

April 2009

End of Season Round Up



BERKSHIRE HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION

2008/9 County Season Over!

Dear Parents and Players

Please enjoy this mix of news, facts and diary notes.

We have now come to the end of the County season and my first season as President.

I hope you've all enjoyed and benefitted from the training and matches and I'm sure you will join me in thanking all of our coaches and the Squad Managers who I believe have done a magnificent job. We also mustn't forget the umpires who never let us down, many of whom turned up at the venues in the February frost

only to declare the pitches unplayable!

Finally I applaud all those parents (and grand-parents) and supporters who turned to cheer on the teams or played their part in delivering players fit to go for their matches. When you look at it, it's been a real team effort!

We will give a thorough review of the season at our Celebration Evening held in June where our successes will be celebrated along with awards for some of our best performers in the season. I hope you will join us all for the eve-

ning, details of which are currently being finalised and I will send to you shortly

In the meanwhile enjoy whatever you're planning to do in the break between the County hockey season, we will miss you and look forward to seeing you in September.

Best Regards

Paul Dunn-Sims

President

president@bhacademy.org.uk

JDC and JAC 2009/10

Some parents have already been asking about next season and what we are planning to do to build upon what we've achieved this year. In short the answer is **more and better!**

We feel that a lot has gone right but that a lot more could be achieved. It has been a challenging year of transition to the new England Hockey system, made more difficult by the South's decision to schedule matches through the middle of our JDCs and then to rearrange the remaining matches through the freezing cold of February and March.

Next year we will all be working to a Centralised Calendar that gives us Sept-December 2009 for our JDCs and 9 weeks in January-March to prepare for our competitive matches. Our aim is to win another 50% more matches next year principally through better management of our coaching resources and a programme of friendlies that will prepare the teams better for the "heat of battle".

We believe the improved results at the end of the season have proven our belief that with structured coaching team, good quality

coaching and regular sessions we can compete with the best. However, we accept that our JDC programme was not as good and suffered greatly from the newness of the concept as well as the imposition of the matches.

We are currently finalising the changes to the programme and this is where we expect to improve significantly next season. We shall be writing to all of you as successful JAC level players in the next week to inform you of the programme and the nomination process.

Do you have photos from this season?

We would love to receive copies of any photos you have of matches and players from this season for either the website or to show at the Celebration Evening. Please send to president@bhacademy.org.uk

JRPC Best Wishes

For those players at Under 14s and above, the JRPC programme run by the South will shortly be upon us. May I encourage all of you to enjoy the experience and for those lucky (and talented) enough to go through the JRPC programme, to take advantage of the coaching available as well as the opportunity to play with the best.

We look forward to you bringing all these new skills and experiences back to us for next season.

U17s to Fight Again?

We would like to thank all the U17 and U18 boys and girls for their efforts over the past few seasons for the County and wish them well as they graduate to senior hockey.

The U17 girls excelled all expectations in their results, earning themselves the nickname of the "Gladiators" for their spirited fightbacks. In their final season they proved to be a credit to all the County. The boys calendar suffered in the transition to the new system with no U17 championship and only a tournament late in March where their results were creditable.

We don't want to lose either the Boys or the Girls so we have been lobbying the South to see if we can arrange a few matches and settle some old scores. Although no details have emerged it seems likely that this will happen, although whether it is a tournament or a league we do not yet know. Please let me know if this is of interest to you.

BERKSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
www.berkshirehockey.org.uk

Good Luck to New Coaches

As a part of our development programme for the coaching resource in the County, we are pleased to have seven sponsored new coaches currently on their Level 1 Coaching qualification course. All have them have committed to working as an Assistant Coach at JDCs next season under the guidance of one of our more experienced coaches and we look forward to their input next season.

If you are/have played hockey to a decent level and would like to consider taking up coaching for County level junior players, then please contact Allan Jobling at dircoaching@bhacademy.org.uk.

We are also currently considering running a Hockey Leadership Award programme which might appeal to our older players (16+) and parents with little hockey experience. This offers a course to develop basic knowledge of the key areas of hockey (umpiring, coaching and managing) please contact Paul to express interest.

Summer Hockey Camp Advance Notice

We have been working with our friends at Reading HC on summer camps and they will be announcing their programme shortly, but as a diary note, a special 2 day programme for County level players (U12-U18) is provisionally booked for 28th and 29th May. We will forward full details when they arrive.

Parents, Want to Feel Needed and Valued?

None of you need feel left out of this newsletter!

Some of you will have noted how lean a management team we have run with for this year. While it has enabled us to introduce a number of important changes, we know that it is not good for the organisation to depend on so few.

After learning our lessons in running JDCs and JACs, next year's strategic plan agreed with England Hockey includes developing the strength of the BHA Management Team.

Ideally we would like to appoint 2 new Vice-Presidents to the Management

Team; A Vice President for Girls and a Vice President for Boys, principally to act as co-ordinators with the various Squad Managers. Tracey, our administrator will continue to handle the bulk of the admin. related tasks and pitch co-ordination for JDC and JAC activities but someone to act as a liaison point for the squad managers would be extremely helpful and mean that the job becomes easier for all concerned, while allowing me to do more.

We are also short of a Secretary for the Association, also sitting on the Management Committee. Correspondence is limited and mainly via email but forms a vital part of our relationships with England Hockey, South and other

external groups and Clubs. It does not require secretarial skills and has few time dependent tasks, and has been done by the President in addition to his other duties this year so it can't be too onerous!

For a chat about any of these roles contact Paul at president@bhacademy.org.uk.

Of course, if you don't fancy any of these roles but you're keen to help in other ways, then please contact us!. There are lots of other niceities that we could do if we had enough volunteers!