



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2015

The days are getting shorter and the temperature is dropping (slightly!) so that must mean December is upon us and the halfway point of the season... & what a first half we have had. This month's newsletter is a busy one, as it was an action packed month, so read on...

EASYFUNDRAISING - THE #SPENDCHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

The club is registered with EasyFundraising, which is a fantastic & easy way for us to raise **free money for the club** – purely from the online shopping that you would have done anyway.

In the run up to Christmas, Pitchero has been running a competition - whichever club raises the most in free donations **between October 28th and December 9th wins a £500 donation to their Club!**

To help us win, first go to <http://pitchero.easyfundraising.org.uk/support/>, find our club, sign in, and then click through to the website you want to make your purchase from and that's it. The price of the goods is exactly the same - you don't pay anything extra, the company donates. For more information, visit: easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works

Ask friends and family as well to support our club and keep reminding them to use easyfundraising when they shop online for Christmas presents. They'll be raising money for our club as well as helping our chances in the competition. So get shopping 'Ningers! & spread the word!

Here are our top raising 5 clubs over the last month using easyfundraising:

1st	Old Bedians RUFC	£135.73
2nd	London Edwardians Hockey Club	£105.44
3rd	Windsor Netball Club	£103.33
4th	Stoke Gabriel FC	£85.30
5th	CTYFC Eagles	£80.63

* Stated donation values are as recorded at date of post - subject to confirmation of completed sale by the retailer

SOCIAL MEDIA COMPETITION

Got a great pic to share?! Have a photo that perfectly displays our Club at its best?! Well now you could win something for those moments!

We are running two competitions on social media this year; a competition running throughout the season - the 'Spirit of Sonning' (#Sonningness), as well as a bi-monthly competition: the first of these currently running is 'Christmas' (#Christmas)... obviously!

To enter; tweet or Facebook a photo, related to the relevant category, **using the hashtag #COTN and the competition phrase!** There will be **prizes** and winners will be announced in the Newsletter and at the End of Season Dinner!

This weekend is the perfect weekend to get your entries in, so get tweeting/posting!

You can find all our Social Media **details at the bottom** of the newsletter. As always, **please do your bit and share/like all our posts** where you can.



#HOCaKEYOFF – SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

Expectation was hanging heavy in the air (or was that the fog?) ahead of possibly the most hotly anticipated battle of the season... The inaugural Sonning HC vs Bicester HC Charity HOCaKEY OFF (a Hockey & Bake-off to raise money for Hockey 4 Heroes, a charity supporting British servicemen and women) hosted by us! Before the main event (the cakes, obviously), there was the small matter of a Mixed Hockey match between the sides. As well as pride and bragging rights, the triumphant team would take valuable points into the bake-off.



As you might well imagine, the game was well contested from the start with both sides putting together some nice passing moves. However, it proved to be a moment of individual skill from Sonning forward Colm Hanlon which broke the deadlock. That first goal proved to be key and as the half wore on Sonning exerted control on the game stretching their lead to 4-0. After the break, with the fog really closing in, Bicester came back into the game, but the Sonning defence led by Mai-Po Wan and Ned Squire restricted Bicester to few

opportunities and those they did create were well saved by young goalkeeper Mitch Miller. Sonning continued to be a threat in front of goal through Sammy Petch and Noel Plant and added one more to their tally before the end of that match to round off a comfortable win... the cake would be another matter however...!

Having worked up a suitable appetite, attention turned to the Bake-off. However, before the teams could taste for themselves, we welcomed guest judges Lucy Rowe and Tim Preston from England Hockey. With the crowds looking nervous, the judges, understanding the magnitude of the occasion (this is serious stuff), meticulously scrutinised ten cakes (one from each of five different bakers from each team). The cakes were scored on appearance, taste, and texture. After an agonising wait, the teams were set to discover their fate...



Lead judge, Lucy, announced the 3rd, 2nd, and 1st placed cakes; 2nd and 3rd being taken by Bicester to bring them right back into the competition, but 1st going to Sonning (well done Julie Barclay, winner of the original Sonning HC bake-off showing that she is a true champion baker) to surely keep them in a strong position. So, what of the overall result... the scores from all five cakes, plus the points gained from Sonning's victory in the hockey would determine the club which had won overall... Bicester 331... Sonning 350!

As Sonning were crowned champions, all the participants tucked into the cake. As both clubs had agreed to give all proceeds to Hockey 4 Heroes, and as Berkshire County Sports Club kindly donated use of the pitch, we were able to raise more than £450! As the dust (and our stomachs) settled, organisers Colm Hanlon and Becca Clark from Sonning, and Chris Birch from Bicester reflected on a very successful day. Well, Becca and Colm reflected on their success and Chris was clearly plotting his revenge, because as Thank You's were exchanged between all the parties, Chris challenged Sonning HC to a rematch... this time it would be in Bicester, and we would be baking pies...!

Thanks Becca & Colm for organising! It was a great day!

