

# GHA Player Pathway Report

May 2024

James Doughty & Helen Jefferies

## Terminology

**DC - Development Centre** - introduction to the county hockey environment and the lowest tier of hockey in the Player Pathway.

**JCH - Junior County Hockey** has replaced **AC - Academy Centre and DC** but GHA will continue to run a DC offering

**Talent Academy** - the tier above Junior County Hockey

**Talent Centre** - newly created coaching standard for clubs - implementation is in progress

**Talent School** - these are still under discussion by England Hockey

## Activities and Initiatives

- **Coaching** - next season we will have a pool of @25 coaches and umpires and we will continue to encourage the development of younger coaches. This season we have provided funding for coach qualification for 3 coaches. For the past 3 seasons, GoCrea8 have been providing the coaching for the DCs. We have agreed to re-align their offering so that we can bring in a dedicated U13s coaching team for next season. This will reduce the burden on our lead U14 coaches as they currently manage U14s, U13s and the U13/U14 DC squads and this is too much. GoCrea8 are planning to provide a discounted specialist video based coaching on the warm up astroturf for GHA squad members and this will be managed and run separately from the Player Pathway activities.
- **Umpiring** - we will continue to develop the umpiring initiative which is being led by Jerry Tranter
- **Strength and Conditioning** - we ran four S&C sessions at the beginning of the season which were a success. We will be investigating whether we repeat this next season.
- **Pitches** - this has been the second season of the 3 year deal with King's School Gloucester for indoor and outdoor pitches and it has worked well. We are in the process of negotiating the contract for another 3 years after the end of the 2024/25 season..
- **Club Buzz** - at the last AGM we reported that England Hockey would be replacing the Player Pathway System with a customised Club Buzz application. This transition has worked extremely well and coaches, parents and players are becoming increasingly familiar with using it.
- **Indoor and Finances** - next season we will separate the indoor hockey offering from the outdoor offering. This is because not all players want to play indoor hockey and we now feel that players need more match practice rather than just training. As a result we are planning to reduce the cost of JCH for the season but make a charge for the indoor sessions and run 2 leagues. Last year we forecasted a £815 surplus and we are forecasting a similar surplus next season.
- **Kit** - next season we will have an optional offering of GHA socks, skorts and shorts. We will also offer DC players the option of purchasing a DC t-shirt and possibly a hoodie. We will broaden the range of kit that coaches and umpires can buy. Our continued thanks to the Stick Club for managing the kit provision so well.
- **People** - **James Doughty** will start to step back from his role of Lead GHA Youth Coordinator next season. **Helen Jefferies** will continue in post for the 2024-25 season as GHA Youth Coordinator, responsible for matches. Please welcome **Kate Hickey** who will be taking on some of James and Helen's coach management responsibilities and also **Dave Peacey** will take on the role of on-pitch coach coordinator.
- The planning and scheduling are nearly complete and the summary will be put on the Club Buzz website in due course.

## **2023 - 2024 Match Reports**

It has been a hard year for organising the County Matches this year, with some counties not wanting to travel, our good old British weather and pitch hiring clashing with other sports, but we did manage to get in a total of 70 matches between all of the age groups.

We had 5 tournaments in total and below is a breakdown of how each team performed:-

	Win	Loss	Draw
U13 Girls	1	0	0
U13 Boys	1	0	0
U14 Girls	11	2	4
U14 Boys	9	4	0
U15 Girls	1	2	6
U15 Boys	7	0	1
U16/17 Girls	6	2	3
U16/17 Boys	2	5	3
	38	15	17

	Win	Loss	Draw
12-Nov	10	4	4
03-Dec	5	1	0
11-Feb	3	4	1
10-Mar	12	3	4
21-Apr	8	3	8
Total	38	15	17

Our first set of games took place on 12th November and saw all our age groups playing. The U13s travelled to Marlborough to play Wiltshire and won all of their games, whilst the other teams went to Bristol. Overall we had 10 wins, 4 draws and 4 losses.

Our next tournament was on the 3rd December which was an U14s tournament only, held in Clifton, Bristol. This was so that those counties who had enough players for 2 teams at this age group could play all players. That said, we played, Bath, Bristol and Wiltshire. The U14 Girls won 2 and lost 1, whilst the U14 Boys won all 3 of their games..

Our next tournament was on 11th February, where Gloucestershire hosted Herefordshire and Devon. These were tougher matches and in total we only won 3 matches, drew 1 and lost 4.

The 10th March, saw us going to Bristol with U14s-U17s. 17 matches played in total, with 12 wins, 3 losses and 4 draws, so a really good result for all participants.

Our final tournament of the season took place on 21st April, with the U14s and U15s travelling to Taunton, whilst the U16/17s played at Clifton. 19 games in total, where we won 8, drew 8 and only lost 3. Very close games indeed.

There was no Finals Day this year, due to pitch and teams availability, however in total as a county, we managed to play 70 matches between all of the age groups, to which we won 38, drew 17 and lost 15, which is a great achievement.

The 2024-2025 season is still to be decided as to the format, as several suggestions have been made - league structure, North V South and/or Away Weekends. The counties will be holding a meeting in May to finalise everything.