

70 Minutes

The Bloxwich Hockey Club End of Season Review

Chairwomans Chatter

Well, what a season 2025/6 has been.

We embarked on development this season and took the leap of faith to enter a 5th men's development team and a 5th ladies development team into the league.

As I am writing this 7 of the 8 league playing teams are in the top 4 of their respective leagues, ladies 2s, ladies 4s, men's 3s are promoted on our 'Super Saturday' and there is still some unfinished business for potential promotions this coming Saturday along with champions of the league titles up for grabs.

We have regularly achieved fielding the 5th development teams for men and ladies whilst achieving all this success which is an amazing!

To add to this, we have also been fielding a beavers team trying out a different area league this season. England Hockey officially made us an accredited Talent Centre after assessing us on one of our ladies training sessions and we continue to develop our offerings to our club members specifically our juniors in line with EH guidance.

We have welcomed new players to the club in both the men and ladies' sections and have seen some old members return, I hope you have thoroughly settled into the Bloxwich HC family and have felt the love!

As we grow we have needed more volunteers join our merry band, this has been the case and indeed we wasted not time in getting Sade into the role of Manager of Ladies hockey when she joined us at Christmas, a baptism of fire but you have done a fabulous job in such a short time so thank you so much Sade!! You will regularly see Sade coaching all day on a Saturday after her home game as well as on Monday evenings.

Whilst only appointed after Christmas our men's Manager of hockey is a familiar face in Richard Mincher or 'Minch' as we all know him. Minch again commits his time on Mondays and Tuesdays coaching our Goalkeepers besides taking on his role as Manager.

A huge thank you from me as this has really helped me to be able to keep working on the other sections of the club.

A huge thank you to our coaches this season:

Monday

Louie, Rianne, Sade and Minch

Tuesday

Steve, Matt, Kian, Andy and Minch

You have all had such an impact on the performance that the teams have made this year so thank you so much for all your efforts, dedication and inspiration.

Captains, its been a busy old season for you all and the club is fully aware and so grateful for all the dedication you also give to the club, whilst we know you all enjoy playing as well we fully appreciate how much time you have to give to the role every week, so again a huge thank you.

Thank you to all our umpires specifically Dave Middleton and Bob Foster who commit their Saturdays to the club to umpire when they don't even play the game, we are truly grateful.

Thank you also to all the other players who rush back from games and are prepared to also give up their Saturdays to umpire, notably Zanna, Izzy, Harry, Liam, Martin, Gary, Emily, Michael, Kian & Scott, Ad, Craig, Grace, Matt, Srah, Shabba, Jon, Steph, Zoe, Anna, Ellie, Bea, Gary, Lunny, Minch, Ryan, Sharon and anyone else that has umpires in summer or winter leagues.

Umpires, you have as always been amazing, the time given by you all to umpire has been admirable and as we all know without you, we can't play hockey.

The junior section of the club we continue to develop with the Talent Academy and this season we are extending our summer offering for training as well as linking in with schools to offer a school's tournament which in turn we hope encourages more juniors into our club.

We have embarked on another huge milestone this summer with a trip for our juniors to play in Holland against other juniors, we do believe this will be a fantastic experience for them all!!

The progression of our juniors into the adult pathway we have been doing for many seasons now and this in part is almost certainly a reason for some of our huge success this season.

The club continues to be financially stable and continues its community engagement with both local business and local schools.

The one challenge that still eludes me is having a new pitch and ideally at King Georges, both myself and Bev Boden and Sharon Beck will keep working on this project as we recognise what a huge positive impact this would have to have a pitch there.

Finally, thank you all so much for your dedication, devotion and commitment to Bloxwich Hockey Club, I hope that you are as proud as me to be part of such a thriving club.

Have a good summer everyone!!!

Katie Kitson Yeoman
Bloxwich HC Chair



Season Reviews

Men's Section

Men's Manager of Hockey – Richard Mincher

It has been an incredible season for the Men's Section, with all 4 league teams pushing hard for promotion throughout the season. At time of writing, the M3s have secured promotion to Division 7 and will be looking to win the title on the last day of the season, the M1s still have an outside chance of promotion going into the final game, while the M2s and M4s are both going to finish 4th. The M5s have battled hard all season and have seen several new players join the team and the club, some of whom have already progressed to the M4s. A massive well done to everyone who has pulled on the red and black this season!

