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That's (almost) all folks!

It seems like only yesterday that we were putting together the first newsletter of the season – how can it be that the leagues are over, the end-of-season dinner has been and gone and the AGM, with its reflections and thoughts for next season, is just around the corner?

The Women's 2s, 4s, 5s and 6s all finished top of their leagues, the W3s finished second and our superb Women's 1st XI finished 4th in the premier league, reaching the finals' weekend for the first time since 2015 – and for those who tuned in on Twitter, you'll know what a nail-biter it was! Among those achievements for our Women's teams, special mention to the W2s, who scored an incredible 109 goals (and gave Claire Jones top goal-scorer for the Club, with 38) and conceded only 21. There were top-five finishes for our Men's 1s, 3s, 5s, 6s and newly formed 7s, demonstrating talent and tenacity across the adult sections of the Club. Collectively, our adult men and women played 260 matches and scored 799 goals. Colin Colegate emerges triumphant as the Men's hotshot, with 21 goals for the Men's 6s.

For our juniors, yet further success with smiles and trophies galore for the boys and girls, up and down the age groups. **Good luck to our U14 Girls at the EH National finals in Nottingham in May.** Our Talent Centre has gone from strength to strength and we're looking forward to hosting another phenomenal Summer Camp this year, in August.

From Comms, as we sign off for the Summer: thank you to everyone who has sent us news, info, photos and stories this season – everything we do is only as good as the content you give us. And thank you to Pete, for your professional images, as always. We were thrilled to see that you made it in front of the camera, too, at the end-of-season party.

Finally, when the email comes (as it surely will) **don't forget to re-register for 2023/24**, and good luck, too, to everyone playing Summer League.

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Need kit?

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


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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

You're invited...

Clifton Robinsons Hockey Club AGM 2023



The CRHC AGM

will take place on
Monday 15 May 2023

at
Coombe Dingle UOB Sports Bar

Start time
7pm

We hope to see as many members as possible – whether you are a player, an existing committee member, or a parent or guardian – at the meeting. If you need encouragement – the bar will be open on the night!

Why do we have an AGM?

The AGM is an important part of our Club year, a necessary commitment to our membership, and essential to our continued efforts to improve. It's an opportunity for all our members to hear – and comment on – what we've been up to behind the scenes, how the Club is run and financed, the successes of the previous year and any existing plans for the future. It demonstrates how many volunteers help with the numerous roles in the club, some of which will be elected on the evening, and is an open forum to share your ideas for how we can improve and think about how to get involved yourself (which we invite you to do in any way possible).

As well as all that, it is a great way to put faces to the names that pop up on our social media and in the newsletter time and again, and to foster a sense of community that can only help us to get better.

Senior news

Women

Introducing...

HILLIS & PORTER
FINANCIAL PLANNING

as our Ladies 1's
sponsor for the
2022/23 season



Photo © SmifSports Photography



W1s

We had a mixed start to the 2022/23 season, but through some gritty performances, we managed to qualify for the Top 6. Our consistency improved after Christmas, and we started putting in great performances, winning two games and drawing one during the third phase of the season. This secured our qualification for the Premier Division play-offs for the first time since 2015! Although we narrowly lost on shuffles to East Grinstead in the semi final, we finished 4th place in the league, which was a great achievement for us. As we look forward to the next season, we're very excited to build on our progress and great performances, and continue to improve as a team! Huge thank you to our 'Ball Patrol' at home games and all who have supported us throughout the season on and off the pitch. **Juliet Rayden**

W1s celebrating during the Premier League finals match for third/fourth place, against Hampstead & Westminster.

W2s

The 2s have had an unbeaten season in West Prem, playing 22, drawing 1 and winning 21 – gaining us promotion into Conference West and regaining National League status. Although the final table makes it look like it was an easy season, in reality we faced a number of challenges and tight results, which was a real test for this new group. We had several new faces, as well as some more well known within the club, and once we'd got used to the player group, we played some impressive hockey in the autumn months. A few more challenging results in December and January followed, which were some top table tests along with some very physical hockey from certain teams in the league(!), but after the cold spells, we gained momentum and showed a lot of resilience as a group to bag some impressive results towards the end. We're looking forward to be back in Conference West to battle against some old rivals! **Jules Gardner**

W3s

The 3s have had a cracking season, finishing 2nd to an unstoppable Lansdown side. With only 3 losses all season, it was quite the turn around from a newly formed team under the wing of Tom Appleby.

