



# Newsletter - November 2011

We're back! Just a brief newsletter to keep you up to date with some of the happenings around the club. Keep visiting the website for further updates and information. Go on...you know you want to [chesterhc.co.uk](http://chesterhc.co.uk)

## Sponsorship is the tops! Richard Evans

I am delighted to be able to announce that a prominent local business has offered to provide sponsorship for our Under 10 and Under 12 players. The sponsorship will take the form of a complete set of playing shirts for these two highly important age groups within the club.

Tim and Alison Maunder operate a highly successful rental business called Abbey Rentals ([www.abbeyrentals.co.uk](http://www.abbeyrentals.co.uk)) and are both committed to investing in the local community by supporting a variety of local organisations and initiatives. It is especially pleasing that

some of the youngest players in the club will benefit from this kind gesture which I am sure will greatly be appreciated by all of those involved. Willow and Bob Pugh will soon have some of the best dressed teams in the club!

## Go Girls! Bob Pugh

At the end of September, Chester hosted the first round of the EHB U16 Girls Championships - our under girls 14 team also played away on the same day. In the run-up we had two one hour training sessions for both teams. Thanks to Dallas, Di and Willo for these sessions.

It was the first time the U16 team had ever played together. We started with a strong 3-1 win over Deeside Ramblers with goals from Izzi Pugh, Rebecca Neary and Rhiannon Jones. Chester was undoubtedly the stronger team and played some attractive hockey. After a short break, the team put in a very creditable performance against a strong Alderley Edge side, eventually

losing 2-0. The team had to defend hard for much of the game, but still managed to create some good chances.

The girls all played very well on the day and showed considerable flexibility - a number of them playing in a various positions for the good of the team. Thanks to Lucy Mullis who umpired the other 2 games that did not involve Chester, to Di for her coaching on the day and to those of you who came down to support.

On 13th November Deeside will be the venue for 2 more matches against Timperley and Liverpool Sefton. The final fixture is not until 12th February when we finish off with a fixture against Bowden.

## Dinner Dance

We are pleased to be able to give you a very important date for your diaries! The annual Dinner Dance will be held once again at the Racecourse on **Saturday 24th March 2012!** Melanie Coulson has kindly agreed to organise this extremely enjoyable and popular social event that has provided such a good end to the season for

the last few years. Budding photographers get your cameras out for all those 'action' shots that have entertained us all on previous occasions so we can once again fully appreciate the various athletic poses that dazzle on a Saturday afternoon!

## Other News

Congratulations to Jess and Daryn on the birth of their baby boy Aneirin Joseph.

Lewis Done appointed Men's 3rd team captain, congratulations and good luck.

Ladies' Masters victorious against Wakefield in the first round of the EH cup. A great performance!

Richard Youngs nets twice on return! Yungi shows what we've been missing for the men's 5th's so far this season with two fantastic goals in his first game back.

## Quiz Night

7:30pm, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November  
Pavilion Bar  
Friends and partners welcome!



## Captain's view from the bridge (i.e. pavilion balcony) Steve Hyden

Greetings. I hope you are enjoying your hockey after getting over the shock of pre-season training or just the first game!

After a month of league Hockey our teams have had mixed fortunes. All the results, forthcoming fixtures and league tables are available at [www.fixtureslive.com](http://www.fixtureslive.com). The 1st team are under North Hockey Men's League and all other teams under North West Hockey League.

I have watched and umpired a large number of entertaining and competitive games involving all our teams. In particular in the 1st and 2nd teams the results have often been

decided by the odd goal.

Congratulations to the 6th team who, at present, are in 3rd place in their league.

Training is now well established and the addition of Pam to the coaching team has significantly strengthened the set up, which must now be one of the strongest in the North. Her presence at Saturday matches is particularly important and the positive effect is clear to see.

As we all know, success in the club comes as a result of many factors working together, one very important one being consistent player availability. This has been a real

problem so far this season as lack of team consistency has adversely affected results. The large number of players unable to play each week has meant that the higher teams have been weakened and the lower teams have struggled to cope with the knock-on effects.

Please try to make yourself available as often as possible, inform your captain as soon as possible of any potential problems. In general please do everything you can to help your captains to avoid making their jobs unnecessarily difficult.

Enjoy the rest of the season. Good luck!

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## Farewell, my summer love.... Kirsty Sneyd

Chester Hockey Club entered for the second year running the Neston Mixed Summer League, where they were to face 6 tough games against local teams. Throughout the 6 games a total of 24 players from across and new to the club joined in the fun of summer hockey.

Chester started well against Bebington with a confident 5-0 win,

which gave them high hopes for the league ahead. However, the remainder of the league didn't go to form, with Chester drawing the next 4 games. To their disappointment they were unable to convert the final ball to take the games. The final game saw Chester surprisingly struggle with availability, where they came up against a very strong Oxton, but were

only able to hold Oxton to a 1-2 loss.

Despite only coming 2nd in the league, every player put in 110% each week, representing Chester and showing great spirit amongst the team. Thank you to those who were able to support the club by playing.

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## Past it? Malcolm Padmore

Alan and I were hurtling in his Merc back from some God forsaken part of Manchester along that stretch of the M56 where nothing really ever happens except you get nearer to or further away from an astroturf pitch. For me, only if I'm being driven, it often provides opportunity for a doze. It's Cheshire (i.e. boring) countryside. Someone is trying this and that to do with horses, black and white cattle dream of appearing in colour, adverts for amazing maize sticks up and lots of dog walkers walk dogs. Those dogs should get a life.

We were talking about the pre-motorway days when we used to travel this route. Few will be able to imagine the sheer abandon of it all.

For the young hockey player it was entry to an adult world. Young lads of 15 and 16 like Andy Ible dragged so willingly into pubs for riotous sessions with older men with reliable cars who worked in the pub trade and were able to down unfeasibly large quantities of beer and still deliver the boys home. The Hatton Arms was a favourite but ask an older hockey player about pubs in Cheshire and you find you can improve on CAMRA's knowledge base by a factor of a lot.

Not that I'm suggesting a return to those days. Licenses were lost, sometimes serially. Though the chauffeurs were, we know, the salt of the earth ('were' is right – several are past the bye line and prop up the bar

of the Last Drop Inn), but we demand high standards of probity of our people now, as we should. We now pride ourselves on the environment and care we provide for the younger members of our club.

But that didn't stop Alan and I turning a wistful gaze on fields that hid from us the country pub, the after-match dart board, the raucous smoky filling of a snoozy pub at five, six and seven and often still there at nine. Dimpled beer mugs with handles. Pubs that provided one form of food – crisps and then no fancy flavours, thank you!