

# Gloucestershire Hockey Association

## AGM REPORT 2018/19



ENGLAND  
HOCKEY

### ENGLAND HOCKEY UPDATE

#### Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup

In the summer of 2018 we hosted the Hockey Women's World Cup for the first time in our history. This was a huge moment for our sport; thanks to our amazing hockey clubs and volunteers, hockey has seen a 41% growth in the number of people playing in clubs since London 2012. Hosting a home World Cup gave us a golden opportunity to grow our game and celebrate our success.

England Hockey launched our largest participation campaign to date - Your World Cup! This National Campaign helped support every club to thrive from the unique opportunity of hosting a World Cup on home soil, giving all clubs the opportunity to develop, focussing on;

- Inspiring the next Generation
- Supporting Schools to Deliver Hockey
- Offering more Ways to Play
- Celebrating & Supporting People
- During the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup
- Legacy

Your World Cup (YWC) – impact & feedback;

- 46 YWC Forums nationally attended by 317 clubs
- 670 clubs out of 862 bought tickets (78%)
- Clubs bought 27,551 tickets equating to over £1m in ticket sales
- 684 clubs attended the World Cup (free ticket offer included)
- All matches shown live on BT Sport
- Largest women's sporting event in this country in 2018
- Over 1000 YWC activities offered by over 400 clubs across the Country

#### FIH Pro League

The FIH Pro League is the ground-breaking, new, global hockey competition that began in January 2019. Two leagues, one men's and one women's, comprising eleven of the greatest hockey nations. 144 matches staged around the world, culminating in a Grand Final in June in the Netherlands. All matches are being shown live on BT Sport to a projected UK TV audience of 2.5M.

Great Britain's women and men are competing in both leagues. The home schedule is made up of eight single internationals and four 'double-headers' where both the Great Britain women's and men's team will play back to back. We have offered season tickets for the first time and, owing to the demand for hockey tickets at recent events, we ran a ballot to ensure everyone had an equal opportunity to access tickets.

Our home campaign began on 27 April 2019 and runs through to Sunday 23 June 2019, culminating in a double header vs New Zealand at the Twickenham Stoop, hopefully to a 14K sell out audience. There will also be a Club Conference on this date with all clubs invited to attend with two free tickets.

#### AGM Resolution – The Principles, Vision and Next Steps

At the March 2017 England Hockey AGM, a resolution to review the structures within the sport was proposed and passed with a 98% majority. The AGM resolution in full read as follows:

*"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*

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*chances of sustained success at 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**.

A Governance Review Working Group has developed a set of high-level Principles which will underpin any changes, and these will be the subject of the next phase of consultation.

- As National Governing Body, England Hockey has overall responsibility for the sport in England
- There is a fundamental role for local organisation and decision making
- Clarification of accountability of all organising bodies to their stakeholders and ultimately to England Hockey is required
- Simplification of structure should be the aim to make it easier for all involved
- Clarity of purpose is key for all organising bodies
- Common principles of governance are necessary for all organising bodies
- Consistency of overarching policies, rules and regulations is required for all aspects relating to playing hockey\*

*\*Rules and some regulations subject to FIH*

The Working Group has firstly been looking at the Structural Reform:

- Simpler structure - consultation had highlighted “unnecessarily complex structure”
- Fewer volunteers required - difficulty in recruiting volunteers
- More accountability and transparency - consultation has highlighted this as an issue
- More opportunity to progress in leagues - inconsistent opportunities at present

The next phase will include communication of these proposals and gathering feedback from members by the Autumn. Aiming for new structure to be in place for season 2021/22.

### GROW OUR PARTICIPATION

#### Affiliation data

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 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.

In Gloucestershire, affiliation data (Typical & Informal only) shows the total number of people playing club hockey in the county has remained constant since last season. Data shown below:

|               | Junior (U16s) | Adult | Total |
|---------------|---------------|-------|-------|
| Total 2017/18 | 1698          | 1817  | 3515  |
| Total 2018/19 | 1911          | 1572  | 3483  |
| Difference    | +213          | -245  | -32   |

The new GDPR regulations, that came into effect last May, has meant clubs have cleansed their data to comply with the guidelines, which may have had a knock-on effect to affiliation data, especially with our larger clubs. In Gloucestershire this may account in part for the apparent decrease in adult players. Also, we need to be aware of the impact of other sports success on the national stage like England Netball's Commonwealth Games win.

The University of Gloucestershire and Royal Agricultural College affiliation figures are also included (114). As reported in previous seasons, the focus needs to be maintained for clubs to retain players within our sport. Thank you to those clubs who amended their affiliation data during the course of the season.

### **Framework Agreement on Data Sharing**

There is a Framework Agreement on Data Sharing available for all Clubs and Counties to sign as part of affiliation. The aim is to eventually link systems so that clubs only need to input their data once on one portal.

### **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.

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. More clubs are offering 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 and local shows. ***Does your club already provide some of these playing offerings?***

### **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 launches in September 2019, with only 100 clubs nationally who will engage with their local primary schools to market their programme. In Gloucestershire, a club has been invited to take part in Year 1 of the programme.

The Super Hero 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.

## **ENHANCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Club Forums**

The Club Forum gives clubs the opportunity to discuss the main issues for the development of hockey across Gloucestershire. Having different and the most appropriate individuals from a club attending is strongly encouraged.

The main themes for the Club Forums this season were:

- Developing Club Umpires – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018
- Effective Club Management – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 – cancelled due to low club take-up

Please give some thought as to what your club would like to see at future club forum meetings so that they are beneficial and incentivise members to attend. ***What is important to your club?***

### **England Hockey ClubMark**

The accreditation process only requires 18 pieces of evidence to meet this minimum operating standard. Sadly, still only one club in the county has the ClubMark accreditation. Throughout the season a number of clubs have been actively encouraged to work towards achieving this accreditation. Achieving accreditation does require input from across the club.

### Courses and Workshops

During the past season the following courses and workshops have been held in Gloucestershire:

- Level 1 Umpiring course (Wotton-under-Edge and Cheltenham)
- Introduction to Umpiring (Yate)
- Integrating GKs coaching workshop (WUE)
- Sessional Coaching course (Gloucester)

All clubs are encouraged to host either coaching and/or umpiring courses. Please do consider for the forthcoming season.

### 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. The EH Ethics & Welfare Team regularly liaise directly with Club Welfare Officers (CWO) throughout the season. CWO are encouraged to contact EH with any general safeguarding queries – [safeguarding@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@englandhockey.co.uk)

### Facilities

An existence of a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) lead by a Local Authority helps to ensure that our facilities are protected, improved or developed. The sport of hockey has to compete for facility provision with football, rugby, cricket and the other sports.

The PPSs for Gloucester City Council and Cotswold District Council exist and are actively reviewed at least annually with data refresh performed as it is vital that hockey data is correct and up to date in these strategies in order to influence current facility provision but also more importantly future demand.

Stroud District Council commenced their PPS in May 2018 and it is now in the final stages of sign-off. PPSs for both Cheltenham Borough Council and Tewksbury Borough Council exist.

The existence of these PPSs now takes in over 90% of the clubs in the county. No PPS exists or is currently planned for the Forest of Dean.

Thank you for your support once again over the last 12 months. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

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