



# Western Wildcats Hockey Club



Newsletter Christmas 2019

Each of our teams has enjoyed pleasing first halves to their outdoor seasons and sit well placed in their leagues.

The Women's 1s are fourth in the Premiership but, in a mark of how competitive a division it is, they are only two points off the lead having played three of the other top five teams away from home. The girls have played some great hockey for the most part and currently average a free-scoring four goals per game. They are also comfortably into the Scottish Cup quarter-finals.

The Women's 2s have done very well in their debut season in the Championship. They are four points clear at the top with five wins, a draw and a defeat in their opening seven fixtures. The 3s, though, are even better off with seven wins from seven games, 58 goals scored and just two conceded as they rampage through West District Division 4.

The Men's 1s took a while to hit their straps and may live to rue a 6-3 defeat away to perennial bogey side Edinburgh University. However, in recent weeks they have found impressive form with a series of wins and a gritty 2-2 draw away to champions Grange. Western sit clear in second but are relying on Grange dropping points to other teams if they are to catch them in the spring. After a battle away to Watsonians, they are through to the quarter-finals of the Scottish Cup.

Perhaps the most frustrated team in the club are the Men's 2s. They have lost a number of games to the weather and – of all things – pitch mis-bookings so are playing catch-up. They've looked the part when they have played, though, and could go top should they win their games in hand.

The 3s have played some scintillating hockey this season and are in the mix at the top of West District Division 1. Especially pleasing has been the progress of their youngsters. Another team whose young talent are impressing everyone who has the misfortune to play them are the 4s. In six games they have scored 59 goals and conceded just two. The 5s have had a good season thus far and are mid-table in Division 3 (North).

2019 has been another great year for the club and 2020 promises to be better still. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours.

Alastair Scott  
President

## NEW SPONSOR SIGNS UP

We are delighted to announce a new major sponsorship deal. Check Point Software Technologies have agreed to become principal sponsor of the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> Team who will now play under the name Western Check Point Software Technologies. Additionally, you'll soon see the Check Point Software Technologies logo on their shirts and on banners around the pitch. This partnership ensures significant investment into the Men's 1s and will help enormously in funding their European Indoor trip.

Our thanks to Check Point Software Technologies for agreeing to this partnership with the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> Team and particularly Roddy MacCallum, 3<sup>rd</sup> Team striker extraordinaire who set up the deal.

# Q&A With Gav

*Our Men's 1st Team Captain answers questions about the upcoming season.*

1. Overall, how happy are you with the first half of the season?

No team can be happy with second place, but we're in good shape going into the indoor season and can look forward to challenging for the top when outdoor resumes.

2. What were the standout results and performances?

I think our 9-0 win at home to Uddingston was when everything really clicked so I would pick that. We had some excellent spells in early season games against Kelburne, Dundee Wanderers and Grange - but we put it together for the full 70 minutes against Uddingston.

3. Any disappointments?

We'd like to be top! It's natural to look back on defeat with disappointment - we were well beaten by Edinburgh Uni and we look forward to putting that right in the return match - but I think the main frustration was drawing our first match of the season at Clydesdale. After an excellent pre-season we should have found a way to win that one.

4. Which players have done especially well?

It's hard to pick a standout and it's been a pleasure playing in such a strong team, with real quality all across the side. If pushed, Andrew McConnell is developing into a frighteningly good striker. As a goalkeeper though, my pick would be Andrew McAllister - whose skill in attack and sheer love for defending is exemplary. He is well on his way to being a really top player.

5. How are you set for the second half of the season and what are the aims?

We bid farewell to Joe McConnell for the second half of the season as he is studying abroad which will be a big loss, but otherwise we're in good shape and our aim is to win every competition we're in.

6. How are you feeling about indoor and what are the aims?

Excited! Our league win last season was fairytale stuff, having just been promoted, and now we have the challenge of European indoor hockey for the first time in the Club's history to look forward to. We will be competing in a warm up in Tournament in Denmark in early January and should be well prepared by the time February comes around for what lies ahead in Bulgaria. Domestic matters come first though and we hope to hit the ground running in December to compete again for the league.

