Men's 2nd X1 season 2017/18 Report

The start of the season was very positive with a new pitch and the men’s numbers looking very strong. Starting the 2nd team and promoting the 1st team was a very big move for the club at the time. We managed to get a few old faces back into the club which really helped with making the 2nd team work.

The season started well with 2 friendlies where we were able to field full squads with the help of a few first team men. We had two fully trained goal keepers in the club which gave us the luxury of choosing the keeper for the games. Unfortunately both games ended in defeat but we took plenty of positives from the games and knew we had a lot to learn throughout the season.

With the friendlies out of the way the season begun at home on the new pitch. We played a fantastic game of hockey to pick up a 3-0 win against Jesmond PC 4ths. The game could have many more goals with us having most of the possession and having some good shots on goal. Goals coming from various players and clean sheet, we couldn’t of hoped for a better result.

The second game was a lot tighter against a strong Norton 2nds away from home. However we again came together to play a good game of hockey and picked up a 1-0 win. Another clean sheet and win left us looking good at the top of the table. The goal coming from John Goldberg.

On a winning streak the 3rd game came at home against Stockton 5ths. This game showed the 2nd team pulling together to defeat what was a opposition. The game finished 4-1 to Darlington with again various goal scorers including Mark Wilson, John Goldberg and a double from Bob Coulson.

The season then slowly unravelled for the 2nd team with players leaving the club and injuries coming quick. With one of the players leaving being a goalkeeper we had to find a replacement. Connor Ryder stepped up and showed great promise as a goal keeper. Some of the 2nd team were picked to move to the 1st team meaning there were not enough players to allow games to be played. We were not the only team to have issues with player numbers. We had a few Sunday games booked ready to play but got cancelled by the opposition.

After missing two we managed to get two more games played before Christmas where we were still towards the top of the league. We got a draw against HC&BHC 3rds and lost 2-1 away from home against Stokesley 3rds. These were unfortunately the last games the 2nd team played this season. However with the first team struggling for players the 2nd team players remained playing for the 1st team. Connor started as sub several times and got two goals after replacing Jason in different games.

The future looks bright for the 2nd team with the junior ranks having good attendance at training throughout the season. With a few juniors becoming old enough to play next season including a goal keeper hopefully the 2nd team will be able to play more games and look at promotion.

Bob Coulson

2nd Team Captain 2017-2018