

Report to West Council

November 2020



ENGLAND
HOCKEY

Many of you will have received communications/support from our Exeter based Development Administrator, Jenny Mitchell. After 18 years with England Hockey, Jenny has decided to 'hang up her stick' and move into retirement no doubt spending more time on the golf course. Having initially been the Regional Administrator supporting the West Regional Development Manager, Jenny's role has evolved to that of Development Administrator looking after 6 Relationship Managers covering the West, South & East with a specialist subject of ClubMark! We wish Jenny well in her retirement.

Sadly, Verity Langfield, Relationship Manager, also departed after 4½ years at England Hockey. Verity developed strong working relationships with her clubs and will be sorely missed.

Given the impact that the pandemic is having on the world economically, England Hockey are taking the difficult decision to hold off recruiting for either of these roles. We are still very keen to make sure all the hard work and relationships that Verity set up continues to flourish and grow. So, one of our most knowledgeable and experienced Relationship Managers – Charlie Farrow will be picking up as a point person for Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, and Wiltshire clubs between now and December 2020. With Barbara Reynolds, picking up the BANES based clubs, as part of Avon.

GROW OUR PARTICIPATION

Club Affiliation

The affiliation window opened via the new England Hockey portal was due to open on 17 October (delayed due COVID-19 restrictions in some areas) and closes on 30 November. Clubs must complete and pay for affiliation by 30 November. Affiliation fees have been frozen for this season. We will be reminding clubs of the deadline and we would really appreciate support from our County HA's in following up on the outstanding clubs. A reminder that clubs can access the site at any point throughout the year to update contacts or membership numbers.

The data will be checked and challenged, with final West numbers will be available in January.

Hockey Heroes – Year 2

With clubs across the Country trying to get back on the pitch, understandably there has been limited Hockey Heroes delivery. In the West, the following clubs have managed to successfully deliver some sessions – South Gloucestershire HC and City of Bath HC.

DELIVER INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Talent Strategy 2021 – A New Direction

Over recent months England Hockey have been considering our future performance and talent development strategy and what is right for the sport in the long run. Information on the changes we are planning for the talent system in England can be found here;

<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2652§ionTitle=Talent+Strategy+2021>

While we believe change is required, that should not detract from what has been achieved already, and the plans we have for Performance Centres for the next cycle. We are fully committed to the 2020-21 cycle and Futures Cup in August 2021. Performance Centres currently remain an important opportunity for players.

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For this new direction to be successful we will need to have comprehensive change management plans in place and work to develop the detail of the new structure. Over the next few months, we will be setting up a number of forums and workshops to explore topics and develop the detail but we would specifically like to involve you, and your knowledge and experience, in shaping what will be a new approach to talent development in England.

If you want to discuss any concerns or have any questions, please contact Sally Mapley directly.

INCREASE OUR VISABILITY

FIH Hockey Pro-League

After what will have been 18 months, both our GB men's and women's team will return to Lee Valley in May 2021. This year we are giving the Hockey Family priority access to the first pick of seats, at the very best prices with great savings compared to general sale. Tickets went on sale on 9 October – you can save on all ticket types up to 20%!

Here are the dates of when Great Britain's men and women matches in the FIH Hockey Pro League (exact timings TBC) – home fixtures are highlighted in bold. All games will be shown live on BT Sport.

- Tue 27 Oct/Thurs 29 Oct – Netherlands v Great Britain (M + W)
- Sat 31 Oct/Sun 1 Nov – Belgium v Great Britain (M + W)
- **Sat 14 Nov/Sun 15 Nov – Great Britain v Germany (M + W) – behind closed doors**
- **Sat 8 May/Sun 9 May – Great Britain v India (M)/Great Britain v China (W)**
- **Sat 15 May/Sun 16 May – Great Britain v Argentina (M + W)**
- **Sat 22 May/Sun 23 May – Great Britain v Spain (M)/Great Britain v USA (W)**

HOCKEY REWARDS are back for 2020/21, letting you turn all the support for the national teams into extra value for you or your club. Club's can share a personalised link with their members to earn points when they buy tickets. Cash out when they want to redeem a reward, or get the whole club involved and keep building your points to aim for the top prize. Plus, each time you cash out, clubs will be entered into the Grand Prize Draw.

You can also register as a 'Club Rep' and share a unique link. It's very easy to set up, free of charge and it means you can earn rewards for the club for tickets purchased through the link. More information can be found here. <https://reps.seetickets.com/hockey>

With this being the final major event before the Tokyo 2021 Olympics, you will not want to miss out on your chance to be part of #ThePride as rivalries are renewed between the world's best nations.

ENHANCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

AGM Resolution Update

The membership of England Hockey took the decision to support the proposed structural changes set out in A Structure Fit for the Future at the England Hockey AGM on 15 September 2020. Over 250 delegates attended the AGM electronically and the vote supported the resolution with 86% of votes received being in favour (53.4% of the membership voted with the vote result 894 to 146 and 13 abstentions).

The approval of the Structure Fit for the Future proposals now means that work can start in earnest on delivering the most significant rationalisation and simplification of governance structures that hockey in England has seen. The aim is for a structure that is easier to understand, more consistent and accountable and ultimately easier for clubs and participants to work with. It will take time to deliver the changes and the proposals will continue to need to evolve and develop. The next steps will focus on establishing the new 'shadow' structures in each Area and progressing the priority work areas such as adult leagues and umpiring. If you are interested in helping be part of delivering the changes then please take a few moments to let us know by filling in the short expression of interest [here](#).

Club Forums

Working in partnership with our County Hockey Associations, Forums have been held as follows:

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- Return to Play – Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Somerset & Gloucestershire/Wiltshire/Herefordshire combined.

England Hockey ClubMark

Congratulations to Falmouth HC, Isca HC, Sidmouth & Ottery HC and Torbay HC who have achieved ClubMark accreditation.

Coaching Courses & Resources - <https://hockeyhub.englishockey.co.uk/coaching-offer>

All our coaching and umpiring courses are being offered online, please visit the Hockey Hub for more information. This includes online Time to Listen Workshops for welfare officers.

BE A STRONG AND RESPECTED GOVERNING BODY

Return to Play Guidance

Collaborative work by the major team sports in England and the subsequent publication of the Recreational Team Sports Framework, England Hockey were able to confirm that hockey in England progressed to Step 5 of our Return to Play plan on 26 September 2020.

Adaptations have been made around the game to ensure that the risks can be kept low. England Hockey has produced robust guidance and accompanying information to ensure that hockey can resume in a way that is as safe for participants as possible.

This guidance is continually being updated and can be found on our website;

<http://www.englishockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2633§ionTitle=Covid%2D19+Club+Support>

Call to Action – Safeguarding

As part of England Hockey affiliation, clubs will be asked to complete an audit of their current Safeguarding provision set against the minimum standard. We request that clubs are honest, if they say 'No' to any of the criteria we are here to help.

If you require any further information on any of the above, then please do not hesitate to contact the England Hockey West Team. Thank you for your continued support developing hockey across the West.

Charlie Farrow (temporary) Relationship Manager Gloucestershire, Herefordshire & Wiltshire	Barbara Reynolds Relationship Manager Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Somerset & CI	Gaynor Toms Relationship Manager Dorset, Hampshire, Surrey & Sussex
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