



### Men 1s – Theo Smith / Adrian Potter

Poole men 1 entered what would be the toughest league they have played in for 15 years and since the formation of the open league system.

With 2 teams down from premier division 2 and another dropping 2 divisions (from premier division 1) we knew it was going to be tough with several teams boosting ex national league players in their ranks, added into that 50% of the defence that have got us into this division missing.

The season did not start well with only one game which was delayed for several hours due to traffic to prepare Poole we were on the back foot from the off.

Getting beaten convincingly and some break ups in team relationships we decided to go back to basics knowing that we needed to be 3 seconds quicker. Our first point was against second place Southampton Uni and then our first win came at home against Isle of Wight. So at Christmas we were looking relegation in its face. Especially after an interesting game at Gillingham where the umpire stopped the game and got the other umpire to apologise to our players!

New year new start. Whilst the second half was better and we competed, narrowly losing to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. We knew we had it in us to win and that surprise came again at 2<sup>nd</sup> place Southampton Uni, beating them on their own tuff (ironically the points lost them promotion). We now knew a positive result on the island of cousins would secure div one hockey for another season. We managed a point which seemed enough but a win against local rivals would've sealed it. A tough and tumble game against Gillingham resulted in the win we needed, and some security.

Team statistics (from Teamo):

- Goals                Elliott 16    Jason 8        George 7
- Green cards        Elliott 5     Nick 3         Casey 3
- Yellow cards       Elliott 5     Nick 3         Jason 2
- Red cards            0
- Games Played      George 23   Tom P 21    Bob, Ollie, Lewis 20

We had several candidates for Muppet of the season. In fact more than 1 player, Elliott had more cards from umpires than Valentine's Day, Bob telling players not to moan at umpires 10 minutes later you guessed it, Chris being more active the night before than the game against Alton than the actual game, Jason playing kiss chase with the bouncers at Isle of Wight, Casey being told to ask Santa for some new astros, Tom forgetting his kit. But the winner goes to the player the umpire's thought was better suited in a pool rather than an astro for his dives. So, muppet of the season goes to Lewis Smith.

South Central Men's Division 1 South								
Team Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Winchester 1	22	18	3	1	96	38	58	57
Havant 2	22	15	1	6	81	48	33	46
Southampton University 1	22	13	6	3	93	45	48	45
Portsmouth 1	22	13	5	4	78	39	39	44
Chichester 2	22	10	7	5	57	34	23	37
Hamble 1	22	10	4	8	69	77	-8	34
Bournemouth M2	22	9	2	11	62	65	-3	28
Trojans 2	22	6	5	11	49	69	-20	23
Alton 1	22	6	5	11	45	67	-22	23
Gillingham 1	22	4	3	15	54	89	-35	15
Poole 1	22	3	2	17	45	106	-61	11
Isle of Wight 1	22	2	3	17	34	86	-52	8