

Somerset Hockey Association

AGM REPORT 2019/20



England Hockey CEO

As you may be aware Sally Munday left England Hockey, after over 20 years of service, for a new role at UK Sport. Nick Pink is the new CEO who started in post last November. Nick joined England Hockey with a wealth of experience in the sports sector - Chief Executive of England Golf, four years with the International Cricket Council, held roles with UK Sport and Youth Sport Trust. A keen sportsman, Nick is a hockey enthusiast as both a player and a qualified coach.

GROW OUR PARTICIPATION

Affiliation data

A new England Hockey Club Portal for this years' affiliation process meant there is no longer a club log in, this has been replaced with individual log ins for all your committee members. A reminder that clubs can access the site at any point throughout the year to update contacts or membership numbers.

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, Hockey Heroes 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.

There are 17 clubs in the county*, with affiliation data (Typical & Informal only) showing the total number of people playing club hockey in the county increased by 3.8% as broken down below:

	Junior	Adult	Total
Total 2018/19	1389	1166	2555
Total 2019/20	1393	1258	2651
Difference	4	92	96

Seven clubs have seen their membership increase, five have stayed constant (within 5%) and five have seen a decline. Adult participation has increased by 7.9% and juniors very slightly increased by 0.3%. This is the second season that juniors have decreased or remained static. Clubs appear to be **Retaining** players, especially transitioning juniors into seniors. Moving forward, our focus is to **Recruit** players for the 2020/21 season, especially juniors. Thank you to those clubs who amended their affiliation data during 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.

**Note – this AGM report doesn't include Avon based clubs who affiliate to Somerset HA*

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 (80 clubs nationally) launched in September 2019, with clubs engaging with their local primary schools to market their programme. The following Somerset clubs participated in the pilot; Cheddar Valley Youth HC, Frome HC and Taunton Vale HC, a combined total of 42 players.

The Superhero 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.

The first block of Hockey Hero sessions has been successfully delivered with feedback from clubs, coaches, parents and players being a resounding success. Clubs are now setting dates for their second block of sessions and working on transitioning players into their junior club. England Hockey are engaging with potential new clubs for Year 2.

DELIVER INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Tokyo Olympic Qualifiers

Both Great Britain's men & women qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics winning their respective play offs against Chile (women) and Malaysia (men) at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre over the weekend of 2nd & 3rd November 2019. The format was a two-legged qualifier, played on two consecutive days, where the team with the highest aggregate score qualified for the Olympics.

The Tokyo Olympics will now start on Friday 23 July 2021.

The Player Pathway

With the England Hockey decision to suspend all hockey activity until 30 June, the Player Pathway Development Centres which would normally run in May & June, have been postponed. All West counties are in communication to decide the way forward, more information to follow.

INCREASE OUR VISABILITY

FIH Pro League

COVID-19 has led to the postponement of this season's FIH Hockey Pro League. The league was scheduled to take place from January to June 2020, with a change in the structuring of fixtures with teams playing each other home and away in alternate years. All matches were being shown on BT Sport.

Great Britain started their campaign in Australia on 1 & 2 February, with London due to play host to 16 games (eight double-headers) over four big themed weekends - 'End of Season Party', 'Big Stadium Hockey', 'Junior Takeover' and 'Olympic Send-Off'.

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England Hockey Awards 2020

This year's England Hockey Awards Dinner has been another casualty of COVID-19. The nomination window closed on 29th March and a virtual England Hockey Awards presentation will take place this year instead.

Hockey Fest 2019

The #HockeyFest campaign ran from 24th August –15th September 2019 with 2 clubs across Somerset taking part; Bridgwater and Frome.

ENHANCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

AGM Resolution - A Structure Fit for the Future

The 2017 AGM Resolution Proposal;

'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 a 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.**

- Roadshows were held across the Country to present the proposals and answer any questions – Monday 1 July 2019 in Taunton, for CHA, CHUA, leagues and clubs to attend.
- Consultation phase; Members were consulted, with feedback sought on the proposals through a survey which closed on 27 October 2019.
- A final version, with a detailed Implementation Plan, to be put before the 2020 EH AGM was circulated in December 2019.
- Somerset Club Forum in January; the initial proposal and subsequent amendments following the Consultation period were shared, with each of the Functional Areas outlined and with small groups of clubs discussing its impact and effect on them as clubs and for Somerset Hockey.

Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), it was felt it not to be in the best interests of our membership to continue with the scheduled England Hockey Annual General Meeting which was due to take place at Bisham Abbey on Tuesday 17 March 2020.

In accordance with the England Hockey Articles of Association, following the calling notice of 26 February, for the meeting not to take place, England Hockey were required to start the meeting and subsequently adjourn it based on the minimum quorum not being met. A new date will be arranged and communicated in due course.

All supporting documents are available to view on our [website](#) .

West Hockey Association & County Hockey Associations

At the recent West Council meeting, it was agreed to hold a meeting for all County Hockey Association Chairs (or County representative) to start discussions on the AGM Resolution – 'A Structure Fit for the Future'. This meeting will give Counties an opportunity to share current good practice and any concerns moving forward, also their future alliance to the West.

Despite the England Hockey AGM being adjourned and the vote on the AGM Resolution not taking place, this work will continue as it is an opportunity to start working together as chairs to look at how the West and Counties might operate in the future to provide a more consistent hockey experience across the region.

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A template for the West and each County to complete, will gain some insight into the current position. This fact-finding exercise will provide some useful information and act as a benchmark leading to an Action Plan for the region and each county.

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 8 clubs attending. Somerset Hockey have been proactive in responding to the Forum feedback, offering a Coaching Conference 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.

The main themes for the Club Forum this season were:

1. **Planning for 2019/20 season – 18 June 2019**
2. **Safeguarding – 23 September 2019**
3. **A Structure Fit for the Future – 20 January 2020**

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

England Hockey ClubMark

Congratulations to Cheddar Valley Youth, on achieving England Hockey ClubMark status. There are currently 3 accredited clubs across Somerset, with Bridgwater, Frome and Taunton Vale working towards accreditation. The new system is much more streamlined, with only 18 pieces of evidence required to meet this minimum operating standard. ClubMark will move across to the new Club Portal in the future.

Courses and Workshops

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

- Coaching Club Players (Yeovil)
- Engaging Games for Children (Yeovil)
- Level 1 Umpire Award Course (Sherborne)
- Community of Practice (Yeovil)
- Coach Award Course (Taunton)

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. This season England Hockey audited 10% of clubs to check their evidence.

DBS

England Hockey will now accept DBS checks via the Government Update Service, more information has been circulated to all clubs.

Time to Listen Workshop

A TTL workshop was held in Exeter, with 1 Somerset club attending. Every Club Welfare Officer should attend the Workshop and update their training every 3 years. We recommend that a second Club Officer is also trained. There are currently 7 clubs in Somerset without current training.

Health & Safety Guidance update

England Hockey have updated the following to ensure these documents are more easily accessible and digestible.

- **Injury Monitoring** – for clubs, counties and Player Pathway to report all injuries either during training or match play that require hospital treatment
<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/injurymonitoring>
- **Health and Safety FAQ**
<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/landing.asp?section=2034§ionTitle=Club+Support>
- **Concussion Policy**
<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1921§ionTitle=Medical+Information>

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Facilities

Playing Pitch Strategies (PPS) are currently active in the following Local Authorities to ensure that our facilities are protected, improved or developed: Sedgemoor, South Somerset Council and Taunton Deane 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. West Somerset – possible resurface
2. Chilton Trinity, Bridgwater – possible resurface
3. Holyrood, Chard – floodlight upgrade, complete
4. Downside School – possible floodlights

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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