



SOMERSET HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

AGM COMPETITIONS REPORT 2019 – 2020

Schools

This was the second year of the new England Hockey tiered schools competitions and Somerset HA organised 30 outdoor competitions and 8 indoor.

More schools entered this year and it is very encouraging to see new schools entering, enjoying themselves on the day and competitively competing in the tournaments.

Some schools have mentioned that they would like to look into changing the format of the indoor competitions but as yet I have not managed to meet with them. The main issue will be the availability of indoor halls.

It has also been mooted that the schools entry fee for competitions be scrapped (they will still need to pay the affiliation fee) and those schools who go through to West Regional competitions then pay the entry amount for this. It makes it fairer on the schools who always enter county but rarely get to go further and as the schools kindly donate their pitches for free it seems like a sensible move forward. Something for the new schools organisers and committee to discuss.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all schools and teachers for their continued support and use of pitches and to welcome Laura and Clare who have kindly agreed to take on the running of the schools competitions next season.

Clubs

Once again the interclubs competitions have been well supported and lots of teams entering and giving many children across Somerset a chance to play competitive hockey regularly and it has been great to welcome Wellington Fox's on a regular basis. I think as from next season the hosting club will be producing the schedules for each tournament. I am currently working on a schedule for next season and will send out to clubs to comment on. It is very unlikely that there will be a Junior Clubs Forum this season but we intend to discuss the junior tournaments at the Somerset Clubs Forum on Monday 7th September 2020.

The U10 county competition team numbers were down this season but still a great day of hockey, thanks to Cheddar Valley Youth HC for hosting running the day. The U12 county competition was well attended and thanks to Bruton HC for hosting. At the time of writing this the U14 county competition has been cancelled due to Covid-19.

Alongside the ladies and mens Somerset Cup competition this year we offered an U16 boys and girls Somerset Cup. Due to the low numbers of teams this was being held as a round robin on the 26th April alongside the mens and ladies finals. Again this is been cancelled due to Covid-19. The mens and ladies format may need to be revised with so many teams who enter not fulfilling the matches prior to the finals.



I have had quite a few club members of various teams asking me to change dates for county finals and querying the dates they are scheduled for and I would like to point out that as a County Association we follow the England Hockey Centralised Calendar, which if you have ever looked at it, is very busy! Thus any competitions that we run either have to follow the date assigned for the competition on the calendar or have to avoid any centralised dates of the junior age groups, mens, ladies, player pathway and NAGs it is a juggling act and we would really like clubs and members to understand this!

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the clubs for their support and King's College Taunton who regularly lend us their pitches. And Ros Tyson of Cheddar Valley Youth HC who will be taking over the Club County Competitions organisation next season.

Jo McDermid