

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Junior Festivals Organiser report for GHA Committee Meeting on Tuesday 25th February 2020.

There have been a total of 7 Festivals so far this second half of the season across U12 girls and boys, U10 girls and boys and U8s mixed. Unfortunately the U10 girls and boys and U8s mixed on 9th February was cancelled due to storm Ciara. The maximum number of teams entering was 16 in 3 categories; U12 girls, U10 girls and U8 mixed Festivals.

Overall numbers of entries have been up on the previous season which points to a growing level of involvement in hockey in the area. This has led to a discussion with Liz Waltham of Cheltenham Junior HC over how to accommodate more U12 girls teams as several were turned away from the January Festival and then entries were limited in February. The concept will be to have additional events for this category next season in the most popular months with an "A team" festival running on the same day as the main festival, but at an alternative venue with a club specifically managing that event including entries. This needs to be put to the Clubs once the In2Hockey competition is out of the way.

Once again the various Clubs have largely been complimentary about the organisation and expressed their thanks for our efforts. The Clubs have also stepped up once again to running the various sites which has been a great help. My thanks to Lisa Lundie for all the pitch bookings, Nick Parker for the U12 schedules and Angie Atherton for the U8 mixed schedules and for being there on the day to help run the events. Thanks also to the schools which have hosted us; Cheltenham Ladies College, Dean Close and Cheltenham College (Bournside was the weekend we had to cancel).

Next is the In2Hockey Clubs competition (the old county cup) and the one remaining U8 Festival.

Ian Harvey