

Reading Hockey Club

Men's Section

End of Season Reports 2007/08



Club Captain's Season Report 2007/08

Men's 1st XI: National Premier League Champions

Rustlers: London League Veteran Division A Champions

Reading Evening Post Sports Awards: Club of the Year

Reading Evening Post Sports Awards: Men's 1st XI Team of the year

Team	League	Position	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
Mens 1's	Slazenger National Premier League	1	18	15	1	2	59	26	33	46
Mens 2's	London League Premier Division	6	22	9	4	9	50	55	-5	31
Mens 2A's	London League Division 1	3	20	9	6	5	54	44	10	33
Refills	London League Division 2	Withdrawn								
Mens 3's	London League Division 3	4	20	10	5	5	53	42	11	35
Mens 4's	London League Division 5	7	16	6	0	10	37	58	-21	18
Rovers	London League Division 7	6	18	6	4	8	38	42	-4	22
Rascals	London League Division 7	5	18	7	2	9	39	48	-9	23
Retros	South League - Hampshire Open League Division 6	4	18	8	3	7	31	42	-11	27
Rejects	London League Division 8	Withdrawn								
Rustlers	London League Veterans A	1	15	11	3	1	59	28	31	36
Vets	Wessex Masters	5	18	9	2	7	55	32	23	29
			183	90	30	63	475	417	58	300

Team rankings, taken from Fixtures Live:

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	%
1	Rustlers	17	12	4	1	64	31	33	78.4%
2	Men's 1s	30	23	1	6	130	65	65	77.8%
3	Men's 3s	23	12	5	6	72	51	21	59.4%
4	Men's 2s	23	9	4	10	50	62	-12	44.9%
5	Rascals	18	7	2	9	39	48	-9	42.6%
6	Rovers	18	6	4	8	38	42	-4	40.7%
7	Men's 4s	17	6	1	10	40	61	-21	37.3%

I have come to think of the Men's section as rather like the big dipper. Not only within a single season, but also across the seasons.

My first year in office (2005/06) was reasonably successful, with a scattering of Division winners and promotions.

Last year (2006/07) was simply ridiculous. The heights we reached as a men's section and as a Club were phenomenal; winners every where you looked.

But after the high, inevitably comes the low, as the roller coaster train falls from its great height.

In stark terms, we lost over eighty players between the summer of 2006 and the summer of 2007. That is more players than some clubs have as their full membership.

Squads of 17 to 20 dropped to 12 to 14, and with player availability becoming a luxury, the Friday night Club Captain bat phone was ringing off the hook. If I could charge myself out at £50 an hour I would signing the agreement on that Ferrari.

We took very tough decisions to withdraw the newly formed Rejects, and especially the Refills. These decisions were not taken lightly at all.

From the darkness there shone some light. The Men's 1st XI aimed for a top four finish, but they kept on winning, and winning, and winning... hang on a minute we can win this Division, and by jove they did. And still the cup to contend. Only Mace let them slip up in the last league game I hear!

Europe beckoned, Jonty scoring the one-on-one to take them to Spain, if only those peskys Dutches boys weres nots so's goods ats the hockeys, yahs. Surely they are contenders for Team of the year?

The Rustlers, win their Division for the second year in a row. More ex-internationals then you can shake a stick at. More men, contributing more to the Club then all other non-veteran teams put together? Surely they are also contenders for Team of the year?

I regret to say that the usual band of club men have excelled themselves. I say regret, as I only wish that more members would give back to the Club, and not take it for granted.

- Chris Davey and Mike Williamson - have done a sterling job for the 1s.
- Rhys Joyce - clearly has no life, captaining the 1s to National success and leading the ladies to their highest finish ever.

- Buggy – You are simply what this Club stands for. Academy training and men's training, and County.
- Posh – enthusiasm personified. If only he was registered with the 1s he would have played and scored for every team I am sure. RAAJ as well.
- Barry Jukes – Mr Reading Hockey Club Junior. The most humblest of men, a socking good GK to boot, captaining the 3rd XI this year, the unofficial Club Captain deputy and now Chair of RAAJ. Don't ever leave Reading Barry.
- Duncan Westbury – like a shining star, a beacon of hope and aspiration to the masses. Duncan stepped in to a massive pile of dog s**t in the 4s and did a wonderful job saving their bacon. I owe you a debt of gratitude for your cool head.
- Geoff Ash – if Geoff had charged himself out at £50 an hour this year he would be after the gold plated Rolls Royce, with mahogany picnic table and chairs. Geoff has led the charge to save this Club from financial ruin. We must all work hard to ensure that Geoff's work is the start of great things.
- Simon Briscoe – Along with Geoff has been pouring over the books for too many hours.
- Charlie Lowe, Neil Boddington and the rest of their team – working diligently, and relentlessly, to secure the Club's future.
- Jo Newman – Jo never gets any thanks really – he is not just a Chairman of the Hockey section, he is more than that. He is my guide, when things get hot and sticky. He is a master of the International and European event organisation. He knows when to say no, and how to say no. He has fought the Hockey section's corner on innumerable occasions.
- Mark Lazarri – This year he has managed the Goal keepers supremely. No team has been left short.
- Steve Reed – fixtures secretary, pitch/ grounds liaison, RAAJ beer man, Retro's hotshot – no man spends more hours doing hockey.

Thank you to everyone that has umpired. All those that have yet to umpire and be assessed owe the Club £30 so cough up now.

I have mentioned but a few above, there are many more, but there should be even more.

