

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Junior Hockey U12, U10 and U8 Mixed, West Junior Competitions Committee reports for GHA Committee Meeting on Thursday 30th March 2023

Junior Festivals.

In the second half of the season (January to March) there were Clubs Festivals for U8 mixed, U10 girls and boys, U12 girls and boys and U12 A Teams girls and boys. There were not so many dates as in the first half of the season due to the 2 In2Hockey competitions and whilst numbers in U8s and U10s participating in the individual Festivals were largely as before Christmas those in U12s were lower. The U12 numbers were further reduced by the weather on 22nd January when the fixtures were cancelled due to a forecast of ice on the pitches and bitterly cold weather. The total entries were as follows:

U8 Mixed	U10 Girls	U10 Boys	U12 Girls	U12 Boys	U12 A Girls	U12 A Boys
24	31	21	17	11	8	4

Overall a total of 116 teams entered. The trend of a rise in the numbers of girls teams and a decrease in the boys remained as before Christmas. The participation of Westbury Academy continued and extended to all age and gender groups. Marlborough also sent a team on one occasion, but Clifton Robinsons did not come again and Worcester was also absent having been to a few in the autumn.

Invoices for a total of £2,916.00 have just been sent out and some payments already received. As regards the invoices for the autumn period, most money was eventually received although several clubs had to be repeatedly chased. One club failed to pay, but this was for a single team entry.

Junior In2Hockey.

The U12s In2Hockey took place on 12th February and the U10s on 12th March. On both occasions the weather was kind to us, which was a relief for me personally. In U12 girls there were 12 entries, in U12 boys there were 8 entries, the even numbers making scheduling relatively straight forwards. Results were as follows:

U12 girls.

Champions: Lansdown A

Runners up: Cirencester A

These teams go forwards to the West Area competition on 2nd April at Clifton College.

U12 boys

Champions: Cheltenham A

Runners up: Cheltenham B

Third place: Lansdown

Cheltenham and Lansdown teams go forwards to the West Area competition on 2nd April at Clifton College.

In U10 girls there were 11 entries, in U10 boys there were 8 entries one of which was last minute.

U10 girls:

Champions: Cirencester A

Runners up: Lydney

These teams go forwards to the West Area competition on 16th April at Clifton College.

U10 boys

Champions: Cheltenham A

Runners up: Wotton-Under-Edge

These teams go forwards to the West Area competition on 16th April at Clifton College.

During the two competition days, feedback was received from a number of people and this has been collated and sent on to all the clubs that participated for them to consider and also to provide feedback of their own if they wish. Several matters from this are relevant for the Committee.

Firstly there were a few clubs who did not complete the bureaucratic elements on time which did make some of the planning a little uncertain. They were still allowed to compete, but whether this dispensation should be allowed again I am unsure. Payment of the fees, which were due in advance, was also late in a couple of cases; one of which has still not paid as of this report. Had this team finished in first or second place in any of the competitions I feel I would have had to disqualify them.

The second issue was that some coaches were openly critical of umpiring decisions. This was fortunately directed at those who were more able to shrug off the criticism as they were older and experienced. However, it was disappointing particularly as every team had been given a copy of the pitch side code of conduct.

Thirdly, there were gaps in support with not all teams providing umpires and in one instance, only supplying the assistant to myself that had been promised, by press ganging a father on the day. Needless to say he was not enthusiastic and had disappeared by the time of the final stages.

West Junior Competitions Committee

I have attended a couple of the West Junior Competitions Committee meetings. Reported are the key elements. More detail can be found on the West Area website.

