

Upminster Hockey Club
Start of Season Newsletter
2017 / 2018



A Message from the President



Welcome to you all – old and new members alike – to what we know to be the greatest Club in Essex. I trust that you have enjoyed the summer break, and the Athletics World Championships.

2016/17 was a somewhat mixed season for the Club. Hopefully 2017/18 will prove to be better. With a bit of luck perhaps we can avoid any teams being relegated this season and, possibly, ensure one or two are promoted.

The Ladies 1's finished 8th in East Div. 1, whilst the 2's had a very mixed season – some brilliant results and some not so brilliant ones. The Ladies 3's had a reasonable season finishing in a respectable 7th position in the League having worked hard and played well together as a team. The Ladies 4's, having been promoted to Div. 3, did well to finish 5th bearing in mind the majority of the squad were under 18. For them it was a very successful season. For the Ladies 5's the start of the season was difficult with the team having to play a number of friendlies rather than League games. Post Christmas this was resolved leading to the establishment of a more cohesive unit and a mid-table finish which was very satisfying. The creation of a 6th X1 gave more players a chance to play and, hopefully, this can be continued in the forthcoming season. So overall the ladies did well as no team was relegated.

As for the Men, the results were not quite so good. There were one or two highs but also several lows which was disappointing. The Men's 1's had a good season resulting in them achieving a 6th place finish which was primarily as a result of excellent form at home but poor form away – an obvious target for improvement next season. The Men's 2's expected a tough season which it proved to be. Some good wins were achieved but these were overtaken by too many disappointing defeats. The Men's 3's had a mixed run with wins and losses of equal proportions. Hoping to escape relegation, which late wins in the last three games might have ensured, this proved too much in the end and the 3's were unfortunately relegated to Div. 5 SE. The 4's, likewise, had a hard time of it last season incurring some exceptional defeats. They did, however, manage to avoid relegation at the expense of Havering 3's! As for the Men's 5's it turned out to be a good season eventually as they ended up 8th in the League despite having to concede two winnable games. Overall, with the 1's doing better than in

previous seasons, there is a positive spirit in the Club although there is also a need for the other X1's to raise their game in 2017/18.

The Junior Section continues to get better and better. Large numbers continue to attend the training sessions throughout the season and it is very pleasing, particularly for the coaches, that many progress to the adult sides; continue to improve and ensure the Club's future success. The U10 and U12 Girls and Boys represented the Club in the Alliance League in Essex. They did exceptionally well in the Southern Division coming second overall when the results were added together. The U12 Boys did particularly well, winning their League and remaining unbeaten all year. For the first time we also ran U14 and U16 Girls teams in England Hockey Competitions and entered the U14 Boys into an England Hockey Development League – a great experience, on a full pitch which augured well for their future transition to adult hockey. In addition, we now have a number of young players representing the County in several age groups.

Thanks are due, in particular, to the exceptional squad of Mums and Dads who give tremendous support and encouragement to the youngsters and the Club both on and off the pitch. I would like to express my thanks, on behalf of the Club, to the devoted team of coaches without whose effort, commitment and dedication none of this would be possible. Likewise, the Club benefits inordinately from the coaches who have taken on the adult teams and, on behalf of the Club, we are very grateful for your endeavours in this regard. So, as it is a considerable charge on the Club's finances and resources – albeit obviously worthwhile – please ensure you turn up to the training sessions in order to make the best possible use of the opportunities provided.

As always several items appear in this newsletter on a regular basis and this year will prove no exception.

Umpires, for example. Without them you cannot play and as some inevitably retire we continually require more volunteers to take up the whistle. Fortunately, many young umpires are putting themselves forward to achieve the Level 1 Qualification, but there is still a need for more - particularly from the Ladies' Section. Please volunteer for the good of the Club. With 11 teams playing every Saturday and the need to put 2 members into the Pool at least nine or ten umpires are required each week. Once again we are fortunate that Colin Wright has agreed to take on the job of Umpire Liaison Officer to sort this out and ensure each team has an allocated umpire. Please do all you can to help him.

As far as we are aware there are NO NEW RULES planned by England Hockey for introduction in the 2017/18 season. All you need to do is make sure you are familiar with the old ones!!

We would like to think that, over the years, UHC has established a reputation for being, in the main, a well-disciplined Club committing minimal indiscretions over the course of the season. We need to maintain this high standard and eliminate any breaches of good conduct. The concept of RESPECT has now a much higher profile in all sports. Hockey has traditionally been good but, unfortunately, verbal abuse appears to be creeping in and, as a consequence, 'carding' may well follow as umpires are being pressed to do so by England Hockey. It would

really be good if we could go through a whole season with NO RED CARDS; a reduction in Yellow Cards and minimal Green Cards being shown to an Upminster player.

Now that we have the formal status of a Limited Company for the purposes of greater legal protection, we also have greater responsibilities. We are required to maintain formal records of all members so please ensure you complete and return your MEMBERSHIP FORM when requested to do so at the beginning of the season. THIS IS A MUST, as indeed is the need to PAY YOUR SUBS ON TIME!