Thanks must go to the coaches from a Tuesday Night – Steve Mallows, Matt Boden, Kian Glasby and Andrew Moriarty – for all their hard work across the season. The improvement in every single team and player from last season is a testament to the commitment you have given every single week, especially in some of the awful weather we seem to have faced consistently throughout the season. The sight of a ball stopping on the pooled water during a particularly wet session is one that springs to mind!

A massive shout out to the managers and captains for all their incredible commitment over the season – Matt Whitehouse, Jack Phillips, Martin Oates, Simon Lunn, Craig Williams, Richard Bessey and Simon Titley (Who has gone above and beyond this season organizing both the M4s and M5s) – the league performances of all the teams is a reflection of the hard work so thank you!

A final thank you to everyone who has helped with the umpiring this season and to Dave for sorting this all year

Mens 1st XI – CAPTAIN – MATT WHITEHOUSE

Record after 21 games: W15 D1 L5 – F 72 A 41 Points 46 Position: 3th

The 2025/26 season has been a hugely positive one for Bloxwich Men's 1s, with a strong 3rd-place finish looking the most likely outcome and a fair reflection of the progress made across the year.

Investment in youth is paying off. Harry and Liam have pushed on superbly from last season and become key contributors, while Kian, still only 19, now operates comfortably as a senior player and continues to give back to the club through his work with the youth section a huge positive for the future.

Experience has balanced that youth well. Richard Parker's weekly cross-country commute (as he reminds us regularly) has been fully justified by his quality and commitment, which have made a real difference this season.

Alex Hill has also delivered his highest goal return to date, combining deadly left-post finishes with a couple of well-honed power push flick things but performance on the pitch has been nothing compared to his performance in his first year as fines master which has been truly invigorated.

Thanks again to Steve for his coaching and for continuing to confuse opposition teams by turning up in kit and never actually playing.

An honourable mention must go to the five game run in, where Steve Mallows confidently informed me that promotion would result in the "demise of my captaincy." Whether that was the right message or the right time as we proceed to narrowly miss out on promotion remains up for debate. Make of that what you will.

As we enter the off-season enforcement will be deployed in the Boden camp in an attempt to deter any poaches through the summer and we have asked for Matt to show less leg this year.

It has been a fantastic season with a great group of players where everyone has fully contributed to the success of the season but more importantly, we have had plenty of laughs throughout.

Message for Mallows from the team 'One more season' 😊

Well done to all the other BHC teams from both sections, strong throughout and some promotions to celebrate.

Cheers

Matt

Mens 2nd XI – CAPTAIN – JACK PHILLIPS**Record after 21 games: W12 D5 L4 – F 65 A 36 Points 41 Position: 4th**

In my first season as Captain, I am very pleased with how the team have performed in what turned out to be a season of two halves.

Having played and represented Bloxwich at every team level before this season, I am extremely grateful to all who have supported me this season and appreciate everyone for their efforts. Stepping up to captain was never something I ever thought I would do, but it is something I am glad to have had the opportunity to do and I am proud to have led this team.

Bloxwich Men's 2s started off the season strongly with a 7 game unbeaten run which only faltered in our eighth game away at Shrewsbury. Among these undefeated games was a strong 2-1 victory against eventual promoted team Leek and a 2-2 draw against also promoted Telford. Despite the Shrewsbury loss, Bloxwich finished 2025 off strong with only one loss and 3 draws. This saw them sitting well within the hunt for promotion.

Unfortunately, Christmas hit the team hard and 2026 started with two defeats in quick succession. One against a strong and youthful Leek side and the other in a game at Beacon where our Bloxwich team just did not turn up.

A faltering few results saw promotion dreams fizzle out, but drawing 2-2 at Telford was a particular highlight as Bloxwich were one of only two teams to get anything on their travels to Telford.

