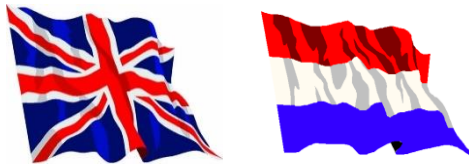




Zevenbergen Tour 2017 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



BACKGROUND

What is this Tour all about?

This is a biennial tour to Holland for CHC junior players. The emphasis is very much on having fun, both on and off the pitch. It is a welcome distraction for many from the regular grind of formal coaching sessions and competitive matches. Hockey has a long history of touring. This is a first taste of touring for many of the players. On alternate years we reciprocate by hosting HC Zevenbergen in Chelmsford.

How did this Tour start?

It was Chelmsford HC's Evergreens veterans team who first made contact with HC Zevenbergen while seeking touring destinations circa twenty-five ago. While the two clubs' veterans teams still have a strong relationship, the relationship between the two junior sections started soon afterwards. This year is the 25th Anniversary Tour!

Are any other clubs involved?

Apart from Lisbon Casuals HC, who joined HC Zevenbergen in visiting Chelmsford in 2012 and also made the trip to Zevenbergen in 2013, no other clubs have been involved in this particular tour. We don't know whether Lisbon Casuals will be joining us in Zevenbergen in 2017.

What do the players get out of it?

Whatever they are prepared to put into it! They get the opportunity to play hockey all day every day... and many play well into the night too. They can socialise within their peer group but some brave ones also broaden their horizons, and language skills, by integrating with the Dutch players. One former tourist even took the big step of attending university in Holland supported by the friendships she forged on these tours. Our experience is also that the Chelmsford squads return from Zevenbergen as much closer-knit groups and we see the benefits of this in future seasons.

Where is Zevenbergen?

Zevenbergen is a Dutch city and is part of the municipality of Moerdijk. It's located in the northwest of the province of Noord-Brabant near Breda. Look it up on a map!

What is the format of the weekend?

Friday	Depart Chelmer Park very early. Ferry crossing at 0735. Arrive Zevenbergen early afternoon. Pitch tents, eat dinner and meet Dutch. No formal evening activities.
Saturday	Early rise, breakfast, mass Zumba class and then all-day 6-a-side tournament in teams of mixed nationality, gender and age. After dinner it's party time! Fancy dress is expected. The theme this year is "Silver Party", in celebration of the 25 th Anniversary.
Sunday	Early rise, breakfast and then a full day of matches between Chelmsford and Zevenbergen in age groups squads. After dinner there's another social event.
Monday	Even earlier rise, breakfast and departure. Zzz... zzz... zzz... Shuttle crossing at 1236. Arrive Chelmsford mid-afternoon. Zzz... zzz... zzz...

WHEN

When is the tour?

We depart Chelmer Park very early on the morning of Friday, 28th April, 2017 (time TBC) and return on the afternoon of Monday, 1st May.

1st May? But that's a school day!

Yes, well spotted. Players will need a day off school. In the past we have found most schools are quite understanding about this. However, a small minority have had difficulty obtaining permission for an absence. We have a standard letter that parents can use if they think it would be helpful.

TRAVEL

How does the group get to and from Zevenbergen?

Chelmer Park is the pick-up and drop-off point for all players. We travel by coach to Dover, cross the channel and are then driven through France, Belgium and Holland to HC Zevenbergen. The drive from France to Zevenbergen takes 3-4 hours. The return journey is simply the opposite.

COST

What is the cost of the trip?

We are aiming to keep the cost below £200 and will confirm the final figure in the New Year. However, that will be reduced if a lot of players sign up. So, please spread the word!

What does that cost include?

Everything. Return coach journey, channel crossing, all food and soft drinks (squash and water), hockey, entertainment, insurance, playing t-shirt and... personalised tour hoodie!

ACCOMODATION

Where do we stay?

All players camp in tents on the HC Zevenbergen site, next to the pitches.

What facilities are on-site?

HC Zevenbergen has a clubhouse with kitchen, changing rooms, showers, toilet and bar/social facilities. This is adjacent to two artificial pitches. There is also a large grass area for the camp site and for those who have too much energy to burn.

How secure is the site?

The site is fully enclosed within a high perimeter fence and the gate is locked overnight. As well as our own adults camping on-site, two HC Zevenbergen members stay overnight in the clubhouse in case of emergency. Furthermore, in both 2013 and 2015 a security guard was employed to patrol the grounds at night.

Can we go anywhere else?

There is no need to leave the site compound from the time we are dropped off on Friday afternoon to departure on Monday morning. Players are not permitted to leave the compound without prior permission and this would only be granted in exceptional circumstances.

Who provides the tents?

Players are expected to provide and pitch their own tents. In reality, they get together in a small group, one of whom provides the tent. One of the things we need to do before we depart is ensure that everybody knows which tent they are sleeping in and who is providing it. This is usually all confirmed at the final meeting prior to departure.

ELIGIBILITY

Are all junior players eligible?

No. The tour is open to Chelmsford HC U14, U16 and U18 age groups only.

Are parents welcome to go?

Yes, but within reason. This is a junior tour and we wouldn't want adults to outnumber the players! That said, we do require a number of "responsible adults", both male and female, to ensure that we can manage the many and varied needs of all the players.

I'm interested in coming along as a "responsible adult". How do I go about it and what does it involve?

