



# Blues Waggle

January 2023

Vol 1 Issue 2



## Message from the Chair Karen McKinnon

As we start the second half of the season I would like to wish all players good luck in the respective matches. For our younger players who don't play adult hockey please have fun at training and use the opportunity to try new things ready for your junior games.

i would like to welcome all parents to come and watch the games when your child is playing. Before you know it you would have made new friends as well. I have personally met some amazing parents this year who have supported their children playing in the women's matches... I do apologise for calling you x's mum or y's dad but I am rubbish at remembering everyone's names.

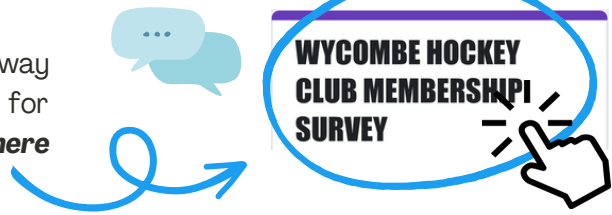
Over the past 30 years the club has been putting funds away to support the aspiration to build a club house / location for parents to meet and have a cup of coffee. **Click the link here to have your say.**

As we move into a new 5 year plan for the club please take time to complete the survey so we can spend the funds we have wisely and for the use of generations to come. It's your club and we would appreciate your views.

Finally, a gentle reminder, help your captains by entering your omissions when you can't play and the treasury team by setting up direct debits.

**If you have any questions about the club please email me at: [Chair@Wycombehockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:Chair@Wycombehockeyclub.co.uk)**

## HAVE YOUR SAY



## Dates for your diary

**SATURDAY 29 APRIL 2023**

**AWARDS NIGHT**

Join us to celebrate the end of season and recognise outstanding performances of players, teams and volunteers at:

**HIGH WYCOMBE CRICKET CLUB  
LONDON ROAD HP11 1DE**

**The event is mainly for the women and men's sections and for all players over 16+ years playing senior hockey.**

*More details to follow...*

**“ YOU DON'T INSPIRE YOUR TEAMMATES BY SHOWING THEM HOW AMAZING YOU ARE. YOU INSPIRE THEM BY SHOWING THEM HOW AMAZING THEY ARE! ”**



This newsletter is produced by Wycombe Hockey Club's volunteer Communications team. It is distributed to all registered members of Wycombe Hockey Club, and we welcome contributions from all our members.

If you have any news or photos to share, please email to [communications@wycombehockeyclub.co.uk](mailto:communications@wycombehockeyclub.co.uk)  
Thank you to everyone who have sent articles for this edition.



# 2023 Awards Night

We are excited to host our Annual Awards Night for the 2022-2023 season on Saturday 29 April 2023 at the High Wycombe Cricket Club.

It will be an evening to remember as we not only recognise the brilliant performance of our players and club members but also celebrate 15 years since the merger of the Men's High Wycombe Hockey Club and Wycombe Rye Ladies' Hockey Club which were founded in 1900 and 1934 respectively.

The Player of the Season Awards celebrate those who had outstanding success in the 2022-2023 season. These awards are voted on and decided by the players in each team.

The Club Awards aim to celebrate those in our club that 'go above and beyond', without whom we wouldn't be able to take the field each week. More details of the event to follow in the coming months.

The Junior Awards Evening date is to be confirmed, details of the event will be communicated shortly.

## **GEORGE EYLES MEMORIAL AWARD**

*For services to the Club awarded by the Chair*

## **MIKE GERRARD AWARD**

*Player of the season - Boys U16*

## **TONY PRICE AWARD**

*Sunday Morning Cup*

*Player of the season - Boys U14*

## **ADAMS TROPHY**

*Best performing senior team*

## **MIKE BRITNELL CUP**

*Top goalscorer*

## **NICK PHILLIPS AWARD**

*Outstanding performance - Junior*

## **PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

*Outstanding performance - Men*

## **MEN'S UMPIRE AWARD**

*Awarded to the umpire who has made outstanding contribution to umpiring in the men's section*

## **WOMEN'S UMPIRE AWARD**

*Awarded to the umpire who has made an outstanding contribution to umpiring in the women's section*