The Treasurer reported at the AGM that the 2016/17 year was a successful year for the Club financially. The bar continues to do well and once again grateful thanks must go to the Mums and Dads, as well as members, for their support. Post-match socialising (with responsible drinking) is an essential tradition, so please return to the Clubhouse and enjoy yourselves after matches and to host the visiting team. Debbie still provides excellent post-match food for both home and away teams and please take a turn on BAR DUTY.

Being a Captain or Vice-Captain is a responsible job and I would like to thank all those who put themselves forward to take these jobs on. It would be easier if there were less rather than more mid-week dropouts. PLEASE ADVISE YOUR CAPTAIN OF YOUR AVAILABILITY THE WEEK BEFORE AND STICK TO THE COMMITMENT YOU MAKE. It is obviously YOUR CLUB and YOUR RESPONSIBILITY – so your co-operation would make a tremendous difference.

Whilst much has been done to improve the Clubhouse, more is planned for the benefit of both members and visitors. The two Clubs are in the process of a major re-development (details of which are available in the Clubhouse) which will include larger kitchen facilities; improved ladies/gent's toilets; new ladies/gent's showers; Clubhouse heating and (depending on funding) improvements to the interior of the Bar area. All this clearly comes with significant costs. Both Clubs are working towards raising the funds required for these improvements but this task will be made easier if all members support the Club on the social side. All Bar profits from both seasons go to the Pavilion Club which is responsible for underwriting such developments. Clearly the more money in the Pavilion Club's bank account the less money the Clubs will have to raise independently to fund the building work so please support the full programme of social events planned for the coming season. Notices regularly appear in the Clubhouse and on the Website so please keep up to date with what is happening and make sure you attend as many functions as you can.

Finally, it wouldn't be me if I didn't remind you that whatever team you play for when you wear the BLUE AND GOLD of Upminster Hockey Club remember to maintain the highest standards of play and behaviour both on and off the pitch such that your actions will reflect well on the Club at all times. The ultimate object is that YOU ENJOY YOUR HOCKEY as a member of this Club and WE HAVE A GREAT SEASON.

Eric Collier
President



www.upminsterhc.co.uk

A reminder of our Club website address is above. Please do keep checking in and logging onto the Club website as this contains so much information to assist you in keeping up to date on matches and Club news and activities.

Some minor changes are being made so please do check onto the website regularly to see further additions / updates soon.

Dates for Your Diary

A full list of events and adverts will be maintained through the club website. But to get you started, here are some dates for your diary:

Monday 26th December 17 – **Boxing Day Match** at the Club.

Saturday 31st December 17 – **New Year's Eve Party** at the Club (Speak to Ryan Hodges).

Saturday 31st March 18 – **Easter 7's** tournament at the Club.



Hockey Activities

Saturday 23rd September 2017 – this see's the start of the Women's & Men's league hockey programme. Your Captains will be in contact with you with regards to friendly matches prior to this.

Training is provided free to all paid up members of the Club. ***The first sessions will start Tuesday 5th September 2017.***

Day	Time	Who	Coaches
Tuesday	8.30pm to 9.30pm	Men's 3's, 4's, 5's & Boys U14 squad	Matt Malby
Wednesday	6.00pm to 7.00pm	Girls & Boys U12 squads	Matt Malby & Sophie Daltrey-Smith
Wednesday	7.00pm to 8.00pm	Ladies 3's, 4's, 5's, 6's & Invited under 16's	Glen Noller, Mike Scrivener, Bella Colafrancesco & Kerry Hodges
Wednesday	8.00pm to 9.30pm	Ladies 1's & 2's	Glen Noller
Wednesday	8.00pm to 9.30pm	Men's 1's & 2's	Matt Malby
Friday	6.00pm to 7.00pm	Girls & Boys beginners at U8 / U10	Matt Malby
Sunday	9.30am to 10.30am	Girls & Boys U10 and below squads	Mike Scrivener & Team
Sunday	10.30am to 11.30am	Girls & Boys U12 squads	Mike Scrivener & Team
Sunday	11.30am to 12.30pm	Girls & Boys U14 squads and above	Bella Colafrancesco

Please keep an eye on your emails and the Club website as any changes to the above will communicated through those methods.

Membership Forms

We have membership forms for adults and Juniors. This is very important that these are completed so that we maintain an accurate list of our members, to enable us and the Captains to keep in contact with you and notify you of important details for matches and changes to training schedules.

There are 2 forms:

1. *Adults Membership Form*

This is for all Male and Female over 18 years of age players. This will take you around 2 minutes to complete on-line and then you simply hit the submit button....no need for printing or signing.

[Adults Membership Form](#)

Then make sure your fees are paid as directed upon the form.