Goals aplenty once again from Adam Baldwin made a huge difference as, at time of writing, he leads the league and club top scorer lists. A fantastic achievement. Adam has been assisted up top by Finn O Connor who has really strengthened both on and off the ball. Dave Cook has been versatile in his role across the team and supported more than capably in most, if not all, positions across the pitch.

New addition to the team, Ryan Darby, joined at the start of the season and added 6 goals from ferocious short corner hits throughout the season and brought in strength in defence.

Nathan Langley's dazzling runs have seen him become a midfield maestro in a number of positions across the middle and Josh Albanesse (nee Downen) has added to his assist tally this season with his pacey blistering runs. Tom Langley has grown in strength and character this season and has held his own, in a physical and tough adults league. Richard Duckhouse and Mark Mason have been Rolls-Royce midfielders across the pitch as always, all season and always put in a shift.

My defensive rocks have been solid as always and made a huge difference this season. Ryan Middleton has been a giant in goal and, with his confidence growing, is a man mountain between the sticks. My guys, Lee Hale and Aaron Allcock have been sturdy, adaptable and solid at the back of the pitch and have been a brick wall at the back. Dane Westley has been a breath of fresh air in the team with his adaptable play and his calm and composed style of hockey being a strong asset to the team. We also had superb support from Luca New at the start of the season, Jonny Morris who has been a great addition when called upon, Matt Baldwin with his rare appearances and regular goals, Cameron Haslam also coming in with goals when needed and working well for the team and Liam Brazier with his dizzying runs and effortless style of play.

My first year as captain would not have been as successful without all the support of the players above and I love what each of these players brings to the team. I must also say a huge thank you to our cheerleaders on the sideline. Becky O Connor has been a star supporter this season and her help with teas has been invaluable and is really appreciated by all of the lads. Thanks go to Dannii Evans for her support on the sidelines and for her help with the 'sheets' and for giving a different perspective from the sidelines. Thanks to Jo Langley for her support in all areas and on the sideline too.

My special thanks go to Jonny Morris for his words of wisdom before I took on the role this year and for his support throughout the season. Thanks to Martin Oates for his captaincy words of wisdom at times of need in the week.

Big thank you to Steve Mallows for the superb and effortful training sessions that help us weekly and, I know those who have regularly attended, feel the benefits of these excellent sessions. And a final thank you to our umpires this season for their effort and officiating our games so proficiently – thanks to the main man Dave Middleton and Zanna Wade for superb officiating

What a season. Onto the next.

Over and out.

Captain Jack.

Mens 3rd XI – CAPTAIN – MARTIN OATES**Record after 21 games: W17 D2 L2 – F 98 A 41 Points 53 Position: 2nd (PROMOTED)**

Firstly I would like to congratulate every player and team that has represented the club this season.

Thanks to the heroes on the committee that put so much work in it's incredible, the coaching team my word we've had some bleak evenings, and of course Dave and his team of umpires that have allowed us to play every week x.

After a successful 24-25 season that introduced several juniors to adult hockey, the plan for this season was to progress those players and continue the cycle.

We learned the hard way that a balance of youth and experience is vital to provide a foundation for the juniors to

flourish, so the addition of Kelt, Jonny and Luca to the squad was heaven sent, in addition to the regular adults of Gary, Adam and myself. Phil returned in Jan as usual and the cameo appearances of Liam B, Dan the enigma, Jay, Frank and Craig gave us momentum towards the end. Thank you all, especially Kelt who took the captains armband for the last six games whilst I was injured (think I'm noisier on the side however!).

Shout out's to Tom Scott who played earlier in the season, Ollie Titley who will undoubtedly step up to 3's at least next season and 'the great' Dane who joined us in Jan and stepped up to 2's.

There are also several players that have played the odd game so thank you too.

So we did it! Top of the league going into the last game v fellow leaders Oswestry and I am sure we will be celebrating the title on Saturday, illustrating our growth yet again from the first encounter. W17, D2, L2, and goals galore to boot, but the biggest accolades were the compliments we received from our opposition and the excellent disciplinary record, only receiving two yellow cards (both Tamworth away).

Luca has been a rock in the middle with myself, allowing our 'flying wing backs', sorry right and left back, Jonny & Kelt the 'Cheslyn massive' to thwart anything down the flanks.

