



W1s observing a minute's silence on Remembrance Day ahead of their match versus the University of Nottingham.



We are already at the half-way mark for our Women's 1s premiership side, meaning that Christmas is around the corner. This newsletter celebrates all our success in the first half of the season, as the W1s head for a few weeks' rest before returning to the pitch to fight for a spot that would put them in the running for a final phase, top-four play off. Our W2s are thriving on their return to National League, while the W3s show what they're made of with a huge +37 goals so far – all to play for for them as they head into their last few matches before their own Christmas break, and they look to hold on to their top spot. Over on the men's side, the M1s are showing their super-strengths at home, a form they're looking to replicate on the road. Now would be a good time to mention that **16th December** sees them take on a huge Cup match at home against Old Georgians (push back 2pm) – please head to Clifton College to show your support and watch what promises to be some phenomenal hockey. (And no doubt there will be some Christmas partying that will go on afterwards!)

Juniors, too, are thriving with the U16 and U14 girls at the top of their T1 leagues, hoping for the Supra-League in the new year. U18Gs have shown top form in their EH T1 Cup matches, winning the first two rounds, with a third-round match to play in February. Phenomenal scorelines from our Boys U14s in the Avon Junior League demonstrate strength all over the Club.

Finally, a little bit of Christmas Club Trivia for you: CRHC Women's 1s have played more matches than any other club in premiership history. No wonder they need a well-deserved rest! Happy Christmas, everyone!

IN THIS ISSUE





- Committee News page 2
- Introducing... Phil Bailey page 3
- Senior News: Women page 4
- Senior News: Men page 5
- Junior News: page 6
- And finally... Thank you to our Sponsors page 6

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

-  www.facebook.com/CliftonRobinsonsHockeyClub/
-  [@CliftonRobbies](https://twitter.com/CliftonRobbies)
-  [@CliftonRobbies](https://www.instagram.com/CliftonRobbies)
-  [@cliftonrobinsonsjuniors](https://www.instagram.com/cliftonrobinsonsjuniors)

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

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 give back to the Club in this way, please spread a little Christmas cheer and contact Women's Chair, Sophie Timoney-Canning on sophie.tc@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk

(Take a look at the W4s pics on page 4 – there's Sophie, front and centre. Offer help and help us to preserve that joy! 😊)



Umpire congratulations!

We've had three successful assessments so far this season:

Ben Knight has passed his Level 2 assessment and **Jon Vincent-Silk** and **Alex Kirkpatrick** have both passed their Level 1 assessment. Thank you and CONGRATULATIONS to them!

If anyone (players, parents, coaches) is interested in doing the 2-hour online course, they can sign up on (live link – just click) <https://hockeyhub.Englandhockey.co.uk/> and the club will reimburse the cost of the course.

Anyone wanting to be assessed for Level 1, please contact Mike MacDowell at robbies09mm@gmail.com

Your Executive Committee

Chair

Duncan Long

Vice Chair

Izzy Palmer

Men's Chair

Andy Long

Women's Chair

Sophie Timoney-Canning

Junior Girls' Chair

Lou Catchpole

Junior Boys' Chair

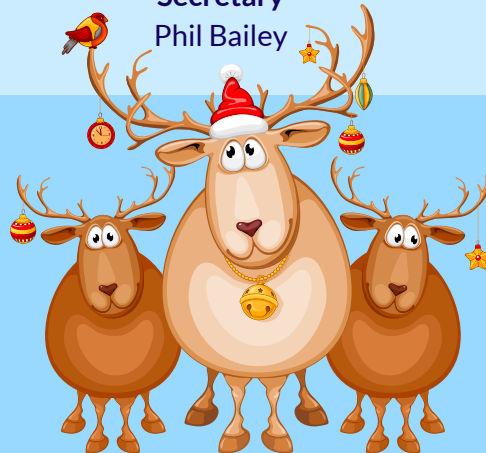
Ian King

Finance Officer & Kit Coordinator

Rod Naughalty

Secretary

Phil Bailey



Our Welfare Officers

Our brilliant, trusted and experienced welfare officers are in place to ensure the wellbeing of all our players, coaches, supporters and parents. The team is available to assist with any safeguarding issues, no matter how small, and in complete confidence. You can reach any of them by the secure, dedicated email address of: welfare@cliftonrobinsonshockey.co.uk.