Alternative match report(!): <http://www.sonninghockeyclub.co.uk/news/the-real-hocakey-off-match-report-1520502.html>

SONNING HOCKEY CLUB



Some pictures
from the day...



Our winner Julie – again! ☺



COLTS

WOKINGHAM PRIMARY SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT - THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

On 26 November, Sonning HC hosted the Wokingham Primary Schools tournament for the 3rd year running and what a great event it was. Twelve local schools took part in a series of 6 aside matches, culminating in a final to see who would represent Wokingham schools in the Berkshire championships next spring. Last year's winners, Hawkedon (featuring several Sonning juniors), retained their title with a 3 nil win over Beechwood.

Sonning HC Event Organiser Chris Manning said; "it was just fantastic to see so many 10 - 11 year olds having fun playing hockey on floodlit pitches. All the schools were well supported by parents as well as teaching staff and the atmosphere was brilliant. It would not have happened if it wasn't for the support of Sonning HC members though, and special thanks must go to: Alison Denham, Nick Digby, Jordan Manning, Chris Roberts, Jon Newman, Chris Miller, Andy Staig and Tyler Churchill."



Great to see many of the schools having Sonning juniors playing in their teams too! Well done all!

NOVEMBER THAMES VALLEY MINI TOURNAMENTS



Our Under 8's had a great tournament, showing good team work & skills, which meant they were unbeaten!!

Well done!

WEBSITE & AVAILABILITY

For all our new members out there, please remember to sign up to our website www.sonninghockeyclub.co.uk as all communications come directly from the website regarding selections, updates and news. Please ensure you select the option to allow us to use your email address for comms. Once registered on the website (above) please ensure you update your availability for the second half of the season if you have not already done so. If this is not completed you may not be selected for games as captains will assume you are unavailable.

For a detailed guide to getting your availability up online see: [Website-masterclass-setting-your-availability](#) (or ask your teammates!).



KNOCKOUT COMPETITIONS

MEN'S 1s – Men's Vase

It was a busy November for the Men's 1s, with their first match of the Vase, and then knocked out of the competition within one week of each other!

22nd November vs Bicester – Won 4-2 (James Lockhart)

Bicester had just 11 players along for the ride, and they came out hard and fast, clearly hoping to take an early lead and defend on the half court. Bicester struck first, with a quick break, a penalty corner, & failing to clear the GK pads after the initial shot was saved. 0-1.



Sonning's frustration was evident straight from the resulting push-back, as they scored straight away with a clipped shot top-left from Mark Dobbie at the top of the circle. 1-1. Sonning were back in the game and started knocking the ball about, dominating possession, but still unable to take a chance. They were made to pay for their casual play, as Bicester re-took the lead. 1-2.

Sonning once again used this to spur them on, & just before the half time whistle, won a penalty corner that Tom Sampson converted coolly to equalize once again for his 4th goal of year. 2-2.

In the 2nd half, Ian Gallagher won, then converted a penalty stroke after being illegally impeded by the Bicester keeper. 3-2. Then just before the full-time whistle David Painter, who latched onto a long ball from the halfway line, in behind the Bicester back-line, deflected from near the top of the circle. 4-2.

For the full report, visit the website: <http://www.sonninghockeyclub.co.uk/teams/117267/match-centre/0-3180515>

29th November vs Trinity Mid-Whitgiftian – Lost 1-2 (James Lockhart)

Sonning were given a torrid opening 10 minutes and eventually succumbed, with poor marking coupled with some good skill by their opponents seeing them down 0-1 fairly early in the game.

They equalised not long after, when a crash ball into the Trinity circle found a defenders foot, with the resulting penalty corner despatched by Ian Gallagher, who tucked away a crisp reverse strike. However, their equal footing didn't last long, as around the 20 minute mark Trinity struck again, with some individual skill at a penalty corner giving Allan little chance in goal. 1-2.

Trinity's keeper then made one good save in the latter stages of the half to keep his side in the lead, and at the other end Allan was called upon to keep Sonning in the contest on a couple of occasions, but the second half finished without major incident. 1-2 it remained.

Sonning spent the [2nd] half moving the ball fairly well, but lacking bite up front to find an equaliser. One late chance fell to David Painter but his deflection whistled agonisingly wide. In the end, Sonning will be disappointed with a defeat, but it was probably a fair reflection of the match as their efforts fell just short against strong opponents.

For the full report, visit the website: <http://www.sonninghockeyclub.co.uk/teams/117267/match-centre/0-3210025/>





MEN'S 2s – 2nd XI Cup

1st November vs Surbiton 2s - Lost 0-9 (Oliver 'Wadders' Waddington)

It was a cool, misty afternoon on Sonning Lane as Sonning Men's 2nd XI prepared to take on their next giant killing challenge against Surbiton Men's 2nd XI. Their opponents normally ply their trade in the London Hockey League Premier Division, which is equivalent to 5 leagues higher than South League MBBO Division 1 where Sonning normally play. This really was David against Goliath... Japan vs South Africa, for you rugby fans.