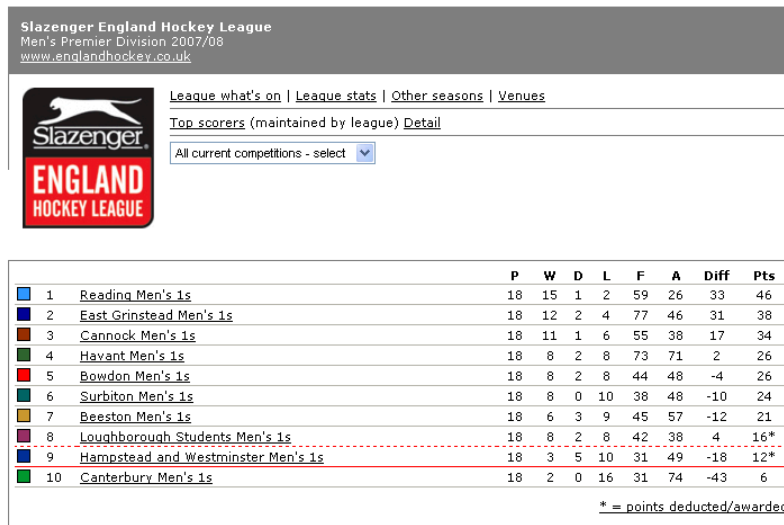
I really hope next season will bring forth new enthusiastic blood to the men's section. I want us all to bring a mate to join the club, if we all bought just one friend, no matter how good or bad they are, my headaches would reduce, my Captains could reduce their mobile phone bills and players would be a lot happier getting back to winning ways. It really is not that difficult is it.

Four of the possible 12 Captains are definitely remaining in post, so we need several new captains please. We also need an umpire manager and we need support in fixture arrangements pre-season.

Love Johnny Downer, Club Captain

1st XI

Slazenger England Hockey League Men's Premier Division 2007/08 – Winners and Cup Semi-Finals



Slazenger England Hockey League
Men's Premier Division 2007/08
www.englishhockey.co.uk

League what's on | League stats | Other seasons | Venues

Top scorers (maintained by league) Detail

All current competitions - select

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Reading Men's 1s	18	15	1	2	59	26	33	46
2 East Grinstead Men's 1s	18	12	2	4	77	46	31	38
3 Cannock Men's 1s	18	11	1	6	55	38	17	34
4 Havant Men's 1s	18	8	2	8	73	71	2	26
5 Bowdon Men's 1s	18	8	2	8	44	48	-4	26
6 Surbiton Men's 1s	18	8	0	10	38	48	-10	24
7 Beeston Men's 1s	18	6	3	9	45	57	-12	21
8 Loughborough Students Men's 1s	18	8	2	8	42	38	4	16*
9 Hampstead and Westminster Men's 1s	18	3	5	10	31	49	-18	12*
10 Canterbury Men's 1s	18	2	0	16	31	74	-43	6

* = points deducted/awarded

As Johnny D does things in 10 (and in truth as I just don't have time to write a whole report) - here's 10 things about our season:

- 1) We won the league for the second year in a row and had a 100% record for over half of it. Like Trevor Immelman last w/e, we led 'wire to wire'!
- 2) We're in the semi final of the cup too and on for the double...
- 3) But we lost in the last 8 of the EHL to Rotterdam having beaten Cannock in the last 16.
- 4) Jonty was the first person to score one of the new penalties in the EHL in Oct. Bruvs saved Crefelds...and for once the English beat the Germans on penalties....but whatever you do, don't mention the war!!
- 5) Watto scored a cracking team goal at the death v Loughborough at home to keep our winning run going.
- 6) We stole 3 points away at Cannock - had 5 shots, hit the post once and won 3-0!
- 7) Our indoor campaign stuttered before we even got started but we finished well to retain our place in the league and just miss out on finals night with the largest winning margin ever in the Indoor premier league against Canterbury...we won 14-1 and I scored the 14th...my only goal of the season...added value everywhere JD!
- 8) 3 of our team are strong candidates for Olympic selection having all been in the successful Qualifiers team. Catman got a GB cap and Spring the first of what I am sure will be many England caps.
- 9) Due to unavailability, Mace played on pitch last week in our last premier league match v Havant...eek.

10) We turned up to club 'do's' this year...and even hosted a Race night...thanks to Mole for his efforts there...

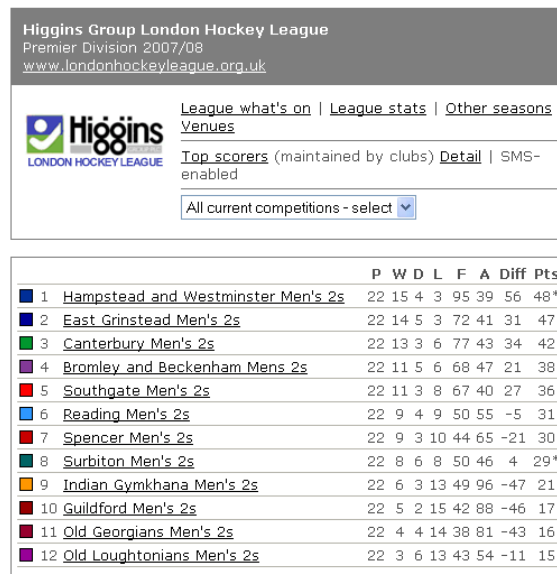
Overall, it's just been a great team effort this year to retain our status as the best team in the land. Without our GB boys, I would have taken 3rd place in the league and a place in Europe next year at the start of the season...but we've surpassed even our own expectations. Everyone involved in the squad has worked really hard and it's been a real team effort without our stars...so much so that it is hard to single anyone out at all. People have dug in, trained well and shown some real heart in some tough games... and I think that team ethic and heart is something that has really characterised our team this year.

Special thanks goes to the Management team - to the club for their support, to Mike for his efforts and expertise and to Chris as manager who has done an amazing job to make everything run smoothly and Jacky for her continued physio support at games.