From left to right:
Bill Springett
Ed Johnson
Charlie Wakefield
Jade Williams

Introducing...

Phil Bailey



Alsager College Sentinel Cup Winners at The Victoria Ground Stoke City. Phil sits bottom left.



Attempting to recruit Debbie Harry to the Women's 1s during her Blondie tour... She looks like she's thinking about it...



Main photo © SmifSports Photography

When we asked Phil for a profile, in his characteristic, humble way, he described himself as “an overweight man in a red coat”, likening himself to that other guy in a red coat who is knocking about at this time of year. We begged to differ. Read on to see why that guy, for all his 24-hour worldwide chimney descents, isn’t a bauble on our Club Secretary.

Phil Bailey has been our Club Secretary for 5 years. Then, as if that weren't enough to keep him busy, he graciously stepped into Al Kilfoil's shoes as Manager for our Women's 1s when other offers to take on that important role didn't come. He supports the Welfare Team as a DBS-checker and, thanks to his encyclopaedic knowledge of hockey, writes so many of our articles for the Newsletter – “From the Archive” being his particular specialty. So, what brought him to CRHC?

Growing up in Yorkshire, Phil had little choice but to find his first love in (shhhh...) cricket. A budding wicketkeeper/batsman at school, he soon realized this dream was fading with the Yorkshire 1st [David Bairstow – Jonny's dad] and 2nd Team Wicketkeeper in front of him. Cricket continued in Bristol, though, where he opened the batting and captained Bohemians in the Bristol and District Premier – including playing against a young, bleached-blond Australian leg spinner from Upper Ferntree Gully in Victoria...

Phil trained as a PE teacher in the mid-1970s at Alsager College: Keele University. At the time, though, hockey featured in the state sector only as a girls' sport (thankfully times have changed), so it was football and rugby for Phil. He could be found grappling with the mud patches of Bristol and beyond, playing for Mangotsfield United and briefly at Forest Green Rovers, before changing code

and joining Clifton Rugby Club, where he moved through the sides as a speedy winger to the 1st XV (despite, he says, not being able to pass or tackle).

Career and two children put sport on the back burner as Phil became a deputy head and later a secondary headteacher. Some years ago, though, he was looking for sport to watch in the local area and stumbled across hockey at Coombe Dingle. There, watching the Women's 1s, he was happy to find not just a superb standard of hockey, but a club – and a sport – brimming with inclusivity and friendliness. And the rest, as they say, is history.

In Phil's case – that history is a literal one, too! After talking with many past and present Welsh players at Clifton and Swansea about the lack of any Welsh International Cap Archive, Phil and Steve Knight started a research project seven years ago to detail the international history of Welsh hockey, all the matches and all the players. Hockey Wales invited them to team up and since the inception of the project, they have capped over 100 athletes who never received caps in their playing days – the work continues.

Of course, all this gives the impression of a man endlessly giving of his time and hospitality. But let's not forget that he's still a Yorkshireman – in his own words: “If you can get a drink out of me in the club bar, you will have done pretty well!”

Senior news

Women

Women's 1s

The W1s season started well with a win at newly promoted Isca, a draw against a strong Wimbledon side and a 3-1 win at Beeston: Played 3; Points 7; Position 1st!

