

# Gloucestershire Hockey Association

## AGM REPORT 2021/22



ENGLAND  
HOCKEY

### England Hockey

England Hockey has submitted its new strategy and plan to Sport England for the next four-year funding cycle. We anticipate there might be some updates and changes to our development department, and we will update colleagues in the county as soon as we know more. We anticipate positive news for our UK Sport's funding of our England and Great Britain athletes for the Paris 2024 cycle.

### Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Framework 2022-2024

We have published England Hockey's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Framework, that is designed to support everyone in the sport with clear steps that can be taken together to address inequalities that exist within the game.

The framework consists of actions and initiatives aimed at achieving four key outcomes:

- To reflect society and ensure hockey remains relevant in the 21st century;
- To ensure safe, respectful, inclusive cultures valuing and welcoming everyone;
- To create access for anyone from any background to participate in hockey; and
- Ensure the reputation of hockey is regarded as excellent in its commitment to ED&I

For more information - [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Framework \(englandhockey.co.uk\)](https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-framework)

### Game Management System - GMS

The Game Management System (GMS) is England Hockey's new system to record all hockey matches in England. It is designed to hold all club team and player records as well as game data entered by the team captains or managers. It is the start of the future for hockey, it will be the home of player profiles which will hold a digital history of games played, match reports and more.

There have been several issues with the roll out of this new system, and as a result the England Hockey Board commissioning an independent review of the system and process. These findings will be circulated to all members in due course.

We continue to thank clubs for their patience with GMS as it establishes. With over 50,000 fixtures on the system so far it is already comfortably the biggest hockey system that has existed in hockey in England. At England Hockey we are committed to ensuring the system and supporting structures continue to receive the investment that they need. Improvements will continue to be made over coming weeks and months.

### GROW OUR PARTICIPATION

**Club Membership / Affiliation data.** There are 23 clubs in the county. The table below provides a snapshot of participation data based on membership data provided by clubs.

	Junior	Adult	Total
Total 2021/22	1988	1275	3263
Total 2020/21	1767	1070	2837

We should caveat these numbers by saying that membership data was collected differently this season and that the numbers in 21/22 were collected during the Covid pandemic. It is also worth noting that there were 4352 people who completed Covid participation agreements linked to Gloucestershire clubs.

(This did include coaches/ volunteers etc.) It is nevertheless interesting to compare year to year, as it appears that participation across Gloucestershire has bounced back following two difficult years. A massive thank you to all the club volunteers, for putting in place additional measures and safeguards to ensure hockey was played in a safe environment.

### **Different Ways to Play.**

Our player research, and wider knowledge of participation habits, have made it clear that behaviours are changing. Some players do not 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.

Increasingly clubs are offering more varied Ways to Play including; pay and play, informal small sided, Back to Hockey and Walking Hockey.

### **Hockey Heroes - [Hockey Heroes \(englandhockey.co.uk\)](http://englandhockey.co.uk)**

An 8-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 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.

Hockey Hero sessions has been successfully delivered with feedback from clubs, coaches, parents and players has been incredibly positive. **We are currently recruiting clubs to join the Hockey Heroes revolution from September. Please get in touch if you are interested to find out more.**



[Birmingham 2022 unveils match schedules for hockey](#)

### **Commonwealth Games – Pick Up a Stick**

England Hockey are asking all hockey clubs in England to pledge to support our latest “Pick Up a Stick” Campaign.

As a first step we are asking clubs to commit to do something by completing a short survey – then we will know what you are planning and how we can help. We have included some ideas in the survey, but it is up to you as to the type of activity or event you can try. [Click here](#) to access the survey.

**Please get involved and feel free to get in touch to discuss ideas.**

### **DELIVER INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS**

#### **Tokyo Olympics**

At the Tokyo Olympics GB Women took the bronze medal (three consecutive podium finishes), with GB Men just missing the semi-finals finishing in 5<sup>th</sup> position.

#### **Talent Development – The New Way Forward - [Future Talent Strategy | England Hockey](#)**

The purpose of England Hockey's Talent System is to produce greater breadth and depth in the talent pool, where the player is at the heart. The new Talent Strategy has seen 37 first “phase clubs” working towards Talent Centre status, with applications been taken for Talent Academy status now closed and

the successful centres announced. There is a further opportunity for clubs to express an interest in being a Talent Centre later this year.

### **The Player Pathway**

The Player Pathway continued to be affected by the pandemic, with limited Development sessions being organised. However, there was a full season of Academy activity including competitions. Performance Centres will cease after the Performance Centre Challenge Cup and the new Talent Pathway will be embedded. All West counties are in communication to decide the County Team competitions for next season.

