

INQUIRY: Police investigation of 91-year-old woman's death may lead to probe into hundreds of other cases

Mystery at the War Memorial

A HOSPITAL was today at the centre of a major police investigation into the alleged unlawful killing of an elderly patient.

Detectives have sent a file on the case to be examined by prosecutors after a long-running inquiry into events surrounding the death of a 91-year-old woman at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

And senior officers say they cannot rule out having to reopen the files on hundreds more deaths at the hospital.

The probe was triggered by a complaint from the pensioner's family over the standard of care she received at the hospital in the days before she died there in August 1998.

Today her daughter, Gillian Mackenzie, refused to be drawn on the inquiry but said: 'I hope I will never see anyone die in the circumstances in which my mother died.'

Detectives working on the inquiry have interviewed a number of medical staff at the hospital.

None has been arrested or questioned under caution, but officers have sent a file to the Crown Prosecution Service seeking advice on how they might proceed with the inquiry.

Lawyers are now deciding whether there is sufficient evidence to bring a prosecution for alleged unlawful killing.

The *News* understands that if they do so, senior officers will consider reopening files on the deaths of other patients at the hospital.

One source told *The News* the deaths of as many as 600 elderly people could be re-examined. It is thought the use of the pain-killing drug diamorphine might form a part of any future inquiry.

In a statement today Hampshire police said: 'Police have completed their investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of a 91-year-old woman from Lee-on-the-Solent after a complaint by her family.'

'She died in August 1998 at the War Memorial Hospital in Gosport after being transferred there from Royal Hospital Haslar.'

'In line with patient confidentiality, we cannot reveal the nature of her medical condition.'

'We have the full co-operation of Portsmouth HealthCare (NHS) Trust and the Royal Hospital Haslar for our investigation.'

'A file has been sent to the CPS and police are awaiting a decision.'

by Jonathan Carter
The News

Detective Superintendent Steve Watts, who is overseeing the case, refused to comment on the inquiry but said: 'I can confirm it is an allegation of unlawful killing.'

The inquiry is being led by Detective Chief Inspector Ray Burt, who was put in charge of the investigation after Mrs Mackenzie, 67, who lives in East Sussex, criticised the initial handling by Gosport CID.

Asked whether he could rule out a future inquiry involving the deaths of other patients at the War Memorial Hospital, he said: 'When the CPS makes a decision in this case, whatever that might be, a decision will be made as to what would be the most appropriate course of action to take.'

'We are conscious of the fact that we are dealing with extremely sensitive issues and any decision about any further action will be taken with great care and consideration for all persons who may potentially be involved.'

The 91-year-old woman whose death prompted the police inquiry is understood to have been sent to Gosport War Memorial to recover after an operation at nearby Haslar.

It is believed she had to go back to Haslar for further treatment before being transferred again to the War Memorial where she died.

Today the Portsmouth HealthCare (NHS) Trust confirmed it had investigated a complaint over the standard of her care.

Operations director Ian Piper told *The News*: 'The trust did receive a complaint in August 1998 about the standard of care related to the lady concerned. We always take complaints very seriously and that complaint was investigated.'

'No member of staff has been disciplined as a result of the investigation into the complaint received about the standard of care at Gosport War Memorial Hospital.'

Mr Piper said that the trust was told by police in December 1998 that an investigation into Mrs Mackenzie's complaint was being launched.

He added: 'We want to stress that patient safety is very important to us as a trust.'

'At the end of the day the decision is with the CPS about what the next step will be. If the CPS does identify that there is a case to be answered, then clearly we need to take appropriate action.'



The War Memorial Hospital, Gosport, is at the centre of a police probe

Daughter's complaint leads to rap for detectives

THE daughter of the 91-year-old patient today launched a stinging attack on the original police investigation into the death of her mother.

Gillian Mackenzie, who lives in Sussex, rounded on the handling of the inquiry by a Gosport CID team insisting officers failed to do a proper job.

She protested to the Police Complaints Authority.

It upheld her complaint and as a result disciplinary action was taken against Detective Inspector Steph Morgan of Gosport police and a second officer.

A Hampshire police confirmed that a detective inspector was disciplined for an 'inappropriate remark' made to Mrs Mackenzie and the second officer was disciplined for 'investigative failures'.

Mrs Mackenzie said: 'I went with a serious concern to Gosport police station and they prepared a file for consideration by the CPS.'

'The file contained no statements - not even a written statement from me - no interviews and no medical reports. In fact, I don't know what they had in the file.'

