



Dear Member,

First of all, on behalf of hockey committee, I sincerely hope that you're all safe and well in this current climate of uncertainty. It seems a long time ago since we were preparing for the final round of league fixtures, not to mention glamming ourselves up for a vibrant End of Season Dinner. Such a shame we were not able to beat the lockdown, but we have much to look forward to for the season ahead, both on and off the pitch.

Return to Hockey:

With no further clarity from England Hockey yet on how to proceed, all we can do is plan towards a normal season and be in the best position for league hockey to commence in September. The demand to get back out on the pitch has been overwhelming and we are pleased to promote a 'Return to Hockey' initiative that permits restricted groups to practice under supervised conditions, within pre-booked slots. For more information and how to book a slot, please visit Pitchero link below <https://www.brombeckshockey.com/payments/lockdown-pitch-session-50791.html>

We will of course keep you updated on any developments and updates as we ourselves are updated by England Hockey.

How have we performed both on and off the pitch?

On the pitch, we have:

- ✓ Maintained our status as being a National League Club, both Men's and Ladies; critical to remaining competitive within a densely populated area of London based hockey clubs.
- ✓ Strong collective performances, with three league championships and just one relegation. Some fantastic team performances but most importantly the re-installment of the Ladies 5 which we lost two seasons back
- ✓ Established a solid blue-print for grass-root level hockey, whilst improving opportunities for young players to be playing adult hockey. We now have more juniors playing in senior sides, than ever before and continue to reward those that commit regularly and perform well.

Well done to all team and club captains, especially Laura, Harry and Richard who invested a great amount of time and effort across the season to ensure teams are balanced and competitive.

Off the pitch, we have:

- ✓ Remained financially strong and sustainable as a section, especially in times of financial uncertainty
- ✓ Maintained our subscription rates to remain competitive against other local clubs. The objective; to enhance membership volumes and further improve membership enrichment
- ✓ Ensured that we remain inclusive and fair to all our members, both new and old.
- ✓ Achieved all the above whilst maintaining our core values of being a welcoming and sociable family club

Preparing for next season:

Over the next week or so, you will receive regular communications on how we prepare for the 2020/21 season. No one knows how it will fare or whether we will be further affected by COVID. There's a lot of moving parts, but at least we will be prepared. We understand that our members want more transparency on where their money from subscriptions and fees is spent and how we plan to improve on matters such as coaching and pitch side facilities. This is fair enough, so we plan to share a high-level breakdown of our expected costs and expenditure. As a committee, our fundamental aim is to uphold and maintain our core values, run by volunteers who share a common love for hockey. We therefore need to achieve the below:

- ✓ Identify more members as 'club' volunteers and utilise their skill sets to drive the section forward and evolve. Please don't be shy if you have something to offer to our great club!
- ✓ Establish key sponsorship targets and deliver realistic opportunities for local entities to help support and enjoy our success. Anyone with expertise in this area, please get in touch.

- ✓ Offer more opportunity for members to have a say in what does and doesn't work for the club, moving away from historic procedure and actively encourage constructive feedback
- ✓ Provide more clarity to members and parents on our accounts and finances, whilst actively seeking engagement from all parties on what best suits our needs and requirements

Our finances continue to operate separately from Beckenham Sports Club allowing us to closely track our income and ensure we have decent funds to invest in our future. Ensuring we remain financially robust not only means tightening budgets/spend, but also ensuring that everyone person playing is paying a subscription and all match fees are collected. We too, remain vigilant of the 'COVID' effect that could impact before or during the season, and therefore have taken a pragmatic approach to tightening our spend across the board

That said, we have prioritized improving the quality of coaching on offer to **ALL** our members and I am pleased to announce a couple of new appointments, which is very exciting for the season ahead

We retain **Mark Robinson** as Ladies Head Coach, in his third season at the club. Mark has transformed the L1 squad with two impressive seasons in charge and long may it continue. He shares a real desire and passion to grow the wider Ladies section, whilst actively pushing the young talent up through the sides, creating a great platform for future success.



Our first new appointment is **Sam Djavit** as Men's Head Coach for the coming season, as he now sets upon building his squad over coming weeks and progressively moving the squad forward. Sam has been involved previously at the club, both as a player and interim M1 coach, so knows how the club operates. EH Level 3 qualified he too has worked with JPRC and NAGs level, which was a real incentive for us to get him integrated within our junior setup. Sam will oversee the Boys Elite Academy, as well as working closely with younger age groups on a Sunday morning – overall a great appointment for the club!

Our final coaching appointment is **Juan Sanchez**, who joins both as the M1 overseas player and as a Club Development Coach. Juan, a prolific attacker, joins us from Royal Victory HC (Belgian Honor Division), where, other than playing, coordinated and helped run their junior program, also engaging in the wider community, to drive participation in the sport. We hope that Juan can replicate his success with us, delivering high performance sessions to both junior and senior age groups and bridging the gap between club and schools, to enhance our club profile and exposure.



New Kit Supplier:

The club's contract with current kit supplier Samurai duly expires in July 2020 and consensus amongst our members agreed it was time to source a new supplier, guaranteeing an online shop that was reliable and timely in getting kit dispatched once ordered. Subsequently, the club has entered into a 4-year agreement with Hawkin Sport (based in Berkshire) to stock and sell the latest range of Adidas Teamwear. Such an agreement eliminates any long lead times on ordering items and mitigates the club holding excess stock indefinitely.

There will be additional communications this week on where and how to order the new club kit, and we hope you agree that the bespoke designs and quality are a huge improvement on the kits of past seasons. Whilst not compulsory to buy, we encourage our members to at least consider purchasing a new club shirt.

All that is left for us to say, is please support your club! Think not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club. We have a small but dedicated committee; but without more volunteers, more engagement and skills support from our diverse membership, we are unable to move forwards. Please, if you can help in any way or might be interested in joining our fabulous committee, then do get in touch and I will happily discuss where you can positively make a difference.

Stay safe and well!

Many thanks

Mike Bluett (Chair, on behalf of Bromley & Beckenham HC Committee)