

Dear Player/Parent/Guardian,

We are pleased to confirm that Worcestershire County Hockey is returning with both existing and new Coaches raring to get the selection process underway to develop the skills and gameplay of Worcestershire hockey players.

The delay in communication has been because, unfortunately due to other work commitments, some Coaches are unable to return for this season. We will be offering County training and tournaments for the following age groups;

| | School Year from Sept 2022 |
|------|--|
| U13G | Year 8 (exceptional Year 7 only with Club/School nomination) |
| U13B | Year 8 (exceptional Year 7 only with Club/School nomination) |
| U14G | Year 9 |
| U15G | Year 10 |
| U15B | Year 9&10 |

It is with heavy hearts that we must confirm we will be **unable to offer** U17 G&B hockey (Year 11&12) this cycle, a decision that has only been made after all possible avenues have been explored.

For Years 8-10, we would ask that you put the following dates in the relevant diaries;

| Event | Girls | | | Boys | |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| | U13G | U14G | U15G | U13B | U15B |
| Evaluation Session 1 Remembrance Sunday | Sun 13th Nov 12-12.30 reg 12.30- 2.30 train | Sun 13th Nov 2-2.30 reg 2.30- 4.30 train | Sun 13th Nov 2-2.30 reg 2.30- 4.30 train | Sun 13th Nov 12- 12.30 reg 12.30-2.30 train | Sun 13th Nov 2-2.30 reg 2.30- 4.30 train |
| | Stourport Sports Centre | | Worcester International Hockey Centre (tbc) | | |
| Final Evaluation Session 2 | Sun 11th Dec 12-12.30 reg 12.30- 2.30 train | Sun 11th Dec 2-2.30 reg 2.30- 4.30 train | Sun 4th Dec 2-2.30 reg 2.30- 4.30 train | Sun 4th Dec 12- 12.30 reg 12.30-2.30 train | Sun 4th Dec 2-2.30 reg 2.30-4.30 train |
| | Bromsgrove Hockey Club | | Worcester International Hockey Centre (tbc) | | |
| Training Venue - Outfield only, GK tbc | Tbc - Bromsgrove area | Worcester International Hockey Centre | Bromsgrove Hockey Club | Stourport Sports Centre | Bromsgrove Hockey Club |
| Training evening - Outfield only, GK tbc | Friday 7-8.30pm | Friday 7-8.30pm | Friday 7-8.30pm | Friday 7-8.30pm | Friday 7-8.30pm |
| County training 1 | Sunday 8 Jan - 1st training session at training venue all squads; timings to be confirmed | | | | |
| | Reg 9.30-10 Train 10-12 | Reg 2-2.30 Train 2.30-4.30 | 12-12.30 reg 12.30- 2.30 train | Register 9.30-10 Train 10-12 | 2-2.30 reg 2.30-4.30 train |
| County training 2 | Fri 20th Jan | Fri 20th Jan | Fri 20th Jan | Fri 20th Jan | Fri 27th Jan |
| County training 3 | Fri 3rd Feb | Fri 3rd Feb | Fri 3rd Feb | Fri 3rd Feb | Fri 10th Feb |
| Tournament 1 | Sunday 12 Feb ALL AGE GROUPS - Location/timing tbc by Midlands Hockey U13 7 aside, U14/15 11 aside | | | | |
| County training 4 | Fri 17th Feb | Fri 17th Feb | Fri 17th Feb | Fri 17th Feb | Fri 3rd Mar |
| County training 5 | Fri 10 Mar | Fri 10 Mar | Fri 10 Mar | Fri 10 Mar | Fri 3 Mar |
| Tournament 2 | Sunday 12 Mar ALL AGE GROUPS - Location/timing tbc by Midlands Hockey U13 7 aside, U14/15 11 aside | | | | |

| Event | Girls | | | Boys | |
|-------------------|--|---|--------------|--|---|
| | U13G | U14G | U15G | U13B | U15B |
| County training 6 | Fri 24th Mar | Fri 24th Mar | Fri 24th Mar | Fri 24th Mar | Fri 17th Mar |
| County training 7 | Fri 7th Apr | Fri 7th Apr | Fri 7th Apr | Fri 7th Apr | Fri 31st Mar |
| Tournament 3 | Sunday 16 Apr ALL AGE GROUPS -Location/timing tbc by Midlands Hockey U13 7 aside, U14/15 11 aside | | | | |
| County training 7 | Fri 21st Apr | Fri 21st Apr | Fri 21st Apr | Fri 21st Apr | Fri 28th Apr |
| Tournament 3 | Sunday 30 Apr - Tournament 7 aside | Sunday 30th Apr - Final festival | | Sunday 30 Apr - Tournament 7 aside | Sunday 30 Apr - Final festival |
| Tournament 4 | Sunday 7 May Final festival 7 aside | | | Sunday 7 May Final festival 7 aside | |

Goalkeepers

Lucy Harding has taken over from Nick Lewis in managing GK training this season. We are aware that GK can feel isolated and not part of the main squad. To try and rectify this, we are looking to ensure the split of GK technical/squad training is 40/60 and that GK Coaches are available at squad training sessions to ensure GK are utilised fully. However, please note that a function of the role means that all GK will not be training all of the time but we will make all efforts to ensure they are happy with their experience.

