

# Vauxhall Chiltern Ladies Newsletter!

## A word from the President...

Well what a year it has been. From inauspicious beginnings I feel that the club as a whole has had a good season. Certainly the last day of games was a very good one with all 3 teams (YES 3 teams!) playing, and a really brilliant atmosphere. It still makes me smile to think about it...of course the sunshine helped plus the fact that the first XI were promoted.

The aim of this year has been to keep the club going, and we have achieved that, with of course, lots of help from individuals and from the spirit of Chiltern pulling us through. This has been done through the sterling work of the team captains, returning players and new players that we have found along the way.

Our thanks to:

- \* **Nicarra** kept the first team going and I don't think they lost many games through the season.
- \* **Bev**, the hard-working recruiter extraordinaire who most weeks was phoning and cajoling till the very end to make sure we got out the 2nd team and 3rd team...where would we be without her.
- \* **Iлона** who stepped in to take over the club captain role.
- \* **Clarkie**, a Chilternite through and through, who did the match reports and kept everyone's spirit up.
- \* **Chris Chapman** who has badgered us to pay and in the last part of the season stepped in to help with the 3rds...I have high hopes for the thirds as we have some new players...thank you Mary and Jos! This reminds me to tell you about a new initiative. **If you bring in 2 new fee-paying players to the club you will get your Vauxhall Membership paid for the year...so get recruiting everybody!**
- \* **Everybody** in some way has helped and pulled their weight.
- \* **Lorraine**, the hard-working fixture secretary who even while she was in labour was texting/e-mailing us to tell us where the 3rd team was playing and wondering if really she could umpire just one more game? Thank you is not a big enough word for you! She not only umpired, but organised the umpiring and my thanks go to Lorraine, Iлона, Helen, Neil, Nikki P and Jackie who took on the whistle and meant that we could all play...it's a hard job and we appreciate you all (though could you explain just how far 5 metres is because we all have different measurements for that!!)
- \* I also need to mention **Hayley aka Smurf** who stepped into help our hard-working goalie **Katie**, or **Kaaaeeee** (playing 2 or sometimes 3 games in a day). Smurf now has kickers (not knickers?!) stuck to her foot and will not be able to give up playing in goal...sorry Smurf, but thank you!
- \* There are also those players who will always help and support you whatever and who will try their utmost to play when they can. That is what keeps this club going and without you we would have sunk. So thank you!
- \* Of course there is also **Gilbert**, who though he doesn't play, is one of our biggest supporters and helps us with so much. Thank you, Gilbert.

\* Lastly I need to thank **Sharon Rogers**, who while Becca did not really play this season, still came back and helped organise the quiz for us. This shows me that there is something about the club that engenders that kind of loyalty and gives me hope that we can go on from strength to strength and keep the spirit kindled.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the sad loss of two Chiltern Players who passed away this last year and who will be remembered with fondness. We remember:

Phil Davis and Jenny Waller

May they rest in peace.

Thank you once again for keeping the club going. Here's to an even better 2011/2012 season!

Hils

## 1st XI Season Report...

And what a season it's been for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI! As our new skipper stepped into the role, Heartbeat (yes Heartbeat, have you not noticed her name is Nic Berry....?? Ha ha!) she brought a new energy and enthusiasm to the team.

The season started in the best way imaginable, a strong win...and Clarkie getting K.O'd!!! Not the only injuries we have seen this season, Moosie and her back (cough, jetting off to New York and Florida :D), Carolyn hit in the face to name but a few but team morale was high and thanks to some very last minute call ups and club commitment from all players we were always able to field a team which is no easy task for our skippers each week!

We could not have asked for a better season, losing only 1 game and being promoted league champions! No matter who has been part of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI this season, you all deserve huge congratulations for your effort, dedication and passion put into hockey for us. THAT'S what makes league champs ladies, well done!!!

BIG congratulations to Cookie who scored a massive 27 goals this season and was top goalscorer of the entire league, and 4<sup>th</sup> in the whole of 4 counties. **Well done Mrs. C!!**

This season has seen the fun back in Chiltern! New traditions such as the JABBA (any questions, ask Lorna ;D), team fines and great team nights out, for example where two Little Bo Peep's and there sheep invaded Saffron Walden! It has been a pleasure to play, train and socialise with you all ladies!

From the team, we would like to send a huge thank you to Nicarra for all her hard work and for bringing the team together for such great success. Also, thank you to our dedicated supporters/photographers, Roly and Wayne. Your support each week is priceless, and of course to everyone who came to see us win the league in the last game of the season. And last but not least, Hils, Loraine.....we couldn't of done any of it without you both!!!!

