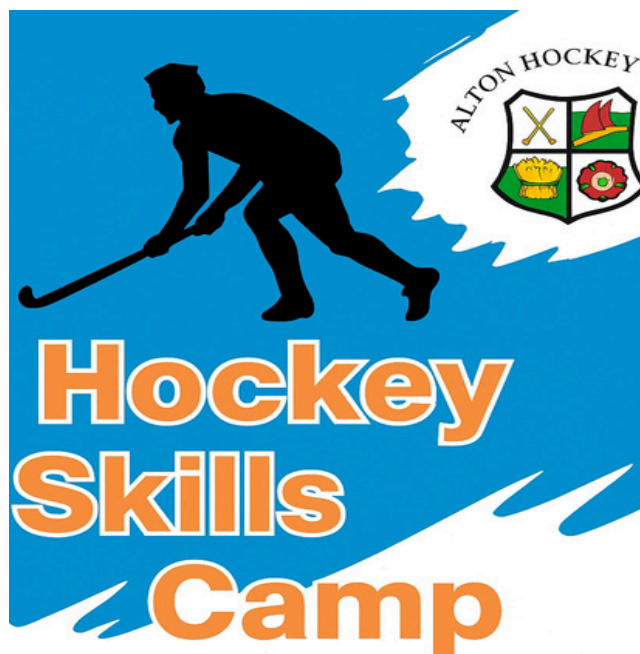


ALTON HOCKEY CLUB

SIDELINE SCOOP



**WED 18 & FRI 20 FEB AND
WED 8 & FRI 10 APRIL 2026
9AM – 4PM**

**Ages 6 to 15 – 14 hours of fun, intense
hockey in one week!!**

Book HERE FOR CAMP

juniors@altonhockeyclub.co.uk

CAN YOU BELIEVE IT'S NEARLY CHRISTMAS!

We cannot believe we are nearly half way through the season! We've already hosted a brilliant half term camp, had a host of new First Aiders get qualified, a new group of umpires are in training through our new Umpire Academy and our group of Young Leaders are continuing their incredible coaching and support work across the age groups.

And as for all the hockey! Read on for our section reports but safe to say Alton Hockey is going STRONG!

HOLIDAY CAMPS 2026

We are thrilled to be getting super organised this season and releasing dates for our February half-term and Easter Holiday Camps.

Hosted at Eggars School, these camps will be fun and a great way to stay on top of and learn new skills as well as hanging with friends!

Open to AHC players and non-AHC players.

BOOK HERE!

HOCKEY ROUNDUP!

MENS ROUNDUP

Nigel Downing - Mens Club Captain

As we approach the midway part of the season, all the men's team remain in stable positions in their respective leagues.

The Men's 1 have shown recent good form, set in 3rd place with their only recent loss to the unbeaten table topping Havant. Pete Wallace enjoyed November with 3 penalty corner goals including a last minute equaliser against Salisbury.

The Men's 2s have suffered a dip in results, and were on the receiving end of three picturesque drag flicks against a New Forest side who offered little else much to their frustration.

The Men's 3s, buoyed by several youngsters receiving regional call ups, got a well deserved victory over local rivals Basingstoke and hold their own in 5th place in the league, both Sadler brothers on the score sheet as they compete to be the clubs best siblings.

The Men's 4s have found the going hard with several narrow losses, they continue their run of scoring in every match but currently at a lower rate than the opposition-a fairly key stat for any team.

Finally, thank you to all those that have umpired so far this season, to mis-quote an 80s cartoon, the phrase "as if by magic the umpires appear" seems apt but has made a huge difference in fulfilling fixtures. Please do reach out if you can help share this load.



LADIES ROUNDUP

Sophie Wallace - Ladies Club Captain

Most of November's games have benefitted from the unseasonably warm weather but normal conditions have returned with frost curtailed training and plenty of rain to ease us towards December.

The Ladies 1s continue to dominate their league enjoying a 2-0 overseas win against the Isle of Wight and remain top of their table whilst the 2s and 3s continue to battle at the lower ends of their divisions.

The section continues to welcome new players,. We are thrilled to have had so many Juniors step up to adult hockey.

The Ladies Vets continue their unbeaten run with another 3 victories in November.

A special mention to the 7 U14 and U16 players who made their Ladies debuts in the 3's against Basingstoke this weekend. The team were 1-0 up and heading for their first win in a few weeks before Basingstoke equalised in the last minute! Well done girls!



JUNIORS ROUNDUP

U8/10's – Great festival a few weeks ago, really strengthening our tackling and goals galore! One more before Xmas – would be great to take as many players as possible and show them Alton's true colours!

