

# NEWSLETTER

September 2018

Welcome to the FOHC newsletter

*“It’s hard to beat a person who never gives up”*

Babe Ruth

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## New Season Approaches

Every summer most of us have the same feeling of, “it’s fine, we’ve got ages until the season starts” and then pre-season rolls around and we all wish we’d done a bit more fitness and a bit less BBQ-ing!! We all then have the same panic of not being able to find our gumshields, shin pads or socks from the previous season and en-route to finding them find a black banana at the bottom of our bags or a set of unwashed water bottles in the conservatory. After we’ve found everything we decide it’s time for a new stick and after trying out a variety of different ones for how they feel, we go for the one with the best colour combination to match the rest of our kit. Every year however we overcome all of this and come back to the gentle slope of the Three Hills astro ready and raring to go.

Although there were no promotions last season, we did see the ladies 3s win the Kent Vase at the end of the season.

As always we would like to welcome our new and returning players and coaches to FOHC, we look forward to getting to know you on and off the pitch

Have a great season and come on Ops!!!

## In this issue

- Hockey Round up of all things hockey
- Chairman Chairman’s report
- Super Brian Brian Murrill in action again
- Housekeeping Bit’s and pieces for the new season
- Membership Membership fees are due
- Key Dates Dates for your diary

And much more....



## Chairman's Report

Optimists, welcome to our 93<sup>rd</sup> season!!

I hope you all had a great summer off, although hockey has continued through the summer where we hosted another successful mixed league competition.

There was also the Women's World Cup at Lee Valley and I know a lot of our members took the opportunity to go and watch some great hockey including a party of our Juniors who had a great day out organised by Erin and Janet Fuller.



The Club continues to make steady growth, attracting players from the age of 5 up to very senior levels. We now have an established Ladies 4<sup>th</sup> XI in it's third season and this season we are introducing a Men's 8<sup>th</sup> XI into the leagues. We also have many more players participating in County, Region and National teams.

Our Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI have attracted some new players and Coach Chris Pearce is very excited about the squad's prospects this season in a push for promotion.

On the junior side, we are working closely with most of the junior schools in our area and increasing partnerships with senior schools. Providing FOHC coaches with funding from Folkestone Town Council and support from the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, Shepway Sports Trust and the Outreach programme. Three Hills also hosts a Development Centre for young players in Kent identified as having further potential on the Player Pathway towards county, region and national teams. FOHC has seen a growth in the number of young Optimists taking part in this including Will Mead playing for England Under 16's in the Home Nations and Conal Blackwell selected to play in goal for England in the UK School Games at Loughborough. We currently have 12 juniors on the Player Pathway and very proud of all their achievements.

FOHC has been recognised as an "Aspiring Club" by England Hockey and we are grateful for the continued support from our Relationship Manager for this part of the country – Charlie Farrow. Participation in hockey is increasing nationally and the Optimists are certainly profiting from this trend and intend to introduce more people to our great sport

Shepway Leisure continue to do a great job in running our facility, led by Nick Shaw and his team

And finally, a special thank you to our President, RBJ for everything he does for our great club.

## Ladies Section

Pre-season 2018/19

I expect we are all hoping the start of the new season doesn't see the same sort of hot weather we have enjoyed this summer but I trust we are all looking forward to playing hockey again with eagerness and excitement. The success on the pitch is down to you as players having the commitment and enthusiasm to training, fitness and game days, so with the coaches, training and fixtures all in place here we go. I wish you all individually as players and as squads all the very best for the season.

Friendly Outstanding Happy Caring



## Men's Section



I would like to start by thanking Tim Beggs for all the hard work he put into being Mens Co-ordinator for the last few seasons. He continues to be a great support during the hand over period and while I get to grips with things.

This season we have added an additional team to the men's section of the club, the mens 8s. This is down to not only the great work of the junior section but also the success of the back to hockey we as a club have offered.

This season Teamer will require you to have an email address or the app for you to receive notifications about your games.

Pre season games begin next week, 8th September and as a men's section we are wishing all the teams a fantastic season. Enjoy your hockey, stay fit and healthy and hopefully some promotions will follow!

## Hockey Round Up

Below is a list of the new captains for this year and their first league game of the season.

