

A word from your president

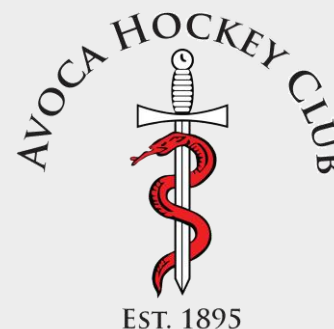
Hello fellow member,



The season has definitely kicked off with all teams back training, new teams introduced and exciting times ahead! Across the whole club we are seeing renewed passion and enthusiasm as everyone gets back to hockey and looks forward to competitive matches in the coming weeks. We have also introduced a number of new initiatives which are opening up hockey to more of our community as well as increasing options for all members. Below I have highlighted just some of these items and will share further details in the coming weeks and months.

Club update

Following on from our AGM, over the summer we hosted a 'Town Hall' meeting where we shared details of the club's set up and structure as well as further details in relation to possible future changes. As a result of feedback from this session in the coming weeks we will be hosting an open session to examine our 5-year plan and update people further on the progress we are making as well as future plans to support this. In addition, I will continue to share Club updates like these so please do let me know if there is anything you would like me to cover or include.



On the pitch.....

Junior section

Our Junior section has been back in force - with a huge appetite to play hockey, we have seen very high numbers re-joining for the season ahead and we are fully utilising our pitch space and times to ensure everyone has a great experience. Last Friday we also introduced Senior Infants to Hockey – the first time Avoca has offered hockey to this age group – and it was brilliant! Some of the pictures shared via social media highlight the thrill and excitement on the day however I would encourage you to call by Newpark between 6.15 and 7pm on Friday evenings to see this group on the pitch. In a new initiative we not only provided them with Avoca bibs but also gave them Avoca Hockey branded sticks – they loved them! Big thanks to the many volunteers who are helping to make the start of the season a great success for all. In the boys' section last Friday we ran the first of 4 free weekly 'try hockey' sessions. We attracted 35 new boys to the session and the atmosphere was so positive. Please do pass on details (available in ClubZap) to anyone you know who may be interested – we'd love to see them. We have also initiated a new Girls U18 group and look forward to developing this further throughout the year.

Senior hockey

On the Senior side our Men's and Women's 1s and 2s have been training for some time now and pre-season friendly results have been very positive. Following a highly successful schedule of summer hockey, we are also seeing the remaining senior teams return, motivated by the prospect of an actual match for the first time in many, many months! Please do contact Men's/Women's captain if you are not planning on returning this season so we can make appropriate plans. Vets hockey has been more active than ever before with the introduction of a second Women's Vets team, highly active Men's Vets section as well as a new cohort of Social Hockey members – really great to see. Our fantastic coaching team continues to develop skills and expertise to support all club members. Just last Saturday they held a 'coach the coaches' session which was very well attended and with new structures in place for this year, everyone will benefit from their growing knowledge and wisdom. Loads to look forward to from this team of experts who are such great ambassadors for Avoca.

Investing in our equipment

You will have seen coverage of Sports Equipment grants across all sports and we were thrilled to secure a significant budget to invest in Avoca Hockey Club. We are currently completing additional paperwork and look forward to sharing details of the new equipment which will be invested in to support all members. These grants require funding from our club so we will carefully manage what we purchase – needless to say, all will be very welcome additions.

Welcome to our new members

This year we have also welcomed many new members to Avoca Hockey Club from our new Senior Infants right through to returning Vets and Social players – you are all very welcome and we look forward to you becoming part our club and contributing to its success.



Avoca Subs and Hockey Ireland registration



This year Hockey Ireland kicked off a new initiative to ensure all hockey players in Ireland are registered with Hockey Ireland. Many clubs are asking their members to register (and pay) via Hockey Ireland. Within Avoca we have decided that **we will register all club players directly with Hockey Ireland and pay your registration fee** - in other words we will automatically register all Avoca members who have paid their subscription. If you have not done so already, please do pay your subscription online – all details available on ClubZap. Please note – only registered players will be able to play in matches.

Finally, best of luck for the season ahead and I look forward to seeing you on the pitch or by the side line.....love to have a chat and hear your feedback and ideas.

Yours in sport,

Ben Geoghegan

President, Avoca Hockey Club