

Somerset Hockey Association

AGM REPORT 2017/18



ENGLAND
HOCKEY

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Regional Team Restructure

Last summer, the England Hockey Board reviewed the staffing structure at England Hockey and made some changes across the organisation to ensure we are structured in the best way to deliver our strategy moving forwards. The reorganisation affected the team of Relationship Managers and Administrators in the regional offices.

One of the key risks to our sport going forward is pitch availability and development. Hockey has grown significantly since the 2012 Olympics and is due to continue following the gold medal win in Rio. In order to increase capacity to support facility development, the number of Relationship Managers (RMs) was reduced from 12 roles to 10 and the number in our facilities team was increased from 1 to 3 Facilities RM roles.

As a result, the geographical areas covered by the RMs was increased and I added Avon Clubs (apart from those based in BANES and South Gloucestershire) to my portfolio of clubs. Additionally, the number of Administrators in the regional offices was reduced from 3 to 2 with your Administrator, Jenny Mitchell, now supporting six Relationship Managers, covering 20 counties and the 33 London Boroughs from our office in Exeter.

Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup

We are hosting the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup (VHWWC) at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London from 21 July until 5 August. Since the Priority Booking Windows for club members last April, there has been a Public Ballot for tickets and then a general public sale of tickets, resulting in over 100,000 tickets being sold. All Clubs have also been offered a pair of tickets to allocate within their club as a reward or prize.

AGM Governance Review

At the 2017 England Hockey AGM a resolution was put forward by members asking for a review of the governance of the sport at a local level. Following Consultation Meetings held around the country (Taunton in November) and online surveys for completion by individuals, clubs and Associations, the appointed Consultants produced a report which went before the England Hockey Board and the 2018 England Hockey AGM in March. A Governance Review Working Group is now developing a set of high level Principles which will underpin any changes and these will be the subject of the next phase of consultation.

League Review

Following consultations with Leagues and Premier League clubs, changes to the structure of the Investec Women's Hockey League and Men's Hockey League were agreed by the England Hockey Board in March 2018. The changes, the first step in adapting to the evolving landscape of the Hockey Pro League and requests from clubs to review the domestic structure, will be implemented in the 2019-20 season. England Hockey is ambitious about creating a structure that encourages clubs to continue to develop, strive for success at the highest level of European competition and support our international success objectives.

Hockey Pro League

In June 2017, it was announced that both England men's and women's teams will compete in the new Hockey Pro League, which will be launched in January 2019. Each of the nine participating countries will play each other on a home and away basis every year. The Hockey Pro League will provide a way of qualifying for the Olympics so England will play under the Great Britain banner in the two years prior to the Olympic Games.

England Hockey Championships

The England Hockey Championships were launched this season, a re-brand of the Knockout Cup competitions, along with a new Competition Management System (CMS) operated by SportLoMo. A number of changes have been implemented to both our adult and junior competition programmes. The England Hockey Championships have been designed to be more inclusive, allowing more of our clubs and respective teams to participate in a national championship, with more evenly contested games. This has been achieved through a 'Tiered' programme allowing clubs and teams to enter the appropriate level of competition to their league status.

Summer Championships

A NEW summer offer, three strands of competition – Hockey Small Sided Leagues (6-a-side), National Sixes Championships (6-a-side) and Masters KO Championships (O30s/O40s/O50s). The Summer Championships are perfect for both current and new players. Designed to create a relaxed, fun and social environment of out of season hockey for players of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Teams can be formed not just by clubs but also other social groups e.g. businesses, university students at home for the summer, friends from different clubs etc.

England Hockey have appointed 4 new Area Championship Coordinators (ACC). This role was created to embed and grow the England Hockey Championships Programme and ensure that it is delivered in line with the national framework. Anne Tubb has been appointed to cover the West region as well as Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

GDPR comes into effect on 25 May and replaces the Data Protection Act. England Hockey are working with the Sport and Recreation Alliance to provide guidance to ensure that your Club is compliant- more information available on the England Hockey website www.englishockey.co.uk

GROW OUR PARTICIPATION

Affiliation data

There is one new informal club affiliated this season – Wellington Fox's HC. Changes were made to the way in which we have collected affiliation data this season. Clubs have reported their participation numbers in categories:

1. **Typical club player** – this junior or adult club member plays regular league hockey or in tournaments.
2. **Informal player** – this junior or adult club member takes part in social hockey activity, such as play nights, small sided sessions, Back to Hockey, Summer League, walking hockey etc.
3. **Community player** – this junior or adult isn't a member of your club yet, but takes part in local activities that have been organised by the club. This could include, coaching within schools or a local community programme.

