



# LX Hockey Club - Newsletter

Chasing tomorrow's horizons with yesterday's legs

January 2010 No.01

Dear LXer - the much loved 'LXer' hard copy magazine has been brilliantly produced by Adrian Stephenson over the least several years. Adrian who was thinking of pulling back from all the work involved, has kindly agreed to continue with an annual LXer, looking back at each year and to be issued at the time of the LX Christmas get-together. Many thanks to Adrian, and to Rosemary for all her hard work and support (and patience!). LX plans to fill the partial void by issuing a topical (email) Newsletter, perhaps every other month, or when it might be helpful, such as shortly before Tournaments. We - Richard Clarke as temporary 'editor' and George Hazell as 'publisher' - would like any input/suggestions on the style, contents and format as well as any "news" or 'letters from members' which might be enjoyed in the next edition. So this is very much a 'first run.' Is there anyone out there that would like to pick up the role as editor or otherwise help?

## LX Christmas Get-together at

**Abingdon:** we had a capacity crowd! Over 70 LXers joined up for competitive and high standard hockey in the morning at Tilsley Park. Despite ominous forecasts the weather was sunny and fresh. The Tournament was narrowly won by the Windswepts, ably captained by Mark Watson, who received a bottle of port as the team prize and Mark did appropriately share the port with his team. As the last guests left the dining room at around 6.00pm, it was noted a group of ladies had sat down, ordered glasses and finished off the port! Lunch was much enjoyed by 130 of us - wonderful to see so many wives, partners and guests. The hotel did a great job in serving 3 courses where all attending had pre-ordered their choice. We don't think



anyone had to have a dish they hadn't requested? After the meal, there was time for LX clothes purchases (thanks Elaine), a celebration with Trophies of the Amsterdam successes, an unexpected skit by Richard Clarke and Bob Purshouse, supported by Sarah and Helen. 'Cherubim' Bob Purshouse has received a number of 'approaches' since his debut, but is playing hard to get. (Sorry about the photo – a little indistinct!) The skit was followed by a witty cabaret led by Brian Woolcott ably supported by the singing duo of Keith Hunt and Bill Warrender.

As always, lots of hard work from a number of LXers - the umpires led by Ian Marsh, the 5 Captains who nobly accepted their nomination and Richard for his first year of organising the day. Speaking of which, a special thanks to Dave and Judy Robson who ran the Abingdon Christmas event for so many years and turned it into the major LX event it has become.

The LX season was capped by the annual match with Havant in mid December, which ran out an amicable draw 2-2. There is a full match report on the website: <http://www.lxhockey.org.uk/Season2009/reportLXvHavant131209.html> - thanks to Peter Ross LX match manager

**Antwerp and Capetown: what's happening?** Plenty of trials for one thing!! After the difficulties of the snow, LX eventually consolidated its trials at Oxford Hawks on 24/1 - pleasant weather and a good turnout. Thanks to the 5 LX Selectors who attended the games for nearly 4 hours and then stayed on to discuss selection. A number of LXers could not attend but they will remain in contention for selection and there are new members in the pipeline - resultantly a selection announcement may not take place for several weeks.

To remind you, the LX Club has entered 5 teams into the Tournament, to be played at the Belgian National Team Centre at Braxgata Hockey Club, Boom - 2 new water based pitches - just outside Antwerp - 2 teams each into the GM and GGM classes, and 1 into the SGM class. Antwerp is a fabulous city to visit and easy to reach by car/ferry, plane (mainly from the City of London Airport) and train (Eurostar to Brussels with an Antwerp connection). Richard Clarke is organising hotel options - the plan is to book a hotel close to the centre of town and then drive to the pitch. More information to follow. The players gather together on Wednesday 2 June with practice sessions in the

afternoon/early evening, matches on Thursday and Friday with 'finals' on Saturday morning (5 June), allowing a return home later Saturday. Promises to be a hugely enjoyable Tournament, meeting and competing with all our European adversaries!

