

MERCIAN MARAUDERS 2024 PROGRAMME



Providing performance level opportunities for u13s across the Midlands



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All About Mercian Marauders



What is Mercian Marauders?

Mercian Marauders is an age group representative team, covering the Midlands which enters the fantastic annual UK Lions Tournament hosted at Nottingham Hockey Centre. The Mercian Marauders fields Boys u13s and Girls u13s teams, and in 2024 we will be entering two teams in each, one into the Championship competition and one into the Trophy. The programme then aims to provide further opportunities for people to be involved in the future.

What is the UK Lions Tournament?

The UK Lions tournament is an annual tournament held at Nottingham Hockey Centre in June (Boys) and July (Girls). The tournament is held over the weekend, starting on Friday evening and finishing on Sunday afternoon. Each team plays 5 or 6 matches over the tournament against other representative teams from across the UK, and stays on campus at the University of Nottingham. From this, squads are selected for the UK Lions teams. This is not an official England Hockey tournament and has no link to the England Hockey Talent System.

Why get involved with the Mercian Marauders?

Mercian Marauders is a brilliant opportunity to sample performance level hockey at a young age and play with some of the best players at your age group. All players receive high quality coaching from our experienced and professional coaching team, whilst the focus of the whole programme is on developing the person as well as the hockey player. The UK Lions tournament provides a brilliant three-day experience for all participants and the whole programme allows you to build close friendships through hockey, whilst improving as a player.

What do our previous players say?

Matthew Curtis, Mercian Marauders, 2022

“Being selected to trial, train and play alongside the best young players, and to represent the Mercian Marauders in a national competition was the pinnacle of my Under 13s hockey journey. The coaching staff stretched me and helped me become a better player, I learned a lot about myself and being in a team, and I made good friends who I still play with.”

Sienna Rowe, Mercian Marauders, 2023

“Marauders was a great experience that helped me to understand what a higher level of hockey is like, improving my skills and teamwork on the pitch and time management off the pitch. It has allowed me to form new bonds with friends and make many memories.”



Mercian Marauders in 2024



Stage 1: Sign up to get involved

The 2024 programme is open to any Boys or Girls u13s aspiring towards performance level hockey. To get involved with the Mercian Marauders, receive all information about the programme and to attend the trials sessions, please complete this form <https://forms.gle/Mw9w5wPs9P8fh8Ug9> or email mercianmaraudershockey@gmail.com by Friday 22nd March 2024.

Stage 2: The Trials Process

Trials will be held in Spring 2024 for the Mercian Marauders. There will be three trials sessions for each of the Boys and Girls, held at different venues across the Midlands on the dates below. Players must attend one of these sessions to be considered for selection, and players are welcome to attend all three. Attending multiple trials increases the chance of selection. These will be full day sessions where they will receive high quality coaching. The cost works out at roughly £30 per day and venues are being finalised.

Session	Boys	Girls
Trial #1	Wednesday 3rd April	Tuesday 2nd April
Trial #2	Saturday 13th April	Saturday 20th April
Trial #3	Saturday 27th April	Saturday 4th May

The coaching team will then select 40 players for each gender for the Mercian Marauders. This will consist of 18 players for the Championship Squad and 18 for the Trophy Squad, as well as 4 non-playing reserves who will be invited to the training programme.

Stage 3: The Training Programme & Costs

Those players selected for the Mercian Marauders squads will be invited to a series of training sessions and pre-tournament friendlies to prepare for the UK Lions tournament. Provisional dates are as follows (venues and times to be confirmed), and it is expected that players attend as many of these sessions as possible. This will be complimented by online player education sessions and other learning opportunities.

Boys: Sunday 12th May, Sunday 19th May, Wednesday 29th May, Sunday 9th June, Saturday 15th June

Girls: Saturday 18th May, Tuesday 28th May, Saturday 8th June, Sunday 30th June, Saturday 6th July

At this point, players will be asked to pay a Mercian Marauders Membership Fee which will cover all costs of the UK Lions Tournament, all training & additional fixtures and the provision of kit. It is anticipated that this will cost roughly **£350-£400** and this will be kept as low as possible. Please note this whole programme is run on a non-profit basis, all administration is completed by volunteers and we ensure the provision of high quality coaches for each team.

Stage 4: The UK Lions Tournament

The programme works towards the UK Lions Tournaments. Dates for the 2024 tournaments are as follows:

Boys: Friday 21st June - Sunday 23rd June

Girls: Friday 12th July - Sunday 14th July

Following the programme we will look to create other opportunities for the players to connect and play together in the future. For example we are taking u14s Mercian Marauders teams to the Repton Cup this summer. We will also aim to provide feedback to all players throughout the weekend and after the tournament to help their development.

The Mercian Marauders Values



RESPECT

OPTIMISM

AMBITION

RESILIENCE

Values are at the heart of what we do and they help to shape our culture which is so crucial to the Mercian Marauders programme. As well as developing all of the Mercian Marauders as hockey players, we are committed to developing them as young people prepared to thrive in wider society.

The Mercian Marauders in 2023

In 2023, the Mercian Marauders programme was bigger than ever before. Roughly 200 players signed up for the programme and we fielded four teams at the UK Lions Tournaments. Both the Boys Championship and Trophy sides finished in fourth place in their respective competitions. In the Girls, the Championship side finished fifth and the Trophy side were runners-up.

In the summer, we took a Boys u14s side to the Repton Cup, where they played against and beat some of the strongest Tier 1 clubs in the country, on their way to becoming champions.

Sponsor the Mercian Marauders

Would you like to become a sponsor of the Mercian Marauders? This is a fantastic opportunity to have your logo on the Mercian Marauders kit and be a part of this programme. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or finding out more, then please email mercianmaraudershockey@gmail.com



Join the Mercian Marauders



Email: mercianmaraudershockey@gmail.com