The season started strong, with a 7-1 win away at Cheltenham. With a consistent run of wins in the first half of the season, fuelled by terrier Charlie smashing in the goals at every opportunity. The final game before Christmas, saw us play top of league, unfortunately the 3-nil loss was a disappointing result but left us wanting to fight back in the return game.

Eighteen goals for January secured our comfortable 2nd place in the league, with highlights such as beating Yate 1s 6-1 and, of course, beating Firebrands 2s 4-0. With goals that kept coming from top goal scorers: Charlie, Jess, Claire, Becky, GK and Jessie.

The consistent defence and midfielders kept our goal difference high throughout the season, with strong performances from Lara, Nicole, Caitlin, Abi, Miya and Julie-Anne. It was welcoming to have an array of experience this year, with Emily, Kate, Lara, Becky, Charlie and Nicole joining the mighty 3s. Steph, Alice and Jessie, our consistent juniors were an asset to the team, who gelled well together, creating some excellent links, especially with Eve who was unstoppable down the wing. We finished strong, with a narrow loss to Lansdown – it was a great feeling giving them such a close game, and another 5-1 win to Newent. Thank you to Iona and Sian for excellent goal-keeping throughout and, of course, to Tom, for his quality coaching. **Julie-Anne Scott**

W5s

The 5s started off the season with lots of new players, we all gelled together well and formed a strong team. We had a great season with many highs, we played 16 matches, winning 14 of those securing us 1st in the league meaning we are being promoted next season. This shows the amount of hard work and effort the whole of the L5 team put in, also the amazing work that Caroline (L5 Coach) put in every week. We hope to continue this positive team spirit next season in our new league and also continue to develop and grow as a team. **Jess Adams**



W6s

2022-2023 has been a fantastically successful season for L6s – promotion, an amazing goal difference, hockey for all ages and a wonderful team spirit. We just missed out on promotion last year and were determined to go one better and we have! We finished top of our division with 88 goals scored and only 10 conceded. Our squad numbers have built with a mixture of youth and experience blending well. By the second half of the season it became difficult to work out how to give everyone a game due to numbers available. Next season sees us in a new league with a good-sized squad (hopefully). We are looking forward to the challenge! Congratulations to Cara Stibbs and Sally Fletcher who were awarded Players' Player and Coaches' Player and of the Season. A huge thank you to Steph Darbin and Jo Sadler for captaining the W6s. They have done an amazing job ensuring that there was always a full team, encouraging everyone and always remembering the jelly babies. **Sam Lippiatt**



Team Turnbull

Team Turnbull numbers have remained strong all year and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Turnbull and Martin Reed for their continued support and dedication (in all weathers) on Monday nights! We were particularly pleased to win the Avon O40 Tournament last October and look forward to defending our title again in the new season.

Was this way!

Spotlight on...

Women 4s

The W4s gave us so much to work with (including Clare's brilliant poem), we decided they needed a page all of their own. Congratulations on a fabulous season, ladies. This month's Spotlight is yours. :)

W4s End-of-Season Report

The Women's 4s have had an amazing season finishing 1st in the Division 2 East League and gaining promotion into Division 1 (watch out Women's 3s!) With lots of new members playing in a Clifton shirt for the first time, returning Clifton alumni, plus juniors having their first introduction to adult hockey, the 4s have gone from strength to strength on the pitch.

There have been some incredible individual performances with Freya Gray Stone and Rachael Harrison being awarded players player and coaches' player, respectively, at the end-of-season dinner.

Importantly, the 4s have had some amazing team performances with a committed group of players at the core. Highlights include beating Royal Wotton Bassett 4-2 in our penultimate game to gain promotion and a strong 6-1 win against Keynsham. Off the pitch, the 4s have continued to remain one of the most sociable teams in the club accumulating in an amazing celebratory team meal which was the cherry on top of a great season.

