Wootton Bassett 1s, Chippenham 1s, and most recently an 8-4 thrashing of Swansea 2s. Granted there have been a couple of losses but it's confirmed we play much better without the plumber. Last week we travelled with a reduced squad of 12 to Swansea. Toby Smith was making a rare appearance but that didn't show as he scored 4 goals. Dec Turner even managed to score, which is unheard of, although he most definitely should have got his hat trick instead of the meagre 2. Ewan Hammond proved that he can actually tap a hockey into an open goal from a few yards out so we are very glad to see he is continuing his development. Matt Dawson completed the scoring with his first goal for the 3s. Having been promoted last season, the 3s now sit in 6th place in North Division 1 with more points to come I am sure. **Duncan Long**



M6s

The Mens 6s have had a steady start to the season after being promoted as winners of their league last year. With some unfortunate losses in the last few minutes to top table teams Keynsham 1s and OBs 2s, the 6s were mid table, 6th in the league at the half way point. Strong performances against Bath Buccs, North Somerset, Bristol and West and OBs 3s mean that if we can replicate the performance in the 2nd half of the season, we can aim for 4th at the end of the year (which would be a great achievement).

The 6s are a real combination of youth and, let's "experience". The defence has been rock solid this year, led from the back by Brad Green in goal and Jimi at centre back.

Special mention for the youth of our club who have played exceptionally well this year – Ollie Yates, Casper Gosling and Will Maxwell. It is fair to say that everyone is really enjoying the challenge of the league we are in, where every game feels that a result is up for grabs. We have a great social aspect to our team with many making it to the bar after the game.

Highlights of the season have included King senior scoring with his 1st touch of the game, Jimi actually managing to stay on the field the whole game, Colin celebrating a goal from Pongo which actually went wide (much to the amusement of the opposition) and Jack playing every outfield position all at the same time!!

From a captain's perspective, the best thing has been seeing everyone enjoying playing hard fought hockey every week and coming off the field with a smile – win, lose or draw. Really looking forward to seeing how we can push on for the rest of the season. **Colin Colegate**

MO40s

The men's masters O40s cup run is now over! A couple of games in quick succession saw us win 1-0 against Westbury & United Banks late in January. Jarvinho proved he can score at this higher level and put us ahead after 1 minute 48 seconds calmly slotting past the Westbury GK from a fortunate West crash ball. 65 D entries, 56 shots, and 68 minutes 12 seconds later, we were through to the next round winning 1-0.

That set up a short trip to Telford & Wrekin HC in the last 16. Half-term, injuries, operations, rearranged league matches that

apparently take priority to Masters, and even work hit the squad, so we went with 11 including a guest GK and plumber Smithy who is now back from his wellbeing break. Special thanks to Brad's mate Chris Lal ex-Barford Tigers for stepping in for half a game! Chris got injured. So down to 10, Stephen Rutherford (Charlie?!) in goal, 3-0 behind. Minwaz's men showed true Robbies grit and battled back to 3-2. Fuller fired the final PC of the game high into the top right hand corner to take the game to a shootout only for the local umpire to adjudge the ball not to have left the D prior to the flick. Outrageous, but that's how it ended and it proves that Smithy doesn't win games. **Duncan Long**

Junior news

GU12s

The U12 girls have been busy this new year competing in friendly fixtures against Cheltenham HC and Westberries Academy, with both A and B teams on the field netting some solid wins along with some close defeats. The girls have done us proud in the AJHL mixed festivals this season, gaining valuable match play experience competing against a variety of local teams. It's great to see all the girls improving and the skills practised in weekly training being integrated into their game play. The end of season AJHL mixed tournament and the West regional finals all to play for in the coming weeks.



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Hillis & Porter Financial Planning are pleased to sponsor the CRHC Women's 1s team for the 2022-23 season.

They're passionate about working with their clients – individuals, families and small-business owners – to help them plan efficiently and effectively for their tomorrow. Any questions please do get in touch.

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CRHC Social Diary

Our social events have been thriving this season with our three legged and Bingo night and team Christmas night before the break. All three socials were well attended and it's good to see the social side of the club going from strength to strength. We had our first social of 2023 on Saturday 11th Feb with our 6 Nations themed get together. This will be followed by our quiz night on the 11th March. The dates you should all be getting in your diaries are the 22nd-23rd April. This season marks 125 years of Clifton Ladies and the Covid season marked 100 years of Robinsons hockey club. As we did not get to celebrate this occasion, we will be having a club weekend where the following will take place:

22nd April – Celebratory games (men's and women's current 'legends' teams vs former clobbies 'legends' @ Coombe dingle

22nd April (Evening) – End of season dinner (details announced in full in an email sent to all members).

23rd April – Junior coaching masterclass hosted by the Women's 1 team. Details to be announce in the coming weeks.

We're looking forward to a fabulous weekend of Clobbies' festivities!

Any questions please get in touch with Abi or Conor.

Next issue due out in March 2023

Send your news to

communications@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk

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.

www.smifsports.co.uk

End of Season Dinner

Saturday April 22nd 2023
@ Gloucestershire Cricket Stadium
(Bristol Pavilion)

Deadline to secure your place: 10th March
Check your emails for details



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