## **JUNIOR UMPIRE AWARD**

*Awarded to the junior umpire who has made an outstanding contribution to umpiring in the sections*

## **PLAYER OF THE SEASON AWARDS**

*Voted by the players of each team, recognising the most outstanding player of their team. The award goes to the player that has shown commitment, passion and hard work on and off the pitch*

## **MOST IMPROVED SENIOR - WOMEN'S SECTION**

*Awarded by the Club Captain*

## **MOST IMPROVED JUNIOR - WOMEN'S SECTION**

*Awarded by the Club Captain*

## **JEAN HAWES MEMORIAL AWARD**

*The award is presented to a person who has shown passion and enthusiasm in the development of the women's section and has volunteered their time to make an outstanding contribution to the club.*

Jean Mary Hawes (16 January 1932 – 16 October 2008) received an MBE in 2007 for her services to hockey from The Queen at Buckingham Palace. When she was 14, she joined Wycombe Rye Ladies Hockey Club, based in High Wycombe. Jean was a part of Wycombe Rye Ladies for over 60 years, serving in many different capacities – as a player, an umpire, a committee member, and a friend to all.



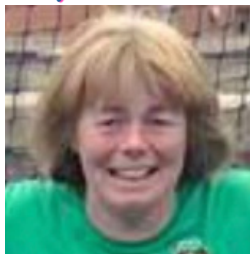
# Meet our... Captains, Managers and Heads of Section



*Hannah Rooney*  
Women 1 XI Captain



*Alia Brammall*  
Women 2 XI Captain



*Alison McKellican*  
Women 3 XI Captain



*Steph Ayres*  
Women 4 XI Captain  
Head of Section - Girls



*Karen Swords*  
Women 5 & 6 XI Captain



*Vicky Fallan*  
Women 1 XI Manager



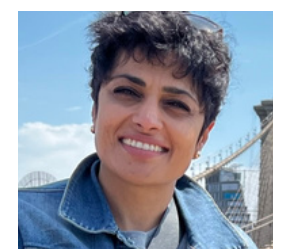
*Aby Jones*  
Women 2 XI Manager



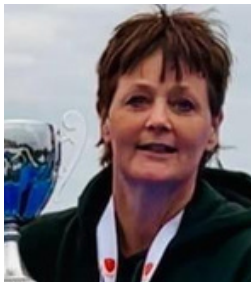
*Lisa Bennett*  
Women 3 XI Manager



*Kath Gourley*  
Women 5 & 6 XI Manager



*Su Konganda*  
Masters XI Captain



*Jane Clarke*  
Club Captain  
Head of Section - Women



*David Stone*  
Head of Section - Men  
Men 3 XI Manager



*George Farthing*  
Men 1 XI Captain



*Nick Carter*  
Men 2 XI Captain



*Cameron Ryall*  
Men 1 XI Vice Captain



*Alex Noall*  
Men 4 XI Captain

## CAPTAIN SAYS...

### What Makes A Great **DEFENDER**

Insights from top internationals

Defenders can see the field in front of them so they need to be able to communicate clearly and help teammates with positioning, letting players ahead of them know what they may not see themselves.\*

*"Sending clear and calm information to the people in front of you to ensure defensive organisation."*

—Rhett Halkett, South African  
Defender & Captain

\*Hockey Performance Academy

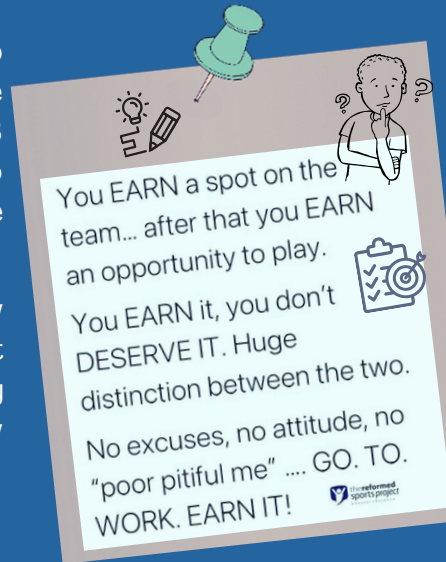
**David Stone, Head of Section:**

**1 XI:** are currently 4th on the South Central Premier League Division 2 table, having been promoted last season. So far the team have only been defeated twice in 9 matches, and with good availability, I am confident that we can improve on this in 2023.

