

27th April 2024



### *Men 2s – Martin Wollington*

Firstly, the Exec – I have been on Exec for 2 years now and it has been an absolute pleasure. Without Ruth, Paul and TJ this club would struggle, it doesn't get talked about and I feel many are not aware but I do want to express that they never stop, meetings, sorting teams, issues throughout the season, planning the future, the growth of the club, all sorts. So, I would like to say thank you to you three and I hope you all have a well earned rest for a few weeks before summer league begins.

Now for the men twos – I am unsure how you have the pleasure of me again, I handed it over several years ago after doing a 7 year stint, with no intention of doing it again. However, I have had the pleasure of guiding the team to another season of safety. Here are some interesting stats I would like to share with you from the team:

- 39 different players play for the twos across the season (8 of which were U18)
- 15 different goal scorers
- 10 players who have received at least 1 green card
- 5 players who have received at least 1 yellow card
- Youngest player being 15
- Oldest player being 46
- Most appearances go to Ben Maskrey

This team has had a lot of changes throughout the season but they have turned up every week to play and give it their best. Gareth and I have been liaising about what to say and he asked me to pass on the following. I'd firstly like to thank all the players who have represented the 2s this season. It's been a challenging season and well done to each and every one of you for putting in a shift week in, week out. We've seen some players really develop over the course of the season and I ask you to continue the hard work, it'll be worth it! Secondly, I'd like to thank the parents for your support and of course the inevitable taxi service to help us get a team out each week. Notable mention goes out to the Baileys for your weekly support and also maintaining the 'rate the tea' scoreboard for all the away fixtures. We eagerly await the verdict of the best teas in the league! Big thank you goes to the Exec committee, umpires, coaches and all the volunteers at the club. Without you, quite simply none of this would be possible so thank you. Finally to Martin, what would I have done without you? Thank you for everything. Not fully knowing what I was letting myself in for, thank you for your help and support. Thank you for being the chief hype man, teller off'r, logistics coordinator and operations manager that really guided the team through a challenging season and led from the front, it's been a privilege!

I feel a typical line used within the twos was 'do not go through them as they will take the ball off you', was used most weeks and ignored most weeks. Another classic line used by me was respect the umpires as they are doing us a favour and helping us out. This typically stands out for me as a home game I said before the game 'if anyone gets carded for descent then the umpires are sending the captain off (me) then they are paying for my match fee', well 10 min in I get sent off for descent! DOH! The team thought this was very comical and as expected voted me the DOTD and asked if it meant I was paying for all their match fees?! I don't think so.

The team have been great and we have seen the development of a few youngsters within the squad bringing our average age right down with the likes of Sam, Ed, Ben, Harry, James, Ashton, Oli, Monty and Theo. These lads are very important for the future of Poole Hockey Club and I hope they have enjoyed the season with the twos and look forward to the future with the club and if they go to Uni, I hope they return.

Now many of you don't know but before the season starts I send out a message to all the contacts I have in my phone from hockey players that have played for the club over the years who we may not have seen for a while, this sometimes works and definitely did this year with welcoming back Tim, Steve, Pierre and Perry. Tim and Steve have been crucial to the twos this season, being regulars in

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the team and starters within the team. Tim getting 8 goals in his season return. We had a new face to the club being Stephen Riley, He played for the twos all of 4 games! I tried the classic of telling the ones he was no good to try and keep him as long as possible but he kept on turning up to training and basically proving I was talking rubbish. He has been a first name on the team sheet for the ones and has jumped straight into coaching also, you are already part of the Poole Hockey Club family and we hope you stick around for long hall.

Now on to the older generation within the team, without players being available every week we would struggle to field teams and putting out good performances. I would like to say a thank you to Dan Potts, Vinny, Gareth, Michael and others, without you all the younger generation would not have players to learn from and would not know how not to play hockey. No I am joking, you guys have been great and I am so grateful to have the support of you all within the team. A little stat is Pottsy was the player with the 3<sup>rd</sup> most appearances within the team and considering everything he has gone through that is incredible, thank you mate! Unlike your sidekick Alex! What a slacker!

Before I round up I would like to say a thank you to the parents of the youngsters who drive the kids to the games, bring them to training, who do so much for us, but there is 1 in particular I would like to give a special mention to, I am sure you will not be surprised as he likes all social media posts, he takes the registers for the club, he sends out the emails to the opposing teams, he organises teas for us to eat and of course I am talking about Trevor Bailey, thank you for coming to every game, showing and shouting your support to the point that Julia Bailey now stands away from you or at Basingstoke was the other side of the pitch. You are the definition of a LEGEND! The season would not have been the same without you. Thank you!

Now to round things up, next season with a more consistent team and a couple objectives from the off, it will put us in good stead for the year. Thank you men twos, for another year! Here's to many more with growth and hopefully another cheeky promotion before I hang up the stick.

South Central Men's Division 4 South								
Team Name	Played	Won	Draw	Lost	For	Against	Difference	Points
Winchester 3	22	14	3	5	83	51	32	45
Weymouth 1	22	13	4	5	74	45	29	43
Alton 2	22	13	3	6	64	44	20	42
Trojans 4	22	12	5	5	74	52	22	41
Bournemouth M4	22	11	5	6	63	36	27	37
New Forest	22	12	2	8	65	48	17	37
Romsey 2	22	7	8	7	54	60	-6	29
Chichester Friars	22	9	1	12	80	79	1	28
Basingstoke 3	22	7	2	13	50	64	-14	23
Salisbury 3	22	5	6	11	30	53	-23	21
Poole 2	22	5	2	15	54	83	-29	17
Southampton 2	22	3	1	18	32	108	-76	10