Dawood has progressed to become an established midfielder, added to last year's player of the season Adam, who continued his terrier like domination of the leagues strikers.

Gary O has played every game (and was late for them all!) and has provided both goals and distribution from the back with his trademark passes and arials.

The juniors progress has been awesome to see. Jack (12), Tyler (10) and Wojtek (11) all hit double figures, added to the great haul of corners scored by Gary (24 goals). Their skill and pace has terrorised defences in this league, added to the incredible calmness of Kai on the ball that belittles his tender age, I'll have a pint of that Glasby magic potion please on Sat evening.

Riley would also be in this bracket and showed flashes of his clear talent, however a chronic back injury has limited his pitch time, get back soon Riley.

The two junior keepers, Arjun and Theo have played most of our games and both performed excellently, standing up to some ferocious shots at times without backing down in any way and confidently commanding their defence.

I hope to see the continual progress of our juniors and see them challenging for places in the higher sides in the coming seasons, whilst we bring through the next tranche. Another Summer of progress will surely give us some decisions to make, which is of course a healthy situation to be in. They are our future but we must also retain a core of experienced players to maintain our league positions and hopefully push on.

Finally thanks to Steph for managing the side and substitutions for most of the season, it has allowed us to go out and play each week, knowing that everyone gets plenty of pitch time and certainly takes a huge responsibility from the skipper x So let's see what next season brings and have a great evening everyone, you deserve it.

Mens 4th XI – MANAGER – SIMON TITLEY

Record after 21 games: W11 D7 L3 – F 66 A 33 Points 40 Position: 4th

What a whirlwind it's been for our Men's 4s. After clinching promotion and the league title on the final day of the 24/25 season, along with Team of the Year, most clean sheets, and even a cheeky joint Clubman of the Year for yours truly, we found ourselves in completely uncharted territory. The 4s had never played this high in the leagues before.

The big question was simple...

Could we go again, or were we about to come crashing back down to earth?

The approach? Simple: put the best side out we can and see what happens.

Our first three games all finished 2–2, and for a brief period we became affectionately known as "The Desmonds." Not ideal... but consistent! That run ended with our first defeat of the season against a strong Cannock side, but the goals kept flowing. Averaging two a game, we then hit a purple patch—seven straight wins, 33 goals scored, and a huge 3–2 victory away at table-topping Telford. That result brought silence to the bells and saw us head into the new year sitting 2nd in the league.

2026, however, had other ideas. Two 1–1 draws against Stafford and Cannock, with a loss away at Leek in between, knocked the wind out of our sails. Momentum dipped, and with it, our promotion push. Next up were Wats, and in true 4s fashion, it turned into another "eventful" afternoon. After taking the lead twice, we were pegged back with seconds to go. But straight from the restart, we surged forward and Shabba buried the winner... before promptly earning himself a red card in the celebrations. Standard.

With our top scorer missing for the next month, some reshuffling was needed—but the response was spot on. A dominant 8–1 win over Lichfield followed, with Jase Palmer returning in style, 4s debutant Cam Haslam getting off the mark, and goals from Cordie, Michael, Bessey and Craig rounding off a brilliant team performance. Draws against North Staffs and Newport followed in tighter contests, before a 5–0 win over Old Wulfs—albeit via a walkover. Sitting 3rd, just a few points off the top, we travelled to Sutton Coldfield and produced one of the performances of the season, winning 4–1. Everything clicked—passing, movement, finishing—the lot. The return of Shabba made a big difference, and credit to club legend Anton for stepping in between the sticks when needed.

With two games to go and promotion still just about in reach, we welcomed Telford to Fortress E-ACT knowing a win would keep the dream alive. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be. Telford ran out 5–1 winners—our first home defeat of the season. A tough one to take, but still an incredible effort, with just three losses all year at that point. So, with one game remaining away at

Shrewsbury, we've secured at least a 4th-place finish in what has been another memorable season.

There have been highs, lows, and plenty of goals along the way. Top scorer (so far) is Shabba Butt with 15—despite missing a chunk of the season!

A big thank you to captains Craig and Lunny for leading things on the pitch, to all the players who've turned up week in, week out, to the umpires, and to the parents and partners who've supported from the sidelines. And finally, thank you to everyone at the club for backing me over the past two seasons.

