

Paragon Valkyrs Hockey Club

Newsletter – December 2011

In this edition

Champions

We Need You!

Indoor Champions

Styx Cup

Umpire Course

Social events

50th Anniversary

Champions!!

As the mixed season draws to a close, Valkyrs HC have once again proven their worth in Island hockey, with our Mixed A team being crowned the WI-MANX Premier Mixed League Champions for 2011-12!

It was a close deciding match against the always formidable Bacchas A that saw Valkyrs claim the title. A well fought contest was deservedly won with Greg Miller's penalty flick conversion sealing a 2-1 Valkyrs victory.

The Mixed A team will be back in action on the 17th of December at the NSC, in search of more silverware against Vikings A in the Cup Final. The game starts at 2pm, so let's try and get as much support as possible on the sidelines!

Congratulations to all involved with these teams, from players and coaches, to the supporters that come and cheer our teams on in the freezing cold weather every week – a great start to our 50th Anniversary season!

Indoor Champions

Valkyrs continued their dominance of Indoor Hockey this week, winning two of three possible Indoor Cups at the NSC.

In a Valkyrs v Vikings showdown across the Ladies, Mixed and Men's finals, the Ladies were first up and despite some good hockey, they unfortunately lost to a strong Vikings Ladies team 7-1.

Brushing off the disappointment from the Ladies final, the Mixed team ended their match with a nail biting 7-7 draw, taking it to penalty strokes. After a high and wide miss from the first penalty, Valkyrs regained their composure to come out on top with a 3-1 win.

The Men's team continued an evening of success with a dominating 8-4 victory, retaining their indoor title and rounding up nicely an evening of success for Valkyrs HC. Congratulations to all those who took part!



Tickets are now on sale for the 50th Anniversary Dinner, to be held on Saturday 5th May 2012 at Mount Murray. Tickets will be available on a first come, first served basis so if you are wanting to attend, please email Jenny Walmsley at jennywalmsley@manx.net.

The price of a ticket is £30 for adults and £25 for students over 16 years (ticket includes a drink on arrival). Tickets will not be reserved until payment is received, which can be made to the following 100 Club account:

Valkyrs Hockey Supporters Association
55-91-00
10871829

When making your payment online, can you please put your name as the payment reference.

If anyone has any queries regarding the event or ticket payments, please contact Jenny.

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The 100 Club

Congratulations to this month's 100 Club Winners, Jonah Hull and Andy Johnston.

The 100 Club costs just £1 per month to enter, is extremely easy to set up and most importantly you have a chance to win cash every month!

If you aren't a member of the 100 Club and would like to join, please contact Jonah Hull on jonathanhull@manx.net or the details to set up a direct debit through your bank are:

Valkyrs Hockey Supporters Association
55-91-00
10871829

Styx Cup

2011 has flown by and with Christmas just around the corner, that means one thing only...Styx Cup!

The annual event will be back again this year, with lots of fun to be had working off excess Turkey and Mulled Wine consumption on Boxing Day.

The hockey will start at 2pm on the grass pitch at QEII and then the party will continue on to the Whitehouse from 4pm, where there will be some food on offer and the usual festive drinks around Peel.

If you think you're going to be able to make it this year, can you let Jenny Walmsley know via email at jennywalmsley@manx.net or write on the Facebook wall so we know how many people to cater for at the pub!

We ho-ho-hope to see you there!!

Social Diary

Another reminder for the social events coming up in the new year:

Saturday 11th February – MHA Social, Play Your Cards Right

Saturday 10th March – Annual Race Night at Peel FC

Saturday 5th May – Valkyrs 50th Anniversary Dinner at Mount Murray Hotel



Subs Payments

Thank you to everyone that has paid their subs either for the whole season or for the Mixed season. A reminder for anyone that has only paid for Mixed so far, if you're intending to play Men's/Ladies, can you please pay your second half of subs before the 25th of January. Unfortunately if any members do not pay their subs by this date, they will be unable to play until that debt is settled. If you need to discuss this in more detail, please contact the club treasurer, Andrea Kneen on 07624471003.

