

From: Barry Holmes ebholmes@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: Latest Sussex Open League Newsletter - November 4 2017
Date: 4 November 2017 at 22:00
To:



Dear All

Apologies for the quiet last weekend, but I was in St Neots minding Grandchildren - most enjoyable weekend, without the harassment of umpiring. However, I noted all league results were in on time and all the division 1 scorers recorded nice and early - so perhaps I should be away more. I will report that the 6 year old grand daughter voted for Jonny Peacock and the 8 year old grandson for Aston - so that is where the youth vote is going. Now for this weeks happenings.

Hopefully you all managed to miss the heaviest showers today. I was lucky and the rain stopped before my 10:30 game and then did not start again until the second half of the second half of the 15:00 game I was watching. Unfortunately it was heavy rain and a strong wind to drive it below the umbrella, glad to say did not spoil the day's hockey watching and as I was home early this evening, I was able to get into the steaming shower nice and early, grab a bite and settle down in front of the TV with a cold, crisp white wine in time for Strictly. I drive my wife mad, as I start typing these notes during the programme and so miss all of the chat and some of the dancing, and so cannot discuss dance technique or entertainment or how rude but accurate Craig is with his commentary.

I also hope that all managed to get to and from their games without getting caught up in the bonfire night traffic and crowds. As I sit here, I can hear all the whizz bangs banging and rockets rocketing, Occasionally I get to see some of the most spectacular fireworks through the window- what a wild life I lead!

I was lucky enough today to get to see two excellent Open league matches - one from division 1 and one from division 2. The former was fast and furious throughout and some of the quality of the passing and team work, from both squads, was a delight to watch. In the end I felt the younger legs of the attackers slightly wore out the older legs of the opposition defenders to set up their well deserved win. But a well mannered game, played in good spirit and excellently umpired. The division 2 game had a very competitive first half with both teams demonstrating intricate passing moves and creating and taking chances. In the rain affected second half one of the squads came under the cosh as their opposition pressed high and pinned them in their half. Amazingly the pressured team won the game on a breakaway goal - possibly the only time in the half where they strung together a few passes. This demonstrated the benefit of hanging on in there while under pressure.

All the results in well ahead of time - my thanks. Division 1 scorers still required from - Eastbourne 2, Crowborough 1, Hailsham 1, Mid Sussex 2, East Grinstead 3, Saxons 2 and Penguin 1s. I am sure I will get them soon.

Shame that Middleton 2s were unable to field a side today. Also a shame that they have not found the time to let me know of their problems in advance or even post the event. I believe their opposition had a number of players who were looking for a game and could have assisted and certainly the umpire (me) was keen to get some practice. I have applied a win to their opposition 3 nil and will ask our Treasurer to apply the usual fine. Please note - that under this season's rules a forfeit is only a 3 nil award. This reflects changes in the South league rules, which Sussex has adopted for this season. I will also note that early communication of problems, such as low number of players for a particular game, may find a way to resolve such problems and get games played.

I know that there are a number of clubs struggling to get their lowest sides out some weeks and I have appreciated their efforts in turning out often with a reduced number of players to ensure their opposition and their available players get a game. I hear of the support these teams usually get from their opposition and the joint efforts to ensure all get an enjoyable game of hockey and this is much appreciated. I was disappointed to see recent score lines of 17 nil and 14 nil, which while helping a team's goal difference, probably did not do much for the development of Sussex hockey. A personal view - of course.

I have received the first analysis of Match Record Sheet returns from Fred Brotherton. So far the returns have been fairly good - just a few defaulters. However, if no changes before the end of the first half of the season potential fines and even deduction of points. The teams involved have been advised and a number have already acted to get me the missing sheets and information. There is time for others to get the missing sheets to Fred and I and so avoid point deductions.

	Missing and/or Problem Sheets 2017-18			
	23-Sep-17	30-Sep-17	7-Oct-17	14-Oct-17
Division 1			Eastbourne 2 More than 10 days Late Fine £5	
				Penguins 1 Missing £5 fine
				Hailsham 1 Missing £5 fine
			Lewes 3 Received 31/10 by email	

Division 2			£5 fine	
Division 3	Crawley 3 Missing £5 fine			
	Lewes 4 Missing £5 fine		Lewes 4 Missing £10 fine and 1 point deduction	
		Middleton 2 Missing £5 fine		Middleton 2 Missing £10 fine and 1 point deduction
Division 4		Horsham 4 Missing £5 fine		

The latest results and tables are posted on Fixtureslive and the Sussex Hockey Association website. Well worth a look.

Just over half way through the first half of the season - Penguin 1s and Hailsham 1s are still neck and neck at the top of division 1 with 16 points each, even though Hailsham stumbled a little today with a draw against Crowborough 1s today. In division 2 Worthing 2s and Lewes 2s lead the way with 16 and 15 points respectively, with Worthing 2s still undefeated. Lewes 4s also remain undefeated, in division 3 with 6 wins and 1 draw to stay 1 point ahead of Eastbourne 4s. In division 4, positions within the table are hard to judge as there is a range of games played by teams due to the reduced number of teams in the Division. However, Saxons 4s lead the way, in the division, followed closely by Brighton 7s, Lewes 5s and Worthing 5s.

I remain impressed by the general standard of umpiring I have seen around the leagues this season, However, I remind all that division 2 and 3 require qualified umpires holding Level 1 qualifications.

Much to look forward to for the rest of the season - I am sure.

Anyway time to close, as my typing gets slower as the wine spreads through the system and I am distracted by an old episode of Game of Thrones - I am enjoying re-running the series to be ready for return of the series next year.

If there is anything of interest you wish to share with me about the Open league, please do so, I appreciate the snippets of information and it helps me understand what are the key issues which are affecting you the players.

Best wishes for now.

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