7. Anything off the pitch that's worth mentioning?

We're indebted to our sponsors and supporters. Putting together an indoor European campaign that has the team suitably prepared is a huge challenge. We're delighted that Cameron Interiors have again lent us their support as sleeve sponsors. We also have numerous banner sponsors, who not only support the team but I think have also brightened up Auchenhowie quite a bit with their sponsorship banners! We are all heavily reliant on, and grateful to, our families and friends for their support and it's great to see and hear (Angus and Alan!) so many supporters down at the Club at games helping to push the boys on.

8. Any frustrations so far or things you'd like to see changed/reformed?

Things have been progressing with the change of the top division to a Premiership and I'm hopeful things will continue in that direction. Access to video for every team for every game is crucial for analysis and will drive standards, it's a must that we continue to develop that. I've been pleasantly surprised by how well the switch

to quarters has worked. I think it's improved standards across the league as it's allowed more opportunities to get information onto the pitch and given much needed breaks . For a relatively young team like us it's been beneficial.

#### 9. If you could change one rule in hockey what would it be and why?

The self pass rule absolutely revolutionised the game of hockey. It makes sports like football look archaic, with the need to pass to restart play. Our game is now unique and super fast. The key principle behind it is that the act of fouling shouldn't give the offending team any

advantage as they won't have time to reset before play starts again. As such, I find it hugely frustrating and contradictory to the spirit of the rule when umpires insist play is restarted from the exact spot a foul occurred - preventing a quick restart by bringing play back. So I'm not sure that's a rule necessarily, but an interpretation that I would change. Give the attacking team the advantage and let the game flow!

## BREAST CANCER CARE FUNDRAISER

Saturday, October 26th marked a 'first' for the hockey club. October was designated Breast Cancer Awareness month, and the women's 1st team squad embarked on an energetic fund-raising exercise to support Breast Cancer Care. This charity supports research and the treatment of breast cancer, a disease which affects so many families nationwide.

With an initial target of £1000, 26th October was selected as the fund-raising day, to coincide with home fixtures for the women and men's 1sts against their Watsonians counterparts. Collection buckets, a cake sale and raffle were in place for the large crowd drawn by social media and invaluable advance coverage by the Milngavie & Bearsden Herald. In addition a JustGiving page was set up for donations to the charity for those wished to support the charity online.

The women comfortably won their league fixture 3-0, and the men less comfortably 1-0.

Perhaps the most important winner, however, was the charity. At the time of writing, £1550 has been donated via the JustGiving page, with a further £375.55 accumulating from Gift Aid. The fund-raising day raised over £1060, and with other donations the overall total is in excess of £3400.

This is a magnificent result, and our women's 1sts have done the charity and themselves proud.



# MEET OUR SPONSORS

We are delighted to introduce you to the companies who have chosen to support the club by sponsoring our first teams.



Rettie & Co. is one of the most trusted and well-respected names in property. Our unrivalled market knowledge helps people from around the world buy, sell, let and develop property in Scotland and the North East of England - from city apartments and rural cottages to large townhouses and prime country homes, farms and estates. We deal with some of the most prestigious properties on the market, but provide the same exceptional standards of service and value for money to all our clients.

Set in the heart of historic Bearsden, just six miles to the northwest of Glasgow's city centre, our office boasts unrivalled local knowledge and connections. Since Rettie Bearsden was established in 2012, our team have built a reputation as the most innovative property experts in the region, offering the friendly, personal service for which Rettie & Co. is renowned.

We are perfectly positioned to help with all your property requirements anywhere in Bearsden, Milngavie and the beautiful surrounding countryside. For more information contact us on 0141 392 0166 or contact us online.



Owned and managed by Kirsten and Ian Robeson and driven by their passion for innovative design, Cameron Interiors has earned a reputation amongst its clients and contemporaries as purveyors of professional and personal luxury interior design which recognises the value of client involvement at every stage.

