

21 August 2015

*Dear Buccaneers,*

## **A NEW SEASON - 2015/16**

- Welcome.** A warm welcome to the 2015/16 season whether you are a player, coach, manager, umpire, volunteer, supporter or hockey widow / widower! A special welcome to new members - we are delighted to have you onboard and look forward to meeting you on the pitch or in the new Clubhouse, more of which in a bit. Hopefully, everyone is having a great summer, keeping fit and enjoying the pre-season training programme.
- Communications.** Please find attached our pre-season Newsletter produced by Nik Richardson the Club Secretary, it contains loads of useful information. As does the Club website [www.teambathbuccaneers.co.uk](http://www.teambathbuccaneers.co.uk) where you can find links to the Club's Facebook, Twitter and Youtube ('TBB TV') sites. If you haven't already done so, please subscribe to these; you don't need to post but we send out lots of information on social media and feature match highlights on TBB TV and we don't want you to miss out.
- Club Information.** After a successful season across the Club last year, this year also promises to be really exciting although we are aware that we face some important transitions and challenges. The great news is that 4 of our teams (Mens Bs, Ladies 2s, 3s and 5s) have been promoted to higher leagues and we wish them well, along with all of our Mens, Ladies, Masters and Junior sides. As last year, our aim is to achieve approximately 3 promotions<sup>1</sup>, consolidate across all other teams and have fun. Also a reminder of our newly produced [Club Code](#) that summarises what being a Buccaneer is about.
- There are a few other important things to highlight for the new season:
  - New Clubhouse** – 'The Lime Tree' facility (next to the bus stop and car park E) is the new location of our new Clubhouse. This is a great venue, so please encourage your teammates and the opposition to share a post match drink with you.
  - Membership** - This season the Club will be clamping down on those who are not registered or who have not paid their Subs; this is unfair on others so please don't be one of the small number of people who let their fellow members down. If you do not know how to do this, please contact your Team Manager or Membership Secretary.
  - Selection** - the intention is for all Teams to conduct selection using the website which means that all players will receive automated selection emails. It is therefore vital that all players are correctly registered on the website. If in doubt, contact your team Captain or Membership Secretary.

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<sup>1</sup> Target teams: Mens and Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XIs, Mens Indoor 1<sup>st</sup> XI, Mens Bs, Mens Es.

**U18s Playing Senior Hockey** – we are continuing our push to welcome more 13 – 18 year old Junior Academy members to Senior Hockey. These young players are the future of our Club and, as we do this, we ask that all Managers, Coaches and Players do all they can to make our young players feel welcome in their teams.

5. **Coaching and Development.** We welcome several new additions to the Club's wonderful Coaching team this season including Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI Coach and Assistant Club Head Coach John Sterlini, Ladies 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Coach Katie Ridewood and Junior Academy Director and Goalkeeping Coach Angus Ross. We also lucky to have a number of new Team Managers at all age groups and are very grateful for the important role they have volunteered to undertake for the Club. Full details can be found in the Members section of the website. As you may have seen, the Club has introduced a new Coaching Framework that supports the recently launched England Hockey Coaching Pathway and new UKCC Coaching courses. The Club will be supporting this new approach and England Hockey will be running coaching courses at the University for coaches and players who do not have time to do a full course. If you are interested, please let Angus Ross or Heber Ackland know and we will add you to the list. Finally, for those of you who wish to, you can find the link to the [Player Development Questionnaire](#) for you to complete if you wish to do so.

7. **Let the Season Begin!** The first major event of the season is the **TBBHC 'Hockey Fest'** which take place on Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Sept and in which Clubs across the country are participating in to mark England hosting the Euro Hockey Championships. This is open to male and female players over the age of 14. There will be lots going including the Mens and Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI Tournament, a pitch-side marquee with food and entertainment, Hays Sticks Hockey in attendance and Dave Roper will be taking team and individual photographs for the website. There will also be a start of season social in the Lime Tree from 5.30pm onwards so don't miss out!. Full details on the website and Facebook.

We look forward to seeing you pitchside soon!

*Jody Paul*

Head Coach

*Heber Ackland*

Director of Hockey