



# 2023-24 SEASON NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2023



## WELCOME BACK TO HOCKEY!

The new season is about to commence, and the committee have been hard at work to ensure we are ready to go!

We have pulled together this short newsletter to give you all the information you need to ensure that you are set for the new season.

If you have any questions that you think are not answered, please reach out to the committee (details in the newsletter)

Chair – **Chris Edwards**  
[chair@afhockey.com](mailto:chair@afhockey.com)  
 Vice Chair – **Mark Edgley**  
[vicechair@afhockey.com](mailto:vicechair@afhockey.com)  
 Junior Chair – **Gillian Lamb**  
[juniors@afhockey.com](mailto:juniors@afhockey.com)  
 Ladies Club Captain – **Emily Desmond**  
[ladies\\_captain@afhockey.com](mailto:ladies_captain@afhockey.com)  
 Mens Club Captain – **James Humphreys**  
[mens\\_captain@afhockey.com](mailto:mens_captain@afhockey.com)

The committee wishes the entire club a successful season ahead.

### CLUB DAY

#### SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPT

Every year we look to bring the club together on a single day to mark the launch of our new season, and this year is no different.

Our Club Day is on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September at Army Astro.

This is a chance to engage with the club, order club kit, take part in training and fun matches and watch our Ladies 1 in a showcase game.

Also, this year the first ever President's XI v Chairman's XI match will take place.

Timings for the day are below.

	Pitch 1	Pitch 2
9:30 - 10:30	U12 & U14 Boys Plus GK Training	U8 & U10s
10:30 - 12:00	U14/U16 Girls	U12 Girls
12:00 - 13:00	Adult Mixed 6-aside	
13:00 - 14:30	Ladies 1 v Alton 1	
14:30 - 16:00	President XI v Chairman XI	

We will also be running the tea tent and BBQ throughout the day.



### TRAINING DATES

#### Adult Sessions

Commencing week of 21st August

#### Monday

**M1** 19:30 - 21:00 Heath End  
**Ladies Club Night** 19:30 - 21:30 Army Astro

#### Tuesday

**L1** 19:30 - 21:30 Heath End  
**M2/M3** 19:30 - 21:30 Army Astro

#### Wednesday

**M1** 19:30 - 21:00 Heath End  
**Men's Club Night** 19:30 - 21:30 Heath End

#### Thursday

**L1** 20:30 - 21:30 Heath End

#### Junior Sessions

Commencing week of 28th August

#### Monday

**Academy** 6:30 – 7:30 Army Astro (11-15 years)

#### Tuesday

**U12/U14/U16** 6:30 – 7:30 Army Astro

#### Sunday

Army Astro

**Junior GKS** - 09:00 - 10:30 (can join age group after 10:00)

**U8 & U10** - 09:00 - 10:30

**Boys U12 & U14** - 09:00 - 10:30

**Girls U12 & U14/U16** - 10:30 - 12:00

#### Goalkeeper Training

Tuesday Evenings throughout season starting 26th September.

For further details contact

**Mark Edgley**

[vicechair@afhockey.com](mailto:vicechair@afhockey.com)



## COACHING UPDATES

### Adult Coaching

We are glad to announce both of our first XI coaches (Men – Ian Jennings MBE & Ladies - Matt Aldrich) are continuing with us this season.

At the AGM we shared our refreshed objectives (see page 4), highlighting our desire to attain National League status. With both first XIs only a division below this level, this is a realistic goal to work towards.

Outside of the first XIs we have several coaches confirmed for our squad sides ready for training, which begins next week.

### Junior Age Group Coaching

We shall be running age group coaching on Sundays and mid-week again this year but with some exciting new additions.

Our Ladies 1's lead coach Matt Aldrich will be acting as Youth Development Officer overseeing our Sunday coaching provision alongside our Junior Chair.

Having Matt work with our coaches and juniors is part of the club's larger plan to enhance our junior training provision.

