

# Slazenger Junior Hockey

## News November 2006

### Special events for December & January.

**Christmas Party**, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 7.30 in the clubhouse.

Tickets are now available 2.00/Adults 1.00/Child includes free Raffle (All Prize donations welcomed). No food.

Anyone unable to get tickets from training, or at tournaments please phone Alan (01924 276397) to confirm numbers.

**7-A-Side mixed tournament**, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December. This is a Senior Slazenger Hockey club event. U14 & U16 players who are of a high enough standard may enter. Matches played all afternoon followed by a Disco & food in the evening. Tickets £5.00 whether playing or not, see clubhouse notice board for more details.

**End of year Tournament**, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December. (Good luck to the U10 Girls and U14 Boys who are away at Yorkshire League tournaments).

For all other members we will be organising a tournament 10.30 – 12.00 to which the younger group are invited to stay on for. Also there will be soft drinks and “nibbles” in the clubhouse for the kids afterwards.

**Parents v Kids**, Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2pm – 4pm (NO NORMAL TRAINING).

### Welcome new members.

We hope all our new and prospective new members are enjoying their hockey and we look forward to seeing them all develop their skills over the seasons yet to come. Thanks must go to Steve Wood and the local school staff he has been working with to introduce hockey into their sports sessions, not forgetting those members that have “spread the word” to friends e.t.c.

### Nice problem to have!

Not that many seasons ago some of Slazenger’s Junior’s were playing in more than their own age group, and a few attended more tournaments than training sessions. To a lesser extent for a few of our teams this is still the case. However the success and the speed at which our club is growing has created issues within some teams. We must apologise for the fact that we may find ourselves unable to give all members in every age group an opportunity to play tournaments in the Yorkshire Youth Leagues this season. Please rest assured where this is the case your committee is exploring other methods of giving these Girls and Boys competitive match experience by arranging friendly games either “in club” or “externally”. This issue was discussed in length at a recent committee meeting and we need to make our membership aware of two things:

1. Whilst effort will be made to include as many of you in the “squad” for tournaments it is the soul decision of the team secretary/manager who is invited to attend. In most cases this will be via a phone call to you through the week leading up to the tournament. Please understand all involved in your club are volunteers and hold your enjoyment and the sport of hockey close to their hearts. The decision to include you or not is theirs to make, but you should find all of them approachable if you wish to understand that decision, e.g. for this seasons new starters the acquisition of skills is paramount over tournament experience.

2. The committee will look to develop strategies to best suit our current and prospective future membership for both training and teams entered in league tournaments.

### Future “help”.

It is so nice to be involved in a club where help from “willing horses” is so easily offered. The numbers within our committee has grown along with the membership. The fact is that it HAS to. Without this years new and welcomed assistance Slazengers would not have being able to field as many teams as we have, indeed should these people not have come forward we may even have needed to close the doors to new kids. I know it may seem a long way off but please give some thought to next season. The only way any “strategy” to cope with more growth can work, is with more help.

### 12 O’clock club?

I suspect many of you are unaware the clubhouse is open from 12.00 noon on a Sunday. A few kids, parents and coaches already socialise briefly after training. We would welcome your views as to whether there is sufficient interest to perhaps develop a “12 O’clock” club. This would not be a ‘crèche’, younger children would need to have someone responsible for them present. What is thought could work is to organise cheap and cheerful events (e.g. Darts tournament) every 5-6 weeks (avoiding exclusion of the same “away” team more than once in a season). Food could be optional, Mavis puts on a very good meal at a fair price (no cooking on a Sunday Mums!). Maybe there is someone reading this newsletter that is unable to help “on the pitch”, but feels organising these events is right up their street. You would not need to be a committee member unless you wanted to be, someone would represent you should this be necessary.

### Congratulations and well done.

To all Slazenger Juniors who have been successfully selected for district trails: Samantha Brook, Lucy Ellis, Katie and Holly Firth, Ailish Hendry, Frankie Tyrrell and Chris Wood.

### End of season “Bash”

Please ensure you have the date of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2007 in your diary for our end of season presentation day. More details will follow nearer the time.