



Chairman's Report

This has been a building year for the Association, adding to the solid foundations and philosophy instilled the year before. A major driving force behind the surge forwards has been the hard work of Jo McDermid who does jobs over and above the secretarial duties. Huge thanks to Jo for this.

The Association continues to engage more with its partners and stakeholders to drive hockey forward. The senior county competition has been resurrected and goes from strength to strength. Indeed, Somerset has really successfully engaged with England Hockey and run a whole host of school and club competitions to great effect. Thank you to Sandra Wickham and Jo McDermid for all their hard work with this very important job.

Somerset continues to trail blaze with regard to the Player Pathway, this being almost entirely down to the hard work and organisation of Laura Bennett. We have huge numbers of children participating in Development Centres and Academy Centres with many progressing to Performance Centres. This year Somerset trialled using an Academy Centre Satellite and Academy Centre plus to further support our young athletes in the player pathway. This was a very positive addition that worked very well.

Moving forwards perhaps areas to consider are umpiring and considering how we can source and develop more coaches to work within the player pathway.

Clare Hayes

Treasurer's Report

HSBC Current Account £33284.41 HSBC Savings Account £6035.66

At the end of the year the accounts show a net income of £ 18856.66.

JAC figures vary each year as the coaching season runs over the end of our financial year with income coming in one year and expenses going out in next. I have paid out £7000 in last month for Coaches and Pitch Hire that accrued Jan to March 2019.

I would not propose to change the Affiliation fees.

Andy Swain

Competitions Report

Clubs

- The U10/U12/U14 inter club tournaments ran throughout the season hosted by various clubs and this season Wellington Foxs have joined the existing clubs. The county winners are as follows:
- U10 Girls Winners – Taunton Civil Service Runners Up – Yeovil & Sherborne
- U10 Boys Winners – Taunton Civil Service Runners Up – Taunton Vale
- U12 Girls Winners – Taunton Civil Service Runners Up – Taunton Vale
- U12 Boys Winners – Taunton Vale Runners Up – Taunton Civil Service
- U14 Girls Winners – Cheddar Valley Youth Runners Up – Yeovil & Sherborne
- U14 Boys Winners – Chard Runners Up – Shepton Mallet
- The club forum to discuss next seasons fixtures for juniors is on Tuesday 18th June at Taunton Vale 7.00pm
- Taunton Vale Juniors were the only club to enter West Regional indoor.
- The Somerset Mens and Ladies County Cup ran again throughout the season. It has been mentioned by clubs that they preferred the semis and finals being held on one day to make more of an occasion.





- Ladies County Cup Winners – Yeovil & Sherborne Runners Up – Taunton Vale
- Mens County Cup Winners – Taunton Vale Runners Up – North Somerset
- Clifton Robinsons Men and Yeovil & Sherborne Mens both entered the West Regional Indoor alongside Yeovil & Sherborne Ladies.

Schools

- Considering the lateness of England Hockey informing counties of the news schools competition format it all ran really well and it has been really good to see schools that we have not had entering before coming along and take part competitively.
- U18 T4 Girls Winners – Taunton School
- U16 T3 Girls Winners – Wellington School Runners Up – Taunton School
- U14 T1 Girls Winners – Millfield School Runners Up – Taunton School
- U14 T2 Girls Winners – Queen’s College Runners Up – Wells Cathedral School
- U14 T3 Girls Winners – The Castle School Runners Up – Sexeys School
- U13 T1 Girls Winners – Taunton Prep School Runners Up – Millfield Prep School
- U12 T2 Girls Winners – Taunton Prep School Runners Up – Holyrood Academy
- U11 T1 Girls Winners – Millfield Prep School Runners Up – Queen’s College
- U18 T4 Boys Winners –
- U16 T3 Boys Winners – Queen’s College Runners Up – The Castle School
- U14 T1 Boys Winners – Millfield School Runners Up – Taunton School
- U14 T2 Boys Winners – Downside School Runners Up – Wellington School
- U14 T3 Boys Winners – Holyrood Academy Runners Up – Stonar School
- U13 T1 Boys Winners – Taunton Prep School Runners Up – All Hallows Prep School
- U12 T2 Boys Winners – Millfield Prep School Runners Up – Taunton Prep School
- U11 T1 Boys Winners – Taunton Prep School Runners Up – Queen’s College

