

BELPER LADIES HOCKEY CLUB

Newsletter

September 2009



Welcome

Belper Ladies would like to welcome you all to the start of the new season. We are hoping that this season will prove to be as successful as the last and we are looking forward to catching up with old friends and welcoming new members.

Highlights from last season have to include the excellent results from the Ladies 1st XI, promotion for the 2nd XI, winning the EH U18 Indoor Hockey competition and the EH U18 Cup. Ten juniors represented England or Wales, which was a huge achievement but equally as important was the amount of fun the Ladies had competing in the local Summer League.

Belper Ladies have teams competing at all levels of the game and we aim to provide an enjoyable environment for all, whatever the playing standard. Our mini hockey

sessions allow children to start playing from school year 1 but remember there is no upper age limit!

This season players may occasionally be asked to play for another team and we are hoping that this will help players get to know one another a little better. It will be fun to see how everyone gets on with the new "self pass" rule this season. There's no doubt that it speeds up the game but personally I think it is a plot to make the game harder for those of us that aren't in peak condition! This season the website will have a brief outline of the week's matches, times and competitions etc so members can keep up to date with events. The Belper Hockey website is an excellent



way to keep in touch. Go to www.belperhc.co.uk

Have fun.

Liz English (Chair)

Dates for your diary

Saturday 26th September

BBQ at the Lion Hotel, Belper
- details to follow

Friday 4th October

7.30pm at the Lion Hotel

The new hockey rules explained!

BLHC have arranged for a presentation to explain the new rules. Everyone is welcome – umpires, young umpires and players.

Club Structure

If you are a new Club member it can sometimes be difficult to understand the Club structure, how you fit in as a player and how you might expect to progress. So for all you new or mystified players this is a rough guide.

Belper Ladies Hockey is a subsection of Belper Meadows Sports Club, which comprises of 5 sections; Ladies' hockey, men's hockey, tennis, bowls and cricket. The Ladies hockey section has 6 teams. There are 4 Ladies teams and 2 additional teams that are primarily development teams for juniors, the Badgers and the Otters. The 1st XI play in the National League Northern Conference and this team comprises of a mixture of adults and juniors many of whom have already played at National level. The 2nd XI has just gained promotion to Midlands Division 2 and is a mixture of adult and junior players. The 3rd XI is generally comprised of adult players and they compete in the top division of the Derbyshire League. The Badgers team is classed as a development squad and contains more juniors than the 3rd XI. Many of the Badgers players are on their way through to the 2nd XI and on to the 1st XI. The Badgers

also compete in the top division of the Derbyshire League. The 4th XI play in the second division of the Derbyshire League and are predominately adults. The Otters is the starting point for many of our juniors moving through from mini hockey. A few adults provide a little bit of experience and guide and encourage the young junior players during matches. The young Otters probably view the adults as past it but it generally proves to be a happy balance between experience and youthful enthusiasm.

There are opportunities for junior players to progress within the Club. Training for those aged 12+ takes place on a Wednesday or Thursday evening. The coaches monitor player progress and juniors considered to have the potential to play for the Ladies 1st XI in the next three to four years will be invited to an additional training session called "Fast Track". Fast Track is run by Tim Barlow the Ladies 1st XI coach. Juniors will also be encouraged to take part in the new Single System run by England Hockey. This system has superseded the old County and Midlands format. The junior co-ordinator Jackie Sharp will pass on information about the new system and how to get involved.

Adult players joining the Club will find a team to suit them whatever their standard. We have players returning to the game after a while away, often due to family commitments, players moving into the area wanting to play at a high level and even some who just want to play because they are getting cold watching their children play!

There are fixtures throughout the season and the Club is very active in all the EH competitions and, at junior level, the Club is one of the most successful in the country.

For those aged under 12 there is mini hockey on a Sunday morning and youngsters can start once they are reach Year 1 at school. Mini hockey is a mix of boys and girls. The juniors play a 7 a side version of the adult game on half a pitch and their competition tends to be through tournaments.

So that's the rough structure of the Club but we only function because we have a small army of volunteers. You don't have to play to help so if you are interested in anything from managing a team to making drinks at a mini hockey tournament then please let one of the committee members know. We will be delighted to welcome you on board.