It's been a privilege to manage this group, and I genuinely hope I'm leaving the 4s in a stronger position than when I took over.

Mens 5th XI – MANAGER – SIMON TITLEY
Development Side – No League Standings

Written by Sir Richard Bessey Esq.

It has been a wonderful year for our development team, and we would like to extend a huge thank you to our fantastic support cast of managers and coaches, whose time and commitment have been invaluable throughout the season.

At the heart of our performances has been a solid and reliable backline. Reece, Ewan, Veer, and “The Wall” Xav have, in many games, provided a tenacious and resilient defence, standing firm under pressure and giving the team a strong foundation to build from.

In midfield, Dan, Ellis, and Joel have brought energy and intelligence in equal measure offering great pace down the wings and excellent distribution through the middle. Across the pitch, from defence to attack, the team has shown consistent off-the-ball work rate and a growing confidence in possession.

It has been particularly pleasing to see Charlie's development over the course of the season. Growing in confidence with every game, he has taken responsibility, linked play superbly, and contributed significantly with both goals and assists. Likewise, Ryan has been a fantastic addition to the squad, improving week by week and embracing the challenge of development hockey.

The squad has also been strengthened by the support of senior players doubling up, alongside new additions to the club notably Matts Curtiss and Betty. Their contributions have been invaluable, and we thank them for helping to provide opportunities and support for our younger players.

There have been countless moments this season that have made us proud — players chasing back to support teammates, showing resilience when under pressure, and, perhaps most importantly, maintaining a positive and respectful attitude throughout. When challenges arose, this group let their hockey do the talking.

One particularly proud moment came following the game against Beacon, when a member of the opposition sought me out to express how impressed he was with our young players highlighting not only their ability, but their attitude and sportsmanship. A true credit to the club.

For our first full season as a development team competing in a structured league, it has been a fantastic campaign: Played 14 | Won 8 | Lost 6 | Goals Scored 26

Top Goalscorers:

Charlie – 6

Kai – 5

Matt Curtiss – 4

Zac – 3

Matt Betty – 3

Finally, thank you to all the umpires who have given their time to officiate throughout the season.

A season full of growth, effort, and pride and one that lays strong foundations for the future.

Ladies' Section

Ladies' Manager of Hockey – Sade G

After only being the Ladies' Manager for half the season, I've had the privilege of working alongside the chairperson, captains and players, who are all extremely passionate about their teams. The countless hours spent on the phone to Kate organising the inner workings of the season have been worth every second, which is proven by the amazing results the teams have produced this year. I've also been able to be part of coaching this season along with Rianne, Minch and Louie, which I've loved, and seeing the results play out each week has been amazing. I look forward to more of that next season.

I would like to thank the club for welcoming me into this fantastic family. It's a family I never knew I needed, and I can't quite believe it's taken me this long to find it! I've been at many clubs over the last 15 years, and it's safe to say this is by far one of the most inspiring and dedicated clubs I've come across.

Sophie, Hayley, Bren, Helen, and Jackie, the Captains, — thank you for being open-minded about some of the decisions I've made. I know it took a lot for Hayley to consider changing a formation, but we got there in the end! I also introduced a light-hearted award for the captains each week affectionately known as "Who Stressed Out Sade Most?!" I won't go into the reasons why — I'm sure you can ask her yourself — but Bren was the overall winner, so congratulations to you, Bren.

We've all had to make some difficult decisions, and none of them have been taken lightly. However, we've always done what we can to benefit each team and the club as a whole.

I would also like to thank those who have supported the entire Ladies' section throughout the season. We've had multiple players double up — and sometimes even triple up — to support all of the teams. Some players have travelled to away games an hour away and then gone the extra miles to return in time for a home game. Your input is invaluable to the club, as its strength starts from the 5's all the way up.

The development I have seen across all teams has been significant. It's clear that coaches, parents and families and players have all made a positive impact on the success of this season. I hope this continues next season, as without the collective effort of all Ladies' teams supporting one another, we wouldn't be fortunate enough to have so many teams competing at such a strong standard. Next season will bring an even bigger challenge, and I look forward to working with all the teams again next year.