From the design studio in Glasgow and an exclusive bulthaup kitchen studio in Edinburgh's New Town, our expert consultants provide design and project management for all aspects of the interior creation of kitchen, bedroom and living storage.

bulthaup, our furniture brand, is a product renowned worldwide for its architecture of living spaces. Innovation, precision and stunning aesthetics are characteristic of the brand. For bulthaup, precision means superlative expertise and quality as well as technical perfection - all qualities that Cameron Interiors emulate.



Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP is a full- service, independent Scottish law firm, with a history stretching back 165 years, operating from offices in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Inverness, Dunblane and Dunfermline.

WJM's lawyers endeavour to be professional, offer service excellence, be commercially astute, and be accountable. This makes WJM a place of practical advice for all our clients. WJM follows a policy of continual improvement and innovation throughout all legal services, to better serve our clients in Scotland and across the UK.

WJM looks forward to welcoming you the next time you need legal expertise. Contact us to find out how we can work with you to help you achieve what you want out of life for yourself, your family and your business.

For more information on WJM: T: 0141 248 3434, E: [enquiries@wjm.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wjm.co.uk) or W: [www.wjm.co.uk](http://www.wjm.co.uk)  
Wright, Johnston & Mackenzie LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FCA reference number 231170

The company was established in January 2010 by Managing Director, Mike Saini, as Regis Roofing Supplies Ltd. Distributing quality roofing, cladding and building envelope supplies to the construction industry.

Although based in Glasgow nowadays we are very much an international company, distributing overseas as far as Australia and the UAE.

In 2015, we rebranded and are known simply as Regis to reflect the fact that our products are used in so much more than roofing applications. Our range has grown and we now provide virtually every fastener and accessory required for metal roofing, cladding, rainscreen and curtain walling. Basically if you're involved in the design or construction of a metal building envelope – you name it, we've got it.

We are a team of roofing and construction professionals. This means we have the expertise it takes to quickly understand what you need to get the job done, on time and on budget.

It also means we are well connected and able to provide something a little bit special in terms of price. Each month we will offer an extra deal that's quite simply too good to miss, join our mailing list to make sure you don't miss out.

For more information go to [regisrs.com](http://regisrs.com).

# Q&A With Spidey

*Our Women's 1st Team Captain answers questions about the upcoming season.*

**Overall, how happy are you with the first half of the season?**

This half of the season has set us in good stead, finishing in the top 4 going into the Christmas break and indoor season. We gained a few new players (Ava Smith, Olivia Finch and Jess Mitchell) who featured in our first team, as well as the return of stalwart Rona Stewart, strengthening the depth of our squad even further.

**What were the standout results and performances?**

The girls have put in excellent performances in all 9 of our league games and 2 cup games, unfortunately a few results not going our way on the day. A definite standout performance was our 6-0 win against a fellow top 4 team Dundee Wanderers. Some of the build-up play led to 6 beautiful team goals.

**Any disappointments?** Our games against Clydesdale Western (0-1) in the second week of the season was a hard pill to swallow. A closely fought (in the most literal of senses) game ended Clydesdale taking their chance and winning 1-0. Edinburgh University (3-4) saw us put in dominant performances. A lapse in concentration in the final 5 minutes of the latter game saw us lose a 2 goal cushion, ending a final score of a 3-4 loss. The girls have not lost hope because both return games will be at the fortress where we will be sure to take the 3 points.

**Which players have done especially well?**

Thanks to our sponsors Rettie & Co, this year we have a Rettie & Co Man of the Match for every game. This is voted for by fellow team mates based on who we feel has put in a solid performance. Two girls have particularly stood out this season, both consistently playing some outstanding hockey.

Senior internationalist Kate Holmes has deservedly won MotM 3 times this season. She has been an excellent role model for the rest of the team since joining Wildcats last year but she has come into her own this season, proving to be dominant player in the ladies first team. The future also looks bright with Ava Smith winning MotM 3 times as well. Ava is an absolute goal machine, slotting 12 goals away for the Cats already (not a bad way to start your first season at a new club)!

