

# NEWSLETTER

September 2001

## Editors Corner

WELCOME BACK.

We hope you all had a good summer and are already for another season of Hockey.

This season is going to be tuff both on and off the pitch.

This is just a brief newsletter to provide information on the coming season and also information on the proposed water based pitch.

We have now published a whole season of the newsletter we still feel there is room for improvement. Any ideas anyone has will be welcomed.

We can always be found at the club at weekends. Normally at or behind the bar. If you can not find us then please leave us information or e-mail us at [newsletter@chelmsfordhc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@chelmsfordhc.org.uk).

We await your thoughts.

The dead line for the next newsletter will be Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of November.

Thanx

Rob & Carl

## Secretary's Corner

I can't believe the summer's disappeared and the season is about to start. If you thought that everything came to a juddering halt in April, think again! Lots of work has been going on with the pitch development – see below. Apart from that the 1st XI squads are busy running off the flab, honing skills (finding new players!!) and getting set for another exciting EHL season. This of course is in direct contrast to the veterans end of the club who have been putting on the flab, lost all ability to remember any skills they had and would just like a quiet pint.....

First of all some of the usual message at this time of the year:

With this newsletter you should receive a fixture card. If not, give me a ring (01245 490946) or email on [secretary@chelmsfordhc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@chelmsfordhc.org.uk) and I'll get one to you. Every year this takes more and more time to prepare – particular thanks to Crawford Mckee who has done most of the fixture work and to Martin Matthews who has booked all the pitches. Also to Alan and Sue Wasp for making and printing the card. Once again only a handful of games are on grass.

We had great difficulty finding a ladies fixture secretary so a really big thanks to Wendy Risdale for taking this on! Wendy's mobile number is: 07799 264087 and home: 01245 231023

As always, if your personal details have changed over the summer, please let me have details. **And if you have an email address please mail me – it will save us time and money to contact you this way**

Captains details are obviously in the fixture card and this year I have included mobile numbers where I know them. If you're not sure what side you're playing in and you've had no contact yet have a word with the captain of the side you played in last year or with Glen Thom or Alistair Fergus

training has started on Wednesday evenings at Chelmer from 8.30pm

### Membership subscriptions

This year we are introducing new disciplines to encourage you to pay your subscriptions early. We have to demonstrate to the lottery people that we are an efficient organisation – you not paying your subs on time will do our bid no good at all. So to prevent us chasing you hard and enforcing the “no pay, no play” rule, please pay promptly letting either your captain or David Simms have your cheque. You wouldn't believe how much grief Simmsy had last year trying to persuade a few of you to pay up.

### Captains

I will be writing separately to captains with some helpsheets which set out their responsibilities. Remember: they invest an awful lot of time on your behalf so please help them by making sure they know your availability and by paying your match fees each week.

And just to underline the superb liaison between our captains Tufty and Nicky Ballington are getting married shortly – congratulations to you both from us all!

### Youth section

Is already off the mark and have started training and held a come and try day. If you have children who would like to start hockey or know anyone who wants to start why not contact the new youth chair, Hilary Malicka on 01245 262896.

### Training

Mens and ladies respective 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs will be training together this year – you should all have details. Club

### Social events

There's a sprinkling in the fixture card – with Bolly's 40<sup>th</sup> coming up (what a legend!). Hopefully all the teams will be looking to add their own.....?

### Bar

Mine hosts King and Hunter will be reporting for duty for yet another season with all sorts of ideas and attractions for keeping you in the clubhouse and having to order a taxi yet again.... The fixture card indicates which teams have responsibility for bar duty each Saturday. Most weeks there's more than one team involved, and all teams will have to help out when needed. Please make sure you know which Saturdays are your responsibility and liaise with Nigel and Ian for keys etc.

Please be aware that the Council is now locking the gate across the entrance to Chelmer Park each night when the groundsman goes home. We expect that in practice it will be left open if he can see that the clubhouse is still occupied, but last one out locks the gates, *please*. If you get stuck, there will be a key in the clubhouse.

### Sponsorship

In the current climate it has proved incredibly difficult to find additional sponsors despite the hard work of Woody our sponsorship secretary. If you, your employer or business would like to sponsor the club in any way, large or small, or advertise in the EHL programme please contact Woody asap. His number is 01277 841213. Please think hard about this for us – I am sure many of you have contacts which are worth following up:

especially important as we go into the new development. And of course the development itself will give sponsors a new way of associating themselves with the club by making contributions to those costs if they prefer

### Chelmer Park development

.....is going at great pace now thanks to the huge efforts over the summer of Ursula, Rob Dewar, and Richard Ross in helping to pull the business plan together. We now have most of the pieces in place and the submission to Sport England will have gone in by the time you read this newsletter. Subject to getting approval, we remain on track to start the new pitch in April/May.

Barring unforeseen events, this is really going to happen folks! And it will open up an new era for the club – no two ways about it. Once we have had confirmation of stage 1 lottery agreement and understand what the lottery may require by way of rule changes etc , we will call an EGM of all members to formally let you know where we are and what happens next. Meanwhile, look out for the details around the clubhouse.

### Fundraising

But none of this will happen unless we raise – and quickly – our share of the cost which is likely to be in the region of £200,000. More details are below from Crawf, but we can't emphasise enough how important it is that you commit yourself to supporting the fundraising effort early. Even if we get Stage 1 approval this Autumn, we will not get the green light, or any lottery funding, unless we are able to demonstrate for stage 2 approval in the Spring that we either have raised our share or have promises in place by

way, for example, of the covenant scheme that Crawf describes below.

You should have received a letter either from me, or Urs if you are a life member or VP. If you have not received a letter please contact Chris Randall immediately on 01245 226693

You will also have received from Woody details of the re-launch of the 200 club. In addition to your fund raising commitments, this is an excellent way of supporting the day to day running expenses of the club and winning some big cash prizes in the process. Please support it – regular draws will be taking place in the clubhouse.

*Finally.....*

a big hello to all our new members – welcome to Chelmsford HC!! And good luck to past members who are moving on. If you're off to uni', don't forget Chelmer Park – have a great time and come back and see us when you're home!!

*And finally, finally.....*

There are a number of job vacancies around the patch, in particular we need to new organiser to get the crew together to sort out the pitch, dugouts etc for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI games. If anyone would like to do this – and be bought loads of beer from some grateful players – or is interested in helping in any other way, please let me know.

Cheers and have a great season!!

Spence Wilcox