THANK YOU - TO THE COACHES, ASSISTANT COACHES, SQUAD MANAGERS & YOUNG LEADERS

At the end of another busy and successful season we would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all the Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Squad Managers, Young Leaders and anybody else who has helped out on a regular basis. Most have children playing but there are a notable few who don’t and who help because they want to see the juniors develop. All these people voluntarily give up every Sunday for 7 months and often time during the week sorting teams and coaching sessions. Most parents and children appreciate this and have acknowledged their coaches with cards of thanks and gifts. We can’t tell you how much these are appreciated so thank you to everybody on behalf of the coaching/managing teams and we look forward to seeing you next season.

U7 SQUAD REPORT

What a fantastic season, the U7 squad has grown throughout to 20 strong. We have had a brilliant group of young people who have all developed their basic hockey skills and knowledge of the game, the majority starting out having never held a stick! We had a brilliant end to the season and it was so nice to see how confident our U7’s were playing alongside the U8’s. A huge step in the right direction.

We want to thank our Young leaders, Poppy and Lucy who have been with us every week to help support those starting out on their hockey journey. Also a huge thank you to Jon Laird who has helped us immensely this year, the children have loved playing against him! We wish you all a restful Summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

KARENA & ROB HARMER
**U8 SQUAD REPORT**

This was the first year that the U8’s trained on a weekly basis, so a big thank you needs to go out to all the parents who were committed to turning up each week at 9am on a Sunday morning! We had a large squad with between 15 and 25 players each week who all took part with great enthusiasm, particularly to our warm up movement drills to music! All of the children without fail improved dramatically over the 6 months and I believe now have a good grounding in the basic skills and team play. I look forward to seeing them play in competitive matches next year on our new pitches.

Lastly, a big thank you needs to go to all my helpers this year; my wonderful Young Leaders, James and Ed, who have been very committed and great with the kids, some lovely friends who have joined in our sessions, namely Sarah Newton (who helped every Sunday!), Jenny Hinves, Amanda Bayliss and Toni Tatnell and to Jason, my husband, Rob and Karena for taking the odd session that I couldn’t attend... thank you!

PENNY WEBB

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**U9 BOYS REPORT**

The U9 boys applied themselves very well this year and showed improvement throughout the season. As usual at this age each individual showed improvement at different times but all the boys were at the desired level by the time their last game was played.

The boys were joined by the U9 girls to play U10 mixed tournaments during the season. At every tournament they all played their best and I am so proud of them all. They all showed Marden spirit and were a good advert for the Club.

Player of the Season is Alec Stephen who scored goals with ease at the tournaments and could change a game with his pace and determination. Team Player of the Season is Jake Bussey who showed real team ethic and took his responsibilities within the team seriously, often Jakes last ditch tackles were the difference between winning and losing. Most Improved Player is Kingsley Hamlyn who changed to play goalkeeper half way through the season and took to his new role with determination and bravery, making key saves in many tournament matches.

There are so many more boys who I could mention, but as a group, I am so proud of them all and enjoyed all my time with them. Well done!

PAUL HAMLYN
U9 GIRLS AND U10 GIRLS REPORT

The U9 and U10 boys and girls joined forces for an end-of-season mixed fun tournament on Sunday morning. After dividing them up into balanced teams, each age group played on half a pitch. In the U10 group the three teams played against each other and in the U9 group the numbers allowed for a 9-a-side match. All the players got really involved in the game; there were some fantastic skills on display and some great team play too.

After the tournament, the U9 and U10 girls held a brief prize-giving ceremony. It was very difficult to decide who should receive the awards this season but in the end the recipients for the U9s group were:

Most improved player: Anna Payne-Cook  
Team player: Sophie Bernhardsen  
Player of the year: Mathilda Ersser

For the U10 girls:

Most improved player: Hope Rutter  
Team player: Maisey Russell  
Player of the year: Molly Parsons

Many thanks to Jedda Rutter and Sarah Hues for their excellent team admin this season, to the parents for their support and of course to the children for their hard work and enthusiasm. Our young leaders, Phoebe and Niamh, were very proactive and enthusiastic and we couldn’t have done it without them. We’d also like to thank Paul Hamlyn, the U9 boys coach, with whom we worked very closely this year.

ELLIE AND CHARLOTTE
U10 BOYS REPORT
The U10 boys were a pleasure to coach this season. Attendance at training was excellent and availability for matches ran at around 95% which meant we were able to send out two teams with goal keepers, something which many larger clubs are unable to do regularly. For a small club Marden punches above its weight at a junior level.

The boys played triangulars every month against such sides as Canterbury, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, BromBecks etc. At the Kent Championships the boys had a tough group and missed out on the semi finals by one point, out of a lineup of 14 other clubs it would be fair to say Marden were probably third in the rankings.