Rhys Joyce
1st XI Captain

2nd XI London League Premier Division - 6th place

<http://www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk/>



Higgins Group London Hockey League
Premier Division 2007/08
www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk

[League what's on](#) | [League stats](#) | [Other seasons](#) | [Venues](#)

[Top scorers](#) (maintained by clubs) [Detail](#) | SMS-enabled

All current competitions - select

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Hampstead and Westminster Men's 2s	22	15	4	3	95	39	56	48*
2 East Grinstead Men's 2s	22	14	5	3	72	41	31	47
3 Canterbury Men's 2s	22	13	3	6	77	43	34	42
4 Bromley and Beckenham Mens 2s	22	11	5	6	68	47	21	38
5 Southgate Men's 2s	22	11	3	8	67	40	27	36
6 Reading Men's 2s	22	9	4	9	50	55	-5	31
7 Spencer Men's 2s	22	9	3	10	44	65	-21	30
8 Surbiton Men's 2s	22	8	6	8	50	46	4	29*
9 Indian Gymkhana Men's 2s	22	6	3	13	49	96	-47	21
10 Guildford Men's 2s	22	5	2	15	42	88	-46	17
11 Old Georgians Men's 2s	22	4	4	14	38	81	-43	16
12 Old Loughtonians Men's 2s	22	3	6	13	43	54	-11	15

So what do you do when all bar three of the 2006/07 2nd XI squad leaves, no one wants to be captain, and as an ageing, widening Club Captain in a position of power, authority, good looks and intelligence, you see the opportunity to secure your 2s squad spot, for potentially a last gasp effort in your career, by making yourself captain. I could not think of an answer to that one.

As Club Captain, I thought back to happier times, and some words of advice from a previous 2s captain, Alex 'Titch' Jones. Titch wanted to get invited to 1st XI training, and thinking that by making himself captain, the 1st XI coach would ask him to suggest who should come to 1st XI training...

So, the 2s had a new captain, with more enthusiasm for the post than skill. Big Dave immediately spotted the weaknesses in my game... in that I have no game... just width, and plenty of that. He did not fail to exploit this as a starting point of banter all season.

Things started well for the 2s, helped particularly by the presence of several of the 1st XI stars, namely Shillen, Molely, AR, and Codders. Their class was way above anything the standard 2s squad could muster.

It was going to be a tough season to emulate last year's auspicious 2s season; winning the Premier Division by a mile, not losing a game, the U18s (who made up nine of the squad on a bad day) winning the national title and to all effects the European title, and still managing to host some 1s benchers as well.

The words consolidation, mid-table mediocrity, do the best we can sprang to mind from the word go.

But unknowingly, in the first seven games we had won 5 and drawn 1, loosing in a game of swamp hockey at Old Loughts 2-1. Scores were not high, winning by 2 and 3 each time. Points of interest included Molely getting two greens in the same game for the same offence. Shil scoring everything he touched. The return of Blair 'Blairos' Dickinson. Codders throwing his toys out the pram in every game and sticking his tongue out at an umpire at the end of the game.

The Old Georgians away game, was a game of note, a weakened squad, made up primarily of those still going through puberty went to Weybridge. A very tight first half saw us take the lead, and then have it taken away from us. At the start of the second half they came at us very strong and Big Dave pulled off a couple of Bobby Dazzlers to keep us in play. Our fitness prevailed, as did the need to get home early for X-Factor, and we walked away with it, walloping them in the second half, winning 4-1.

The team changed every week throughout the season; symptomatic of crap availability from players. In total we used 40 different players across the season, as described in the table below.

Johnny	Downer	22	Chris	Keevil	6
Dave	Guthrie	21	Ian	Anderson	5
Dan	Bradley	20	Mo	Ali	4
Tim	Atkins	19	Jon	Codling	4
Peter	Roseff	19	Jamie	Bairstow	3
Alex	Land	18	Rich	Brown	2
Toby	Tibbenham	14	Olly	Deasy	2
Chris	Newman	12	Andy	Fraser	2
Stephane	Vehrle-Smith	12	James	McDermattroe	2
Blair	Dickinson	11	Simon	Briscoe	1
Lloyd	Francis	11	Ben	Cooke	1
Dave	Tyler	11	Jamie	Dodd	1
Jeremy	Elliott	9	Rob	Foster	1
Christian	Kortlang	9	Rhys	Joyce	1
Andy	Richardson	8	Manpreet	Kochar	1
Paul	Turk	8	Darren	Kok	1
Tom	Bugg	7	Jon	Lander	1
Ali	Parkes	7	Brian	Voges	1
Shilen	Tanna	7	Richard	Walsh	1
Grant	Barber	6	Andy	Watts	1

The 10 November game against Canterbury, who were top of the table, and we were second (which was not bad) was a game of the highest quality, certainly the best I have played in. Big Dave was supreme in goal, with Shillen and Molely

playing a half game each. The pace of the game was phenomenal, we went 1-0 up, but were soon pegged back, and were under the cosh for most of the second half. Shil came on in the dying minutes and reverse stick shot from an impossibly acute angle take the game 2-1, and put us top of the league!

And it all went down hill from there.

A cup game at Southgate, who were ringed up to the max, against a basically 2As side saw us loose 7-0 and saw us loose our rag a few times. Draws against a strong Surbiton side and frustrating Bromley side were next.

Molely racked up two yellow cards in the same game for the same offence.

Then Indian Gym. Now what do you normally expect from an Indian Gym game... ringers, cards, goals, goals, goals... well this didn't disappoint. Seven minutes in and they fist yellows were out, a ten minute sin bin for a Gym player for raising his fists and an unfair five for Moley for receiving the onslaught. Three more yellow cards for us, and six more for them, 3-0 up for us, and then gifting them three goals in the space of five minutes and we were 4-3 down. I got hit over the head with a stick and went down like a roll of lino, Big Dave chases over and calls there player a dirty Barsteward, the player asks Big Dave said, so Big Dave repeats himself, slightly louder, stood next to the umpire. Big Dave is requested to take a five minute breather by the Umpire and Molely goes to kicking back... I was still out cold on the floor. We lost 4-3.

