



JUNIOR STARS



U13 Boys win

Cheshire County Boys Mini Tournament

The Cheshire County Boys Mini Tournament took place at Chester Hockey Club on the 25th Feb. DRHC entered Under 11 and Under 13 sides. The U11's were an attractive attacking side and won through to the semi finals by beating Pownall Hall School 4-0, Bowdon 5-0 and Mini Panthers 1-0. In the semi final they met Alderley Edge and after drawing 0-0, were eliminated on flicks, by the eventual winners. The Under 13's started in thunderous form, overwhelming Altrincham Grammar School 10-0 before beating Crewe Vagrants 3-0. They went on to beat Birkenhead School 4-2 after twice being behind. This set up a final with Chester. Chester had no answer to the pace at which the boys played and they were comfortably defeated 3-0. The side now goest to the North Finals at Durham on the 22nd April. WELL DONE BOYS!!!! Come along for a day's fun, if you can stand the tension!!

The squad was J Parkinson, R Morris, E Peel (Captain), H Barrett, J Verity, B Leaman, C Guy, H Fearnall.

OUTSTANDING SEASON FOR THE BEAVERS

At the time of reporting, the Beavers can report on an outstanding season and they believe the best record in the Club. They have played 15 Beaver matches and won every single one—Goals for: 89, Goals Against: 19. They have scored every 11 minutes with highest wins against Alderley Edge 16-1 and Preston 11-1. They deserve their success—they never miss training, rain, hail or manure and train from June right through to Easter on a Monday night. On one Monday night, when a fall of snow interrupted training, the session continued with a massive snowball fight. They are irrepressible and an example to their elders and all club members—BE PROUD OF THEM, ACKNOWLEDGE THEM!

Under 11s mixed win Timperley Tournament

Amongst all the excitement of the achievements of the Men's 1st XI in securing promotion, the performance of the Club U11 mixed side is in danger of being overlooked. This team, nurtured and managed by Malcolm Hill recently won, the Timperley U11 tournament. In an exhausting one day tournament, they beat Macclesfield, Mini Panthers, Urmston, Bowdon, Wilmslow and Brooklands and losing 1-0 to Alderley Edge, before beating timperley 3-1 in the final. The team had an inspiring skipper in Jack Hill who was well supported by Ollie Deakin in Goal, Callum Chapel, Christ Banting, Lucy Armitage, Tom Armitage, Lucy Fearnall, and Patrick Chambers.

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"10 Bridge Clinic"

A new "Health and Wellness" Clinic set up just outside Mickle Trafford, offers an unrivalled experience in total wellbeing. 10 Bridge Clinic is owned by a team of professionals from various backgrounds; Fitness, Physiotherapy and Professional Football—including **Michael Owen**, Richie Partridge and Mark Browes who is the Managing Director & Physio. Penny has had experience of working with both National Premier Division and International Hockey teams. Visit www.10bridgeclinic.co.uk for further details.



International Honours for Club Members.....

RESPECT IN THE BAR

Next time you are drinking in the bar you never know which Club current international player you may be rubbing shoulders with.

It may be Josh Guy England U14, or Emma Fearnley (England U16 development squad. These youngsters are not the only internationals within the club.

At Super Veteran level, Colin Pearce has been an England player for 3 years. He has been a World Cup winner in Australia, defeating the Australians, Germans & Dutchmen.

This season has seen Roe Symms selected for England Over 45's, but only after a tough assessment including close scrutiny of her birth certificate!! (they didn't believe she was over 45!.....good work Dave! pass round the magic potion)



Hedley Pollard and Johnny Ray have gained Welsh Veterans status, his on pitch serenading of umpires enabling him to claim membership of the Rhos, Male Voice Choir.

And did you know that Phil (Rhino) Brown has Welsh Veteran pedigree. His attempt to sing the Welsh National Anthem deceived the selectors, for with his accent, they couldn't tell the difference!

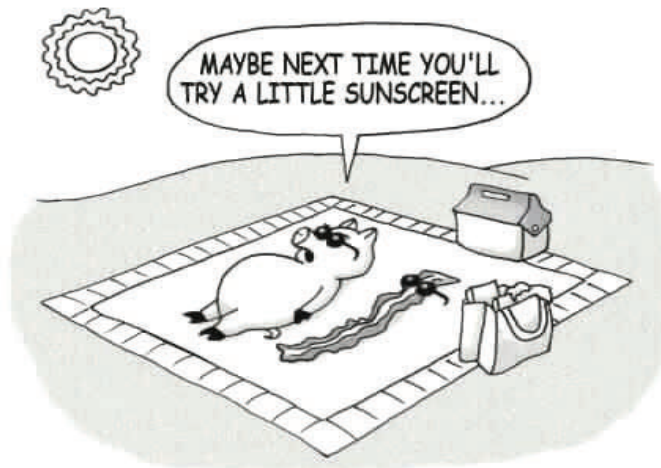
Drinks All Round!!

LIGHTNING STRIKES!

On a cold, dismal and dark winter's Saturday, the ladies 2nds were playing Crewe 1sts in a 3pm fixture under floodlight. As the weather worsened, hailstones fell and lightening flashed. Lightening flashed again and our Umpire (who shall remain nameless but holds the Honorary position in the Club of Secretary - male that is!) got very jittery and blew his whistle to halt the game. After consulting with both Captains and the other Umpire, he indicated that he was not happy to umpire with lightning in such close proximity to the club. He made it clear that if it came any closer the game would have to be abandoned.

As you can guess the lightning flashed again.... The whistle blew and an attempt was made to usher us off the pitch. It was then that a few of the players started laughing and pointing up at one of the lights along the side of the pitch. Realisation dawned, the lightning had all along been a bulb giving up the ghost!!