Across the squad the level of hockey improved hugely over the season and my thanks go to the young leaders Cameron Sprent and Dom Barber and Will Finn, the U10’s assistant coach, whose input and dedication has been much appreciated. Whilst I would like to congratulate all the boys on their improvement I would also like to mention those that received end of season awards

Most Improved Players Reggie Blanchard & Fred Mundell
Team Player Jack Webb
Player of the season Will Curtnell
Player of the Championships Rhys Harmer

TONY LAWSON
Enthusiasm to play and a positive attitude to training were the keys to a really successful season for the U11 Boys.

With a step up to play every week this year, and an expectation to be engaged and interested, to a boy we saw enormous progress.

Despite not being part of an organised league we found keen opposition from Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury, BBHC, Ashford, and Blackheath.

We mainly played U12 sides and, unfazed, our A squad only lost once, and the B’s giving most a run for their money. Our toughest games were invariably home matches against the Marden U10’s and U12’s, which goes to show the strength and depth at the club.

Determination and good sportsmanship underpinned all the performances.

We finish the season ready for tougher competition and a squad of outstanding youngsters with bags of potential hungry for more.

Our thanks goes to all the parents for their positive support, our young leaders Richard and Sam, and in particular assistant coach Mark, whose presence has made this season possible.

Bring on September!

ROB HILLIER
U11 GIRLS SQUAD

U11 Girls Squad with Manager/Coach Clive Felton and Coach Amanda Payne-Cook

U12 BOYS REPORT

On Sunday 20th March we all ventured over to Polo Farm, Canterbury for the pinnacle event of our season - the Kent Championships. All of the effort and commitment that the boys (and parents!) had given across the entire season was ultimately in preparation for this moment... but would they deliver? The stage was set, the weather was fine and the boys were raring to go. The B team found themselves in an entire group of A teams and unsurprisingly faced some strong opposition. Although our tactic was rather to 'park the bus' and frustrate our opponents as much as possible, the boys still managed to record a couple of positive results (winning 1-0 and drawing 1-1) in our final two matches of the day to finish strongly. For us to be able to field two competitive teams at a county tournament is testament to the strength in depth that we had within our squad this year.

The A team started uncharacteristically quickly, winning their first match 6-0 and thankfully for the boys, this then set the tone for the afternoon. Winning 6/7 of their groups matches (including a 9-0 win in a 12 minute match!) ensured they comfortably topped their group and on they marched to the semi-finals. Here we met Sevenoaks and although this had more of a knockout fixture feeling about it, they had no answer to us going 1-0 up fairly early on and so once again we met Canterbury in the final. The defending champions were undoubtedly the strongest opposition of the day but I'm sure even they wouldn't disagree that there was little between the two teams and had this fixture been played once or twice more, the deciding goal may have instead finished next to our name at the full time whistle. Nonetheless, it unfortunately wasn't to be but it was still a positive end to the day as we've now progressed to the Regional finals at the end of April.

Thank you to all of the boys and the parents for such an enjoyable season. Special thanks must also go to Will Finn and Ollie Lee-Amies (our Young Leader) for their dedicated coaching support throughout. And finally, for a first season as lead coach for both Tom and I, we really couldn't have asked for a better group of young hockey players and we look forward to now seeing them continue to progress throughout the club in years to come!

HAMISH CLOKE & TOM HENSON
U12 A team - runners up to Canterbury on the day and will progress to the regional tournament next month.

U12 B team who also put in a very respectable performance at the Kent Championships managing not to finish bottom of their group that contained only A teams from all of the other clubs involved.
The U12 girls have had a fantastic season with both teams winning most of their matches against some strong opposition. The attendance has been great with 20 girls regularly attending.

Well done to Sacha Hood for reaching the JAC coaching stage and to Tilly Fox for being selected for the Kent U13 team.

The team highlight of the season must have been finishing 3rd place in the Kent champs. The girls won their group easily and then beat Sevenoaks b team to get through to the semi-finals. A very close game against Sevenoaks A team with some fantastic hockey being played led to a narrow defeat. We then played Tunbridge Wells and won to give us a 3rd place finish. Thanks must go to Georgie Ridge for umpiring on the day. Tim Reid had helped coach all season so thank you to him and also to Sam heard for all her admin help.

RACHEL FOX
With only 13 boys in the squad (coincidence!) we started the season concerned that we were going to have trouble getting a full team out for matches. But I have never come across such a committed group of boys and my worries were unfounded. We played 12 matches and never once failed to get a team out, only on a couple of occasions needing to borrow a couple of U14’s and U12’s and once Flora Roberts from the U13 girls (thank you Flora). So I would like to start by thanking the boys for making my season a pleasure rather than a chore.

