

All change at hockey club with high hopes for the

Mid Somerset Hockey Club

The club go into the new season with high hopes following the successes of last season.

The ladies' first XI won their league and the men's second XI also gained promotion while the veterans reached the semi-final of the Somerset Veterans Tournament.

There is also a major change in the structure of the club – merging the men and ladies clubs into a single unit. Both sections are expanding with the men's entering three teams – instead of two – in the league and the ladies running two sides.

With this in mind, the club is looking for new players at all standards and all ages.

One of the innovations last season was the introduction of junior training, run by qualified coaches Brian Scott and Paul Salvidge, with several juniors graduating into the senior teams.

Training takes place on Wednesday nights at Wells Blue School on the astro turf pitch, with the juniors at 6.30pm followed by the

seniors by having condition. It is getting Entries will soon be on September 29, sional golfers in Wale sen action.

Club professional administration a both individual players an day Assistant Ryan Bl agai/77 in the West Regio pionship qualifier at (017 missed earning one (for the main event in

Millfield U16 1 Mid-Somerset 4

In the first friendly game of the new hockey season, Mid-Somerset played Millfield Under-16s on the water-based artificial pitch at Street.

Mids fielded a team selected from their first and second XIs, as they prepare for the league campaign which starts in two weeks time.

It was a competitive match played in good spirits. The main difference between the two teams was Mids' ability to put away their short corners.

Dan Durston scored a hat-trick from short corner strikes.

Just two goals came from open play.

Mids scored after a good run down the right wing from Mike Davis, his cross was turned in by Jon Sawyer.

Millfield's goal came on the stroke of half time after Mids had taken a three-goal lead.

Without doubt the player of the match was the Millfield goalkeeper.

He made a series of fine saves.

Mid-Somerset 2nd XI 0 Torbay 2nd XI 4

After being promoted the previous season, Mids' seconds started their new campaign with a home game against Torbay.

Without three of last year's team who had been promoted to the first XI, Mids were under no illusions about the difficulties facing them. However, for the first 25 minutes Mids held their own and restricted their visitors to the odd chance. But Torbay took the lead from a penalty stroke after a goal bound shot hit a defender's shin and soon added a second for a two-goal half time lead.

The second half belonged to Torbay, who were prevented from scoring further goals thanks to goalkeeper Tom Medlycott. However, Torbay managed to double their goal tally in the second half.

It was without doubt a fair result. Mids were unable to force even a short corner and were often lacking in most areas.

A difficult season lies ahead and Mids will quickly need to adjust to the higher grade in order to gain some league points.

Mid-Somerset 2nd XI 2 North Somerset 2nd XI 2

With no competitive match last week due to the petrol crisis, this was Mids' only game before the start of the league season – a home friendly with Portishead-based North Somerset.

The first half was very even. Mids' best attacks came down the right-hand side, but it was from the opposite wing that Mids managed to open the scoring.

A left-wing cross found Mike Davis who had the simplest of chances. However, Mids were unable to hang on to their lead as North equalised with a reverse stick deflection.

Although the game was played in a friendly manner, there was one incident which marred the second half. As a result of a bad tackle, the North number 17, disgusted at the decision, threw Alan Wilton's stick high over the perimeter fence enclosing the pitch. He was sent off for a 10-minute cooling off period.

During this time, Mids retook the lead after a fine run down the wing from Davis found Gavin Patey,

who scored from close range.

Within minutes of returning to a full team, North equalised for a second time through Clive Hawkins.

A draw was a fair result, but both teams know they will have to play better to win their league games on Saturday.

North Somerset 3rd XI 2 Mid-Somerset 3rd XI 4

Mids' third team travelled to Portishead with four teenagers making their debuts.

The youngsters acquitted themselves well, showing encouraging skills and the benefits of the mid-week coaching sessions.

Mids were always in front, winning by four goals to two. The scorers for Mids were John Price, Jon Sawyer (penalty stroke), Martin White and skipper Malcolm Chorlton.

The thirds have been entered in the league this year and begin on Saturday with an away game against Bridgwater.

● Coaching is held on the artificial pitch at Wells Blue School on Wednesday evenings. Youths from 6.30 to 7.30pm and men and ladies from 7.30 to 8.30pm. Anyone wishing to attend these sessions would be most welcome.

Bridgwater 4th XI 0 Mid-Somerset 3rd XI 6

This was Mid-Somerset's third XI's first game in league hockey.

And they got off to the best possible start with a comprehensive six-goal victory at Highbridge, against Bridgwater fourth.

Matt Pope scored four goals and obviously benefited from his attendance at the John Price School of Finishing. The other two goals came from captain Malcolm Chorlton and Luke Branley, who was making a particularly promising second appearance.

The season continues on Saturday with a home game against East Devon fourths.