2. *Under 18's Membership Form*

This is for all members who will be under 18 as at 1st September 2017. This will likewise take around 2 minutes to complete on-line and needs to be completed for each child by a parent or guardian.

[U18 Membership Form](#)

The form will then direct you to print off a declaration form to sign and hand in to Andrew Berry (Bezza).

[Declaration Form](#)

Then make sure your fees are paid as directed upon the form.



Subscriptions

Membership Type	Fee £	Notes
Adult (Over 18)	150.00	£20 & voluntary contribution to the budget for the coming season of £130
Unemployed Adult (Over 18)	75.00	
Aged under 18 (in full time education)	90.00	Reduces by £10 for each additional family member within this category
In full-time education away from Upminster	25.00	University students
Family membership	300.00	No family will pay more than £300 collectively
Social membership	15.00	



Match Fees

Match Fee Type	Fee £
Over 18 in senior matches	8.50
Under 18 in senior matches	6.00
Mixed X1 matches	6.00
Junior matches / tournaments (Under 14 & below)	3.00

Juniors (U18) Season Ahead

Coaching

A full weekly coaching programme will operate as usual, so please do check the earlier table to familiarise yourself with the appropriate sessions for your child. We aim to cater for all ages of children under the age of 18.

Minis

The Mini leagues will continue to offer competitive games for U10's and U12's, and as with previous years, the age groups will again be based on school year ages, which means our youngsters get to play with their classmates / friends in all games.

We again held the Minis tour down to Folkestone in May 17, which was once again a great success and enjoyed by all who attended. Watch out for the announcement for this season's tour and be quick to reserve your place as they do go very fast.

U14 and U16

We will again run U14 / U16 Girls and U14 Boys within competitive leagues. The U14 and U16 Girls will play in the England Hockey Championship, while the U14 Boys will play within the Home Counties Mercian League.

The entry into these competitions will ensure that those relevant aged boys and girls will have regular and competitive age group hockey matches throughout the season.

Other

We will continue to have an awards ceremony and our ever popular Christmas disco for the younger ones.

Youngsters are the future of our Club and it is fantastic to see the increasing numbers joining our Juniors family year on year. Our success doesn't happen overnight, it is a culmination of a lot of people volunteering their time for free and it is crucial that this is maintained if we want our Juniors section to continue to expand and develop. If you would like to be a part of our winning team of coaches, senior players and parents, please don't hesitate to email Bezza at jlo@upminsterhc.co.uk, there are always jobs that need doing.



Clubhouse Bar



The Clubhouse is open from late morning on Saturdays through to the evening. The facility is available to all playing members, Life Vice Presidents, Social Members, Umpires, Parents and Supporters. Please do come along and enjoy a drink in a friendly atmosphere.

Players – you are encouraged to come along after your home game to the Clubhouse and socialise with your team, the opposition and umpires. Food is provided for you all, so by returning, you can assist your Captain in ensuring the opposition and umpires are looked after.

Bar Rota – Adult members are all required to take their turn and assist on the bar on one evening during the winter. The Rota will be published on the website and displayed at the Club. So please make a note of your duty and carry this out.

Playing & Training Kit

Please keep an eye on the website and If you have any questions regarding kit, please speak with **Liz Dunnett** (ceo@upminsterhc.co.uk).

Playing Kit

Our Match Day Kit is of a “bespoke” nature due to the style / colour we have in place. This can be ordered directly from the Kukri online shop. There will be windows open throughout the season to place your kit orders so that minimum numbers of orders can be achieved to meet the supplier requirements. This kit includes:

- Playing Shirts
- Playing Skorts / Shorts

Playing Kit

If you are new to the Club / require playing kit urgently as your old one is lost / worn out, then please speak to **Liz Dunnett** (ceo@upminsterhc.co.uk).

Socks and Away Shirts

These can be obtained from **Liz Dunnett** (ceo@upminsterhc.co.uk).

Training and Leisurewear

This is available from our on-line provider Kukri.

The link for this can be found here:

Training & Leisurewear

Orders can be made direct to Kukri on-line and items will be delivered to you directly.



Umpires Corner



This season, there are again no rule changes. So all is as was last year.

A few requests though:

1. We welcome members within the Club to come forward and offer to get involved in umpiring. Our Ladies have entered a 6th X1 Team into the Essex League, so there is even more need for us to find more women umpires to ensure these games can take place. If we cannot find umpires, then there is a risk these games cannot go ahead. Please do step forward and volunteer.
2. Please **RESPECT** your umpires during and after matches. Matches cannot take place without them, many are giving up their time voluntarily to ensure you all get a game.
3. Please ensure you have the correct playing kit. This is important not just for representing our great Club, but to assist umpires. For example, the game is played mostly at ground level, so the colour of socks is important for distinguishing which player's foot a ball has hit. Please ensure you wear the correct home coloured socks for Upminster Hockey Club and also if you are required to wear an away kit for a particular match, please do ensure you wear the correct red socks, not just any coloured socks.