

Somerset Hockey Association

AGM REPORT 2018/19



ENGLAND
HOCKEY

Validity Hockey Women's World Cup

In the summer of 2018 we hosted the Hockey Women's World Cup for the first time in our history! This was 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 gave us a golden opportunity to grow our game and celebrate our success.

England Hockey launched our largest participation campaign to date - Your World Cup! This National Campaign helped support every club to thrive from the unique opportunity of hosting a World Cup on home soil, giving all clubs the opportunity to develop, focussing on;

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

Your World Cup (YWC) – impact & feedback;

- 46 YWC Forums nationally attended by 317 clubs
- 670 clubs out of 862 bought tickets (78%)
- Clubs bought 27,551 tickets equating to over £1m in ticket sales
- 684 clubs attended the World Cup (free ticket offer included)
- All matches shown live on BT Sport
- Largest women's sporting event in this country in 2018
- Over 1000 YWC activities offered by over 400 clubs across the Country

FIH Pro League

The FIH Pro League is the ground-breaking, new, global hockey competition that began in January 2019. Two leagues, one men's and one women's, comprising eleven of the greatest hockey nations. 144 matches will be staged around the world each season culminating in a Grand Final in June in the Netherlands. All matches are being shown live on BT Sport to a projected UK TV audience of 2.5M.

Great Britain's women and men are competing in both leagues. The home schedule is made up of 8 single internationals and 4 'double-headers' where both the Great Britain women's and men's team will play back to back. We have offered season tickets for the first time and, owing to the demand for hockey tickets at recent events, we ran a ballot to ensure everyone had equal opportunity to access tickets.

Our home campaign began on 27 April 2019 and runs through to Sunday 23 June 2019, culminating in a double header vs New Zealand at the Twickenham Stoop to, hopefully, a 14K sell out audience making the Stoop event one of the biggest attended hockey events for a Men's game outside of an Olympic event. There will also be a Club Conference on this date with all clubs invited to attend with 2 free tickets.

AGM Resolution – The Principles, Vision and Next Steps

At the March 2017 England Hockey AGM, a resolution to review the structures within the sport was proposed and passed with a 98% majority. The AGM resolution in full read as follows:

Somerset HA AGM Report

“This resolution proposes that England Hockey review the sport's current governance structure across the country so that it provides the best opportunity to develop the sport; increasing participation levels and the chances of sustained success at national and international level while safeguarding participants and giving members the best possible experience in the 21st century”.

The Vision;

A **robust governance structure** that allows for **maximum participation** in hockey within a **safe environment** underpinned by an organisational structure that ensures **consistency, accountability, transparency** and **communication at all levels**.

A Governance Review Working Group has developed a set of high-level Principles which will underpin any changes, and these will be the subject of the next phase of consultation.

- As National Governing Body, England Hockey has overall responsibility for the sport in England
- There is a fundamental role for local organisation and decision making
- Clarification of accountability of all organising bodies to their stakeholders and ultimately to England Hockey is required
- Simplification of structure should be the aim to make it easier for all involved
- Clarity of purpose is key for all organising bodies
- Common principles of governance are necessary for all organising bodies
- Consistency of overarching policies, rules and regulations is required for all aspects relating to playing hockey*

**Rules and some regulations subject to FIH*

The Working Group will firstly be looking at the Structural Reform;

- Simpler structure - consultation had highlighted “unnecessarily complex structure”
- Fewer volunteers required- difficulty in recruiting volunteers
- More accountability and transparency- consultation has highlighted this as an issue
- More opportunity to progress in leagues- inconsistent opportunities at present

Roadshows will be held across the Country to present the proposals and answer any questions – **Monday 1 July 2019 at 7.30pm in Taunton** (venue tbc), for CHA, CHUA, leagues and clubs to attend.

GROW OUR PARTICIPATION

Affiliation data

Clubs report 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 games 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 decreased by -3.4% as broken down below:

	Junior	Adult	Total
Total 2017/18	1494	1150	2644
Total 2018/19	1390	1165	2555
Difference	-104	15	-89

Somerset HA AGM Report

The new GDPR regulations, that came into effect last May, has meant clubs have cleansed their data to comply with the guidelines, which may have had a knock-on effect to affiliation data, especially with our larger clubs. Also, we need to be aware of the impact of other sports success on the national stage like England Netball's Commonwealth Games win.

