

## Press Release

### Marden Russets Hockey Club announces appointment of new Head of Hockey 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Marden Russets Hockey Club are delighted to announce the appointment of Stephen Mina-Jones as Head of Hockey. His role will be to develop hockey across all levels as the club looks to push on during 2018-2019 with some of the most impressive sports facilities in the county.

Stephen brings with him an array of coaching and playing experience at some of the top clubs in England and Australia. Notably Stephen was appointed Director of Coaching for Teddington Hockey Club for the 2016/2017 season where he set up the Teddington Hockey Academy. Following his stint at Teddington, Stephen was appointed as assistant 1<sup>st</sup> XI Assistant Coach at newly promoted English Premier League club Sevenoaks. After a season where Sevenoaks consolidated their position in the English top-flight, Stephen came to the attention of Marden just as he was looking for a new challenge.

Stephen said: "When I was leading a Kent U16 Boys' session at Marden's new facility, I thought of how amazing it would be to work at a brand-new facility supporting a fledgling project. Shortly after seeing what Marden had to offer, Adrian Plant, the Academy Centre Manager, contacted me and asked if I knew any coaches who were looking for some work. I leapt at the opportunity and the boundless potential that it has. I have been very lucky over the past three years, to have been able to be involved in a number of great projects from going to Nationals and winning silver, through starting my own coaching academy, to coaching in the English Premier League. All of these experiences have allowed me to build on my knowledge and understanding of hockey. This has helped me to deliver sessions designed specifically to get the best out of players, get players at all levels participating in and enjoying the sport, and pushing those who desire to reach their ultimate potential towards their goals. I am thrilled that I'm able to join a club with such a friendly atmosphere, bringing with me this experience to help build on the foundations which have already been laid, and help push this exciting new era of Marden Russets Hockey forward."

The club are excited to have Stephen on board and to be working with him to help the club deliver success, improve participation and enjoyment at all levels. The club is ambitious, and Stephen is a big part of what Marden needs to take advantage of future opportunities. Stephen has hit the ground running with pre-season fitness already timetabled for the whole club, and summer tournaments in the offing.

Neil Campbell, Russets' Chairman, said: "Stephen really is the ideal fit for the club, bringing his experience in organising and provide coaching of the highest quality at all levels, delivering sessions with technical expertise and a love for the game. We are understandably over the moon to welcome Stephen to the club, and hope that we can provide him with the type of exciting project that he wants to be part of in the long term."

Stephen represents the start of a big push from Marden, who are taking advantage of the off-season to push forward with further recruitment and organise themselves so that, come October, they are ready to challenge at all levels. The future is bright; the future is Russet.