A big thank you has to go to our coach Alex, who puts up with us, which is impressive within itself, and of course has lead us to victory this year! Bring on summer league and next season! **Anisha Cullen**



The Mighty 4s (by Clare Wakely)

There once was a team by the number 4,
Where laughter and having fun was at it's core.
But wherever the social, the pizza, the sin,
They always turned up, determined to win.

Eleven players on the pitch, that's how we start,
"3,2,1 Clifton!" we shout from our heart.
We're the best team in the club - that's true by a mile.
You'll usually find us in La Rocca - although we haven't been for a while!

We're lead by Coach Alex, who loves a cheeky selfie,
Listening to our nights out - just wishing we were more healthy.
But there's no denying his dedication - he's with us every week,
His passion, swearing and team talks, telling us not to be meek!

And then we have our captain, she's small but feisty,
Neesh has taken the role in her stride and kept the team mighty.
She's our central player, who distributes the ball,
And she must have gluten free teas - in the dining hall.

We're a team of all ages - starting with Harriet in goal,
And me as the oldest - like a big-sister role.
We've had new players join and play from their heart,
Molly, Rachel, Freya, Liv - you've played a huge part.

Now there have been some cards - we've had yellow and green,
But that's mainly because some calls were harsh and just mean!
There's been more ariels and flicks and passing round the back,
But it's our press that's been solid - like a wolf pack.

TC leads the forwards - sorting out the goals,
But god help us in a club if there were dancing poles!
Sophie G and I hold the back - like Maverick and Goose,
Unfortunately it's become a thing now - me grunting like a moose!

We've had black eyes, cut knees and bruises whilst we've played,
But the worst was when 3 of us had to call the fire brigade!
Twas the start of the Xmas social and we're stuck in a lift!
Thank god we got let out - curry and Prosecco was our gift.

And let's not forget the ranking of our teas done by Tilly,
And of course our famous pink hairband - with the 2 willies,
This team is full of fun and that's why we win,
So we can shove those fitness drills and put them in the bin!

I must say my Saturdays now, won't quite be the same,
I'll miss the ridiculous conversations with pints and chips - after every game.
And we'll be sad to say goodbye to those off to uni and travelling next year,
Just remember when you're back - Clifton Robinsons will still be here!

Senior news

Men

M1s

This season was quite the rollercoaster! Starting the season strongly with win, draw, win... 7 points from a possible 9. Fast forward to Christmas and the 1s were still on 7 points, from a possible 27 – but confidence that results would flow was high! Post-Christmas the 1s won 5, drew 2 and lost 2 leaving them with 24 points and finishing 5th of 10. League winners Havant even commented in their match report that we should have won our game away at them! Over the course of the season, the lads gave lots of effort and had a great attitude. There was plenty of progress over the course of the season and Scotty is confident this will continue. Roll on next season for a very exciting and fun time! **Andy Hughes**

M2s

This season was very much about consolidation and surviving in West Prem after promotion last year, and the team achieved it with aplomb. While the core group was largely the same, we welcomed more guys from the 1s including influential corner-taker Rory Thorburn, and new players including the Francuz brothers and Will Gardner. A solid first half to the season kept us up leading to an 8th placed finish, although a late wobble showed us there is plenty for us to work on going forward and to push for a top half finish next year. We also entered the Tier-2 England Hockey Cup for the first time, and played teams from the South and Midlands leagues, eventually going out in the quarter finals to Leek. Highlight results of the season include a 7–1 demolition of Swansea, and a well-deserved league double over Firebrands 1s! We look forward to a revitalised squad and a new challenge next season. **Alex Kirkpatrick**

M3s

M3s were promoted last season, so the priority this season was to maintain status in the higher division. All objectives achieved:

Stay up ✓

Top half ✓

Develop players for the 1s ✓ (Salmon, Apples, Conor, Jamie)

Enhance 1s of the future ✓ (Charlie MH, Olly C, Hugo CC, James Austen)

