

Loads a STICK - back with a bang!



So here we are once more and I've spent the summer wedging myself firmly into the still-warm buttock grooves of Liz's Editorial Chair here at STICK Towers. Normally there would have been an issue out at the start of the season but due to apathy, tardiness, the credit crunch, the start of Strictly and getting used to the Editor's chair I haven't got anything out until now. Sorry, but what are you going to do about it, eh?



The Editor's Chair

I've opted against an overhaul of the layout or a major re-branding, finding it much easier to simply nick Liz's brilliant template and use it as my own. However there are some new

features including photos (ooh!) and hyperlinks (wow!) so wherever you see black underlined text make sure to click on the links and be transported to the magical world of the internet.

There are also a number of new features this season (mainly due to not yet having access to the ladies changing room after games and therefore being unable to continue Liz's "Quotable" series which was heavily reliant on Ads...) so we'll see how they go for a month or two before dumping them unceremoniously and pretending they never existed.

So please, sit back, enjoy the ride and see you next month!

Big Phil

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Player Profile

Each month we'll be picking a member of the club (entirely at random) and shining a spotlight into their eyes... This month, entirely at random, it's the former editor of Loads a STICK!



Editors Past and Present

Name: Liz Grimes
Nickname: Grimesy
Team: 1s or 2s - wherever the best teas are!
Position: Midfielder in the Roy Keane box-to-box sense without the skill, or a striker in the Darren Bent "my wife could have scored from there!" mould as described by 'Arry Redknapp. The word "agricultural" encapsulates my style perfectly.
Years at Cheam: Too many to count - 8 years but, as you all know, I joined as a child bride
Favourite Cheese: Comte (honestly, it's cheese not a swear word or body part)

Chairman's Meow

James Tebbs - PRC (People's Republic of Cheam)



Welcome to another season at Cheam Hockey Club! I may have used these same words last year!

The sentiment is still true - we have a great club, with great people and an excellent social atmosphere and I am very pleased to be Chairman for another sure-to-be-successful year.

Welcome in particular to all our new members, I am sure you will find this to be the perfect place to play your hockey. To all the older members, I hope you had a great summer and look forward to seeing you at the Fortress.

As some of you know it was an eventful summer for Lizzie and me, I can tell you that it is about 2am and I have just finished feeding our new son and am suffering from a bit of writer's block. Poor Phil has had to chase me a lot for

my submission to the Stick. I am slowly getting used to the sleep deprivation, but you never get used to the poo. In fact some of you may have first hand experience of this. On Freddie's first ever visit to Peaches, he managed to poo all over himself, my hand, my leg and the floor, it even came out of his sleeve (don't worry Derry I cleaned it all up properly!) *(I think Derry's first visit to the club was very similar - Ed)*. I had just finished explaining what a good boy he is - but at least I got a nice smile afterwards!

This issue of Loads a STICK is sure to be particularly exciting given we have a new editor, who will surely want to make this the funniest edition ever! *(Wrong - Ed)* I can only imagine what comments he has in store. We also have a number of new people involved in the exec - welcome to Amy and Amart as social secretaries, Johanne (Secretary) and Ruth (Development) - thanks to you all for getting involved and I hope you enjoy it.

Finally, I would just like to wish everyone a successful

and winning season. For me it is helping the Men's 1s to climb back up the leagues! Good luck to all and see you around.

Captain's Contributions

We now reach the bit of the STICK that you all fast forward through... BUT WAIT! In order to spice things up this year I asked each team captain for "a couple of paragraphs on your hopes and dreams for the season ahead". Let's see how well they stuck to their task... There's a prize for the best one you know...

Mens 1st XI

Omar Shibli

The 1st XI has in the main had a good hard workout in preseason, and gearing up nicely for the league games starting soon. There is quite a changed side this time round, attributable to injuries (Keith, Stumps, Nigel), universities (Squealer, Hamas, Julio), and other countries (Gaz). Given the number of players who have been disappearing, there has been the accusation that I have been eating some. I can confirm this is true. *(Let's hope*

"Eater" turns out to be a more accurate nickname than your last one - Ed)

With so many players being consumed, our aims this season are to blend in the many new players as quickly and successfully as possible, and give youth a chance. Youngsters like Ben and Duncan have already shown with good performances that they have the potential to step up in preseason, and we hope to help them fulfil that. We're in a new league against unknown teams and want to hit the ground running. Other aims are to play simple, win games and increase fitness. And with crazy accounts that even VDL is hitting the treadmill these days, anything is possible.

Mens 2nd XI

James Mantle

The mens 2's have had a turbulent off season with no fewer than 7 people moving on, some to uni and some to satisfy Omar insatiable appetite (*see above - Ed*) for fresh players. However the recruitment team have done amazingly well and we have been lucky enough to pick up quite a few handy

replacements, ensuring that valuable players like Matt Mabin and not so valuable players like Badger, will not be missed too much.

