

Tring Men's second Team end of season report

2024/2025 Season

Played 18

Won 7

Drawn 3

Lost 8

Goals for 49

Goals against 45

League position 7th

The 2's had a great season, the league position for the team did not reflect the efforts and results the team achieved this season, more on that later. There were no matches where we were outclassed by the opposition and had competitive games each week. There were some where we did dominate the opposition, we achieved the double over Berkhamsted again with 14 goals scored in the two matches.

We did make sure we enjoyed our hockey and played with a sense of fun, even if from time to time we needed to remind ourselves.

Rob (Foggy) Brown continued to demonstrate the natural sporting talent he has, he was superb in goal and continues to develop his skills, he did make the difference in several matches. He was accused of being an ex-national league player after one match.

It's never easy to call out specific players in a team that was so talented, but I must recognise them.

Gilbert Grace in his 89th year! was a solid right back, always making sure he got a touch on the ball and slowing the winger down. Colin Lobster Matthew is evergreen and solid in defence, with a deceptively flat stick, catching an attacker unaware. Ralph Darvill was doing the same on the right and often relieving pressure with a lifted ball from the back or pushing forward to support the players in front. Ian Swift has come on brilliantly, he grew with confidence as the season went on. Our midfield (sorry the whole team) was marshalled by Sgt Major Chris Barnes, always in the thick of the action and always giving all his effort, while encouraging and motivating others. He was ably supported by Andrew Claringbold, as well as playing superbly, recognition must be noted for the longest journey to a match, when he travelled from South Africa to play. In the latter part of the season James Collins joined us and he fitted straight in and contributed with a couple of goals. Alex Ferguson is a natural talent, he opened defences, moved the ball with ease and found his best position up front, but he could have played anywhere on the pitch. The Brown's were a team within a team, Alex and John are superb talents, they have massive amounts of skill which together is more than the sum of their parts. With Nick linking in they were unbeatable, that he is new to the sport did not show. He has a natural eye for the goal.

The league position was because of us falling foul of the league administration, a lesson I've learnt but still find difficult to accept. We had three results go against us. One was a week when we were frosted off and had a full team but, on the return, we could not raise a side and had to accept the walkover. The other two were wins for us, but these were chalked off when a player was considered ineligible. If that had not happened and the result of the game stood, we would have

Won 9

Drawn 3

Lost 6

Goals for 57

Goals against 41.

Putting us a couple of positions higher in the table. I must apologise to the team for this.

I also must thank Greg Edwards who has not quite retired yet, for stepping in and helping when Rob was not available.

The team joined in with the Curry evenings organised by Paul, some very enjoyable nights out, thank you

As a captain it is a pleasure to play with these great people, thank you for making it so enjoyable