Committee members

President
Mrs Bestwick

Chair
Liz English
07814 797155

Vice Chair & Sports Club
management rep
Wendy Morris
07751 308908

Secretary
Marianne Dammer
07986 558331

Treasurer
Sue Waterall
07789 992015

Club Captain
Ruth Lane
07855 931894

Fixtures Secretary
Rachel Warner
07988 613741

Sports Club Grounds rep
Christine Hallsworth
07766 828559

Sports Club House & Bar rep
Carol Hall
07808 097027

Mini Hockey rep
TBA

1st Team captain
TBA

2nd team captain
Emma Mee
07876 752653

3rd team captain
Tracey Bonser
07989 107182

4th team captain
Danni Hitchcock
07854 253342

Badgers manager
Mandy Rafferty
07950 790427

Otters team captains
**Jackie Sharp &
Joan Passant**

Junior co-ordinator
Jackie Sharp
07960 170051

Vets rep
Joan Passant
07785 524625

Subscriptions

Letters for subscriptions and training fees will be posted at the start of the season. Please make sure you return your subs payment to Wendy Morris. Payment will give you 12 months membership of Belper Ladies Hockey Club and Belper Meadows Sports Club, access to the (members only) Clubhouse facilities and allow you to play matches for the Club. Payments can be made in full or in instalments, using post-dated cheques, with the last payment being prior to 31st Dec 2009. However, all post-dated cheques must be RECEIVED before 30th Sept 2009. If subs are not received by this date you will not be eligible to play. Training fees go to Ruth Lane. BLHC aims to provide opportunities for all and if you feel that you might have a problem meeting the costs of playing this year please contact a committee member. We do not want to lose players through financial hardship.

Match fees are paid to the team captains or a nominated team player on the day. There have been some comments that the Pay and Play facility is expensive. Please note that this system is only meant for those who perhaps through work or family commitments can play very few games throughout the season. It cannot be used to avoid paying the full cost of subscriptions. The Club has to cover its costs; pitch hire, lighting, coaching and affiliation fees etc. These charges are fixed and have to be met whether we have 22 players on the pitch or 2. The committee always do their best to keep charges to a minimum but the Club can only function if money is collected from a large number of players.

Joan Passant



It was unanimously agreed at the AGM that Joan Passant should be appointed as a Vice President to the Club in recognition of her enormous contribution

to the Club through her work with the juniors and for her role as Chair for the last 4 years. Joan was a key member of the group that made the successful bid for "Clubmark".

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helped to run the Club last season, the committee, our umpires, managers and everyone who provided refreshments. A big thank you to all our supporters who turn out week after week and to all

the parents who think they are running a taxi service!

The Single System

England Hockey has implemented its "Single System" and now has a clearly defined path for junior player progression. Junior players will start their hockey through school or club. From there they will be invited to attend a Junior Development Centre (JDC). Progression is from the JDC to a Junior Academy Centre (JAC) and then on to a Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC). For those of you familiar with the old system the JAC replaces the "County" level and the JRPC replaces the "Midlands" level. All players not already attending a JRPC will be invited to their local JDC in September. Juniors will receive information through their schools and clubs. If you would like more information on the Single System please look at the England Hockey website, link from the Belper Hockey website, or contact Jackie Sharp our Junior co-ordinator or Liz English.

Child Welfare

Belper Ladies Hockey Club has been reaccredited with "Clubmark". This award means that the Club is built around a set of core criteria that ensures that we operate to consistent, accepted standards and have adopted minimum operating standards. The Club welfare Officer is appointed to ensure the safety of all our junior players. Lizzie Lamb has taken on the role of Welfare Officer for Belper Ladies and anyone with a problem, concern or question regarding the welfare of a junior player should contact Lizzie. 01332 559314. The contact number for Lizzie will also appear on the Club website - www.belperhlc.co.uk.

Fundraising

Fundraising is an important part of the running of the Club and this year we have decided to change the way that we go about it. This year each team will be asked to run a fundraising activity. Fundraising can be anything from bag packing to a three-legged race. It doesn't matter what the idea is and it doesn't have to raise a lot of money. We would like any fund raising activity to be as much about socialising as anything else. So if you have any ideas please talk to your team captains.

Congratulations

Many congratulations to Anke Faerber and Mike Kazuch on their marriage.

Pitch update & "Tesco" developments



The pitch has received some attention during the past few weeks. The worn patches on the top of the Ds have been

dealt with and there are now fewer bumps and gaps to give the ball that unpredictable trajectory! The pitch will have had a deep clean during August. The watering system has been serviced and as a result we hope that the watering of the pitch will be much improved at the start of the season.

