

Dear Parents,

One of the best ways to support the club and get involved with your child's hockey is to umpire their games. You don't need any formal qualifications for most junior games. The club has a group of highly qualified umpires and umpire coaches who would be able to support you. Parent umpires can develop their skills, as they follow their children through the different age groups.

On a personal note, I hadn't played hockey before I started umpiring my son's beaver's team. I started because I wanted to support the coaches. I have now umpired for both my children's teams and followed them up from beavers, to badgers and now on to senior hockey. I didn't have any hockey background or previous umpiring experience. I was fully supported by the club. I also found the umpires from other clubs to be fully supportive and helpful. I've thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

Also, we would like to encourage any juniors who want to start umpiring. It is a great way to improve their awareness of the game. They can start by umpiring younger age groups, and then as they develop, they can move up through ages to higher levels if they want. There are also opportunities for junior umpires to get paid. If they start to really enjoy it, there are opportunities at a regional level.

My son started umpiring the U11s tournaments a few years ago. He soon progressed on to Beavers and Badgers and then onto senior hockey, gaining experience and earning money. He is now 17 and has umpired several national finals in London and several friendlies for England and GB. This weekend he is going to umpire England vs Germany U18s. This is testament to the support of the umpire coaching team at Brooklands.

If you or your child are interested in umpiring please complete this short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XCL5KDZ>

Regards,

Martin Bland

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