In the first instance please speak to one of the organising committee. Ideally, all responsible adults will travel with the group, camp on site and have various responsibilities over the weekend for managing squads and controlling unruly enthusiastic teenagers. There is also plenty of time for rest and relaxation. Those who have come along in the past have thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Do "responsible adults" really have to camp?

Ideally, yes, because we need to be there for the players. However, if you're really that soft and can't tolerate three nights under canvas there is a small, but comfortable, hotel in Zevenbergen. Kerry Hull is intimately familiar with it and can furnish you with further details.

What else do responsible adults need?

Enthusiasm, a sense of humour and willingness to join in are of paramount importance. Also, we insist that all responsible adults are CRB/DBS checked prior to departure. This is best practice for any organisations involving young people. It's a simple and painless process and the club will undertake and finance the checks.

KIT/EQUIPMENT

What do I need to take with me?

Hockey kit plus spare clothing for travel and evenings. No smart clothes are required but fancy dress is required for the Saturday evening. Ensure that you have a good selection of clothes for wet, cold and sunny weather conditions. Sleeping bag, pillow, sun cream, hat, torch, wash bag, towel, etc. Swimming trunks/bikinis are also useful for preserving one's modesty in the showers.

We also suggest that you bring a packed breakfast/lunch for the coach/ferry journey. Food on the ferry is expensive. We'll confirm nearer the time whether Zevenbergen will be providing lunch upon our arrival.

Players are discouraged from bringing phones, iPods or any other expensive electronic equipment because there is a risk they will get damaged or go missing. Chelmsford HC, HC Zevenbergen nor the organising committee members can take any responsibility for damaged or lost items.

How much money do I need to take?

Very little. All hockey, food, drink and entertainment is included in the price. Squash/water is provided on-site and on the coach. Some players may wish to purchase soft drinks and snacks from the bar so a small amount of money (c20-30 Euros) might be useful. Players are responsible for the safekeeping of their money.

How do I know what size hoodie to order?

The best way to be sure is to try one from a previous year. You'll see a planet of players wearing them about the club so just ask. Alternatively, we'll have some at the player and parent meetings.

FOOD & DRINK

Can I buy/drink alcohol?

If you are over 18, yes. If you are under 18 no. Bar staff will be provided with mug shots of all players. Players will also be required to wear a wristband to help identify whether they are permitted to buy alcohol.

What's the food like?

Fantastic... but sometimes unfamiliar. Breakfast is a mixture of hot and continental. Most players take full advantage! Lunch and dinner are imaginative, wholesome and tasty. Mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks are also provided. All the food is prepared by professionally-trained chefs.

BEHAVIOUR

Can I misbehave on tour?

Yes, if you want to be sent home early... at your (parents') expense! While we want everybody to have fun, all players are expected to maintain sensible and reasonable standards of behaviour at all times. All players and parents are required to sign a contract saying that they agree to the terms laid out in the contract. If players break these rules they may be sent home.

BORING STUFF

What about insurance?

Group travel insurance is included in the tour fee. Policy details can be provided if necessary. Please ask one of the organising committee for details.

Do I need a passport?

Yes, of course you do. We're going to a foreign country. If you don't have one apply now!

What if I forget my passport?

We shall collect all passports at the final meeting on 30th March. This ensures that nobody forgets theirs on the day of departure. If that happens you will be left behind. If anybody needs their passport between 30th March and departure date then they will need to keep it. However, please let one of the organising committee know ASAP.

When will I get my passport back?

Passports will be distributed to individuals on the coach prior to border checks. They will be collected back in after the checks. During our stay in Zevenbergen they will be stored securely in the hotel safe. Passports will be returned to individuals on the return coach journey.

What if I get injured or fall ill while we're away?

We shall have a number of qualified First Aiders travelling with the group. Some of our Dutch counterparts are also First Aid qualified.

No, I mean, what if I'm REALLY injured or ill?

Please ensure that you have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This entitles you to free or reduced cost medical treatment in EEA countries. They are issued free of charge. You can apply online through the NHS website – www.nhs.uk. EHICs will be collected and returned in the same way as passports (see above).

ORGANISATION

Who are the tour organisers?

All the tours are organised by volunteers. This year the Chelmsford organising committee is:

Andy Bird	player and former junior tourist,
Darren Davies	player and father of U16 Sophie,
Hilary Gore	wife of U16B Coach Matt and mother of U18 David and U16 Tom,
Paul Harrison	father of U14 Jess,
Kerry Hull	wife of U18G Coach Ian and mother of U16 Nicole,
Lan-Lan Kam	U14G Manager and mother of U14 Pien and U12 Jessie, and
David "Kitch" Kitchiner	player, umpire, CHC Chairman, U8 and U16G Coach and father of U16 Connie and U18 Antonia.

Please be nice to them.

NEXT STEPS

How do I sign up?

Secure your place by completing the registration form and sending it together with cheque, payable to **Chelmsford Hockey Club (Youth Section)**, or cash for **£70** deposit to...

Darren Davies, Mascalls, Margareting Road, Writtle, Chelmsford CM1 3PN
Email: darrenjdavies@hotmail.com

by **Friday, 13th January.**

Are there any meetings for players/parents?

Yes, we have already held an introductory meeting for players/parents who have never been involved in one of these tours before.

The second and final meeting will be held in the clubhouse at **7pm on Thursday, 30th March.** The purpose of this meeting is to finalise details, collect payment balance, passports and EHICs and to organise tent sharing arrangements.