



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 – PLAYER PATHWAY REPORT

This year we the DC's and AC's have run well, although we had quite a bit of disruption from the weather. We held three DC centres at Taunton, Yeovil and Street in 2017. We then held our AC's with squads at U14 through to U17 for both boys and girls at two centres. This was our first year within county with the new Player Pathway system. There was a lot more contact time for those at the AC.

I do not have final figures for the past DC but am looking to confirm this now and AC only finished on Sunday so I am unable to confirm final expenses for this. I know that Andy is going to account for our Player Pathway activity in blocks now rather than just as accounts as they straddle a financial year.

This year we are holding two Development Centres Taunton (Kings College) and Street, venue is TBC. As we move to a new system all players that have been nominated by schools and clubs have been accepted for an assessment over three sessions. They will then be invited to stay for a remaining two sessions and competitions. All those that were at AC do not have to take part in the Development Centres but will be invited to the Academy Centre assessment day in September.

Our main issues, as always, are finding enough coaches, this is more of a problem over at the Street Centre. Coach development has really improved and I have received many emails from parents who have been happy with the AC. I have seen new coaches start to get involved for our DC which has been brilliant. Making forms and communication online seems to have worked well.

We have been a pilot county for the new online player system. It does work well but there are some teething problems. I have been told that we will be using it for our Development Centre as well.

O'Neills have continued to supply our kit for this year. Their service and the products are excellent. They have supplied new playing kit for players as well and these look very smart. Adidas will be providing kit for Academy Centre players but this may be in addition to what we have as they don't provide full kit.

The progression of hockey within the pathway has been really evident this year with the number of players that have progressed to Performance Centre from our county. I feel this is down to the dedicated coaches that we have within our programme, I am very grateful to them for all their hard work as my job would be impossible without them.

I have nearly completed my first year on the GB Advanced Coach Programme which I am really enjoying. I will be attending the GB Coaching Conference in May and the ACP Conference in July, thank you to SHA for their support with this.. In addition I have been part of the England Hockey Player Pathway working group and have attended one meeting at Bisham. I am hoping these will continue but there has been some change of staffing at England Hockey which has disrupted this.

Lastly I would like to thank Jo McDermid who has always helped with website and social media stuff as well as being a sounding board when required.

Laura Bennett

