



COLTS NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from Old Cranleighan Hockey Club



The U12s with energy to spare after the holidays!

Welcome back

Welcome back to all of our Colts as we head into a busy second half of the season.

This week we catch up with the Lead Coaches of the U10 Girls and U12 Girls as we continue to introduce you to all of the age groups across the club. In doing this, we hope you not only have an opportunity to read about your child's own age group but also some of the teams further up the club, where your child will one day be playing.

Here's to a fantastic rest of the season!



GRAND CAYMAN | CAYMAN BRAC | LITTLE CAYMAN

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OCHC U10 Girls

This week Coach Eastie (Jon East) introduces us to the OCHC U10 Girls

In the two seasons since the girls split from the boys, we have maintained a consistent core of about 40 girls, with approximately 10 new girls joining this season. The girls have noticeably stepped things up this year as they start to consolidate what for some of them are skills they have been learning for 4/5 seasons.

A number of parents have commented how much better the girls are when playing in tournaments/festivals and the results are starting to show that, as well as the benefits of looking to play in the same squads/teams where possible. A huge “thank you” has to go to the admin/support team of Leigh Archbold, Abi East and Sophie Lennon who have all done (and continue to do) a lot of hard work behind the scenes to ensure that fixtures are arranged and then organised. We also have a great team of coaches with Ken Archbold, Alex Brown, Jeanette Butler, Lucy Chambers, Paul Denn, Mark Preston, Sally Quick, Tish Triplehorn and Andrew Wingfield supporting me. We’re also incredibly lucky to have Ellie Hauck and Amy Smith (U15s players) both supporting us as their D of E activity – it’s so powerful for the U10s to see two girls from a higher age group, who both play county hockey and are technically very strong, at their training sessions.



This year we have looked to learn from the successes of last year’s U10s and play a number of block fixtures against some of the bigger local clubs like Wimbledon. It enables us to play the 40+ girls who are available all at one location/time against the other club and is so much more fun, as well as being much easier to organise and for the coaches to support.



For the first time, we have formed a small performance squad (the “Brays”) of 10-12 girls who will form the basis of the squad we enter into the Surrey Cup in mid-March. The other girls (playing in the Cannonballs, Javelins, Mortars and Spears teams) have the Surrey Plate (1st March) to focus on – we are aiming to enter two teams for that. Those two tournaments are what the second half of the season is focussed on and are what the coaches and the girls will be working hard towards, so that they can perform to the best of their abilities and showcase how much they have developed since last season.



Thanks as ever to the girls for their continued enthusiasm, regular attendance at training and matches and to their parents for their support and encouragement. Very much a team effort!

OCHC U12 Girls

This week Coach Toby Stevenson introduces us to the OCHC U12 Girls

As we start the second half of the season, I am delighted to introduce the GU12s who I have been coaching for five years now. As with most of the Colts sections, we number 50 girls and are lucky enough to have eight coaches – Sue, Jamie, Steve, Sarah, Dermott, Simon, Stuart and myself – supporting our progress and Maddie is our age-group manager. Almost all of us still play – of a fashion – so can bring real game experience and strategies to our training plans.

For the first time this year, we are playing in a number of organised leagues and tournaments. This is a welcome development as it has meant that we have more regular matches, in turn giving the girls more experience of playing in games. We're still working with the league to try and work out exactly which leagues we'd be best suited to, to ensure that the games are suitably competitive. We have been trying to give all of the girls as much time playing games as they can get.



As a coaching group, we have encouraged the girls to try their best whilst having fun. Technically we have focused on the importance of keeping the ball (it's gold-dust), making the ball do the work and keeping our shape on the field. These principles are applied in our Sunday morning session and at the mid-week training on Thursday evenings. So far this season we've played 15 matches and tournaments, played an experimental 11-a-side match versus our own U14s and had one dedicated practice session looking ahead to the Surrey Cup and Plate competitions. These take place in Feb/March and are a major event in our season, where we can test ourselves against the other major clubs in the county.

