



Message from the Chair

2020/21 New Season Brief

Firstly, as the country moves into the next stage of the Pandemic I hope I find you all well – it's been an extraordinary time for society with quite a few challenges and I genuinely hope you have been able to navigate these safely and securely.

In terms of hockey, we joined the rest of the country in complete lockdown in March, ending the league season prematurely and having to cancel and postpone events such as our Awards evening and AGM. The Summer leagues were cancelled, and only over recent weeks have protocols been agreed at England Hockey level to allow us to return to doing what we are here to do and enjoy – playing hockey!

That said over the lockdown period the club's committee (my thanks to them all) have been having regular meetings embracing new communication methods via Zoom which was also used for the postponed AGM where we made good progress on really interesting subjects like constitutional reform, club strategic direction and of course electing a new committee (!!).

Much more importantly however we have been able to monitor the progress towards allowing us back to the hockey pitch to, COVID-19 compliantly, train and play. The good news is we are just about there now in that England Hockey have approved level 4 participation (regulated training and intra/inter club friendly games) and are confirming level 5 which is the commencement of league games from late September (ladies) and early October (men's).

That said, please be assured that if the risk of participating exceeds the risk levels we are comfortable with, we will move back in the process – what is of paramount importance is your safety and that of your families. This is not negotiable.

So, now we have a route back to playing.....

Welcome to the 2020/21 Season!!

There are quite a few things to cover off in this note if you don't mind so given my propensity to rattle on the feedback I've received is to try to keep it brief so here we go in bullet point fashion:

- Firstly, please make sure your hottest favourite is the South Nottingham Hockey Club (SNHC) website <http://www.southnottinghamhockeyclub.co.uk/> where all the information below can be found
- This season we have one ladies team who will play in the league they have been promoted to (well done ladies!) and four (yes that is four) men's sides, three of which will play in their respective leagues (including the other promoted team – the men's 2nd XI) with the 4th XI

playing in a friendly league with local clubs – watch out for requests to double up on occasion please

- The season starts soon – training on Thursday 10th September currently planned at Ratcliffe School 18:30-20:00 and then from Thursday 17th September at Bingham 19:30-21:00. League games commence for the ladies on the 26th September and men on the 3rd October. Between now and then we have a number of friendlies lined up for most if not all teams.
- To train and play you must be registered via two separate websites please – firstly for COVID-19 compliance with England Hockey at:
https://forms.office.com/FormsPro/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NvkYmuiQxU--asEa8eSc6g-NqKCAUipGoe_luyiEaiZUMIE4NUVKRDZENzJGNUtNVEE5NVIXME9ETC4u
and secondly as a SNHC member via our website – these are mandatory please and amongst many other things are required for insurance purposes. Thank you.
- Subs as per the SNHC registration process are due and need to be paid by the end of October via bank transfer please. We won't be able to select players for games after the end of October unless they have paid their subs. Thank you.
- Junior training starts on 27th September 10:30-11:30, Bingham. There remains no charge for junior training but an adult must register the junior on the SNHC website above please. For any junior queries please mail andy.wallace@eisconsultants.co.uk
<https://snhc.clubbuzz.co.uk/join>
- As per the last few seasons we will be employing the services of MT13 who will provide two DBS checked and qualified coaches at each training session including the Juniors.
- In terms of training times, selection, games times, travel, team conversations, general banter etc., I strongly recommend you all use the Teamer and WhatsApp Apps which are widely used across the club – please make sure you join the appropriate WhatsApp group – if in doubt, join the lot!
- Importantly to comply with COVID-19 regulations we must all read and comply with the club's risk assessment supported by FAQ's.
https://snhc.clubbuzz.co.uk/members/snhc_club_covid_19_info
Complicity is your own personal responsibility please so don't forget those sanitisers, your own water bottle...you know the form. Thanks.
- For track and trace a register will be available at every training session and game – whilst a club member will be taking names and contact details it's your responsibility to make sure you are registered at each event please.
- Watch out for away games (don't forget to travel compliantly) where other clubs may require you to read and conform to their own COVID-19 risk assessments.

- Don't forget to come changed to all training sessions and games – there will be no changing rooms or teas and very limited other facilities.
- Again, to help with COVID-19 the plan is for each individual to be given a numbered shirt (home and away) to wash and look after. Captains will register who has each shirt, please look after them, we will need them back and they are expensive.
- We are always looking for new members/players and whilst we have grown by a few teams over recent years we are ambitious and want to grow our numbers so if you know anybody who might be interested I encourage you to bring them along and introduce them to the best family orientated club in the county!
- Finally(!) we have a new kit supplier – Mad Dog in West Bridgford who have been very keen to have our business so for all your smart SNHC branded hoodies, track suits, woolly hats etc. please feel free to pop in and boost the economy a bit further. They will be happy to put the club's logo on and your initials if you so require. The more requests they get the more stock they will get in so please shop away! When a shop link is available the SNHC website will be updated and the link circulated.

So, plenty to catch up on and apologies for the long message but the important thing is that we are back and I for one am looking forward to getting back on the pitch – hope you are too.

Let's be safe and enjoy!

Regards

Simon

Simon Recaldin, Chair, South Nottingham Hockey Club