

The 2nd XI was brought together with the stated aim of providing Tring with an opportunity for players of all ages to get together and play hockey to the best of their abilities. With a team age span of over 70 years, we have achieved that most emphatically. Playing together having fun it got better and better as the season progressed. Our talented group of young players improved week on week, pushing themselves harder, developing their individual skills while listening and working as a collective. This had the effect of making the older players improve their game play too. Where the team benefitted was having a strong spine, Jake opening defences up front given great support by Jack, Chris (Sgt Major) guiding the midfield with Alex B / John B / Fergie Jnr / Jack and Aonghus following orders and Andrew providing able support. At the back a very mature defensive line with Gilbert and Ralph solid on the wide channels and Eric, Swifty, Chris P holding the centre. They dominated several of their opponents, many will have had nightmares when left chasing shadows. The team learnt well flexed forward and backwards covering each other as the games progressed, chasing back or supporting the forwards when given a chance. In goal Rob had a solid season, always learning too, in only his second season, he was a fantastic shot stopper and learnt to close the opposition to force them to decide.

The results for the season were played 16, won 6, drawn 3 and lost 7, finishing 6th and within touching distance of the top in a highly competitive league. All our opponents were complementary of our talent on display, and were given a challenging match each time, some even resorting to strengthening their teams having heard what we were like

I would add that we also included fun when playing, always competing in the best spirit, though none could explain why Rob took such a dislike to the redhead forward at Abingdon?

there were so many positives to take from the campaign that there can only be optimism for the 24/25 season.