

Oxford City Stars - Junior Ice Hockey Club



Newsletter - November 2009

Latest News

This month we are pleased to announce that we have secured additional sponsorship from "InterHealth Canada", a global private healthcare provider based in Toronto but with a growing UK presence. They have donated £3,000 to the club for this season which we intend to use on purchasing some brand new well needed equipment / kit (at a discounted rate from another sponsor, "Ultraworld") for new players to use when trying out, and on advertising and marketing so we can ramp up our recruitment drives and boost up player numbers. You may have already seen our new flyers and stand in the rink foyer - this is just the beginning!



Oxford City Stars Junior Ice Hockey Club Under 10's & Under 12's Season 2009-2010

Christmas Raffle

All players have been given tickets to sell for the Christmas Raffle. The tickets cost just £1.00 each and there is a first prize of £250.00. All money raised from the sale of tickets goes straight back in to the club, so please do your best to sell as many as you can. In addition to the chance of winning £250.00 (obviously you need to buy a ticket for that, not just sell them!), the person who sells the highest number of tickets will be awarded a brand new Ice Hockey Stick, courtesy of Ultraworld.



Oxford City Stars Junior Ice Hockey Club Under 14's Season 2009-2010

Thinking of moving ... ? Think again !

Recently we have seen a few of our players leaving to join different clubs for a number of reasons. "They have better players", "They have better coaching", "They are doing better in the league", "They have better facilities", "They have sponsorship", "You need to play for them if you want to get selected for England", etc etc etc. Our response is honest, short and frank - **"What a load of rubbish!"**

We have players of all abilities and we let everybody get ice time. If you move to one of the "elitist" clubs, as we know from experience, you may end up sitting on the bench and not being given the opportunity to improve! Our coaches are all very able, and are trained and qualified to the same standards as those at any other club. Our performance in the league is good and we are constantly improving, particularly in the lower age groups where we are short - but growing - in player numbers. Our facilities may not be brand new and state of the art, but there are others much worse out there and the current management (Fusion) have committed to a programme of redevelopment and refurbishment. We have four sponsors and are actively speaking to other potentials. Players are just as likely to get selected to play for National or International teams no matter who they play for - it is the individual ability that matters. Scouts recognise and appreciate club commitment and value that more than "glory hoppers" who move to whoever is having a good season instead of being loyal and working on improving their own team.

Some coaches from some clubs (not ours!) are so intent on winning rather than concentrating on ensuring the children enjoy the game, they have even been known to try and "poach" players they see as a threat. Although this may be acceptable in the NHL, we strongly object to this behaviour in junior clubs. These teams would rather have such players sitting on their bench doing nothing than out on the ice scoring goals against them. Don't become a "bench warmer" for the opposition when you can be a star with the Stars!

The grass is not always greener on the other side, and we are already in talks with a number of players who have left for other clubs who want to come back to Oxford. **Over the next couple of seasons we are on track to expand substantially. Please support your local club and grow with us.**

(please turn over!)

Buying Hockey Equipment

We know that Ice Hockey Equipment is expensive - particularly when you buy brand new kit for your child just in time for their next growth spurt to start! There are a number of ways to keep the costs down. The first way is to speak to Steve Kellond from Ultraworld, trade suppliers of Ice and Street Sports Equipment. He gives very generous discounts to club members if you are looking to buy brand new. The second option is to see what second hand kit we have available for sale in the club. Some of this will be kit that has been used for hiring out to new players trying out, some will be kit that has been donated to the club to sell to raise funds, and some will be items that are for sale by other players or parents.



Oxford City Stars Junior Ice Hockey Club Under 14's Season 2009-2010

We are always in need of equipment for our store cupboard which we can use to lend/hire to new players, or to sell to raise club funds (when we have too many of a particular size/type of equipment). If you have any old equipment that you are no longer using, we would be very grateful for any donations of kit to the club. Alternatively if you wish us to place it in our "second hand kit for sale" section, just let us know.

Stay and Watch !

We all have busy lives. The parking costs at the ice rink are not cheap (but we are working on that - watch this space). But please please please do your best to come and support your child when they are training and, even more importantly, playing in matches. We continue to be surprised at how many parents drop their young children in the car park and then come back later, again waiting in the car park, to pick them up at the end of their training or matches.

The children love it when they have family and friends in to watch them, and they always seem to try harder when they know they have somebody to impress. We appreciate that not everybody is able to stay and watch, but if you are, please do so, and perhaps bring some family and friends along who may wish to have a go themselves !

Away Matches

Please do everything you can to ensure your children play in "away" as well as "home" matches. Already this season we have had to forfeit a number of games due to lack of player availability in away games. Training sessions are a great place to meet other parents who may just have a spare seat or two in their car for that next away match.

Social Networking Sites

Websites such as Facebook and Twitter can be very useful for keeping in touch and sharing information. We are aware that many of the players and club officials use such sites and have formed and joined various hockey related groups. Please note that none of these are official groups and we cannot be held responsible for any of the comments or discussions that take place by any individuals on such sites. For truthful and accurate information, please refer to our Junior website - www.oxfordstars.co.uk - or speak to a club official.

Junior Website Information

Please take time to have a look at our new Junior Stars website on www.oxfordstars.co.uk. It contains a lot of useful information that you may or may not already know, such as a list of committee members and coaches/managers, frequently asked questions, and downloadable forms and information pack.

Changing Room Clarification

There still seems to be some confusion about changing in the cafe area. It is **mandatory** that no player may change clothes outside of a changing room, but they may put on ice hockey kit. Although we prefer all players to put on their kit themselves in a changing room, we appreciate that some of the younger players are unable to do so - but absolutely nobody must be changing clothes outside of the changing rooms. The simple rule is "if you will be showing skin / underwear, it is not appropriate outside of a changing room!". Girls may use the Meeting Room, upstairs at the end of the "bar" area, if they prefer. Parents/guardians wishing to enter the changing rooms first need to be CRB checked and registered as an off-ice official. Please speak to a club official to arrange this, it's a very simple process and we even pay the registration fees for you.



Oxford City Stars Junior Ice Hockey Club Under 18's Season 2009-2010

Player Recruitment

We are continuously looking for new players in all of our age groups. In particular at the moment we need more players in the Under 10's, Under 12's and Under 14's.

If you know of other families who have children suitable for the lower age groups, please encourage them to come along and give it a try.

If you refer a friend who joins the club, you will receive a free month of subscription costs as a "thank you" from us.