Five clubs have seen their membership increase, five have stayed constant (within 5%) and seven have seen a decline. Moving forward, our focus is to retain these players within our sport, especially focussing on the transition of juniors into senior hockey. Thank you to those clubs who amended their affiliation data during the season.

Framework Agreement on Data Sharing

There is a Framework Agreement on Data Sharing available for all Clubs and Counties to sign as part of affiliation. The aim is to eventually link systems so that clubs only need to input their data once on one portal.

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 the 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 increasing their visibility by supporting community events like fetes, carnivals and local shows.

Hockey Heroes

A new 6-week introductory hockey programme delivered by clubs, aimed at children aged 5-8 based around an ethos of fun and inclusivity, with an emphasis on character development as well as physical skill development. The pilot phase launches in September 2019, with only 100 clubs nationally who will engage with their local primary schools to market their programme.

The Super Hero theme flows throughout the programme with Champions and Sidekicks delivering to the young players who display Superpowers and complete Team Missions. The Hockey Heroes programme also recognises the important role that parents play in encouraging their children to be active and to develop an interest in sport. Certain elements within the programme have been specially designed to maximise parental interest, engagement and involvement.

Schools Competitions 2018/19

A new Tiered approach to the School Competitions was introduced at U18, U16 and U14 age groups this season. If a School enters Tier 1, that team cannot participate in Tier 2 etc. However, a school could enter a 2nd team into the next Tier down. For example: a school could enter U16 Tier 2 County 11 aside and enter a 2nd team into the U 16 Tier 3 County 7 aside. Somerset HA have been able to engage with more state schools using this new approach.

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 been very good, with on average 7 clubs attending. Somerset Hockey have been proactive in responding to the Forum feedback, developing the new website for example. Please give some thought as to what your club would like to see at these meetings so that they are beneficial and incentivise to attendance.

Somerset HA AGM Report

The main themes for the Club Forum this season were:

1. **Planning for 2018/19 season – 11 June 2018**
2. **Supporting Clubs to Develop their Umpires – 24 September 2018**
3. **Managing Your Club Effectively – 21 January 2019**

Clubs identified individual actions and hopefully are working on these to progress the club.

England Hockey ClubMark

Congratulations to Yeovil & Sherborne HC who have renewed their ClubMark accreditation. There are two accredited clubs – Chard and Yeovil & Sherborne. Three further Somerset Clubs are currently working towards ClubMark – Taunton Vale, Cheddar Valley Junior and Frome. The new system is much more streamlined, with only 18 pieces evidence required to meet this minimum operating standard. The aim is for all clubs to actively work towards accreditation by August 2019.

Courses and Workshops

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

- Engaging Games for Children (Frome)
- UKCC Session Coach Award Course (Taunton)
- What to Coach – Defending (Taunton)
- Level 1 Umpires Courses (Taunton & Yeovil)

Safeguarding – Call to Action

As part of England Hockey affiliation clubs were asked to complete an audit of their current Safeguarding provision set against the minimum standard. All Somerset clubs completed Call to Action and, following discussion at a Club Forum, these minimum standards are in the main being followed by clubs. However, it has identified areas where clubs could improve on their communication and promotion of Safeguarding across their membership and, therefore the next Club Forum in September will have a Safeguarding focus.

Facilities

Playing Pitch Strategies (PPS) are currently active in the following Local Authorities to ensure that our facilities are protected, improved or developed: South Somerset Council, Taunton Deane Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset, 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, to influence current facility provision but also more importantly predict future demand. This evidence feeds into the England Hockey National Facility Strategy.

Current issues / developments are;

1. Heathfield, Taunton – possible resurface
2. West Somerset – possible resurface
3. Chilton Trinity, Bridgwater – possible resurface
4. Holyrood, Chard – floodlight upgrade

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

Barbara Reynolds
England Hockey Relationship Manager
Mob: 07718 980517
E: Barbara.reynolds@englandhockey.co.uk

Jenny Mitchell
Development Administrator
O: 01392 264031
E: Jenny.mitchell@englandhockey.co.uk