



# OLD CRANLEIGHAN HOCKEY CLUB



## 2014/15 NEW SEASON NEWSLETTER

This time last year I wished for another successful season to match 2012/13 and I think we achieved it both on and off the field so thank you to everyone who helped to make it happen. Needless to say we will have challenges ahead this season but we have a good team of people running things both on and off the field. Have a great season everyone.

### PERSONNEL

First the good news.

We welcome Andres Labourt to the club as the new Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI Player/Coach. Andres is from Argentina where he represented the national men's team and he has subsequently been coaching hockey in the UK for the last 8 years.

We also welcome all new players to the club. Reportedly numbers at training are up with some new faces to boost the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI squads.

And the not-so-good news.

We are still looking for an on-field captain for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI. There seems to be a perception that this role is something of a poisoned chalice when it isn't. This season with the increased numbers in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI squad there will be a greater number of players "rotating" into the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

Please contact Virge on 07801 737 695 or Knappy on 07736 497857.

### OFFICERS

Some changes to the Committee. After a number of years of noble service we say thank you and goodbye to Rob Merry as Hon Treasurer and Helen Merry as Hon Secretary. You have both worked very hard for the club over the years and for that we are grateful. I am pleased to say Mez will still be playing for us and acting as a liaison officer with the school.

Our new Treasurer is Mark "Smudger" Smith who is now firmly in the chair and will be tackling the collection of subs with vigour in the coming weeks.

I am hoping to be able to announce a new Hon Sec in the next few days...

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

These have been pegged at last year's levels of £295 for men and £235 for ladies with concessions available for students or part time players. All negotiations for concessions are through Smudger.

**Please fill in the Membership form sent to your captains and return asap. We already have some bills to pay and subs will go up by £50 if you do not pay by 31<sup>st</sup> October. You will also not be selected if you have not paid by this date.**

### SPONSORSHIP

We are looking to attract additional funds to the club through sponsorship packages. A separate note will be circulated on this. You will see that there are some good incentives for players to raise funding.

### KIT

Helen Hawes will continue to co-ordinate kit but other than socks we will not be stocking any spares at the Club. You will therefore need to order in advance if you need new shirts or shorts. Please remember that we have club colours and at the very least you are expected to wear white shorts and club socks which you should provide, even if you need to borrow a club shirt.



## TRAINING

Training is at the Club on Wednesdays at 7.30 and all players are welcome. As already stated we have seen a good turnout so far.

## SELECTION POLICY

A copy of our Playing and Selection Policy is on the website. All playing members are asked to abide by this as part of your commitment to the Club.

## DISCIPLINARY

As last year we have had little reason to take any disciplinary action against players. The Disciplinary Panel consists of the Club Captain, Vets Captain and Ladies Captain that will sit in the event of a player receiving either a red card or persistent yellow cards.

## WEBSITE/FACEBOOK/TWITTER/FIXTURES LIVE/CLUBHOUSE SCREEN

Sophie Merrett is in charge of Club PR and runs all of our media matters. More and more this is our primary means of communicating with players so please keep referring to the various channels, especially the clubhouse screen which will be kept updated on a regular basis with live news.

## SOCIAL MATTERS

Sam Carne has been beavering away on the social calendar. Dates for the diary are:

- 20<sup>th</sup> September – Season Opening BBQ (plus Bouncy Castle). 4 hockey teams and 2 rugby at home playing at home.
- 8<sup>th</sup> November - Club Fireworks at TD
- 24<sup>th</sup> January - Quiz night
- 18<sup>th</sup> April - End of Season Awards dinner

**The 2014 AGM will be held at TD at 4pm after the Hamstings game on 20<sup>th</sup> September.**

## UMPIRING

Once again, Official SCHUA umpires are appointed for 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI matches. That leaves 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, Vets and Ladies matches to be umpired “internally”. It’s not that onerous to umpire the odd match during the season, it helps to spread the umpiring workload and you get a complimentary beer off the captain so **can we have more volunteers please**. Umpiring courses are available and the cost of these will be funded by the Club.

## 100 CLUB

The “100 Club” is a monthly draw with 3 prizes of £50, £25 and £15 for a ticket price of £1 per ticket per month. All members are invited to subscribe to a monthly Direct Debit for a minimum period of 12 months. Multiple tickets purchases are welcomed and all profits are directed to funding the cost of Coaching both the Adult and the Colts Sections. **Last year we raised over £1,000**. Contact Virge for Direct Debit forms

## COLTS

As you will know the colts Section has gone stratospheric. This year there will be over 200 colts turning up on Sundays. Gav and Cato will urgently require help with coaching. In return for your time Cato will be doing financial deals to help offset your membership subscriptions. **Please volunteer as very soon these new players will be moving through to the senior teams and will be the future of the club.**



## CLUBHOUSE

Our Clubhouse Manager, JJ Griffin, has been working hard to improve the facilities and with the help of the OC Society,

- The bar has been re-decorated
- The car park is to be resurfaced and extended at the far end to incorporate the adjoining tennis court.
- The men's hockey showers will be overhauled.
- The club room is to be transformed into a lounge area with sofas and a roaring log fire in winter.
- The bar patio entrance is to be overhauled.

## Catering

There will be no teas provided for home teams with the exception of vets fixtures played at 11.30 or 1.00.

However, JJ's wife Georgie will be extending the catering operation. It is intended that breakfasts, teas and coffees will be available before the 10.00am matches and a greater selection of food available for purchase from the bar during the day including a children's menu.

With these improvements we really will have a very welcoming environment at TD.

## Creche

JJ is working up plans to provide a crèche of Saturdays to help players with young families to play more regularly. Details to follow.

## CONTACT

As always I am sure that we can be doing things better. If there is anything that you want to discuss or initiatives that you would like to see introduced please contact me. **After all – it is your club.**

Have a great season and see you at the bar.

**VIRGE**

Club Captain