High performance culture for the 20s–30s ✓

Vets bossing it ✓

Get Smithy to The Lawns ✓

Have a great laugh ✓

Successfully integrate new players to the club ✓

Promote CRHC across the West ✓

Player of the Season – there is no “I” in team: not applicable

D*** of the Season – void – no valid data

A great season in West North Division 1 and looking forward to the next one already. **Duncan Long**

M6s

The Men's 6s have had a great year. After being promoted last year, we were a little unsure how we would get on. The first few games of the season highlighted a real difference in the speed of the game, so it was little wonder that we struggled at the start and sat bottom of the league after 4 games. However, there was confidence within the team that we were better than those first results, and so it is extremely pleasing that we were able to turn it around and have continued to rise the league since to finish 4th (only 1 place behind the 5s!).

The team is a real mixture of youth and experience, which has worked really well for us. Special mention has to go to Casper Goslin and Ollie Yates who have both played fantastic hockey for the 6s this year. It will be a real shame to lose them next year but they have both shown that they deserve their places higher up the club next season. Bringing through juniors is something that we are really keen to embrace so we will be looking for more next season – and not least because it saves the old guard from having to run as much!!

M4s

Full of confidence from being promoted the 4s knew they were in for a much tougher season and were not looking forward to the many trips over the border to Wales. We finished the season mid table, firmly cementing ourselves into this league ready to push for top of the table next season. The highlight of the season was finishing unbeaten at BadWINTon and taking points off every team. We beat the top 3 teams in the league and were the first to take points off Cardiff & Met who were unbeaten for the majority of the season. We finished with the second best defensive record in the league, with 5 clean sheets.

Overall, the team stepped up massively in 22–23, training hard, pushing each other and remaining positive after some frustrating losses. We celebrated with many socials along the way – with an eventful fines' night and end-of-season dinner. **Ed Hickey**

M5s

43 players were selected for 25 games (22 in the league). The Mighty Mens 5s started the season with a fine and deserved 2–1 win over eventual league winners Keynsham 1s. Unfortunately, the 5s dropped points where they shouldn't have and ended up finishing a credible 3rd, just like last year.

However, unlike the previous year, the Mighty 5s were always in the top 3 throughout. Andrew Hodge finished top scorer with 13, ahead of Ben Hinkins who finished second top scorer for the second consecutive year with 11 (although he did score goals for the 6s as well).

The game of the season for the neutrals was away at Firebrands under the lights, the 5s forgetting how to play decent hockey, ended up throwing an early 2–0 lead to be 3–2 down with 9 minutes to play. JJ grabbed his second from a short before Hinkins scored a screamer with 3 minutes left to win the match. Another point away at the league winners Keynsham meant the winners of the league failed to beat the Mighty 5s (again)!

In reality, going up would mean loads of extra travel to Wales (and other horrible places – see the 4s). Who wants to do that? So 2nd is the target for next year! **Roger Birkinshaw**

Our biggest strength has been our defence. Apart from the occasional dodgy moment from Jimi (who has been outstanding most of the time), our defence has handled some extreme pressure against the better sides this year. Losing to Keynsham 1s and OBs 2s both by a single goal highlights the effort and resilience they have shown. Leading from the back, Brad Green in goal has been a rock. It is a testament to the team as a whole, that apart from the top three sides, we are the only other team to have a positive goal difference this season.

I think that I speak for everyone in the 6s when I say that we have loved playing in the higher league and the challenge that provides. Win, lose or draw, we all enjoy the games we are playing and hopefully it will continue next year where we will be aiming for top three. **Colin Colegate**

M7s this way! →

Senior news

Men continued

M7s

With Clifton Robinsons Hockey Club continuing to grow in size, the 22/23 season saw the inauguration of the Mens 7th XI.

The 7th team, lead by Manager Ogg Hounsell, showcases a mixture of experienced players who have previously played many levels throughout the club, and new academy talent looking for a taste of senior hockey.

The 22/23 season for our foundation year ended with the squad finishing a respectable 3rd place.

The season started with a 7-1 win against Westbury. A hattrick from Ian Martin (who would later become the 7s top scorer for the season) and many bad aerial attempts by Silksy (who would later become DOD on many occasions) set the pace for the 7s for the first half of the season.