H&W away, cyclonic conditions at Paddington Rec, a bare 11, with four of those borrowed from the preceding 2As game. We loose 8-1, a real low point, if only Big Dave had been there.

By this stage of the season Pete is firmly ensconced as the team whipping boy.

The new year dawns and the need to get points is ever clear. A run of three easier games yields the full nine points.

We go to EG, with a very weak team. Simon Disco Briscoe is bought in for reinforcement at the back, claiming at the start of the game that he wont venture beyond the half way line, as he is feeling tired and ill. So midway through the first half he leaps, wobbles, chunters, bobbles his way past approximately 24 tackles and finds himself in the D, he wafts the ball towards the goal, bouncing over the keeper and wring footing a useless defender, 1-0 up. EG who also had a weak squad should have gone down to ten, but the umpire could not find it in himself to send off the five year old cry baby they had playing. The same southern hemispheric umpire then proceeds to give EG a P-Flick for a wonderful deflection by Ali 'the rat' Parkes. They take the initiative and score another later on. Again Big Dave pulls off some blinding saves to keep us in it.

We beat OGs again at the Ghetto, though not without some moments of panic, squandering a 3-0 lead to come back to 3-3, before knocking it at the end.

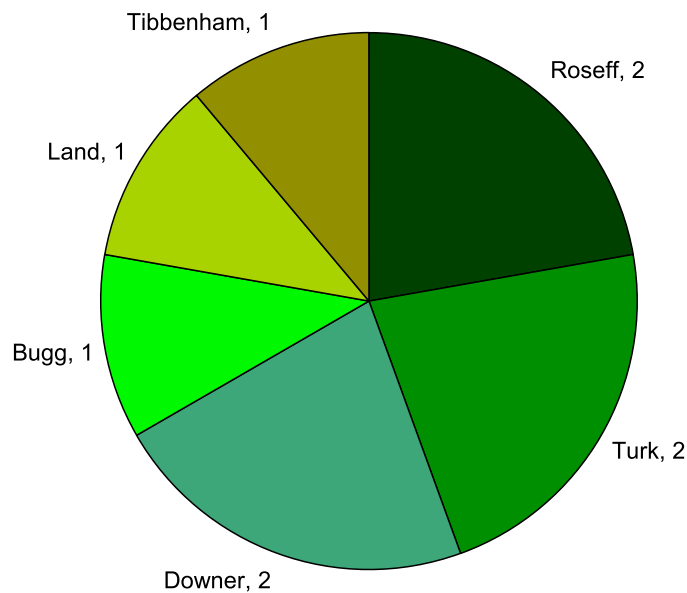
The rest of the season (six games) we went without a win, seeing us tumble down the table from the top three, finally finishing sixth.

We nearly pulled it out of the bag away at Bromley, when we carved a three goal lead. Big Dave was sublime in goal, with Toby and Christian running their little student socks off up front. But with seven minutes to go, it all went wrong. Bromley scored 3 in five minutes, yes three, as our fitness went, and we made fundamental errors of judgement. Watching from the sidelines with man-flu was painful.

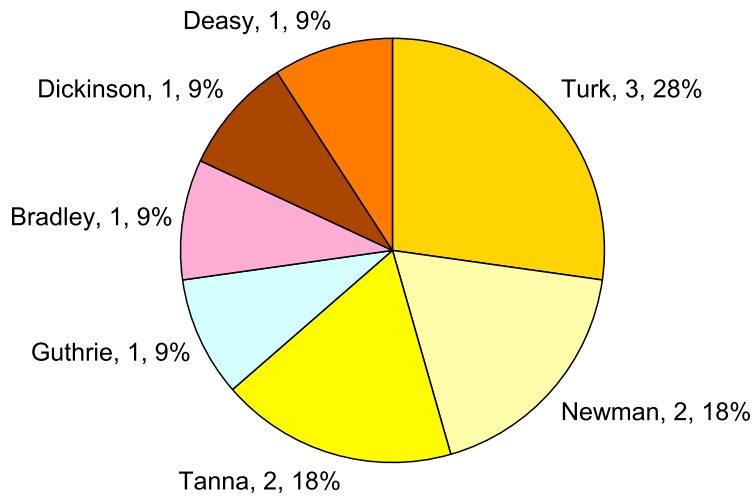
We lost again 4-3 to Indian Gym, who to be fair were well disciplined (only one yellow card) and one umpire on their side.

Summary is, not enough goals from our forwards, not enough fitness from our midfield and lack of experience from the defence.

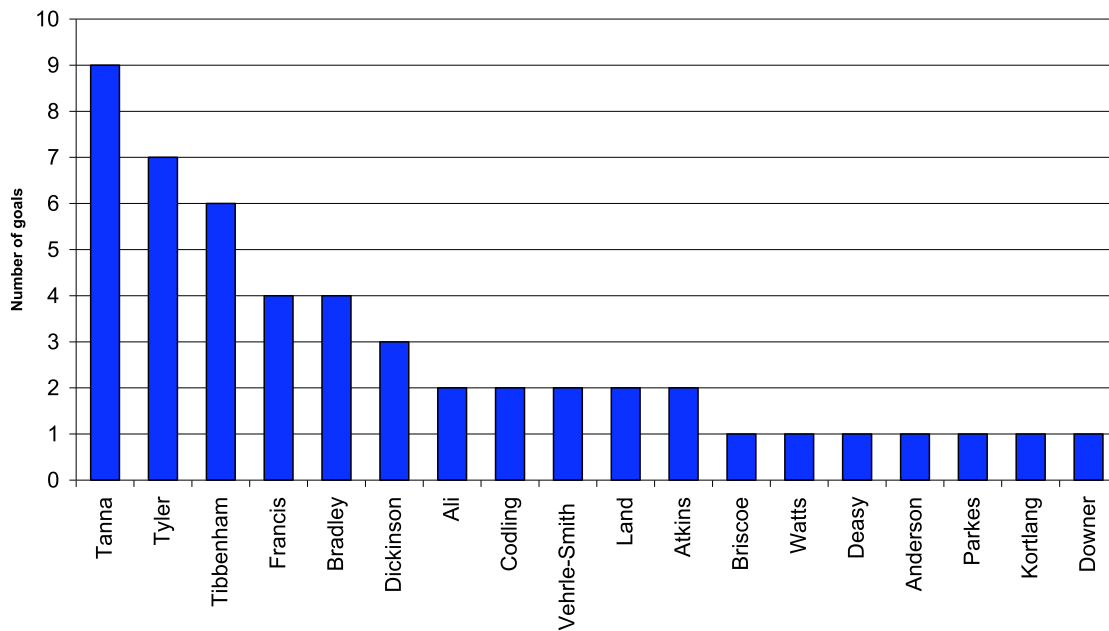
Green cards received by Reading Men's 2s players



