

## **Yate Men's 1<sup>st</sup> Team Report**

The long-awaited full season back to hockey did not disappoint and I think it's fair to say everyone fully enjoyed themselves. Like last season we started with probably our youngest 1<sup>st</sup> team in Yate's history with over half not able to buy a pint, but the talent we have in our youngsters is second to none! As well as fresh faced youth, we had some returning experience to the team which gave us a good balance across the pitch. The season started with a bang, 8 goals and clean sheet at home to Cardiff Medics couldn't ask for a better start. Second game was tougher, missing a few players through injury, school and work we battled hard but just couldn't convert it to points on Welsh soil. The next few weeks we started to piece together our identity and how we wanted to play under returning player coach Danny Pearce and had a mixed bag of where it was either 3 points or zero. As we approached the half way point in the season we sat at mid table but having played every team we knew we had the ability to beat every single team if we played to our strengths.

This season was a continuation of last year, the team morale and atmosphere around the club was brilliant and was only improved by the extremely impressive performances of 2<sup>nd</sup> team players who came up to support and cement regular places in the 1<sup>st</sup> team did not look out of place and were welcome additions.

The second half of the season started very much the same as the first with a great battle against Whitchurch revenging the previous fixture. We showed great promise in almost every game but we could not manage it for a full 70 minutes and this resulted in games slipping away and our position in the table dropping slowly. We ended the season sitting 9<sup>th</sup> in the Table but knowing we aren't far away from the top of the table. I would like to thank our coaching staff of Danny, Chaney, Goose, Andy & Rob who have been excellent and I'm looking forward to next season fulfilling our potential.

Matt