



17th July 2021

To all Girls 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 (especially in the Girls Section where we will start with 54 players in Y8-Y11 this coming season)
- 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 Canons (and the boys Chipmunks side) games which will remain on a Saturday, in the Sussex Development League, as a Sub-Area of the South-East region. The make-up of our Canons team will fundamentally change in 2021-22 though (more below). We will also 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!



**SO, IN THE COMING 2021-22 SEASON THE GIRLS SECTION WILL COMPRISE OF 4
COMPLEMENTARY SQUADS** – last season we had 2; Canons and GU12s:

1. We are introducing a **(new!) GIRLS U16 SQUAD** which will comprise Y10 and Y11 players from all across the club.

This squad will also include players who will be involved in playing Saturday Senior Hockey at all levels - as such, you will note this is NOT the Canons side– see below

- This will be the “figurehead squad” of our Girls Section.
 - All Y10-11 girls will, or already do, train on “Ladies training night” on Thursdays
 - *Some players may (also) be invited to attend the Performance Training sessions with the Ladies 1st and 2nd teams, and they will be contacted separately or already be part of this.*
 - GU16s will play matches on Sundays in the South-Central League U16 Girls Tier 1 League – this is the premier regional GU16 league and will give our oldest juniors an opportunity to play against some of the best clubs in the South-Central region
 - Whilst training will be led on Thursdays by the Senior Coaching Team, I am delighted that **MEGAN THOMAS** has again offered to manage and coach the GU16s on Sundays She will bring a wealth of Elite Hockey experience and I expect her to be ably supported in this by other 1st / 2nd XI players.
Match day dependent, we may also look to run some discrete GU16 training sessions in preparation for these league matches as time & need allows.
2. We are introducing a **(new!) GIRLS U14 SQUAD** which will comprise players in Y8 and Y9.
 - The GU14s will train on a TUESDAY NIGHT from 18:15-19:30 at Chi High, Kingsham Road
 - Players, when ready, may also be invited to attend Ladies training nights on Thursdays from 18:15-19:30, in addition to the Tues night
(Please note that this is in “addition to”, not “instead of” GU14 squad training on Tuesdays)
As above, some players may (also) be invited to attend the Performance Training sessions with the Ladies 1st and 2nd teams, and they will be contacted separately.
 - GU14s will play matches on Sundays in the South-Central League U14 Girls Tier 2 League. There may be an option at Xmas to move into Tier 1, depending upon performance in our initial league matches but I have given us a “safe start” to this new squad.
 - Training and Match Day coaching will be taken by **IAN WILMOT** – most of you will know me either from training nights, Sat matches or the Hampshire DCs over the Summer. I will also be co-leading the Hampshire Girls U13 Squad in the coming year. I’ll leave my 40year hockey career to a drink some time.....
I also expect to be supported at training by some Performance Squad Ladies players, as well as **Emma Stace** who I know you all know, and I am delighted will be more involved.



3. The **GIRLS U12 SQUAD** will remain as much as it was in 2020-21 season for players in Y6-Y7, but there are a few twists:
- GU12s will also train on a TUESDAY (!) NIGHT from 18:15-19:30 at Chi High, Kingsham Road – this will be the same night as the GU14s but run separately. **Note: This is a change to the Thurs nights of last season.**
 - GU12s 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.
 - At the risk of skipping ahead, GU12 players who wish to and are able to play on a Saturday in an 11-a-side format can do so with the Canons, initially from Y7 – see below.
 - It is great that **RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW** will be running the coaching and he has spent part of his summer qualifying as an EH Coach to complement the past couple of years of supporting junior coaching with the Boys and Girls squads, and his playing career. I am also delighted that **Caroline “Scotty” Clarke**, now a mainstay of the Ladies 2XI, will be supporting Richard and passing on a glittering playing career of experience.
4. And finally, **THE CANONS SQUAD** – this will be much changed in constitution to the 2020-21 season squad and be closer to that adopted by the Boys’ Chipmunks squad.
- The Canons will still be a SATURDAY (only) playing side, and continue to be in the Sussex “sub-area” Development League
 - But the Saturday squad will comprise of players who are:
 - available to play on Saturdays (i.e. they do not have school matches)
 - from Girls U12 (from Y7 to begin with), Girls U14 and Girls U16 squads
 - NOT playing in the Senior sides
 - Consequently, I expect this team to be a blend of players from across the 3 other girls’ squads and will mirror the teams 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 “Canons Training Night” of course as all players will train as per U12, U14, U16 nights highlighted above, dependent upon school age group.**
 - I am yet to appoint a Canons Manager/Coach for Saturdays but will come back to you when this is confirmed. *That said I am also looking for volunteers ...*



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

But in essence, players now 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 GU16, GU14 or GU12 side - in South Central region Junior leagues
 - o *All matches will avoid County Pathway dates that we will continue to support as a club*

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 Girls Section in the coming season. I will also share the “sister” letters to the MINIS and to the BOYS Section for a wider view, if you are interested.

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

I am sure you will have questions. If so please contact either me at Motty123@Gmail.com or your squad coach and we will try to answer them ASAP or send out a FAQ response in a couple of weeks.

GU16 - Megan Thomas	Megant12@hotmail.co.uk
GU14 - Ian Wilmot	Motty123@Gmail.com
GU12 - Richard Bartholomew	Barty1@mac.com

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

All the best
Ian / Motty

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