

Old Cranleighan Colts Newsletter 2014/5

Newsletter Date 12th December 2014

Season 3

Week 12



Week 12 – The last hurrah....before Christmas!!

It's the final countdown before Christmas! We have now finished this half of the season with the last hurrah last week. The weather held off and did not "bomb" on us as it has done in previous weeks!! However we managed to stay dry and have one last session for 2014 before we have a 4 week well-earned break. This week we had many teams away from home in their last tournaments for the year, with illness and injuries decimating the squads, a little rest and relaxation is needed over the Christmas period to recover and prepare for the busy second half of the season. Enjoy your Christmas, and New Year! Eat, drink and be merry!! Come back refreshed for more hockey in 2015!

Wishing you all a very HO..HO..HO.C's Christmas!!

NB: 1st Session Back after Christmas – Sunday 11th January 2015

FIXTURES THIS WEEK...!

U12 Girls Tournament at Camberley Hockey Club (A) MEET 9am at Camberley

U11 Girls Tournament at Old Kingstonians - CANCELLED

NEXT FIXTURES (11.01.15)

U11's – Girls Tournament at Richmond HC – Time 9am

U12's Girls Tournament at Tulse Hill & Dulwich HC – Time TBC

Don't forget to
DOODLE

LAST WEEK'S REPORTS

OC's U10's Boys Old Kingstonian Tournament x 2 Teams

This week we were in Staines for U10 matches against Barnes and Staines. Our decision to take only one side was vindicated by the fact that several of our oppo looked "old for their age" and intent on causing as much physical damage as they could. To be fair to them they could hit a ball (and a player) pretty hard; Exhibit A was Gavin's son who had a bleeding nose and orange sized lump on his head from a flailing stick, Exhibit b young Alex K who had a crushed finger for his troubles. Harry Spencer had saved himself a journey by getting his injury out of the way at home the night before leaving!

So how did we get on? Pretty well all told especially when we take into account the fact that for some reason we played the matches on quarter pitches, with shooting areas that allowed you to self-pass and shoot in one motion, something the other teams seemed to have done before. And even better when you take into account the fact that the oppo kept insisting on playing with more players than us, even before they had reduced us to 6 'men'! Bit embarrassing for the coaching team to have to have that pointed out to them by Cameron's dad! Well done to William Godfrey for deputising ably for Max Nickless at the back; to Alexander A for turning out for the last U12s match in Hounslow despite his knock; and last but not least to Finn Davies who was voted player of the tournament by his teammates after one extraordinary triple save in particular.

Half-joking complaints aside, the only real disappointment was that we could and should have won the matches despite the odds being stacked against us. The difference was principally in attitude at the start of the game: we've got to be more aggressive and determined from the start winning all marginal challenges with energy and determination. But it was a good lesson for all of us; we have a few weeks off now and everyone needs to work on their hitting, focusing on technique and getting used to the heavier hockey balls. If you haven't got one I know a chap you could ask: big chap, white beard, red coat.

Both our sides will have plenty of matches in the 2nd half of the season and both should be aiming to avoid defeats. We have a talented age group and we will look to push them harder as the season goes on to maximise their enjoyment and development. Rest them well over Christmas....

- Coach Gav

For more colts pictures go to: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ochccolts/>

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Player of the Day...!

Well, it's all over for 2014....! The competition for the most sought after award this side of Giggs Hill Green is now all over for 2014. We have now admitted everyone the OC's Colts Hall of Fame much to everyone who hasn't won a medal's disappointment!! Some great performances this year, effort, application, team work and communication have been pretty good across all age groups. It is great to see everyone progressing and enjoying their hockey, come wind, rain (which we have had plenty of) and sunshine!! Plenty of medals to compete for next year, so keep practicing and get yourself noticed!!



**Andrea
Doyle**



**Lois
Smith**



**Harriet
James**



**Molly
Pearman**

U8's Mixed – Dragons / Old Georgians Tournament

The U8s ventured to Weybridge against 7 other strong teams from Old Kingstonians and Old Georgians. With a very strong start in the group games OCs beat a good Kingstonians side 2-0, following that up with a comprehensive 5-1 win over OK's some great attacking play and really solid defending put the team in a great position to win the group. Their final group game against Old Georgians was a much harder affair and despite creating chances and some solid defending were in done by some fast attacking play to go down 0-4. As runners up in the Group OCs met another OKs team for the Bronze medal play off. Again some brilliant skills, solid defending and competitive spirit saw OCs hold their own for most of the game but succumbed to two late goals as we pushed for a win. A great tournament for all the players involved who should be really proud of their achievements.

- Coach Barry



Where's Santa...???

**OC'S
CHRISTMAS MARKET**
Sunday 21st December
11am till 2pm

Come and enjoy the run up to Christmas at the OC's Club with our very own craft and gift market. Pick up some last minute presents and gifts, enjoy some mulled wine and mince pies and come and kick your Christmas off in true style...

- Craft stalls
- Free mince pie with mulled wine
- Christmas raffle
- Christmas tree sale
- Snow (possibly!)
- Last minute Christmas gifts

FREE ENTRY
Portsmouth Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0HB
0208-398-3092

U12 Boys –Indian Gymkhana Tournament

Thankfully this week the team didn't have to battle the weather, but they did face a real challenge in 3 tough games at Indian Gym. We started the first game one player down against Epson, but after a slow start going down to a short corner goal, the team started playing their best hockey of the season so far with greater passing and movement across the pitch. A real understanding was beginning to form, especially between James in central midfield who sent through some defense-splitting passes to Ed up front who made great runs and was unlucky to score. The next two games were against impressive Ealing and Indian Gymkhana teams, certainly the best teams we have encountered this year. Whilst the games were tough, our performances had a lot of credit. On the whole we kept our shape, defended resolutely and counter attacked with purpose. Ben played a great game as a defensive midfielder and together with Ollie, who was outstanding in goal, were our joint players of the day. With some stronger hitting across the pitch in the second half of the season, the wins will soon come.

-Coach Adrian

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