All GK communication and payment will be via Player Pathway as per the Outfield players. The cost to GK will be the same as all other County players. We would ask that as well as following the instructions below, all interested GK email Lucy (lucietolladay@gmail.com) to express their interest so that she can organise GK selection accordingly. GK final squad/technical training sessions (location and timing) will be notified by Lucy direct. GK will receive all communication from the Age Group Manager applying to Outfield players and where there is an overlap, Goalkeepers. The Age Group Manager will be confirming the selected, back up and non-travelling reserve GK for the relevant tournaments.

Prior to the 1st assessment session on Sunday 13th November, we require you to;

- With effect **from Sunday 16th October and prior to Friday 4th November**
 - Login to the Player Pathway (www.playerpathway.englishhockey.co.uk) using the player username and password (NB you cannot have more than 1 player for a username and password)
 - Select 'DC enrolment', Worcestershire and either DC Girls OR DC Boys
 - The charge for the sessions of £10 will be generated. We can only set this up as a Direct Debit Mandate but confirm that payment is only taken if you request it - we are unable to withdraw funds without the Account Holder initiating the action. There is no availability to pay by Credit/Debit Card on Player Pathway
 - Please do **NOT** try and order Player Pathway Kit - this will be organised separately
 - We can only allow players to trial that have signed up and paid to reduce the confusion and error at registration
- All players will be assessed at the 2 sessions on **13th Nov and 4th or 11th Dec**. It is recommended that players attend both assessment sessions but not essential. The charge will apply regardless of whether you/your child attends 1 or 2 sessions. This is to cover the pitch hire cost and Coaches fees
- The attending players will be notified by **Sunday 18th December** if they have/have not been successful and successful players will be moved into the AC (Academy Centres) for their age groups. This will not require any player/parent action. Any players not selected will remain in the Development Centre and we trust they will continue their development at Club and Schools ready to be contacted for the following season regarding assessment dates
- Monday 19th December** (location, timing tbc) will be a session for ALL successful squad players. This will involve a talk from the Worcestershire Hockey Committee on the expectations of the Coaches for the season and an outline of how coaching will be structured. Our kit supplier will also be attendance with samples to give every player the opportunity to try on and order kit. In a change from last season, all successful players will purchase

their own playing top that will then remain in their possession. Please keep this date in your diary as it will provide an opportunity for the squads to socialise and meet the relevant personnel that will be involved in their County season

5. Once squads have been confirmed, the necessary payment to cover coaching and pitches will be generated via Player Pathway as per the 2021/22 season. We are hoping to keep the training costs at a maximum of £90 and match fees £10 for the season. We are still waiting for invoices from last season's pitches to be received hence the delay in confirming. WHA is a non-profit making organisation run by volunteers to ensure membership costs are kept to a minimum. With the current economic climate, please contact Dee Martin (Treasurer - dee.martin@thebridgepartnership.co.uk) in total confidence if the costs of involvement would prevent your son or daughter being involved in County Hockey

6. Your day to day contact will be the relevant Age Group Manager for the squad and they will send out all relevant information in 2023 once the final squads are confirmed. **We are still needing a volunteer for the U14G squad so if your daughter has started Year 9 this year, please would you contact cwitton75@gmail.com as a matter of urgency**

7. As part of the England Hockey Player Pathway into the National Age Group Squads (NAGS), County hockey is one route (in addition to Clubs, School and Talent Centres) for nomination to the regional Talent Academy for U15-18 players. For Worcestershire these are based at Stourport Sports Centre and an England Hockey Greater Birmingham centre (location to be announced). As part of our ongoing assessment programme, all players participating in the County programme will be evaluated for a potential nomination for Talent Academy Trial in the summer/autumn 2023

We hope that you are excited as we are at the opportunities for hockey development and match play over the coming season. As a County we are still recovering post-Covid and are looking to develop our coaching to ensure that next season we will be able to offer this opportunity to **all** U18 players in Worcestershire. Again we can only apologise to the players that will not be part of the County journey going forward.

Claire Witton will be taking over the overall organisation of County Hockey from Dee Martin so will be in contact regarding confirmation of training locations and timing as soon as they are agreed.

We look forward to seeing you at the side of a hockey pitch on 13th November, 11th or 4th December.

Regards
Dee Martin and Claire Witton
Worcestershire Hockey Association