So new players, also a new league but same old enemy on the opening day. Cheam vs Kenley at the fortress should be a cracker and a good yard stick of how we will fare this year (*I predict 5-1 to Cheam - Ed*). Thanks in advance to all those people that will answer my umpiring calls on Friday evenings.

Mens 3rd XI

Krishantha Gunatunga

Well it all starts again, dusting down the old hockey stick, digging out those elusive shin pads and unfolding the claret and blue shirt, it can only mean a new hockey season is upon us.

We could not secure a third successive league title last season, but we had to give someone else a chance. Given that 2009 seem to have a theme of "change", the 3rds will be welcoming back a return to winning habits, along with new players. As players such as Simon Heller, Matt Mabin and Julio go off to

university (no doubt to continue the healthy lifestyle Cheam Hockey Club has installed in them) we welcome some new members to the squad, Sohail Ahmad, Gary Allan, Nigel Dorrington and Andrew Hart as well as two old campaigners returning to the fold, Mark Wearing (Donkey) and Mark Cox. How can we lose?

This year we will be looking to build upon last year's season and get back in to our winning ways... and earn that trip to Pizza Express and the Sutton Superbowl.

Clarets

David Balchin

The London League, whilst not achieving its goal of regionalising vets hockey in the SE, has managed to attract a number of sides to join the League for the coming season. The Clarets will participate in the Vets Division 2 and look forward to taking on newcomers Wimbledon, Oxted, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells. The squad remains intact with the exception of keeper, Craig Wilson, who has opted to go into semi retirement. Craig will be sorely missed for his exceptional

contribution both on and off the field.

However, Frosty will carry the baton with aplomb when not in demand elsewhere.

Negotiations are underway to bolster squad numbers but more about this in the next edition

Ladies 1st XI

Roz Plowright

Last season it was one of the first things I did as Captain was to ask what the hopes for the team were. I can't remember what most of them I had to say, but one sticks in my head.

'To enjoy our hockey'... I believe that we achieved that last season finishing second - and this season - if I asked the same question, I'm sure I'd get the same answer. Or maybe it's that the team hope not to endure my artistic attempts at drawing a hockey pitch....Rolf Harris I'm not! Although upside down artistic skills would come in handy. But that's just my 'Hopes & Dreams'.... *(Fifth report, first mention of hopes and dreams. Well played Roz - Ed)*

In terms of the team ... enjoyment of hockey comes

in many forms but the simplest is by winning games - simply.... So although we have sadly packed Kat off to Uni and lost a couple of others from last season's squad, we also have some very fresh and enthusiastic new faces joining us. These include Rose & Ruth to bring down the average of the side, who are going to blaze a trail for us this season and we have Kath who is going to add to an already talented midfield.

These additions together with our Peter Pan like Top Goal scorer Jen (who scored 5 last week), our Player of the Year last year, Sylve and the work ethic of Pankster mean we are going to enjoy opening up the best of the leagues defences.

Our mainstays in midfield and defence, Craigy, Dot, Steph, Jo and Cas mean that we have a strong foundation to build the rest of the team on.

As Captain I hope that the team can **work together** to carry on performing better and better. With the organisation and focus that Charlotte brings to the team, I think we are all in for one exciting season.

Keep an eye on that league table...

Ladies 2nd XI

Bev Nicholson

Having been caught completely off guard at the end of the season Grimesy managed to hand over the captaincy of the mighty 2's to me. (Note to self - never say "well if there is nobody else"!) *(I second that - Ed)*

So, here we are about to launch our Division 2 campaign for the 2009/10 season. We have a few younger additions to the 2's this season which mixed with the experience we already had has all the promise of being a great squad. Yes the average age is coming down finally!

I have just read Liz's hopes for 2008 in loadsaSTICK which was
"New season, new league, slate clean, good hockey, hard work, lots of heart, no little skill, some luck, loadsa fun, no pressure. Third from bottom? Behave!"

Well we managed most of the above and a fourth from bottom finish. For 2009 I am hoping for much of the

same (same league of course) but a couple more steps towards the top half of the league rather than the bottom. In my dreams we are winning the league! Yes, ok I need to get out more but hey we can all dream!!

With the help of Charlotte at training and the commitment and hard work from the squad there is the recipe for a great season ahead.

Best of luck to all the teams for this season!

Ladies 3rd XI

Ellie Waller

...I hope I can make it through a Friday night without harassing Craigy/Qualyey/Catriona/ my whole team

...I hope to see Lizzie Tebbs make a triumphant return to Cheam hockey with James left holding the baby on the sideline

...I hope that we can prove just how mighty the Ladies 3' are!