In Somerset, affiliation data (Typical & Informal only) shows the total number of people playing club hockey in the county increased by 1.34% as broken down below:

	Junior	Adult	Total
Total 2016/17	1417	1203	2620
Total 2017/18	1473	1182	2655
Difference	56	-21	35

Four clubs have seen their membership increase, eight have stayed constant (within 5%) and four have seen a decline. Moving forward, our focus is to retain these players within our sport. Thank you to those clubs who amended their affiliation data during the course of the season.

The Playing Offer

Our player research and wider knowledge of participation habits have made it clear that behaviours are changing. Many players don't want to play every week but are happy to play at any time of the year. They want opportunities that provide good experiences but are also local enough to allow room for other interests and commitments.

Saturday league hockey is in good shape, we have slightly more affiliated teams in the last few years, but it is also not only thing we should try to offer. Time is becoming more precious and we believe that providing variety is key to help retain players. There are many players who would like to join a club but don't as the offer isn't right.

Increasingly clubs are offering more varied Ways to Play including; HockeyFest, Back to Hockey, Walking Hockey, Club School Links, Badgers/Development teams, Pay & Play, small sided mid-week leagues as well as supporting community events like fetes, carnivals and local shows.

ENHANCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

County Club Forums

The Club Forum gives clubs the opportunity to discuss the main issues for the development of hockey across Somerset and input into county planning. Attendance from clubs at the three forum meetings this season has slightly improved, with on average only 6 clubs attending. Please give some thought as to what your club would like to see at these meetings so that they are beneficial and incentivise more clubs to attend.

The main themes for the Club Forum this season were:

1. **Planning for 2017/18 season – 15 May 2017**
2. **What Makes a Great County – 18 September 2017**
3. **Your World Cup – 29 January 2018**

In the summer of 2018 we will be hosting a Women's Hockey World Cup for the first time in our history! This will be a huge moment for our sport. Thanks to our amazing hockey clubs and volunteers, hockey has seen a 41% growth in the number of people playing in clubs since London 2012. Hosting a home World Cup presents us with another golden opportunity to grow our game and celebrate our success. England Hockey are launching our largest participation campaign to date and we would love your club to get involved because this is Your World Cup too!

What is it?

A National Campaign to support each and every club to thrive from the unique opportunity of having a World Cup on home soil.

What does it mean?

Your World Cup is a suite of tools and support to help clubs maximise the opportunity hosting a home world cup

So what?

Your World Cup gives all clubs the opportunity to develop, by offering playing, spectating or volunteering opportunities and celebrating club success!

There are 6 areas identified in the Your World Cup Campaign;

- Inspiring the next Generation
- Supporting Schools to Deliver Hockey
- Offering more Ways to Play
- Celebrating & Supporting People
- During the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup
- Legacy

The Your World Cup Club Guide that was handed out to each attending club at the Forum, with non-attendees receiving their copy via post, gives ideas on how you can involve your club. Sign your club up to the Your World Cup and register your activities at;

www.englandhockey.co.uk/YourWorldCup

England Hockey ClubMark

Congratulations to Chard who are the first Somerset Club to complete the new ClubMark accreditation. Three further Somerset Clubs are currently working towards ClubMark – Taunton Vale, Yeovil & Sherborne and Frome. The new system is much more streamlined, with only 18 pieces evidence required to meet this minimum operating standard.

Courses and Workshops

During the past season the following courses and Workshops have been held in Somerset:

- Three Level 1 Umpire Award Courses (Bath, Bridgwater & Taunton)
- Umpire Developer Course (Taunton)
- West HA Coaching Conference (Taunton)
- Teacher Training Courses (Taunton & Yeovil)

Facilities

Playing Pitch Strategies (PPS) are currently being produced for the following Local Authorities to ensure that our facilities are protected, improved or developed: South Somerset Council, Taunton Deane Council, Bristol City Council, Bath and North East Somerset Council to date. As part of the process our clubs are asked to complete a PPS survey and it is essential that, if asked, your club completes these documents. It is vital that hockey data is correct and up to date in these strategies, in order to influence current facility provision but also more importantly future demand. This evidence feeds into the England Hockey National Facility Strategy.

Current issues / developments are;

1. Wellington – resurfaced July 2017
2. Frome – resurfaced December 2017
3. Cheddar – new AGP summer 2018
4. Heathfield, Taunton – possible resurface
5. West Somerset – possible resurface
6. Chilton Trinity, Bridgwater – possible resurface

Finally, thank you for your support over the last 12 months. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

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