

St ALBANS HC – COLTS SECTION
SEASON 2009-2010
Section Newsletter – Christmas 2009

We are pretty well half way through the season and the Colts Section have introduced a newsletter to update parents and youngsters with what is happening - particularly so far as the Colts Section is concerned.

Looking back over the first half of the season

As we reach the Xmas break and snow forces disruption everywhere the good news from our Colts' Section is that we've had an uninterrupted programme of Sunday and midweek sessions. Occasionally wet, yes, but otherwise from September through to mid-December we've been able to run all age-group training and matches which must be a record.

The numbers attending Sunday morning hockey have grown again across all age-groups which means that more children have enjoyed their hockey than ever before, and keep coming back. Please tell your friends in good time for next season!

In the New Year there are plenty of matches for all ages and we hope parents and guests will continue to make Sunday morning tournaments a real event for everyone, especially the players. Years 3 – 6 will be busy again in the coming weeks and we've already seen lots of action with games against local clubs. (Under 9s lost their games at Letchworth, but the group is taking shape and still enjoys their hockey, whilst Under 11s have won 5 matches).

Thanks to Pippa, Itziar, Annie, Angus, Jackie, Nick and others these games are great fun for all (we will try to summarise and publish the results for the Under 11s and 9s' games separately).

For Boys Years 7 & 8 there are fixtures in the Herts (U13) League and our team will want more results like the 13 – 2 win at Letchworth. Mark Lister is in charge of this team and will make sure everyone gets to play.

The Boys U15s have had some great games already but the bulk of games will be in the New Year. Also, many of these boys have experienced Saturday club hockey for the first time and at the time of going to press the 7th XI which comprises 7 boys and four seniors sits at the top of their League. Well done everyone (Fixtures and results can be found at: <http://www.east-leagues.co.uk/showdata/results/EML.9SW.results.asp>)

The Girls Under 15s have only played one match so far, when they beat West Herts 3-0.

2010 promises to be a bumper year for the Club with the Men's 1st team looking good for promotion to the National League (the women's 1sts are already playing EHL hockey). The Colts section grows in size and quality and some of the original boys and girls are now starting to play senior hockey. Tell your friends and come along to enjoy the fun.

ClubsFirst accreditation

The Club has formalised a number of initiatives in our effort to achieve this accreditation. We ask you to make time to update yourselves.

1. ClubsFirst Accreditation

England Hockey's ClubsFirst accreditation scheme is a national recognition of clubs that can demonstrate that they are working towards minimum operating standards. All clubs achieving ClubsFirst also achieve the Sport England Clubmark accreditation, a nationally recognised award for sports clubs.

We are therefore taking this opportunity to circulate a number of codes of conduct and policy documents – please make a point of making yourself aware of their content, particularly those relating to Child Protection and Conduct.

In due course we plan to make these documents available by download from the Club's website (<http://www.stalbanshc.co.uk/>).

1.1 The Club's Equity Policy

1.2 Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Hockey

There are three Codes of Conduct to which we draw youngsters, parents/guardians and supporters attention. Parents/Guardians please familiarise your children with their conduct responsibilities.

- 1.3 Parents/Guardians/Supporters Code of Conduct
- 1.4 Junior Code of Conduct /Rules
- 1.5 Coaches/Officials etc Code of Conduct

There are other documents relating to the Colts Section that will be available from the website. They are listed below. If anyone wishes sight of them before the Website is updated please contact Nick Edmonds (nickjenedmonds@hotmail.com).

- Club Welfare Officer – Role
- Club Emergency Procedures
- Club Accident Report Form
- Procedures to maintain Colts Section database
- Volunteer Agreement Form
- Safety Procedure

1.6 Criminal Records Bureau Requirements – All coaches, helpers and parents who have regular (weekly) contact with young players will be checked by England Hockey's CRB Service.

2. Other Opportunities

From time to time courses for young umpires and hockey leaders will be circulated. We aim to circulate information regarding opportunities for coaching young umpires and hockey leadership courses.

3. Is Hockey On?

This is a question we are asked from time to time.
Here are some guidelines:

snow on the ground – no hockey

hard frost – no hockey.

if in doubt then phone the coach (names and phone numbers in the pre-season letter and at the bottom of the newsletter).

4. Matches and Results

Every effort is made to play matches on the nominated dates and venues. Unfortunately they are liable to change. As soon as they can, the coaches will let you know the latest match arrangements.

5. Subscriptions

There are a few subscriptions due for collection early in the New Year. Please send to Nick Edmonds, 6 Cunningham Avenue, St Albans, AL1 1JL, or hand to your youngster's age group coach.

In the meantime the Club, Colts Section coaches and others hope that you all have enjoyed a Happy Christmas and wish you all the best for 2010. See you in the New Year.

Coaches and Officials:

Boys Under 12s – 15s

Andy Bowskill – 07970 116508

Girls Under 12s -15s

John Knight – 07780 706215

Mixed Under 7s and Under 11s

Pippa Martin - 07875 479128

Mixed Under 9s

Itziar Olaberria – 07891 510689

Club Welfare Officer

Becky Turner – 07976 130000

Colts Section Honorary Secretary

Nick Edmonds – 07941 233623 and 01727 857451