'Literally within a few weeks I had a phone call from a police officer saying it was his opinion that there was no case to answer.'

Mrs Mackenzie described the second police investigation - led by DCI Ray Burt, now based at Winchester police headquarters - as 'first-class.'



Ian Piper: Aware



DI Steph Morgan

Town fought for its hospital

GOSPORT War Memorial Hospital provides services for elderly patients, including those with mental health problems, as well as mothers and babies on the Blake maternity unit.

From a modest beginning which saw it with 26 beds when it opened in 1923, it has more than trebled in size.

The people of Gosport are intensely proud of the complex - and very defensive of it.

When it was threatened with closure in a 1980s health shake-up, a huge

campaign was launched.

The campaign didn't merely convince health chiefs to keep it open but also to invest in it, and a £10m revamp was ordered which made the hospital much bigger and gave it a range of state-of-the-art facilities.

The hospital was officially opened on April 28, 1923, after it was built by Gosport-based Royal Marines - with money raised from Gosport people - as a memorial to those who had died in the first world war.



Alan Grimson: Killer

Sailor's parents fly out to seek truth

THE parents of a teenager who vanished while serving in the same ship as killer Alan Grimson were today asking for help finding out what happened to him.

David and Margaret Parkes have gone to Gibraltar to find why 18-year-old Simon disappeared in December 1986 while serving on HMS *Illustrious*.

His disappearance sparked a massive land and seashore search by military and civilian police but no trace was found of him.

But now, days after Grimson's conviction for the killings of two young men, detectives are relaunching the investigation.

They insist they are keeping an open mind on whether Grimson was involved - but say the inquiry stems from the Grimson case.

Homosexual Grimson, 42, of North End, Portsmouth, was jailed for life last week for the murders of naval rating Nicholas Wright, 18, from Leicestershire, and 20-year-old barman Sion

Jenkins, from Newbury.

Chief Inspector Emilio Porro, of Royal Gibraltar Police, said: 'We are not connecting this disappearance with Alan Grimson but that is one of several possibilities. We will be re-interviewing certain people and appealing for new witnesses to come forward.'

'We investigated the disappearance on the evidence available at the time. In 1986 there was nothing to make us suspect he was murdered.'

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Home and abroad

Focus on the latest events across the globe

£10,000 Damilola pay-out branded an insult by aunt

UK: The £10,000 compensation pay-out that the family of murdered schoolboy Damilola Taylor will receive was today branded an 'insult' by his aunt.

Damilola's parents Richard and Gloria Taylor will get the amount from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA).

It is the standard amount of compensation paid to parents who have lost a child at the hands of criminals.

It is the same amount as a victim of crime receives for partial loss of vision or loss of sense of smell.

Damilola's aunt, Dorcas Fayemi, told *The Mirror*: 'No amount of money can bring the child back, but that is an insult.'

Grant: 'I'm may never love'

NEW YORK: Actor Hugh Grant today told of his fear that he may never find love after his split from long-term girlfriend Elizabeth Hurley.

The 40-year-old star of *Notting Hill* told *Talk Magazine* it was 'not easy' to find someone to replace his partner of 14 years with whom he split last year.

And he said he still harboured a desire to have children, but added he wanted to do something 'I'm proud of' first - which would not involve acting.

'How easy do you think it is to find someone you can share 14 years of in-jokes with,' he told the magazine. 'Not easy. And I don't know that I will. Ultimately I want to have kids. But in the back of my mind, I never wanted to have kids until I had done something I'm proud of.'

Six arrested in drug swoop

DUBLIN: Six men, including five from the UK, have been arrested in Dublin in one of the Republic's biggest-ever drug seizures, Irish police said today.

The swoop came at about 8pm yesterday, when detectives seized six kilograms of heroin with a street value of about IR£2m.

The six - four Scots, one Englishman and an Irishman - were arrested at Cunningham Road, in south inner Dublin. They were being detained at the Kilmainham and Store Street garda stations.

Detectives also seized IR£200,000 in cash. It was reported that the drugs were found hidden in a spare wheel which was transferred from an English-registered to an Irish-registered car.



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DIPLOMATIC CRISIS: Delay angers US as airmen are still held



US Navy EP-3 spy planes at the Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, home to the downed American aircraft

China allows visit to spy plane crew

CHINA has agreed to let American diplomats see the 24 crew members of a US Navy spy plane being held on a tropical island, the US ambassador to China said today.

