



Oxford Hawks Hockey Club Colts 2011/12

Welcome to another season at Oxford Hawks Hockey Club Colts Section – our 21st season of junior hockey at Hawks. In May we opened our two new pitches giving us the most fantastic facilities and we very much look forward to playing back at our own ground after being away for much of last season. In addition to the pitches we have a decking area for spectators with a kiosk selling drinks and snacks.

We continue to hold England Hockey Clubs 1st accreditation which confirms that we are a safe, effective, child friendly environment and an organisation that follows good practice guidelines.

Training this year starts on September 11th at Banbury Rd North.

Last season

We are very proud of the achievements of all our teams last season which amongst others included:

Approximately 200 young players enjoying playing hockey with others on Sunday mornings.

U18 Boys League winners and Mercian League Finals

U18 Boys EHB cup quarter finals

U16 Girls Runners up in EHB National Plate Finals.

U16 Boys League winners and Mercian League semi finals

U16 Girls Oxon League winners

U16 Girls winners Rover Festival

U14 Girls runners up Rover Festival

U12 Girls 4th in South Mini Hockey Finals

U12 Girls winners Oxfordshire County Minis Tournament

U12 Boys runners up Oxfordshire County Minis Tournament

U10 Boys Oxfordshire County Minis Tournament runners up

U8s winners Rover Festival

Coaching

We are very fortunate to have a group of highly committed volunteer coaches working with our young players on Sunday mornings. Many of our coaches are England Hockey Level Two and Level One qualified and our coaching programme is led by Hawks Head Coach Andy Clark. Andy is a Level Three EH Centrally Contracted Coach. The coaching syllabus is consistent across both the adult and junior teams and based on England Hockey's Single System. Many of our coaches have further experience of this through their

involvement in coaching representative sides at JDC, JAC and JRPC level. Further information on England Hockey's Single System can be found at http://www.englishockey.co.uk/player_pathway.asp?section=898§ionTitle=Single+System+%28LTAD%29 (alternatively type England Hockey Single System into Google).

Training – age groups

England Hockey have changed the age qualification date for all England Hockey competitions and Leagues from 1st January to 1st September; this means that age groups will now be as follows (school year refers to the new year starting in September 2011):

U18s 17 or under on 31st August 2011 (school years 12 and 13)

U16s 15 or under on 31st August 2011 (school years 10 and 11)

U14s 13 or under on 31st August 2011 (school years 8 and 9)

U12s 11 or under on 31st August 2011 (school years 6 and 7)

U10s 9 or under on 31st August 2011 (school years 4 and 5)

U8s 7 or under on 31st August 2011 (school years 3 and below)

This may mean that a small number of young players will potentially be in the same age group for the third year in a row. While this may suit some players, we recognise that it might not be the best thing for others. If you think your child will be adversely affected by this change, please get in touch with Sue Clark at Sue_Clark@ntlworld.com or 01865 750535. Also, please know that for any older players involved in Junior Development Centres (JDCs), Junior Academy Centres (JACs) or any Single System activity, the age qualification date will remain 1st January.

Please remember, with the exception of the circumstances outlined above, it is club policy for all children to train and play with their own age group unless specifically advised otherwise following discussion at a Colts committee meeting.

As indicated above, the new season will start on Sunday 11th September 2011 at Banbury Road North.

Please note the training times that follow are correct. If you have received a hard copy of this newsletter in the post, the training times printed in it were wrong and you will have received a correction sheet. Apologies for any inconvenience.

Age group	Time	Coaches
Under 8s	9am to 10am Near pitch	Mark Crowley Sue Clark
Under 10s	9am to 10.30am Near pitch	Russ Warner Richard Fogden Simon Smith
Under 12s	9am to 10.30am Top pitch	Lisa Scragg Richard Venables
Under 14 Girls	10.30am to 12 Near pitch	Lisa Scragg
Under 14 Boys	10.30am to 12 Top pitch	Alison Chapman Nick Gordon
Under 16 Girls	11am to 12.30pm Near pitch	Sue Clark Lisa Scragg
Under 16 Boys	11am to 12.30pm Top pitch	Gary Mahon Paul Dunleavy
Under 18 Boys	Attend adult training	Chris Blackburn
Under 18 Girls	Attend adult training	Andy Warne

Documents and Policies

Together with this newsletter you will receive a copy of our Membership Form. Our Young Person's Guide and our Parent / Guardian Guide together with other policies and statements including our Anti-bullying policy can be found on our website www.oxfordhawks.co.uk.

Registration

Please complete the enclosed form and return it either:

By post to Jan Roche, Church Farmhouse, Sunningwell, Abingdon, Oxon.
OX13 6RD

Or bring it up to training on Sunday morning.

Completed forms should be accompanied by a cheque for the annual subscription of £75; training fees are included in this subscription. This can be paid in two instalments, a first one of £40, the second of £35. It makes life a lot easier if we are given two cheques at the start of the season, one post-dated 1st Jan 2012. There will still be a match fee of £3 for any games / tournaments. It is important that everyone returns a form as we compile a new membership list each year. It is also very important that we have up to date contact details and medical information.

Fixtures

We have entered boys' teams in the Mercian League at under 14, under 16 and under 18 age groups. We have also entered the Oxfordshire Boys u14 and u16 leagues. We have entered an u14 girls teams in the Oxfordshire League and an u16 girls team in the Home Counties League. We have also entered the u14, u16 and u18 England Hockey Cups for both boys and girls.

Our younger players – u8s, 10s and 12s have opportunities to play in a range of friendly games against other clubs and a range of competitive tournaments including the County Minis Tournaments for u10s and u12s.

Development Teams

A great strength of Oxford Hawks is our commitment to bringing younger players into senior sides as they mature. We have development teams (sides that combine older juniors with experienced senior players) in both the Mens and Ladies sections of the Club. The Harriers won the Oxfordshire Girls Development League last season. If you are aged 12, 13 or 14 and are interested in playing in one of these sides, please get in touch with Sue Clark (girls) Sue_Clark@ntlworld.com or Richard Venables (boys) RVenables@vslandp.co.uk

Mouth Guards / Shin Pads

For obvious reasons, it is important that all young players come to training adequately equipped for the activity they are taking part in. The wearing of shin pads is mandatory with the use of gum shields strongly recommended. We also ask parents to ensure that children are appropriately dressed for the weather and that on cold and wet mornings they have sufficient warm and waterproof clothing to allow them to enjoy the session. Potentially enjoyable sessions can become a miserable experience for any child who is cold and wet!

Kit

For younger players, Jan has a supply of new hockey sticks that can be bought on Sunday mornings – price in the region of £10. Other items of clothing including Hawks hoodies, base layers, Beanie hats, gum shields and socks can also be purchased from the club shop.

Website / Club emails

The club website is www.oxfordhawks.co.uk . This has been considerably improved over the summer and contains information about the Colts section as well as the senior section of the club. A lot of information can be found here. In particular, we **try** to post details of cancelled training in poor weather (ie a frozen or snow covered pitch).

A weekly newsletter, Squawks is sent during the season with details of what is going on in the club. You are given the opportunity to request to receive this on the membership form. If you wish to change your request, please contact Henri Coles on henri.coles@nielsen.com .

Clubhouse

We will continue to sell hot drinks and bacon butties on Sunday mornings in the clubhouse – what a relaxing start to a Sunday morning!

Looking forward to another enjoyable and successful season.

Best wishes,

Sue Clark
Chairperson Oxford Hawks Colts