



Monthly Newsletter for Members of Clifton Robinsons Hockey Club

M1s in action on CRHC Club Day 2023,
against Cardiff Met.



© SniffSports Photography

Welcome back!

And before you know it – we're back for the 2023/24 season! The Summer Break, though, has been anything but quiet for our committee members and players, with plenty going on behind the scenes to prepare the Club for the year ahead, and lots of hockey going on at home and internationally. We were thrilled to kick off the new season with our Club Day, celebrating, collectively, hundreds of years of providing men's and women's hockey in Bristol. We open this newsletter with a note from Jamie Mortimore, to say thank you to everyone who ventured up to Beggar Bush Lane to make the event so successful.

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate with us on Club Day 23 – it was great to see so many of our members out in force to be able to celebrate so much hockey at Clifton Robinsons. Our first XIs delivered some outstanding hockey against Reading (Women; match report, page 4) and Cardiff Met (Men). Both teams would like to thank everyone for coming to cheer them on.

Over on the sand-base pitches, we had hockey for all – and there was plenty of delicious barbecue food delivered by Wards Event Catering. In the evening, a strong contingent descended on (well, took over) the garden at Channings Hotel, sharing a few drinks, catching up with mates and reminiscing on good times at CRHC over the years. Be sure to keep an eye out for news about Club Day 2024. We want to make the next one even bigger and better.

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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

Get social

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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

Committee news

Grays CRHC & Grays Hockey

Clifton Robinsons is Grays Hockey's main club for their kit and equipment. We have our own Kit Webshop through the ClubBuzz website system, which gives ALL Club members access to Grays' own products, with significant discount.

How does it work? Our partnership with Grays means that all CRHC kit, bought through the webshop, comes at a pre-discounted price. While this means that we can't apply a further discount to our branded kit, everything else that Grays sells, accessed via the webshop, is available at a discount of 20% – that's all Grays clothing, sticks and protection equipment – by using a discount code (contact me to access it) applied at checkout. Furthermore, players (usually performance players, specifically) can apply to Grays for Player Sponsorship, giving additional discounts, or even a Cash Equivalent Allowance, which is granted to buy such things as sticks and bags.

How to get the benefit: Simply go to the CRHC website and click on "About Us". Select "Kit" from the dropdown menu and then click on the link to the Grays Hockey Shop that appears on our Kit page.

This takes you to the CRHC Grays webshop. At the top of the page are the adult matchday shirts that you can order through me to include your player number (I send regular, club-wide emails calling for orders for these). Beneath this is all the other CRHC branded clothing, which you can order yourselves directly, with no postage costs and no minimum order.

From here, you can navigate to all the other hockey goodies that Grays offers. Please contact me directly on the email below for the discount code that you need to apply.

Something missing? Grays and I are in constant contact, aiming to make sure you have access to the CRHC clothing you need. For example, since the FIH/EH ruling to permit women to wear a skort or shorts during competition, I've been working with Grays to provide CRHC women's shorts. Similarly, we're working hard to improve the quality of the skorts in the range. If you have any questions or suggestions that you'd like me put to Grays, please get in touch – the aim is to make this collaboration accessible and useful to all our members. You can reach me on:

kit@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk or
rod.naughalty@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you! Rod



Supporting Blood Cancer UK

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our End of Season Dinner raffle. We raised a wonderful £1,310, which we donated to Blood Cancer UK in memory of Ben Dudley. We received the following message of thanks from the charity:

"Your kind gift helps bring us one step closer to beating blood cancer.

It's only through the incredible support from people like you that we're able to carry out the groundbreaking research that we do. You're helping teams of researchers across the country right now to develop kinder treatments for people affected by blood cancer, as well as develop cures.

Your gift also means that we can be a voice for people with blood cancer and campaign for much needed policy changes. You are helping provide vital information and support to everyone who needs it, when they need it.

All this wouldn't be possible without the support of our Blood Cancer UK family - thank you so much for your donation!

Because thanks to you, we'll beat blood cancer sooner."

Umpiring THANK YOU!

We want to say a **MASSIVE** thank you to everyone who put themselves forward for the Level 1 umpiring course that we put on in August – please keep your eyes peeled for some chances to give umpiring a go!

Did you know? Anyone over the age of 14 can become a hockey umpire? We urgently need to recruit more umpires, particularly throughout the women's teams. The course is straightforward and we are planning to run another one soon. After that we will fully support you in all the next steps – we'll even pay you £20 every time you umpire a league match! So, if you are a teenager looking to earn some ad-hoc weekend cash, an adult player looking for an opportunity to mitigate your own match fees, or a parent who usually watches but could make wonderful use of that time pitchside, we want to hear from you. Please email Jenny or Mike on robbies09mm@gmail.com

Women's Committee Help

Women's Committee are looking to fill two important positions in their happy band of helpers.

- Women's secretary
- Women's Fixtures Secretary

If you have a little time to help give back to the Club in this way, please contact Women's Chair, Sophie Timoney-Canning on sophiecanning@hotmail.co.uk

Thank you, Al!

