



Ladies' Club Captain's Report

Review of Season

A positive season with two teams finishing in the top three of their retrospective leagues and no teams in risk of relegation. The beginning of the season saw an influx of players to the point where there were too many players at training which, all things considering, is a wonderful problem to have. The club introduced a Thursday night club training session which was extremely popular amongst players who used it to work on individual skills, set routines or just for a game with members from both the men's and ladies side of the club.

First XI (W10 : D4 : L8)

The First XI started the season in a new league, East Division 1S, having secured promotion from East Division 2SW at the end of last season. With the squad aiming to finish the season in the same league, finishing 6th out of 12 on 34 points was a very admirable achievement. The team consistently found themselves in great goal scoring opportunities, however just lacked the final finish to secure more goals and collect a few more points. The squad was also hit by lots of unavailability making it difficult to put out a consistent team each week. Several faces from previous seasons returned to the club to play after finishing university with Hattie Sharman providing a consistently strong midfield and winning player of the season.

Player of the season: Hattie Sharman

Second XI (W12 : D7 : L3)

Under the leadership of Hollie Mathison, the Second XI were once again painfully close to promotion, within 3 points, finishing on 43 points in 3rd place in the Five Counties Premier Division. The aim for the squad this season was to secure promotion which is extremely difficult in this league as only one team out of 12 goes up. Unfortunately, a few results didn't go our way leading to a close finish to the season again. Not for the first season in her career, Hooley did not miss a game and continued to drive the team with passion and support from the back. It was fellow defender Ros Brown who won player of the season for her constant voice of calm and reason, Ros will be taking over the captaincy for next season.

Player of the Season: Ros Brown

Third XI (W 9 : D7 : L6)

Led for the first time this season by Jo Newman, the team finished in a solid 5th position in the Five Counties Division 2 on 34 points. The Third XI have had a great mix of youth and experience within the squad which has been vital for the development of all players. The Third XI had many games of two completely different halves, which led to some miraculous wins and some losses which could have been avoided. When the team played together as a squad they were unstoppable with their best result being a 9-1 win. It was Jo's dedication, encouragement and passion to win week in, week out that won her the team vote for player of the season.



Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club

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Player of the Season: Jo Newman

Fourth XI (W11 : D2 : L6)

With Vicky Cox providing a new face in charge, the fourth XI finished on 38 points in the Five Counties Division 3, which was two points off securing promotion. The fourth XI were hit the most by the cold weather this season, with endless fixtures having to be rearranged and extending the season well past the Easter break. As we got together to celebrate at the end of season dinner, it was looking very promising that the squad could secure promotion. However, three losses out of the last four fixtures meant the team missed out on those vital points. Despite this, the team had consistently performed well together, with Nadia El-Zanfaly not missing a game and providing a great positive attitude for the team and the flexibility to slot into multiple positions winning her player of the season.

Player of the season: Nadia El-Zanfaly

Fifth XI (W8: D1: L6)

The Fifth XI were resurrected this season thanks to the grit and determination of Dicky T who managed the side. With an extra side this allowed even more young talent coming through the junior section to get experience in the adult game. The fifth XI finished 7th out of 15 in Division 5 on 31 points. As well as developing the young talent, goalkeeper Alison Clifton was able to develop her on pitch skills in the team this season. There was a struggle to fulfil a side some weeks when fixtures were in the morning as the squad is heavily reliant on Saturday schoolers, but despite this far more fixtures were fulfilled than anticipated at the beginning of the season. Charlotte Range developed from attacker to marauding centre midfielder with vast improvements from beginning to end of season rightfully winning her player of the season.

Player of the Season: Charlotte Range

2017/18 awards

Ladies' Indoor Player:	Scarlett Cashman
Ladies' Top Goal Scorer:	Hannah Wynne
Ladies' Young Player	Lottie Lynch
Ladies' Masters	Louisa Rhodes
Ladies' Most Improved:	Scarlett Cashman
Ladies' Clubman:	Louisa Rhodes
Team of the Year:	Fourth XI





Outlook for 2018/19

With the Second XI and Fourth XI finishing so close to promotion, the main focus for next season will be to achieve promotion for both teams. Reducing the gap between the First XI and Second XI is crucial in developing the skills of the squad and the fluidity of players between both squads.

With a season in East league 1S, the First XI knows the standard of the league and it is fully within their capabilities to aim for a top three finish. This will boost the confidence and drive of the team to push for promotion the following season.

Now we have the player numbers to run a Fifth XI, the challenge for them going forward is to fulfil all of their fixtures. This season far more fixtures were fulfilled than initially anticipated when the squad was set up, so an aim for a season of no conceded games isn't unreasonable. The squad was initially set up as a youth development squad, but now it has established itself as a fully-fledged squad and we are likely to see a reshuffle of players amongst all squads in the coming season to cater for this. With more adult players in the fifth squad we should be able to go a full season without conceding a game.

Some weeks we even have enough players to run a Sixth XI, however our dependence on Saturday school students is too strong at this point. None the less I am sure we will be running a sixth XI in the near future. We will continue to work with our vast junior section and incorporate them into the higher sides and expose them to the hockey to match their abilities.

