

Ladies Section Report for HHC AGM 21.06.2011

63 ladies joined this season, slightly down on last season. However due to the motivation to support junior progression into the senior game the teams were supplemented by 16 juniors who played regularly this season. All 5 teams fielded junior players and through our newly developed selection process we are able to move some players up through the teams as their skills developed. The success of our juniors showed in the award of Most Improved player for the Ladies 5th XI, 4th XI and 2nd XI going to 3 juniors in the section. Once again we filled the clubhouse at our end of season fish and chip supper, showing continued support from the players in the ladies section.

Thanks go to the 5 captains who led their teams this season for all their hard work; To Sue Watson who took over at the last minute, Pippa Pledger, Sue Taylor, Danelle McKenna and Ali Wakefield, a big thank you. Sue Taylor and Pippa Pledger are standing down for next season and we are looking forward to welcoming Helen Harrison and Char O'Callaghan respectively in their place. We extend our thanks to both the outgoing captains for their hard work and are sure their replacements will continue the good work they have done.

The Ladies Committee has continued to meet throughout the season and thanks must go to them for their hard work and dedication; Lucy Orosz has continued her sterling work managing the section finances and membership, Sue North has continued to produce succinct minutes from our meeting ramblings, Jenny Bulled chaired our new selection process, Debbie Hinton has continued as the 3rd XI liaison bringing her invaluable experience to our meetings and Gwynnie Davies has been indispensable in arranging and confirming our fixtures. The ladies section has changed and developed over the last two years thanks to the work of the captains and committee and we are now in a position to build on these changes over the coming seasons.

Our teams all had good seasons this year. The Ladies 1st XI under the guidance of Dave Rutherford and Ali Wakefield so nearly achieved the longed for National League status with the best playing season for many years. Sadly fate intervened with weather and injury creating a couple of key defeats. However they finished 3rd on points but will be back next season for another go. The Ladies 2nd XI showed determination and dedication and with the help of Steve Lemon and Nathan Palmer won their league in convincing style to get promotion back to Hampshire Division 1. The Ladies 3rd XI became a mainstream team this season and continued to play with wisdom and guile to finish mid table. The Ladies 4th XI and 5th XI continued as the teams who have fun and achieved mixed results but never lost their enthusiasm.

Much changed in the ladies section this year with a new selection process, greater team integration, more junior participation and changes to the coaching structure. As the club is entering a new phase in its history with the impending pitch relocation the whole ladies section has embraced change and is to be congratulated in creating a positive foundation on which to welcome new members and build on our success.

Thank you to everyone for their support

Penny van Berkel, Ladies Captain
31.05.11