



Durham City Hockey Club



20th September 2017

Dear DCHC member/parent,

Due to a growth in numbers, it has become essential to restructure the junior section of our hockey club, and in this letter we will explain how Durham City Hockey Club's junior section will function in the future.

The junior section has grown substantially in the last ten years from about 20 young players to our current list of about 120. We owe a great debt for this growth to Mark Scott, Heather Lapham and Mike Lacey, who have committed a huge amount of time and energy over that period. However, the size of the section has now become unsustainably large for such a small group of organisers to manage, and it is with great sadness that I have reluctantly accepted Mark and Heather's resignations in the last fortnight. Please do make the time to thank them personally for all they may have done for you and /or your child(ren).

In order to continue such successful junior hockey development, the age group sessions will become a bit more autonomous, in order to spread the workload required to run them across a much larger group of volunteers. Each gender/age group (u6, u8,u10,u12 girls, u12 boys, u14 girls, u14 boys) will have a Lead Coach and a 'Parent Admin'. The Lead Coach will be in charge of organising the hockey for each session, and liaise with the other lead coaches and additional coach volunteers to make sure enough coaches are present for all groups on any given day. The Parent Admin will be responsible for communicating with other parents of that group on matters like dates/venues for the sessions, as well as match details such as sharing transport. Importantly, the Parent Admins will also need to be responsible for ensuring all payments for the juniors in their group are made on time. To ease this burden, we are going to move to a system of monthly standing orders direct to the junior section bank account.

Clearly, to implement the above system will require us to recruit a significant number of new volunteers into the running of our junior section. Given that we need to spread the work out in a more sustainable way than we previously have, this makes absolute sense, and I hope you will be willing and able to volunteer some of your time to further progress the development of what is one of the most successful junior hockey sections in the northeast.

At present we have a number of volunteer coaches lined up as leads for the various groups, including the Men's 1st team captain, Iain Mason, who has stepped forward to be Lead Coach for the new Under 6s Hockey Fun Group, as well as a notional Chair of the junior section.

Our sessions for the remainder of 2017 and until Easter 2018, Sundays in termtime, will be at Durham School, U6/U8 groups 9.30-10.30am, older groups 10.30am-12pm. In January and February, in the event of bad weather, we also have use of the school's indoor hall facility.

What we need now is for all the parents to have a think about what you can give back, and step forward to become Parent Admins. We will be working through a transition period in October, and aim to have the new structure fully operational by 1st November. Until we have all parent admins in place, please communicate with me, or Iain. For October, we will take a crisp ten pound note at one of the sessions. After November 1st all payments will be by standing order directly into the junior account from 1st November (bank details will be circulated separately; for now, £10 per month).

Yours in hockey,

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