

SUMMER 2010

This first issue contains the following articles:

- A report on the first Women's Winter league from those who proved victorious.
- A look into the ferocious rivalry between London's two most successful Mixed teams: Flump and Thundering Herd.
- A quick fire round up of Mixed Tour and how all your favourite London teams performed.
- An insight into the London Summer League and how it is all progressing as we hit the mid way point.

London Ultimate Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

1 July 2010

A Welcome Note from the London Development Officer

After managing to force Ultimatum kicking and screaming through your letterboxes (albeit a few months late), it seemed pretty obvious that there were plenty of stories out there that don't make it into the magazine. It also seemed obvious that a large amount of these articles emanate from London and the surrounding areas. From these random observations (and a Pizza Express meeting with the London Ultimate Committee) came the wonderful idea of a London Newsletter. We bravely considered doing it quarterly before I remembered the blood, sweat and (mainly) tears of Ultimatum and so, if I were you, I'd expect it every six months!

The aim is simple: to provide you with content about the broad spectrum of London Ultimate. It could be about anything from a small band of

pick up people hidden away in a park you've never heard of, to the big London clubs and their quest for global domination. There is no agenda for what we write about, so if you have a story, and it is printable, then we would love to hear from you. See below for contact details.

We might not win any literary awards for our first issue but hopefully it entertains you enough to while away a half hour in the office. Or maybe it inspires you to write something better for our next one. At the very least it should give you a bit of information about what is happening in the London Ultimate scene and inspire you to keep enjoying it..

If you have an article or picture you would like considered (the competition is obviously fierce) then please email it to dan.berry@ukultimate.com and myself and Mara will check

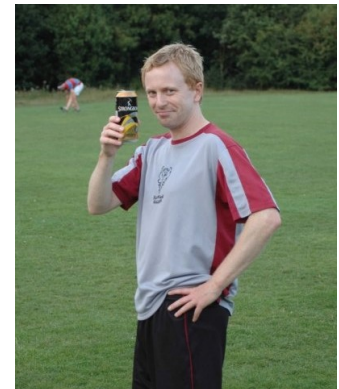


Photo courtesy of Ken Ferguson
Dan raises a pint to London Ultimate

it out. Mara has been the major driving force behind all this so a huge London Ultimate thank you to her, for her tireless work in making this happen.

Enjoy.

Dan Berry
London Development Officer
UK Ultimate

Winning in Wintry Weather: Women's Winter League

Jo Chalmer reviews the inaugural London Women's Winter League and explains why running around in the wet and cold can be a preferable Sunday pastime to the traditional warm and hearty pub lunch.

This past winter saw the introduction of a women's division in the London Winter League series. Female players across London were thus faced with the difficult choice between spending a day in the

pub in front of a fire, or on the bitterly cold Roehampton pitches in the far-too-early hours of the morning. So, why do we do it? And how do we get more women to leave their warm beds behind and join in?

Personally, I love playing women's ultimate. I feel more empowered, prepared to try new things and willing to take more risks. In the bigger picture, I also think I make more of a contribution to the game. I hear similar things from other

women around London when asked why they play Women's Ultimate. Then there's the banter and energy and excitement that goes with being part of a close-knit team. In my case, this team is Crown Jewels.

For a club, the women's division at Winter League provides a great opportunity for recruitment and player development. With UK Women's Tour pretty much...

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Women's Winter League continued

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back-to-back with Mixed Tour, Crown Jewels had found it difficult to schedule training session through spring. Having, in effect, a 'pre-season' allows both new players to get a feel for the club and gives the club an opportunity to forecast how the team is likely to shape up over the coming months. It enables us to try new things. There were various players who picked up with a different team in the 'off-season', and this brings new plays, different skills and tips on technique. It's also another chance for the team to become closer and more cohesive (and catch up on gossip!) while huddling miserably in the drizzle, bemoaning loss of feeling in fingers and toes. Finally, it strengthens the bonds between the Women's clubs – the more we play against each other, the more our players recognise and respect our rivals, not only as teams, but also as individuals, fostering and enhancing the friendly and spirited environment of Women's Ultimate.