Ladies 1st XI – CAPTAIN – SOPHIE FIELD

Record after 21 games: W13 D5 L3– F 49 A 31 Points 44 Position: 2nd

What a season!

September came around again and the Ladies 1st team were heading into the season with expectations and intention of survival. But how wrong were we!

So we hit the ground running and we were lucky to welcome new players into the team, who slotted in seamlessly.

We began the season with our 2 most difficult fixtures, it was unsettling, but that was just the beginning for ladies 1s.

We were taking each week as it was coming, working hard at training, improving our knowledge, and working incredibly as a team. This led to results that just kept coming! Securing 3-0, 4-0 and 4-2 wins against oppositions were just a few score-lines that demonstrated how our season was going to go!

When we reached Christmas we had secured 7 wins from 11 games, which was more than we could've ever imagined back in September.

Following the Christmas break we returned the 2 difficult fixtures and unfortunately came second in those games. This then became the kickstart we needed to lead us to securing 6 wins from 10 games, for the back half of the season. Post Christmas fixtures saw further thrillers of 3-0, 3-1, and 6-5 wins which proved our position in the league! Furthermore, our goal scoring list varies between 11 different players, which allows us to be extremely proud of the teamwork we have shown each week. In addition to this, we have only lost 3 games all season, which highlights the grit and determination the ladies have been showing. This now leaves 1 game and 3 points for the taking, which we thoroughly deserve.

Similarly to last season as I wrote this report I am unaware of the final league standings. 3 points on Saturday, against bottom of the league Worcester, secures back to back promotion for Ladies 1s. Only time will tell, we can do this ladies! Just a few thank yous...

Huge shoutout to Louie for this season, providing new ideas and so much growth within the squad. This season wouldn't have been possible without his support, thank you!

Thank you to all those who have given up their time to umpire, we really appreciate it.

Thank you to all of our wonderful supporters who are there week in week out, through the highs and lows. It means a lot to us all!

Lastly, I can't thank the ladies enough for their efforts and commitment throughout the season. You have all made my role as captain an absolute pleasure, and I am proud to be part of such an amazing team! Thank you all!

Ladies 2nd XI – CAPTAIN – HAYLEY SCOTT**Record after 19 games: W15 D1 L3 – F 63 A 23 Points 46 Position: 1st (PROMOTED)**

We began this season determined to gain promotion and with this in mind saw the best numbers at training the ladies 2s have had for a while. 4 weeks in we were unbeaten and surprising ourselves with some of the hockey we were playing. Unfortunately, half term came and affected availability, resulting in our first defeat.

However, we pulled ourselves back together and had 4 more consecutive wins. Every week seemed like the most important game of the season, trying to remain on top and in a good position for promotion. It was all going to plan until we slipped to a narrow defeat against Newport.

The snow came in and saw our game get rearranged to a Wednesday evening. We were like a different team, we have never played so well. We came away buzzing and couldn't wait until Saturday, that was until half of us couldn't even walk on the Saturday and we came away with a very disappointing loss.

We had a very long break over the Christmas period which was prolonged by our bye week. Somehow it did us good. We came back winning the next 3 games by scoring a total of 18 goals and only conceding 3. It was now becoming very close at the top end of the table and with Barton and Newport also in the fight for promotion. With the last 4 games of the season to go we had to play Barton and Newport. We took a point from Barton and beat Cannock. Taking us into the last 2 games.

We travelled to Harbourne beating them 4 1 taking the 3 points needed to guarantee promotion. A very happy team and captain but obviously I wanted more.

Last game of the season we take on 3rd place Newport who took 3 points off us earlier on in the season. If we beat them we will finish in 1st place and take the crown of Champions but we are guaranteed 2nd place regardless of the result. I'm sure by the chants around the table at the presentation you will tell how this game ended....

I would like to thank all the umpires who have done our games this season but especially Dave, Gary and Harry who I think have done the majority of our games.

Thank you to Louie for coaching us on a Monday evening and to Sade who has supported us on some of our match days.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us on the side of the pitch and also helped with subbing. Id like to say thank you to Jo Langley for again standing as my Vice captain, a listening ear, support and just being there. Thank you so much.

