

MAIDSTONE H.C.

Newsletter October 2010



Maidstone Men's 1st Team - who are due to play Bowdon in round 3 of the EH Cup.



England Hockey Cup Matches

Sunday 31st October and Sunday 14th November

TRAINING

Ladies

Ladies train every **Wednesday** evening, at Armstrong Road:
1s & 2s.....7.45 to 9.30
3s & 4s.....7pm to 8.15

Men

Men train on **Mondays and Tuesday** evenings, at Armstrong Road:
3s, 4s, 5s, & 6s....Mon 8.30
1s & 2s.....Tues 7.30

Juniors

The Junior Section of the Club has coaching and matches on every **Sunday** mornings, at the following times, split into two age groupings:
* 9am.....5 to Under 12s
* 10.30am....12 to 18

Over the next three weeks we will have a feast of top notch hockey, in the English National (EH) Cup. Mouthwatering prospects are confronting us.

The **Men's 1st team** play Bowdon in the last 32 in England (3rd round), at home on:

SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER, at 12.30. Bowden are in the National Premier Division - the top flight of Hockey, and currently in fourth place.

In Kent, only Canterbury and Sevenoaks remain in the competition at this stage. A really exciting match is in prospect. Do turn up and support our side. The bar will be open from 11.30 and Billie will be providing her legendary roast dinner for spectators (Please email Billie to book your place - wyatt@keycol.wanadoo.co.uk).

Mrs D will also be running her kit shop (see elsewhere on this newsletter). Come along and make a day of it, a rare chance to see our boys take on the very highest club level in the sport.

The **Ladies' 1st team** are now in the last 16 of the EH Cup. They have a plum home tie against East Conference side Surbiton on: **SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER**. They beat Sevenoaks 2-1 (aet) in round 2. Maidstone are the last remaining Kent side, and the home tie will give us another great day at the club. Subject to agreement with Surbiton the pushback will be at 12.30.

Lets get the whole club out to support and teams for these two big cup matches.

Changes in the Men's

After sterling work for the Club, Jeremy Swaffer has stepped down as Hockey Manager-Men's. Jeremy has been a powerhouse of change, but he now has too much on. That said, he will continue to play and coach, and be very involved in the social activities of the club. Our thanks go to him for changes he brought about while hockey manager.

Matt "psycho" Evans, who has been the joint skipper of the 4ths, has stepped up to the plate and is already having an immediate influence on team selection processes. Matt has been helping Jeremy in pulling the men's teams together, so there is a lot of understanding about the post. Good luck to him.

The club has just taken the big and progressive step in re-establishing a Men's development team packed with promising young players, new to adult hockey, and led by a few more experienced players. This team has taken over the 5th team fixtures in Kent Division 3 and is Captained by Mick Emery, who has done so much to bring the youngsters through the junior ranks.

We have struggled to get a big enough squad of players across the Mens 3rd, 4th and 5th teams for a few seasons. The injection of the 5th team Development side, with new young players, has enabled the club to pool together a much larger group of players to form the "new" 4ths, now captained by Conrad Thrower. Once settled down the 4ths will feed players into the 3rds and the lower teams to create more viable squad sizes. Ian Lowe, currently playing in the 3rds, steps down from running the 4ths alongside Matt Evans. Thank you Ian for all your hard work.

Two weeks ago we were looking at dropping a team entirely. It is early days and there will be some pressure points as this new set up settles, but the change is a very positive development for the club.

The Mens 1st team has not had the best of starts in the league but has a great feel and spirit about it. The team is packed full of younger players boosted by

several returning to Maidstone from University and some powerful new recruits. Well done Chris Brinn for stamping a new identity on the team.

And finally the 2's have a new skipper in Will Ostler. Thank you Will for taking on the role.

Marathon

Over 50 Club members turned out as marshals on Sunday 22nd October, for the Maidstone Half Marathon. This annual event was run superbly by the Maidstone Harriers, and we were happy once again to help out. Reports on websites were very complementary about the marshals. So, well done everybody.

Next Social

The next social in the clubhouse is the long awaited "Shalders-Southon Quiz Night". It's on SATURDAY 13th NOVEMBER. So get a team together.

Club Kit

Chris Daniels will be setting up shop from 11.30-12.30 next Sunday (31st) ahead of the Cup match. Men, Ladies and Juniors requiring any of the club kit please take this opportunity to acquire the correct club kit. At present some items are heavily subsidised by the club in order to encourage you to make the transition. This subsidy will end, other than for new joiners, on December 31st from when prices will increase anyway due to VAT increase. So please come along, place your order (payment with order) and/or try on and take away from stock items.

Junior Section

Teams in all age groups are now playing matches - putting theory into practice. The juniors will be having their first social of the year, on FRIDAY 10th DECEMBER, 6pm. In the clubhouse, it will be an opportunity for juniors, parents, coaches, and other club members to enjoy themselves (as usual!).

left:
Matt Evans, the
new Hockey
Manager-Men's

right:
Mick Emery,
the new Men's
5ths skipper