Sandra Wickham/Jo McDermid

Player Pathway Report

Development Centre 2018

We ran our Development Centre in 2018 over the summer months in May and June. We ran this over two centres – Taunton and Street. All children that are nominated by their school or club are accepted and we rely on the schools and clubs only nominated those that have potential with their hockey. The first set of sessions are open for all that are nominated and then numbers are reduced for further training sessions and some games against the other centre.

We still had an issue of a lack of coaches but did manage with some people doubling up.

Income and Expenditure DC 2018

The cost for DC 2018 was £40 per person which included a t-shirt.





Somerset Hockey 2018 Development Centre Accounts

Expenses		Income	
Coaching	£2,825.60		£13,00
Admin	£3,600.00	DC Income	0.00
Pitch Hire	£1,656.00		
DBS	£14.04		
Equipment	£895.51		
Total	£8,991.15	Total	£13,000.00
Total remaining	£4,008.85		

Development Centre 2019

This year we are holding two Development Centres Taunton (Kings College) and Street, (Millfield School).

Numbers are high again for this year. I believe that we are one of the only counties that don't bring the Academy Centre players back to Development Centre. Main reason is that we can't manage this amount of children and the standard at AC is so high and we want to try and focus on the ones coming in to bring up the standard there All players that were at AC are encouraged to play some adult hockey over the Summer months.

This year we offered Cheddar as a centre but a total of six children were signed up. Therefore, we could not run this viably.

As clubs are increasing the amount of summer hockey they are playing this has caused an issue with pitch availability. I have moved away from Fridays as the traffic is always so bad in this area. Looking to next year already, I think that maybe it would be worth splitting over more pitches and running everything on a Monday evening. The only other issues faced with this are numbers of coaches. I was 11 coaches short with two weeks to go. Coaches are just not coming forward to coach in the Pathway. I think that there are some plans from England Hockey to address this. Millfield is also an issue for facilities as they now won't allow anyone on site before 7.00pm due to Safeguarding Policies.

There is a coaching conference run by England Hockey on 14th August 2019 and I understand that Somerset Hockey want to run one this year as well.

I am trying to ensure all coaches that are currently working within the group are supported and developed.

We are using Web Ex for meetings online and WhatsApp groups to share ideas and information.

Academy Centre 2018

Our AC has been fantastic this year which is mainly down to the brilliant coaches that have been working on the programme. It has really bridged the gap between AC and PC in terms of quality and contact time.

There have been some issues with competitions, which has already been discussed at the West Performance Meeting. In Somerset, we may not run U16 and U17 but have one squad to ensure the standard and quality is there. This decision will be made at the assessment day once we see the standard of the players' trialing.





AC Satellite

We have run AC Satellite sessions for all those that were at the AC trials day but did not get a place at AC. This also acts as a holding tank for players, so if any drop out of the AC group for injury or move up to PC then their place can be filled without having to wait until the next year. Sessions have run at one a month. One girl moved into the AC group and has gone all the way up for a PC assessment in June.

AC+

We have also run an AC+ group for all those that come back from PC and for the top two in each group to attend. These sessions have been delivered by a PC coach are designed to really stretch players. They have an additional session about every 5/6 weeks. We have had several re-gain places at PC which I think is down to the support that they have gained in these additional sessions.

GK Coaching

I would like us to have a GK specialist coach in the county that can be used for DC and AC. Although we want GK integrated within sessions as much as possible. Some do need some more technical input for the odd session. I do believe that we could run a GK academy on its own that the GK's could attend in addition to the main AC. I am going to see if there are any coaches that would be interested in specialising in this and focuses on their GK coaching.

