



Officers Reports for SHA Committee Meeting Tuesday 28th July 2020

Tresurer's Report

Myself and Amanda are working through the handover and Amanda is set up on Quickbooks. The clubs affiliation letter is being sent out and the clubs will be notified of the sliding scale for affiliation fees if the Committee pass it at the meeting. The bank accounts totals are: £21,589.44 and £6050.73.

Andy Swain

Secretary's Report

The website has been slightly reorganised to hopefully make it simple to find the information visitors need and to make links to other hockey sites more visible. A Covid 19 page has been added and this is intended to help players, officials and supporters to keep up to date with England Hockey's Return to Play strategy and any updates, alongside any posters/information downloads for clubs and schools. There is also a tab Local Lockdown which we are hoping we will be able to up date the county should any happen and the consequences for clubs/schools and any interruptions to play in the area. Until we face a local lockdown it is not possible to know whether this will be a useful page! Any feedback welcome.

The website is up to date for the clubs and schools competitions in line with EH's guidance to plan for a normal season at the moment. EH have said centralised competitions for schools will not start until after the October halfterm but some of our country rounds are planned prior to halfterm as the hockey calendar is so full. Laura and Clare have been in contact with schools and will continue to do so and address any issues should they arise. The junior inter club comps again are due to start in September and this may need to be a play by ear situation for each one depending on the playing situation at the time again Ros will keep in contact with clubs. We are just awaiting for Laura to confirm the booking of the KCT pitches once she returns to work:

27th September 2020 U12 Cubs

7th February 2021 U12 Clubs

21st March 2021 U14 Clubs County Tournament

25th April 2020 Somerset Clubs Cup Finals Day

YSHC have asked if they can play their Mens 2020 Cup Final against North Somerset in September, I have agreed in principle and they will arrange between themselves. I will also offer it to the 2 ladies teams. However I think it would be impossible to arrange finals for the U16s and U14s from last season as the junior calendar is full and players will have moved up an age group etc.

I have all the schools and clubs medals to hand over at the AGM which is scheduled for the 7th September 2020. I still have not had confirmation from TV Sports Club that we can have the Blackdown Room despite sending several emails. If anyone else has any other suggestions please let me know.

Jo McDermid



Men's League Report

The Verde Recreo League have published Option A Start date fixed for the 24th Oct which is outside of EH guidelines but gives clubs maximum opportunity to assess playing numbers, especially University based clubs.

Some temporary rules will be published to help clubs through a potentially difficult season. Again, these had already been agreed before receiving suggestions from EH

Early indications are that some clubs will reduce number of teams, some in Somerset

Nick Kendall

Men's Masters Report

No West Masters activity/meetings during lockdown so far. Apart from, given that the Masters World Cup squads have been carried over to 2021. EH asked the Divisions if they wanted to follow suit re age qualification for the Divisional Champs. I voted to keep normal age breaks and I think that was the West decision as well.

I have entered an O60 Mens Somerset/Wilts team in the EH Championship and reassessing numbers before deciding on 2nd team.

Nick Kendall

Player Pathway Administrators Report 2020

Development Centre 2019

We ran our Development Centre in 2019 over the summer months as usual. This ran well apart from a few issues with pitch hire at Millfield School. We still need more coaches for the numbers that we have playing but our brilliant coaching team did double up to help with this.

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

Development Centre 2020

This year has been very different but I am only on version 4 of how the DC will look in Somerset.

I have all nominations in from schools and have asked parents to confirm they want their child to attend.

I am planning to have centres in Bruton, Taunton and Yeovil although the uptake for the Yeovil centre has been very low so this may not run.

The current plan is to start DC mid September and run on Friday evenings for 5 weeks.

There is a planning meeting with the coaches planned for next week (online)

Academy Centre 2019

Our AC programme has run well apart from extreme weather causing some competitions to be cancelled. I have now decided that I will not use Millfield as a venue as the issues they caused with bookings this year. Bruton School are happy to host and so are Wells Cathedral now that they are trying to get planning for lights.