Schools

Proposed dates for next year:

<i>Girl 18 T4</i>	<i>Thursday 12 October</i>
<i>Girl 16 T3</i>	<i>Thursday 9 November</i>
<i>Girl 14 T2/3</i>	<i>Thursday 2nd November</i>
<i>Boy 18 T4</i>	<i>Tuesday 6 Feb 2024</i>
<i>Boy 16 T3</i>	<i>Thursday 8 Feb 2024</i>
<i>Boy 14 T2/3</i>	<i>Tuesday 27 Feb 2024</i>
<i>Girls IN2 - 13</i>	<i>Tuesday 5 March 2024</i>

Girls in2 - 12	Tuesday 12 March 2024
Girls in2 11	Tuesday 19 March 2024
Boy IN2 - 13	Thursday 7 March 2024
Boys in2 - 12	Thursday 14 March 2024
Boys in2 11	Thursday 21March 2024
Club u12 IN2	Sunday 28 April 2024
Club u10 IN2	Sunday 14 April 2024

The Boys and Girls 14 T1 competition to be led by EH, National knock out competition, T1 with a T2 plate.

Indoor

All indoor competitions have been completed.

Dean Close Girls under 16s won the EH competition. Congratulations to them.

A meeting was held with the West Schools to discuss changes to School indoor for next season:

It was decided that an Open Competition would be best.

- No County Rounds.
- All schools to enter the West indoor competition in early September.
- Schools will then be divided into qualifying pools depending on numbers and location.
- One School within each pool to host and arrange their own pool playing a league or round robin. Schools will play a minimum of 4 games in their pool.
- Top teams from each group come to a West final.
- The Final competition day will be no more than 8 team and will take place on a Sunday.

Entry into West Indoor by Friday 22 September and all Indoor matches to be played by Friday 10 November

Clubs indoor will remain the same as last year. Counties to hold their own heats.

Dates for indoor: Competitions to be allocated to these dates.

Sunday 3 December
Sunday 3 December
Sunday 3 December
Sunday 3 December
Sunday 10th December
Sunday 19 November
Sunday 19 November
Sunday 26 November
Sunday 26 November

Lead deliverers

The West will need to find more deliverers to help run the West Junior competitions next season. Liz and Ray are both retiring at the end of the season and will be greatly missed as they have led most of the junior competitions over many years. Thanks also to Nicky Atkinson ,Kerry Mullien, Malcolm Pressly Smith, Jo McDermid and Richard Hill who have also helped at competitions.

I have volunteered to help deliver the Clubs U12 In2Hockey on 2nd April, Jackie Stanley leading

Area 8 report

Talent development is reported elsewhere

Junior regulations review. A group have meet to discuss the possibly changes to some Junior regs. These will need to be agreed by the 8 area committee before being confirmed and sent out.

8-0 max score for all tiers – clear messaging to be given out. 14-day notice for fixture details Players can play for 1 indoor club and 1 Junior club, if that team don't play indoor.

State schools across all areas have been invited to take place in a state school competition in May at Nottingham. The West have 1 entry, KLB school. EH asking to promote state school hockey where we can.

School survey responses has shaped the calendar, specifically around 3 points:

- 1. There was strong support for the Indoor schools' championships to be concluded pre-Christmas*
- 2. There was strong support for the U14s Championships to have a national knock out competition, T1 with a T2 plate.*
- 3. There was strong support for the U16 Tier 1 competition to be run based on the U18 Tier 1 but smaller groups. With a T2 knockout and T3 plate.*

The other point raised in the survey but with mixed feedback was with regards to moving the girls In2Hockey finals pre-Christmas, but others indicated they would like it pre-Easter. More work needs to be completed on this to determine if it should be moved and if so to when.

Border Schools – will need to choose which area they play in and will not be able to compete in other areas.

AOB

Liz is stepping down from her role as Chairperson. The Board will advertise the role of chairperson in the next few weeks.

The Administrators role has become too time consuming. A wider group of helpers is needed to help support the setup of league fixtures and School competitions. Liz and Jackie to get together to decide the best way forward.

EH are holding a Schools Competition forum on Monday 20th March via teams. The link has been sent out to all County representatives.

Ian Harvey

23rd March 2023