

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Junior Festivals Organiser report for GHA Committee Meeting on Thursday 11th March.

There have been no Festivals since the last Committee Meeting due to Covid-19 lockdown. The government has indicated that grass sports can restart on 29th March, but clarification of the detail of what will be allowed is waiting for the government to give EH direction which will not happen before 20th March. However, on the assumption that travel is permitted from 12th April it is hoped to run Festivals in April and May subject to Clubs being willing to participate and schools making pitches available. Something that may be an issue with tennis in the summer term potentially using some of the pitches.

The In2Hockey competition has been cancelled by EH, but once the position for Festivals is known clubs will be canvassed to see if any of them want to have a “county cup” at U10 and U12. This will also depend on what is allowed as a competitive event would need aspects such as score cards which would inevitably involve close social contact.

All Clubs that entered teams into the Festivals before Christmas have paid their invoices.

The future of junior hockey competition under the new governance structure is currently being explored at both Area and National level. There is a West Junior Competitions Transition Group on which Angie Pearce is representing GHA. This group has been collecting detailed information on the current activities in West as well as thoughts for how it might be structured in the future. The counties have all been polled and a meeting held to review the results. The next steps are to poll all the clubs to get an understanding of their position and intentions as well as participating in the national discussions. West currently is ahead of most other Areas in this activity.

The current direction of travel is to have the same level of junior competitions as exist now with possibly some expansion at U14 and U16 with an Area league or possibly Part-Area leagues. All the counties in West want to continue their roles of sponsoring junior hockey competitions and probably even expand. Angie Pearce has more detail of all this.

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