

From: Barry Holmes ebholmes@hotmail.co.uk
Subject: Latest Sussex Men's OpenLeague Newsletter - 18 November 2017
Date: 18 November 2017 at 22:17
To:

BH

Dear Hockey Colleagues,

Well another Saturday and another soaking. Down in sunny Eastbourne, all was going well - a beautiful morning, then a little overcast and a bit chilly followed by that dreadful misty kind of rain - neither one thing or the other, but you still get wet and then with around 15 minutes to go to the game it turns to real rain and worse it is driven by the wind straight on to the glasses. At that stage you wished you had put on the waterproofs! Excellent teas (lunch) at Eastbourne - good tea, hot chips, beans and sausages (or the veggie option) - but how pleasant is it to sit in the warm with your plate of food and cuppa, in cold wet pants and thermals - joy. Glad that the afternoon match was umpired only in the cool twilight of the lights at St Pauls, Burgess Hill. Not that impressed by the lights but at least I did not get wet again.

Hopefully most of you got through the day dry and safe, - noticeable how slippery some of the new and older carpets are, and so how often people are going A over T - may be amusing at times, but dangerous as well. One lady in my early game while moving toward the free hit, slipped with her feet pointing at the striker. She was extremely lucky that the free hit only hit the soles of her boots! Of course to add insult to injury, the free hit went against her.

While I am typing this, I am being treated to an amazing firework display - someone obviously got the date mixed up with the 5th November. However, great to watch and the Whizz bangs are quite special.

Well what about the days hockey

All results on time in except for this below which was not in at 8:50pm.

East Grinstead Mens 4th XI	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Middleton Mens 2's
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Firstly - if anyone could get me the result - that would be much appreciated
Secondly - Ian could you apply the usual £5 fine to the home teams.

Noted that Southwicks 2 sent their result message to the South Website - not sure why this should happen for a Division 2 team, but perhaps need to check next Saturday before sending.

I have also received most of the Division 1 scorers, really quickly tonight - Many thanks as there were some reasonably big scores out there and congratulations to Richard Cook who scored 4 for Brighton 4s. Well done.

Missing - Penguin 1s (5 goals), Middleton 1 (1 Goal) and Mid Sussex 2s (1 goal - I watched this one and cannot remember who scored - sad how the memory fails us).

Top of division 1 remains extremely competitive with Penguin 1s tied on 22 points with Hailsham 1s - both winning again today. Eastbourne 2s and Brighton 3 remain in the hunt with one less win each at 18 points. Also tight at the bottom of the division with only 1 point separating the bottom 3 teams

Division 2 - Worthing 2s seem to be making a break for freedom at the top of the division, with a 4 point gap over second placed Eastbourne 2s. As an aside well done to Eastbourne 1s who won 10 nil at home today against Sutton Valence. Horsham 4s, Worthing 3s and Southwick 2 at the bottom of the table all tied on 3 points.

Division 3 - More difficult to compare teams in this division as with teams missing and the present problems with Penguin 2s who are struggling with player numbers, but Lewes 4s are a couple of points ahead of Eastbourne 4s, but the next 2 teams in the division have a game in hand and so the top of the table could easily concertina as the season progresses. Penguin 2s have now struggled through the first half of the season due to low player numbers and this seems to be getting worse. I know teams are out there looking for a creative solution to this problem and so I hope for good news soon.

Division 4 - with only 11 teams in a 14 team division analysing the results is a little crazy - but Lewes 5 (6 games) and Saxon 4s (7 games) are tied at the top with 16 points each. Horsham 5s went a bit wild today scoring 12 against Southwick 3s, always a little worrying when there is such a disparity in the scoreline. However, within the Division 10 teams have managed to win at least a couple of games and so will be interesting to see how the division balances out by the end of the half of the season.

Full results and tables on the Sussex Hockey Association website(<http://www.sussexhockey.co.uk>) - well worth a look. Also division 1 results and scorers on the South league website (www.south-league.com).

Nothing much else on my mind tonight. Perhaps a bit overworked in the second match today, where there seemed to be more decisions per minute than in most games. I need to toughen up and give out a few more warnings and early cards - unfortunately I am just a pussy cat, when a tiger is sometimes needed. Any way now whacked and ready to just relax with a wine and match of the day. Yes I did watch Strictly from Blackpool tonight - not sure if it was me, but not so exciting tonight. Was glad to see Gemma A step up and really perform (I know at least one SHL colleague who will have been delighted by her performance. Alexandra was her usual entertaining self and Davood (is that his name) remains a contender. Susan or Molly to bite the dust the weekend is my prediction.

Anyway - enjoy the rest of your weekend.

My best wishes

Barry Holmes

ebholmes@hotmail.co.uk