



# LX Hockey Club - Newsletter

Chasing tomorrow's horizons with yesterdays legs

May 2011 No.07

Dear Member

This (lengthy) Newsletter contains important information for **LXers** about future Fixtures, especially **Neuss** and **Athens**.

**2011 European Cup – Neuss:** This tournament is being held at Neuss, close to Dusseldorf, in Germany. The current schedule is for the opening and first games to take place on Monday, August 22 with finals on Friday, Aug 26. Practice sessions and manager/umpire meetings will be on Sunday afternoon, Aug 21. Accommodation has already been reserved at the Holiday Inn at Neuss at a price of Euros 79 per double/twin room and 69 per single room, both rates including breakfast.

Neuss can be reached easily from Dusseldorf airport and is around 400kms (250miles) from Calais with an estimated driving time of 4 hours.

The LX club has provisionally entered 3 teams for the non-national tournament (The Tournament Trophy), which runs alongside the European Cup. The LX Teams are likely to comprise 1 at 60+ and 2 at 65/70+ (it is not yet known whether there will be a separate 70+ pool in the Tournament Trophy). It is understood that the selection of England squads is likely to be completed this week and the LX selectors will hope to choose the LX teams within 2 weeks after that so that players can make early flight/travel arrangements. **Will LX Members who wish to be considered for selection for any of the LX teams at Neuss please notify Keith Hunt of their availability by no later than Thursday, May 19. [keith\\_hunt@btinternet.com](mailto:keith_hunt@btinternet.com)** Bob Purshouse will be coordinating accommodation for England and LX teams and will be circulating details shortly.

**Athens:** LX has entered 4 teams for the Mentors Tournament in Athens and some 48 players and 35 wives/partners are attending. A great turnout! At the end of this Newsletter there is an update of information for those going to Athens. If you have a query about your accommodation, please contact Andy Holden, otherwise general queries to your Team Captain or Richard Clarke

**World Cup in 2012:** The Joint World Cup Organising Committee set up by EHB and The LX Hockey Club have recommended that the 2012 World Cup be held in the City of Oxford, and this recommendation has since been endorsed by EHB. The event will be held in the last two weeks of August 2012 and the provisional dates have been set as August 15-24. This is immediately after the Closing of the Olympic Games on August 12 and before the start of the Paralympics at the end of August. The hosts will be Oxford Hawks Hockey Club who have just completed the installation of two sand dressed pitches both floodlit and with automated (gun) watering systems, as well as car parking extensions and improvements. Oxford is a world renowned city with its dreaming spires and famous university, and it is hoped will be a popular venue for our many overseas friends and provide the best background for a memorable tournament. We will be writing to all LX Members shortly with more information about the 2012 World Cup and how you might help in the staging of the event.

**LX AGM:** This is set for the weekend of September 10/11 and will be based at the Oxford Hawks Hockey Club to allow our Members to see the 2012 World Cup venue first and to play on the new pitches. The weekend is shortly after the Neuss Tournament and following a busy summer's hockey, but we hope all Members will make the effort to come. The current plans are social LX hockey on the Saturday afternoon, followed by a drinks reception in the beautiful gardens of Magdalen College and then return to the Hawks Clubhouse for a buffet/BBQ supper. On Sunday the AGM will be at a nearby hotel late morning, and there will be a Tour of Oxford as a diversion for our wives/partners. After lunch there will more hockey, and we are considering some North vs South 'friendlies' across the age groups. So we hope that you will find the weekend well worth the time and effort of attending. More to follow.

**LX Website.** We are conscious that this needs updating. If there is any member skilled in website design etc please will they contact George Hazell to discuss.

**London 60+ League.** Moves are afoot to start a 60+ London/South League, initially perhaps with 8-10 teams. LX has been asked if it could raise 1 or 2 teams – please advise George Hazell if you are interested (and Committed!)

**LX Fixtures:**

**Correction:** The weekend 23/24 July in the LX Fixture Card has been shifted to the 30/31 July, still in Oxford. LX will entertain an over 65s team from the Zestigplussers, Holland, and we understand this is based on their Neuss National Team. The two LX teams will be primarily drawn from those who have won medals in the past two years for the GGMs, and the intent is the weekend will be festive and celebratory. It may well be that a third LX side (drawn from all LX Members) will be formed to play either on the Saturday or the Sunday, so if interested, don't hesitate to let George Hazell know.

**Forthcoming games:** LXers may be needed for the **Bowdon/Deeside Ramblers games** over the weekend of 9/10 July (2 LX sides out each day). Also Brian Woolcott has organised Thursday evening matches against **Pistons at Southgate** on the 23 June and 14 July (and possibly 9 August) - these are competitive and can provide useful warm up for Neuss. Contact Brian or George Hazell

**LX Results:** This Newsletter has been produced following a very successful Tour to Jersey.



Two LX teams played local Jersey and visiting teams, and whilst the results were three losses and a draw, the hockey was qualitative, competitive and enjoyable, solace being taken from the youthful character of the opposition. Twenty wives/partners supported their men, two excellent dinners enjoyed and an evening with June and Tim Pollard on Sunday a highlight. Thanks to Tim for the organisation at the Jersey end, and Graham Martin and David B Read at the LX England end.

**Martin's Marauders at Jersey**



**Tim Pollard's magnificent train set**

**Read's Rebels at Jersey**



In March and April, LX have held very successful and well attended mid week intra club games at Bristol and Olton, a NE two day mid week Tour at Morpeth and Newcastle (one lost, one won against the Reivers), a Veterans one day



tournament at the Easter Blackpool Hockey Festival, which LX won (!), as well as Sunday traditional games against the Warlocks, Reading and Eastcote (all lost, I'm afraid). Thanks to all those LXers who helped make these fixtures/midweek games and Tours possible - unsung heroes!