We all had a good laugh and the game resumed (no, we didn't win!).



Cyril taking in the rays in Gibraltar

40 Club Dinnerin our clubhouse?

In the last edition we took great pleasure in publishing the successes of Project Pigsty. In this edition we can boast about hosting the first proper function in our own abode...the annual 40 club black tie dinner.

It was a fantastic, successful evening with a strong 50 contingent of old and getting older Club members. Seeing the faces of past members who are the cornerstone of the club's history quaffing ale, indulging in roast pig and sharing the odd joke or 2 was a great reminder of the pedigree of our club.

El Presidente John scorcheo Heath delivered a proud and boastful speech centering around the successes of the youth of the club. And John you have certainly played a huge part in earning the club these youth development accolades!! We are without doubt the envy of all clubs in the north west on this front.

Linton delivered the begging rights that only a Scotsman could, and my word did he beg with vengeance! Great work Dave!

A huge THANK YOU to all our members and colleagues who donated funds towards Phase II of Project Pigsty.

Its up to the rest of us to organise the fund raising activities needed to pay for the rest of the work. Watch this space for events coming your way.

This editorial is for sale in all good book shops and some rubbish ones too

Summer Tournament Takes a Break

For years and years, the club has held its Summer Tournament in July, to which we have been inviting clubs from far and wide in the country, and even from Scotland and Holland. However, over the years, we have seen that the quality of the hockey has got worse and worse, while the amount of time and effort put into staging it has gone up. Most of that load has fallen on Simon Anderson and on Brian Swinburn, but a lot of other members put their commitment too into the weekend. Not only has the quality gone down, but the overall return to the club has also steadily been dropping. Far too many teams think they can bring and drink their own booze all weekend, while the level of damage to our property, be it the clubhouse, our other equipment, or even the gang-mowers, gets worse every year.

The Committee has therefore decided that we are going to suspend the tournament this year, while we examine how it could be improved, or indeed whether we can raise the same sort of money in better, or in easier, ways. We want to thank Simon and Brian for all their effort and hard work over the years in organising the whole thing, but also to the very many other members who too have put in hours of work helping to make it all happen.

Could this be Deeside's longest Development Side?

DRHC Ladies Section is 21 years old this year and have matured, allowing us to enter the Vets League in emphatic style, winning the north regional finals during a day of hellish weather, no subs and far too many games.

The ladies 1st X1 had played in Sheffield the day before and most of the junior players had decided to make a social of the weekend.

The hotel and evening meal was booked and with a great team atmosphere we consumed extra helpings of pasta and the wine began to flow. The mix of ages complemented each other and when challenged to a dance off with a local raver it was veteran Nicky Roberts who came up to the plate to break-dance, leaving the youngster in her wake. Due to commitments the following day the vets bowed out at a respectable hour leaving the team supporters behind. We arrived at the pitches and weren't too keen on getting hypothermia but the youngsters kicked us out of the cars as they needed the seats for a sleep. As with all tournaments umpires are in short supply and we had two Debbie Kay and Nicky Capes, far too keen, without them many games would have been cancelled and we could have been home far earlier, so thanks for nothing!

The games went well winning 4, drawing 1 and losing 1, so, for the players who have spent a lot of the season in an unenviable position of losing many games, for the ones who made a come back and for us all who made the hockey into a simple pass and follow game it was nice to see it at Deeside.

Thanks go to Katie for organising the trip and the supports that gave the team its competitive edge.

Mens Thirds Review - farming style!

Having received an EU grant for set aside (my life that is, as I once knew it) I decided to take the plunge and captain the 3rd team as principally I would be dealing with an unmanageable mixed crop of either immature young shoots (or don't shoots as was the case) or old and gnarled knackers that had been put out to grass and were well past their sell-by dates.

In certain cases the young shoots blossomed and grew into something marketable, others suffered from stunted growth and never matured into the finished article. The old knackers visibly got older and more lame as the season moved on. The farm Rhino in particular suffered in this area, although it did save his horn from being used in Chinese medicine as an Aphrodisiac. In some cases, it was even suggested certain strains of Mad Cow disease had manifested themselves, with the net result of coat loss on the head and a propensity for making loud roaring noises at his team mates particularly the left half!

Judging by the behaviour patterns of the right back, I think a little bit of avian flue found its way in too. We also lost one to Dutch Elm, although I believe he is still recovering in a Swiss clinic. Early goalkeeping errors meant the incumbent minder was packed off to a vegetable processing centre and used as a sieve! His young replacement Bill - or was it Ben, performed admirably and will no doubt be planted between the sticks in a higher team in future.

This year saw several old bull/young bullock combinations - the old bulls probably destined towards a tin of Pal (named after an old dog that skulked around the place) the Lamont and Whittaker breeds spring to mind, with the young bullocks possibly pushing to move on, if they heed the wise words of Windy. One of the stalwarts of the heard, Captain Eye Eye Cope, through major technical surgery, became amphibious, and now spends more time on the canal fleecing narrow boat owners of cash - a great loss to the yard! One of our younger members has had a weekly holiday named after him. It is in recognition of nothing much happening at all that the Tickerage Day was named, a rare feat for someone so young.

We lost the yard Vet this year (careless I know) - I think he turned up in Somerset, where, apparently the animals aren't quite so stupid. He will be missed. Thanks to the man from the Ministry - Gary Twaddle, for keeping everyone in order, although some animals still do not respond to his shrill blast on the whistle!

So, as the mounted attacks of optimism, Peter out into the sixteens' of reality, another season grinds to a timely halt, only to start again with vigour in September, it only leaves me to say - **where's my milk cheque?** Captain Windy.