With 11 games in the first half of the season before the Top 6 and Bottom 6 split for the second part of the season, which begins in February, the team needed consistency to build on the excellent start. In the next game at home against the University of Birmingham, we led 2-1 until a last-gasp, disputed overtime deflected PC gave UoB a point. A win against Loughborough and a battling point at Bowden - another game we could easily have won - kept us in the hunt for a top-6 place. Coming to the penultimate game v University of Nottingham, a win would again catapult the team into the Top 6. Despite being so dominant in the first half and leading 1-0, three quick UoN goals put us 3-1 behind. A great fighting spirit saw us come back to draw 3-3. There was all to play for in the final game of the season away to the league leaders, Surbiton. Again a 1-0 half-time lead was eroded and we lost 4-1. As the first half of the season closes, the W1s finish in 9th position, but still only 2 points out of the Top 6 - small margins. With 13 points, which carry over, we will play Isca [3 points], Beeston [7 points], Loughborough [8 points], Wimbledon [14 points] and Birmingham [14 points] post-Christmas. The top two in the mini league will then join the top 6 in the final league to decide the top-4 play offs.

This half of the season has also seen the emergence of 15-year-old Evie Grindal playing in the 1sts, Clemmie Houlden and Caitlin Witham - also still at school - continue to improve. Rebecca Daniel in her first season with us has impressed, and a number of internationals and longer-serving players add flair, experience and support. Our Captain and Vice-captain, Aline and Ellie, support Ju and Micah as part of the Leadership Group. Finally, a big thank you to Phil and Steve for all their support and hard work as our managers. **Phil Bailey & Juliet Rayden**

Women's 2s

The W2s have had a strong start back in Conference West after our successful season in West Prem.

We're sitting comfortably in fourth after playing 8: winning 4, drawing 2 and losing 2. We faced Firebrands away on the weekend before last and came away with a 2-2 draw. End-to-end play left the hosts 2-1 up in the last quarter, but we slotted a goal away in the last 10 minutes to end the battle 2-2. We got a huge win versus top-of-the-league Trojans this weekend, a great shift securing a well-earned 3 points. With two games to go before the break and 6 points up for grabs, we intend to continue the momentum against the experienced sides of Cheltenham and Oxford Hawks. **Jules Gardner**

W2s following their 3-1 win away at Witney.



Women's 3s

The W3s have had a fantastic start to the season. We've played 7 games, securing 6 wins and scoring 37 goals! There is huge competition for top goal scorer this season! We've had a few tough top-of-the-table games but have been well prepared for the challenge and have managed to maintain the top spot. However, the hard work continues with 9 points up for grabs before Christmas. **Becky Loonan**

Women's 4s

Having been promoted into Division 1 South, the Womens 4s have had tough start to the season with lots of travelling involved! With lots of new players joining the side, we have developed as a team and are finding our feet. A particular highlight so far was our double-header in Cornwall. We narrowly lost to Falmouth (4-2) on the Saturday and got our first win against Penzance (2-0) on the Sunday! Importantly, we all had a great time enjoying the sites of Cornwall, a swim in the hotel pool and for those brave enough, a swim in the sea! We are all excited for the rest of the season and with many more home games after Christmas, we are going to work hard towards a mid-table finish in our new league.

Anisha Cullen



Women's 5s

The W5s have had a fantastic start to the season in our new league. We got promoted at the end of last season, meaning we didn't know what to expect but have taken on each opposition well. We have won 5 matches and lost 2, putting us second in the league table. The team has worked hard with the support of our coach, Caroline, to put up a good fight at all the matches we have played. We are looking forward to the rest of the season and continuing to work well as a team and develop further.

Jess Adams

Women's 6s

With the season well underway and the W6s stepping up in to a new league, we knew we were going to be challenged from the off. We are working really hard to move from strength to strength, with lots of new players making a positive impact on the pitch. **Sam Lippiatt**

Women's O40s

On a warm October day, we set out to defend the Avon O40s tournament. Starting strongly, we had wins against Keynsham, Winscombe and OBs putting us in a good position for the final games against Wereys and Elderberries. Energy levels were starting to dip and sadly we couldn't manage a win against these very strong teams. Wereys regained the title and we finished in 3rd place behind Elderberries. Thank you again to all the players who make this a great tournament to take part in and to Al Kilfoil, Martin Reed and Mr T for their support on the day. Well done everyone! **Nic Prince**



Senior news

Men

Men's 1s

The season to date has been a rollercoaster, an injury list full of chocolate hamstrings and results consisting of fine home form with a 100% win rate but not so good on the road (0% W, 100% L).

