

# NEWSLETTER

May 2018

Welcome to the FOHC newsletter

*“There may be people that have more talent than you, but there’s no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do”*  
Derek Jeter

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## Chairman’s Report

Chairman’s Review 2017-18

Optimists,

The end of another busy season culminating in an excellent End of Season Awards Dinner.

### Summer

Hockey continues through the summer with opportunities to come and play and we will be hosting a Mixed Summer League again with eight teams taking part including two from FOHC. The games will be on Friday evenings.

### Spectator Stand

The project to have a covered stand erected next to the pitch using the bequest from Brian Swoffer is progressing with bids for the groundworks expected shortly. I will not make any promises about when we will see the stand erected. I have already fallen foul of that by saying it would be up last year!! We are very grateful for the continued hard work of the project team – Stuart Ingleston, Andy walls, Rodney Kilbee and Brian Geddes, led by Andy Mainwaring.

## In this issue

- Hockey Round up of all things hockey
  - Easter It’s that time of year again
  - End of Season Who won what?
  - Tee’ing Off Swoff’s Golf Day
  - England! International call ups
  - Key Dates Dates for your diary
- And much more....



**Club Kit**

The committee are currently looking at renewing our relationship with Grays to supply our team kit and other Club merchandise. They have some new additions to the range and have promised improvements to some existing lines including socks and shorts

**Future**

The Club continues to grow, especially the Junior Section which is so important for our future. We are also currently considering the creation of an eighth Men's XI

**This year's club awards; -****Top goal scorer of the year                      Josh Clifford**

27 goals for the Ops, most from open play using his skill and keen eye for the goal

**Umpire of the year                                      Brian Geddes**

Brian offered to take on umpire coordinator this season and has done a sterling job. He has established good contacts with other clubs and umpired extra games where help was needed. Never loses his cool on or off the pitch

**Club player of the year                                      Ali Walls**

Possibly Club Player of the decade, millennium, ever? Ali has been at the Club for 35 years. He has played 1<sup>st</sup> XI for most of it and been a stalwart in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI of late. Highly respected and liked unanimously by his teammates, opposition and umpires. Loves gin, the odd cigarette, late nights and acting in the current EE adverts on TV. Our Club Player of the Year is Ali Walls

**Club person of the year                                      Erin Fuller**

Erin took over the reins running the Junior Section and has grown into the role along with the Junior Section which now has over 100 children attending on Saturday mornings alone. We now have numerous established Junior teams that play and win in competitions and tournaments all over the County and are proud to wear the Optimist shirt. Erin leads the organisation of these teams and has also organised successful tournaments here at Three Hills. Erin has also worked hard at her hockey and been rewarded by securing a regular place in the Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI, but most of all, Erin has overseen our Junior Section's continued growth – Our Future Stars. She knows all their names, which is an achievement and they all know and look up to her. Our Club Person of the Year is Erin Fuller

**Tobie Wittleton Award                                      Conal Blackwell**

Conal has had an excellent year. After joining the Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence (AASE), he has also broken into the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI and from the outset made some excellent contributions to the great results achieved by the 1<sup>st</sup> XI particularly in the second half of the season. We are also grateful to Keir Starley for mentoring and encouraging Conal in his continuing improvement as a keeper. Keepers are not normally properly recognised for their flair and skill, but it is clear from comments made to me that Conal has impressed players, coaches and spectators alike

For showing outstanding skill, flair and tenacity for the Optimists, the TW Award goes to Conal Blackwell

**YOUR COMMITTEE**

- Janet Fuller** My vice chair and brilliant support to Erin with the Junior Section and now runs the Kent JDC at Three Hills
- Erin Fuller** Junior Section Coordinator
- Tim Beggs** Men's Coordinator. Tim has been brilliant running the Men's Section. He has demonstrated sound leadership and diplomacy required in this role
- Kay Parsons** Ladies Coordinator and membership. Is passionate about hockey and the Ladies Section in particular. She leads everything to ensure they have enough players, training and everything else required to be successful and enjoy our sport. She has also been firm but fair in ensuring that you all pay your dues. A thankless task most of the time but necessary to make sure we get the funds needed to pay the bills
- Dan Payne** Money. Looks after it, advises us when we need it and has a very efficient accounting system
- Rachel Brazier** Scribe and enthusiast about everything!! I don't think she has ever been required by committee members to make any edits to the minutes!! Rachel will be distracted quite shortly with other very important matters which take her away from being secretary.
- Dave Parsons** Head of Coaching. Continues to help develop young players, organises our coaching in most of the local schools and is working on getting more of you to qualify as coaches
- Jack Gooding** Socials and Easter.
- Amy Bumstead** Spin Doctor. Responsible for all the social media stuff and getting our results and fixtures out there and for getting reports in the local press and pictures of you all
- Charlie Martin-Stuart** Took on the important role of Fixtures Coordinator and has done a great job, being very efficient and helpful to all Captains and teams and other Clubs in sorting out any issues and rearranging fixtures
- RBJ - Our President** Robin continues to take a keen interest in every facet of the Club
- EASTER** Thanks to Normy and Jack especially for helping organise Easter – what a success again this year and we raised £750 for Help for Heroes through the H4H
- New Optimists** Congratulations to all those who have had, or are expecting new additions to our great big family of Optimists