Charlotte (Brown Nose) Mason - has taken on the warm up this season and makes the best lasagna ever.

Sarah Jones for the best jackets ever.

Katie Smith for looking after the first aid kit and being our team first aider.

The biggest thank you of all is to my team, for putting up with my messages, polls and talks before the game. I'm so proud of how we all have come along this season and gained promotion. It's been a journey for us all as a team and lots of individual journeys. We have all given our all and all have played a part in our fantastic season.

I'm proud to say that we are going up...

Here's to what has been an amazing amazing season....

One very proud Captain
Hayley x

Ladies 3rd XI – CAPTAIN – CHLOE BAKER**Record after 19 games: W1 D1 L17 – F 12 A 86 Points 4 Position: 10th**

We finished last season promoted and undefeated going into this season with optimism and in all honestly the believe that it wouldn't actually be that hard. We were wrong!

We welcomed some fresh new faces into the team this year but no two weeks have been the same team. The mix of fresh young legs and the experience of others ment that no matter who we were playing or how hard the season would get we would do our very best ! And that's exactly what we did.

It's so hard to explain to people that we lost 7-0 but played so well, because how can you lose each week but still play well ? But I can honestly say this season is probably the best we have ever played. We were up against teams that were quicker then us, had more skill then us and in general just better. But we didn't let that stop us! We still turned up ever week, battled like hell, smiled when we sometimes felt like crying and tried our damn hardest.

We don't know what next season will bring but I know that we can walk away from this season with our heads held high knowing we tried and tried hard !

Ladies 4th XI – CAPTAIN– HELEN LANGLEY**Record from 21 games: W11 D7 L3 – F 34 A 15 Points 34 Position: 2nd (PROMOTED)**

Who would have thought it? In our very first season with competitive selection, the Ladies 4s have secured promotion! If someone had told me back in September that we'd be celebrating promotion I would never have believed it. Yet here we are, proving exactly what commitment, teamwork and belief can do.

The season started in a new league where we faced teams we'd never even heard and a total unknown of what to expect. We brought together a remarkable mix of players: experienced heads, complete newcomers, and those finding their feet in their first few seasons of adult hockey. Blending youthful energy with many years of wisdom is no small task but we made it work. Not by chance, but through hard work, consistency, and a willingness to show up and give it everything week after week. This season we delivered: 16 wins, 3 draws and only 3 losses (two against the eventual league winners by 4 : 3 and 1 : 0, and one 2 : 0 defeat when we had no goalkeeper) and also an impressive 10 clean sheets. We started strong, we stayed consistent, and we improved every week, most notably in the way we played as a unit and kept our structure. That's what made the difference. Our success has come from discipline, structure, and genuine teamwork. I have never shouted "HOUSE!" so many times in one season! If I had a pound for every shout across the pitch, we'd all be playing with brand new sticks by now. But that organisation, that communication, is exactly what transformed us into a team capable of playing some truly great hockey.

Promotion doesn't happen by accident. It happened because:

- We showed up.
- We worked hard.
- We learned, improved, and supported each other.
- And we played our hearts out for the full 70 minutes every single week.
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A special thank you must go to Sade, who has been with us every week, whether in person or through messages, keeping us focused and organised with her trademark: "Everyone happy with that?"

Her training, energy, structure, and belief in us have transformed this team. Every single player has improved enormously under her guidance, and there is absolutely no doubt we would not be celebrating promotion without her.

Well done, team. You've been brilliant.

Ladies 5th XI – CAPTAIN– JACKALIN KITSON**Development Side – No League Standings**

This season was the very first for the Ladies 5s Development and what a season it was!

It's safe to say we've definitely had our ups and downs.

Out of 20 games, we recorded 3 wins and 3 draws which is impressive as most of the teams we played are League Teams.

The season started with some difficult games for our ladies, we experienced three losses on the bounce including one against our own 4th team, note 5ths did score the first goal of the game.