A "Watering Procedure" will be posted on the pump house wall. Would ALL members responsible for watering the pitch please read these instructions and check that they are following the

correct procedure.

Some of you may have seen the exhibition regarding the proposed Tesco development held in Belper in July. Everything is still at the planning stage but if it ever goes ahead the Sports Club would benefit enormously with new and upgraded facilities. There would be a fine new clubhouse and the hockey section would benefit from a second astro pitch.

Match Etiquette

- All players are expected to stay for after match refreshments. If you cannot stay you must let your captain know.
- Always have home and away kit with you in case of colour clash.
- Welcome the opposition and show them where the changing rooms are.
- Be courteous to umpires and do not argue with them. Without umpires we cannot play.
- For each home match two players will be asked to provide refreshments.
- If you are in charge of refreshments – Ensure that the water heater is filled and turned on to a low setting before the start of the match.
- Oranges should be given to both teams at half time (jelly babies for the Otters!).

- After the match refreshments must be set out and drinks provided for the opposition before the home team dive in.
- Make sure that there is enough food for two teams.
- When everyone has finished, collect all the plates and cups, wash them and put them away. Remove any litter. If necessary, get the vacuum cleaner out and clean the floor
- If another team is playing after you refill the water heater and leave it on a low heat.
- If you have provided the refreshments you don't pay a match fee.
- If you are travelling away and know that you will not be able to stay for after match refreshments you must let the opposition know in advance.

Club Person of the Year



Joanne Rogers was voted Club Person of the Year and received her award at the AGM. Joanne has been a committee member for

a number of years and assisted in the running of the Club.

For the past 4 years she has organised Mini Hockey. Joanne has dealt with all the Mini Hoc administration and liaised with the coaches and volunteers to make sure that things have run smoothly every Sunday whatever the weather.

For the last two years Joanne has organised extremely successful junior summer camps. At the same time as last years course Joanne also set up the running of an EH Young Leaders course for 10 of our teenager players. Joanne has carried on running mini hockey despite the fact that her daughters have moved on to the Ladies section of the Club. In addition to this

work Joanne is also the administrative liaison between the committee and Tim Barlow our Ladies 1st XI coach.

Junior Club Person of the Year



Becky Smith was the clear winner of this award and received her cup at the Club Dinner. Becky took the EH Young Leaders

course organised by Joanne Rogers and put it to good use by assisting at almost every mini hockey session last season. Becky also helped out at mini hockey tournaments and at some of the new JDCs. She was even persuaded to take to the pitch to umpire the occasional 7 a side game.

Becky is always cheerful and has been a popular member of the junior teams. Becky's enthusiasm is infectious and as both player and personality is a great asset to the Club.

Summer League

by Kate Turner

This year's summer league started on May 6th, with five games left to play until the last match on Aug 19th. We have displayed the same fine form from last season and find ourselves in the same place as last year – bottom! Who said summer league was serious anyway? So far we have played seven matches, lost seven. Goals against 25 (not bad eh?) and goals for 1 (thank you Vicky Fox). We have already played all the teams who take the summer league far too seriously so hopefully the remaining matches might see a draw or maybe a win! I will add though that the score hasn't always reflected the game.

Twenty-nine players have been involved in games so far. Some weeks we could have fielded two teams so a big thank you to everyone for being patient, waiting for a match and occasionally playing out of position. We have welcomed three members back from pregnancy and also been able to involve a few players new to the Club.

I would like to thank Tanya, Suzanne, Charlotte Howarth and Sarah English for playing in goal. It's always a relief to have a goalie, although on one occasion we had to play without. It was panic stations at 5.30, trying to find a goalie, whilst cooking tea and removing head lice from my daughters' hair! To everyone's relief the opposition were also without a goalie. I have learnt a few things from this year's (very soggy) summer league. Do not assume that you are in white just because you are the away team. This happened earlier in the season. If I do say so myself, we did look very attractive in a mixture of blue, pink, red and fluorescent yellow!

Finally, a big thank you to the umpires who have made our matches possible; Kath Holt, Andy Collis, Dave Hoare and Sarah English. Good luck to everyone for the forthcoming season and never take your captain for granted!

Stop press – Thurs July 30th
We won a match!!!