**2 XI:** have missed key players through injury and are 8th with just 3 wins. Most matches have been close so a decent run could move us up the table.

**3 XI:** with excellent wins over the top team South Berks and Eastcote, the team are 2nd with just 1 defeat in 8 matches. Two teams are promoted so prospects for the 2nd half of the season are very good.

**4 XI:** have settled well into their new league and are also 2nd with 1 defeat from 9 matches. It has been very encouraging to welcome several new members into this team.



**Jane Clarke, Head of Section & Club Captain:**

We start off 2023 with quite a few double header weekends and rescheduled matches... all thanks to the weather for bringing the December games to an abrupt end.

Currently, the Women 1 XI are trailing second in the South Central Premier Division 2 league.

The 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th XI teams are all looking to pick up points to push themselves up the league table with the 4 XI sitting mid table currently.

Going into this half of the season, we definitely have the belief and the ability to grind out positive outcomes at every game.

*Captain says...*

*As we restart the season, remember all players have the same opportunity to play at higher levels irrespective of their age... it is more about having the right mindset and attitudes, and starts with attendance at training which will help you improve core skills, fitness and develop the ability to read the game. Guess what... Captains regularly discuss players abilities along with the coaches to select their team. Train hard, cultivate a great work ethic, and start doing things that make you stand out.*

*Off the pitch... the Playmakers*

November and December have been busy months for celebrations...

Alia, our 2 XI captain and all round Aussie legend jetted off to sunny Mauritius with Faizal for their dream wedding...and without missing a single game! What a captain!!



**Our Girl**

Catriona and Craig Nevard (Men 2 XI) welcomed Amelia Rose Nevard, weighing in at 8lb 13oz at birth.



Christmas Day at the Fallans was extra special this year... Vicky, our Women 1 XI player and Manager got engaged to Kris!! Remember hockey season runs from September to April





# My journey to senior hockey

FLEUR PEDRETTE | UTILITY | WOMEN 1 XI

**13 Oct 2018: My first game with the newly formed Women 5 XI against Oxford Hawks... I was 13!!** I really enjoyed it as it was a lot different to junior hockey, so I dug my heels in to improve and work my way up the higher teams.

Apr 2019: Playing for the 5 XI, it had been a really successful season for us as we came 2nd in the league and was nominated for England Hockey Team of the Year! We got to meet some of GB's players like Lily Owsley, Sam Ward and Wycombe's own Liam Ansell at the Awards Night. This was a nice surprise to us as all the other teams nominated were the 1 XI and definitely a much better standard to us but that didn't stop us celebrating! On top of this, I got 5s player of the season which was really nice!

**Sep 2019: The new season commenced and I was selected to play for the Women 4 XI!!** I was still loving women's hockey, possibly more than junior hockey as I loved the competitiveness and also got to play alongside mum!!

**18 Jan 2020: I got to play for the 3 XI against Witney!!** I was so pleased that my playing abilities and determination was recognised that I was spurred on to work even harder. I continued for the rest of the season with the 3 XI and found that women's hockey at this level was getting even better which helped me improve. It must be said that each team was so welcoming which made playing hockey on a Saturday so much more enjoyable!

**05 Sep 2020: I was awarded the Most Improved Junior for 2019-20.**

01 May 2021: For one of the last matches of the season, I was asked to play for the 2 XI again against Reading and continued playing for the team all through the summer league.

**Sep 2021: Yes!! 2 XI core team member and loving hockey and the fast pace even more!!** I realised that the summer league was a sort of "trial phase" for me to show the team what I was capable of. Note to self: continue working really hard to be noticed.

**11 Sep 2021: Wait, what!!! I had my first opportunity to play for the 1 XI! I** knew it wouldn't be easy but this was a step in the right direction if I wanted to play for them properly. "Work hard, train harder...as the saying goes." The next 3 months, I was playing on and off for both the 1 and 2 XI teams. I was receiving some nice positive feedback from the 1 XI when I played with them which really boosted my confidence. This was my opportunity to try and make it to the 1 XI.

