

BRAY HOCKEY CLUB NEWSLETTER

Welcome to 2011/12 season

Welcome to the 2011/12 season – Bray Hockey Club's nineteenth! I am delighted to be Club President and to be part of this year's committee which has a fantastic combination of long established and newly elected members. Already thanks is due to the new committee for all their work - fixtures have been set, training has begun, new shelves went up in the kit Room (thanks Enigma design), we hosted our first ever Summerfest Tournament, had plenty of fun at senior summer hockey sessions, worked hard at our fundraiser bag pack and enjoyed our Golf Day Classic. ...and the season hasn't even started!

Playing and developing hockey is our key focus and I would like to wish everyone the best of luck this year. Our Colts & Fillies (Junior) section continues to be very successful – we would love to see more of the next generation getting involved and our only limit is that we need more volunteers!

We always welcome new members so if you know anyone who might be interested in playing with us, do encourage them to come along to training and try us out. It would be great to see a mix of teams and ages of supporters at games so keep an eye on the website for fixtures and come and watch games whenever you can.

I would also like to thank our main club sponsor "The Martello" who not only continue to financially support the club but are invaluable in the way they help us with events and provide us with a pseudo senior clubhouse.

I believe that there's more to being part of hockey club than just playing and so with thanks to the support of the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership we launched our "Keep in Touch" initiative earlier this year. We were put through our paces at our "Bootcamp" sessions throughout the summer by Gavin Coyne of GC Fitness and Heather Storey and we hope to encourage more parents, family and friends to get involved, volunteer, coach or umpire through our planned open sessions which will be announced soon. We also have our "BHC Business Hub in the Club" and if you have any other ideas please do let us know.

I have been involved with hockey for years – I first played in 4th class, captained senior school teams (was even picked for Leinster Trials), joined Bray Hockey club in its early years and now get as much enjoyment out of being a supporter as trying to play.

So I hope that that you have a great season - whether you are involved as a player, umpire, coach, supporter or volunteer.

Be competitive, play fair, be supportive but most of all enjoy!

Sarah O'Connor

Club President

2011/12 Committee

President: Sarah O'Connor

Vice President: Fred O'Toole

Club Captain: Steve Jones & Caroline Kennedy

Fixture Secretaries: Stuart Collier & Sinead Lenihan

Colts & Fillies: Eoin O'Brien & Rowena Kehoe

Fundraising: Catherine Mahoney

PR: Roisin NiChearbhaill

Social: Emmet McGlinchey & Jessica Mulhall

Do we have your details?

Senior Membership registration form on

<http://www.brayhockeyclub.ie/membership.html>

Need to contact us?

See the full listing of this year's committee contact details on

<http://www.brayhockeyclub.ie/contact.html>

SUMMER 2011 – SOME HIGHLIGHTS Bootcamp, Summerfest, Backpack, Golf Day & New Shelves!



And the season begins

During the summer, the Men & Ladies and Southeast Branches merged and all the Senior fixtures have been set for the season. An up to date listing is available on their website www.leinsterhockey.org.

Please note that we are changing the criteria of the year end "top goal scorer" awards - we will now have one top goal scorer for the club (all senior teams, men & ladies, only one winner!)

Our junior section (colts & fillies) registered on September 3rd and hope you all enjoyed the first session September 11th. In order to ensure that the juniors get the maximum enjoyment from the game, groups will be formed based on which class they are in rather than their age so that they can all play with their classmates. We plan to host "coaching the volunteers" information sessions soon, so if you are interested in volunteering, please let Eoin O'Brien know.

TEXAS HOLD'EM

**SATURDAY 5TH
NOVEMBER**

20 EURO BUY-INS

10 EURO RE-BUYS

7.30 REGISTRATION

8.00 START

LATE BAR TILL 1.30AM



The Martello

Members' News

Firstly, as last weekend was Geoff Hingston's month's mind, the committee and club members extend their deepest sympathy, much love and support to Sinead and the extended Hussey & Kenna families.

Hello (baby) Boys!!

Congratulations to Kathy & Fred O'Toole on their new addition Zach who has already made his debut appearance at the pitch!

