

Wychwood Ladies Hockey Team

How it all started

Forty years ago Shipton Cricket Club were persuaded by Diana Johnson and me to mark out a hockey pitch not quite on the 'hallowed turf' but between the wicket and the avenue.

Money was raised by holding a sponsored swim, the constitution was drawn up with the help of Phyllida Cook (an international umpire no less), members were recruited and the uniform bought.

That Purple and Green Strip

This was purple shirt and green pleated skirt and socks. Our emblem was the pelican of Shipton Court. Diana arranged fixtures with the local clubs and entered us in the county tournament and within a very short time we were competing.

Volunteers very kindly helped with preparing and marking out the pitch. We were particularly grateful to Joe Valentine for his help. Autumn was a difficult time especially when there was an east wind. Hockey balls will not travel through leaves so these had to be removed before play could commence.

Changing facilities were limited as the water was turned off in the winter but the important thing was we had lots of fun and before very long we were running two elevens.



The schools at Burford and Chipping Norton provided some younger players but many of us were from the local villages.

At the beginning of the 1990s the game of hockey was changing and speeding up with the introduction of all-weather pitches and a much more refined stick. Younger players were not taught how to play on uneven and sometimes muddy grass pitches and so the club moved to Witney. Since then the club is thriving and has kept both the name Wychwood LHC and the purple and green strip.

Forty Years On

In September they held a forty year anniversary fun-day at Cokethorpe School where many of the original players met and enjoyed exchanging memories of the olden days! Carol Mix (Ruby's daughter-in-law) is still an active member of the club having played for most of the forty years. Regrettably the rest of us were not up to taking part in the fun games laid on but wish the club every success in the future.

If you are interested in joining the club please contact Sue Hutter on: 07736 769045.

Margaret Hartley