



# TUNBRIDGE WELLS HOCKEY CLUB

Founded 1898



21<sup>st</sup> August 2017

Dear Junior Member,

## 2017/18 SEASON

Welcome to the 2017/18 season. We are looking forward to another really successful year. Outlined in this letter are the details for the coming season. Please make contact if you have any queries not covered below.

## First sessions

These details may be subject to change – so please confirm on the junior section of the website. **The first day of training for some older groups will be Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Full training on all pitches including all U10s and younger will start on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

Because of restricted pitch and coach availability on 3<sup>rd</sup> September training will be for some groups only and will be at Tonbridge:

- Boys and Girls U10 and younger – no training ... start on 10<sup>th</sup> September
- Girls U11/12 – **no coaches so no training** ... start on 10<sup>th</sup> September
- Boys U11/12: 9.30am to 10.30am
- Girls U13 – 9.30 to 10.45am
- Girls U14 – 10.45am to 12.00am
- Boys U13/14 from 10.30am to 11.30am
- Girls U15/16 and Boys U15/16 from 11.30am to 1.00pm
- **Goalies should go with their groups.**
- Check the website for detailed timings.

## Training, Coaching groups and times

- Training will almost all be on Sunday mornings at Tonbridge School, although there will be the occasional session at Hawkenbury (during September one of the older groups will generally be training at Hawkenbury). We will also be using the new pitch at Kent College Pembury for some Sunday training.
- Groups may be combined for training sessions depending on numbers and pitch allocations. All Under 12 groups will generally train at 9.30 at Tonbridge each week – older groups are more likely to be subject to variation.
- Watch the [junior teamsheet](#) each week and the website for details of training times which vary regularly (older groups particularly)

**Please** be prompt, arrive ten minutes before your session is due to start ...but do not go onto the pitch until your session starts. Bring mouthguards and shinpads and something to drink. Sticks may be borrowed. Please wear appropriate clothing especially in cold weather – if you need to keep warm, wear an undershirt (or two) under your red TWHC shirt and a sweatshirt over (not a bulky coat)! Gloves and hats are fine in the winter.

## Goalie Training:

This season we have managed to enlist the help of Aurora Mears (a GB Development Squad keeper) and also the club's own James "Bomber" Harris (men's 1st X1 keeper). Aurora has been helping

Maddie Hinch with the launch of her new MH1 Goalkeeping Academy, while Bomber is one of the few coaches who will be attending England Hockey's pilot of a new Goalkeeping Coaching course in September. They will be running sessions in the cage at various points through the season. Details of times and dates TBC. In the meantime, keepers should train with their groups. We hope you will agree this is an exciting new development to help us expand the scope and quality of coaching we can offer our keepers.

### **Performance Academy**

The Club will be starting its new Performance Academy for juniors on Wednesday evenings after the October half term. Further details will follow once the season has started, but the academy will focus on providing England Hockey Academy Centre level development opportunities to its participants.

### **Principal Junior Coaches and contacts:**

Junior Coordinators	Louise Bateman	07881 535047 louby.b.68@hotmail.co.uk
	Alec Pelmore	07785 714239 alecpelmore@btinternet.com
Welfare Officer	Saeed Malik	07880 727121 saeed@idealpoint.co.uk

Coaching groups are on the basis of age at 1st September 2017.

- U16 Girls lead: Andy Whitaker
- U16/15 Boys lead: Noel Roberts\*
- U15 Girls lead: Vince Holden
- U14 Girls lead: Dan Macro
- U14/13 Boys lead: David Judge
- U13 Girls lead: Jeremy Giles
- U12 Girls lead: Lou Bateman
- U12/11 Boys lead: Sameer Amin/ Scott Crawford
- U11 Girls lead: Ben Holder
- U10 Girls lead: Carl Reading
- U10 Boys lead: David Hemsley
- U8/7/6 mixed lead: Martin Rohan
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*\* - Noel has been playing hockey for North Shore in the New Zealand premier league (where our own Oli Woodcock played with him previously) and very excitingly in all respects will be joining the club as a player and coach – hopefully at the end of September, assuming all visa paperwork can be completed by then. Our men's Head Coach, Ben Allberry, will therefore have overall responsibility for the age group in the first few weeks of the season before Noel's arrival, with assistance from other coaches in the Club. This will also give Ben the opportunity to work with and witness players in these age groups with a view to progression to senior hockey and/or the TW Performance Academy referred to below.*