Sitting mid-table on 12 points (with three more games this side of Christmas), we see ourselves as the top scorers in the league but sit in 3rd place with number of goals conceded – an area we will be working on!

As a team we have played some outstanding hockey – and I mean outstanding! We have been complimented on our performances, most recently with Chichester stating “CRHC are the best outfit in the league.” However, we need to establish a consistent level on the pitch – a bar that we have raised significantly this season – to put teams to bed like we did Fareham (8–2 win for the Blue Army) and put points on the board!

The lads are full of smiles and determination so onwards we will go and upwards we climb.

Thank you to those who have been along to watch and support our matches – we do love seeing all your faces and hearing all your voices cheering us on! **Scott Davison**

M1s during their epic 8–1 win vs Fareham.



Men's 2s

There was a fair bit of change for the M2s over the summer, including a hatful of new players and Pete Sekula stepping up to coach and bring his vision of hockey to the squad. Immediately we saw some positive results, with a winning pre-season and 3 points in the opening league game. However, some trickier tests followed and the boys went a month without a league win. Bright spots included strong performances against the best teams in the division, and a comfortable cup win, which suggested we were on the right track. Finally, after a few weeks of stability in the team, we found a second league win in a comprehensive victory over Isca. The boys will hope to put together a string of performances between now and Christmas to launch themselves further up the table than the 9th place they currently find themselves in. **Alex Kirkpatrick**

Men's 3s

The Mens 3s side moved from West Men's Division 1 North to South this season, and currently sit a little further down the table than we would like (1W-2D-3L). We are confident, however, in a change of trajectory as the multitude of talented arrivals to Clifton Robinsons settle into the team. CRHC M3s are the ones to watch as the squad's performance improves with every game. **Andy Jackson**

Men's 4s

The M4s have had a great start to the league season, currently sitting 2nd with only one loss so far and two draws that could narrowly have been converted into wins on another day. Now with Elliot Tucker joining Ed Hickey as co-captains of the team and a new training session working well on Monday nights at Clifton College, the team looks to continue their good form into the rest of the season and secure promotion! **Elliot Tucker & Ed Hickey**

Men's 5s

7 wins from 7 games has put the M5s 8 points clear at this early stage of the season. A combination of new talent and long-serving 5s have come together very well to produce big wins against Firebrands 3s and 2nd-placed South Glos 1s. Is it too early to have talk of a flawless season? **Oliver Vinnicombe**

Men's 6s

A mixed start to the season for the mighty M6s. A good start against South Glos was snatched away at the last minute by an “interesting” umpire decision, followed by a loss to our own M5s meant that the M6s have some work to do later this year. The aim is 2nd place and considering the young and old talent we have to choose from, 2nd is definitely achievable. Great results against OB 3s (4–2), Bath 6s (4–1), Westbury 3s (5–0) and Firebrands 4s (5–2) mean we moved back up to 3rd in the table. A poor display against Mendip 2s means that we need to be far more clinical for the rest of the season to achieve our goal.

With a squad of over 25 so far this year, a big part of the challenge is keeping everyone happy and playing as much hockey as possible. We have had a few stand out performances from our juniors Casper Goslin, Ollie Yates and Matt Broomsfield. The more senior members need to step up to keep up!! **Colin Colegate**

Men's O40s

An epic encounter against a very strong Cheltenham side featuring ex GB international Ben Marsden and current England O40s forward Alex Hay took place at Dean Close School on Sunday 12th November.

The Mighty Robbies fell behind to two quick-fire Cheltenham goals but stayed focussed and went into the break 2–1 down following a Graham Herring penalty-corner strike.

Robbies were by far the better side for the majority of the second half and soon took the lead following goals from Tim Jones and Shilen Tanna. Marsden saw green for verbal to umpire Simon Sharp, which quickly escalated into yellow. Cheltenham player Jonny Bryan soon followed, frustrated after finding himself too many times in Tim Jones' pocket. Cheltenham somehow pulled one back.

