



CLIFTONVILLE HOCKEY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Ladies 1st XI

Deal 1 – 3 Cliftonville

(By Kerry O'Connor)

Well, to say it was cold would be an understatement! Whoever thought it was a good idea to put an astro pitch in the Duke of York grounds right on top of the hill definitely does NOT have my vote!!!! I soooooo didn't want to brave the elements in my little hockey skirt and t-shirt, but unfortunately Heather wouldn't let us play with hats, scarves and coats on :o(

This week was a match of two very different halves. The first half we didn't really settle into any stride. That's not to say we played badly, we were still passing the ball very well, we just were missing that *little something!* We created no chances so, as we went into the half time break with the score-line at 0:0 Julie made the decision to make a couple of changes.

After a somewhat shaky start things came together really well for the second half! What about that shaky start huh? Well, with the **odgiest** pushback I have ever seen Julie passed the ball "in Kerry's direction" and Kerry JUST touched the ball with her stick. The ball then headed towards Sharon and she cleared the ball off the side-line. A comedy of errors and a tad worrying for a moment!! Thankfully we quickly forgot about it and got on with the game!

Our first goal came a little way into the second half following a great move from Sarah. She took the ball into the D and brought the keeper off her line. An easy slip of the ball to Jo and Jo slotted the ball home nicely! Our second goal came a little while later following two mis-hits from Julie in the D (what with the dodgy back pass I'll give you two guesses as to who got the Donkey this week). Tracy took control and made a great strike which was nicely touched in by Kay. We were full of confidence now and our third goal came after a great cross in from Claire. Sarah struck the ball and hit the back of the goal with a resounding clunk – excellent!

Injuries abound this week. What with Julie breaking her thumb and all (not really, she was just being a wuss and we didn't hear the end of it!) and me getting hit twice on the fingers (where's that cricket glove??) you could say we were definitely in the wars. Who's idea was it to play hockey anyway?

The play wasn't ALL to our advantage though. As always, playing against Deal was tough work and, give them their dues, we needed to work hard and track back on occasion to defend. Twice caught off guard it took a good run down the pitch from 'il ol' me to defend a one on one attack from a Deal player. I definitely sighed with relief the first time I cleared the ball! A BIG pat on the back from Julie followed! A little later and then a two on one attack from Deal ... despite being off sick for three days and still suffering a little I managed to leg it back and get on side to tackle well and retrieve the ball. Phew! Thankfully, one of my better games!

They scored a well deserved goal to bring the score-line to 3:1. It was a well taken goal by the Deal attacker with both myself and Sharon between her and scoring. She calmly lifted the ball over my stick and Sharon's arm to slot the ball home. A goal we would all have been proud of. More goals for Deal were not meant to be though and we finished with a 3:1 victory to keep our promotion hopes alive. We've got the Gravesend game in hand and are ever chasing the top spot.

What with the Ladies 2nd XI top of their league it's absolutely fantastic to see!!



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Donkey award ... Julie, Julie and, er, Julie!! She gave us no choice! What with those two mis-hits in the D (thankfully Tracy Ballard took control and made a great strike which Kay nicely touched in the goal!). Oh, and of course that “dodgy” (and that’s being kind!) push back for the second half!

Windy Miller was feeling a little lonely having been kept at Sarah’s house for the past few weeks – no one else wanted him! This week there were just so many to choose from it was a difficult one to call. Firstly there was Zoe with her 16 yard hit out, then Nat had a couple, thankfully well recovered! Sarah’s was a mere breeze, instead of passing the ball into the D it could’ve been classed as a great clearance off the sideline!. BUT, **the lucky winner** of the day had to be Kay ... her Windy Miller completed in style with a little twirl at the end just for effect! I must say Kay, it had us all in stitches!!

Captain’s comments: Well done all, a great game with a great result!

Ladies 2nd XI

Cliftonville 3 - 0 Blackheath

(By Claire Hougham)

We eventually arrived at Blackheath (some later than others, but all before the start) and donned our football boots because as luck would have it we were playing on grass. A phenomenon, which for some of us, hadn’t been seen since our schooldays! We had a practise hitting the ball around and attempting to stop it!

As the match started so did the snow! The game was a bit slower than usual because of the grass but we started off dominating the game and within about 15 minutes Ali scored our first goal. We were all so excited now, we’d warmed up a bit and it was only a matter of a few minutes before Abbie gave us our second goal.

The match continued but it was a short amount of time before the ball flew into the opposition’s goal for a 3rd time, this time with Chris taking the credit. There were a few minutes of play left before the half-time whistle blew.

The half-time score was 3 – 0 to us!

The second half started off in an extremely competitive manner because, although we had 3 goals behind us we were playing uphill this half. The forward and mid-field players managed to keep the ball up at the opposition goal for the majority of the second half but when it did come back into our D we seemed to do a pretty good job of letting them take short corners against us. No more goals were scored in the second half making the final score 3-0 to us!

The team played well and can congratulate themselves on a good win, especially as it was on grass. Well done All.

Player of the match: Abbie and Ali

Notes:

We’d like to congratulate Abbie on scoring her first ever goal – Well done Abbie it was a superb goal!

We would like to thank Sarah for coming all that way to umpire for us. Many thanks Sarah.



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Men's 1st XI
(By Stuart Ballard)

Crowborough 1 V Cliftonville 3

We weren't too good, they were luckily worse.

Cliftonville 3 V South Saxons 4

We were better, they were better still.

Kings College 13 v Cliftonville 1

A King whipping at Wapping.....Enough said.

Cliftonville 1 V Old Williamsonians 4

A much improved performance but not good enough.

Old Bordenians 5 V Cliftonville 0

Kept Glen Prebble quiet but still too good for us!

Cliftonville 1 V Crawley 4

This was definitely Cliftonville 1st X1 revisited. The old boys were back in town! After bringing a number of very promising young players up through the teams to the 1st X1 we seem to have run out of options so a change of tactics was required. Hence welcome back Don Elmore, Magic and Gary Ingoldsby; now that's what I call experience!

It proved to be a clever move by the skip as the Ville controlled the game from the start in all arrears of the field and surely there would be only one winner of this contest. After 20 minutes the break through finally came from a penalty corner when the ball fell to Don Elmore whose shot took a slight deflection and beat the keeper hands down. Surely it was only a matter of time before it was 2 or 3 as chance after chance went begging.

With 5 minutes of the 1st half remaining the game took an important turn as Perks challenged for the ball in the midfield only to receive a stick in the 'Special Purpose'. After checking he was ok the rest of the team took refreshments leaving Perks to roll around for a while in the middle of the park.

Crawley took advantage of the break in the proceedings and squeaked a goal in at the near post which the player admitted he completely miss-hit. 1-1 at half time.



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The half time talk was simple. 'We have dominated for 30 minutes of the 1st half just continue to play at the level we managed for those 30 minutes and forget the last 5. Don't lose your heads this is one we can't afford to lose'.

Here we go then; or not, as the case may be. The second half was easy to sum up, Crawley came out to play hockey and win the game and Cliftonville didn't.

This really was a game of 2 halves. Crawley capitalised on their dominance in the 2nd half while Cliftonville failed to make the most of theirs. Another lesson learnt.

Shirts of the Week:

Player of the Week: Magic (Great return).

Plonker of the Week: Perks (If you are going to get yourself in the way use a different part of your body).

Fairy of the Week: Julian (Seemed to like wearing the outfit a bit too much!)