

# Bromley and Beckenham Hockey Club

## Senior Opening Notice - 2021-22 Season



### **Welcome!**

Welcome to the new season! After a fragmented 2020/21 season, we are pleased to say that the committee has been planning for a full season of hockey and are very excited to get you back out on pitch. With a new league structure, for both men's and ladies, many sides will now compete against new clubs, offering welcomed variety and most encouraging of all, we are already welcoming many new faces across the sections & sides.

The league season is not far away, commencing the weekend of 25th September. Captains have worked hard to encourage you along to training and there's a real buzz for the season ahead. We remain a National League club, an achievement we are proud of and strive to maintain, whilst remaining competitive across all other club sides.

### **Coaching Team**

Our coaching team is exceptional - a line up that many clubs struggle to match. Our core coaches are all Level 3 standard, meaning the coaching you receive is second to none. Please continue to make the most of the training on offer, as selection will be based on attendance.

#### *Sam Djavit*

The club have again appointed Sam Djavit as Men's 1st XI Head Coach. With an eye to progressing the M1 squad, Sam offers energy & enthusiasm to the role and will be integral in the squad's aim of promotion to National Div 1. Sam will also be keeping a close eye on the Boys Academy (which will run midweek) to help bridge the gap on getting young talent into 1st XI squads of the future. He too will be involved with the younger age groups on a Sunday morning, which is a fantastic resource to have at a junior/mini level.

#### *Mark Robinson*

Mark has been appointed for his fourth season as Ladies 1st XI Head Coach. Having transformed the Ladies section, he has developed the Ladies 1st XI into a side regularly competing for promotion in National Div 1 and his aspirations are again high for this season. Mark's commitment and passion to the club over the past few seasons has been superb and we are confident that he will continue to grow the ladies section, whilst developing our young talent into outstanding players of the future.

#### *Juan Gomez*

Juan is back with BromBecks for the coming season both as a 1st XI player and in a wider remit as Club Development Coach. He recently completed his FIH Hockey level 3 qualification and continues to transform Men's Club training. Juan's coaching roles with us will be split amongst junior and senior commitments, where he will lead the midweek Boys Academy and run junior groups on a Sunday, whilst having a huge input into selection of senior sides and monitoring the individual progress of players.

### **Coronavirus**

This season sees hockey return to "Stage 5" which is the reduction of all playing restrictions. Clearly we still need to be vigilant. There are also requirements on you, as players and parents, to check that you or your child are not feeling unwell with any of the symptoms. It's a simple rule, if they are not feeling well - please don't turn up.

### **Volunteers**

As always we are looking for help from you, our members! Our club is operated by volunteers and any help - however small is greatly appreciated. We have numerous vacant roles that require filling, but please don't feel that by putting yourself forward you are committing to endless hours. There's a mixture of smaller roles, coupled with some more pressing roles to fill, namely Club Treasurer and Club Chair. We would love to draw on your own individual expertise and skill set to evolve our great club and keep us moving forwards.

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There are discounts available for taking up some roles - so please take a look at the Membership sheet. We are actively looking for organised individuals to lead/support on some exciting new initiatives. It's pretty simple and these are administrative roles - so no real hockey experience required!

### Season Dates

The dates for the season will be as follows:

Pre-Season	Monday 18th Aug	Thursday 23rd Sept
First Half (League fixtures & training)	Saturday 25th Sept (u16 girls 6th Sept)	Saturday 5th Dec
Second Half (League fixtures & training)	Saturday 8th Jan	Saturday 9th April

### Training Sessions

We maintain the same timings and structure to adult training, as we had for the 2020/21 season (see below). All adult sessions are scheduled in the Pitchero app and you should receive notifications to select your attendance for training, like you would for weekend fixtures. In order to help out the coaching team(s), we encourage all members to update their availability in good time, so that coaches can plan effectively.

Langley Park Pitch	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Bottom Half	Ladies 1	Men's 1	Ladies 1	Men's 1
Top Half	Men's Club (split)	Men's 2	Ladies 2	Ladies Club

### England Hockey - Changes to the Structure

Many of you may not be aware but England Hockey (our governing body) have undertaken a significant reform of the governance structures of the game - ultimately this has ramifications for the club. The first is that they have changed the "boundaries" and we now fall into London for all Men's sides and the South East Region (which is parts of Kent, Surrey and Sussex) for our Ladies sides. The purpose of the restructure is to make hockey more local and reduce travelling times - which we would all welcome. This new structure will bring new sides into respective leagues, which is a pleasant change, whilst offering competitive hockey. The one caveat to this restructure is that there is now a mandatory registration process for all adults playing hockey. In order to play for our club, you **must** register as a 'player' in the EH Game Management System. We plan to circulate separate correspondence on 'how to register' as soon as it becomes available.

### Subscriptions

For the first time in 4 seasons we are forced to increase our sub rates ever so slightly. We don't increase our costs lightly and it is worth explaining the reasons behind our decision. One of our main pitch suppliers has raised their costs and we must therefore cover this increase; this is aligned to the fact that the season is 3 weeks longer than last year (and we need to hire additional weeks). We have also had other external cost increases, like league affiliation and entries, imposed on us. On the positive side we expect to play a lot more matches, combined with improved quality of coaching on offer; we trust that you will still consider us good value for money. All payments

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must be made electronically through the Pitchero app (we are no longer accepting cash or cheques) - all the joining details can be found here <https://www.brombeckshockey.com/payments>

### Match Fees

Whereas in previous seasons, there has been an option to pay combined subscriptions and match fees upfront, the committee has since decided to scrap this option as it was an administrative nightmare. The Pitchero app now offers a simple and straightforward link for individual captains to send prompts out to their respective selected squads to pay match fees match by match. Please note that the standard match fee is **£10** for all players (inc juniors) playing in an adult fixture (home & away)

### Kit

As you'll be aware, our kit is now provided online by our kit partner - Hawkinsport. All kit can be found and purchased on the below link - when ordering a club playing shirt, you are prompted to enter a number. As a new member you will be designated a free shirt number by the suppliers. The kit will be delivered directly to your home address. Please look out for the other training kit options as well.

<https://www.hawkinsport.co.uk/clubs/hockey-clubs/bromley-and-beckenham-hockey-club>.

### Indoor Hockey

This year we plan to offer our members a chance to play some Indoor hockey. We believe that this is an essential part of a player's development (irrespective of age) and will be hosting sessions on a Friday night for the different groups - this will be charged at an additional cost to cover facility hire. Sessions will be led by Tom Hamilton.

### Feedback

We are also looking to hold a virtual meeting for our members to hear what we are doing and plans for the season ahead. The intention is to hold this in early October, once the season is up and running - please keep an eye out for that invite.

### Mike Bluett

A huge 'Thank You' must go out to Mike, for his efforts as Club Chair over the past four years, as we see him step down from the role. Back in 2017 Mike stepped back into the role (his second stint) and has helped steer the section into a more prominent position, both on and off the pitch. The Club is now a National League club (both men's and ladies), finances are comfortable and the section continues to grow in strength and numbers. He admits there have been some challenges but his fortitude and willingness to succeed, whilst ensuring that the spirit of the club remains high is paramount. He will continue on in the background and maybe now the relieved pressure might encourage him back onto the pitch more regularly. Thanks again for your efforts; Club legend!

Finally, and in summary, we wish you all an enjoyable season of hockey, especially after the challenges of lockdown, and look forward to seeing you around the pitches in the coming weeks and months.

Thanks,

Executive Committee, Bromley & Beckenham Hockey Club

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