Kit

Our kit supplier has stayed at O'Neills. There have been a few issues with sizing but I hope this will be sorted soon. All players now have their own shirt and squad number which they will keep for their duration through the Player Pathway. I have sold off all used kit, these figures are included within the AC income which is why it may seem a bit higher. However, I have purchased bespoke facemasks from Young Ones that are logoed for Somerset Hockey. We have four sets of four but I may look to purchase more for next year's AC so every group has four to use in training as well.

Income and Expenditure AC 2018

The cost to each player was £130 which included all training and competition. There was a total of 24 hours of training plus up to four competitions.

Somerset Hockey 2018/19 Academy Centre Accounts

Expenses		Income	
Coaching	£10,303.35	AC Income	£20,500.00
Admin	£3,500.00		
Pitch Hire	£4,463.50		
Equipment	£548.68		
Competition	£1,075.00		
Total	£19,890.53	Total	£20,500.00
Total remaining	£609.47		

Both the DC and AC have made a surplus. When budgeting for them both it is very difficult to know how many people are going to sign up and therefore total expenditure. I try and estimate based on rough numbers and what I think will come. Very little equipment was purchased last year but I have just purchased quite a big for DC 2019 to replenish what we needed.





I would like to thank Jo and Clare for their support and always supporting me when I am trying to find solutions. Jo has been brilliant at updating the website and social media with anything I have sent on.

Laura Bennett

West Masters Report

The West Masters Committee continues to meet regularly, and West Teams have/will compete at all age groups in the Divisional Tournaments including the new Mens O35's

The West County Masters Festival was held in September 2018 and Somerset fielded sides in all age groups. It will be held again in Sept 2019, but date/venue not yet announced

Counties will be invited to enter a West Masters Merit Table with fixtures throughout the season. Full details awaited but I think we should support if our teams keen

The Mens O60's entered the EH Championship and went out to Devon/Cornwall in Round 1 of Tier 2. The number of players in this age group continues to increase so I am in discussion with Wiltshire to enter two Somerset/Wilts teams next season. Devon/Cornwall & Glos/Hereford already do this Many Somerset Masters continue to gain selection for International Teams including those in the European Championship in June.

On Sunday 16th June at the University of Bath all Somerset teams take on Gloucestershire in the now annual event.

Finally, some thanks to, firstly, Steve Cooke who has stood down as O50s Manager and all the other team Managers. Womens O35 - Debs Hughes, Mens O40 - Marty Pellow, Mens O50 - Dudley Bartlett, Mens O60 - Myself

Nick Kendall

Verde Recreo Mens League Report

I attended all but the last meeting of the season and also the North Area Meeting. New Sponsorship is going well with keen interest from their management team.

Next year's Divisions will see the impact of 4 teams being promoted to MHL West Conference so I have not produced my usual full list of teams promoted/relegated as just too complicated to predict.

However, the following worth noting

1. No Somerset club made the top four in the Premier Division
2. Firebrands relegated to Championship
3. Taunton Vale promoted to the Premier
- 4.

Many rule changes can be expected but all just either the result of the impact of the new MHL or the need to improve/clarify.

Nick Kendall





Umpiring Officer Report

I was asked to become Umpiring Officer after the last AGM with minimal knowledge of the existing state of umpiring in the county. Unsurprisingly I quickly discovered that as with most other counties the vast majority of umpiring is undertaken by umpires who are not members of a HUA. A few clubs get appointed umpires who are members of a HUA but these really are the exception. Furthermore, the county HUA, ASHUA provides no support for club umpires and appears to be no more than a limited appointment service.

Despite the usual problems with recruiting and retaining umpires there was absolutely no existing support for club umpires and most clubs appeared to have no desire to improve the status quo or were unwilling to make any effort to do so. An initial offer to offer umpiring support to any club received zero replies. A subsequent survey identified from a limited number of replies an overwhelming desire that clubs supported any SHA initiatives to help improve their umpires.

