

Bloxwich Hockey Club - Information Leaflet for New Members - Season 2008-09

1. Introduction

Welcome to the Bloxwich Hockey Club. We all hope you will enjoy many years of hockey with the club.

This leaflet will provide you with some information about the clubs organisation and activities. It cannot answer every question you may have. So if there is anything you need to know, please ask - either your captain or any club member

2. Playing the Game

i) Teams

The club fields four Mens' and four Ladies' teams who play their matches on Saturdays. Teams contain players of all ages from the under 15s to seasoned veterans in their sixties and above. There are also matches for U18s, Over 35s, Over50s and Mixed XIs on an occasional basis depending on numbers. There is no Indoor XI at present.

Most of the Saturday teams play in leagues with promotion and relegation. The Men's 4th XI plays 'friendlies'

ii) Venues

The majority of matches are played on astroturf. An occasional match may be on grass. The club's principal 'home' astroturf pitch is at the Sneyd Community School, Vernon Way, Bloxwich. The club's 'clubhouse' for after match refreshments and social gatherings is the Bloxwich Stafford Road Sports Club (BSRSC) in Stafford Road, Bloxwich.

iii) Selection

Selection is based on a player's skill and fitness for the standard of hockey to be played. In the higher teams attendance at coaching, though not compulsory, is expected.

Details of games are listed by team in the club's fixture card. A copy is issued to every member. Each team captain contacts their players during the week before the game to confirm availability and provide match details e.g. venue and start time

Note: it is a player's responsibility to give their captain advance notice of non-availability and to advise as early as possible if they have to 'cry off' after selection

iv) Matchday

Players can make their own way to and from games, or travel with fellow team members from BSRSC and back. Transport is normally by players' own cars. Any player providing transport for others from BSRSC is entitled to receive petrol expenses at the club's agreed rate.

v) Coaching

Coaching is available for players of all skill levels. The main coaching session is on Tuesday evenings at Sneyd school:- Ladies: 6.30-9.30pm; Men 7.00-9.00pm and is open to all members. There is a small charge. There is special coaching for juniors at Sneyd on Sunday mornings 10.00-11.30am. The coaching sessions are run by qualified coaches.

vi) Kit

Players are expected to provide and maintain their own playing kit including a hockey stick. They should wear the official club colours for matches. Club shirts, socks and tracksuit can be purchased from the club treasurer who will supply prices on request. Goalkeeping kit is supplied by the club.

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3. Finance

i)Subscriptions and Match Fees

Members pay an annual subscription plus a match fee. There are different rates for different age groups. These are listed in the fixture card. New members pay a reduced subscription in their first year. There are discounts for early payment and introducing new members.

If any member runs into difficulties over paying the subscription, they should speak to the treasurer, as extended payment periods can be negotiated

Note: The club does not pay its players to play. In exceptional circumstances the club will pay expenses. These are on a case-by-case basis and must be agreed with the treasurer in advance.

ii)Sports Club Membership

It is a condition of membership that a club member also becomes a member of the club's 'parent' organisation the Bloxwich Stafford Road Sports Club (BSRSC) for which there is a small additional annual fee. Members are entitled to join the other sports played at the BSRSC - cricket, bowls, rugby and snooker - and to use the clubhouse in Stafford Road Bloxwich as a social amenity.

ii)Insurance

The club has general insurance - for details, ask the treasurer -but you will need to make your own arrangements for personal insurance

4. Junior Members

i)Child Welfare

The club is very mindful of its responsibilities towards its junior members. It has introduced a child welfare policy incorporating the England Hockey guidelines and has appointed two child welfare officers. Coaches and team captains have attended the recommended child welfare course and have been screened for their suitability for working with young people.

ii)Parental Responsibilities

Parents and carers are very welcome to attend matches and coaching sessions. Indeed the club is keen to involve them in all its activities on and off the pitch. Parents are expected to sign a parental consent authorising their child's participation in club activities and to make arrangements for their children to travel to and from coaching sessions and matches.

Each captain carries a parent/carers list with contact 'phone numbers in case of an emergency during a match.

5. Communications

i)What's happening

The club issues all members with a newsletter ('70 Minutes') normally three times a year. It contains club news, details of coming events and general information. This is sent by post, but is also available to view on the club's own web-site, 'www.bloxwichhockey.com'. This contains news and information about the club including match reports and league tables.

The club's e-mail address is 'Bloxwich.hockey@ntlworld.com'.Details of events are also displayed on the BSRSC notice boards.

ii>Contact Details

Every player must ensure that the club has their contact details (e.g. 'phone nos, e-mail address, postal address) and inform the club when these change. Remember, if the club doesn't know where you are, it can't contact you

The club may give these details to BSRSC but will not pass them to any outside body.

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6. Organisation

The club is organised and managed according to its constitution. This is agreed by the club's members at the AGM. A copy of the constitution is available from the secretary.

The club is run by an appointed management committee of the club's officers. It meets monthly. Minutes of its meeting are also available from the secretary. The officers are elected annually at the AGM. All players can, and should, attend this meeting.

Each team is run by a captain, also elected by the AGM. The captain is the normally first point of contact for any member with a problem/query. However, any officer can be approached with a problem or any issue for consideration by the committee.

The club fixture card contains a list of all the club's officers.

Any member can become an officer; just put your name forward at the AGM.

If you want to know what all the many officers do, there are details on the website. There are also photos of many of them - you have been warned.

7. Supporting your club

i) Coaching and Umpiring

The club is dependent on qualified coaches and umpires to support its activities. Some are hired, but most are members providing their time when not playing in a match. The club will pay for the training of any member who wishes to become a qualified coach or umpire; in return that member is expected to give their services to the club when not playing.

The club will also support any member who decides to make coaching or umpiring a 'career path' instead of playing.

ii) Social events

These take place throughout the year and cover a wide range of activities including special matches, music nights, meals, race nights, quizzes etc.. It is hoped that all members will want to attend some of them. The club is reliant on its members both for ideas for events and to assist in their organisation. So if you want to help just tell someone.

iii) Volunteering

Members have a wide range of skills, qualifications and interests. Many are often useful to the club (E.g. first aid, coaching, helping out at socials). If there is any way you can help the club, the club will be delighted to hear from you. Also if the club asks for your help please try to assist. If every member gives a little the club gains a lot.

8. Code of Conduct

Bloxwich Hockey Club exists to provide members with opportunities for playing hockey.

In return all members have a responsibility to contribute to the running and well-being of the club to enable this to remain possible. The responsibilities to be followed by the club and its members are contained in its Code of Conduct which is printed in the fixture card. Please take the time to read it

Well done. You've reached the end of this leaflet. Hopefully it has been of interest and use

If you have any suggestions for its improvement please pass them to the secretary.

Enjoy your playing days with Bloxwich