**Mike Fripp's Ferry** that a number of members and wives/partners went on around Bristol Docks

**Athens – For those going...(continued):** I believe everyone has their flights booked and have communicated their hotel requirements to Andy Holden. Andy will send to your team captain a listing of each teams accommodation details. Remember a double room with breakfast is euros 55.

**Palace Hotel**, 4 Poseidonos Avenue, 16675 Glyfada, Athens. Tel: (0030) 210 8948361 Contact:John Skantoz, Manager ( [manager@palacehotel.gr](mailto:manager@palacehotel.gr) or [sales@palacehotel.gr](mailto:sales@palacehotel.gr) )

**The match format** is 3 matches (Thursday, Friday and Sunday) and on Saturday there is a Tournament involving all teams. In the latter case, LX will divide into 4 'equal' teams, each team having a proportional representation from the 60+, 65+ and 70+. For the daily matches, the 60+ group (LX 2 teams), Holland, Italy, Egypt and Greece will be 2 pools of 3 teams with play-offs. The LX teams will be in different pools. The 65+ (LX, Scotland Thistles and Alliance) and 70+ (LX, Germany and Holland) will play one match outside their pool. This format has changed somewhat as Jorgos, the Tournament organiser, wrote asking if LX would make up 2 x 60+ teams (rather 1 x 60 and 2 x 65). As LX actually have 17 60+ players coming, Greg, Ray and I agreed to do this, and the (probable) teams are now as follows:

**LX "1" (60+):** Hutchings (Capt), Best (GK), Robertson, Imtiaz, Patton, Slator, Harbhajan Singh, Denison, Watson, Hodge, Johnson, Banks (Bob Banks is welcomed as a LX Member elect)

**LX "2" (60+):** Jeff (Capt), Maher (GK), Singh G, Ewing, Bolina, Girling, Grinham, Maylam, Cochrane, Martin, Gale

**LX (65+):** Clarke (Capt), Dures (GK), Longden, Howlett, Grenside, Hayes, Barnes D, Stephenson, Ross, Young, Wilson I, Brampton

**LX (70+):** Fripp (Capt and GK), Steele, Danson, Henman, Mack, Money, White, Sprange, Woolcott, Hunt, Mann. The 70+ will be supplemented for each of their matches by two players from Longden, Ross, Clarke, Howlett, Hayes, Stephenson (all approved and age qualified under the rules).

The players moved into Ray's team were chosen to balance playing positions (full backs and centre forward). Greg's team is clearly very powerful, but will play in a different pool to Ray's team, and I have asked Greg and Ray to consider 'swapping' players for matches if this seems likely to produce more balanced games. I hope we will all go with these changes but speak to your captain if you feel the need.

Please remember to bring red and white LX shirts, and white and dark shorts ( just blue LX socks are fine). I don't have the match schedules yet, with luck these may be forwarded, but programmes will be there on arrival and teams and times published in the Hotel foyer. I (Richard) or an alternate will be around the Palace foyer from mid morning Wednesday to help settling in. The Olympic pitches are about 3 tram stops from the palace - I will try to organise books of tram tickets (a week's pass costs euros 13)and hand them out on the Wednesday of check in.

**The pitches** are available to the LX teams for **practice/familiarisation** on Wednesday - our allocated times are 4.00pm - 5.00pm

**I will need to collect money** as you arrive, having committed to hand it over at the registration ceremony on Wednesday evening. I will need euros 40 per head for the Saturday dinner, euros 20 per player for the Tournament charge, and about euros 10 per player for LX costs (largely presents etc in connection with the Tournament). Therefore a couple going to the dinner need to pay me euros 110, and a player w/out partner needs to pay euros 70.

**Logistics:** Airport to Hotel possibilities. (1) There is an airport coach (every 30 mins) No: **X96**, cost per person euros 5, which takes you virtually to the Palace. Ask for the bus stop DIKIGORIKA ; (2) Hotel Emmantina (down the road

from the Palace) runs a scheduled minibus from the airport every 2 hours - 11.00am, 1.00pm, 3.00pm, upto 7.00pm.. The minibus will drop you at the Palace (cost euros 9, pay at Emmantina hotel en route for Palace). The bus can be found at Arrivals Exit No 5 on the right, but apparently your place should be reserved. Try booking link [www.emmantina.gr/airportrequest](http://www.emmantina.gr/airportrequest) or email Nikos Savorgiannakis on [info@emmantina.gr](mailto:info@emmantina.gr) (3) take a taxi (try to share with other LXers) cost euros 40+ (4) ask the Palace (see email contact above) for the Palace minibus - takes 4-6 persons depending on luggage at a cost of euros 60.

As you will gather, there are not enough LXers arriving at any given time to justify a coach. On Wednesday particularly, a lot of us are flying in, and almost every UK flight has 5-6 LXers on board, so grouping for a taxi sounds a good idea, though personally I would not hesitate to use the X96 coach at the best price of euros 5 (and leaves every half hour).

There are a number of beach and other **local restaurants** within a short walk of the Palace (the Hotel itself offers excellent buffet suppers), and most restaurants stay open late. Remember it can be great fun if a few of you order 2 or 3 small dishes, share them, then order some others and so on - a cascade of tastes and an extended meal! The Tournament organisers have invited all **ladies to cocktails** at the Emmantina Hotel at 8.00pm (about 45 minutes) on the Friday evening, whilst their men can get discounted drinks on the roof garden bar!

If anyone wants to know who else is on their flight, email me at [randscarke@btconnect.com](mailto:randscarke@btconnect.com)

Enjoy your summer hockey!

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