Speaking to reporters in Beijing, ambassador Joseph Prueher said the meeting could take place as early as this evening, ending a wait of more than two days that prompted complaints by US president George W Bush.

The unarmed EP-3 surveillance plane made an emergency landing on Sunday morning at a Chinese naval air base near Lingshui on Hainan island after an in-flight collision with a Chinese fighter jet.

China says the fighter pilot parachuted out and is missing.

Prueher didn't say whether China had made a formal commitment to the meeting.

'We had a meeting last night with assistant foreign minister Zhou Wenzhong at the Foreign Ministry where he gave us the expectation that we will see the crew this evening,' Prueher told reporters at the US Embassy in Beijing.

Three US diplomats waited in the



George W Bush

Bush is 'dismayed'

THE crew of the American spy plane were reportedly being kept separately at the base and US president George W Bush said he was dismayed diplomats had not been given access to them.

'I'm troubled by the lack of a timely Chinese response to this request for this access,' he said on the White House lawn.

Bush said failure to comply was 'inconsistent with standard diplomatic practice.'

resort city of Sanya, near Lingshui. One of them, military attache Neal Sealock, said they were ready to meet the crew 'as soon as possible'.

Prueher complained about the length of time that had passed without contact.

'We're not so pleased that it's taken 60 hours in order to bring this about. That's too long a time,' he said.

Also today, China said a massive search by planes and ships had turned up no sign of its missing pilot.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin expressed 'great concern for the safety of the missing pilot.' It was

Jiang's first reported comment on the incident.

The collision occurred over the South China Sea about 60 miles south-east of Hainan. The island, a popular tourist destination, is 400 miles west of Hong Kong.

The US military says the plane was on a routine surveillance mission in international air space. After its left wing and one of its four engines were damaged, the pilot put out a distress call and landed at the nearest airfield on Hainan.

US officials say China did not respond to an offer to help search for its missing pilot.

COMMENT ● Page 6

Hague call for army to fight foot-and-mouth

THE ARMY should be given operational control over the fight to combat foot-and-mouth disease, Conservative leader William Hague said today.

Mr Hague argued during a trip to the Forest of Dean to meet Gloucestershire farmers and tourist industry officials that the effort to control and eradicate the disease in the worst-hit areas would get a major boost if the military was put in

by **John Deane**
PA News

charge of slaughter, transport, burial and incineration of animals.

The Tory leader claimed that officials at Nick Brown's Ministry of Agriculture are badly overstretched, and that farmers are increasingly angry about delays in identifying, slaughtering and disposing of infected livestock.

'Infected animals are breathing the disease into the air, contaminating more and more farms,' Mr Hague said.

Mr Hague has consistently sought to use the army's potential role as a stick with which to beat the Government over its efforts to combat the disease. The Tories have argued that troops should have been brought in at a much earlier stage, and in far larger numbers.

Hanratty appeal will go ahead

LAWYERS for the family of James Hanratty today said they would press ahead with an appeal on behalf of the convicted murderer despite a report that forensic tests have proven his guilt.

Geoffrey Bindman, solicitor for the Hanratty family, said no details of the tests had been handed over for examination by experts acting on their behalf.

His remarks came after a report in the *Daily Mail* today which said a DNA sample taken from his exhumed body earlier this month has been matched by forensic experts to two samples from the crime scene.

Hanratty, 25, was sent to the gallows in 1962 for murder and rape. He was convicted of killing Michael Gregsten, a civil servant, and raping his lover, Valerie Storie, before shooting her and leaving her for dead at a layby on the A6.

'The suggestion is that Hanratty is proved guilty by these tests,' Mr Bindman said.

'We have not seen these tests and our experts have not seen them. In any case, it is a logical impossibility for these tests to prove that Hanratty was guilty.'

Scotland Yard refused to confirm or deny the *Daily Mail* story.



James Hanratty

Yacht search abandoned

BAD weather today forced emergency crews to abandon a search for a British woman missing after a fatal yachting accident off the coast of east Australia, officials said.

The search has failed to find any trace of the yacht, *Rising Farrster*, and the missing woman, aged 35. Rescue officials hold out little hope of finding the missing woman alive.

One woman died when the yacht overturned early on Sunday. Four other crew members survived the sinking - three men aged 32, 30, and 26, and a 22-year-old woman.

It is understood that two are from Cheshire, another from Godalming in Surrey and a fourth from Gloucestershire. The dead woman was named as Linda Yarr of Airdrie.

