



Timperley Hockey Club

Blues Notes

2017 Round Up

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2018 from the THC Committee – thanks for the support of everyone involved in making it a special year for THC !

Here's a few highlights from 2017 and how the year panned out at Timperley Hockey Club!

January

2017 got off to a flying start with the boys under 18's heading to the EH indoor national finals in Telford another first for the Club.



February

A quiet month ended in success for the Under 15 girls winning the Greater Manchester Junior Hockey (GMJHL) League, the start of a

great run of performances from our Academy teams.



March

As the league season drew to a close it culminated with the Men's 4s gaining promotion, the ladies 1s were heading into an IWHL relegation playoff and all other teams retaining their place in their leagues.

The academy was again on hand to bring more success as the under 11 boys won the GMJHL and then the under 10 & 12 boys finished runners up in the Cheshire minis with the under 10 girls crowned as Cheshire champions to make it three teams heading to North regional finals in May.



We also hosted another successful Men's Vets Tournaments thanks to Colin Taylor for organising.

April

Even though the league season had finished, April soon became our busiest month of the season. The ladies 1's entered their relegation play offs and after a 1-1 draw away at Exeter they entertained the 200+ crowd at Stockport Road with a thrilling 7-3 win against West Herts to stay up and retain National League status.



The month saw great excitement as the Men's Over 50's and Ladies Over 35's both hit preparations for the EH Masters Finals at Lee Valley – another first for the Club in

our first ever Senior National Finals. Another big step forward in our quest to get Timperley's name on the Hockey Map!

The Club was out in force at the Olympic Park and a great weekend was had by all involved. The results didn't go our way and both teams came away runners up but it was still a great weekend for all involved and thanks to all those that came down to support the teams. The Nicholson's also starred in an EH interview on multi-generational hockey and Tim and Perley were captured on Twitter as the #TimperleyTurtles and even retweeted by the FIH #hockeyMascots !



The annual dinner dance was a success again as was the men's lower league tournament and thanks to Alex Morley for organising. We also hosted the Cheshire Cup finals – sadly there were no THC teams involved !



April also saw our homegrown Ben Entwisle make his first appearances for England under 16s in a set of games against Ulster.



May

After their success at the Cheshire minis the under 10 boys and girls and the under 12 boys and girls and small army of family supporters headed to Leeds for the EH north finals with both under 10s reaching the final and finishing runners up and the under 12s getting to the semi finals. A fantastic achievement and great to see the next generation of #HomeGrown players coming through. The academy were not finished there though with a packed presentation day and parents v kids game to cap off their season.

Summer league kicked off again in May and grew to 15 women's teams and 7 men's teams and provided hundreds of 7s games to keep everyone fit and hockey sharp over the next 10 weeks. Thanks to all involved in running and umpiring this the 2017 leagues.

June

The annual ladies vets 7's tournament took place at the club with a great turn out and of course the customary fancy

dress with Timperley rolling back the year's to remember Mr Ben! Thanks to all involved and to Jo Nicholson for organising.



A new dining experience was witnessed by members of TSC as the 140th anniversary was celebrated with a Faulty Towers themed dinner.



Returning after a few years off was Sporting Questions was back with big names such as Fran Halsall and Dame Sarah Storey gracing the clubhouse.



Coming together with cricket, lacrosse and junior football another first as we entered a TSC #OneClubFourSports float in the altrincham festival.



July

More off-season hockey, this time being the return of the mixed tournament with a great turnout including the Chancellor-Capel team and a big thanks to Sarah for organising and bringing the Mixed tournament back.



We also experienced the entertainment of hypnotist Alan Bates at our volunteer thank you event, with Kieron George being the star of the show ! This is our annual event to say 'thank you' to all our volunteers and their partners who make hockey possible at the Timperley.



Current men's 1st team captain Dave Halkyard also had his stag do, but there were some questions asked over his clothing for the event – thankfully his new team kit was donned away from Cheshire in Germany!



August

A Trinidad and Tobago masterclass made the headlines in August with Kwan Browne and Anthony Marciano delivering an excellent days coaching and playing masterclasses.

Our own Sarah Impey, Ladies 2nd team captain, went to the Masters European Championships in Holland with England over 50s and after a fantastic tournament came home a Gold medal winner. A major achievement for any player and many congratulations to Imps.



Congratulations also to Ben Jones who was selected for the Under 18 Pennine Puma's as the EH Futures Cup.

September

The start of a new season was upon us again and it arrived with a few new International faces. Kwasi Emmanuel added to the club's growing Trinidad influence and to the Mens 1st team squad fresh from playing in the Pan Am Games against world No 1 Argentina. The Ladies 1s also had a new International flavour in defence by welcoming Lithuanian player Giedre Kvilonaitė.



After our most active pre season programme for many years that started in June with fitness, the 2017-18 season coaching programme saw some other major developments. All senior training moved to Tuesday evenings on both pitches creating a real club feel to coaching sessions, along with Under 16 training, academy development sessions and our new Goalkeeper training. Plus we started indoor sessions for the 1st squads too.

Academy registration day also brought smiles from Tim, Perly and of course Albert with over

200 young players playing their hockey at Timperley.



October

Following the success of last year, the lederhosen were dusted off and Octoberfest returned for its second outing at the club. Later in the month Germany was replaced for England behind the bar with the Black Sheep Beer festival including a comedy night.

Another thing returning for its second year at TSC was 'Grow Your Tenner' which again raised in excess of £3,000 towards ground equipment including a drag mat to help keep the astro's in tip top condition.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year's appeal.



November

November was a memorable month for one long standing member as it brought the first clean sheet of the millennium for Jon Tipler our occasional Men's 6's keeper – a pretty impressive landmark by any players standards and shows the true spirit of a lifelong love of the sport! Jon was also recognised in the England Hockey team of the week along with Michelle Mortimer-Collier who had an epic weekends hockey with the Ladies 1 and academy coaching and turned good Samaritan for a member of the public taken ill at the Club.

December

Following the success of the under 18 boys earlier in the year it was the Ladies 1's turn to bring some indoor joy to Timperley. The girls went unbeaten in the north qualifying rounds, topping the group, and they will now compete in Division 2 North in the new year.



The Under 18 boys and girls also took part in the indoor regionals in December as we continue to develop indoor at the club.

The new format Christmas festivities at the Club were also a hit with a fantastic

turnout from hockey on a day when all hockey was lost again to frozen pitches. Thanks to everyone who donated to the Tombola and supported the day and of course to our volunteers who ran the stalls, tombola and created a great family feel to the day. Hockey certainly made it a clean sweep of the prizes with Ted Small (£300 Snowball) Nick Burnett (£100 in the 200 Club) and Ruth Brown (£100 on the night draw).



Finally, the award for most unique hockey Christmas present goes to men's 6s vice-captain Dave Orpet looking very pleased in his new THC personalised dressing gown !



...and finally

The year closed with EH writing to congratulate us on being invited to join their *Big Clubs Group* and forums – another milestone in our journey to put Timperley on the hockey map! Thanks to all our volunteers without whom this would not have been possible. Here's to another great year's hockey in 2018 and for all involved with THC.