

Oxford City Stars - Junior Ice Hockey Club

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Newsletter - January 2010

Latest News

Happy New Year to everyone at Oxford Junior Ice Hockey Club. Here's wishing us all a successful year and season.

The recent recruitment drive has been a great success, with new players joining the teams and large turnouts for Stick & Puck and training sessions. More marketing material is being produced, and we now have a large banner displayed permanently in the ice rink which will be visible for skaters and spectators during public sessions and matches.

However - we need to keep going in order to ensure that we have full benches with spare capacity as we look forward to the next season and continue to increase our reputation and results.

We are continuing to see impressive performances and results across all of our age groups, some of the best the club has ever seen. There are many reasons for this, but ultimately it is down to the fact the children are playing better individually and as a team. Some of this credit must of course go to the managers, coaches and committee (after all, without their unpaid voluntary help, the club would not exist !) - but everybody in the club is extremely proud of how the teams and players are developing, particularly in the lower age groups.

Noticeable achievements in December were the U10/U12 team win against Isle of Wight where the score was 9 - 8 to Oxford, and the win by the U14 team against Bristol where Oxford recorded a healthy 11-3 win. In November the U16 team won both of their matches. In the first match of 2010 the Oxford U14 took on Milton Keynes in a challenge match (non league). We had to borrow some of their players as we were low on numbers, but still came away with a very impressive 12-2 win.

Most importantly is that these recent wins - the best results of the season so far for both of these teams - have been achieved **after** a couple of "good players" have left to join rival clubs. This really shows that winning the game is about having a good TEAM, good coaching and management, and the right mental attitude. Let's keep going and show these other clubs what Oxford is made of.

Recruitment Weekend - 16th & 17th January

We are going to be running another recruitment weekend on 16th and 17th January. We will have our information desk located in the main ice rink lobby / foyer area and will be passing out leaflets and generally trying to get the attention of potential new players and their parents. We will be offering free entrance to the Sunday Stick & Puck session (4.30-5.10pm Sunday 17th Jan) to novices / beginners who would like to try the sport out for the first time.

Please note that we NEED YOUR HELP to run events such as this. The committee is made up entirely of people who volunteer their time (and in many cases resources) for no other reason or incentive than wanting to help the club succeed. Some of the people on the committee don't even have children playing in the Junior team any more but still devote time to help out! We would like to see more parents and also some of the older children in the club volunteer some of their time to help out with the club and become more involved.

What can you do to help ... ?

- 1)** Speak to any committee member or coach / manager about ideas or suggestions you have to help the club out. Or even better, volunteer to help implement those ideas and suggestions. We need more "doers" not just "talkers" !
- 2)** Don't just drop your kids off and leave. Stay and help out.
- 3)** Give up a small amount of your time when we run events like these. If you can help on 16th & 17th by just standing near the desk and handing out leaflets and answering some very basic questions, it will make all the difference - rather than relying on the same small handful of people who always end up doing it. Even just helping for part of a session means that the "regulars" get to take a short break!

We need people at the following times;

Sat 16th 09.30-12.30 13.30-16.30 19.30-23.00

Sun 17th 09.30-12.30 13.30-16.30 (then stay for stick & puck)

Email russ@oxfordstars.co.uk if you can help out at this (or any other) event or wish to become more actively involved in the club in any capacity.

Registration Deadline for Match Eligibility

In order to be eligible to play in the current season, players must have submitted their completed registration to the club no later than Wednesday 27th January 2010. But don't worry if you join after that - you can still train and get ready for the brand new season.

Please keep recruiting and do all you can to bring new players in to the club. Our aim for next season is not to forfeit ANY games due to lack of player availability!

Spare Equipment / Kit

The club is always in need of, and is extremely grateful for, any donations of old equipment that you may have grown out of. If you would prefer to sell it then please speak to the club to see if it's something we would like to buy, but we would always request where possible that it is donated. The kit is then used to loan out to new players wishing to try the sport which in turn allows us to recruit more players on to the team. Absolutely anything you have sitting in the bottom of a cupboard or old kit bag will be gratefully accepted.

Welcome (and welcome back)

We would like to formally welcome the following new players who have joined us recently, including one very warm "welcome back" ;

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Misha Ogilvie-Park | Under 10 |
| William Fletcher-Bird | Under 10 |
| Alan Trinder | Under 10 |
| Macaulay Coppock | Under 12 |
| Ilya Muravyev | Under 12 |
| James Lindley | Under 12 <- welcome back ! |

Christmas Raffle Results

For a full list of draw winners, please see "Latest News" on our website. We are pleased to announce Jessica Lawrence as the winner for selling most raffle tickets, she wins a hockey stick courtesy of UltraWorld. In joint 2nd place were Theo Bundock and Tallie Shaw, who both receive a £15 voucher to spend with UltraWorld. The raffle was a great success and raised nearly £400 for club funds. Thanks to everyone who sold and bought tickets.

Girl Guides Visit

On Sunday 13th December a group of girls from Radley Girl Guides attended an organised visit during Stick & Puck to give the sport a try. Wendy Falkner from Radley Guides told us; *"An enormous thank you for organising the visit by 1st Radley Guides to the ice hockey on Sunday 13th December. They all really enjoyed the experience and at Guides the following week were telling all those who didn't go how great it was. Please pass on my thanks to your assistants on the day - without everyone's help this opportunity would not have been possible."*

If you are involved in any other clubs / schools etc and would like to arrange for a group of children to experience an organised "taster session", please get in touch by email or in person.

Thames Valley Summer League

Bracknell has recently announced that it will once again be running the successful Summer League programme. The league is set up to allow players from all teams in this region to mix with players in other teams and develop skills over the Summer period when there are no league games.

Many players from Oxford have attended in the past and all have enjoyed the experience tremendously.

Please see WWW.TVSL.BIZ for more information. **Please notify your coach and/or manager, out of courtesy, if you decide that you will be attending**

Website : www.oxfordstars.co.uk

Have you checked out our new website yet? You will find ;

- A new forum. Come and join and introduce yourself.
- Up to date statistics on league standings and fixtures.
- Latest news and information.
- A new gallery with lots of photos. If you have any good ones we can upload and use, please email them to us at "info@oxfordstars.co.uk".
- Downloadable forms, documents, etc.
- All sorts of other useful bits and pieces.

We recommend you check the website, as a minimum, once a week for important news or updates.

"Conference" Update

What is the "conference"? South West Conference is the representative team for our region. Other regions are South East, Midlands, North and Scotland. Players are nominated to trial by the Head Coach. Players are then invited to trial, some are cut at this stage but some go to the next trial. Again some are cut and some go to a final trial from which a training squad is selected - the "best of the best" in the region. This squad meet up for training regularly and may even play some challenge games. From the training squad a team is selected to compete at Conference weekend which takes place at Kingston-Upon-Hull the first bank holiday weekend in May. At conference weekend games take place between all conference regional teams at U11/13/15 and U17 age groups over the Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Usually players are selected from the weekend for England U13/14/15/16 trials and U18 GB trials.

Hamish Martin has been successfully selected for **South West Conference Training squad u13s**. He will train with the squad and take part in any challenge matches that may take place. From this squad, the conference weekend team will be selected.

James Francis-Barrie has made it through to the 3rd **South West Conference Trial u17s** on Jan 17th.

Talli Shaw, Jess Lawrence and **Josie Massara** are still in the running to be selected for the **South of England U16s girls**. They are all still training with the South U16s on the last Saturday of every month.