U12 Boys – Going from strength to strength in training, drilling down their positioning and strikes on target. The Penguins had a good November – winning 6 from 6 this month with super scorer Ed having one match scoring six goals – well done Ed! The Wolves are really setting their shape out and battling strong oppositions – some really strong club's A's sides – they have won 3 of 6. Well done to Art as ever for stepping up to 12's to support! The boys are looking forward to their first HOME fixture before Christmas and planning on a HUGE bake sale for supporters to raise funds for the club.

U12 Girls – The girls have got all three sides out this month, having our first development side's tournament to Hamble – 3 wins from 3. Brilliant passing back and finding width. Today the llama's and leopards played Havant in a friendly and played as a unit – well done to all of you.

U14 Boys – U14 boys will have had a busy November with 3 league matches, a plate match and a development tournament, giving everyone plenty of opportunity for match play. We've had comprehensive wins against Andover (6-1) and Trojans (8-1) The 7 a-side development tournament was a great opportunity to work on specific skills and development areas for the boys. We drew two matches and lost one. Special mentions this month to Toby E who has been our top goal scorer and Euan M who played in goal for the first time at the tournament looking like a seasoned pro! All of the boys are consistently improving and are starting to play really nicely together. We're looking forward to celebrating the season thus far with a festive bowling session with the U16 boys at the beginning of December.

U14 Girls – Busy, busy, busy is what we'd say about this squad. Many matches, lots of win's and importantly a cup run that keeps going – now looking forward to getting our presses right for January and re visiting our often opponent, Bournemouth, in early January.

U16 Boys – The boys continue to face challenges of injuries and low numbers at matches but their determination, hard work and sportsmanship is a testament to them. These boys teach us sport is more than just a score card. They are hugely looking forward to coming together at a team social bowling in December!

U16 Girls – What an amazing group of girls and team. It is a long time since I have seen such a great whole team performance. Winning 7-1 to Fleet with an awesome defence and speed from the front suffocated them – great passing and teamwork. Onwards in our EH plate run!

U18 Boys – 18 Boys are taking a well earned rest from matches till late January and focussing on their formation and set manoeuvres so they're ready for the return leg's of their league. Recent success for 18 Boys has been for Peter Symonds – Cam, Alex, Charlie and Will beat Millfield School – and incredible feat. We are very proud of the lads!

A Note from the Club Chairman

I believe this will be the final edition of the Sideline Scoop before Christmas Day, so I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very early Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

It's been an encouraging first half of the season for AHC. Our Ladies' 1s, in particular, continue to push hard at the top of their league. They've been superbly led by Clare, and their position is a real testament to her commitment and to the hard work of coaches Dan and Ben.

Across the club, all our senior teams are looking noticeably stronger than last year.

The Men's 3s have embraced a clear youth policy, which is great to see and is already starting to pay dividends. My current "team of the year" has to be the Ladies' 2s, who, after a shaky start, have put together an excellent run of results.

Our junior sides have had their share of highs and lows, as always. The U8s, U10s, and U12s continue to impress, while the U14s are building on last year's progress with strong performances and a solid league position. We also still have three teams competing in the national cups, which is fantastic for the club.

Most importantly, I want to extend my personal thanks to all the volunteers who keep the club running—our executive committee members, team managers, umpires, and coaches. Without your dedication, AHC simply wouldn't exist.

Thank you once again for taking the time to read the newsletter. The more people who engage with it, the more it will benefit the club and support the commercial growth we are working towards.

Will Butler

The Launch of Alton All Stars

January 2026 U12-U16's

We are delighted to launch All Stars programme this coming January for U12 – U16s. Elite performance players will be invited to join the programme for 7 sessions on a Thursday evening.

Invites will be sent out before the end of term allowing parents to organise the next term's activities in advance. The players will be nominated in discussion with AHC age group lead and assistant coaches. Nominees will be based on those showing or already recognised as AC/TA potential with the mindset of a high standard player.

Invites will be considered not only for high and aspirational high performing players but players who are also imbue and consistently show positive leadership and team values weekly at training too.

Players will have access to a range of current prior high level coaching experience across County, Talent Academy and National Title winning coaches led by Ben (Junior Director of Hockey) and Jonny (GU14 Lead Coach & M1s Player). Ben and Jonny will be joined alongside occasional guest coaches and Young Leaders doing their FIH Level 2 coaching courses too.

Alongside those expectations, players will be driving their training environment with a mantra that 'training should be harder than matches'. This will be supported by positive interactions across age groups as the players get to know one another, their strengths, development areas and recognising that they are a key part of the support network for each other on their hockey development journey.

NB: Although it's not always possible to attend every session, we'd expect commitment to at least 70% of the sessions (5 of 7).

The All-Stars programme is limited so we can't sadly take everyone, but we will look to implement and adjust the programme based on its success this season. We're excited and hope you are too.

Dates: 11th Feb, 19th Feb, 26th Feb, 5th March, 12th March, 19th March, 26th March.

Cost: £60 per person

NOVEMBER PHOTO ROUNDUP

