



the Junior dribbler

Official Publication of the Junior Section of Floriana Young Stars Hockey Club

October 2012

Year 2 Issue 1

Presentation Dinner 2011/2012

Due to forecasted inclement weather the Club Committee decided to find an alternate venue for this year's Presentation. The Floriana Local Council came to the club's rescue and offered its premises to hold the activity. On behalf of the Club's Committee we would like to thank the Floriana Mayor, Mr Nigel Holland and his Council for all the help given. This year's presentation was attended for by no less than 84 members including their families and guests. One would truly say that we are again building that family spirit our club has always been renowned for. Well done to the organisers.

Under 12
Under 14
Under 16

Most dedicated players



Maria Cutajar

Most improved players



Alex Hunt

Best Team players



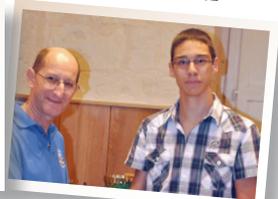
Jason Lee Evans



Karl Chircop



Karl Borg



Leon Gatt



Jamie Mifsud



Aidan Somers



Elton Cutajar



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Editorial Board

Mark Ellul

Cora Balzan

Charlie Ellul

Dear All,

Another season has started and as we move on we have had new additions to the club both at junior and senior level. This summer we have had lots of activities going on. At the beginning of the season our first goal was to carry out maintenance of the club's 5-a-side pitch especially since our club was to host the now established summer tournament. Here I would like to thank all those who gave us a hand with the maintenance of the pitch and goalposts.

Since a number of our junior players have reached certain playing levels and a good number were 14 years and older, apart from fielding a first team, we also decided to include a second team made up mostly of junior players: Nathan Xuereb, Matthew Xuereb, Jamie Mifsud, Elton Cutajar, Kevin Farrugia, Ryan Seychell, Leon Gatt, Aidan Somers and Clyde Aquilina. These were joined by seasoned and veteran players Chris Affard, Andrew Camilleri, Juniors Head coach Mark Ellul and Veteran Dione Cassar who provided the necessary experience to the team. It proved to be a fruitful experience such that we got to know each other better on the pitch and our players got a better idea of the demands of a senior match. Following the performance of our juniors in the summer tournament it was decided to include

their participation in the 9-a-side reserves league which will give them the necessary experience and help them to keep improving their hockey. We avoided the wooden-spoonist's position winning one and drawing the other of two of our matches against a Rabat B side that was made up of a number of first team players.

We also had a Berlin tour organised with Junior players, coaches, family and friends joining the trip. We had a fantastic week there. One can read about this unforgettable experience on pages 4 and 5.

I would also like to point out that some of our junior players, namely Clyde Aquilina, Elton Cutajar, Jamie Mifsud, Ryan Seychell and Aidan Somers have been called up to form part of the senior squad and have already taken part in a number of friendlies. We augur them the best of luck for their first full season with the seniors. At the same time I wish to mention that a good number of juniors are knocking at the door of the senior squad and should thus concentrate on playing well in their respective categories. The chance will come, so let us remain patient and keep working hard whilst enjoying our hockey.

I would like to close by appealing to our juniors, especially those who will be sitting for their O-levels this year. Make sure you give these exams their due importance - they will be your first qualifications and can define your career path!! Start working hard from the beginning of the year, manage your time well and be disciplined with yourselves. Like that you can also enjoy your hockey as much as possible. It is very easy to not feel like doing your studying due to tiredness and all sorts of other excuses. However nothing is achieved without sacrifice in life. Hopefully this time next year as reward for your hard work you will start attending the sixth form of your choice, studying the subjects of your choice and hopefully with a league winners medal on your belt!

Mark Ellul (Juniors Head Coach)

Profiles:



Name: Mark Camilleri.
Nickname: None
Date of birth: 27th
August 1985.
How would you describe yourself?
I find it difficult to say no. I am patient, active and love hockey. I like putting myself in other

people's shoes and believe no-one is pure evil.

Favourite playing position:

My favourite position is a defensive midfielder. I believe that this position provides you with the required vision, which if accompanied by good communication, gives you the opportunity to adjust any weaknesses to gain control of a game.