Soon enough, it was evident we had found our feet. Following a 2–2 draw against Barton, we went unbeaten for four games in a row. One of our standout performances in this period was against Atherstone, where we won 7–3. This

meant that Grace, Betty and Jackie were able to score their first goals for the team, while Amelie's hat-trick pushed her up to four goals for the season at that point!

Some Ladies promoted to the 4ths and the 5ths welcomed Morgan back and Florence, who soon made the step up into adult hockey.

While we were sometimes on the receiving end of tough results, none of these reflected the determination, development and effort shown in these games. Our hard work was rewarded with a 3–0 win against Nuneaton, where Grace scored a hat-trick. We also saw Jackie continuing to find the net from the back post, and Honey scoring her first goal for the Ladies 5ths Development Team.

The 25/26 season has come to an end and the 5ths Ladies Development Team have improved immensely, so much so they no longer play like a development team but a fully fledged 5ths Ladies team, congratulations to all. This would have not been possible without the support we've received throughout the year.

A huge thank you to our coaches Sade, Rianne and Minch plus others during the season who have continued to support our development, provided valuable advice and skills that we can all take forward in our journey at Bloxwich Hockey Club.

Thank you to Wooty the Captain and Jackie the temporary Captain for their leadership, making sure games could go ahead and that we actually knew what we were doing on the pitch.

We'd also like to thank those who have stepped in to support the development of the team. Special mention to Sharon Hill, who has returned to the fold and supported our youngsters superbly in the last few weeks of the season and all from the other 4 Ladies teams who have supported us.

Another thank you goes to the umpires, who have made all our games possible.

To Grace the Vice Captain for her hardwork behind the scenes to sort fixtures and teas also for bringing the First Aid Kit and balls for warm up very week.

Finally, a big thank you to the parents of our younger players, these have been outstanding all season and have made the 5ths Development Team a safe place and being a supportive family in all the girls, we would not have made such a massive improvement on the pitch without them.

It has been a really awesome season, with the girls being challenged, trying players in different positions this has worked well and valuable experiences for everyone, we can all say we've learned something from it.

On to next season!

MIXED

EH Mixed Cup

Old Silhillians Mixed 1 v 1 Bloxwich Mixed
Shoot-out 3 - 2

Goal - Liam Glasby **40'**

EH Mixed Trophy

Bloxwich Mixed 3 v 0 Edgbaston Mixed B

Goals - Jessica Foster **16'**
Liam Glasby **25'**
Katie Freeman **43'**

Bridgnorth Mixed 2 v 1 Bloxwich Mixed

Goal – Harry Scott **4'**

Clean Sheet Charts

Ladies 4s - 12
Ladies 2s – 8
Ladies 1s – 5
Mens 1s – 4
Mens 2s – 3
Mens 3s – 3
Mens 4s – 3

Thank to our sponsors for all their help
and support throughout
the 25/26 season



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BLOXWICH ROLL OF HONOUR 2025/26

Martin Oates

Midlands Masters – Divisional Win
 England Masters – European Silver and Home Nations Win
 (Top Scorer on each occasion)
 Indoor and Outdoor World Cup

Jon Morris – Wales O35 and O40 Indoor Physio

Sade G – British Police Team – National Selection

Dr. Jane Starczynski - Midlands Masters

Jo Langley – Midlands Masters

Harry Scott – England Hockey Talent Academy - Staffordshire County
 Liam Glasby – England Hockey Talent Academy - Staffordshire County
 Freya Wiggin – England Hockey Talent Academy - Staffordshire County
 Frankie Yeoman – England Hockey Talent Academy - Staffordshire County
 Ellie Simpson – England Hockey Talent Academy - Staffordshire County
 Jack Oates – England Hockey Talent Academy - Staffordshire County

Izzy Wright - Staffordshire County
 Charlie Hammil - Staffordshire County
 Bea Simpson - Staffordshire County
 Samantha Edwards - Staffordshire County
 Emily Cox - Staffordshire County
 Darcey Wootton - Staffordshire County
 Betty Wootton - Staffordshire County
 Kai Glasby - Staffordshire County
 Dylan Bott - Staffordshire County
 Nat Capelen - Staffordshire County
 Paras Kataria - Staffordshire County
 Riley Bott - Staffordshire County
 Tyler Perryman - Staffordshire County