According to Dan Berry (part of the London Ultimate Committee), the women's division began as a result of the committee recognising that Women's Ultimate in London was

three new women's teams in the London area – Crown Jewels, Dirty Olive and ISO.

"With Crown Jewels, Dirty Olive, Ltd Release and ISO all swelling their numbers, we thought that a few

women's teams to have a run out and to get people playing more regular Ultimate."

With women's ultimate continuing to grow, Dan said he hopes to expand the league even more next year.

"If we can get six to eight teams out next winter then it would be a great way to build on this year's introduction," he said. "With a bit more warning and some help with the development of a new team or two, I think it could be the start of something that really improves the opportunities for women to play Ultimate in London."

Lastly, if you're looking for any of the Jewels' girls in early autumn on a Sunday, they'll be in their local pub enjoying a Sunday session, knowing that November will bring a chance to defend their Winter League champion's title!

So, winter 2010 – bring it on!

Women's Winter League 2009/10 Final Standings:

- 1) Crown Jewels
- 2) Dirty Olive
- 3) Pigeons of Doom
- 4) Limited Release



Photo courtesy of Jess Kwan, Crown Jewels

Benna Morri scores the winning goal as Crown Jewels win the Winter League Women's Final 13-4 against Dirty Olive.

growing sufficiently to merit its own league alongside Open. The past two seasons had seen the creation of

winter leagues would go down well," said Dan. "We also hoped that it might be a stepping stone for new

London teams rock the Mixed Tour scene

Mara Alperin has a look at the London teams' results from the Mixed season.

Mixed Tour season concluded on 17th May with Nationals in Cheltenham. From the nearly 50 teams that entered, London players made up *one-third* of the teams. Here's how they did.

At Tour 1 in Cardiff, **Thundering Herd I** (6) and **Flump** (8) demonstrated they belong in the top 10, with **Flaming Galahs I** (15) securing a spot in the top 16. Meanwhile, **ABH A** (21), **Golden Ants** (22), **Curve I** (23) and



Photo courtesy of Gemma Sarjeant, Curve

Sarah Gibbons of Curve snatches the disc at Mixed Tour 2. Curve were London's highest risers from last year although Golden Ants might argue that, as a new team, they lay claim to that title. We'll leave it to those two to sort that one out.

Fugazees (24) found themselves in a mini-London-league-pool on Sunday, playing each other back-to-back. Further close games took place between **Guilford I** (29) and **Flump Fresh** (31), with both teams working their way up from initially low seedings of 34 and 35, respectively.

At Tour 2 **Herd** (5) and **Flump** (6) moved up a couple places, once again going head-to-head in their final game on Sunday.

Curve (13) and **Golden Ants** (14) both hurdled up into the top 16, while...

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Mixed Tour round up continued

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Herd 2 (19) broke into the top 20. **Galahs 2** (31), **ABH B** (32), **Cutty Sharks** (33) and **Curve 2** (34) saw plenty of each other, making people remark about the sensibility of coming all the way to Weymouth to play other London teams all weekend.

Nationals was held in Cheltenham, on what was probably the nicest weekend of the year so far (that doesn't mean it didn't rain, though...). Once again, **Herd** (6) and **Flump** (8) were top