The coaches were brilliant on this but I would still like to expand the pool of coaches available for next year.

AC Satellite

We ran a few sessions for this which worked really well. For next year I need to put this into the programme at the start so parents know what the plan is.

AC+

My plan was to start this in January but due to cancelled sessions there weren't any spare dates for this to run. I do think this is a very good thing to run and therefore will add this into the programme and plan for the dates at the beginning.

Academy Centre 2020

I have started planning for the next AC. I attended a Zoom west performance meeting with the other counties. We don't anticipate starting any competition with other counties until January.

I would like to run the AC trials in November over two weeks and then run a couple of weeks training before Christmas. I normally avoid December due to indoor hockey but it is looking unlikely that this will happen.

When I meet with the coaches next week I also have some other ideas for the AC, which we will discuss and put together a plan for how this will work.

GK Coaching

We had a GK specialist coach at the AC this year and also some spot sessions at DC. This worked really well and players got a lot out of it. The feedback from coaches is that they would still like more support with integrating GK's and therefore we will do some CPD for this.

Kit

Players purchased their own kit for AC this year which was much better as they were responsible for bringing it and sizing wasn't such an issue. Our kit supplier is O'Neill which I would like to stay with if they can provide the same service.

Income and Expenditure AC 2019/20

The cost to each player was £140 which included all training and competition.

Both the DC and AC have made a surplus. I do a budget forecast each year and do build in contingencies, just in case. I am budgeting for the next cycle but until further information from EH is released this is very difficult.

I would like to thank Jo for her continued support and being my sounding board to check over everything.

Laura Bennett

West Hockey Representative

The West Council held a meeting on the 21st July:

Val Shipley, from Avon is going to be Treasurer.

Return to play - lengthy discussion - main issue was the use of school pitches. No date set for returning could be November plan C or even January plan D (which was in the latest information from EH)

Communication - EH website has been revamped and will be launched soon. Regional Managers are being trained how to use it at the moment. No one else can use it until they have been trained.

A small working party, under the guidance of David Chard, was set up to look into how communications can be improved from West to Clubs and vice versa.

They talked about using Twitter and Facebook and decided that Facebook was better if need be.

Sandra Wickham

The West Clubs Women's Hockey League

The West Clubs Women's Hockey League Committee met via a conference call, to discuss how they would finalise the end of season tables, and therefore the promotions and relegations, following the early conclusion of the 2019-20 season.

Having looked into a number of possible solutions it was finally decided on calculating the final League positions on a percentage points basis. This was calculated on total points won (3 for a win, 1 for a draw), less any points deducted for disciplinary offences, then divided by the total number of points available from the games played, multiplied by 100 to give a percentage. Should teams have had the same percentage points, then goal difference was used.

Using this basis took into consideration that at the point when we closed the season, not all teams had played the same number of matches. This method, we felt, gave fairness to all teams and preserved the League's integrity.

We realise this decision will not have pleased some, however even the most ardent objector will realise the situation we were in is totally without precedent, to us and the other Leagues around the country.

Our Premier Division 1 winners were Firebrands and we wish them luck in National League in the coming season.

We lost 3 teams before the start of last season. 4 have withdrawn since the League finished in March and there have been new team applications from 2 clubs.

How we then foresee next season panning out is an altogether different matter. The decision will ultimately rest with England Hockey; however, the Ladies' League does appreciate that clubs will be need in to prepare for the forthcoming season. To that end, the following leagues date have been proposed.

Proposed dates for 2020/2021

24 Oct – 12 Dec 2020 (no half term)

Christmas break

9 Jan – 20 Feb 2021

Half term break

27 Feb – 27 March 2021

Easter

10 April – 24 April 2021

Hopefully the publication of these dates will enable clubs to start to plan for their pre-season and 2020-21 season as and when they are in a position to do so.

Clubs have been advised to keep abreast of developments from England Hockey and we will obviously communicate with clubs when things have progressed to the point where we will be in a position to play hockey once more.

Julie Morrish