Likes: Fishing (All types).

Dislikes: (With a passion) Animal print clothing or accessories.

Favourite quote:

"Integrity is doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching".

Favourite meal: Roast Lamb. Although, the night before a hockey game I find that pasta provides a good balance of carbohydrates for me to perform my best the following day. Right before a game I like eating fruit together with a small portion of cereal.

How do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

I am hoping that in 10 years time medical advancements will provide me with the opportunity to grow my hair back, together with a nice healthy moustache. I will

Name: Jamie Farrugia.

Nickname: Bajdollu.

Date of birth: 10th June 2002.

How would you describe yourself?

Awesome.

Favourite playing position: Middle Defence.

Likes: Playing hockey, computer, reading.

Dislikes: A lot of food.

Favourite quote:

"Hallini!!!!!!!"

Favourite meal: Chicken nuggets.

How do you see yourself in 10 years' time?

Studying at the University and still a hockey player.



own my own farm, where I will have the opportunity to enjoy my cold winter days admiring my animals grazing in fields full of greenery, while I puff and sip on my newly acquired taste for smoking pipes and whisky. I will hopefully be retired from the seniors squad and playing just the reserves league as a result of being replaced by younger, fitter players.

Your Senior Young Stars debut:

My Seniors Young Stars debut was in the year 2000 against White Hart Hockey Club. I remember my coach's instructions perfectly; he had ordered me to man-mark a player by following his shadow. To my surprise, it worked and for sometime my role with the senior team was man marking key players.

Competition

Response to the previous competition question: In which country is the 2012 Olympics being held? **London was the answer and once again we had no correct reply.**

The question for the competition in this issue is: **Which four teams qualified as semifinalists in the women's hockey competition at the London Olympics 2012?**

Prize: a travelling bag with suit holder.



BERLIN TOUR

7 days of a unique experience

Three years ago a small juniors contingent went to Sicily to meet our CUS Catania and a Pietro Clarenza friends. This year it was decided to organize a trip to meet our long time Steglitzer TK friends in Berlin, Germany. We had a good response as we had 20 people making the trip of which ten were junior players.

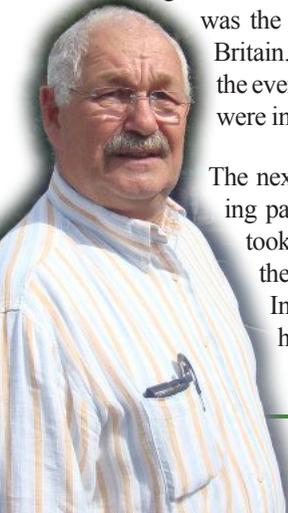
Our Berlin adventure started on Sunday 12th August where our kind hosts picked us up at the airport and took us straight to our accommodation at Kornerstrasse in the Steglitz area. Happybed hostel was to be our home for the next 7 days. It was practical, convenient, clean and nicely decorated. Basically, it had all we needed and we immediately felt at home! We were close to all amenities and the transport system was fast and efficient. After settling down, we walked to Steglitzer TK's clubhouse and training grounds as it was only 10 minutes away by walk. There we tasted our first traditional German wurst while renewing acquaintances and forging new ones.

The next day our Steglitzer contact, Mr. Peter Eversberg, took us to Potsdam where we visited the beautiful 18th Century residence and huge palace grounds for the Prussian King Friedrich. This

was the Prussian equivalent to Versailles in France and Buckingham Palace in Britain. We also visited the old village of Potsdam near the Palace grounds. In the evening our boys played a friendly match with Steglitzer TK juniors and after were invited to dine with them at the clubhouse as did the rest of our contingent.

The next day we visited Potsdamer Platz and took pictures with the remaining parts of the Berlin Wall. We then walked to Friedrichstraße where Peter took care to provide us with a guide to give us an interesting background to the Holocaust memorial. We also visited the adjacent interactive museum. In the afternoon we took a bus to the Charlottenburg area to play another hockey match against SC Charlottenburg.