### Men

1<sup>st</sup> XI – Jason Wilkins, Regional Kent/Sussex 1  
29/09 – A v Gore Court @ 13:30

2<sup>nd</sup> XI – Craig Hopkins, Regional Kent/Sussex 2  
29/09 – H v Canterbury @ 12:30

3<sup>rd</sup> XI – Ali Sutton, Kent Open A  
29/09 – H v Ops 4's @ 15:30

4<sup>th</sup> XI – Michael Thompson, Kent Open A  
29/09 – A v Ops 3's @ 15:30

5<sup>th</sup> XI – Adam Copping, Kent Open 1  
29/09 – A v Ops 6's @ 11:00

6<sup>th</sup> XI – Tim Beggs, Kent Open 1  
29/09 – A v Ops 5's @ 11:00

7<sup>th</sup> XI – TBC, Kent Open 2  
6/10 – H v Anchorians @ 14:30

8<sup>th</sup> XI – Andy Whitham, Kent Open 4  
29/09 – H v Brom Becks @ 14:30

### Ladies

1<sup>st</sup> XI – Amy Bumstead, East 2 South East  
22/09 – H v Southend & Benfleet @ 12:30

2<sup>nd</sup> XI – Adrienne Rowe, Kent Prem  
15/09 – H v BBHC @ 14:00

3<sup>rd</sup> XI – Suzy Hill, Kent 3  
15/09 – A v Anchorians @



4<sup>th</sup> XI – Wendy Blackwell, Kent 4  
15/09 – H v BBHC @ 14:30

### Teamer

In regards to matches, can all players please ensure that they reply to Teamer.

We know that there are bugs in the system and it is not perfect, but it is a great source of frustration for both captains and coaches when players do not respond promptly.

If you are having problems with Teamer, please first log in and check that your contact details are correct, as we cannot change those for you. If all your details are correct and you are still having issues, please speak to your section co-ordinator.

### Last Seasons Awards

If you did not receive your trophy at last seasons end of season dinner and would like to have it at home, please can you make yourself known so that we can get it to you

## Super Brian goes again!

Brian was invited to join the LX England club and play in the Trophy section of the Veterans World Cup Tournament at Barcelona in the over 75 age group. They played Southern Cross (Australia) twice and lost twice and they played Alliance (a mixed nationality side) twice and beat them twice. Below is a photo showing him scoring their first goal in a two nil win against Alliance. (He is number 235). He said, "it was really hot but good fun and we won the silver medal so came home feeling quite pleased!"



## Membership

Please be aware that as always membership is due by 31<sup>st</sup> October. All membership cards for those who have not paid will be cancelled at this point (any money you have on them will not be lost). Once your full membership had been paid, they will be reactivated. This can be done by taking a receipt from the membership coordinator to the Three Hills staff. If you do not have a membership card, you get a cardboard one for free or pay £1 for a plastic one. Your valid membership card will give you a 10% discount at the bar. Access to team changing rooms will be arranged on match days. If you have any questions, please speak to Kay Parsons.

## Housekeeping

A few little bits and pieces:

- **Match fees** – following a review of the club's insurances we are not longer accepting payment of match fees by bank transfer to the club account. This means **YOU MUST HAVE CASH** to pay your match fee on the day of each game
- **Saturday juniors** – teams will be expected to provide a minimum of 6 members to help with Saturday juniors on their allocated week
- **Teamer** – Teamer are no longer sending out text messages so please make sure you check your emails/app for notifications
- **Practice** - if you are going down to the pitch to practice, please can you avoid using the top goal on pitch 1 to save wearing out the D. Please use the cage if available or the bottom goal
- **Match teas** - if you have a food intolerance, it is your responsibility to inform the kitchen staff before your game each week
- **First social** – 15<sup>th</sup> September, Pizza & a pint. Tickets are £5 (include a draught pint/soft pint & a pizza) and available from your captains or Kay
- **Kit** – Grays have brought out some new kit items, including a new design of shorts. These will be available from Leon in The Sports Hub

## Summer Mixed

Throughout the summer we've been running our now annual summer mixed competition. This year we welcomed teams from Canterbury, Deal, South Saxons, Gore Court, Ashford and The Nomads. There have been some great games and goals flying in on Friday nights and it's been played in a great spirit. After group games and knock outs, the final was between Gore Court & Canterbury, with Canterbury coming out as eventual winners on flicks.

We would like to thank Brian Geddes, Leigh Marshall and Jason Wilkins for taking on the organisation of the tournament as well as the captains and umpires.

## Dates for your Diary

15<sup>th</sup> September – Ladies Kent league games start

22<sup>nd</sup> September – Ladies East league games start

29<sup>th</sup> September – Mens league games start

15<sup>th</sup> September – Pizza & a pint social

13<sup>th</sup> October – Social

10<sup>th</sup> November – Social

8<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas social

19<sup>th</sup> January – Social

16<sup>th</sup> February – Social

16<sup>th</sup> March – Social

19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Festival



## Top Goal Scorers 2017/18 & Match Reports

Congratulations to Josh Clifford on winning the top goal scorer of the year for last season.

Can all captains please make sure that the names of their goal scorers each week are emailed through to [fohcmedia@hotmail.com](mailto:fohcmedia@hotmail.com) so that we can keep track again this season.

On this note, can you also please note that match reports need to be submitted to the same address by 8pm on Sunday night on the media form. If you do not have this, please let us know and it can be sent out to you.

Thanks for your help.

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



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