### **INCREASE OUR VISABILITY**

#### **FIH Pro League**

COVID-19 mass gatherings and travel restrictions curtailed the FIH Hockey Pro League in 2021. However, in the third exciting instalment of the FIH Hockey Pro League, England's men and women will compete throughout 2022. Following four sets of away fixtures, England will then host four mouth-watering weekends of action in May-June 2022 as they welcome Belgium, China, France, The Netherlands, South Africa and Spain to London. Europe's powerhouses are coming to town as England face The Netherlands on 4-5 June and Belgium on 18-19 June.

#### **Super 6s Finals**

The Super 6's returned in January 2022 for adults, junior clubs and schools.

#### **England Hockey Awards 2021**

The England Hockey Awards Dinner has been another casualty of COVID-19, due to limited amount of hockey being played over this season.

#### **Hockey Fest 2021**

This season's HockeyFest programme was cancelled due to the pandemic.

### **ENHANCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE**

#### **West Hockey - [West Hockey Home Page \(englandhockey.co.uk\)](http://englandhockey.co.uk)**

West Hockey is one of the new eight Areas under the governance review. Thank you to all the volunteers from across the region who have worked hard in making this happen. The West Board and Management Committee oversees all West Hockey activity, with West five committees established to develop the work in their respective areas.

1. Adult League & Competitions
  - New Verde West Hockey League established governed by national Regulations
2. Junior Leagues & Competitions
  - New West Junior Club Leagues and KO Competitions set up
3. Officiating
  - New club clusters being established to develop umpiring at a local level
4. Masters Hockey Transition Working Group
  - New Pay & Play sessions being set up and new club Masters competitions for 2022/23
5. Discipline
  - Team of assistant disciplinary officers giving consistency across the Area

A new West Hockey website has been set up and this will be the one stop shop for all West Hockey activity and information for Counties, clubs and schools.

#### **County Hockey Associations**

A few counties will be embedded into the new governance structure for September 2022. The national County Standing Committee, which has two West representatives, is consulted on County related matters including governance. The online County Forum where documents and good practice are shared, in supporting Counties in their transition and development.

Over the next year, work will progress with transitioning Gloucestershire HA into the new structure.

### England Hockey ClubMark

We would like to encourage more clubs to work towards Clubmark, full details can be found on the Club Portal. The tool is now more streamlined, with only 18 pieces of evidence required to meet this minimum operating standard.

### Online Umpiring & Coaching Courses

Our Coach Developers have been working hard to ensure that a coaching offer is available across the region during the lockdown. We have had great response to the offer and attendees report that this continues to be an excellent opportunity to access training from your home! All courses and workshops are available to book on the [Hockey Hub](#)

### Time to Listen Workshop

All TTL courses will continue to be delivered via online virtual learning. The course content is being reviewed and updated.

### New Insurance Partner – Bluefin Sport

England Hockey have appointed Bluefin Sport as our new insurance brokers who will arrange our corporate insurance, as well as developing a new insurance scheme for the whole sport, including clubs and counties. Many clubs have taken up the new Membership + offer to deliver the best combination of value, level of cover and service across hockey. which includes Personal Accident Cover.

## **BE A STRONG AND RESPECTED GOVERNING BODY**

### Safeguard – New branding for ‘SafeD’

Updating Safeguarding guidance and documents in line with new legislation with a new title ‘Safeguard.’ One reason being that there needs to be a clear distinction between Safeguarding and Health & Safety.

- Safeguard will cover safeguarding and policies
- Safe Hockey will cover Health & Safety, Concession, Injuries etc

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, and our updated website is designed to show what information is relevant to what audience by splitting it down to key audiences, making it easier to find.

### Safe Hockey - [Safe Hockey | England Hockey](#)

Regardless of the activity taking place, whether in a game or training, creating a safe environment for everyone involved in hockey is essential. England Hockey strongly recommends that all clubs, organisations and their members take the time to read and digest the policies and guidance. It is the responsibility of everyone within the sport to create a safe environment for all who participate.

### Injury Monitoring

The reporting of injuries sustained on the field of play is a mandatory requirement for all clubs and associations who are members of England Hockey. As part of England Hockey's Injury Reporting Policy, England Hockey require clubs and associations to complete the England Hockey online '[Injury Reporting | England Hockey](#)' following injuries sustained that require one or more of the following:

- Treatment from a first aid specialist (e.g., team doctor/ first responder)
- Hospital treatment
- Subsequent visit(s) to a GP

Finally, thank you for your support and hard work over the last 12 months. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. **As I am sure colleagues are aware, I am only able to provide limited support from afar, but please do not hesitate to contact me if you need help or if you just want to chat about issues impacting on your club.**

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