



25 August 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome, or welcome back, to all youth members and families for the new hockey season. We are sending out Youth Registration Forms, and an information letter from Sue Martin, together with our new *Members and Partners Booklet*. These are self-explanatory and they can all be found on the club website.

Most importantly, thanks you for all you and your children do within the Club. Please say if you are able to take on something new, or if you have ideas or feedback. We will be staying in touch with families and friends through our new *Tangerine Army* database, membership of which also involves 'social member' status free of charge. We are auto-enrolling all parents and guardians (please email me if you prefer not to be).

This is a key phase in the development at the youth end of our club. In recent months:

- We have appointed Mike Lloyd (a former coach and manager at Loughborough University) to be our *Head of Development*.
- We have this month held our first pilot *Holiday Hockey Camp* at Oaklands.
- We have appointed current England and GB international Ellie Watton as *Hockey Development Officer*. Ellie will have a high-visibility role around the club during the season and will be delivering 6 *Youth Masterclass Coaching Sessions* and 3 further *Holiday Hockey Camps*.
- We are making plans for our head coaches to link up with our youth coaching. We have at the club Hannah Macleod (England & GB, SAHC Ladies' 1st XI Head Coach); Andy Halliday (England & GB Men's Manager, SAHC 1st Team Men's Head Coach); John Hurst (England & GB women's manager, and goalkeeping coach; SAHC goalkeeping coach). Hannah Macleod is coaching on the pilot camp.
- We are appointing more Sunday morning coaches. For example, Amy Kee who is also Head Coach at Queenswood School. Amy played England U16 and U18 and won a hockey scholarship to the USA from where she has just returned.
- We have allocated Monday early evening slots for the *Youth Masterclass Coaching Sessions*, open to all our youth members, who will be able to come along and meet current internationals and international coaches, learning new skills and drills.
- We are hosting youth hockey events, like the recent England U16 and U18 boys internationals, and events with universities: on 30 September 2014 we host Oxford University's Blues teams (men and women) to play against our 1st XIs at Oaklands.

To deliver our plans we have devised a *Partners Scheme* – explained in the *Booklet* – to enlist extra help with our First Teams and our Youth Hockey initiatives (and *Gold Partners* who take on both!) In return, there is recognition, participation and a pledge as to how we will use the money we raise. For example:

- We can book the international players to lead the *Youth Masterclass Coaching Sessions*, in addition to Ellie Watton's 6 sessions.
- We can enlist more coaches for Sunday mornings and to take our youth teams.
- We can set up ball patrol (girls and boys) for our 1st XI teams.
- We can organise youth leadership initiatives, including umpiring and coaching.
- We can organise the next 3 hockey camps.
- We can organise a coach trip to take our young members to see the European Championships international hockey at Lee Valley (Olympic Park) next summer.
- We can appoint *Schools Ambassadors* to go into local schools on our behalf, introducing children of all ages to the sport of hockey.
- We can organise many more hosted events, such as tournaments for our local schools.

Almost everything that we do is organised by unpaid volunteers. You may well be one of them. We are very grateful to them. Some initiatives – like the holiday camps – will raise revenue. Others – like coach trips – should recover most of the costs. But so much of what we need to do involves finding some funding, or it cannot happen, and there are expenses involved in many of these initiatives. We are very much hoping that parents will feel able to rally round and pitch in to be *Youth Hockey Partners* (or *Gold Partners*). This will make so much difference to how far we can take our plans. Do please have a look at the *Booklet*, and see what people are saying. Can you please help us by being a *Youth Hockey Partner*, or even a *Gold Partner*?

Thanks,

Michael Fordham QC (President)

michaelfordham@blackstonechambers.com