

Ladies' Section Report Season 2018-19

This season started with lots of changes which created a weird sort of chaotic, positive energy. The changes were:

- New Coaches.
- An Earlier Pre-Season Training Programme.
- Twenty New Adult Players joining the section.
- A further ten youngsters who turned 13 in the season.
- New Captains – when they could be co-opted.

Despite in the club captain's opinion that every team was capable of winning their divisions, ultimately these changes meant it took time for each side to settle down.

The Ladies' 1s finished in a sixth in Division 1 South of the East League and many thanks to Buff Reay who stepped in as a co-opted captain when others stood by.

The Ladies' 2s finished in fifth place in the Five Counties Premier Division. However, this was a super-competitive division and they were still in the hunt for the title with five games to go.

The Ladies' 3s after comfortably winning the Chelmer Cup in pre-season, played thrilling hockey and were odds-on for the Five Counties Division Two. However, they missed promotion by one goal in their final game.

The Ladies' 4s were a curate's egg – good in parts. They also won their Chelmer Cup division in pre-season and yet got the yips early league season and were at one stage in a relegation battle. They rallied to finish 8th yet they have incubated some young talent.

The Ladies' 5s started exceptionally well perhaps superannuated by some occasional guests. However, in the second half of the season, they also incubated some young emerging talent.

Ultimately, the Ladies' section need to improve in three areas:

1. Goal-scoring.
2. Set-pieces.
3. Leadership – recognising when things are not going well and how to get a grip.

For 90% of our matches we took 14 players for all sides. This means that for next season we will launch a 6th Ladies' side under the Acolytes brand for developing Back to Hockeyers and emerging young players. I would also like to improve our indoor product too.

Pre-Season training for Ladies' 1s and 2s will start on Wednesday, 31st July at Hockerill with open trials to commence on Wednesday, 28th August – hopefully at our new pitch.