**Thank you to all the coaches, managers, umpires, helpers, drivers, parents, players and everyone else!! We are the Optimists!!**

Leigh Marshall

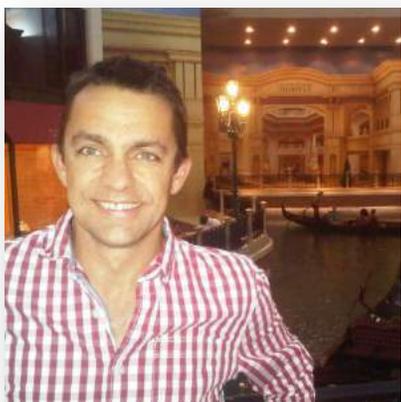
## Ladies Section

So a round up of the ladies section; we saw departures, returnees and some new faces at the start of the season. Then almost weekly we had the joyous news of a player's pregnancy, we ended up with a total of 7 almost enough to make a team of their own!! This meant that by half term in October the ladies had lost a total of 21 players from the end of the previous year, this had the biggest impact on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs but clearly has an effect on all teams. Very different looking squads took a while to settle. What was pleasing to see were the results from the second half of the season as these were all better than the first half, showing how much progress was being made.



The future is looking very positive with the development of so many juniors in the 2s & 3a this year which I'm sure the whole club will benefit from.

## Men's Section



No promotions or relegations this season but not a bad set of results considering the multiple team promotions of the previous two seasons. No "boom & bust" for the Ops; sustained progress is what we like to see! My personal thanks to all FOHC members for your co-operation this season, and of course, your continued support of the best club in Kent!

## End of Season Awards

Men's 1s Player – James Whybrow

Men's 1s Young Player - Joe Tolhurst

Men's 2s Player – John Pace

Men's 2s Young Player – Finn Smith

Men's 3s Player – Ben Shaw

Men's 3s Young Player – Rory Fry

Men's 4s Player – Elliott Webb

Men's 4s Young Player – Alex Wishart

Men's 5s Player – Jack Seagrove

Men's 5s Young Player – Harvey Little

Fledglings Player – Liam Duncan

Fledglings Most Improved Player – Riley Gill

Men's 7s Player – Owen Gosford

Ladies 1s Player – Ashley Taylor

Ladies 1s Young Player – n/a

Ladies 2s Player – Vicki Baxter

Ladies 2s Young Player – Daisy Keet

Ladies 3s Player – Janet Fuller

Ladies 3 Young Player – Emma Coley

Ladies 4s Player – Izzy Povah

Ladies 4s Young Player – Louise Hill

Young lady player – Libby Kelvie

Most improved lady – Katrina Peak/Abby Slater

Umpire of the Season – Brian Geddes

Top Goal Scorer – Josh Clifford

Club Person – Erin Fuller

Club Player – Ali Walls



Our thanks to everyone who had a hand in organising another successful end of season dinner.

## Easter 2018

A continuation of last years successful 7s format saw a great, if not chilly, Easter weekend. We welcomed back teams from Burton, South Saxons and Deal plus Brentwood in their first return since 2009 and welcomed Canterbury Uni for the first time. Hockey for Heroes returned to take on both men's and ladies Kent Invictus sides made up from players from a variety of Kent clubs. Both games were played in a fantastic spirit with the ladies Invictus side drawing 2-2 and the men's Kent side running out winners, but everyone lost track of the score!!

Our thanks must go to those who organised and helped run the weekend, especially Jack and Normy. Without these people the weekend would not have happened.



