

Cheltenham Junior Hockey Association

Newsletter – 26th September 2007

WELCOME TO THE NEW HOCKEY SEASON

We start the new season with 186 players in the club – 97 girls and 89 boys. We are very pleased that 134 members from last year rejoined this season, and we welcome our 52 new members.

As always, we are very grateful to the coaches and other volunteers who run the club. The names and photos of coaches and committee members are on the noticeboard in the clubhouse at Balcarras.

REGISTRATION

It is very important that each member should register at the desk (or the dug-out in the case of Academy players) before going onto the pitch. Please note that the ladies on the desk do not provide supervision for children before or after their training sessions.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Every player and parent should read the code of conduct on the website (www.cheltenhamjuniorhockey.org). It is a very important part of our club's philosophy.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Young Umpire Award (U13 and U14). Instead of the usual U13 and U14 training session on **Friday 16th November** all players in these training groups will be given umpiring training, which is a useful part of their hockey education. The session will start earlier than usual – details to follow. Compulsory for everyone, unless they did the Award last year.

Stix Awards (U10 to U14). Testing for the end-of-season Stix awards will take place on **Friday 25th January and Friday 1st February** – attendance at both sessions required to be eligible for medals. There will be no additional charge for Stix medals and certificates this year.

The **Presentation Evening** is scheduled for **Sunday 20th April**.

The calendar on our website is not currently up to date, but all the relevant dates for the year will be added as soon as our very busy webmaster Shaun Cullimore has time.

TOURNAMENTS

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Our U11 and U13 tournaments will get underway in October, not in September as advised in the summer newsletter. We are working on a new format for this year, and the details are only now being finalised. Our club runs these tournaments for the benefit of junior clubs across the county. If you have ever attended a tournament you will know how much fun they are for the children.

We have two new tournament organisers this year – Dawn Parker for the U11s and Angela Gregory for the U13s. Huge thanks are due to them for taking on these jobs. Please support them as best you can.

Each of our U11 and U13 teams will be run by a parent manager this year. Many thanks to the brave volunteers. If you want to help them, you can offer to wash the shirts!

BADGERS AND VIXENS

The club has a Badgers team (U13-U15 boys) and a Vixens team (U13-U15 girls). These teams play in the local Badgers and Vixens leagues. The matches take place at the weekend, usually on Saturdays for Badgers and Sundays for Vixens. Stuart Diesel runs the Badgers team and Karen Keating runs the Vixens teams. If you are interested in playing and haven't already spoken to Stuart or Karen, please contact them directly at sgdiesel@yahoo.com or k.t.keating@btinternet.com

UMPIRING

We are always in need of new umpires within the club, particularly for the Sunday morning tournaments. Last year four non-hockey-playing parents and 13 junior players trained as Foundation Umpires. We are hoping to find more volunteers to do the Foundation Course this year (two evenings at Oxstalls University Campus, 29th October and 5th November). The club will pay the cost of training in return for two Sunday mornings of umpiring. If you are interested or would like more information please email our umpiring manager, Gina Baum (gina.baum@tesco.net)

COACHING

If you are a hockey-playing parent you might like to do a Level 1 coaching course. The club will pay up to half the £135 cost for people who are willing to do coaching for the club after doing the course. Older children (16+) might also be interested. Contact our Head Coach Angie Pearce (angiepearce@btopenworld.com).

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MINIBUS DRIVERS

There is a local scheme which lends out minibuses to clubs with certificated drivers. This can be very useful for away matches. If you are a parent who often travels to support your child's team you might like to consider obtaining a certificate, which is quite a simple process. Details from Sally Pratt (salprattchelt@hotmail.co.uk)

WAITING LIST

Our waiting list manager, Georgina Raistrick, continues to receive applications from children keen to join the club. We took in as many children as we had space for this month, but we still have significant waiting lists in most age groups. If you have any friends who would like to join the club they can of course put their names down via the website, but it is unlikely that we will take in more children this season.

UNDER 9S

We are exploring the possibility of setting up a training group for younger children (year 3-4) who are keen to start hockey. It is still far from definite, because we need to match up a space, a time and coaches. If we manage to set those things up, we will probably start by offering places to young children on our waiting list.

EMAIL

You will have noticed that the administration of the club is conducted by email. We realise that this suits some people better than others, but from our point of view it is the most efficient way of doing things. Please always respond promptly where required.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or skills to offer, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Contact Cherith Fuller (cherith.simpson@btinternet.com).