The 38ft charter yacht left Southport on the Gold Coast for Coffs Harbour and Sydney on a sail training course organised by Isle of Wight-based Leisure Management International.

Spotlight on the youth football scene

School scene

Hants into last four after Mills earns win in trophy

by Graeme Hollinshead
The News

HAMPSHIRE Under-19s made it into the semi-final of the Premier League Trophy when they beat Bedfordshire 1-0 in their quarter-final clash at Leighton Town FC.

Hampshire dominated the first half but they had to settle for a 1-0 half-time lead following a Scott Mills goal on the half hour mark.

Bedfordshire came more into the match after the restart and Hampshire were forced to defend but they held out to clinch a semi-final tie against Gwent, who beat Sussex 3-0 in their quarter-final clash.

Hampshire Under-16s girls were also celebrating following their 3-1 win against Hertfordshire in the quarter-final of the ESFA United Norwest Coop Trophy.

Sophie Kingsley-Smith, Charlie Wilson and an opponent were the Hampshire scorers.

Hampshire will now meet Surrey, who beat Wiltshire 2-0 in the semi-final.

Meanwhile, at inter association level, Portsmouth Under-11s have a Hampshire Schools' Presidents' League match against Havant at Moneyfields tonight, kick-off 5pm.

The Portsmouth Juniors follow that by taking on Southampton in the same competition at Moneyfields on Saturday (10.30am).

Gosport and Fareham Under-11s bid to become the Berkshire League champions when they travel to take on Vale of White Horse in their last league game on Saturday.

Gosport need one point to make certain of clinching the title.

Higher up the age scale, Isle of Wight Under-15s, who beat Havant 6-2 in a Chariton League match last week, travel to meet Basingstoke for another league match on Saturday.

Portsmouth Under-14s match against Havant last week was postponed but they hope for some action on Saturday when they travel to take on Gosport and Fareham in a Mayes League match at Brune Park.



Capnor Boys, blue and yellow, take on Radical Youth in their South Hants Glass Under-10 Red division clash

A double-banker delight for Fareham U-12 team

FAREHAM WEST END Under-12s earned themselves six points at the weekend beating Hurstwood in a double-banker.

Fareham started well and after missing a hat full of chances, ran out 5-0 winners with Carl Young and man-of-the-match Dominic Parkins both scoring braces with Robbie Cook just the one.

In the second match Hurstwood took the game to Fareham but couldn't beat the defence. Sam Moon had to clear a ball off the line and in the end Fareham won 3-0.

The second games man-of-the-match was Robbie Cook who fired home two goals.

Sevenoaks' league form continues as they overcame Castle United, winning 6-2.

Castle were looking for revenge after being beaten 1-0 by Sevenoaks early in the season.

Both sides started positively but a more strong driving force from Sevenoaks saw Liam Boxall and Lee Watson both scoring hat-tricks.

In the Under-13s TC Tornados A have booked a place in the quarter-finals of the Portsmouth Cup after beating B division Hayling St Andrews 6-0.

Hayling played defensively with only

HANTS GLASS YOUTH LEAGUE

one player, but were soon broken down and beaten by Tornados.

Ryan Woodford scored two great penalties, and Richard Springett hammered home a 16-yard volley.

Agar scored TC's first goal with two more goals from Walker and Brodison. TC meet Crofton Saints in the next round.

TC Tornados B, meanwhile, are moving up the table after a 3-2 win over AC Baffins.

TC, who only won one game last season, made it three this season after Alex Adams cracked home a hat-trick.

Struggling Paulsgrove, who are battling for safety at the bottom of the Un-

ADVERT

THIS year's Denmead under-10s B team require players for the under-11s season next year - hopefully in the B division and chasing promotion.

Any players who would like to play for this ambitious club, please contact Dean Sotnick on 023 92641 649.

RACING

Sky's the limit at Ascot for Gifford's charge

by William Hayler
PA Sport

TAKE a chance on Skycab in tomorrow's Daily Telegraph Chase at Ascot.

The proximity of this meeting to Aintree's Grand National fixture means that the races may be lacking a little something in quality this year.

But Skycab can take the opportunity to bounce back to form in the £20,000-added race he won 12 months ago.

Josh Gifford's charge has had a tough time of things so far this season.