Congratulations to big brother Conor and Dave & Sarann Kennedy Wood "across the big pond" in America on the arrival of baby Jack.

And they come in threes... Congratulations to Erika & John Duggan on the safe arrival of Travis.

But there's more... Delighted for Fiona (White) & Adrian Tripp on the birth of their first child Ted

Keep this up and we'll have a whole new 2028 Mens squad ready by the end of the year!

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Audrey O'Sullivan & Daniel Gaffney who tied the knot last month.

Senior Team Trials & Training

We are delighted that the Leinster branch has agreed that the Men can submit a second team and so they will now play in Division 7 & 8.

In contrast, and after much deliberation, we have applied to withdraw our Division 1 ladies team as we do not have enough higher division players available this year. We will update you as soon as we have any news.

We wish all the girls the best of luck - e.g. Clodagh NiChearbhaill, Gemma Doyle, Lauren Kelly, Linda O'Neill and Sarah Coleman have emigrated / are travelling around the world and Nicole Geeves has returned to her native Tasmania.

We were very proud to have a team competing at the highest level - although it is disappointing to withdraw after all the years competing to get to the top of the game, we honestly believe that this is the best direction for the club to take this season.

On the plus side, this also means that we will be reallocating pitch training time and streamlining coaching according to team level. After the ladies team trials on Tuesday 13th September, we will announce the teams and plan on training as follows:

TUESDAYS

7-8.30 Ladies Div 11
8.30 - 10 Men
Ladies Div 3&8

THURSDAY

7-8.30 Ladies Div 11
8.30 - 10 Men
Ladies Div 3&8

Please note that it is important we all feel we are enjoying and getting the most out of our training, so as the squads settle these times may be subject to change.



HALLOWEEN MYSTERY BUS TOUR
MEETING AT THE MARTELLO
SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER
6.30PM
ARRIVE BACK TO THE MARTELLO AT 11.30
TO CONTINUE THE FUN AND
DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY
TICKETS 20 EURO

The poster features a QR code in the top right corner and an illustration of a colorful van with 'BHC' on the side. The background is orange and green.

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Social & Fundraising

Bray Hockey Club are about playing hockey, supporting each other and having fun. We try to ensure that membership rates are kept at an accessible level and so we need to fundraise to cover the shortfall for expenditure such as insurance, coaching and pitch hire.

A big thank you to everyone who helped at our backpack in Cornelscourt - it was such a success they have offered us another slot on **Friday 23rd December from 5pm to 10pm**. This is a fantastic fundraising opportunity so please email us if you can volunteer on the day (even for an hour).

We had a great time at our recent **Golf Day** so do check out the full list of sponsors on <http://www.brayhockeyclub.ie/sponsorslinks.html>

Our first ever "**Premiership last man standing**" competition has gone live and is open to everyone whether they are members or not so spread the word. Basically, for €15 you pick a winning team every week for 7 weeks (no repeats) and if you survive to the end you split the pot with BHC. Ask Steve Jones any questions or sign up to

<http://www.eventelephant.com/brayhockeyclubblastmanstanding>

We also enjoy some socializing so please do come (and bring your friends) to our events which are planned over the season such as:

Senior Halloween Mystery Bus tour on Saturday 29th October,

Junior Dress up tournament on Sunday 30th October

Texas Hold'em Poker Night Friday 5th November.

Part of the community

We are also involved in other initiatives and community projects listed below. If you are interested in getting involved or want more information, check out the website or talk to a committee member.

Keep in Touch (KIT) - facilitating umpiring & volunteering in the club with the support of Wicklow Local Sports Partnership. We are planning Wednesday morning fitness sessions from October which will be free to paying members and available to parents / non-members at a minimal fee.

Bray Local Schools Promotion Unit - bringing hockey to non-playing schools such as Bray School Project, St Kieran's, St Peters & Ravenswell over 6 weeks starting in October

Business Hub in the Club - supporting members & their families in business. If you are looking to source a product or service, please check out our business hub on our website first. Free listing to paying members.