

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Secretary report for GHA AGM 27th May 2021

It has been a most unusual season with the Covid-19 pandemic measures including lockdowns severely curtailing hockey to the extent that many adult leagues were never completed, the masters cup competition never happened and the junior events were much reduced in number with no schools competitions at all. All of this has meant that there have been fewer committee meetings with only 3 taking place since the postponed AGM in September 2020 and virtually the only topics of discussion being all the changes being implemented by England Hockey as part of the restructuring of hockey in England.

The England Hockey AGM Resolution on Governance was approved by the postponed AGM in September of 2020 and since then the activities have all been in support of the changes needed to deliver the restructuring. This culminated at the EH level with the AGM in March when the new Articles of Association were approved.

The work on restructuring the Regions into 8 Areas has run in parallel with the EH programme of changes with various Transition Groups occupied nationally and regionally. As a result the new Articles of Association for the West are ready for approval which will take place at the beginning of June. In the meantime the reorganization of Adult Leagues, Junior Competitions, Masters, Umpiring / Officiating and Discipline Administration based upon a national and Area based approach have also all been progressing with the aim of introducing the new structures for the start of the 2021 – 22 season in September of this year. More information can be found on the EH and West websites.

Finally there has been much debate about the new Talent Strategy which EH have unveiled with the latest update being issued in March. This is further complicated by the need to define the role of the Counties in the future with respect to Junior Hockey. More of this under the Player Pathway report and in the AOB at the end of the AGM meeting.

The next element of the restructuring will be that of the Sub-Areas or Counties as they are likely still to be called. I have managed to get onto the new SCS NWG (Sub-Area Standing Committee National Working Group) and Shaun Cullimore and Graham Wayland have volunteered to be part of the forum consultation process representing Gloucestershire. The aim is to agree the objectives for Counties and then define accordingly the new Governance structures and the associated documents such as Constitutions and Role Definitions. Finally to define transition mechanisms taking into account the necessary legal and compliance aspects.

The purposes for Counties as currently envisaged are:

- o County (Sub Area) Junior Hockey
 - o Development Centres
 - o County (Sub Area) Teams (formerly Academy Centres)
- o Adult County (Sub Area) Championships (currently mostly Men's teams where appetite)
- o Junior Club Competitions – linked to the Junior Competition Framework
 - o Local leagues, festivals, in2

- o Schools Competitions
- o Adult County Club (Sub Area) Competitions
 - o County Cup, Summer Leagues
- o County (Sub Area) Masters teams
- o Development
 - o Club Forums, Club Grants, Flyerz etc

The timing for the implementation of all this is not yet defined, but for GHA I am expecting it to culminate in the changes being brought in at the next AGM in May 2022.

Lastly, EH have not appointed a replacement for Verity Langfield the EH Relationship Manager as part of their cost management in the time of Covid-19. As a result I have no updates for West or EH. What the support to counties will look like in the future is unclear at this time.

Ian Harvey – Acting Secretary.

6th May 2021