Pulled up on his seasonal bow at Stratford when the reins broke just as he was coming to make his challenge, he was then out of his depth when well beaten behind Lady

- TOMORROW'S TIPS**
- ASCOT: 2.00 Sharp Belline, 2.30 MONTIFAULT (NAP), 3.05 Skycab, 3.40 Good Thyme Guy, 4.15 Christy's Pride, 4.45 Justin Mac, 5.20 First Love.
- RIPON: 2.20 Double Play, 2.50 Running Free, 3.25 Robandela, 4.00 Budelli, 4.35 Flying Lyrac, 5.05 Bond Millennium, 5.40 Alnaaham.
- SOUTHWELL: 2.10 Shallus, 2.40 Akhira, 3.15 Saafend Rocket, 3.50 Ellens Academy, 4.25 Distant Sky, 4.55 Villa Romana.
- DOUBLE: Montifaault & Double Play.

Cricket in the Thomas Pink Gold Cup.

He was then given a short break before a below-par effort at Kempton, in ground that was almost certainly too soft.

There are reasons for thinking that an improved showing might be on the cards here.

First, Skycab has gone best when fresh in the past and his near three-month break should suit nicely.

Second, this is an easier task than he has faced so far this term and he came to hand at exactly this time last year.

He is back on the same handicap mark he last won from and is worth support at a fancy price.

Montifaault can gain reward for his consistency in the Fairview New Homes Novices' Chase.

He ran very well at Huntingdon last month, giving Behrajan and You're Agoodun a good tussle until tiredness took over on his first run for four and a half months.

He looks to have been found a good opportunity by trainer Paul Nicholls.

Sharp Belline was very modest on the Flat but has thrived since having attentions switched to hurdling and can take advantage of a featherweight burden in the Rosling King Handicap Hurdle.

The Jimmy Harris-trained filly popped up at 66-1 in a competitive-looking novice hurdle at Doncaster.

In the D

Round-up of the south's hockey scene with Colin Channon



All-round team effort propels Havant U18s into RAF final

HAVANT under-18s stormed their way to the final of the RAF Careers Cup.

They were pushed all the way by Weybridge side St George's in the quarter-final before winning 4-2, and then hammered Cannock 9-1 to secure their place in the final.

Havant coach Roger Gilliat said: 'It was a tremendous all-round team effort.'

Havant had a score to settle against St George's, the team who beat them 6-3 in the regional qualifier.

And when Havant went 2-0 down with goals from Giles Kennedy and Adrian Vaughan, it began to look as if a repeat was on the cards.

But Havant pulled one back through Tim Davenport, who was delighted to get on to the scoresheet after earlier seeing his penalty brilliantly saved by England under-18 goalkeeper Thomas Sheridan, the St George's captain.

Havant visibly relaxed in the second half when Sam Gilliat fired them level at 2-2, and from then on there was going to be only one winner, and goals from Jones and Davenport secured the win.

Havant continued to produce flowing hockey in the semi-final against Cannock, and were quickly in command as a Davenport hat-trick and two from Ben Allberry gave them a 5-0 half-time lead.

Further goals from Gilliat, Jones, Davenport and Allberry, who completed his own hat-trick, earned them a convincing 9-1 victory.

Spare a thought for St George's, though - they had their vehicle broken into and kit and clothes were stolen.

Havant now play Millfield School in final at hockey's National Stadium in Milton Keynes on May 13.

Firebrands snubbed out as Havant discover revenge is sweet

HAVANT crashed to a 6-1 defeat against Firebrands in the national league earlier in the season - and gained their revenge at the weekend. They romped to a 4-2 victory over the second-placed side at Havant College.

Havant got off to a great start, breaking through after seven minutes when Danny Emery scored following a penalty corner.

Firebrands converted their second short corner to level, and two minutes took the lead through open play.

Havant hauled themselves level after 45 minutes when James Tyler lashed the ball into the roof of the net from open play, and almost immediately Andy Lloyd scored with a deliberate deflection at a well-worked penalty corner. He was on hand again two minutes later to score from open play to wind up their home programme with a fine victory.

Steve Parris had an outstanding game which included three penalty corner saves and Derek Cunliffe played a captain's role, as his competitive spirit drove Havant on.

It's heartbreak for Parade as St Jude's snatch school title

ST JUDE'S came up on the rails to clinch the Portsmouth Primary School League title - and leave Northern Parade heartbroken.

Northern Parade met third-placed St Paul's needing only a draw to take the championship.

But St Paul's weren't about to roll over - they intended to fight until the death as they knew that if they won, and the unpredictable St Jude's slipped up, they would win the silverware.

In a game packed with skill for players so young, St Paul's kept their heads, scoring early on through Shaun Rowlands but seeing Ben Benford equalise just before the interval.

