



23 July 2014

Dear members and friends,

Here is some information, following the Board meeting on 21 July 2014:

- **Hockey development officer: Ellie Watton.** The SAHC Director of Hockey (Andy Bowskill) and Head of Development (Mike Lloyd) have appointed England and GB forward Ellie Watton as the club's hockey development officer. Ellie is currently at the Commonwealth Games with the England team. She will be organising 3 SAHC youth hockey holiday camps at Oaklands during the 2014/15 season and leading special youth coaching sessions at SAHC. She will also have a high visibility role around the club on Saturdays at Oaklands, and will be playing in our Ladies 1st team. We are delighted to welcome Ellie and everyone else who is joining our club in whatever capacity.
- **Summer hockey camp.** We are pleased to be able to announce that our first (pilot) SAHC holiday hockey camp will be on 20 and 21 August 2014 at Oaklands. The organiser is Tash Humphris. The camp is open to all of our colts members and young players who are in years 7-12. For more information, to participate or help, please contact Tash on n_humphris@hotmail.com
- **Tangerine Army registration.** We have decided to confer SAHC 'social member' status, free of charge, for all families and friends who register their email details with us. We want to build up a big database of 'friends' of the club. Please can everyone connected with the club start registering as many family members and friends as you possibly can. This can now be done online at <http://bit.ly/1wWSfIE>. Everyone who has registered in this way will be kept informed about club events and how they can get involved. We urge all of our members and friends please to get behind this initiative.
- **Hosted events.** This summer SAHC has successfully hosted men's county championship games; Herts mixed youth County President's day; England boys U16 and U18 international matches; and a Ladies' 1/2s open door evening. Our future hosted events will include the PLUM (Premier League Umpires) tournament (6-7 September 2014); a visit by the Oxford University HC Blues teams (30 September 2014) and the European Men's Masters (August

2015: organised by a sub-committee comprising Helen Anton, Dawn Forshaw, Kate Rudlin and Matt Leedham).

- **Trials and training.** The PLUM tournament 6-7 September (SAHC event-coordinator is Kate Rudlin; PLUM contact is Dave Chatterjee) will combine with club Trials 5-6 September to make a pre-season 'blow-out' weekend of hockey at Oaklands. The training schedule, presented in draft with comments and concerns invited through the club captains, has been adjusted to maximise use of our pitches and is now finalised and on line at www.stalbanshc.co.uk.
- **Project with University of Beds Sports Therapists.** SAHC's Sports Therapist, Charley O'Dell is organising a pilot scheme with University of Bedfordshire (at Luton) students on placements. More to follow, but we hope this will involve:
 - 'Clinic' at Oaklands on Thursday evenings 7pm-9pm to deal with hockey injuries. Open to all sub-paying members free of charge, by prior appointment.
 - Student with each participating home team on match-days at Oaklands: (a) to lead a team warm-up; (b) to administer first aid during the game; (c) to lead a team cool-down. Available to any team whose captain confirms the wish to participate.
- **Junior Vacancies.** We are looking for a *Junior Photographer* to take photos on senior match-days at Oaklands; a *Junior Results Coordinator* to collect all match results and organise e-information; and a *Junior Reporter* to write up a weekly news report for publication in our local newspapers. Please get in touch if you are interested.
- **Partners scheme.** We have approved a scheme of *Partners* who choose to support special initiatives for youth hockey and our 1st team squads. We hope many playing members, parents, families and friends will be willing to buy into this. There will shortly be a *Booklet* describing the rationale, our pledges and the benefits of participation, including a £50 reduction on the early-bird full Sub for *Gold Partners*. More to follow.
- **Club clothing.** Plans are well underway through the management group for a new range of affordable club-branded official clubroom clothing, for the new season. The Board has adopted the following important new policy: "Excluding tours, St Albans HC branded clothing should be official clothing arranged through the club's management group".

- **Finally.** Our grateful thanks go especially to Cath Hart for organising summer hockey so brilliantly, and all those captains and others who helped her; to Copeland Hewitt for agreeing to be Social Secretary (volunteers needed to be in his team); to Phill and Sue Martin for agreeing to be Membership Secretaries; to John Barrett for agreeing to be Ladies 1st team assistant coach; to Dick Ashby and John Knight for agreeing to be Ladies 2s and 3s coaches; to Julie Bowskill for dealing with the new photoboards in the clubroom; to Lee Rowe-Elliott for agreeing to be SAHC Ambassador at University of Herts (recruiting players for the club); to Andre Hugo for agreeing to be umpiring coordinator; and to Mike Grainger and Phill Martin for their work on the ground at hosted events. We thank all those who continue to help our club in any way. Please do not hesitate to raise any ideas or issues with us. There is a role for everyone, so let us know if you would be interested in finding a new way to get involved.

Mike Fordham QC (President)

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