



17th July 2021

To all Boys Section Parents,

I hope that everyone is enjoying the summer sun as it starts to join us!

This is one of a few notes that I will be dropping to Junior members as we head into the new season, with a number of exciting changes we have spent the summer organising.

I appreciate it's long – I wrote it after all!! But it is PACKED with information so I hope you can take the time to take it all in....

BEFORE I LOSE YOU IN THE DETAILS, THOUGH, PLEASE REMEMBER TO CLICK THIS [LINK](#) LATER AND HELP US WITH SOME PLANNING INFORMATION – Thank you!

Now onto the details:-

We're making changes across the junior club in response to a number of suggestions and needs, including:

- To provide more games for all players
- To provide opportunities for players of all standards
- To provide the chance to compete at the best but appropriate regional level as a club
- To develop our players to be the best they can be, and to give them the opportunity to play at a county level if they wish to
- To make sure we also have "just" fun and enjoyable playing options too
- To accommodate the growing junior numbers
- To better manage the migration or graduation of players between age groups and from the Juniors to the Senior teams
- To augment and develop our Junior Coaching team with Players from "the Elite Senior" sides

The outcomes below, I hope allow all players to play to an appropriate standard (including for the numerous county level players we have and want to attract), provide a development stretch for all, and more games and at a time that fits in with school matches, which I am sure will return in September!

The final comment of context, is that England Hockey are also restructuring all the leagues and all the regions across the country – this is MASSIVE!

As a club we will move into the **SOUTH CENTRAL** Region from Sept 2021, meaning our junior league matches, which will all be on Sundays, and will be west of Chichester in Hampshire rather than towards Sussex which will be part of the South-East Region, that reaches across to Deal in Kent.

The exception to this will be the Chipmunks (and the girls Canons side) games which will remain on a Saturday, in the Sussex Development League, as a Sub-Area of the South-East region. The Chipmunks will continue to offer games from Y7 upwards and we will continue to be looking to offer 13yo+ players, even more opportunities to play in the Senior sides, when they are ready to do so.

As you can imagine, ALL the league structures are changing and we, as with many clubs, are "sucking and seeing" in terms of level (or Tiers) in this inaugural year!



As a precursor to the plans for the Boys Squads we have planned this year, there is a quick update for Y10 and Y11 boys:

- It was our intention to enter a new **BOYS U16 SQUAD** into a league comprising of Y10 and Y11 players from all across the club.

This squad would have included players involved in playing Saturday Senior Hockey at all levels and been the “figurehead squad” of our Boys Section.

However, with regret, at the start of the 2021-22 season we do not have the active player numbers to be able to accommodate this, without compromising the other age group squads.

We will of course keep this under review and intend to recruit more widely, so should the situation change, we will adapt accordingly.

SO, IN THE COMING 2021-22 SEASON THE BOYS SECTION WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE UP OF 3 COMPLEMENTARY SQUADS:

- The **BOYS U14 SQUAD** which will comprise players in Y8 and Y9.
 - The BU14s will continue to train on a MONDAY NIGHT but this will be earlier and will run from 18:15-19:30 at Chi High, Kingsham Road
 - Players, when ready, may also be invited to attend Mens training nights on Wednesdays from 19:00-20:30, in addition to the Monday night
(Please note that this is in “addition to”, not “instead of” BU14 squad training on Mondays)
New this year & when ready, some players may be invited to attend the Performance Training sessions with the Mens 1st / 2nd teams - they will be contacted separately.
 - BU14s will play matches on Sundays in the South-Central League U14 Boys Tier 2 League. There may be an option at Xmas to move into Tier 1, depending upon performance in our initial league matches but we will see how we progress in the first half of the season.
 - Training and Match Day coaching will be taken by **TOM BRIXEY** again who you will know from last year and has been working with the Boys squads for 2 years now.

Training nights will be shared with the BU12s across the pitch, and Tom will lead a team of coaches in delivering this, comprising of some Performance Squad Mens players, as well as other players and coaches.