**Cape Town - The World Cup:** should be one of the most exciting venues we will have visited, hopefully without the humidity of Hong Kong, itself a hard act to follow. LX will enter 2 teams into the Tournament Trophy and these will be announced shortly after England Hockey announces its selection of the GM, GGM and SGM England teams (England trials are kicking off in February). Bob Purshouse, ably supported by George Hazell, has been working on hotel accommodation for both the LX and England teams. LX have set up a sub-committee of Nigel Strofton, Bob Purshouse and George Hazell to deal with all aspects of the visit to Cape Town - thanks to them for taking another task! Incidentally, as so many LXers are likely to arrive early or stay on in S Africa, it is not the plan to do an LX bloc flight booking (as we did for Hong Kong) but rather leave individuals to tailor their own travel arrangements.

**LX Website** - [www.lxhockey.org.uk](http://www.lxhockey.org.uk) - this is ably maintained by George Hazell and regularly updated. Please use it to update yourself on news, fixtures, team selections, results and match reports. LX Fixtures are arranged by or co-ordinated through David Read, who does sterling work in this connection. Many fixtures are in the LX Members handbook, but many are added subsequently and lodged on the website. Check on fixtures, and if you would like to play in any match, please register your interest with the Team Secretary **George Hazell** ( [geo@hazell.co.uk](mailto:geo@hazell.co.uk) ) - some fixtures are under-subscribed so don't hold back! Upcoming fixtures (see website) include: Bury St Edmunds 14/2; LX vs Warlocks at Odiham (28/2); The Royal Navy at Yeovilton (7/3) - **register interest with George** (and, if you wish, the Team Manager)

**Overseas Tournaments;** since I became an LX Member some 6 years ago, I have played in some 14 countries including Australia, Canada, Chile, Argentina and Hong Kong. LX Membership provides an amazing opportunity for any member to play overseas. In addition to Antwerp and Cape Town this year - for these tournaments selection is a prerequisite - the LX Club has been invited/accepted invitations for Lille, France (13/14 March - a good tournament with a number of overseas teams participating); Jersey (May 8/9) (Manager John Longden); and a Tournament in Bra Italy (July 2-4) (Bra HC is celebrating its 50th birthday and this promises to be a 'special' weekend). Whilst there is already a busy overseas schedule with Hannover (SGMs), Antwerp and Cape Town, LX is looking for more players to register interest in these weekend events - so if interested, please write in to George.

**About LXers:** we would like to have a section of news about LXers. Is Mike Surrige the only LXer to lose his internet connection for 3 weeks because thieves stole the village overhead cable for its copper content? Is George Hazell the only LXer to holiday abroad twice in January? Ken Wilcock reports that his last hip operation is going well and he hopes to be back in the fray by March. John Maylam's foot injury seems to be behind him and he plans to be back in action imminently. Sadly John Kaylor has decided to give up playing but intends to remain an LXer. Gilbert Grace had a cut lip following a goalmouth melee at the LX Trials at Oxford, eventually requiring 9 stitches. Gilbert doesn't intend to let this injury stop him playing hockey but it may hinder his affectionate overtures to Julie! Meanwhile Bill Warrender didn't have to have an operation after all in 2009, and is now playing like a 69 year old (ask Bill for the secret - he has been appointed Fitness Manager for the England SGMs!!). A sort of reunion party has been organised for those LXers who toured Chile and Argentina. 19 of the original Tour party are attending "Tanguera" (storyline about the tango) at Sadlers Wells in August, with cocktails before and supper after.

LX is a large family - LXers want to know if others are having reverses of one sort or another, needing the dreaded hip or knee operations, or if they are having good things happen - injury recovery, grandchildren, etc. etc. And we would very much expect our other halves to be included in this 'about LXers' section. So Please Let Me [Richard Clarke](#) know any news.

**Hidden Talents?** Lastly, after his successes (self perceived) at Abingdon, one LXer sent me a poem he had been inspired to write. I set out below a verse. A prize for the first LXer to email in identifying the poet:

"The score is one-nil and there's seconds left  
The ball is here, the touch is deft  
Into the circle, give it a smack  
Say "sorry" to the goalie who's flat on his back.'

Who is this poet laureate in the wings?.....Have a great 2010!

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