**How are you set for the second half of the season and what are the aims?**

At the half way point, we are happy to be sitting in the top 4. However, the top 6 teams are all very closely matched and it is likely there will be a bit of a battle on in the second half of the season to secure the top 4 places. The return games offer the chance for us take points from Clydesdale Western and Edinburgh University as well as maintain our wins against the other teams in the league. We are confident that if we continue to put in impressive performances, the points will come. Our aim will definitely be to secure a playoff position and from there we will aim to have as successful an outcome as last year. I know Kaz is also gunning to be in the Scottish Cup Final (our cup run in the past hasn't been too smooth). All being well, we have a long but exciting few months ahead of us with our debut in the European Competition in Prague at the end of May.

**How are you feeling about indoor and what are the aims?**

Indoor is always a bit of a tricky one for us. Our eyes are set firmly on promotion back up into the National 1 League. We don't like to talk about the promotion game last year but we are certainly determined to have a more successful indoor season this year. We will also have a goalie for indoor this year, with the addition of the promising youngster Jess Mitchell.

**Anything off the pitch that's worth mentioning?**

I would like to thank our generous sponsors Rettie & Co, Wright Johnston and VSN Sport. I am sure anyone that has been to watch our game will have

noticed how good we all look in our brand new stash of kit. We have had many a compliment, sometimes even from our opposition! In coordination with Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, the girls squad organised a fundraiser day at Auchenhowie. The success of the day undoubtedly exceeded all expectations, raising a grand total of £3141 for such a worthy cause. On top of some outstanding hockey, the socials have also been exceptional, with a squad

outing to Bongos Bingo being the “off-the-pitch” highlight of the season.

### **If you could change one rule in hockey what would it be and why?**

Hmm this is a hard one. I would add in extra time at the end of the game in the case of a draw. If it is still a draw at the end of the extra time it would go to 7 aside until a goal is scored

## **WILDCATS PARAHOCKEY**

2019/20 season sees the commencement of our Western wildcats Parahockey section. This idea was first voiced at our end of season dinner in 2018 where Grace Mulholland asked the question of our then president Vishal Marwaha, “Can I bring parahockey to Western Wildcats?” Vishal said that would be a fantastic idea so off she went and spoke to a few people and a small group was formed at the club to make it happen.

We held a come and try session at the club in April 2019 which was a great event and surprisingly well attended by people wanting to try hockey for the first time. This interest put fire in the committees belly and a small committee was formed to take things forward made up of Grace Mulholland, Emma Reid, and Gillian Weir who have been busy behind the scenes, planning our sessions and focusing on engaging with the local Actives schools co-ordinators to build links with our local community to promote our club as an environment that welcomes and provides hockey for all.

In September we attended the come and try session at Huntershill introducing over 32 children to our sport and our club. This event was supported by some of our younger senior players, Euan Cowan and Cameron Weir. Both boys have been joined by other youth coaches Matthew O’Toole and Kyle Bannerman who much loved are regulars at our Sunday sessions. We have also had support from Allan Murray, Lola Roan-Reid, Fraser Moran, Cameron Moran and Roddy McConnell.

Our indoor parahockey sessions commenced at the Allander in October and we have a regular group of players coming along. We have a small core of coaches but are always in need of more help on a Sunday, as with this group of players we are needing 1:1 support as they develop their hockey skills.

Our players’ age range is between 5 and 43 with a broad range of needs we consider when delivering the hockey programme. Additional support as a link for parents at the session comes from Kenny Weir and Alan Cowan. One thing every person who has helped out at the session will agree is that the buzz in the hall is amazing and you leave every session with a massive smile on your face.

Our success as a club has been recognised by other countries and through contacts Grace has made with EHF we have been busy planning on how to promote parahockey across Scotland. To that end plans are currently underway for the first home nations tournament with other parahockey teams coming from Ireland, England and Wales in May 2020.

If you’d be interested in giving an hour of your time to come along to help at the indoor session from January or outdoor from end March please let us know again by emailing on the parahockey address [parahockey@westernwildcats.co.uk](mailto:parahockey@westernwildcats.co.uk).