



Winchester Hockey Club – 2024-25 Season

Women's Club Captain Report

I had a few raised eyebrows from friends and family when I announced that I wanted to take on the role of Women's club captain. It seemed like a terrible decision when work, family and life was already so busy. But the truth is that hockey has always been the one constant thing in my life. Growing up it gave me purpose (and kept me out of trouble), it gave me confidence, and it gave me friends for life. I had a ready-made social life doing something I love and a safe place to land no matter where I lived (even in Florida!). For me, this role is about picking up that baton to carry on the good work, ensuring that Hockey continues to be there for all of us, no matter the level we play.

The first weeks, felt like a baptism of fire, especially given that I had only been a member for one season. However, I was soon to realise that Winchester HC has an abundance of great, dedicated people who were willing to take the time to guide and support me throughout. So, we started the season with a plan:

- Women's 1s were looking for a consolidation season in a new league
- Women's 2s were really pumping for promotion
- Women's 3s needed a strong year of wins
- Women's 4s were seeking promotion to reduce the gap to the 3s
- We introduced a Women's 5s to help and support our junior community, so they can seamlessly move into adult hockey.

Before I share my round up, here is what our Captains had to say about the season.

Women's 1s - Niki Wilkins

How did the season start for the Women's 1s?

"We started strong with promising performances. However, as we approached Christmas, our momentum began to taper off. We faced a string of closely contested matches during that period, but unfortunately, the results didn't go our way."

How did the change of coach mid-season impact the team?

"Jamie brought fresh energy and commitment to the team, but we faced challenges with player availability and stability, which impacted our rhythm."

How did the team handle those challenges?

"Despite narrowly losing a few tight games and dominating many matches in terms of performance and possession, the results didn't quite fall our way. Unfortunately, we just missed out on staying up in the league—a frustrating outcome considering the effort and potential shown throughout the season."

What are your thoughts looking forward to the next season?

"Despite the setbacks, there's plenty to be optimistic about. With Jamie's leadership for a full pre-season and improved player availability, we're confident in building a more consistent and competitive side. The determination and spirit are there—we're already looking forward to hitting the ground running."

Played: 22 Won: 6 Drawn: 1 Lost: 15 League position: 11th
League 2025/26: Women's South Premiership Division 2



Women's 2s - Nikki Foster Kenyon/Zoe Fettes

How do you feel this season went for the Women's 2s?

Zoe: "We had amazing availability throughout the season, which was fantastic. There was high competition for places in all the teams, and four out of five teams finished in the top half of their tables. For the most part, we all had fun and enjoyed our hockey this year, which is great looking forward to next season."

What do you think contributed to the team's performance?

Nikki FK: "It was a combination of great collaboration and team spirit. We had a strong season overall, though a few games let us down in terms of promotion. Nonetheless, we had a great squad and the combination of coach, captain, and manager worked really well. This gives us a solid foundation to build on for next season."

Are you satisfied with the results of this season?

Nikki FK: "Honestly, we're a bit disappointed not to get promoted, but it's understandable considering three strong teams were dropped into our league. However, this gives us a lot of belief for next year. We're motivated and ready to come back stronger."

Played: 22 Won: 15 Drawn: 3 Lost: 4 League position 2024/25: 4th
League 2025/26: Women's South Division 2

Women's 3s Izzy Johnson and Hannah Grimes

How did the Women's 3s perform this season?

Izzy: "Honestly, the 3s had a fantastic season. We had a great group of core players throughout, even though we had some challenges with players moving up and down the teams during the early part of the season."

What do you think worked well?

Hannah: "I think we played better on the Saturdays when most of us were able to train together on Thursday nights. It would be great if we could keep that up next season and be able to focus on more set pieces, team structure and positioning."

How do you feel about next season?

Izzy: "We finished 4th in the league with a strong mixed adult and junior squad. It took us time to learn to work as team, but I felt like we really came together, which is really promising as we look forward to next season."

Played: 22 Won: 10 Drawn: 3 Lost: 9 League position 2024/25: 4th
League 2025/26: Women's South Division 3



Women’s 4s *Maria Milititsky*

How would you summarise the team's performance this season?

Maria: “It was a brilliant season. We had a lot of new members joining the team, and the collective effort and commitment throughout the season were remarkable. This dedication resulted in the team being promoted.

What do you think worked well?

Maria: “We worked well as a team, people regularly came to training and we shared many good laughs along the way!”

Played:14 Won:12 Drawn: 1 Lost: 1 League position: 2nd
League 2025/26: Women’s Solent Division 1

Women’s 5s/Tigers *Kate Ellis*

How did the Tigers perform in their debut season?

Kate: The Tigers had a superb season, marked by great effort and commitment from all the juniors who were new to adult hockey. We're thrilled to have won the league and secured promotion to Solent 1.

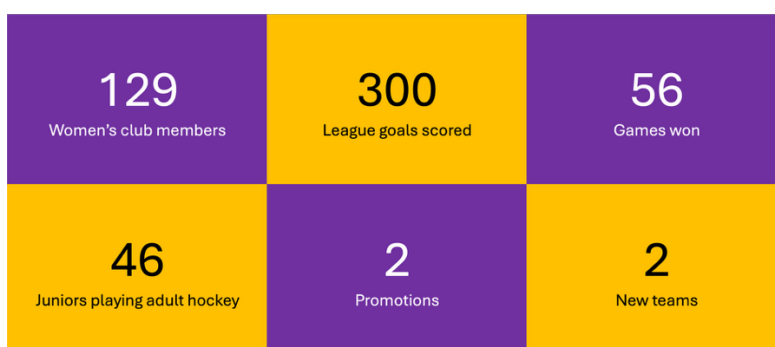
What do you think worked well?

We fostered a fantastic team culture and supportive atmosphere, which contributed to our success. But I also want to extend my gratitude to all the adults who played and the parents who helped with running subs or provided transportation. Their support was invaluable.

Played: 14 Won: 13 Drawn: 0 Lost: 1 League position: 1st.
League 2025/26: Women’s Solent Division 1

Women’s club captain – *Erica Jefferies*

We may not have achieved everything we hoped to this season, and we really had to dig deep on occasion to forge a new way forward when things were working against us. Here is my round up in numbers:



- With **129** people opting in this season (average of 25.8 players per team) this allowed us to cushion the challenges and remain strong.
- Scoring **300** goals and winning **56** games doesn’t give us the full picture but these nevertheless are all ‘well done us’ moments.
- With **46** juniors in our adult section, they have not only thrived but bolstered the strength across the women’s section, demonstrating resilience, drive and an abundance of talent.



- With **2** teams (Women's 4s and 5s) gaining promotion this year, we are reducing the gap between teams, making it easier for people to play to the level they are ready for.
- This has also paved way for **2** new teams, with a Women's 6s and our Vitality back2hockey summer initiative providing a way for people to get back to a sport they once loved.

Summer hockey continues to be very popular with 2 teams once again entered into the Roger Merry summer hockey programme, we are socialising, enjoying hockey and staying fit (ish) ready for next season.

I want to say a big thank you to all the captains, coaches, umpires, parents and of course players that turn up every week to ensure that the club is successful. Here's to next season!

Erica Jefferies

Women's Club Captain

25th May 2025