Jan 2022: woohoo.. I had finally made it to play for the 1 XI! It was a difficult season but I gave it my all to play the best hockey I had ever played. Also, the team made me feel so welcome which made the long journeys to the away games all the more better.

2022 season!: We are now at our halfway point in the season and things are looking good. We have had a tricky start to the season with numerous injuries, but with our new coach Arfan and resilience, we persevered to end this half of the season 2nd in the league table!



*07 Mar 2020: Got an one-off opportunity to play for the 2 XI against Phoenix and Ranelagh!! This really helped me improve and gain confidence as the pace and standard of every game at this level was faster and highly skilled which challenged me to push myself outside my comfort zone.*



*I have just turned 18 and have been playing ladies hockey for 5 years now. It has always been enjoyable for me and I am grateful for the opportunities that I have been given.*

*In particular, I am proud of the natural journey I've had, playing for each women's team and meeting new people who have all helped me improve. In the new year, I am hoping for this season with the 1 XI to be successful and maybe we could even win the league! 😊*



# BECOME A WYCOMBE UMPIRE



The ideal way into umpiring is through a Level One course. This is a one-day course, the cost of which the Club will meet.

Before going on the course you need to complete the England Hockey online rules test which is free. This takes you through the rules with occasional videos.

The test itself is multiple choice with the opportunity to correct your answers, and you end up with an Awareness Certificate.

At this point you can certainly start umpiring but the Level One course covers valuable practical aspects of umpiring as well as giving you a whistle and cards.

Once you've taken the course you have to get some practice before being assessed and gaining your Level One qualification.

The Club can help you with this by finding a more experienced umpire to partner you in your first games, with audio assistance and encouragement if you want.

**The assessment is only required for umpiring senior matches at third XI and above and for some junior England Hockey competitions.**





# FLOODLIGHT ON



**ISAAC PLUNKETT**

**TEAM: MEN 1 XI, U18 /  
POSITION: MIDFIELD**

*How were you introduced to hockey?*

Josh Holderness who was one of my friends at school brought me along to one of the last training sessions in the U12

*What do you love about the game?*

I enjoy the fact that it is a team and that I can play with my friends

*Are there any players you style your game after, and if so, who?*

I don't really style my game after anyone but on many occasions I have gone to see England and GB play

*What gets you going before a game?*

Penny's (George Farthing, Wycombe 1 XI Captain) inspirational team talks

*What is your after game cheat meal?*

I usually just have something quick and easy that can be put in the microwave with a protein shake

*Your most memorable hockey moment?*

My most memorable hockey moment is when the first team got promoted last season (2022) and I had a load of champagne poured on me

*If you didn't play hockey, what else would you do?*

If I didn't play hockey I would probably be playing the sports I did before hockey such as football and squash

*What is the one thing people don't know about you?*

I don't think there's a lot people don't know about me but one thing is that I ruptured my bicep bowling a week before my GCSEs so had to type them.

**Isaac also currently plays for the Royal Grammar School's 1 XI and at the England Hockey Talent Academy.**



**AANYA BHARDWAJ**

**TEAM: U16A GIRLS, WOMEN 3 & 4 XI  
POSITION: MIDFIELD / UTILITY**

*How were you introduced to hockey?*

Through primary school

*What do you love about the game?*

Being with my friends and being able to play it all day everyday

*Are there any players you style your game after, and if so, who?*

There isn't anyone in particular but I pick up skills and tricks from players around me

*What gets you going before a game?*

A warm up with good music!



*What is your after game cheat meal?*

In under 12's we always had McDonalds after every game but now I don't really have one

*Your most memorable hockey moment?*

My first club match/tournament at Stowe where it was freezing cold and raining very heavily but we still kept playing but still basically lost the whole tournament

*If you didn't play hockey, what else would you do?*

Probably spend more time in my other sports like football

*What is the one thing people don't know about you? There isn't really much people don't know about me*



*Blues Swagger*

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Newsletter