Our Berlin host and longtime friend Peter Eversberg



On Wednesday we took a bus tour, which was a good overview of the most interesting and important places in Berlin. In the afternoon we had some time allocated for shopping where the ladies went to the nearby shopping centre whilst the boys went to purchase hockey equipment from a hockey sports shop.



Relaxing in the City

On Thursday Peter organized a very interesting tour of the beautifully reconstructed Reichstag. The guide gave us a very detailed explanation on how it looked before World War II and its rebuilding process after. The charcoaled markings on remnants of the original building's walls by Russian soldiers made our imagination take us back in time. Later on in the afternoon we also went to the new train station close by whilst also visiting Branderburger Gate. Here we presented a token of our appreciation to Peter for his time in taking us around and for making us feel at home. Later on we also went to the Ritter Sport factory where our boys attended a chocolate workshop. I suggest you taste their thick hot chocolate should anybody ever go to Berlin – its fit for a king!



At the Bradenburger Gate

Friday we visited the Berlin Zoo and late in the afternoon we had another friendly with Steglitzer TK. They again invited us to join them for dinner. On Saturday we went to the Olympiastadion where the Glockenturm surely made an impression on everybody giving us also a 360 degrees view of Berlin.



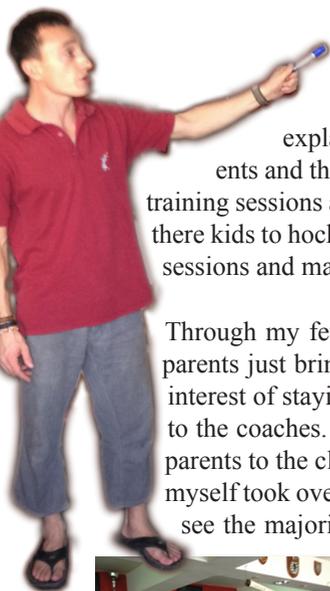
I must mention that most of the times during the week we were having dinner at a Sicilian restaurant – La Siciliana. We immediately made friends with the Sicilian owners and thus thought it fitting to have dinner for the last time in Berlin at their restaurant. We also managed to find time to visit the Brandenburger gate and Checkpoint Charlie by night.



On Sunday bags were packed as our hosts came over to the hostel to transfer us to the airport to take our flight. We couldn't believe time passed by so quickly and soon off to return to our normal routines. However we had a holiday to remember!

Action during the match against Steglitz, Berlin





UMPIRING

The aim of the Umpires Beginners Training was to provide an insight to the parents on what hockey is all about and to explain the basic rules of the game. The main idea was to help the parents and their kids connect on a hockey level and be able to talk and discuss training sessions and games with their parents, rather than just having parents send their kids to hockey without knowing what's going on on the pitch during training sessions and matches.

Through my few years of coaching I have experienced that nearly 90% of the parents just bring their kids to training and that's it, they disappear without any interest of staying at the club to enjoy the atmosphere, watch their kids or speak to the coaches. This was a mentality that I wanted to eliminate and connect the parents to the club, the game and the coaches. I believe that ever since Mark and myself took over we have managed to do this over these past four years as we can see the majority of the parents are now staying to watch the training sessions



and also gladly watch matches, which is beautiful and a feeling that the club hasn't experienced for many years.

I think that the training held on Saturday 22nd September was a great success! What I loved the most about the activity was the response I got from both the kids (about 15 in all) and their parents. It was very nice to hear parents ask questions and take interest in the rules, game-situations and also come up with their own ideas on ways to improve the game. It was great to hear this feedback from everyone and I really enjoyed it. It's reaping moments like these that give us coaches satisfaction for all the efforts we do for the game and the Club.

Edward Hughes

Happy Birthday to...

Elton Cutajar (19th July),
Thor Mifsud (27th July),
Aidan Somers (17th September),
and Kenny Bonavia (18th September),
Clyde Aquilina (10th October).

Committee 2012/13

The Committee elected during the club's AGM held on the 3rd August 2012 is:

Hon. President: James Mizzi
Hon. Vice-President: Noel Gatt
Hon. Secretary: Andrew Camilleri
Hon. Treasurer: Ivan Magro Dingli
P.R.O. Mark Camilleri
Members: Chris Attard, Chris Bonello