



Yateley Hockey Club



Second Half Newsletter

On the pitch

Men's 1st XI Played 14 Won 10 Lost 2 Drawn 2 League position 1

The Men's 1st XI is playing very well, especially as they are new to their league and they are currently top. A great achievement as it their first season in this league!

The whole squad is playing well with different players making important contributions at the "right" time.

Their match reports are appearing regularly in the Yateley News, so keep yourself up to date with their efforts to win the League.

Player Profile – Rob Rowe

Men's Club Captain Rob is currently the longest serving member of the Men's 1st XI, with over 350 league appearances having made his debut in 1991 as a 17 year old goalkeeper, with significantly more hair! His first three years were spent playing in goal, picking up the first of four player of the season awards over the course of his Yateley career, before heading off to the University of Portsmouth and making the switch to an outfield player where he progressed through to teams to make a BUSA final appearance for the 2nd XI, and then playing for the 1st XI and then National League club City of Portsmouth in his final year.

On returning to the Yateley 1st XI under the guidance of Derek Craston, Rob established himself as a key player in the side, eventually taking on the captaincy in 1996 and leading the side to their first Hampshire Trophy victory alongside a number of familiar faces you'll see around the club and in the men's 2's. This was followed up with another Hampshire Trophy Final victory under Paul Rolfe's captaincy in 1999, as well as another stint as captain and club captain.

Rob has been a consistent scorer for the men's 1st XI, bagging over 200 goals, including a personal best tally of 41 in 2007 when Yateley finally achieved their goal of promotion to the regional league courtesy of a playoff final victory where Rob scored the winning goal in the promotion playoff in front of a cheering Yateley crowd.

Now in the twilight of his 1st XI career, Rob is an avid gym goer during the week, striving hard to keep his place in an ever improving 1st XI and hoping to gain promotion one more time before a well earned rest.



In addition to Rob's very commendable achievements, I would also like to thank him all the work he has recently done on the new "pitch hero" website. I know he put many long hours into making this site work and look very professional.

Over 105 members have now "signed up" to it.

<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/yateleyhockeyclub/>

Men's 2nd XI Played 13 Won 6 Lost 6 Drawn 1 League position 6th

The Men's two's are holding their "mid table" position and playing well.

However, they are certainly "in touch" with the others in the table and a good second half could see them as promotion contenders at the end of the season.

Men's 3rd's XI Played 13 Won 5 Lost 7 Drawn 1 league position 8th

The guys are playing well but their efforts are still to be reflected in the results, no doubt the efforts put in during the first half of the season will bring the deserved results.

Men's 4th's XI Played 12 Won 8 Lost 4 Drawn 0 league position 3rd

A very good effort during the first half of the season and they are very well placed to contend for a promotion place. You can read the match reports on the website.

Keep it going!!

Men's 5ths & 6th

We have introduced an extra side this year, specifically to give games to a group of 13-year olds in a controlled environment. The adults in the team are mainly coaches, and all are parents of players in the club. Our early results were not great, while the team settled down. By Christmas, though, we had picked up 3 wins and a draw, and the youngsters are now playing with confidence. We are looking forward to the second half of the season.

This is a very tough ask for everybody in the two teams, well done.



Ladies Section

Ladies 1st XI Played 11 Won 6 Lost 4 Drawn 1 League position 5

The Ladies are improving game by game and the experience gained last season is now paying off.

If this improvement continues then they will surely be in contention for promotion at the end of the season.

You can also read their match reports in the Yateley News and on the website.

Ladies 2nds Played 11 Won 6 Lost 4 Drawn 1 league positions 5th

Considering that there were a number of players moving between the second's and third's at the start of the season and a lot of experience was lost to the thirds, this a good result for the first half of the season.

No doubt, there will be a continued improvement during the second half of the season and a promotion place is still a very real aspiration.

This progress was reinforced by a good win last Saturday

Ladies 3rd's Played 11 Won 10 Lost 1 Drawn 0 League position 1

The Ladies 3's had an unusually strong start to the season, with minor changes to the overall squad from last season saw the team comfortable, confident and familiar with each other.

The 3rd XI have been top of league since reaching it in the first couple of matches into the season; the mix of experience coupled with athleticism and enthusiasm from the juniors on pitch, the Ladies 3's are looking to continue their form and achieve promotion as champions at the end of the season.

There is talk of forming a Ladies 4th XI for next season, if you are interested in joining then please speak to Michelle Cox or Jill Hayter.

Mixed Section

There is now a thriving "mixed" section in the Club that is growing and has already won a trophy.

Well done to those involved.

Speak to Lucy Moore or Steve Maskell for further details

Youth Section The Junior's will soon have their own newsletter. It is still being developed.



Umpire's Section

The club still has a shortage of umpires, if you want to give it a try, then please contact Nicki Smith

"Umpire humour" below is courtesy of new comer to the umpiring ranks Mike Brain;

A famous hockey coach goes to heaven, where he puts together a team of history's greatest players. God (the really first hockey player) decides he'd like to play a friendly game against the team from hell.

He phones the devil and asks, "Are you interested in a game of hockey?"

"Why not?" the devil replies. "I'm warning you, though. You'll never win."

"Well, we have the best players of all time!" says God.

"I know," says the devil.

"But we have all the umpires!"

OFF The Pitch

Sad to see Kerry James leave for "pastures new" we wish him well both on and off the pitch.

Social events

Club Day, Real Ale Night and the Christmas dinner were all successful and relatively well supported, as was the "Curry Night" but as ever the Club could have done with a few more attendees for each event.

Events to look out for:

Quiz night on 27th Feb... Tickets available now

Dinner and Dance is at the Casa dei Cesari 24th April £30 per head, tickets available now
There are details of other "up coming" events on the website