Yellow cards received by Reading Men's 2s players



Goal Scorers For Reading Men's 2s



Special love to Dave Tyler, who has a hard year of it with the 1s, but looked class and committed for us in the games he played in, and scored a hatful of goals to.

Special love to Molely, who always played when asked and has no pretentiousness about him. He does stand out a mile from the rest of the 2s squad.

Special love to Buggy who eventually made it back from injury post Christmas.

Special love to AR, who is an absolute dream to play with, so cool so calm, different gravy... please stay and teach us all oh Master Yoda.

Special love to Shillen, committed, quality, deserves everything he has achieved this season.

Special love to Christian and Toby, dirty tax dodging students you may be, but I love your spirit, your never say never attitude and the fact that just like Forrest Gump you keep on running.

Special love to Pete for letting us verbally and physically abuse him from the word go. We will miss you Pete.

In all, it has been a roller coaster season. Sixth place is where we ended up, safe, but not secure. One man kept us alive though, one giant man, one Very Big Dave "that's not a great save, that's a shit shot" Guthrie. Extra special love.

Love
Johnny Downer
2nd XI Captain

2A's London League Division One - 3rd place and Cup Runners Up

<http://www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk/>

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Division 1 2007/08
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All current competitions - select

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Spencer Men's 3s	20	15	1	4	54	33	21	46
2 Richmond Men's 2s	20	12	2	6	54	44	10	38
3 Reading Men's 2As	20	9	6	5	54	44	10	33
4 Bromley and Beckenham Mens 3s	20	10	3	7	47	56	-9	33
5 Hampstead and Westminster Men's 3s	20	9	4	7	62	42	20	31
6 Wimbledon Men's 2s	20	9	3	8	50	37	13	30
7 East Grinstead Men's 3s	20	8	3	9	41	42	-1	27
8 London Wayfarers Men's 2s	20	6	4	10	45	50	-5	22
9 Surbiton Men's 3s	20	6	4	10	52	65	-13	22
10 Tulse Hill & Dulwich Mens 2s	20	4	5	11	32	45	-13	17
11 Teddington Men's 2s	20	3	3	14	41	74	-33	12

This season has been a bit of a rollercoaster for the 2As.

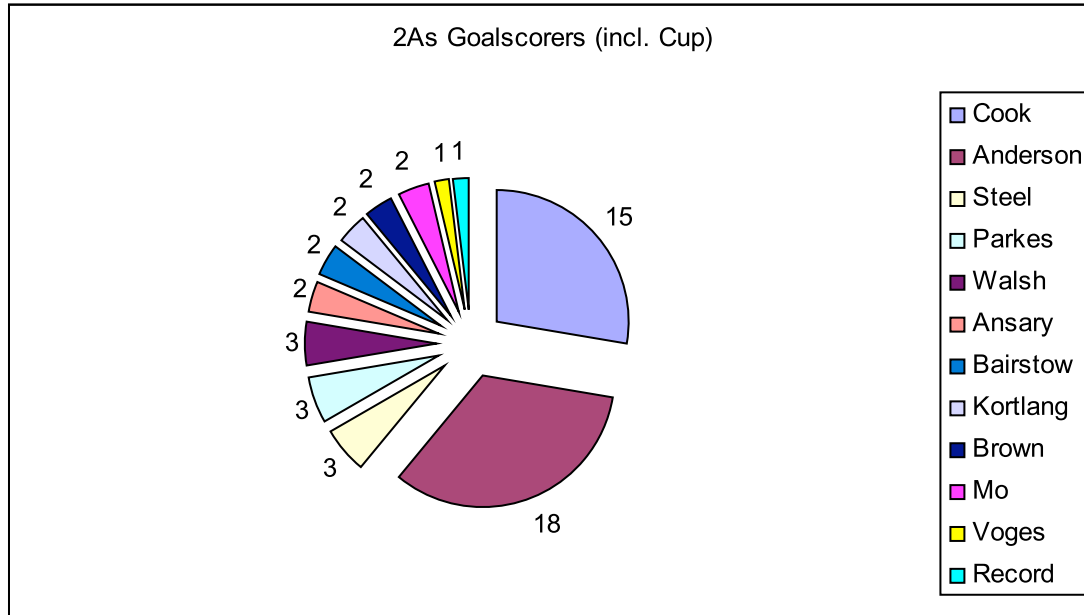
The first half of the season was indifferent as a result of low numbers and poor availability and the team struggled to maintain mid-table. Nonetheless, the team proved hard to beat, producing a remarkable 5 match draw spree to end the year.

However, in the second half of the season with a more consistent team bolstered by ex-Refills and new-comers the 2As got back to winning ways, playing some Sweeney Todd pie fuelled hockey washed down with cavalier champagne.

As always, 2As dogged determination was thrown in to help us out of many a hole. The team morphed into a well-oiled unit from February, going on a winning streak which saw us finish a very respectable 3rd in the league and also led to a Division final appearance.