Please remember that to become qualified umpires attend a one day Level 1 course, a small percentage (about 15% nationally) get assessed to permit them to umpire at a higher level, and then in Somerset as with many other counties are cast adrift to fend for themselves unless they choose to join an HUA which offers developmental support.

And clubs wonder why they have difficulty recruiting and retaining umpires!!!!

Would they expect players and teams to improve without coaches and training???

An umpire forum was attended by about a dozen umpires from five or six clubs which is a start and it is my intention to hold another similar evening pre-season by when the rule changes for next season will be finalised to which all will be invited.

The offer is still there to all clubs for help with their club umpires and a few documents have been posted on to the Somerset HA website that would be useful reading for any club umpire.

Keith Dingle

Welfare Report

Somerset's point of contact for any issues, concerns or queries is the Ethics and Welfare Team at EH. Any serious concerns reported to Somerset's Welfare Officer will likely be shared and discussed with the Ethics and Welfare Team for guidance.

All coaches within the Player Pathway are DBS checked and have completed either the online safeguarding e-learning or attended a safeguarding and protecting children course.

England Hockey guidelines for club welfare officers advise they attend the Time to Listen course.

It is good practice for any volunteers or helpers within clubs to be DBS checked and complete the online safeguarding e-learning especially if they are helping with junior sessions. Best practice would be for any club members in contact with juniors e.g. Team captains to be DBS checked and undertake safeguarding e-learning.



Safeguarding Training

EH has produced guidance on what training is required by the different roles within club hockey for anyone working with under 18s. Please click [here](#) to access it.

Concussion guidance

EH has updated its guidance for parents and coaches. Please click [here](#) to access it.

Safeguarding young people and adults Best practice guidance

This includes guidance on social media issues, juniors in senior teams, photography etc. Please click [here](#) to access it.

Sheila Burridge

West Hockey Association Report

- The Governance review has upset a lot of people! EH are going to hold a series of Road Shows around the Regions to explain how they would like to take it forward. At these events they will ask for comments and then collate people's / Region's opinions/proposals and present the outcome at the AGM in March 2020.
- They West Region Road show will be on July 1st at Taunton Vale.
- Disciplinary report. A number of Red cards which was concerning. But there is still concern about men urinating at the side of the pitch which is not a card issue. They feel it is a club issue which should be dealt with internally.
- New rules from FIH are coming in on September 1st. EH are still in two minds about implementing all of them but it is a case of if an accident occurred a barrister could ask the question why all the rules were not included.
- The Counties and the HUA's are to have a meeting to discuss the new rules and the management of teams. Date to be decided.
- West Competitions. The dates for the competitions were circulated after a meeting to discuss them. One change U14 girls T1 and T2 November 26th.
- Ladies Masters - 035's won, 045's 4th out of 5; 060's 3rd
- West AGM July 11th venue to be decided.

Sandra Wickham

West Clubs Women's Hockey League Report

The 2018/19 season finished with several Somerset teams being successful. Top of Premier 1 were Bath Buccaneers who now move up to the National League. Yeovil and Sherborne step into their Premier shoes after they won Premier 2.

Clifton Robinsons 3 came first in Central with both Somerset Gryphons and Minehead winning Division 1 of their respective regional leagues. Weston Super Mare 2 gain promotion into Brunel 1, whilst Clifton Robinsons 5 were winners of Berkeley 3.

With several Dorset teams deciding to move into the Ladies South League, the West Regional Divisions will look somewhat different this year. With an additional league, Whitehorse, being created, teams may not appear in the league they may have anticipated.

Moreover, with a combination of 8, 10 and 12 team leagues, teams will need to check the league dates to see where 'free' weekends occur.



There were no major rule changes this year. However, the ALM agreed that players may wear shorts if they so wish as long as this fits with their uniform club colours.

Premier 1 teams will also now be able to play double header weekends if their opposition agree, with the brought forward game being played on the Friday before or the Sunday after the set date. This is to alleviate some of the longer travelling distances involved, especially with the introduction of Welsh teams into Premier.

These rule changes will, of course, have to be ratified by West Council.

Julie Morrish