## HELP!!!!

The club relies on it's volunteers for it's day to day running. We are looking for people to help over the next season so please get it touch if you think that you can help in any way ranging from junior coaching to helping with socials

## Hockey Round Up

### Men

1<sup>st</sup> XI – The 1s finished 6<sup>th</sup> in Kent/Sussex 1 on 32 points, scoring 68 and conceding 61

2<sup>nd</sup> XI – The 2s finished 9<sup>th</sup> in Kent/Sussex 2 after promotion last season on 26 points, scoring 60 and conceding 72

3<sup>rd</sup> XI – The 3s finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Kent Prem 38 points. They scored 59 and conceded 54

4<sup>th</sup> XI – The 4s finished 10<sup>th</sup> in Kent Prem A on 21 points. They scored 30 and conceded 56. A 3<sup>rd</sup> XI draw on the final day kept them up

5<sup>th</sup> XI – The 5s finished 6<sup>th</sup> in Kent Open 1 on 26 points. They scored 24 and conceded 27

Fledglings XI – The 6s finished 4<sup>th</sup> in Kent Open 2 with 28 points. They scored 46 and conceded 38

7<sup>th</sup> XI – The 7s finished 6<sup>th</sup> in Kent Open 3 on 22 points, scoring 34 and conceding 45



### Ladies

1<sup>st</sup> XI – The 1s finished 10<sup>th</sup> in East 1 South on 17 points, scoring 25 and conceding 58. They have been relegated to East 2 South East

2<sup>nd</sup> XI – The 2s finished 6<sup>th</sup> in Kent Prem on 28 points, scoring 44 and conceding 53

3<sup>rd</sup> XI – The 3s finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in Kent Div. 3 on 40 points. They scored 52 and conceded 24

4<sup>th</sup> XI – The 4s finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Kent Div. 4 on 37 points. They scored 40 and conceded 57

## Swoff's Golf Day

Another season is closed which means the window for golf is well and truly open. Now's the time to get some practice in ahead of the Optimist's annual golf extravaganza or "Swoffer's Day" as it's better known. For the second year running the date has been fixed to allow some of our members who work in education to attend. This year event will therefore take place on the afternoon of Friday 27th July with dinner to follow in the evening. As usual Sene Valley will be the course of choice for the day.

The event is open to all paid up members, VPs and Life Members. Sene Valley is a challenging course so some golfing experience is recommended but a formal handicap is not required. The cost is being held at the very reasonable price of £25/ head including dinner and prizes.

Look out for posts on the website or let Andy Mainwaring (email [xxabe42@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:xxabe42@hotmail.co.uk)) or Leigh Marshall ([riflegreenleigh@ntlworld.com](mailto:riflegreenleigh@ntlworld.com)) know if you're interested in taking part. Numbers are limited but there are potentially 40 spaces so don't be put off.

See you on 27th !



## Internationals

This season saw more International call ups for our club players. Will Mead was picked for the England U16 squad to play against The Netherlands over Easter. Will had a great weekend, including scoring on his debut! He has also recently played against Ulster U17's, again with a goal to his name.

### Other Representative Honours

Conal Blackwell – England Schools U18

Kay Parsons – England & East O60

Brian Murrill – England O75

Deryl Gilham-Jones – Wales O50

Nick Hopkin – South O45

Sharon Harding – East O45

Jack Gooding – Kent

Ames Bell – Kent

Jason Wilkins – Kent

Chris Pearce – Kent coach

# Dates for your Diary

W/C 8<sup>th</sup> May – Summer hockey starts

20<sup>th</sup> May – Ladies 3s Kent Vase Final,  
Canterbury H.C. @ 10am

2<sup>nd</sup> June – Ladies v Hockey for Heroes,  
Canterbury H.C. @ 2pm

27<sup>th</sup> June – A.G.M.

2<sup>nd</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> August – Ladies 1s & 2s/3s & 4s pre-  
season starts

21<sup>st</sup> August – Men’s pre-season starts

1<sup>st</sup> September – Club day (TBC)



## Top Goal Scorers 2017/18

### MEN

Josh Clifford – 27

Will Mead – 16

Will Spain - 14

Jack Gooding - 12

Mark Finnis - 10

Ben Allon – 9

Chris Jeffery - 9



### LADIES

Alex Slater – 21

Julie Griffin - 11

Lisa Banks - 10

Livy Cheap - 9

Charlotte Tapsell - 7

Dani Mynard – 7

Emily Clapham - 7



[www.folkestone-optimists.co.uk](http://www.folkestone-optimists.co.uk)



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