The 2As are a mongrel breed with a mix of naïve youngsters, urban youth, beer toting graduates, mortgaged twenty-somethings and the elderly. As always, success has built on the youngsters with Cook, Parkes, Kapoor Jnr II, Yates, Barber, Record and McDermottroe playing well beyond their years.

This young flock has been expertly shepherded by the wiley Brown, sticky Walsh, bionic Bairstow and poised Lander and scared sh*tless by the driving of al-Qu'eda Ansary and "goal-machine" Anderson. Jedi masters Briscoe and Steel have showed us the true side of the Force....when not playing golf, skiing, suspended or in Fiji! Play well you did 2As.



Best goal: Ali Parkes v EG (Home) – reverse roof ripper

Honourable mentions: Shiv Kapoor, Jon Lander, Ian Anderson

Player of the season: Ben Cook

Capt'n Rob Foster
2As captain

3rd XI London League Division Three – 4th place

<http://www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk/>

Higgins Group London Hockey League
Division 3 2007/08
www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk

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All current competitions - select

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Richmond Men's 2As	20	14	3	3	88	32	56	45
2	Richmond Griffins	20	13	4	3	61	28	33	43
3	Hampstead and Westminster Men's 4s	20	11	2	7	62	47	15	35
4	Reading Men's 3s	20	10	5	5	53	42	11	35
5	St. Albans Senators	20	9	3	8	48	58	-10	30
6	PHC Chiswick Men's 2s	20	8	4	8	49	42	7	28
7	Old Loughtonians Men's 3s	20	7	4	9	51	54	-3	25
8	Tulse Hill & Dulwich Men's 3s	20	8	0	12	55	78	-23	24
9	Wimbledon Men's 4s	20	7	2	11	54	50	4	23
10	Maidenhead Mystics	20	4	2	14	28	67	-39	14
11	Oxford University Men's 3rd	20	4	1	15	29	80	-51	13

Sponsored by The Cross Keys in Pangbourne

The 2007/8 season didn't get off to a great start with us lying second bottom for the first few weeks but with 5 match winning streak saw good finish to the season gave us fourth in London League Division 3. This highest position the Men's 3s have ever finished in London League. This is not bad considering the small squad size and the amount injuries that happened during the season.

My player of the season has to be Will Hall for all his defensive work he has put in this season, whilst not dressing up as beaver! Though he still has a lot of work to do on his attacking ability. The prime example of this is from the Maidenhead home game when with an open goal he hit the ground and not the ball. Then to cap it all off went down injured trying to hide his embarrassment. Though Will is not the only one to have a DOD moment as Adam and Tim have both won this award on numerous occasions this season, just ask Adam about his miss against St Albans or Tim's misses against nearly every team in the league.

Despite these mishaps throughout the season there have also been moments of pure magic with Sam Howell's team goal against Wimbledon and Rich Collins' 80 metre solo goal against St Albans. I thought I would mention everyone's moment of glory this season:

- Lavers : Goal line tackle against Richmond 2as which he hurt his back
- Sumo: His monster aerial against Richmond, made their right back look stupid
- Hall: Diving goal line clearance against Hampstead
- Kiff: His goal line save from a short against Wimbledon to get the win

- Mike Cat: His shinned goal against Hampstead
- Howells: His no nonsense finish against Wimbledon
- Collins: 80 meter solo effort against St Albans
- Babbage: His reverse stick finish against St Albans
- King: Nailing the 6' 2" South African from Richmond Griffins (Tom is only 5'5" and 16 years old)
- Kimber: What did he do? Answers on a post card Reading Police station
- Mackie: His volley against Wimbledon on his first game for us
- Will McCartney: His ridiculous finish against Chiswick
- Hamilton: His equalising drag-bobble against Old Loughts

I also like thank all those who made appearances for the men's 3s this season. I would mention you all but the list too long.

Somehow despite my defensive tactics we managed to score a lot of goals. The table below shows that the goals were shared around, though somehow despite missing at least 5 tap-ins a game Tim Hamilton managed to get 20 goals which is not a bad effort. Tim also provided excellent sponsorship from The Cross Keys in Pangbourne. The Cross Keys in Pangbourne is excellent pub which is a short walking distance from Pangbourne station is highly recommended by the men's 3s.

20	Tim Hamilton	15	4	1
10	Will McCartney	10	0	0
7	Ian Anderson	4	3	0
4	David Hawkins	4	0	0
4	Richard Collins	3	1	0
3	Lee-Wayne Babbage	3	0	0
3	Sam Howells	3	0	0
2	Thomas King	2	0	0
2	Adam Mackie	2	0	0
2	Craig Parrett	1	1	0
2	Richard Walsh	1	1	0
1	Tim Armitage	1	0	0
1	Michael Cattermole	1	0	0
1	Chris Newman	1	0	0
1	Dean Record	1	0	0
1	Amet Tuney	1	0	0
1	Rob Farrow	0	1	0

1	Mark Kimber	0	1	0
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Despite all the stress and strain of getting a team out every week this season, my first as captain, has been enjoyable and hope that we build on this season look to finish higher up next season.

Barry Jukes
3rd XI Captain


PS: Don't forget to visit the Cross Keys in Pangbourne

4th XI

London League Division Five - 7th place

<http://www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk/>

Higgins Group London Hockey League
Division 5 2007/08
www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk

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[Top scorers](#) (maintained by clubs) [Detail](#) | SMS-enabled

All current competitions - select

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Hampstead and Westminster Hammers	16	13	0	3	58	30	28	39
2 Hampstead and Westminster Men's 6s	16	12	1	3	64	31	33	37
3 Spencer Men's 5s	16	8	2	6	37	28	9	26
4 Old Loughtonians Foresters	16	8	1	7	38	37	1	25
5 Teddington Men's 4s	16	6	2	8	49	44	5	20
6 PHC Chiswick Men's 3s	16	6	1	9	30	40	-10	19
7 Reading Men's 4s	16	6	0	10	37	58	-21	18
8 Tulse Hill & Dulwich Tornados	16	4	2	10	27	48	-21	14
9 Richmond Deerstalkers	16	3	3	10	23	47	-24	12

* = points deducted/awarded

The fours had their toughest season in a while, not because last year we were promoted to Division 5, but as we had a lack of players in our pool we never had the same squad each week. We also often played with less than 11 players, which isn't fair on anyone.

