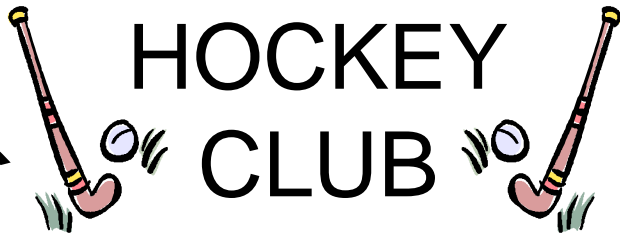


FRESHers!

forest, reddish, edgeley, stockport, hadfield

JUNIOR NEWSLETTER

STOCKPORT HOCKEY CLUB



January, 2008

Happy New Year!

I can't believe it's 2008 already! As we enter the start of our second term of junior hockey at Werneth School, I thought I would provide an update on all the activity that's been going on and produce a Newsletter to make sure you have important dates for the next few months!

In September, 2007 Stockport Hockey Club took on responsibility for providing junior hockey at Werneth after the Local Area Network Funding finished last season. Our start up funds were boosted with a £500 contribution from the Werneth Area Committee (your local councillors) towards the cost of hiring the astro-turf and with the support of our regular volunteer coaches and young leaders we have kept our fees very low in comparison with other clubs to make hockey as accessible to as many young players as possible.

So who are Stockport Hockey Club? A clue is in the title of this newsletter, we are a merger of five small hockey clubs who used to form the Stockport & District Women's Hockey League. The league was in existence for over 80 years in Stockport but as new policies and practices regarding children in sport were being introduced we proactively made a decision for five clubs to become one to keep hockey going in Stockport. Our senior ladies teams have had a fantastic start to the season and at various stages throughout the season we have held top spot in all 3 Division's in which we are represented in the Greater Manchester League – not bad going for our first season, but there are a few more games to play before final positions will be known. Although we currently do not have a men's team we do offer junior hockey for boys as well as girls.

A last minute decision by the Club at the start of the season was to enter a 5th team into the Greater Manchester League (women) to provide a development opportunity for young, talented players who just need more game experience. This team is primarily our future and there to provide a feed into our higher teams – there are 10 regular players aged under 15's in our 5th team squad all with so much potential. There have been no embarrassing results for the young 5th team and we even celebrated our first win just before Christmas so well done to everyone who has played so far.

Greater Manchester Junior League

With entering a 5th team into the senior league to provide regular 11 a-side hockey, we have this year only entered U13 boys and U13 girls into the Greater Manchester Junior League. Their first tournament was on 6th October, 2007 at Belle Vue. Both the boys and girls teams were very young U13's and it showed when on the pitch in terms of size before a ball was hit! The boys had a successful afternoon and secured 2 wins, a draw and lost 1 match. The girls played one player short and whilst they held their own against some tough competition they didn't quite manage to win any matches. The junior league takes place at Belle Vue and the next tournament is Sunday 3rd February, 2008 so please check your diary and let me (Andrea) know if you can play or not.

Stockport Hockey Club Website www.stockporthockey.co.uk

International Fixture!

OK, not quite but Stockport Hockey Club will be hosting 2 junior teams from Ireland for fixtures on Saturday 15th March, 2008. They are U14 girls so if you are in years 7, 8 or 9 you can play in these 11 a side games which will take place at Werneth. First game will be at 10.30am and the 2nd game will be at 11.45am and ideally players will stay for both fixtures and there will be refreshments following the games. Please check your diary and let me know that you can play.

Friendly Away Game

This is a mixed team which means boys and girls can play. I have organised a visit to Westleigh Hockey Club on Saturday 2nd February, 2008 as like us, they have started a junior section and want some match experience. Again the age is U14 boys and girls and we would meet at Werneth School at 10 am and travel together.

Junior Training

Training takes place every Thursday and as we coach on the astro-turf it takes place regardless of the weather as some of you have found out recently! Please turn up as a little rain (OK, a lot of rain!) won't hurt you, you just get wet ;-)
Training also does not stop during half term so unless you have a hot date on 14th February, then come to hockey – better still bring your date along with you!! Junior training starts at 6pm until 7.15pm and it helps if juniors turn up on time for the warm up which is as important as the skills and game that follows.

Important Dates

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2/2/08 | Under 14's mixed team match at Westleigh. 10.00 am meet at Werneth School |
| 3/2/08 | Under 13 boys and U13 girls Belle Vue, 12.30pm-4.30pm |
| 15/3/08 | U14 girls v Irish Teams at Werneth. 10 a.m. meet. |

Confirm your availability ASAP for these fixtures to Andrea on 0161 217 2037 or 07786 902478 or info@stockporthockey.co.uk

Please note Andrea has changed her name from Andrea Getcheffsky to Andrea Boulton

Thank You

A **BIG** thank you to John Bates (parent) who kindly provided a mouth shield session for players to have made to measure gum shields at very competitive prices. Another session will be organised in the near future.

Utility Warehouse...

Stockport Hockey Club has recently joined the Utility Warehouse Discount Club, who are part of Telecom *plus* PLC and already provide utilities (gas, electric etc) to over 200,000 households and businesses throughout the UK. They guarantee to save you money on these services compared to most other suppliers, and what's also great is that they put all your utilities on one clear and easy monthly bill.

The great news is not only will you save money on your utilities but our hockey club will receive up to 5% of every single monthly utility bill from everyone in our club who joins the Utility Warehouse. And if we all take part, then we will have created a substantial additional monthly income which goes towards paying for things such as pitch hire and much needed equipment.

The joining part is easy and a letter explaining how will be distributed over the coming week and with recent announcements by many utility providers that prices are going up we urge you to support this initiative as it will cost you nothing to enquire as even the phone number you call is free phone - it couldn't be simpler!

This is an incredible opportunity to raise much needed funds for Stockport Hockey Club and helps us keep our fees down so it's a definite 'win' 'win' situation.

Watch out for the letter coming home and thank you to Mark D'Souza (parent) who has been driving this fund raising initiative for us, if it's good enough for the police force then it's good enough for our Hockey Club ;-)

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Reminder to those juniors who agreed to pay their fees in 2 instalments – your 2nd instalment of £30 is due now. Cheque should be payable to Stockport Hockey Club. Any problems let Andrea know. Thank you!