Despite the apparent gulf in quality between the teams, the opening exchanges of the matches were closely contested with Sonning creating just as many clear opportunities as their illustrious rivals. However, after the first 20mins, it was clear that Surbiton's dominance in possession was tiring the Sonning players, even Steve 'Ironman'



Ridley was looking fatigued (one can only imagine how everyone else was feeling!). It was no surprise then that Surbiton's patience paid off and a few very well worked moves in the final 15mins of the half rewarded them with a comfortable 4-0 lead at half time.

After the break, spurred on by the inspirational words of Captain Adam 'Mac' McCarthy, Vice-Captain Jamie Haworth, and still being cheered on by their faithful supporters from the sideline, Sonning once again came out in spirited fashion, with Colm Hanlon even managing to successfully execute a clean tackle

(which he celebrated more wildly than most people celebrate a goal). "Remember what happened in the Japan game" everyone was thinking... Unfortunately Sonning couldn't match the heroics of Japan and, despite dogged defence led by centre backs Jordan Manning and Ben Johnson, Surbiton further extended their lead. Sonning had chances of their own to get on the scoresheet, but a combination of committed cover defending and good goalkeeping prevented Noel 'Santa' Plant from applying the finishing touch to some good counter-attacking plays.

In the end Surbiton ran out convincing 9-0 winners, but Sonning gave a performance they can be proud of and despite the scoreline both sets of players, as well as the match officials, left the pitch congratulating each other on a very enjoyable match.

After the match, one of Surbiton's players tweeted: *@tinrrlondon: Massive credit to @SonningHC, played the game in good spirits despite the scoreline. Great clubhouse, showers and teas too. #allthebest*

Well done boys! Great ambassadors for the club!



LADIES' 1s – Women's Vase

The draw has now been confirmed and the Ladies' 1s have a home tie vs Camberley & Farnborough for their first match – the second round of the competition – on Sunday **14th February 2016**.



LADIES' OVER 35s – Trophy

The Classics were another team that had a busy November with two games in the Investec Trophy. **Next round: HOME vs Cambridge - Sunday 7th February.**

8th November vs Clifton – Won 9-0

Sonning took on Clifton in the EHA Over 35 Trophy, played some great hockey and came away with an emphatic 9-0 win (after only being 1-0 up at half time - who did that team talk?!)

Goals from Coops x3, Pikey, AJ x2, Jill x2, & Sinead.

For the full report, visit the website: <http://www.sonninghockeyclub.co.uk/news/classics-match-report--sonning-v-clifton-1532497.html>



29th November vs Wycombe – Won 5-1

The team again sailed past the opposition, this time Wycombe, in their second match of the month, to take them into the 4th round of the trophy on 7th February, & setting themselves up for a home game vs Cambridge City. It would appear Sonning don't want any knockout games on away turf this year...! Good luck ladies!

SOCIALS

It's here... the **Christmas Party** is **TONIGHT** – held at our own Clubhouse from 7pm – you can still buy 'disco only' tickets right up to the event, available on our website (sorry, it's too late to get food)...

<https://secure.pitchero.com/clubs/sonninghc/payments/product-13439.html>

Remaining club nights for your diary (1st Saturday of the month):

- 2nd/9th January – 'quiet one' at the bar
- 6th February – Race night
- 5th March - 'quiet one' at the bar
- April – End of Season Dinner



More information will follow before each of the remaining dates, but for now, make sure they are in your diary!

SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN



As usual Santa has promised to call in at our club this Christmas :-)

He is passing by on **Sunday 6th December** and will arrive at about **4.30pm**.

The bar will open at 12 noon and a Christmas roast dinner will be available from 2.00 until 3.30pm. Please pre-book.

Remember to **bring a small gift** marked clearly with your child's name for Santa to give to them.



COMMITTEE VACANCIES

We still have the following vacancies that we need volunteers to help with. Remember, this is YOUR club, and without volunteers, it cannot run, so please step forward and help out where you can. The roles are as follows:

- **Social Secretary!** As probably the most social Club in the world, this is a position of great honour and importance!
- **Ladies 4s Captain**
- **Junior Section Coordinator**

If you think you can help with any of the roles above, please contact Oliver 'Wadders' Waddington at chairman@sonninghockeyclub.co.uk

YOUR HOCKEY CLUB



SHC CODE OF CONDUCT

A reminder of our Code of Conduct, which we expect all our members to abide by at all times:
<http://www.sonninghockeyclub.co.uk/a/sonning-hockey-club-code-of-conduct-44840.html>

NEWSLETTERS

If you have anything you want to include in the newsletters then please let us know by sending an email to:
sonninghockeyclub@hotmail.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS 'NINGERS...! #COTN

Any questions or queries please address them to: sonninghockeyclub@hotmail.com

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Website: www.sonninghockeyclub.co.uk

