

27th April 2024



Men 3s / Dolphins – Richard Evetts

So the 3s season. When I was asked to run the 3s team I must admit I was worried, firstly would I be capable and secondly would I be accepted by the other players. Thankfully the team are friendly and accepting, they have to be as this is where the junior players have their first experience playing in a senior team, also where new adult players are given the chance to play. This is where the 3s excel, we have core players who have been with the club for several years, the support and encouragement shown to the new players is frankly awesome. This is where we see talent nurtured and grow so that they can go onto play for the higher teams. Within the 3s there is a good close team spirit.

So the season. If looking in from the outside it could be seen as disappointing, two wins one draw and at one stage in negative points. This is where I have to say the 3s come into their own. They turn up each week with a positivity that's infectious, and whatever the score they never let their heads go down. As I said before we have several core players, and to those I'd like to thank, it is obviously frustrating for them, not to be able to get a run of results. They come back each week, and make up the backbone of the team.

What you will see though weekly is glimpses of real skill. Thomas Dickinson, fearless in tackles, holding off players when in possession and then passing on successfully. James Isaacs when first joining the team was apprehensive, but now has improved and found confidence. William Potter, a vocal member of the team getting stuck in at every opportunity. Zach Stainer Reid a very skilful player and one to watch out for in the future. Ashton Phillips playing with a high skill level and now finding his feet in the 2s. Sam Tomlinson, playing in defence, fearless in his tackles and a cool headed approach to playing out from the back, now playing 2s regularly. Theo Harle and Harry Izod both going on driving runs, taking play past players and creating scoring opportunities. Both Harry and Theo now playing regularly for the 2s. Monty Munro very much our saviour in many a game, his keeping skills given a thorough work out, Monty too playing for the higher teams. Then there's Oliver Kent, George Cusack, Jon Lane and Adam Roberts all new to the game, adult players. Bags of enthusiasm and improving with every game.

Just a quick mention to a few of our senior players Dan Dickens, Tobias Snow and Tommy Pocknell, all players who could play for higher teams, their influence and positivity within the 3s is amazing and I thank them for sticking with us, and the support and encouragement they show each week. There are several core players and to them I am eternally grateful, for their help over the season. Thanks too should be given to players we've had to draft from outside the club, giving us a helping hand when we have been short on numbers.

So what to next season?? There will be an influx of junior players, our job to encourage and nurture their skills, and to bring them into the senior teams. Welcome new players to the club bring them into a team environment and help to improve skill levels. The 3s being the platform to the higher teams. If we keep the positivity, the belief, the determination, more results will come.

Having run the 3s for a season it has opened my eyes to how hard the people who run the club work. Giving up hours a week to keep Poole Hockey Club an outstanding friendly club. I won't go through the names in fear of missing one out, but needless to say we owe them a bucket of gratitude. Finally, thank you for the honour of giving me the opportunity to run the 3s. Looking forward to the next season.

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South Central Men's Division 1 Forest								
Team Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Andover 3	24	19	3	2	83	18	65	60
Southampton Otters	24	19	1	4	68	19	49	58
Romsey 3	24	16	2	6	69	29	40	50
Bournemouth M5	24	14	3	7	53	33	20	44
Winchester 5	24	10	8	6	59	42	17	38
Swanage & Wareham 2	24	10	4	10	58	50	8	33
Eastleigh	24	10	3	11	50	55	-5	33
New Forest 2	24	9	5	10	45	52	-7	32
Salisbury 4	24	9	0	15	49	51	-2	27
Southampton University 5	24	8	2	14	46	76	-30	26
Southampton 3	24	6	2	16	50	72	-22	20
Romsey Renegades	24	6	2	16	23	65	-42	18
Poole 3	24	2	1	21	20	111	-91	6