



Dear Men's Members of EGHC,

I wanted to touch base with all Men's members moving into the National Lockdown 2.0. It is a huge disappointment that we will stop playing for the next 4 weeks (and maybe longer) and I wanted to touch base with you all.

Over the last year we have worked hard as a club to try and increase the membership experience, with the rich history the club has, it is easy to become complacent. This season has shown we can pull together as a community/hockey family and really buy into the ethos and history the club has for over 100 years. There are very few clubs in the country who were formed before the 1900's. We were founded in 1897 and we must appreciate our rich history as we are the ones who continue and lay more foundations for those to come.

I have been so pleased to see the fantastic start to the season. The commitment, enthusiasm and desire to perform for each other and our famous logo has been great to see. On the pitch we have started the season with full squads of 16 and superb training numbers. It is so nice to see so much East Grinstead kit and members wearing it proudly. The Vets, although deprived of the bar, have shown their support for the club, not only individuals supporting players in the 1<sup>st</sup> XI but supporting the juniors and younger players in the 5<sup>th</sup> XI, to the newly promoted 4<sup>th</sup> XI who currently sit 4<sup>th</sup> in the table. The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI developing some fine U18's as well as a strong core of adults who are pushing to represent higher teams. They too are newly promoted and sitting 4<sup>th</sup> in the league. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI have a training squad of 20 players and top the London Prem with 5 wins from 5, something not seen for many years, growing our model of developing home grown talent. Credit to a group of players who have grown up at the club and come together after many years.

We are all aware of how challenging the Premier League has become and with our new management team in place and a new coaching team lead by Tim Deakin and David Beckett, the 1<sup>st</sup> XI are building into an exciting entity as they aim to reach the top 6 this season. The support the club gives means a lot to the squad. A few words from Captain Simon Faulkner express this:

*"It is an honour to play for the M1s and put on an East Grinstead shirt, we are grateful for all the support, both on and off the pitch and as a group we do not take this for granted. On behalf of all the team, I want to thank the volunteers, supporters and the management for all they have done so far this season". Simon Faulkner (Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI Captain)*

With the restrictions of Covid, we have achieved some amazing feats:

- We have begun to Live Stream Premier League fixtures (even the Vets as a test run). Bringing Premier League matches to your home and increasing our reach.
- Provided more coaches/volunteers to help our juniors progress.
- Recruited new coaches for the M1's, M2's, M3's and M4's.
- M5's, M4's and M3's have performed amazingly on the pitch after promotions from last year.
- M2s have raised over £500 in 5 days in their quest to raise £1000 for Movember and Men's Mental Health awareness. If you would like to become involved, please do get in touch.

There are so many layers to our club, we don't just put teams out at the weekend, we build to be sustainable and push ourselves to achieve the most we can. We try to always be better and punch



well above our weight. I am so impressed with the atmosphere we have created this season and the positive ethos we have carried.

If anyone thinks they would be able to contribute or become involved in any area of development, on or off the pitch, we are always looking for support so please do contact me.

I wish everyone all the best over the next 4 weeks, I can't wait to see everyone when we get back. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any feedback or other matters.

All the best,

Wesley Jackson

Men's Club Captain