It was probably the loss of Northern Parade's influential skipper Mike Pratt with an injury that swung the balance in St Paul's favour.

They went on to add further goals from Rowlands and Lewis Symonds and despite a late rally by Northern Parade hung on for a well-earned win.

It was almost an anti-climax as St Jude's then took the field against last year's champions Court Lane.

It was to be their day as they showed no nerves to produce a dominant performance, cruising home 3-1 with goals by Jacob Raw (2) and Josh Richards. Andy Gould replied for Court Lane.

Unlucky Michael Pratt's day was further spoilt as seven goals on the day from Solent skipper Rob Wilson took him past Pratt to the top goalscorer spot for division one.

Northern Parade took some comfort from the day when their B team ran away with the division two championship, winning by three points despite managing only a 1-1 draw with St Swithens A in their final league match.

Andy Powell equalised after Anthony Shurmer had opened the scoring.

Northern Parade hot-shot Josh Beteridge claimed the division two top goalscorer award with 13, a remarkable 10 more than his nearest rival.

The third division was won by St John's B who proudly boasted a 100 per cent record for the season.



Portsmouth Primary School League title winners St Jude's, above, and runaway division two champions Northern Parade B, below



Gosport seconds continue their unbeaten run

GOSPORT'S second team continued their unbeaten run which has lasted since Christmas with this excellent 2-1 performance against an Old Edwardians side drawn from their first and second team squads, all of whom play in a senior league to Gosport.

It was a closely fought game with OE gaining the upper hand early in the first half when a fine passing

movement found the Gosport defence outnumbered and unable to stop a close strike.

The game flowed back and forth during the first half but some fine goalkeeping at both ends kept the score at 0-1 at half-time.

At the break Gosport rejigged their midfield and introduced Graham Judge at right half and for much of the second half dominated

the play. Les Marshall brought the scores level after good work by Peter Campbell on the left and then Graham Judge scored the winner following a fine save by the OE keeper that he could only scramble into Judge's path.

The outlook for Gosport is good for next season with the introduction of some younger players into the team who have fitted in well.

ROUND-UP

FAREHAM Ladies have clinched the Hampshire third division title - and they did it in style.

Fareham travelled to leaders Yateley needing a win to lift the crown, but they were hit by illness and struggled to find 11 fit players.

Fareham were very much the underdogs as Yateley had not lost a match all season.

But they produced an impressive display of teamwork and the winning goal was a real family affair, as Jennie Kinder set up her mum Maggie Kinder for the only goal of the match.

Linda Young, Ruth Borthwick and Paula Thomson performed heroics in defence as Fareham clung on to their advantage.

The victory took Fareham level on points with Yateley but their superior goal difference earned them the championship.

They hit 61 goals in their 18 matches, conceding only 12.

The triumphant team are: L Young (captain), K Haddaway, A Burch, R Borthwick, P Thomson, D Holway, K Smart, L Lowrey, N Makins, J Lancaster, J Kinder, M Kinder, H Olscham, L Hall, L Hoar.

Fareham are to form a second team and are looking for new players to join their successful squad.

They train at Henry Cort School and will also play in a summer league.

Anyone interested can receive details from the club's page on the website on www.farehamhockey.co.uk

Gosport Ladies went to the Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth to play their last league game of this season.

Gosport had been subject to a 3-0 thrashing a couple weeks ago by the City of Portsmouth team and they were determined to put out a better performance this time.

Gosport started well, playing a short passing game which took them past the bemused City midfield and into the City circle.

Despite excellent work by youngsters Heather Batton, Raych Atkins, and Amy Linford Gosport were unable to make their many chances count.

They had to wait until the second half before the goal came. A well-worked corner led to Linford striking at goal and Yvette Hodgson followed the ball and touched it in after the initial save by the keeper.

A strange decision by the City umpire, who claimed Michelle Simpson kicked the ball away after the whistle, led to a short corner. Although they didn't score they did gain more confidence and the subsequent pressure led to a scrambled goal.

Honours even at the end of the game despite Gosport deserving a victory.

321 winner - Joni Duffus

Goal Scorer - Yvette Hodgson

Gosport maintained their position in division two again this season a major credit to the efforts of a very young team.

The club is now in a position to enter a third team into the league next year. We are calling upon all those players who want to play socially on a Saturday to contact us via our website www.GBHC.F25.com

The third eleven will be older ladies wanting to come back and play just for fun in a team specifically looking for the social side. There are plenty of social activities and summer hockey to come so get in touch.