The Club would like to extend its sincerest thanks and best wishes to Alistair Kilfoil, who, after decades of service, has decided to step down as Manager of the Women's 1s – a position he has taken on twice, for four or five years in the early 2000s, and then from 2008 until 2023. Al has also been President, Umpire and Goalkeeping Coach for our Club. In all of these roles, Al has always shown total professionalism, dedication and selflessness. Al will continue to umpire and to coach the young goalkeepers, while finding adventure in his well-earned retirement. Thank you, Al, for all you have done!

Who's Who 2023/24

Coaches, Captains & Admins

WOMEN

W1s

Lead Coach: Juliet Rayden
Assistant Coach: Micah Smithard
Managers: Phil Bailey
Captain: Aline de Visser

W2s

Lead Coach: Reggie Keates
Manager: Nick Sutcliffe
Captain: Jules Gardner

W3s

Lead Coach: George Nicholls
Captain: Becky Loonan & Eve Stainton

W4s

Lead Coach: Alex Moat
Captain: Anisha Cullen

W5s

Lead Coach: Caroline Meads
Captain: Jess Adams

W6s

Lead Coach: Sam Lippiatt
Captain: Jo Sadler & Steph Darbin

W035s

Captain: Jo Walton

W045s

Captains: Nic Prince & Tamsin Boyle

MEN

M1s

Coach: David Hacker
Manager: Rod Naughalty
Captain: Scott Davidson

**Men's Performance,
M2 & 3s Coach**
Pete Sekula

M1, 2 & 3s Goalkeeping Coach

Darren Ashley

M2s

Captain: Alex Kirkpatrick

M3s

Captain: Andy Jackson

M4s

Lead Coach: Josh Bryce
Captain: Ed Hickey

M5s

Lead Coach: Josh Bryce
Captain: Ollie Vinnicombe & Roger Birkinshaw

M6s

Lead Coach: Josh Bryce
Captain: Colin Colegate

M7s

Lead Coach: Josh Bryce
Captain: Ogg Hounsell

MO40s

Captain: Duncan Long

MO50s

Captain: Darren Reynolds

JUNIOR GIRLS

Junior Girls' Lead:

Louise Catchpole

GU18

Coaches: Olly Keenan, Nick Sutcliffe & Louise Catchpole
Admin: Rachel Shields & Jude Barratt

GU16

Coach: Graham Herring & Dom Titcomb
Admin: Justine Davies & Alison Armitage

GU14

Coaches: Louise Catchpole, Colin Colegate & Lucy Matthews
Admin: Jo Downing & Hayley Josling

GU12

Coaches: Dom Davis, Jamie Falconer, Lucy Jenkinson, Nick P & Al Kilfoil

GU10 & U8

Coaches: W1s & W2s

JUNIOR BOYS

Junior Boys' Lead:

Ian King

The Committees

The Executive Committee

President Stephen Hounsell • Chair Duncan Long • Vice Chair Izzy Palmer • Secretary Phil Bailey
• Treasurers Izzy Palmer, Caroline Meads & Rod Naughalty

The Men's Sub-committee

Chairperson Andy Hughes

Secretary Stephen Hounsell

Welfare Officers Ed Johnson & Bill Springett

Fixtures Secretary Sam Skelton

Social Secretary Conor Pinnell

Umpire Secretary Mike MacDowell

The Women's Sub-committee

Chairperson Sophie Timoney-Canning

Secretary TBC

Welfare Officers Charlie Wakefield & Jade Williams

Fixtures Secretary TBC

Registrations Secretary Janie Houlden

Social Secretary Abi Porter

New Applicants Secretary Miya Scott

Umpire Secretary Jenny Richmond

Senior news

by Phil Bailey

Women's 1s Pre-season Success!

Our Women's 1s have had a good workout preparing for the season playing other National League sides and culminating in a highly successful Beeston Tournament.

To start off Club Day, the women played their first game on the Clifton College pitch, following their move from Coombe Dingle. They played a strong Reading side that included a Rio Gold Medallist. The Clifton side was a mixture of experienced 1st-team players and some young players gaining valuable experience. In a typically close game against Reading, the opposition emerged winners by three goals to two. The CRHC goals were scored by Abi Porter and Amy Burton.

In the midweek following, the women played away in the heat against Gloucester. A number of players returned from their summer break, many of whom had been on international duty in the Euros (with a few bronze medals to show) over most of the time since the close of the 2022/23 season. Goals from Amy Burton, Rebecca Daniel (on her debut for the club) and Evie Grindal, and a Gloucester own goal gave CRHC a 4-1 win.

All that meant that our W1s were well prepared for the weekend pre-season tournament against some stiff opposition at Beeston. Nonetheless, our side had a lot to live up to, as we were defending our title. The women played three group games on the Saturday and two on the Sunday.

