

# Kingston Diamonds Newsletter

Issue 7

March 2017

## International Honours

**Three Diamonds girls have been chosen to represent Great Britain at World Championships.**

The Kingston Diamonds are extremely proud to say that once again we have several girls who have been selected to play for the Great Britain Women's team in their upcoming World Championships held in Korea.

Beth Barwell, CJ Ashton and Sarah Hutchinson have been chosen from the Diamonds as well as ex-Diamond Nicole Jackson (who is currently plying her trade in Sweden).

Beth Barwell, who plays for our Elite team and is Captain of the Premier team, has been a stalwart at U18s level for GB Women. This year she will make her senior debut on the international stage. Barwell, who played in two international friendly games vs Netherlands in early 2016, just missed out on selection for the 2016 World Championships, but was chosen as a reserve. This year her hard work has paid off and she has been successful in making the final cut!

CJ Ashton, who made her senior GB debut last year in the 2016 World Championships in Slovenia, will be looking to build on a great first tournament. CJ scored her first TWO goals for Great Britain in her first game with the squad, helping GB to an emphatic 19-1 win over Croatia. The team went on to win the Bronze medal with CJ finishing the tournament with 4 goals and 2 assists from 5 games.

Sarah Hutchinson makes the final GB team for the fourth time in her career. Having played in the 2015 and 2016 Worlds in Dumfries (UK) and Bled (Slovenia) respectively she also made the squad in late 2016 for the Olympic Games Qualifiers. Hutchinson has also represented Great Britain in the Winter Universiade Games 3 times. Finally, a mention for Nicole Jackson, a long-serving Diamond (7 seasons) Nicole took the fantastic opportunity to take her game abroad to Sweden this year, and has had a great season with Göteborg HC and Linköping HC. She makes the final cut for Great Britain for the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive international tournament and will likely retain her Number 1 goaltender status for these Championships.

The tournament begins on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and GB will face hosts Korea as well as Australia, DPR Korea, Netherlands and Slovenia as they look to claim the gold medal after two consecutive Silvers (2014 & 2015) and a Bronze medal (2016). Their games will be broadcast on BBC Radio5 Live Sports extra and on the BBC Radio website. Highlights of the tournament will also be on the BBC website.

We wish our Diamonds girls and the rest of the Great Britain Women's team the very best of luck and we will be following them closely on their quest for Gold!

## Diamonds Premier

The Premier team have another month without a game due to a strange schedule this season but this time could prove very valuable as they build off their first win, refining positive areas to make them excellent and working on things that need improvement. They are finally back on home ice on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April as they face the Milton Keynes Falcons.

## Diamonds U16s

The U16s were also without a game this month and are back in action in a huge rivalry game on 2<sup>nd</sup> April vs Sheffield Shadows U16s.



## Diamonds Elite

### **The Elites look to get back to winning ways with away fixtures at Sheffield on 11<sup>th</sup> March and Swindon on 26<sup>th</sup> March.**

A weekend intended for getting back to winning ways just carried on the woes for the Elites. A poor start in Sheffield saw them trailing 1-0 after just 1.02 of the first period. The Diamonds continued to be defensively shaky for the rest of the period but fortunately the Shadows didn't capitalise on any more of their chances.

The second period was better from a Diamonds perspective as they pushed for an equaliser but they were hindered by some shocking refereeing which saw the Diamonds kill 8 minutes of penalties within 11 minutes of the second period. One of the penalties was particularly imaginative; Holly Steeples (netminder) made a spectacular save on a breakaway that saw the Sheffield player fall over her outstretched leg, so the referee gave her a slashing penalty. The Diamonds penalty kill worked well and the second period ended Sheffield 1-0 Kingston.

The final period saw the Diamonds ramp up the pressure and it finally paid off. A shot from the point from Holly Cornford saw the puck bobble up and over the netminder for Hannah Gibson to jam home to tie the game at 44.16. They say that you are most vulnerable after scoring a goal and this proved true as Sheffield scored less than a minute later to retake the lead as Jodie Bloom slotted home at 45.07. Frustratingly two key players were held back with equipment issues, as both CJ Ashton and Shannon Jones found it difficult to skate and near impossible to turn as they both struggled with skate problems. Luckily, Shannon managed to battle through this and at 54.16 she scored to put the Diamonds level for the second time. Again though the Diamonds fell asleep and it took Sheffield just 1.16 to score their third and final goal of the game. The girls pushed hard for another goal (outshooting the Shadows 17-4 in the final period) but some impressive saves from stand-in goalie Tam Donaghue kept the Diamonds at bay.

### **Final Score Sheffield 3-2 Kingston**

After a disappointing defeat to Sheffield, the Elites headed to Swindon looking for a good result, this time Tam Donaghue would be suiting up for the Diamonds, not against them.

The Diamonds didn't take long to assert their dominance and Helen Emerson put the Diamonds ahead at 3.15 with an unassisted effort for 1-0. The Diamonds outshot Swindon 19-4 in the opening stanza but couldn't find another goal.

Again the Diamonds started early in the second period and Shannon Jones scored her first of the game at 24.05 with an even handed strike assisted by CJ Ashton. They continued to press but were kept at bay by Swindon netminder Rachel Moore for the rest of the period. Diamonds led 2-0 into the second intermission.

The Diamonds were relentless all over the ice once again in the third period, getting 20 more shots on Moore and limiting the Topcats to just 1 shot in the entire period. It was another of Jones' shots that beat Moore for her second of the game. This time it was a shorthanded goal, but was again assisted by CJ Ashton at 56.16. Tam Donaghue gained the shutout in a great team effort and much improved defensive performance.

### **Final Score Swindon 0-3 Kingston**



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Diamonds  
Female Ice  
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### **Upcoming Fixtures**

02.04.17 – U16 vs Sheffield @ Sheffield

16.04.17 – Elite vs Sheffield @ Home

22.04.17 – Elite vs Solihull @ Solihull

23.04.17 – Elite vs Guildford @ Guildford

23.04.17 – Premier vs MK @ Home