- The **BOYS U12 SQUAD** will remain as much as it was in 2020-21 season for players in Y6-Y7, but there are a few twists:
 - BU12s will also train on a MONDAY NIGHT at Chi High, Kingsham Road, from 18:15-19:30
 - BU12s will still play their matches on Sundays
 - BUT: England Hockey have decided that U12s will be a 7-a-side half pitch format, rather than the 11-a-side full pitch format we had last season and before.
 - As such, we have entered TWO teams into the South-Central Leagues:
 - A Tier 1 team
 - A Tier 2 team
 - We will look at how we select for these sides and gauge what this means as the season progresses
 - We expect both teams will play at the same venue on a particular day.... but this is to be confirmed.
 - BU12 players who wish to and are able to play on a Saturday in an 11-a-side format can do so with the Chipmunks, of course, from Y7 – see below.
 - As outline above for the BU14s, Tom Brixey will lead the coaching on Monday nights.
- And finally, **THE CHIPMUNKS SQUAD** :
 - The Chipmunks will still be a SATURDAY only playing side, and continue to be in the Sussex “sub-area” Development League
 - The squad will comprise of players who are:
 - available to play on Saturdays (i.e. they do not have school matches)
 - from Boys U12 (from Y7), Boys U14 and Boys U16 squads
 - NOT playing in the Senior sides (only relevant for boys 13yo+)
 - Consequently, this team is a blend of players from across the 3 other boys’ squads, and will mirror the squads that other clubs intend to play in this league.
It will be a supportive development team, 11 a side, full pitch games, and can be used as springboard for players to graduate to the Senior sides when they’re ready and old enough
 - **NOTE: there is no specific “Chipmunks Training Night” of course as all players will train as per U12, U14, U16 nights highlighted above, dependent upon school age group.**
 - We are yet to appoint a Chipmunks Manager/Coach for Saturdays but will come back to you when this is confirmed. *That said I am also looking for volunteers ...* In the meantime, Tom will also oversee this squad



So that's the structure and the coaching team for the Boys Section – there is a lot to take in, I know.

But in essence, players may have the opportunity to be selected to play TWICE over a weekend:

- **SATURDAYS (assuming no school match conflict) for:**
 - o Senior sides – in South Central region Ladies leagues – or –
 - o Canons in the "Sussex" Development League
- **SUNDAYS for:**
 - o A BU14 or BU12 side - in South Central region Junior leagues
 - o *All matches will avoid County Pathway dates that we will continue to support as a club*
 - o *Again, if there becomes the opportunity to play BU16 games, we will seek to do so.*

In terms of Club Subscriptions, as a committee, and at the AGM, we have elected to maintain the 2019-20 levy again for the second year – so this will be £121, payable upon forthcoming renewal – for the estimated 30 weeks of qualified coaching once or even twice a week, I hope this is still seen as great value for money.

Match fees will also remain at £5 per game for juniors.

Finally, if there is any *need* to "play up" an age group on a Sunday, please contact me directly and we can discuss on a case-by-case basis. I'm keen to keep age groups together where we can but I know there are some nuances to consider.

There is a lot happening across the club, but for now, these are the key changes that affect the Boys Section in the coming season. I will also share the "sister" letters to the MINIS and to the GIRLS Section for a wider view, if you are interested.

SO ONCE AGAIN PLEASE REMEMBER TO CLICK THIS <LINK> AND HELP US WITH SOME PLANNING INFORMATION – this will enable us to understand the number of players available on Saturdays for Chipmunks and for Mens teams, and if players are NOT available for any reason on a Sunday.

I am sure you will have questions.

Please contact me at Motty123@Gmail.com or Tom at Thomas_Brixey@hotmail.com and we will try to answer them ASAP or send out a FAQ response in a couple of weeks.

Thanks all and I am looking forward to the new season!

All the best
Ian / Motty

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