We were experimenting with splitting the U13’s from the U14’s for several reasons. It is the first year that the boys play 11-a-side hockey on a full pitch and is quite a change for them. We knew the U14’s would be a big squad with lots of experienced county players and there was a possibility that many of the U13’s may not get much match experience and feel slightly intimidated. So we entered them into the Mercian U14 development league instead and it was, in terms of opposition, a great decision. It allowed them to settle into 11-a-side hockey, find which position suited them and enjoy the stability of playing with pretty much the same team each match. With each match they grew more and more confident and on several occasions played some outstanding passing hockey completely annihilating their opposition. It was a pleasure to watch them develop their match play and their individual hockey skills.

They ended up joint 2nd in the table having won 8 matches and losing 4. They were the only team to field only Year 8’s – it being an U14 league, all the other teams had Year 9’s too. They will go into next season with confidence looking forward to a more challenging league.

Danny Thorne deserves a very special mention for mid-way through the season very courageously and kindly offering to play in goal. Up until then the boys had taken it in turn to play in goal with all of them exhibiting outstanding talent! But in the end having a regular goalie in Danny was brilliant not only because he proved to be rather good but also because it saved 15 minutes of intense negotiation each match!

Congrats to Max Moen as top goal scorer and Alex Duckett for being the best defensive player I have ever seen at that age. He was quite simply outstanding. Toby Lock was pivotal as centre mid, controlling the game and driving forward with pace and skill. Alexander Hill was a very reliable and effective left mid; Freddie McKenzie despite initial reluctance became a very strong sweeper, and Morgan Mitchell as left wing was most definitely the most improved player. Hugo Carrie was our utility player, slotting effectively into any position he was asked to play; Finn Sprent worked tirelessly as right mid and intimidated the opposition with his strength and skill and Calum Roberts was a calm, controlled left back, rarely far from his opponent and exhibiting silky skills when under pressure. Ben Morrison, whilst often asked to play as left back where he was quietly solid, preferred to play further up the pitch and proved his worth with an outstanding goal. Joe Lenehan was also utilised in several positions on the pitch but was particularly strong when playing in midfield especially when he was linking up with speedy Louis Hillier on the right wing.

Louis Hillier developed over the season into a formidable attacking player with his amazing ability to change speed and direction and outstanding stick skills. We are very proud that he was selected to play for the Kent U13 squad. Well done Louis.

With that I would like to thank Rob Hillier for helping out as coach on several occasions and to Scott Moen for umpiring. I would also like to thank my squad manager George Roberts – she was quite simply brilliant and not only coordinated all the matches but also drove most of us there and fed us too!! And last but not least thanks to the parents who were so supportive and encouraging.

JULIA MOEN
The Under 13 Girls have had a superb season and they have all developed and improved significantly this year. I can’t believe how quickly the season has come to an end, and what the girls have learnt this season will stand them in good stead for moving up to the Under 14 age group. They will also have the added benefit of the new astro pitches if all goes to plan.

In their regular Kent League matches, I am pleased to say the girls were undefeated, and it was only when I arranged to take part in a tournament with Sevenoaks, Guildford and East Grinstead that we lost our undefeated record. Within that competition the girls came third and sixth, which was very respectable, bearing in mind the quality of the competition.

We have three of our squad who now play for Kent Under 13 Girls – Evie, Maisie and Chloe – well done. Good luck in your next set of matches.

Overall I am extremely pleased with the progress of all the girls in the squad – keep up the good work!”

TIM DUNCAN
The U14 Boys are having an amazing season – winning both their Mercian and England Hockey leagues, unbeaten in both. With a truly remarkable squad, our hopes were high of proceeding to the national stages of both competitions, but it was not to be. As I write, we are regrettably out of the Mercian knock out stages, but are now preparing for the EH regionals. The post match report of the last match against Woking (0-0 after extra time, lost on penalties) says it all about the disappointment before Easter....but also of the excitement yet to come!

What a heartbreak our match against Woking was – I don’t think I have ever seen a match where a team was so utterly dominant but didn’t win. 12 heroes worked their socks off, and in spite of it being absolutely infuriating that we couldn’t score, they never let this affect their fantastic team-spirit and effort levels. I’m really proud of every one of them. Well done to the brave penalty takers and Sam who went into the pressure cooker situation and came so close to winning – as I said to the lads, the reason we lost was nothing to do with the penalties, but due to not having beaten Woking in the previous 90 minutes. 12 short corners should have resulted in some goals at least.... and it was really bad luck to have one goal disallowed.

The England Hockey regional matches are on 10th April are there for the taking – it will be tough, but with a strong team out we can go in confident of being competitive and there is a massive prize at stake - the winning team goes to the national finals at the Olympic stadium!

Huge thanks are due to Lou Gedney for organising all of the matches, and to our great Young Leaders Euan Neale and Tom Lennard.