Thank you to all the parents and the coaches for the continued support and for the Christmas chocolates and here's looking forward to a successful second half of the season!

Toby



Action round up

A round up of some of the action from the weekend

U9 Girls

The U9 Girls hosted Wimbledon and Teddington in a festival, lots of games, some goals and loads of smiles.



U12 Boys

The Dairy Lee's had 3 tight losses and 1 draw whilst the Cheesmur Wotsits won 2 lost 2 at Staines' festival (including a Tommy hat trick and outstanding goalkeeping from Caspar). The Oranges were at Epsom with 1 win, 2 draws and 1 loss.



Oranges



Dairy Lee's

U16 Girls

The Vipers beat Sevenoaks 7-0



U14 Girls

A tough day for the U14 girls against strong opponents. Tornadoes lost 1-4 to Wimbledon and both Hurricanes and Storm lost 0-4 against their respective oppo from Guildford. Typhoons beat Cyclones 2-0 in an internal match. Lots to work on but all the matches were played in a positive, enthusiastic spirit.

U10 Boys

The U10 boys played at Richmond, with two teams from the hosts and one from Merton. We played really well, winning all matches convincingly.

U10 Girls

Two of our U10 girls teams headed to Richmond for a tournament also including Hampstead. Both of our teams were mixed ability teams so we had different levels of experience on show but nonetheless it was an excellent start to 2020. Both teams won 2 of their matches (1-0 and 1-0) and drew the third. Zero losses and very few goals conceded made for a very satisfying day, with the girls getting used to playing on half pitches.

Another two U10 teams played in a tournament at Chertsey, a good welcome back to hockey alarm call. We had a mixed set of results with three losses and a win so lots to learn from. Our wins came against our hosts Chertsey with two great goals from Eliza and Alexa and we beat them 2-1. Two of the games were 0-2 losses but great goalkeeping from Amelie kept most of the goal attempts out. In our last game, we faced another OCs team who were well organised and played brilliantly. A narrow 0-7 loss, well done to them! All in all, a really enjoyable afternoon for all the teams with plenty to build on in the next tournament.

Our other team in the tournament faced Staines and then two Chertsey sides, all ending in a 1-1 draw. In all three games, OCs dominated and kept the ball in our attacking half for the majority. In the first two games, a well earned 1-0 lead with great goals from Heidi and Izzie respectively resulted from the pressure and support from mid-field, but each time was levelled late in the game by opposition counter attack catching us having pushed a little too far up field. In the third game against Chertsey, OCs made much better use of width of pitch to attack, made good choices with hit outs, mixing up self pass, push to side and up the line, and again a 1-0 lead, courtesy of another Heidi score, was levelled right at the end for the third 1-1 draw. The score lines did not reflect the dominance of OCs in possession and attack. The final game was against our other OCs team and playing a friendly, perhaps the girls relaxed a little and had gelled over the previous games to deliver a 7-0 win, with goals from Elle (3), Izzie (2), Jess (1) and Heidi (1). A great effort from all the girls.

U14 Boys

The U14 boys development team had a tough match against a useful Epsom side, unfortunately losing 1-5. By the end of the first half, the boys were trailing 0-2 but we were defending well and looked dangerous on the counter. A great run and determined effort from Luke Smith made it 1-2 early in the 2nd half and we were back in the game. Epsom though kept the pressure on and a couple of lapses in marking allowed them to finish strongly and score 3 more late goals. Credit to Sam Howard in goal who made some excellent saves throughout and to all the boys for their efforts in a highly entertaining game.



U12 Girls

Two teams headed to Guildford for a tournament with Reigate, Aldershot & Farnham. Both the Oranges and Blues won 2 and drew 1 match. Lots of good passing play and great demonstrations of teamwork.



Blues



Oranges

Diary dates & updates

Reminder of Fortitude GK training dates

	U12s and below	U13s and above
OCHC	26 th January 9 th February 1 st March 15 th March	19 th January 2 nd February 23 rd February 8 th March 22 nd March

Key season dates

16th February No hockey (half term)

29th March Last training session of the season