



Men's Section – Club Captain Report

It's a wrap, 2025/26 is over, a tough season for the Men's 1st XI but the rest of the section had a solid season. Again we generally had good availability but there are some areas for improvement.

Adoption of Teamo could be better, the captains have to put in far too much work rounding up availability and communicating match information when it is all there in the app for you.

The 1st XI finished 11th and avoided relegation as results went their way in the final few games, we also benefitted from fewer relegations from above and the cascade effect. The early part of the season it was clear that it was going to be a tough season but we were competing. Unfortunately in the match vs Trojans we had issues that resulted in Ben Hibberd stepping down as coach. Nick Tout stepped in as coach and worked incredibly hard to try and bring the team together but results did not go well, we suffered a few long term injuries and it felt like the team was unravelling. We took the difficult and painful decision to replace Nick in the last few games with Jamie Hacker. The guys managed to win one of those matches which was enough to stay up. I know it was a tough season for all the players, coach and Nick Clark as captain. We are working to find a coach for next season and some new players to make it a better one for everyone.

Also stepping up a division the 2s had a good season, which could have been even better but for some killer decisions in a few games costing us points. However, a 5th place finish was respectable, a quarter final run in the National T3 Cup and winning the Hampshire Plate rounding the season off nicely. The squad blended young players well and regularly promoted players to the 1s to help out.

The Academy 3rd XI continued to fulfil its remit, blending young players with seasoned campaigners to help them develop and become the best they can be. The 3s finished 6th which is where we expect them to be as they usually start slow and improve as players get used to the new level. Success is measured by improvement of the young players and as usual some of them proved their potential by appearing for the 2s towards the end of the season. We will be taking a look at how best to keep this squad motivated at training, it's important that they train together but we also have to balance how much hockey they play with juniors, TA, college and school hockey all demanding time.

Our 4th XI did it again, 4th position, pushing it all way to the last game of the season and narrowly missing out on promotion. They also battled their way to the Hampshire Trophy final but lost a closely fought contest. A great season despite the disappointment at the end, can they go one better at the third time of asking?

This season saw the Wizards become the 5th XI and join the South Central league. Due to the master's league losing teams and the opposition frequently cancelling games we decided it was best for the guys to move. Starting in Solent Division 1 it was a glorious season battling with Chichester until they were harshly penalised for field an ineligible player, despite the fact he played the entire previous season with them. This forced the Wizards into a play off for promotion where they were beaten by Romsey on a day where nothing seemed to go their way. Consolation was taken winning the Hampshire Vase to round of a good season.

The Whippets 6th XI had a good one, several bright young players were introduced to senior hockey and the team got better as the season progressed, finishing 2nd they have been promoted to Solent 1 next season.

E



Everything Wanderers continues as it has, minimum fuss, maximum hockey, real ale training and walking holidays. The guys once again had numerous entertaining fixtures against foes of old, they even tracked down an elusive capybara.

Once again we had masters cup run in the o35 who made it to the semi final, and o45 sections that were great fun bringing players together from across the club. We will continue this next season with an eye on trying to go further once again.

So many people have done so much this season, it really has been much easier to organise than it has been for a good few years. Thank you all umpires, managers and Captains for all your support.

Tip-tap

Swifty

Men's Club Captain

12th June 2026

easyfundraising

This is a simple request. **Could just 360 player members and juniors / parents please sign up** and use this no cost, easy to use fundraising system. If you registered and used this, **we could raise £10,000 a year** which would transform the finances of the club and what we could do. Simple – see website – **please just do it.** [£4k+ raised from 39 supporters so far!]