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The Junior section of Valkyrs HC has grown rapidly over the past few years and as a result, current resources of coaches, mentors and Junior administrators are really being stretched to their maximum. To ensure the Junior section of our club continues to expand and excel as we believe it can, we need to get more volunteers to help in a variety of roles, including manager/coaches at training & matches and administrative support in organising teams, Manx Youth Games admin, junior meetings etc.

The club would like to hold an informal meeting (with buffet!) to discuss the current setup and growth of Valkyrs HC Juniors on **Friday 20th January, 7pm at the Highwayman** in Peel, so please come along if you would like to get more involved or have any views that you'd like to share on the topic!

If you're unable to make the meeting but would be keen to learn more about ways in which you can help, please contact Cath Killey on cathkilley@manx.net.

Umpires Course

The MHA are holding a Level 1 Umpires Course in the New Year, with each club being asked to put candidates forward for the course.

Island hockey rules state that each club should have 2 umpires per team and at the moment we're falling short of this rule, so it's really important we try to rectify this as soon as possible.

To qualify as an umpire, it involves attending a short course, passing a rules test and then umpiring three matches as a probationer. After these three matches, you'll then be assessed in one further match by an IOMHUA coach to approve you as a Level 1 umpire.

It's a hugely integral and rewarding role to take on, you get paid for umpiring per game, plus there are several additional perks to being an umpire, including a travel allowance, subsidised umpiring kit and as long as a minimum number of matches are umpired, the club will pay the course fees of £35.

If you're interested in getting involved, please contact Jonah Hull.



James Seed (aka Seedy) recently accepted the role of club school link co-ordinator. A big thanks to him for taking on this role!

If anyone would like to help with club school link sessions or has any queries relating to this programme, please contact Seedy at jamesseed@manx.net for more information.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

All that's left to say is I hope that all of our members have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, see you all in 2012!!



Valkyr's Juniors

U11 Girls and Boys

Valkyr's U11 Girls and Boys Junior teams have excelled again this season, showcasing some real talent for the future of Valkyr's HC. The U11 Girls won their league, with some excellent midfield play from Jessica Loader and great goal scoring ability from Leona Kitchin.

The U11 boys came third in their league, showing real improvement as the season progressed for such a young team within the U11 age group. New member Mason Henwood was a fantastic addition to the team, working in great partnership with Alex Quinn.

Both teams should be very proud of their efforts this season and with the U11 tournaments coming just around the corner after Christmas, Valkyr's should have a good chance against the other Junior sides.



U13 Girls and Boys

The U13 Girls have faced some tough competition this season, eventually finishing a very respectable third in their league. Leading the league until the last weekend, the girls were unfortunate to face both Bacchas and Castletown in their final two matches, who with very strong sides proved a little too much for the Valkyr's team. With the talent in this team, there's no doubt that this team will prove a challenge for their opponents in the upcoming tournament!

The U13 Boys have this season merged with three Harlequin players and some U11 Valkyr's players. With a couple more matches to play, the team have done fantastically well for such a challenging league, beating Bacchas twice and narrowly losing to Castletown and Ramsey.

Manx Youth Games

Training for the Manx Youth Games will restart on Wednesday 8th February, with the final MYG event taking place on Saturday 19th May 2012

Important Dates for your Diary

U11 Girls Island Squad Trial – 22nd January, NSC 12.30–1.30pm
U11 Match against Kirkham Grammar School – Weds 1st February, at KWC
U11 Girls Mini Hockey Championship – 12th February 2012
U11 Boys Mini Hockey Championship – 4th March 2012

U12 Girls Yazoo Tournament – 29th January 2012
U12 Boys Yazoo Tournament – 5th February 2012

U13 Girls Mini Hockey Championship – 11th March 2012
U13 Boys Mini Hockey Championship – 25th March 2012
Remaining U13 Boys league games – 15th & 22nd January, NSC at 1.30pm

U16 League starts 7th Jan 2012, with Valkyr's v Castletown, QEII at 11am

Training and Matches

Please note that Junior training has now finished for the Christmas & New Year break and will restart on Wednesday 4th January.