Graham Herring then fired another penalty corner to put the visiting Robbies ahead with minutes to go. However, Cheltenham weren't finished, winning a dodgy corner off Alex Woster's cracking tackle and scored! 4–4 full time and straight to a shootout.

Tim Jones, Shilen Tanna, Tom Jarvie all scored. Darren Ashley saved 2. Robbies through 3–1!

Squad: Darren Ashley, Duncan Long, Alex Woster, Adam Davies, Jon Crowe, Graham Herring, Paul Underhill, Tim Jones, Oli Fuller, Shilen Tanna, Tom Jarvie, Chris Smith, Charlie Rutherford, Brad Allan-Arab.

Next up: Team Bath Buccs on Sunday 3 December
Duncan Long

Junior news

U14 Girls

U14 girls have had a great start to the season so far, with nearly 40 girls attending weekly training and 8 matches already played. The T1 squad have started strongly, currently sitting top of the table in the West Area league with 4 out of 4 wins to date in this competition. They face rivals Isca in their final league match, and a win will guarantee their place in the T1 Supra league, which starts in January. In the T1 Club Championships a successful first-round win against Bath Buccs saw the girls face a much tougher opposition in round two, with a closely fought battle against Stourport that unfortunately ended in a narrow 4-3 defeat. The U14s AJHL squad have had only 2 matches to date but are sitting mid-table with lots of games to look forward to against local opposition. There was a closely fought battle against a strong Westberries side, and a resounding win against Wootton-under-Edge for this squad. A great start girls, with lots to build on as we move forward! **Hayley Josling**



U18 Girls

The U18 girls have made a phenomenally strong start to their Tier 1 Cup matches, coming together as a team of young women, who are otherwise playing in our W1s, 2s and 3s. Their first match versus Gloucester City away saw a confident 4-2 win away to put them through to the second round against Isca, at home. That match, at the end of October, gave the girls a 12-0 victory that catapults them into the third round in February. **Jude Barratt**

U14 Boys

The U14 boys made a well-disciplined performance against City of Bath in the AJHL to give them a strong 11-1 Win. Goals came from Jonty (2), Seb (1), Noah (3), Ed (1), Tommy W (1), Tommy B (1), Franklin (1) and Max (1). We look towards our Tier 1 tournament next weekend. **James Farquhar**



U10G Festival Team



CLIFTON ROBBONS
HOCKEY CAMPS
INDOOR & OUTDOOR HOCKEY
18TH & 19TH DECEMBER
SIGN UP NOW
Click Here! <https://linktr.ee/cliftonrobbons>

Boys' Leadership & Coaching Team

Boys' Committee Chair: Ian King

Welfare Team: Bill Springett, Ed Johnson, Charlie Wakefield & Jade Williams

U18s coach: Ian King

U16s coaches: Jo Morgan Hughes, Andrew Maxwell, Axel Walther, Ian King

U14s coaches: James Farquhar, Neil Page

U12s coaches: David Phillips, James Parsons, Jon Vincent-Silk

Girls' Leadership & Coaching Team

Girls' Committee Chair: Lou Catchpole

Welfare Team: Bill Springett, Ed Johnson, Charlie Wakefield & Jade Williams

U18s coaches: Ollly Keenan, Nick Sutcliffe

U16s coach: Graham Herring, Dom Titcomb

U14s coach: Lou Catchpole, Colin Colegate, Lucy Matthews

U12s coach: Dom Davis, Jamie Falconer, Lucy Jenkinson, Nick P & Al Kilfoil

U8/10s coaches: W1s & 2s

And finally...

... thank you to our sponsors



Our official kit supplier



HILLIS & PORTER
FINANCIAL PLANNING

Supports our Women's 1s



Clear River
clearriver.co.uk

Supports



COCKBURN'S
PORT

Supports our Men's 1s'
Man of the Match

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 how we can work together.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Next issue due out in January 2024

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.

MERRY Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



www.facebook.com/CliftonRobinsonsHockeyClub/



@CliftonRobbies



@CliftonRobbies



@cliftonrobinsonsjuniors