Mid-Somerset 2nd XI 5 Exeter Hornets 3rd XI 3

After two league defeats and no goals scored, Mids were looking for better things in their next home game against Hornets.

And they got off to the best possible start with a goal in the opening two minutes, when teenager

The higher standard of hockey is having a significant effect on the team, but spirits are high and Mids can take some credit from the game, despite the 7-0 scoreline.

Mid-Somerset 3rd XI 3 East Devon 4th XI 1

Mids' third XI maintained their winning run from the start of the season with a comfortable league victory, despite playing with just 10 players and finishing the last 20 minutes with nine.

Ben Richards, who had played well in defence, was struck on the forehead by an opponent's stick and was taken to the local casualty unit for attention.

East Devon rarely threatened in the first half and Mids can count themselves unlucky to only have a one-goal half time lead, scored by Tony Bown.

Mids continued to apply the pressure with some marauding runs down the right-wing by Matt Pope.

Bown's shot hit the post, but it was Pope who scored Mids' second before East Devon pulled one back and Richards was injured.

Mids were content to hold on to their lead but could even afford for Malcolm Chorlton to miss a penalty flick before Pope made the game safe for the nine men of Mids with his second goal.

Simon Lord opened the scoring. This proved to be the ideal start from which Mids gained considerable confidence.

After this, they never went behind and gained their first league victory of the season.

Brett Morgan, who caused the Hornets defence trouble throughout the game, added Mids' second. But they were fortunate to hang on to their lead, thanks to two excellent goal-line clearances from defender Colin Crees.

The Exeter visitors managed to pull one back before half time, but Mike Edmunds restored Mids' two-goal lead early in the second half.

The action continued with Hornets scoring their second and they were once again prevented from equalising when Crees made his third goal-line clearance of the game.

Mids responded with some attacking hockey. Morgan added their fourth and his second with a fine individual goal. Lord missed on open goal, while Dan Durston made the game safe with an excellent short corner strike to give Mids a deserved 5-3 victory.

Exeter Hornets 4th XI 5 Mid-Somerset 3rd XI 3

The third XI lost their unbeaten record when they travelled to Cullompton to play the Hornets fourth 11.

The final score of 5-3 was an exact reversal of the second XI game.

Mids did extremely well to reach the last minutes of the game drawing three each, but then conceded two goals.

Teenager Martin White scored a brace of goals

for Mid-Somerset, while the third was scored by veteran John Price.

Yeovil 3rd XI 7 Mid-Somerset 2nd XI 0

These teams were three leagues apart last season but, with Yeovil being relegated and Mids promoted, the teams met in a league game at Huish Park.

Mids didn't get off to the best of starts when one player failed to turn up and 13-year-old Jonathan Crees stepped into the breach, while his father, Colin, suffered a blow to the kneecap within the first minute of the game which resulted in Mids playing the first 15 minutes with just 10 players.

During this period Yeovil built a two-goal lead, but they only managed to add one more before half time.

This was without doubt a much better performance than the final scoreline suggests and a real improvement on the previous week's game.

The efforts of three individuals stand out. There was Ian Francis at the back, Rob Frampton in midfield, who had Mids' best chances and brought two excellent saves from the Yeovil keeper, and teenager Richard Payne in goal, who made some excellent saves from the rampaging Yeovil forwards.

South East Div I

Taunton CS	3	2	1	0	11	3	7
North Devon	3	2	1	0	11	4	7
Taunton Vale A	2	2	0	0	11	1	6
Isca C	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
ECV Hornets A	3	1	2	0	6	5	5
Mid-Somerset	3	1	0	2	2	8	3
Bridgwater A	3	0	2	1	2	8	2
Bridport Hawks	3	0	1	2	4	9	1
Exeter Uni B	3	0	1	2	2	10	1
Taunton Vale B	2	0	0	2	2	9	0

South East Div II

East Devon A	3	3	0	0	18	2	9
Torbay A	3	3	0	0	8	2	9
Dawlish A	3	2	0	1	7	3	8
Taunton CS A	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Yeovil & Sherborne B	3	1	0	2	10	4	3
Sidmouth A	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
ECV Hornets B	3	1	0	2	5	9	3
Exmouth A	3	1	0	2	7	15	3
Mid-Somerset A	3	1	0	2	5	15	3
Ottery Crickets A	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

South East Div III

Chard A	3	2	1	0	14	7	7
North Devon A	2	2	0	0	12	0	6
Isca D	2	2	0	0	6	3	6
Bridgwater B	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Minehead A	3	2	0	1	6	7	6
Chudleigh A	3	1	2	0	4	2	5
Yeovil & Sherborne C	2	1	0	1	10	5	5
Exmouth B	3	1	0	2	7	9	3
Taunton CS B	3	0	1	2	3	12	1
East Devon B	3	0	0	3	6	15	0
Torbay B	3	0	0	3	4	14	0