

GHA

Schools Competitions Report - December 2019

GIRLS

U18 Tier 4

This tournament ran on 26/9/19 at Cheltenham College - 6 teams in a round robin tournament. I was unavailable for this tournament but organised a good friend to take over my spot. With great support from Ian, Shaun and the other umpires, the day ran very smoothly - thank you to everyone for their help!

Winners - KLB

Runners Up - Wycliffe

U16 - Tier 3

This tournament ran on 3/10/19 at CLC - 11 teams in 2 pools with semi finals and a final.

Winners - KLB

Runners Up - Wycliffe

U14 - Tier 1

There were originally 4 teams entered into this category. However, St Edwards felt that they would be better suited to Tier 2 so changed groups. With only three entrants, a small round robin tournament took place.

Winners - Dean Close

Runners Up - Cheltenham College

U14 Tier 2

This tournament ran on 17/10/19 at CLC. A total of 13 teams entered into 2 pools which resulted in quite short matches. With no time for semi finals, only the winners of each group went through to the final.

Winners - KLB

Runners Up - King's Gloucester

U13 In2Hockey - Tier 1

There were 3 teams entered into this category which ran on 22nd November at Dean Close alongside the U13 Tier 2 competition. The top two teams progress to the West Finals on December 3rd at Millfield School.

Winners - Dean Close Prep School

Runners Up - Cheltenham College Prep School

U13 In2Hockey - Tier 2

There were 9 entries in 2 pools which ran on 22/11/19 at Dean Close. This included Hatherop Castle who, following investment in an Astro turf pitch, are looking to develop their hockey programme. It was great to have a new entry and although not successful on the day, thoroughly enjoyed themselves. There was nothing in it between the top four teams that progressed to the semi-finals and these games were very close.

Winners - Kings

Runners Up - CLC

U12 In2 Hockey

There were 6 teams entered into this category. An early frost delayed the start so I contacted the schools to let them know. This resulted into two drop outs - Denmark Road had entered but had an inset day and there was a communication hiccup. Cotswold School had got themselves confused with the district tournament but had not told us they were not coming! As it turned out we had only 4 teams. The U11 tournament got underway as it only needed half a pitch and following CLC's suggestion to move the tournament to their facility (their top pitch had thawed) it was decided to move the U12 tournament to CLC where it ran as a round robin tournament.

Winners - Cheltenham Ladies College

Runners Up - Rendcomb College

U11 In2Hockey

There were 4 teams entered into this category (including two from The Richard Pate's School) which ran as a round robin tournament on 29th November at Dean Close. There was a delayed start - see above.

Winners - The Richard Pate 1's

Runners Up - Dean Close

BOYS

At time of writing the number of entries into each category are as follows:

U18 - Tier 4	x 3 (4 last year)
U16 - Tier 3	x 2 (0 last year)
U14 - Tier 1	x 2 (2 last year)
U14 - Tier 2	x 4 (5 last year)
U13 In2Hockey - Tier 1	x 2 (3 last year)
U13 In2Hockey - Tier 2	x 4 (4 last year)
U12 In2Hockey	x 4 (1 last year)
U11 In2Hockey	x 5 (2 last year)

Above is a summary of the competitions and entries to date. On the whole the tournaments have run very smoothly and I would like to thank Ian & Shaun for their 'on the day' support which has helped me greatly. There have been a couple of learning points for me which will help with planning for next year. There have also been a small number of issues which are worth sharing:

1. The girls U14 Tier 2 & U16 tournaments were extremely popular. Whilst it is great to see the number of schools participating increasing, the large number of entries did pose some logistical issues. Both Cheltenham College & Dean Close (where the tournaments were due to be held respectively) could only offer limited pitch time which could not be extended. After some frantic phone calls CLC came to the rescue and were extremely helpful in supporting GHA to run the tournaments at quite short notice with much more flexibility in the pitch time.
2. A number of schools have made comments regarding which schools enter which tier, with some schools suggesting schools that have a strong track record should be entering the higher tiers. I have explained to anyone that I have spoken to that it is up to the schools to self-select but I will be feeding back all of their comments to England Hockey at the end of the season.
3. Unlike last year, the Under 13 Tier 2 category does not have a regional final. Due to a misunderstanding on my part I did not inform the schools until after the tournament. They were understandably disappointed. CLC are keen to host a regional tournament for this category so the children do not miss out and I have put Simon Padley in touch with Liz Powell to see if this can be progressed. Looking ahead, I will give warning to the boys in this category that there is no regional tournament in case they wish to move their entry to Tier 1 in the hope of getting through.
4. Pitch Costs - as far as I am aware Dean Close kindly donate the pitches for the In2Hockey tournaments. However, for the older age groups, I think we have to pay for the pitches unless the host school is entering the tournament. For this reason they are looking to recoup pitch hire charges and so this is a significant expense that we have not had in the past. After some negotiation CLC kindly suggested a greatly discounted pitch cost for the U16 and U14 Tier 2 competition. I will look to do a cost reconciliation by age category at the end of the season to see what each competition costs to run and this can be used as a discussion point when looking at entry fees for next year.

Lisa Lundie

November 29th 2019