Team	Tour 1	Tour 2	Nats	Overall	Change from 09
Thundering Herd 1	6 th	5 th	6 th	5 th	0
Flump	8 th	6 th	8 th	6 th	↑3
Golden Ants	22 nd	14 th	12 th	11 th	New Entry
Flaming Galahs 1	15 th	18 th	13 th	12 th	↑4
Curve 1	23 rd	13 th	17 th	16 th	↑9
Thundering Herd 2	26 th	19 th	23 rd	20 th	↑1
ABH A	21 st	24 th	21 st	21 st	↓2
Guilford 1	29 th	22 nd	20 th	22 nd	New Entry
Fugazees	24 th	26 th	31 st	28 th	↑1
Flump Fresh	31 st	30 th	29 th	31 st	New Entry
Flaming Galahs 2	43 rd	31 st	30 th	34 th	↑7
ABH B	34 th	32 nd	38 th	35 th	↓4
Poke	37 th	37 th	37 th	38 th	↑5
Cutty Sharks	36 th	33 rd	35 th	41 st	↓2
Curve 2	46 th	34 th	39 th	43 rd	New Entry
Guilford 2	47 th	37 th	41 st	47 th	New Entry

The full results, plus change of positions from last year, are above.

finishers for London, with other local teams grabbing honours: **Galahs 1** (13) topped their pool to win the "plate" position, **ABH A** (21) won all their games, securing the "bowl" position, and **Poke** (37) won Spirit of the Game. **Guilford 2** (41) stepped it up also, defeating Free Hugs and Sealand 2 in tight games. A fantastic end to the season for London's clubs!

Got down? Got hide? The Ultimate battle of Duck versus Cow

At Winter League, at Tour and on the streets of London... Harry Bricknell explores one of London's top rivalries: **Flump vs. Thundering Herd**

The 2009-10 Winter League was Flump's most successful yet. Because of the divisional format, every game we played was competitive and we had no walk-overs (which was very satisfying). This kind of system allowed us to build up rivalries and relationships with teams we regularly played against in our division. We had some excellent battles against the Golden Ants, who took us close pretty much every time we played, and I also enjoyed our games against Ltd Release.

Of course, Flump's biggest rivals at the moment are the Herd. The relationship between the two clubs adds a great dynamic to every game we play. The teams have quite different origins and ethos, but we have been battling it out for the past

couple seasons. We encountered the Herd three times over the course of Winter League, each time in the final. Some of the games were closer than others, though my favourite was when came back from quite a few points down to claim a

our previous Winter League games as they had a bigger, stronger squad, and had just thrashed Flaming Galahs in the semis. Sorry Dan Berry, but it's true! (*Dan Berry's note – Lies. All lies.*)

I really liked the Saturday finals' day, as it was a great

was quite close and cagey. Flump played our usual game, including our signature "not-too-structured" O. Towards the end of the first half, we got a couple of breaks with some long hucks. Maybe because of our recent run of victories against them we had a psychological edge. We went on a run of points and ended up trading for the win.

Despite being desperate to beat each other every time we meet there is a lot of love and friendship between Flump and the Herd. It was very satisfying to have had the better of them for the winter season... until they beat us at MT1. Overall, I think it's great that London has two well-established teams that place in the top ten nationally. Long may it continue.

(Another note – We are informed today that Harry is now going to World's with The Herd! Sleeping with the enemy, eh Harry?)



Photo courtesy of Ham Roushanzamir, Flump
Flump's team from Mixed Tour 1, where they sealed 8th place. Cracking photo!

sudden-death win. Since then, we haven't looked back, and our rivalry has really developed.

We met again in the Winter League Final, and I remember thinking that it was going to be tougher than

way for the competition to culminate. I loved the 2009 Summer League Cup Final, and consequently was excited to have a similar thing for Winter League. The game started accordingly, and most of the first half

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Editors:

Mara Alperin, Dan Berry

Contributors:

Mara Alperin, Dan Berry,
Harry Bricknell, Jo Chalmer,
Ken Ferguson

Getting involved:

Want to write? Have an idea
for an article or photo? Contact
dan.berry@ukultimate.com

Here's to summer: A review of London Summer League so far

Ken Ferguson, the nerd behind the Summer League automated scoring system, gives you a quick update on how this year's competitions are shaping up.

It's strange to think that we're just into July and yet we're half way through Summer League. For the second year running, we've got things going in May and so made full use of the long evenings. Which is good news: this year sees our biggest ever Summer League. Twenty-six teams fighting it out across four divisions to establish their position in London's pecking order. And it's tougher than ever. The standard continues to rise, with several teams suffering setbacks during the crossovers and being relegated from the divisions they finished comfortably in last year.

