



STAFFORD HOCKEY CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Men's 1st XI make it five wins in a row

Stafford's men's first team have won the last five games after a difficult start to the season, leaving them third in the table going into the final two games before the Christmas break. Solid goalkeeping from Dave Trotter has meant the side have conceded only one goal in the last four. Younger Trotter, Charlie has terrorised defences with rip-roaring pace and clinical finishing. Smooth build-up and rapid counter-attacking has secured victories including a convincing six nil win away to Ludlow on November 26th. The team travel to Bromsgrove next weekend and round of 2017 at home to Redditch and are hoping to carry on their good run. Meanwhile Stafford Ladies 1st XI have had a predictably tougher first half of the season following promotion to Midlands Feeder West and have taken nine points from nine games to sit a very respectable 7th in the league. However, the best performing Stafford team has to be the Ladies' 2nd XI who have taken 22 points from ten games and sit top of Staffordshire Division 2. Elsewhere, the men's 2nd XI have taken 11 points from eight games and sit 8th in West Midlands Division 1.



The new Stafford Hockey Club logo as designed by Andy Barnett is now featured on our new kit

Juniors are Reaping Rewards of Club Investment

We are beginning to see the rewards of three seasons' hard work in junior development. The two clubs have worked closely together and this has culminated in the launch of a new badgers team that has been doing the club proud. We have also participated in a regional under 12s tournament and have seen county representation by four of our talented under 16 boys, Will Buckley, Josh Deakin, George Hodgkinson and Dan Preston. Sponsorship for our new mixed junior hybrid kit has come from Paul Roscoe & Co. Accountants.



Above: Children from local primary schools take part in a club run tournament at Beaconside. Community work has led to a number of new junior players joining the club.

Pitch Fundraising

Following the successful planning appeal earlier this year, a subcommittee has been working on fundraising for the construction of our new pitch. We will shortly be submitting bids for funding from Sport England, the National Hockey Foundation, Asda and Tesco. 2018 is going to be a pivotal year for the club so please offer your help in any way possible. You can purchase a square of the new pitch by heading to pitchsponsorship.staffordhc.co.uk Perfect for Christmas!

Juniors vs. Parents Game and Christmas Party 9th December

We invite you to join us for the final Sunday training session of the season on 9th December as the parents / adults take on the kids from 10am – 12pm. This will be followed by our juniors' Christmas party at the club straight after. There will be light refreshments, music and a raffle. All are welcome for both the hockey and the party.

Wishes to Dennis

We would all like to send our best wishes to Dennis Wall, our club President who is unwell at this time. Our thoughts are with Dennis, his family and his friends.

Club Raises Money for Movember



On Sunday 12th November, club members turned out in support of 'Movember' playing a tri-team tournament with Staffordshire University. The event was organised by Andy Barnett as part of an annual effort to raise money and awareness for men's health issues such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and suicide.

Christmas Shopping? Use EasyFundraising

The club is now registered as a cause with easyfundraising.org.uk, a website that works with retailers to support good causes through the donation of a percentage of sales or a fixed fee per purchase to your nominated good cause. Retailers are wide-ranging and include Amazon, John Lewis and holiday companies. Head to staffordhc.co.uk/fundraising for further details before you start your Christmas shopping.

Upcoming Events

Club Christmas Party

Saturday 8th December 2017 | 7pm at the club | Free *Informal drinks and then a night out in Stafford*

Juniors vs. Parents Game

Sunday 9th December 2017 | 10am at Beaconside | Free
Followed by juniors' Christmas party at the club

Dan Howe's 30th Birthday Party and Night Out

Saturday 27th January 2018 | 7pm at the club | Free.
Come in pairs as anything beginning with 'D'.

Stafford Cricket Club Comedy Night

Friday 9th February 2018 | 8pm at the club | £13.50

Hockey and Beer Festival

Thursday 19th – Saturday 21st April 2018 | At the club
The best beers and a spectacular grass hockey tournament

For all our policies, news and club shop, head to staffordhc.co.uk and staffordladieshc.co.uk. If you have any comments or questions, please email secretary@staffordhc.co.uk

Fireworks Success

We welcomed over 2000 members of the public to Riverway on 5th November for the annual fireworks night. The event has turned into Stafford's second biggest fireworks night and the biggest in the town itself. We served over 300 burgers, 400 soft and hot drinks and put on an excellent, 25 minutes fireworks display delivered by Steve and Helen Paling. Over 30 club members / family members volunteered to welcome the public, cook and sell food, and make drinks. The event made nearly £7000 in total, which helps keep the club going for another year. If you want to help next year, look out for emails and alerts in October. The more volunteers, the better the event.

ClubMark

Stafford Hockey Club is very close to attaining England Hockey's ClubMark. ClubMark is a set of standards set out by England Hockey that define how a good, safe club should be run. The new online portal was launched in early 2017 and we have spent the last nine months ensuring that everything is in order. This culminated in four club members completing England Hockey's Time to Listen course, which focuses on child welfare and safeguarding. The course was held at the club in November and attracted welfare officers from around the region.

Club Kit



The new men's club kit is now available online: www.speedonesports.com/stafford-hockey-club. You can purchase the new home and away shirts along with a variety of training gear, hoodies and tee-shirts all sporting our brand new logo. There is the option to add initials and numbers but numbers are first-come-first-served, so get your orders in. Junior kit is also available. Thanks to SpeedOne Sports who kindly donated the new first team away shirts.