



17<sup>th</sup> July 2021

To all Minis (U8 and U10) 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 Section 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....

We're making a number of changes across the wider Junior club in response to a variety of suggestions and needs, but many do not affect the Minis Section – but for those who are interested, I will make the "sister" mails to the Boys and Girls Sections available to outline these changes.

Specifically for the Minis Section, we have received feedback to consider the following factors:

- To move training from a Monday night where it now clashes with school sport commitments
- To avoid a 6pm start as a 7pm finish is too late for the younger players
- To provide even more opportunities for players to play in festivals

The outcomes below, I hope accommodate all of these and will help players enjoy their hockey even more.

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!

Whilst as a club we will move into the **SOUTH-CENTRAL** Region from Sept 2021, this actually has a minimal effect upon our Minis Section, but again, please refer to the Boys and Girls Section letters if interested.

A positive impact of the regional change, is that there will likely be MORE Festivals to enjoy throughout the season – some more detail are given below.

## **SO, IN THE COMING 2021-22 SEASON THE MINIS SECTION WILL STILL COMPRISE OF 2 MIXED GENDER SQUADS:**

- 1. The U8s Squad (for all Boys and Girls in school years 1, 2 and 3)**
- 2. The U10 Squad (for all Boys and Girls in school years 4 and 5)**

### **TRAINING / COACHING SESSIONS**

Both Squads' sessions will change to a **new!** day and a new time in the 2021-22 Season & will now be:

- On a **SUNDAY** Morning from 09:30-10:30
- On the Astroturf at Chichester High School, Kingsham Road

I appreciate, as with any change, this might create new problems, but on balance we hope that this is a positive move and encourage more players to come along and get involved.



## FESTIVAL GAMES

Both Minis squads will continue to be entered into Sunday Festivals.

We will be in a South-Central (East) group with Fareham, Gosport, Haslemere, Havant, Petersfield and Portsmouth – this is a bigger group than in previous years.

The intention is to be able to enter at least two teams per age group into each festival, so again plenty of game opportunities too for players.

We will also enter teams into England Hockey's In2 Competition when that is agreed.

## COACHES

I am delighted to say that **MARK RICHMOND** will continue to lead the coaching for the Minis Section, supported by Ben Green and Paul Wallis, along with a number of our older experienced Juniors, some of whom will be known from the Hockey Camps.

This is a highly experienced and qualified coaching team and ideal for our younger players as they learn new technical skills in a really fun environment.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MATCH FEES

In terms of Club Subscriptions, as a committee, and at the AGM, we elected to **REDUCE** the annual Mini Subscription by 50%.

**So, the membership fee for U8 & U10 players will only be £60, half the junior fee.**

We will also be continuing to waive a "Match fee" for the minis section.

That's it for now: there is a lot happening across the club, but for now, these are the key changes that affect the Minis Section in the coming season. I will also share the "sister" letters to the GIRLS and to the BOYS Section for a wider view, if you are interested.

I am sure you will have questions. If so, please contact either me at [Motty123@Gmail.com](mailto:Motty123@Gmail.com) or Mark at [MRichmond137@Gmail.com](mailto:MRichmond137@Gmail.com) and we will try to answer them ASAP.

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

All the best,  
Ian / Motty

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**Ian Wilmot**  
**Chichester Hockey Club**  
Director of Junior Hockey  
0770 267 3350