HEAD OF WOMEN’S HOCKEY, OXFORD UNIVERSITY HOCKEY CLUB

The Club

Oxford University Hockey Club is a vibrant and welcoming hockey club for students at the University of Oxford. We have a thriving membership with four men’s and four women’s teams. Our teams compete both in the inter-university BUCS competition on Wednesdays, as well as either the South Hockey leagues or England Hockey Conference leagues at the weekends.

OUHC is a unique and exciting challenge with players fully committed to progressing both their hockey and their academics. This combination has led to hard working teams consistently punching above their weight. A particular highlight of the OUHC experience is The Varsity Match; a competition between Oxford and Cambridge which has spanned over 120 years. The 1st teams (known as the Blues) play at a neutral venue and the fixture attracts crowds of around 1000 spectators and thousands more on the Galvanised Hockey livestream via YouTube1. The second, third, and fourth teams also compete in their own Varsity matches on one huge day for the club which alternates being hosted by Oxford and Cambridge each year.

The Teams

The Women’s Blues (1st XI) are a high-performance team who have successfully defended their place in the BUCS National Premier league and England Hockey Conference Midlandsii following an excellent run of form off the back of their 2-0 Varsity Match win this year. Alongside this, they reached the final of the BUCS Vase knockout competition, culminating in an appearance at BUCS Big Wednesday. They are a motivated group of women who love playing together and supporting each other. Looking towards next year, the young squad has had a chance to come together and make real progress this season, evidenced by their excellent results in the latter part of the campaign. As the team only loses three of its varsity squad this summer and the competition for places so fierce, the Blues are fantastically placed to start pushing higher up their leagues and their aim is to be in-and-around the promotion battle for their EH Conference league.

The Women’s 2nd XI (also known as the Radicals) are a fun, friendly, and performance-driven hockey team. At the completion of the 2019/20 season, the team secured promotion in their weekend league, and continued this success as they were in serious contention for promotion in South Central Division 1 North in 2021/22. In their BUCS league, the team narrowly missed promotion in 2019/20 and challenged for promotion again in the most recent season. This really is a team on the rise and their achievements are even more impressive given their current lack of professional coaching. Off the pitch, the Radicals pride themselves as one of the club’s most sociable teams and they are a great squad to be a part of.

The Role

To achieve our aims, we need a dynamic and forward-thinking coach. Successful applicants will need to bring a competitive nature, excellent relationship development skills, innovative match day strategies and creative training ideas that bring the most out of the squad. The role will be concerned, primarily, with the coaching of the Women’s Blues team; as well as direct contact with the women’s 2nd XI and being available to offer advice and guidance to the other women’s teams as requested.

Having a holistic approach to coaching is vital to ensure the Women’s section operates as a cohesive unit with seamless pathways between the top two sides. In return, the club offers an enjoyable, supportive working environment and we are open to listening to any recommendations to ensure that you are equipped to deliver on the club’s objectives.

The role begins with pre-season training and friendlies in September prior to the start of the league, during which increased contact hours are likely over the normal term-time schedule. Training and home matches are held at the Iffley Road Sports Centre, Oxford.
This would ideally be a long-term appointment with a yearly review at the end of every season with accountabilities agreed prior to the commencement of the season.

Duties are to include but are not limited to:

- Prepare and deliver three weekly training sessions.
  - One Women’s Blues training session
  - One Women’s 2nd XI training session
  - One “A-squad” training session comprising of the Blues squad and invited players from the 2nd XI
- Attend all Women’s Blues matches (including a warmup and post-match debrief).
  - Any pre-season friendlies
  - 18 England Hockey league fixtures
  - 8 BUCS league fixtures and up to 3 BUCS knockout matches
  - The Varsity Match
- Attend Women’s 2nd XI matches that are feasible alongside the Blues schedule, including their varsity match.
- Work with the Women’s Blues and 2nd XI captains on development, weekly team selection, training sessions and team tactics, ensuring that open communication is upheld throughout the entire season.

Salary

The rate of pay is between £25-45 per hour and will be dependent on the applicant’s experience and qualifications. Other financial considerations, such as expenses, may be negotiated. During Oxford University full term, we anticipate a minimum of 6 hours of coaching per week and 2 matches per week. Pre-season training, matches, and competitive matches will occur outside of full term, but training schedules may alter. Approximately 250 hours of paid contact time in the season are likely to be offered to the successful candidate.

Application Process

Applicants may be invited to interview with members of OUHC and a member of Oxford University staff. It is also our hope for applicants to prepare and deliver a training session to the team. Applications will be assessed and invited for interview as they are received, with the view to an appointment being made by the end of August 2022. Applicants must express interest in the role by 15th August via the contact details below, then a deadline may be set for receipt of the full application. Early applications and/or expressions of interest are strongly encouraged.

Pre-contract Screening and Data Privacy

The role itself is a self-employed, consultancy based position and as such any applicant should have self-funded Professional Indemnity insurance and Public Liability insurance in place. Please note that the appointment of the successful candidate will be subject to standard screening, as applicable to the post. This will include these documents as well as right-to-work, proof of identity and references.

Please note that any personal data submitted to OUHC as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. The data will be used for the purposes of appointment of this role only and shared with those necessary for the application process.

Equality of Opportunity

Entry into consultancy with OUHC and progression within consultancy will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

Applying

For any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Bradley Young (bradley.young@materials.ox.ac.uk). To apply please send a covering letter, your coaching CV, and the details of two referees (preferably one player, one coach) to Grace Annetts (OUHC President) and Bradley Young (ouhcppresident@gmail.com, bradley.young@materials.ox.ac.uk).

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1 Previous matches are available on YouTube by searching for ‘Varsity Hockey Match’
2 Which regional conference league the Women’s Blues will compete in for 2022/23 is not yet confirmed by England Hockey