Matt is a highly experienced hockey coach and will be providing our regular lead coaches and parent helpers with the benefit of his expertise in coaching skills and planning sessions.

### Academy

For the last few years, we have run a highly successful Academy programme on Monday evenings at Heath End.

Targeted at juniors aged 11 to 15, this focused skills development programme led by Men's first XI coach Ian Jennings MBE (Jenno) has been highly beneficial to those who have taken part and contributed to our high success rate at county level this year.

This season this session will be moving from Heath End to the Army Astros between 6:30pm-7:30pm. There will also be a change of coach with Jenno concentrating on his role as Men's first XI coach. Instead, this session will now be run by our Ladies' first XI coach and Youth Development Officer Matt.

While Academy will continue to be available to our enthusiastic juniors who are elite in attitude, Matt's Sunday role will allow him to identify those players who may have the potential but not the self-belief to attend Academy and encourage them to develop their skills in this more focused environment.

It will also allow him to link together our junior provision with progression into senior teams more effectively.

If you have any questions about your child attending the Academy programme, contact Gillian [juniors@afhockey.com](mailto:juniors@afhockey.com)

## PRESIDENT XI v CHAIRMAN XI Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Longstanding club member Dave Jervis passed away last year.

Dave was a driving force within the club and throughout his years here he played, coached, umpired and took active part in the running of Aldershot & Farnham Hockey Club.

In this time Dave took on a number of committee roles which also included being Chairman & President at different times.

We as a club would like to acknowledge Dave's contribution to AFHC and we are hosting the first ever President v Chairman XI as part of our Club Day.

Teams are being organised now to pull in existing and past players and we hope it can be a fun enjoyable game in memory of an AFHC great.

We will also be fundraising during this game to help the club invest in junior hockey for the future in local schools.

Please come and join us and support this fantastic cause on Club Day.

---

### Interested in coaching? Know someone who is? Qualified coach looking to get re-involved?

We have opportunities across the club and can pay for courses and remunerate for lead coaches – drop [chair@afhockey.com](mailto:chair@afhockey.com) an email to discuss.



## MEMBERSHIP

Each year we need to ensure that our membership database is up-to-date and so we ask both new and returning players to complete an updated membership form.

The membership form links into your fees (subscriptions and matches) for the year and provides access to the club website for managing your availability. Importantly, it ensures that we are all correctly insured for all individuals undertaking hockey activity.

Our membership forms will be available to access from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August.

We ask that all membership forms are completed by end of September.

There are options within the membership function of the website to sign up for a direct debit function to pay your fees (You can choose each month how much is paid and when, but is linked as a GoCardless direct debit to your bank account).

If you have any questions, please get in contact with **Suzie King** [membership@afhockey.com](mailto:membership@afhockey.com)

## CLUB SPONSORSHIP

We have been very fortunate to have a number of local business sponsor us over the past 6 seasons and are thankful to them for their support



This has been possible due to the effort of Ian Jennings MBE (Jenno) who has run the programme and our thanks goes out to Jenno for driving this. With Jenno focusing this season on the mens first XI we have appointed a new club sponsorship representative and are delighted to announce that Amber Fielden will be taking this forward.

The committee are working with Amber to share what has happened in prior years and give her the opportunity to be successful in this role.

We are delighted to announce we will be again offering all members an incentive to bring in sponsors whereby any member who generates a sponsor will receive a cash reward which increases incrementally based on sponsorship generated i.e. £50 cash back to anyone who gets a sponsorship deal worth £500. Increasing to £125 for 2 sponsors, £225 for 3 and £350 for 4!

In the next week we will be sharing further details of the programme for the season, but if you want to know more please reach out to us at [sponsors@afhockey.com](mailto:sponsors@afhockey.com)

## FIXTURES

Our website is being updated with the fixtures for the season. You can check the fixtures list through your members log-in.



All adult fixtures have been loaded, including friendlies. We are still waiting for start times for a number of away games to be confirmed by the opposition, and these will be added when known.

