

I sincerely hope you all had a great Christmas and may I be one of the many to wish you a **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Congratulations to Brian and Shirley Owles on the birth of their second daughter who is now taking an even greater interest in Women's Hockey.

RESULTS	1stXl	2ndXl	3rdXl	4thXl	5thXl
St Albans	1-4	1-2	1-3	0-0	
Polytechnic					1-1

REPORTS

The 1stXl (Brian Guest 1) were leading until just before half-time, but went to pieces in the second half and suffered their heaviest defeat this season.

The 2ndXl (Johnny Miller 1) with only ten men played exceptionally well and were unlucky to lose. We went ahead early on and would have been two up but for a bad umpiring decision in not playing advantage. Special mention to all the 3rdXl players who were promoted, especially Pat Flanagan and Nigel Rix.

The crucial stage in the 3rdXl (Bob Hale 1) was just after half-time. The side were one down but then had three golden opportunities to score. They were missed and two further St Albans goals, despite a late rally, sealed the game.

The 4thXl gained a good result against a very classy team. Our defence had to be at their best. Excellent debut from Phil Sophocles in goal (what a beautiful name) and John Grierson gave a fine display, in his own philosophical manner.

I went down to Chiswick on a bitterly cold day to umpire the 5thXl (Will Samuel 1), but the performance of the side certainly warmed me up. Playing against the Poly 2ndXl we were one down after a minute. However despite being under considerable pressure for moments in the game the defense held out and the team scored a second half equaliser. Although it was a team performance I should mention the displays of the Coonan brothers and that of Guy Stobart, who is certainly the most improved player I have seen this season.

DISCO please don't forget the disco organised by Adrian Rice and Dave Wickert on Saturday 13th January at the clubhouse. There is a bar extension until 1.00a.m. Tickets £1-50 (includes food). **PROFITS TO CLUBHOUSE IMPROVEMENTS FUND**

TEAM RECORDS

As a matter of interest I worked out the records at this stage last season (in Brackets). As you will notice there has been a tremendous improvement this season. May it continue.

	F	W	D	L	P	A	%	(lastseason%)	
1stXl...	15	8	2	5	29	23	60.0	(50.0)	
2ndXl...	14	5	3	6	24	14	46.4	(53.8)	Barnard Cup latest odds
3rdXl...	12	6	4	2	24	12	66.7	(45.8)	(Joe Viji's)
4thXl...	12	7	1	4	17	13	52.5	(45.0)	5/4 ft fav 3rd + 5thXl
5thXl...	12	6	4	2	26	9	65.7	(54.5)	2/1 6thXl
6thXl...	9	6	0	3	33	17	66.7	(22.2)	9/4 4thXl
Vets Xl.	10	5	1	4	13	15	55.0	(40.0)	100/1 Dave Dixon
ALL.....	84	43	15	26	166	103	60.1	(45.6)	

GOALSCORERS (Golden Sticks)

11.....Fawley	
8.....Galloway	latest odds (William Borrett's)
7.....Hillel, Joss	5/4 Fawley
6.....Gregory, Griffith, Hornsby, Smith H.	3/2 Hillel
5.....Ball, Barry, Dixon D, Guest, Tipping.	2-1 Joss
4.....Bloomfield, Dixon T, Hale, Patel.	200/1 Wilmott, Soares, Starr, Elgar

SPANIARDS

If you want to play for the Spaniards in the second half of this season please contact Nigel Fletcher ...new number 874 0148.

The first match is on Sunday week.

Looking out of the clubhouse at 11.20 this New Years Day, wondering if any of the selectio committee are going to arrive, I've just thought of a new game...hockey on skis.

P.S. Tony Elliot arriving looking like a miniature yeti, also Paw carrying a Union Jack.