CHARLIE RIDGE

U14 Boys Squad
Another great season of hockey with a fantastic bunch of young ladies!

A strong squad with determination, focus and impressive individual and team performances meant we were victorious against the likes of Holcombe, Canterbury and Sutton Valence but learnt valuable lessons when we faced Sevenaoks and Tonbridge.

Every single girl has improved this year which is superb to see.
Thank you once again for your commitment and positive attitudes throughout the season, you pleasure to coach.

I couldn’t choose a player of the season as it was too difficult from all the below so i will mention them all!

Lara Battson (consistently brilliant, owns her D)
Isabella Dransfield (perfectly timed tackles, everytime)
Issy Cook (most smiles, and impressive skills & sprints!)
Erin Connell (leading the defensive with confidence & perfect marking)
Amelia Rawstorne (Always in the correct place & uses her skill to get us out of trouble!)
Ella Carter (superb skill, ability & a team leader)
Elizabeth Moore (great eye & accuracy)
Rowena Morgan (our super sweeper)
Lottie Ruston (our key winger, creates space & opportunity)
Amelia Semmens (effortlessly glides through the opposition, our star Kent Player)
Sophie Lerpiniere (great pace and a danger to the opposition’s defence)
Helena Featherstone (our most improved young lady, who has shown confidence in her ability)
Olympia Anley (one of the strongest in defence, lovely stick work)

A huge Thank you also to Tom Rawstone for managing the admin and the team at such short notice!

Have a great summer!

ZOE SAGE 😊
U16 BOYS REPORT

The U16 boys played in the Mercian and Kent leagues (below the top divisions of each) and finished with season stats of P15 W7 D4 L4. A 5-2 victory over Maidstone in the final game brought us to a half century of goals scored.

What the squad lacked in Kent representation was more than made up for in raw pace and stamina, and a refusal to give in to teams (especially from Surrey) who would regard themselves as technically superior. Many games were drawn or won from us being down at half time, only for us to come back and over-run the opposition in the final quarter. We fielded four separate goalkeepers during the season, three of whom had never kept before (Will R, Martin C and Kit F). All three performed brilliantly and were a fantastic example to the rest in putting the team first. Outfield it would be wrong to single anyone out for special praise as it was a true team effort throughout. We were able to rotate our squad of 19, and all were able to adapt very well when asked to play out of position.

This was a very enjoyable group to work with – never overly serious in training (!), but giving everything in matches and happy to play hockey and enjoy it. Many thanks to Nick C for “young leading” up until Christmas, and for the parental support with availability and getting the boys to some far-distant away matches.

SCOTT MOEN

U16 GIRLS REPORT

Overall the season was successful - the results were a scatter of fortunes but we did win our last match against Sevenoaks 15-1! The decision to play in the home counties East League proved a success with the team coming a commendable 4th out of 6 and in the Kent league we came 2nd to Sevenoaks who – as mentioned above - we thrashed at the end of the season! Our B fixtures also went well with players newer to the game as well as those with less ability able to shine and gain confidence to play up in the A fixtures.

CLIVE BAXTER

U16s and above

FANCY KEEPING FIT AND PLAYING HOCKEY THIS SUMMER?

MEN & WOMEN TEAMS WHERE - Tonbridge School. COST - £5 per match.

WHEN - Matches will be starting at either 7pm or 8.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, once a week.

Please follow the link below and enter the information to let us know you are interested.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1rC0RD5ZKRIQmKPNwiUJN5VLsLYXFYYQWyKl3EUaSL4w/viewform

We need a squad of 20 to realistically enter and fulfill fixtures.

Thanks - Chris/Hamish
ATTENTION ALL FEMALE HOCKEY PLAYERS

We will be running the Back to Hockey sessions again this Summer and the time has come to pick up that stick and come and enjoy some ladies' hockey!

This season we successfully started a Ladies 2s team again after running the Back to Hockey sessions last summer. We entered the Kent League Division 5 and ended up in 2nd place!! We played 21 matches, had a squad of about 20 players and had many hilarious moments along the way.

We would like to invite any ladies that are interested in playing to get in touch with Julia Moen (Julia@moenfamily.demon.co.uk; 07966 759915/01580 714100). We will be holding fun training sessions on Wednesday evenings, commencing Wednesday 20th April from 7-8.30pm at the Marden Astro.

It doesn’t matter how good you are, or how long it has been since you last played - everybody is welcome. The league starts again in September, with matches most Saturdays, and we will be looking for ladies to play as and when they can. Mums, friends, daughters, sisters (minimum age is year 10 in September 2016); anybody can come to training, so spread the word.

We will be making a nominal £2 charge to non-members for these sessions to cover costs of wear and tear.

Looking forward to seeing you in April...

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