Successive wins against Bristol and West, Old Bristolians, a huge 9-1 victory over Westbury 5s and an important (and very sweet) 3-1 victory against local rivals Firebrands, saw the 7s head into the Christmas break at the top of the table.

Although the 7s started the second half of the season strongly with further victories. the first defeat came against Bristol and West in February at Badminton, the rest of the season saw a brave attempt

from the 7s to secure wins. and with just a handful of games to go, it was a three-horse race for the title which ended going to Old Bristolians (who incidentally came to cheer us on at our last game of the season at home against Firebrands).

Some could argue that our 3rd-place finish was tactical, positioning our squad for the next season to continue to enjoy very local games.... some could say otherwise...

The 7s squad this year, like the rest of the club, had a large pool of talent to select from, but it is worth name dropping a selection of players who made themselves available for all games and committed to the 7XI throughout the season. Dan Smith: 17 appearances and the 7s player of the year; Ian Martin with 15 appearances and 9 goals making him the top goal scorer; Jon Vincent Silk: 13 caps and undoubtedly DOY. Mark Wagstaffe played 12 and his experience on the pitch was invaluable. With 11 appearances each, Craig Collins, Josh Mudie, Damien Pace and Crabbie demonstrated commitment that was so important to the success of the 7s this year. Some great performances by Chris Scarll (GK), Al Fraser, Andy Rogers, Ed Charlesworth, Dhanesh Patel, Jon Sawyer, Josh Rumbol, Ed Luff, Dave Tilley, Harry Newington, Max Shields, Rob Austin, Ian Townsend and James Smailes who all played their part in making history for the 7s' first league season. **Dan Smith**

Junior news



U12G

The U12 girls had a great hockey season with over 40 girls regularly attending training and 37 girls representing the club in matches and fixtures. Our U12 girls played in 43 Avon Junior Hockey League games and 15 friendly matches against local clubs. The girls were County runners-up and ended the season topping their 7-strong pool at the West Regionals, just narrowly losing out to rivals ISCA in the semi-finals. We mustn't forget of course their success alongside the U12 boys in the end of season Avon Junior Hockey League tournament, in which two teams competed for the club with CRHC winning the Shield trophy for the 7th consecutive year.

A big thank you to everyone who stepped up to coach, umpire and manage teams throughout the season - without you, such a successful season wouldn't have been possible. **Hayley Josling**



U14G

The CRHC U14 girls' season continues as the T1 team ready themselves for the EH National Finals on 14 May in Nottingham. The girls have had a very impressive season winning 10 out of 10 regional and Supra League matches scoring 61 goals and conceding only 9. The team spirit amongst the girls has carried them through some tough games including being 4-2 down to Taunton Vale with 20 minutes to go - finishing 7-4 up. The girls train hard and their brand of attractive passing hockey is a pleasure to watch, combined with their desire to play well for each other. Fingers crossed for the finals.

The Tier 2 team have played in two different leagues this season with strong performances as they develop their 11-aside game. Their team spirit and burgeoning confidence has meant they've been a joy to coach and support. As this newsletter goes out, we top the Avon Junior Hockey LU14 plate league holding off a slick Firebrands team and the team completed their main season with their best performance yet in an astonishing 10-0 win over Bristol and West in the Vixens League. Great things beckon next season for this close-knit squad. **Graham Herring**



U16G Tier 1 team who beat Stourport 4-0 to qualify for the EH National Finals.

End of Season Dinner

In pictures...

W6 photos with thanks to Nic Prince; all others © SmifsportsPhotography.
Find more at: www.smifsports.co.uk/gallery-image/Clifton-Robinsons-EOS-Awards/G0000Y5ajkKUJRQU/10000WPDz7K6T.41/C0000yNotcZrN9Vk



Over and out for Summer



**Wishing all of our members
a very happy, fun-filled
Summer. Rest well.
We'll see you back on the
pitch for pre-season in
August/September!**

Back soon!

*Next issue due out in
September 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

**Look out for the
registration email
over the Summer and don't
forget to re-register.**

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