



LX Hockey Club - Newsletter

Chasing tomorrow's horizons with yesterday's legs

March 2010 No.02

Dear LXer

Here is our second newsletter - feedback appreciated! Firstly, Nigel Strofton, our Chairman, and the Committee wish you a good Easter and trust you are ready for the hockey build up as winter is left behind, and Antwerp and the Cape Town beckon.

Nigel writes: "The LX Club is in excellent shape. It currently has about 180 playing members and we now look forward to a very exciting campaign in Antwerp where 80 or more of those members will be playing in one of the 6 teams we have entered - no mean achievement to take that many members into an overseas Tournament and with a strong over 70s representation! So keep up your fitness levels and above all make sure that you continue to enjoy your hockey both on and off the pitch. Thank you Ladies for your ongoing support...."

The hockey at Antwerp is likely to be of the highest standard, particularly as the Alliance and Dutch sides continue to strengthen. Antwerp is virtually a home fixture for these teams and of course the German border is only a step away. The LX teams have been announced - details of selection are posted on the [LX website](#) - and your Captain or his delegate will be asking (if not already requested) for confirmation of your hotel room requirements and means of travel - we particularly need to know how many cars will be available in Antwerp. The agenda has yet to be fully announced, but we understand there is a celebration match (over 70s) later on the Wednesday (2/6) along with practice slots for all the teams. The matches themselves run over Thursday and Friday, with Finals and Play offs on Saturday (5/6) morning. The "Gala Dinners" of these major tournaments, which in recent years have varied in price and quality, is (we understand) to take the form of a BBQ on the Friday evening, which should result in a social, informal and less costly event.

Along with trials for Antwerp, for England and for the Divisional Tournament at Cannock, LX fixtures have got going after a wintry start at the beginning of the year. All the matches mentioned here have full match reports to read on the [LX website](#) - captains/managers have been doing a great job in filing timely reports. After defeating Warlocks in the last two years somewhat against the run of play, LX (mngr Barry Sewell) had most of the play this year but were lucky to come out with a 2-2 draw at Odiham, LX scoring with the last play of the game. LX sent a good side to Lille (see photo) - nice to see young legs in the form of Brian Stokes and Neil Stone joining the LX party. The Tournament was truly international with Scottish Thistles, Wales over 60s, the Dutch, French and Alliance all participating along with a team from Egypt. LX won their division but drew 0-0 against Wales in the semi finals and lost on penalty flicks. So we came third but didn't lose a game, and had the best 'goals for and against' record of the Tournament. LX fielded a strong side to comfortably defeat the Royal Navy at Yeovilton - a fixture enjoyed by all, thanks Adrian Money for the organisation. Andy Holden organised one of his popular Northern Tours in March, losing to Morpeth 1-5 and then narrowly to Pallatics (Newcastle) 0-1, carrying the LX flag close to the Scottish border, and the visit was enjoyed as much by the opposition as the touring LXers. March closed with LX (mngr Tony Williams) taking on Harleston Vets in Spring sunshine and a tight and enjoyable game ended in a good win for LX 3-0.



After the 'open to all' mid week hockey match hosted at St Albans by Nigel Strofton at the end of last year, another such day is being organised by Mike Harris on the 14th April at Clifton College Sports ground, Bristol. Push back 11.30 with lunch in the Clubhouse after - contact Mike or George if you would like to play. The Club would like these open games to be a regular event, taking place in different parts of the country, so your support will help these fixtures gain momentum. Looking ahead, the LX squads for Jersey (John Longden) and Reading Vets (Keith Hunt) and a Lakes Tour, Windermere (Andy Holden) are all well advanced if not selected. Usually once a squad has been selected it is individually notified but also posted on the LX website. This year LX has moved its AGM to Sheffield, where Roger Lomas is acting as host. There is hockey to enjoy on both the Saturday and Sunday, an excellent water-

based pitch, and a fine dinner promised on the Saturday night. Roger is also organising local excursions for LX ladies. However, the AGM is the opportunity for LXers to participate in the decisions affecting their Club, including of course the election of officers. The dates are July 10/11 (just over 3 months away) so please plan for this weekend in your diary. LX, not surprisingly, needs help at all levels - regional, one off events, fixture hosting, managing overseas Tours, Committee duties - so please consider playing a part. Take the opportunity to chat about how you might help with any Committee member when the opportunity arises.

Nigel Strofton and I met with the HA (Holly Woodford, Development Director) as part of a regular review of ways of co-operating between the HA and our Club. The meeting was very positive and the HA particularly wants to find ways of enlarging/encouraging wider participation in over 60s hockey. To avoid crossed wires, we agreed a protocol of communication with the HA. Should LX be requested to support the HA in any particular way, we will process that request through Naomi Jones (based at Bisham Abbey) whose LX counterpart will be our Club Secretary Bob Purshouse. So if any LXer is approached to help the HA in anyway, please first discuss this with Bob. Our aim is to help, and of course LX is deeply involved in logistically supporting the England teams going to Cape Town, but both organisations need to know who is doing what, and that 'commitments' have appropriate authorisation. Thanks.

New Members: LX is delighted to note that the following have been elected Members of the LX and we hope they will enjoy the Club to the full. Please don't hesitate to put your name forward for our Fixtures (contact [George Hazell](#) or the Match Manager):

George Johnson Bromley and Beckenham
Geoff Lucas Trojans
John Steward Ipswich
Sarosh Talati Eastcote
Trevor Denilson Olton
Richard Slator Basingstoke
Ted Hayes Gateshead
Bob Whitell Isca
Alastair Robertson Brooklands
Geoff Kiernander East Grinstead
John Chong Barford Tigers

Personal news: Hoping Ian Russell (founder member) is spry after an operation. Good to see Ken Wilcock, Gordon Small and Peter Crayford back in action on the field. Mark Watson identified Bill Warrender as the secret poet highlighted in the last newsletter - prize for Mark! Simon Mason, ex England Goalie, was recently voted in as the HA President - at 36 the youngest President ever by a margin. Good luck to Simon in this challenging position. After snow caused a last minute cancellation of the February 14 game at Bury St Edmunds, Brian Woolcott penned a very witty anecdote about failing to receive prior advice of the cancellation, driving on auto pilot and ending up in Ipswich, but still managing to salvage something from the day by stopping at the first pub on the road home and pretending to Jennifer it was a surprise Valentine's Day lunch he had planned for her all along....._

We are still looking for help as to get the Newsletter up and running

George and I hope to see many of you in Antwerp if not before.

Richard (Editor) randsclarke@btconnect.com and George (producer) geo@hazell.co.uk
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