

Army U25 Report.

The U25 Squad is looking reasonable strong for the Tour and stronger still for this years IS Indoor Tournament. The Tour Party will consist of 20 players plus Myself, my Head Coach and 2 assistant coaches, 2 development coaches who wish to be considered for their Lv 2 course, a Physio plus 2 Chefs.

Our initial fixture against Guilford and Hazelmere HC clubs has had to be cancelled due to a clash of bookings at the Aldershot Gymnasium, even though I had booked it 6 months ago when it was confirmed as free, so we will just run a training session on the first Monday of the Tour, with the following fixture confirmed,

Tue 20th Inverleith 1st Team (Current Scottish Nation Champions)
Wed 21st Glenalmond College @ Strathallan School Indoor and Outdoor Fixture
Thur 22nd Recovery Day and Match analysis
Fri 23rd North U21 and U18 teams Indoors
Sat 24th Analysis and rest day
Sun 25th Aberdeen Uni Outdoors and Granite City Warriors Indoors
Mon 26th Highland HC Outdoors
Tue 27th Gordonstoun School Outdoors

We have a final training day booked before the IS Tournament In November where we hope to retain our IS U25 Trophy.

The U25 squad then have a further Indoor fixture where we have been entered into the Southern Region of the Nation Indoor Tournament to be held in Eastleigh on Sat 19th Dec 15. This is a first for us and is seen as a good building brick for those players moving on to the senior squad next year.

Our outdoor seasons' fixtures are all confirmed with to training blocks of fixtures, 1 in Jan 16 and the other in Feb 16, all of our opposition are at least Regional Div 1 or higher. This has been made possible by the identification of squad player, the stability of the squad and the equality of the current squad of players we have at our disposal.

Hockey at our level is growing, but for my Coaching staff to be able to mould these players into a team, we do need a stable squad, for this to happen we need the senior Men's team to identify who they want in there squad of players sooner rather than the day before the IS Outdoor tournament, I am reluctant to accept U25 player rejected by the Senior Men's team the weekend before the tournament, this is seen as disruptive to my squad who have committed for all of the warm up/development fixtures, only to be dropped at the last minute.

I am also have sympathy to these players and if we can get clear guidance from AHA that squads are firmed up before our Feb fixtures, this will afford my coaches sufficient time to integrate these players into my team for the IS event.

Previously, this date has been set at the 23rd Jan of each year, when; as we are now in a time of relative stability and I would encourage the meeting to support my request to fix in concrete a date before my planned fixtures in Feb (7th to 10th Feb 16) for the seniors to have identified there squad, currently 5 players are down for both squads.

Peter Rosser
Manager Army U25 Hockey Team