


FRESH.

forest, reddish, edgeley, stockport, hadfield

NEWSLETTER

STOCKPORT HOCKEY CLUB



Issue 1
April, 2007

a F.R.E.S.H start

As it is Easter Time perhaps this is an opportune moment for the decision to finally be made at the April League meeting that Forest, Reddish, Edgeley, Stockport and Hadfield Hockey Clubs come together creating a new 'Stockport Club'.

The disappointing news is that Heaton will not be joining us as they wish to '*go it alone*' and we wish them well. Perhaps it was meant to be, as to keep our history 'alive' you will note that the initials of all of our Clubs put together conveniently spell 'fresh' – fresh ideas, fresh faces, fresh start and what a great title for our newsletter!

In our first edition of FRESH we would like to feedback the initial findings from the recent questionnaire and start to establish what will be an important communication channel to players during the 'closed' season.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and please email any feedback you have to info@stockporthockey.co.uk – all comments positive or negative gratefully received or email any ideas or questions you would like covered in future editions.

Our Future – Questionnaire Feedback

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete a questionnaire - we had a fantastic response which has provided us with really useful information from you for taking us forward.

We will be entering 4, possibly 5 teams in the Manchester league and there was a strong trend in your responses towards trials being the fairest way to select the 1st team. There were split views on selection of the other team's between trials and keeping teams/social groups together. Whatever way teams are established it is very likely that you will still be playing along side other players from your club – so please do not worry!

Almost 100% of you indicated that you thought to be selected for the 1st or 2nd team you should have to attend training. This is a great measure that players are committed to improving their skills and will encourage us to ensure we provide structured training delivered by qualified coaches.

Another important area was the interest shown in becoming a coach, young leader, umpire and/or first aider and we will be looking at what courses are available or looking at running our own courses in due course where we have sufficient interest.

Those of you who have indicated that you aspire to playing at a higher level e.g. county will be sent details as and when they become available at the start of the next season. If you didn't indicate this and would like to receive details send your name, address and email details to info@stockporthockey.co.uk – it's not too late and this is in addition to playing league hockey.

Stockport Hockey Club - What Next.....?

We are in the process of pulling together a task and activity plan of what needs to happen, by when and by who. We will be attending the Manchester League AGM on the 23rd April, 2007 and holding a follow up meeting on Wednesday 25th April to go through our plan – please feel free to come along, meeting will be held at Stockport Cricket Club at 7.30pm. Although we are excited by the opportunities the future will offer we don't underestimate how much work there is to do.

Presentation Evening

The Presentation Evening is on Friday 18th May, 2007 and tickets are available from your current team captain or club secretary, priced £6.

The **venue has changed** and is no longer the Heaton Moor Tennis and Bowling Club – due to unforeseen circumstances the venue is now **The Powerleague**, Heaton Mersey, Stockport Tel: 442 9988.

7 A-side Hockey

To start as we mean to go on, there is 7 a-side hockey for all players in the Stockport League regardless of what club you currently play for.

The sessions are 6.45pm-8.15pm every Thursday at Werneth School on the astro-turf. These will commence on Thursday 5th April through to the end of June 2007. Just turn up any Thursday, the more the merrier and pay as you play - only 50p per session and free if you are aged under 18.

EuroHockey Nations Championships

Women & Men at Belle Vue, Manchester...18-26 August 2007

August 2007 will see the top eight men's and women's European teams from 11 nations come together to battle it out for the honour of being crowned European Champions. The tournament offers a direct qualifying route to the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and England will be keen to capitalise on their home advantage in front of a vociferous crowd! Tickets are priced from just £5 and available on www.eurohockeymanchester2007.com

Youth Games

Youth Games training for U13's and U15's commences at Werneth for the girls on Thursday 12th April 2007 and at Bramhall for the boys on Sunday 15th April, 2007. The training is weekly leading to trials for the final team in May. The Youth Games takes place on Saturday 30th June, 2007 at Belle Vue and let's hope we bring the 'gold' back to Stockport!

Charity Fundraising

There was £24 raised at the Quiz Night on 16th March, 2007 for Red Nose Day.

Our 2nd Charity Tournament on Saturday 24th March, 2007 raised over £400 through tournament entrance fees, raffle, tombola, cake stall and gift aid. This is a fantastic amount and thank you to everyone who donated tombola/raffle prizes, baked cakes (someone's 93 year old grandma makes the most fantastic butterfly cakes ever!) or helped out in any way on the day – well done!

It was noted that the final match of the day was sabotaged to stop Team 2 taking the title – at one point it was 18 players against 11. Although Team 5 stole the trophy they still could not get a goal against Team 2 who maintained a clean sheet as well as their dignity!

As we did last year, the money was again donated to Beechwood our local cancer care in Stockport.

Sports Dinner

The annual Sports Council Dinner is on Friday 20th April, 2007. If you would like tickets or further details please contact:-

Brenda Hopkins on 07736 780495.

Forthcoming Meetings...

23/4/07 - M/cr League AGM
25/4/07 - Stockport Hockey Club Meeting
20/6/07 – Stockport League AGM