I reluctantly took over the captaincy following Timbo's unexpected departure knowing it was going to be a challenge, and it certainly was! Somehow we all got through it and despite forfeiting two games and therefore 20 goals against us, we ended up 7th out of 9. We could have done a lot better had we not "lost" both these games to the same side (Teddington 4s) who finished 5th with two more points than us.

Despite the club losing more players than it gained, the 4s welcomed the joining of several new players to the club, particularly Andy Grimmer (aka "Pony" as he often paid his match fees with £50 notes) and Dave Hawkins. Both these players put in sterling performances throughout the season. The 4s also had their fair share of injuries. Andrew MacDonald (aka Macca) played once at the start of the season and upset his groin again, Chris Wade was brutally challenged snapping his collar bone and Craig Parrett finally wore his hip out entertaining the ladies.

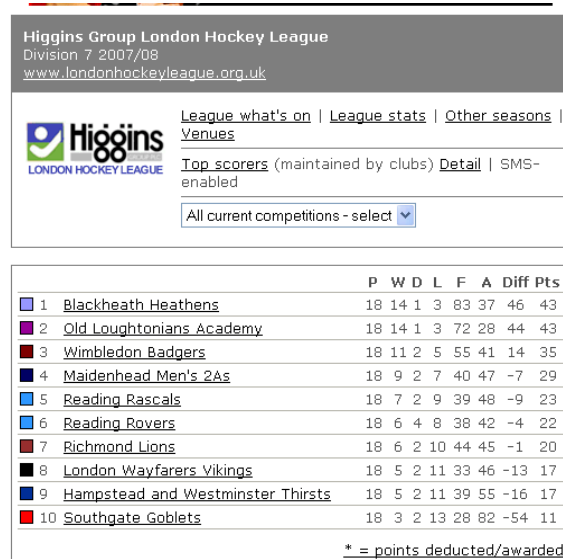
Special thanks must go to the Rover's captain, Jon Maguire (aka "Mags" as he was caught pleasuring himself over a glossy) for giving me players last minute, which often left him short.

I think a valuable lesson has been learned by all this season. I sincerely hope recruitment over the summer is fruitful, otherwise there's not much to look forward to.


Duncan Westbury
Men's 4s Captain

Rovers London League Division Seven - 6th place

<http://www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk/>



Higgins Group London Hockey League
Division 7 2007/08
www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk

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[Top scorers](#) (maintained by clubs) [Detail](#) | SMS-enabled

All current competitions - select

		P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1	Blackheath Heathens	18	14	1	3	83	37	46	43
2	Old Loughtonians Academy	18	14	1	3	72	28	44	43
3	Wimbledon Badgers	18	11	2	5	55	41	14	35
4	Maidenhead Men's 2As	18	9	2	7	40	47	-7	29
5	Reading Rascals	18	7	2	9	39	48	-9	23
6	Reading Rovers	18	6	4	8	38	42	-4	22
7	Richmond Lions	18	6	2	10	44	45	-1	20
8	London Wayfarers Vikings	18	5	2	11	33	46	-13	17
9	Hampstead and Westminster Thirsts	18	5	2	11	39	55	-16	17
10	Southgate Goblets	18	3	2	13	28	82	-54	11

* = points deducted/awarded

OK, gonna keep this brief and to the point!

after last seasons promotion and cup win the Rovers where on a high over the off-season until arrgh !!!! captain is off to pastures new leaving a huge gap at CB, RB moving away, LB working abroad, Sweeper emigrating, the list was growing and still no volunteer for the captaincy until I was cornered after a pre season training session by the BIG BOSS Johnny D after a really painful Chinese burn I was in convinced.

so with the pre-season came some new faces and some blowing off the dust,

3 games and 2 wins, with one loss to the Rustlers... RINGERS WHAT RINGERS?

so up until xmas results were, lets say, indifferent, with Friday night phone calls and squad juggling with captains both above and below and a fair bit of doubling up!

but all in all a good first half to the season.

so new year and more up and down results with just about 11 men and even 10 for the last game of the season ...

18 current matches played, won 6, drew 4 and lost 8, scored 38 and let in 42

but all in all finishing 6th just one point behind the Rascals... DAMN THOSE PESKY KIDS!!!

SEASON OVER ... DONE!!!

ANYBODY WANT TO CAPTAIN NEXT YEAR?


Jon 'Mags' Maguire
Men's Rovers Captain

Rascals

London League Division Seven - 5th place

<http://www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk/>

Higgins Group London Hockey League
Division 7 2007/08
www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk

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All current competitions - select

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Blackheath Heathens	18	14	1	3	83	37	46	43
2 Old Loughtonians Academy	18	14	1	3	72	28	44	43
3 Wimbledon Badgers	18	11	2	5	55	41	14	35
4 Maidenhead Men's 2As	18	9	2	7	40	47	-7	29
5 Reading Rascals	18	7	2	9	39	48	-9	23
6 Reading Rovers	18	6	4	8	38	42	-4	22
7 Richmond Lions	18	6	2	10	44	45	-1	20
8 London Wayfarers Vikings	18	5	2	11	33	46	-13	17
9 Hampstead and Westminster Thirsts	18	5	2	11	39	55	-16	17
10 Southgate Goblets	18	3	2	13	28	82	-54	11

* = points deducted/awarded

No report submitted by the Rascals

Ronan Daffey (Rascals Captain) and Ian Fraser (Rascals Manager)

Retros Hampshire Open League Division Six – 4th place

<http://ccgi.hampshirehockeyassociation.co.uk/Public/LeagueResults.php>

The Retros finished bottom of their division last year and were relegated to Hampshire Open League Division 6. Things could only get better!