Ladies 4th XI

Ads Parry

Distinctly lacking in inspiration so early in the

season, my mind turned to my heroine of the 80's and those heady days of booming stock markets, double figure house inflation and general joie de vivre!

So my hope for the season is for the stock market to start soaring, house prices to start climbing...particularly around the Kingswood area...and , of course, the return of a Conservative government in 2010!! (*Here at STICK Towers we are of course politically neutral and won't show any allegiance whatsoever - Ed*)

Because that will make me happy. And if I am happy, my team will be happy, and a happy team is a winning team.

Once again the 4s has a fantastic mix of new...and old... enthusiastic and committed players and we are already starting to gel as a team. I want that to continue and translate into winning ways.

I have every confidence that we are going to have a successful season, and that whether my hopes come true or not, we are going to have a lot of fun along the way too!!

Mixed

Rob McKenzie

My first ambition for this season is to get regular mixed friendlies throughout the season, including a couple of 7-a-side tournaments, and to play some fun hockey, the less serious the better. Those who have already played this season will know that I have a relaxed (or just plain lazy) approach to organisation.

My second ambition, and yes I do dream about it too, is to get Roz to play one, just one, game, even for a few minutes. Although daunting, I feel I am up to the task and will take the strategy of badgering her into submission.

All are welcome to play as there is a wide variety of skills on the team, from my own silky sleek stick work (some might say dribbling up my own.....), through Rose's impressive open goal misses and Nicki's fearless tackling of men (and women) several times larger than her, to Gary's unique, erm Kamikaze, style of tackling.

Captain's Contribution Prize

Each month I'll be awarding one of our captain's the prize for the best contribution based entirely on my own bias (e.g. Shagger or Brandi will never win it). This month, for sticking to the short-and-sweet theme and for focusing on her hopes and dreams (as requested) the winner is **ELLIE WALLER!**

At the end of the season the captain with the most monthly wins will take home a magnificent prize.

Current Leaderboard

Ellie Waller - 1
Rest - 0

We believe the children are our future...

Colts Corner

Denise Edwards

A brilliant start to the new season with many new colts turning up for training, including lots of boys. Welcome to all the new colts and parents and welcome back to all the oldies too.

A polite reminder to the senior teams that with so many colts we need plenty of coaches too so please

volunteer to help now and again.

The league has started early and we have already played a Girls U16 match. We also have several more of our under 16 players training with and playing in the senior teams.

Several girls have been attending Surrey training sessions over the summer and congratulations go to Sophie Tresadern who has been selected for the Surrey U14 squad.

Social

Andy Martin & Amy Collins

Saturday 17th October sees the welcome return of bingo to the Cheam social calendar. With our esteemed editor of the Stick as guest caller, this promises to be a night to remember (or forget depending on your view of Phil in control of a microphone...) (*Steady - Ed*)

The night starts at 7.30, and costs £10 for seniors and £8 for U18s which includes a curry. Please email andrew.martin@cheamhockeyclub.co.uk or amy.collins@cheamhockeyclub.co.uk to confirm your

attendance, stating whether you want the meat or vegetarian option. Friends and family are also welcome. Money, as usual, will be required before the event as we need to confirm numbers for food.

Other dates to put in your diary include the Christmas dinner on 12 December and the quiz night on 6 February. Hope to see as many of you there as possible at the bingo!

FUN AND GAMES



YES! A SECRET MAN (Or... Anagram of the Month!)

Anagram's are back in fashion this year after the summer sensation that was Caster Semenya = Yes, a Secret Man.

This month, proving that anagrams don't always tell the truth, we have:

Ian Boyce = A nice boy Utter rubbish of course. LOIS HARE LOGS HARD (or... Predictive Text of the Month!)

It's the craze that's sweeping the nation... What do your favourite Cheam players names' come up as when using predictive text? This month:

Matt Mabin = Matt Macho

POSITION OF THE MONTH

No. 1 - Goalkeeper



Flexibility is a must for this position. Make sure you're wearing protection and keep those balls out. Clean sheets are a must!

Celebrity Weasel of the Month

Don't get me started on Hole in the Wall (the bring

back Dale campaign starts next month) but is there a bigger weasel on TV than **Joe Swash**? Didn't think so.

End Bit

That's all for this month folks. We'll be back for another fun packed issue in November (ish) but in the mean time feel free to get in touch (details just over there) to offer praise, abuse or suggestions.

It's your newsletter (well, it's mine really, but you know what I mean) so tell me what you want to see and I'll put it in. I'm not fussy...

Contact Loads aSTICK

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World Wide Web:

<http://www.cheamhockeyclub.co.uk/>

Email:

Philip.smith@paralympics.org.uk