We say a sad goodbye to two players next season as Abi and Kylie have set off on their big adventure traveling the world. We wish them both the best and a safe journey, will miss you loads!

Next season we will come back fighting just as hard to show the premiership what we're made of....bring it on!

Clarkie

## 2nd XI Season Report...

Not a very successful season for the 2s this year. We just couldn't seem to score! And it didn't help that our goalie Nikki was injured so a lot of the games we had to play without a keeper! Many thanks to Katie for stepping in and covering goal for us!

We kept going anyway and Kylie was doing amazing with her speedy sprints up the wing which really gave the opposition something to worry about and most weeks she was getting player of the match! Finally mid November we found our scoring feet with Chris R scoring - although we didn't win, it was just nice to score some goals!

The following week we played Potters bar but lost 4-2 with Chris R & me scoring and Bethany got player of match as she did a super job in defence. St Albans 4s were next and everyone played amazingly well and we managed to get a 0-0 draw - player of match was Nikki P but unfortunately she realised that her arm was too bad to carry on playing so decided to take docs advice & rest her arm! The week after there were no goalies available and not many players either so we ended up going with 9 players, Ilona bravely stepped up to go in goal but after a strong 1st half the team decided it would be better to put Ilona on pitch as we were holding our own. Unfortunately it meant that we had an open goal and Bishops Stortford then managed to score 3 goals, Mandy got player of match for working so hard in defence. We then had a loooooong Christmas break due to snow but our 1st game was against St Neots and was our best result of the season winning 5-1 with goals by Ilona, Jo, Chris R & 2 goals by Jason.

The next couple of games we lost but with great performances from Kate, Mandy & Libby and belly scored in 1 of the games. The week after we went to Potters Bar again with no goalie but on arrival Smurf volunteered to go in goal and O.M.G she did such an amazing job! The team all played well and despite losing 5-3 it was a great game with goals by Chris R, Ilona & me and player of the match was undoubtedly Smurfy! St Albans 4s were next but we lost 2-0 which was still a good result considering where they were on the table and also 1 of their players injured both Hilary & Mandy which left us with 10 players.

The next couple of weeks were just friendlies. But then we played Blueharts and drew 1-1 with a goal by Chris R and player of match split between Smurf (our new found goalie!), Karen & Mandy.

Berko & Hemel were next and it wasn't a good result - we lost 6-0! Bethany won player of the match this wk. The week after was Berko & Hemel again - a slightly better result we only lost 5-2 should've been 5-3 but Chris R's 3rd goal was disallowed. Smurf got player of the match.

Our final game of the season was against Blueharts and was a fantastic game, we won 3-0 with 1 goal by Kylie & 2 goals by me - the 2nd goal was thanks to Fiona though after she promised me a shot that night if I scored from the short - can't turn down alcohol that would just be rude ha ha!! Players of the match were me & Ali. So not the best of seasons for the 2s but if we had started the season like we played the second part of the season we'd have done ok!

Thank you to all my team who have been so supportive and looking forward to September. Sadly we say goodbye to Sophie & Bethany who are off to uni and Jason who is off travelling and Karen who is expecting! Thank you to any of the 1s & 3s who helped out when

I was short of players and to all the umpires and to Loraine for sorting out the fixtures and big big thanks to President Hillbilly & Ilona for running the club, you've done a great job!

Bev

## 3rd XI Season Report...

This season has not been a good year for the 3rd XI due to a number of the regulars moving up to the 2nd XI, moving house, leaving and our goalie KATIEEE moving up to the 1st XI.

I would like to thank the team - Angie, Maureen, Charlotte, Olivia and our youngest player Chelsea who no matter what put their heart and soul into playing. The rest of the team was made up of 2nds and even 1st team players. During the latter part of the season we did get new players joining (thanks to Bev - she is some saleswoman) which increased the core team from 6 to 8 (almost a full team).

Even so with help from friends and friends of friends or in fact anyone we could get we did manage to put out a team. Although our results were not as good as we would have liked the team went out and enjoyed themselves, well almost every time - worst time was playing against Royston on a pitch which had a wicked bounce with the wind and rain howling across the pitch.

Next year hopefully we will be able to put out a full 3rd XI and have matches every week. Thanks again to everyone who played for the 3rd XI.

Chris

## Coming up... Dates for your diary

- AGM is on 16<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30 in the Brache Bar...including cheese and wine so don't miss out  
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- Warm up game 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2 - 4 and  
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- 7's tournament on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September let your captain know if you are available as it is a fun way of getting back into fitness for hockey.  
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