You can also access the league fixtures @ <https://southeast.englishhockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions>

The committee are still looking for a Fixture Secretary – the heavy lifting for the season has been done 😊 so if interested please contact us.

Junior fixtures are being finalised by the league but when available will also be visible on our club website. Check these out as soon as the season starts and make sure to put them in your diaries!

## UMPIRES CORNER

All matches played across Junior & Adult levels need umpires.

We are fortunate to have a few umpires that help each week, but the pool of umpires is not sufficient to cover every game. Please therefore think about getting involved. Umpires are paid for each game they umpire.

The club offers to pay for training courses and pays for those who undertake umpire appointments.

If you want to know more or ready to help, please reach out to **Nick Fielding** who can get you involved [club\\_umpire\\_officer@afhockey.com](mailto:club_umpire_officer@afhockey.com)



## CLUB STRATEGY



We shared the updated club strategy at our AGM in July. To summarise, we are focusing our attention on 4 key pillars that will enable us to sustain and grow the club.

These are summarised below, and we are happy to tell you more! If you would like further information or feel you can help us with achieving these, please contact Mark Edgely [vicechair@afhockey.com](mailto:vicechair@afhockey.com)

**"TO BE THE LEADING HOCKEY CLUB ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY - DELIVERING SOCIAL, ENJOYABLE AND**

**COMPETITIVE HOCKEY ACROSS ALL AGES & ABILITIES, WHILST NURTURING & DEVELOPING TALENT"**

PLAYING PROGRAM	TALENT DEVELOPMENT	COMMUNITY & ENGAGEMENT	FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT
Establish our 1 <sup>st</sup> XI Teams in the National League and ensure the delivery of social & competitive hockey across all other standards, offering opportunities for all stages of a players career	Deliver a clear player pathway from Youth to Adult Hockey with a consistent coaching thread & succession throughout	Be recognised as a leading contributor within our community providing coaching, outreach and social interaction opportunities	Achieve our long term ambition of a multi-pitch facility with our own clubhouse alongside, driving our "One Club" ethos
ADULT & SENIORS	COACHING	COMMUNITY OUTREACH	PITCHES
YOUTH	ELITE TALENT PATHWAY	SOCIAL & PUBLICITY	CLUBHOUSE
UMPIRING	VOLUNTEERS	SPONSORSHIP & FUNDRAISING	KIT & EQUIPMENT
<b>CLUB MANAGEMENT</b> <i>Ensure the optimum structures; resources and processes are in place to sustain &amp; develop our club today, tomorrow and always</i> <b>(GOVERNANCE; ORGANISATION; FINANCE &amp; POLICIES)</b>			

## WIN A HOLIDAY AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY OUTREACH



In partnership with Beachcomber Tours we are running a fundraising raffle to win a 5 star, 7 night holiday to Mauritius at Paradis Beachcomber Golf Resort & Spa, plus £1,500 towards flights and hotel extras!

Tickets are £10 each and can be purchased here:  
<https://afhockey.charityhive.co.uk/raffle/1/5-star-mauritius-holiday>

This raffle is part of AFHC's fundraising to kickstart our new community outreach programme.

All proceeds from this raffle will be used by the club to reach these aims. This includes outreach to schools in the local area, which will include but is not limited to hockey coaching.

Due to the Club now holding a community fundraising licence ANYONE can enter! This raffle is not limited to club members so please share far and wide to family, friends, work colleagues!



## VOLUNTEERS



The club is thankful for all those that volunteer to run the club. This ensures we can deliver hockey to our members.

As we shared at our AGM, without this support we would struggle to do what we do and as we grow, we need more support from our membership.

So as part of our membership applications this season are asking all members how they can help to volunteer, to help underpin our objectives. If you feel you can help, please do reach out to the committee (whether it be a small or large contribution).

## CLUB KIT



All club kit can be purchased through our Serious Sport Club shop;  
<https://serioussport.co.uk/teamwear/stores/aldershot-farnham-hockey-club>