The results were:

CRHC W1 5 – Guildford W1 0

CRHC W1 2 – Beeston W1 0

CRHC W1 1 – Isca W1 1

CRHC W1 1 – Reading W1 1

CRHC W1 1 – University of Nottingham W1 0

Unbeaten in 5 games, scoring 10 and conceding only 2, meant we topped the group with 11 points. CRHC were up against our old rivals Reading in the final – this time victorious by 2-0. The goals came from Evie Grindal and Livvy Hoskins.

Our group-stage goal-scorers were: Amy Burton 2, Livvy Hoskins 2, Evie Grindal 2, Clemmie Houlden, Sara Davies and Ellie Laity 2.

Congratulations to our Welsh contingent, many of whom spent the close season playing for Wales in various tournaments. CRHC had 7 players in the Welsh squad that won a magnificent Bronze in Prague: Livvy Hoskins, Phoebe Richards, Holly Munro, Ellie Laity, Izzie Webb, Rebecca Daniel (then Durham Uni) and Emily Drysdale. Wales came from 2-0 down in the Bronze Medal match to draw 2-2 and then win bronze 3-0 in the shootout – with our own Phoebe Richards and Livvy Hoskins scoring.

Jess Lea made her Welsh debut in the Hockey 5s in Walcz Poland. Jess played in all 6 games and scored 3 goals.

Congratulations also to ex-CRHC player Leah Wilkinson who was this week inducted into the Welsh Hall of Fame.



W1s tournament-winning team, Beeston Pre-season 2023

Premiership Opener 23/24 – W1s vs Isca & Uni of Exeter

The W1s travelled to Exeter for a West Country Derby in Week 1 of the Vitality Premier League, and the opening match of the Premier League season.

CRHC were hoping to continue on from their excellent fourth place last year, while Isca/Uni of Exeter were making their first appearance ever in the top flight. Clifton fielded two debutants on the day: Welsh International Rebecca Daniel, who has joined from Durham University and England age-group player Evie Grindal. As expected, Isca came out hard, trying to make an impression, but the CRHC side's greater experience gradually took control. CRHC were confident in possession, building from the back and looking for work opportunities in the D. The first quarter was goalless but Clifton broke the deadlock in the 27th minute after a sublime run from Ellie Laity set up Livvy Hoskins to convert from close range.

After 44 minutes, Livvy doubled the lead with a drag flick into the left corner of the goal. Both Ellie Laity and Evie Grindal went close in the second half, forcing the Isca goalkeeper to make two good saves. In the last quarter Isca threw everything at Clifton and had a number of PCs before the final whistle. The defence held strong with some good saves made by our captain and goalkeeper Aline de Visser. Congratulations to Player of the Match, Emily Drysdale, for her outstanding performance. As we go into the second weekend of fixtures, CRHC W1s are enjoying their place at the top of the league table.

Four CRHC ex-players were awarded their Welsh Cap in August at Glamorgan CCC Sofia Gardens.

From left to right:

Delyth Sharples, Charlotte Merritt, Rachel O'Bryan and Emma Griffiths (now Shinkin). Charlotte also collected her GB cap.



Junior news

Junior Girls' Internationals

Over the summer, several of our junior girls made their mark on the international scene. Congratulations to **Clemmie Houlden** who represented England U18 girls, to **Caitlin Witham**, who represented Wales U18G, to **Evie Grindal** and **Lilly Holmes**, who played for England U16G, and to **Darcy Shields** (pictured) who represented Ireland U16Gs. Good luck to all of you as you embark on the new trial season for your national age groups, and to **Emilia Puddicombe** who begins her NAGS journey with U16G England trials.



CRHC Summer Camp 2023

Summer Camp 2023 was the biggest yet! Over the course of the week, at the Clifton College Sports Ground, we had 18 coaches engaging 155 children: 45 of them on the 5-day Performance camp, 95 on the 4-day Development camp and 15 little ones on the 3-day Introduction camp. This year we were lucky to have the support of **Clear River**, who sponsored the camp by supplying tops for all the participants and the coaches free of charge. Keep an eye out for players wearing their tops at training sessions, and sporting our brand new Clifton Robinsons Hockey Camps logo! I am delighted with the growth of the camp this year. It is supporting the club hugely and we are looking at ways to expand our offering into the Christmas and Easter Holidays too. Stay tuned for what's coming up next, and make sure you get involved! **Jamie Mortimore**



And finally...

... thank you to our sponsors



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Become a sponsor

The club has been working hard in the background to ensure that we are ready to offer any potential sponsors an attractive package for partnering with us.

We have 5 tiered sponsorship package levels and aim to have something that everyone might be interested in. All sponsorship raised helps us to invest in all levels of hockey at Clifton Robinsons; that could be with coaches, umpires, equipment, pitches or events!

Please consider what you can do to help with sponsoring the club. Perhaps you, your company or someone you know might be interested.

Do not hesitate to get in touch with our sponsorship team by emailing sponsorship@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk and we can send you our sponsorship brochure and discuss what can be done.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Next issue due out in November 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.



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