

CAMBRIDGE CITY JUNIOR HOCKEY CLUB

NEWSLETTER No. 8

Congratulations to everybody who took part in the tournaments at Bedford and Ipswich last Sunday.

Bedford Tournament, Sunday 14th November U10's – Phil Clegg

The U10 team played some great hockey – something they should be very proud of given the fact that this was the first time they have played together competitively. Play improved throughout the tournament and they fully deserved their victory in the 3rd/4th play off – the joy on their faces when the final whistle went made my day!

The highlights of the day for me were :

The way the children supported each other and played as a team.
The effort every child put in shown by the running they did off the ball as much as on it.

The way they started to look up and make a pass as the tournament progressed.

Their enthusiasm, exemplified by the way they ran back to their positions after we'd scored.

The way they played in the 3rd/4th play off and their joy as a whole squad at winning the match.

The support of the parents

Things to focus on (you know what's coming!) are spreading out/keeping position and moving the ball right, but these will come with time.

Bedford Tournament, Sunday 14th November U12 'A' Team – James Lankfer

The 'A' team compiled Poppy Gurney, Tessa Howard, Georgia Martin, Alice Etheridge, Jasmine Latham, Charles Wright, Thomas Goldberg, Ben Low and Jonathan Lankfer. With only 7 minutes each way the team decided attack was the best way to defend so playing with only 1 defender, Tessa and Poppy in goal, the remainder laying siege to the opposition's defence.

In the first game v Sandy the team started as they meant to go on with some neat passing using the wide players Georgia and Charlie to set up 3 goals for Jonathan. The second game v Bedford followed a similar pattern with Alice, Jasmine and Thomas working hard in midfield to create opportunities in open play and short corners resulting in a goal for Georgia and two for Jonathan.

The third game saw Ben in defence providing the drive for the midfield and forwards. Some inspired defending by the Luton defence saw the game finish 0-0. This did not deter the team and still moving the ball well continued to put pressure on the Milton Keynes' defence and eventually Jonathan scored for a well deserved 1-0 win. The final pool game v Tring and Charlie moved to centre forward. The defence finally conceded their only short corner in the whole tournament, but Poppy was in excellent form. Thomas gave the team the points with a well taken goal and the team finished on top of their league and had not let in a single goal.

Bedford, the home team, were the opposition in the final. Cambridge City A continued to play well and Charlie scored from open play, Jonathan scored a good short corner and finished off a great team performance with an individual goal, a superb 3-0 win and tournament winners. 6 games played, 11 goals for and 0 against which is a great achievement proving that both the girls and boys currently have great strength and depth.

Bedford Tournament, Sunday 14th November U12 'B' Team – Roger Wilson

The U12 'B' Team compiled of Fraser Allen, Ben Brown (G), Darcie Fenton-Stone, Georgia Howitt-Sutton, Tom Jarvis, Madeline Lea, Jack Meakin and Eleanor Wager. The team played with confidence and produced some exciting hockey and created a number of goal scoring opportunities.

By the end of the 5 pool games, the team had drawn 3 of their games, won 1 game and lost 1 game. With thanks to Ben's goal-keeping skills and that of the defence, only one goal was conceded during these matches.

It was great to see the players work as a team, moving the ball out to the sides and driving forward and passing well to each other. A great day out and the weather held to the end.

England Hockey Club (East League), Ipswich, Sunday 14th November U14 – Robert Fairey/Mike Mitcham

The U14's played their first league matches in the England Hockey Club competition (East League) on Sunday 14th November. A squad of 14 were taken to Ipswich to play two of the stronger teams in the league, Ipswich and Bury. As this was the team's first outing it was always going to be a stern test and an opportunity to measure ourselves against clubs who had already played matches earlier in the season.

The first match was against a skilful Ipswich side who had just had a convincing win against Saffron Walden. The boys started well and went ahead through a goal from Connor Thompson at a short corner. Ipswich came back with 2 goals but following goals from Charlie Field and Mark Bishop we ran out 3-2 winners. An excellent start to the season.

The next game was against an unbeaten Bury St Edmunds side who had already beaten Saffron Walden 6-0.

There was very little to choose between the sides but eventually the deadlock was broken late in the first half when Bury were awarded a penalty stroke for an infringement in the 'D'. Fortunately, we have the best goalkeeper in the league in Charlie Bowmer who had already saved a penalty stroke in our previous game against Ipswich. Once again, he came to our rescue and the score remained 0-0 at half time.

It was a thrilling end to end match with plenty of chances for both sides to win. The game hinged on a penalty stroke awarded to Cambridge late in the second half when Charlie Field was impeded after a well worked short corner. Charlie kept his nerve and converted the stroke low in the corner.

In terms of commitment and desire to win it was a fantastic advert for U14 Boys hockey. Credit should go to both teams.

16th November 2010