### **Get to know the club**

There is an open invitation for all junior players, their parents and coaches to come back to the Nevill on Sunday 24th Sept after their regular session – where we will be hosting an Open Club and social meet for all. We would encourage everyone to attend – as well as our infamous bar (which of course serves teas and coffees and soft drinks as well), there will be food on offer and (as long as the weather is kind) we will run some fun competitions and challenges for the kids out on the Nevill grass.

### **Young Coaches:**

As in previous years, we encourage our older juniors to come along and help coach younger groups; many have done it as part of their Duke of Edinburgh service. We are also offering discounts on subs for those U17/18s who do regular junior coaching.

### **Coaching and team managing help:**

We rely to a large extent on parents, both playing club members and non-playing helpers and, as the junior section has expanded, we need ever more help with admin, kit sales, coaching and umpiring. It does not have to be a 24/7 commitment and we would be very grateful if parents could offer any tangible support. Please contact Alec or Lou if you can offer any help, however modest. There is a box on the membership form where you can offer help!

### **Half term and Christmas:**

Subject to confirmation, there may be limited training on 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October. There will be no training on 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> December and limited training on 17<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Matches:**

- We have entered teams in the U14 and U16 girls and boys Kent leagues and in the EH Cup. U12 and U10 groups will play monthly friendly tournaments against other Kent clubs and the end of season County tournament.
- The website will have an updated [fixture programme](#) – please put these dates in your diary when they are posted and keep them free.
- We try to fix match squads at least two weeks ahead; you should be emailed by your coaches for availability; please reply promptly to requests for availability. Team lists will be posted on the website on the junior teamsheet.

### **Senior Hockey:**

We run development sides at senior level which welcome junior players. Those over 13 are welcome to attend midweek training and play in senior matches on Saturdays subject to selection – see website for details and contact the relevant Chair of Selection. Be aware however, that senior selectors are looking for regular commitment and find it difficult to slot juniors into teams on an occasional basis. Note that we regard U18 players as part of the senior section of the club. They are expected to play with the seniors if possible and attend senior trials; training should be done with the seniors during mid-week sessions.

### **Kit:**

There is an [order form](#) on the website for ordering club shirts, skorts, hoodies and socks. If you return the form in August, your kit will be ready for the first session. We expect players to wear club kit for matches including **navy** skorts or shorts. Training can be done in any suitable kit.

### **Sponsorship:**

We are offering advertising opportunities on our heavily visited website. Could any parents contact [James Barber](#): [jabarber7@gmail.com](mailto:jabarber7@gmail.com) if they can help, or if they know somebody who could take up advertising/sponsorship at very modest rates.

### **Back to Hockey:**

To all parents – did you play hockey at school? How about taking it up again? We are looking to recruit new senior members, especially those returning after a break from the game. Please contact the Men or Ladies Club Captains: Francis Bridgeman: [francisbridgeman@msn.com](mailto:francisbridgeman@msn.com) and Jen Hunt: [jenhunt2010@gmail.com](mailto:jenhunt2010@gmail.com). As a gentle way back into hockey, we run ladies back-to-hockey sessions on Wednesday mornings at Tonbridge from 9.30 to 10.30 – contact Janet Whitaker.

**Child Protection:**

The Club's Welfare Officer is Saeed Malik. Our policies and procedures are available on the website [www.twhc.co.uk](http://www.twhc.co.uk). If you have any queries or issues about any children or coaches, you should not hesitate to contact either, Lou Bateman, Saeed Malik or Alec Pelmore who will treat any approaches in confidence.

We are looking forward to another great season

Yours sincerely,

**Lou Bateman and Alec Pelmore – Junior Coordinators**

**PS: ALL PARENTAL CONSENT FORMS SHOULD BE RETURNED TO:-**

Alec Pelmore

TWHC

The Old Farmhouse

Hartlake Road

Golden Green

Kent TN11 0BL

[alecpelmore@btinternet.com](mailto:alecpelmore@btinternet.com)

**01732 850739**