

NEWSLETTER

December 2018

Welcome to the FOHC newsletter

"It's hard to beat a person who never gives up"

Babe Ruth

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Mid Season Break

How time flies! It seems that it was only yesterday we all rocked up back to training wishing we'd done some off-season training. It's now 3 months later and the first half of the season is over.

There have been some issues with availability throughout teams so far this season. We know that everyone has other things going on in their lives, so please let your captains/section coordinators know in advance if possible instead of just hitting decline on Teamer. This makes their lives a lot easier.

As always we need to thank those who give up their time and volunteer to help the club. Without these people the club would fall apart and we always need more people to help out.

Hopefully you've all not eaten too much and will be raring to get back to it in January.

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Chairman's Report

Happy Christmas Optimists!!

I hope you all had a great Christmas wherever you were!!

Firstly, I would like to thank the coordinators and team captains for all their hard work in the first half of the season. It has not been without some stressful weeks with respect to availability and honouring our fixtures.



You can all help by making every effort to be available for games so as not to let your team mates, the Club and also our opposition down. Of course, if you have a genuine reason for not being able to play, then please let your Captain and respective coordinator know as soon as possible, so that they have time to find a replacement. The same applies to umpiring. Don't forget that without an umpire, you will not be able to play.

On a happier note the Club's kit has been updated and we are happy to continue our association with Grays who are our supplier. Also, as you can see round the pitch, we have many sponsors who provide funding for enhanced coaching for the Club in the higher XI's.

I am also grateful to the committee who continue to give up many hours of their time to ensure you can all play hockey and that the Club is continuously improving and progressing.

The Club still needs help with Junior training sessions whether or not you are a qualified coach or not. We have over 200 children connected with our Club and they are all very keen to play hockey, so come along and help them develop and contribute to the future of the Optimists. Club Coaches now go into most of the Junior Schools in our area which enhance the Club's profile and make the Optimists the club they want to play for as they get older and more interested in hockey.

We are still looking to create a "Spectator Area" next to Pitch 1 using the bequest from our former President, Brian Swoffer, and also looking at filming options for coaching, training and possible live streaming of games. We have a design for a permanent tower but are also considering portable tripod equipment as an option.

Whatever you are planning for New Years Eve, stay safe and have fun.

Finally, Happy New Year for 2019 and Good Luck for the second half of the season.

Onwards!!

Ladies Section

At the Christmas break we find all 4 squads riding high in their respective leagues. It didn't take long for very different looking sides from the end of last season to settle. The results week in, week out have been a credit to you all and it's been exciting to see the blend of youth and experience. I hope you're all enjoying the break but will be ready to go again.

Have a wonderful Christmas and all the very best for 2019.

Men's Section

Having reached the midway point of the season a little battered and bruised, I hope we have all had the last few weeks resting up and are all fit and raring to get back out on the pitch in 2019.

Unprecedented unavailability for the first half of the season has led to several games being reluctantly conceded. During one week and for various reasons including injury, an unfortunate record of 52 players were unavailable! I would like to thank all those that have doubled up or changed games last minute. I also apologise to anyone who has had a game conceded and has missed out on hockey.

To that end, please ensure you are making your captain aware if you will be unavailable for a game with plenty of notice, it makes our planning for teams much easier.

All that considered; we have had some excellent results across the men's section with some cracking hockey being played. I've seen youngsters step up to play 4 or 5 leagues higher from where they played last year and oldies rolling back the years as well.

Hopefully we will see fewer players on the treatment table in 2019, which not only will strengthen teams but also mean we will see fewer fixtures being conceded as a men's section.

Happy New year to you all and Happy Hockey.



Hockey Round Up

Men

1st XI – 4th in Regional Kent/Sussex 1
W 4, D 5, L 2. 30 for, 24 against

2nd XI – 11th in Kent/Sussex 2
W 2, D 0, L 8. 11 for, 32 against

3rd XI – 10th in Kent Open A
W 3, D 3, L 6. 27 for, 35 against

4th XI – 8th in Kent Open A
W 3, D 2, L 6. 22 for, 39 against

5th XI – 3rd in Kent Open 1
W 7, D 2, L 2. 31 for, 12 against

6th XI – 10th in Kent Open 1
W 3, D 1, L 7. 12 for, 29 against

7th XI – 9th in Kent Open 2
W 2, D 1, L 6. 18 for, 41 against

8th XI – 7th in Kent Open 4
W 3, D 0, L 6. 13 for, 28 against

Ladies

1st XI – 3rd in East 2 South East
W 7, D 1, L 3. 29 for, 14 against

2nd XI – 3rd in Kent Prem
W 7, D 1, L 4. 15 for, 14 against

3rd XI – 5th in Kent 3
W 7, D 1, L 4. 35 for, 11 against

4th XI – 2nd in Kent 4
W 8, D 3, L 1. 35 for, 13 against



Cup Competitions

Men's 1st XI – Kent Cup
Drew 2-2 v Canterbury
Lost 7-6 on flicks

Ladies 1st/2nd XI – Kent Cup
1st round A v Sevenoaks
2nd round H v Brom Becks
3rd round A v Holcombe

Ladies 3rd/4th XI – Kent Vase
Won 1st round 2-1 v K Club
2nd round H v Blackheath
3rd round A v Sevenoaks

Other News

Brian Murrill has been at it again and this time he even made the news!! The clip was aimed at promoting the LX Club that Brian is a member of. He is number 235 in white, and in his words, was followed by the cameraman because he was slow enough to film!!

[Anglia TV – Hockey players refusing to call quits](#)

Folkestone Cricket Club President and Ops Vice President Bill Hewson was recently made an MBE in November and has shared with us the video of his investiture by Prince William at Buckingham Palace.

The password for the video is 94088266

[Bill Hewson MBE](#)

Ops were saddened to hear of the passing of Vice President Michael Upton in December. He is fondly remembered by many current Optimists and their families.

The funeral will take place at 11am on 9th January at St Mildred's Church, Tenterden.

Junior Training

A plea from the junior section.

Please can you check the Saturday morning junior training rota to see when you and your team are expected to help. If you can't make it, please can you arrange to swap with someone else.

The club has a thriving junior section with over 100 children turning up weekly and so this help is really appreciated.

Christmas Party



Our next social is booked in for 19th January and it's a quiz night!!

Our remaining socials are 16th February and 16th March. All ideas are welcome

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 3rd January – training resumes

19th January – Quiz night, details TBC

16th February – Social

1st March - Three Hills Comedy Night

16th March – Social

19th & 20th April – Easter Festival

26th April – End of Season dinner



Top Goal Scorers 2018/19 & Match Reports

Can all captains please make sure that the names of their goal scorers each week are emailed through to 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



Folkestone Optimist Hockey
Club

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