This is Summer League, so you can never be sure, but the league title looks likely to come down to Galahs 1, Golden Ants Soldiers and Good Lord! (Editor's Note – Ken bravely writes off Herd Cocktail, last year's champs!). The good news

though is that it almost certainly won't be decided till the final week, with Galahs 1 vs Soldiers. Don't be surprised if it ends up in a three way tie. Division 2 is being headed up by Curve with Pimp My Herd and Pastafarians as the other contenders. Galahs 2 and Choke Hazard Turbo have already established a strong position in division 3, and even at this early stage, it looks it'll go right down to the wire with them meeting in the final week of their division. In the battle for fourth division supremacy, Lurve look strong with three wins from three, but they still have to play the second and third place teams, so plenty of time for upsets.

Of course, you can't help but notice that there's also a Cup going on at the moment. We're already at the Semi Final stages and with the top teams avoided upsets, we're left with all top division semi finalists. A rematch of last year's finalists is a distinct possibility if the draw falls the right way, but I'm sure Good Lord! and Soldier Ants will be trying their hardest to

mark their first season with a final appearance. In the Bowl (the competition for teams exiting the Cup in the first round) we've got both Choke Hazard teams fighting it out with Balham All-Stars and either ABH North or Cutty Sharks for silverware. Meanwhile in the Plate (the competition for second round Cup exits), it's shaping up to be mainly a second division affair with Pimp My Herd, Pastafarians and Stacks all making it through to the semis. They're joined by fourth division Lurve, who are currently cruising at the top of the fourth division and shouldn't be underestimated.

Speaking of the Cup, get Wednesday 18th August in your diary. That's the Summer League Cup Final night. Watch the game, play some fantasy ultimate, head to the Bedford, collect your spirit prize/cup/bowl/plate/league trophy and enjoy the party. Last year's was good; this year's will be better.

If you don't turn up, don't blame us if someone else drinks your prize...

Random News

- London Calling, held at the Wimbledon pitches on 29th-30th May, was a success for UK teams and their European counterparts.

Clapham took the title with relative ease despite the strength of the teams competing. **Fire** placed 3rd with a strong win against Karhukopla. **Fire 2** (12th) and **Tooting** (14th) placed well and **Burro Electrico** managed to rise up to 20th after a good Saturday. All in all the London teams had a good weekend.

Expect this tournament's impact on London and the UK Ultimate scene to grow and grow.

- **ABH** won spirit at the first ever Copa del Soul at Skegness. With a fair few London teams making the journey up there, we expect this to become a firm beach favourite for all of us

unable to get to the seaside too easily.

- **Clapham** went to the US for The Texas Shootout to compete against the best of the USA's club teams. With a depleted squad they struggled against the other teams going to Prague but beat the local teams. Expect them to have more of an impact in Prague with a full squad. They will be the 9th seeded Open team at Prague.

- **Iceni** had a similar plan for their build up to World's by attending The Boston Invite. They had several tough games including two sudden death losses but are confident that this development work will pay off when they reach Prague as 6th seeds.

- Other London(ish) teams involved at Prague include (in no discernible order whatso-

ever): **Fire** (Open - 23rd), **Thundering Herd** (Mixed - 28th), **Brighton** (Mixed - 7th) and **Jeremy Codhand** (Mixed - 15th).

We wish them and all the other teams from around the UK and Ireland a great tournament. Good luck!

So that's that. We hoped you had a pleasant read and just another reminder to get your ideas, suggestions, articles, pictures and abuse in to dan.berry@ukultimate.com. If you remember only one thing from this newsletter, let it be this:

SUMMER LEAGUE CUP FINAL – WEDNESDAY 18TH AUGUST. TOOTING BEC ATHLETICS TRACK

See you on the pitch or in the bar!