We did indeed get off to a good start. Two solid wins at home took us to dizzying nose bleed heights in the table (2nd) before our first of 4 away trips to Dorset took us back down a peg or two. We were to remain strong at home for the rest of the season, only losing 2 games and winning all the rest.

The table eventually split into 3 mini leagues. The top 2 teams pulled away, and the bottom 3 teams (all hit by penalties for conceding games) never got going leaving the 6 teams in the middle to scrap it out for 3rd with only 6 points between 3rd and 7th for most of the season.

Retros had a poor run of 4 losses after Christmas which dragged us down to the bottom of this pack but picked up again as the ski season tailed off and managed to put together a couple of wins and a draw to be back in the hunt for 4th.

Lack of availability hit all the teams this year, but we managed to field 11 men for all the games except for a very creditable 2-1 loss at Trojans with only 9 men.

The last game of the season was against Hamble. They had been relegated with us in second last position after leap-frogging us by beating us in a rearranged game at the end of last season. So we were out for revenge. I'm glad to report that revenge was achieved with the retiring captain scoring his 2nd league goal for the club in 12 years to take the game 2-1. 4th place gave me a very happy end to my tenure as captain!

Honourable mentions go to perennial top scorer Tim Smaldon, ever reliable rookie goalie Ollie Ringrow and super ump Turbo. I'd also like to thank Laz (who managed to get replacement goalies for the 2 games where Ollie wasn't available), everyone (and there were quite a few) who umpired for us during the season and Mags, Duncan and Steve Howells who managed to not steal too many players from me too frequently in trying circumstances and did manage to help out on occasion when I was short as well, Johnny who provided ever cheerful leadership and all the Retros for putting up with my abysmal pre-match and half time talks!

Angus Purcell
Retro's Captain

Rustlers London League Veterans Division A – Winners and Cup finalists

<http://www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk/>

Higgins Group London Hockey League
Veterans A 2007/08
www.londonhockeyleague.org.uk

 [League what's on](#) | [League stats](#) | [Other seasons](#) | [Venues](#)
[Top scorers](#) (maintained by clubs) [Detail](#) | SMS-enabled

All current competitions - select

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Pts
1 Reading Rustlers	15	11	3	1	59	28	31	36
2 Hampstead and Westminster Men's Vets	15	7	4	4	44	38	6	24*
3 Spencer Men's Vets	15	7	2	6	57	46	11	23
4 Bromley and Beckenham Veterans	15	7	1	7	42	41	1	22
5 Old Georgians Fire	15	5	3	7	30	34	-4	18
6 Surbiton Jokers	15	0	3	12	25	70	-45	2*

* = points deducted/awarded

No report submitted by the Rustlers,

Nicholas Barton
Rustlers Captain

Veterans

Wessex Masters League – 5th place

<http://www.wsfa.co.uk/>

The Veterans had a very enjoyable and reasonably successful season in the Wessex Supervets Fixtures Alliance League.

The results were:

League: Played 18: Won 9: Lost 7: Drew 2: Goals for 55; Against 32.

Friendlies: Played 4: Won 2: Lost 2: Goals for 6: Against 13.

Leading goal scorers: Martyn Palmer 14, Richard Higginson 13 & Keith Hunt 8.

We finished 5th in a league 14 teams.

A Pool of 20 plus, was probably too big and this will have to be reduced next season.

Thanks to Geoff Ash for skippering, for David van Beesten, (injured) & Jimmy Balsden for umpiring. Keith Hunt not only dazzled on the wing but provided rock solid admin for the whole season, a great performance for our benefit.

A great end of season function was held on Saturday 19th April attended by 30 people.

We look forward to 2008/09.

David Van Beeston (Vets Captain) and Keith Hunt (Vets Manager)

Rejects

Withdrawn from London League Division Eight

With player numbers at ridiculously high levels during the 2006/07 season, we decided to enter a new team, at the very bottom of the London League. The Rejects were founded on the premise that any players 'rejected' from their squad, would be moped up to pad out the core of players placed in that pool. That core was comprised of semi-vets, not old enough to play vets and not good enough to play Rustlers! Steve and Tony were well up for it!

Come the start of the season, and the departure of over eighty players and the pickings were looking slim. Squads suddenly dropped from 17-20 to 12-13. The Rejects struggled for numbers and actually relied on players doubling up to fulfil fixtures. They even loaned the Rustlers a fixture or two (which the Rustlers won)!

Before Christmas even approached, it was apparent that the Rejects, were going to have to be rejected, consigned to the scrap heap, a future phoenix may appear from the proverbial flames, but probably not for next season. Huge thanks to all those who played Rejects, and for Posh, who probably played in every one of their fixtures!

Steve Howells and Tony Cooke
De Rejects Management

Refills

Withdrawn from London League Division Two

The second team to bite the dust this season was the saddest. The Refills are designed as the leap frog team for the colts, moving up from the Rascals and then into the elite squads. A combination of poor availability from the adults and sporadic availability from the Colts who were good enough for the squad meant that fixture after fixture was being played with too few players.

Poor communication from colts meant that Nick's job was made harder still.

The overall shortage of players this season, meant that the squad could not be bolstered when it needed to and the Refills team looked less less and like the Refills team it should be.

After significant and lengthy debate between Captain, Colts Manager, Chairman and Club Captain, the decision was taken to withdraw the Refills from the League (just after Christmas), and re-enter the team next season.

It is our ambition to revive the squad and enter them back into Division Three, where they were destined in any case!

Nick Hooper
Refills Captain