

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Junior Festivals Organiser report for GHA Committee Meeting on Wednesday 18th November.

There have been a total of just 4 Festivals so far this season with them all taking place in October. The U8 mixed (5 teams), U10 girls (6 teams), U12 girls (8 teams) and Under 12 boys (8 teams) went ahead. However, unfortunately U10 boys was cancelled at the last minute when Dean Close decided they needed to have a member of staff present because of Covid and no one was available at short notice. The November dates were all cancelled due to the second Covid-19 lockdown in England. This curtailment was most disappointing given all the effort to produce Covid secure plans including risk assessments which were provided to the schools and full guidance information given to all the clubs.

Covid-19 has clearly had a significant impact on this season so far with smaller numbers of entries even from those clubs still willing to participate. Indeed across all the clubs the responses have been very varied in the face of Covid-19 and some clubs have decided not to play at all this season, specifically Marlborough and Newent. Other teams have only been willing to become engaged slowly and Cheltenham although initially very keen withdrew from both the October and November events, but promised to take part in December. As we go forwards I have increasing doubts we are going to be able to run many Festivals this season if any at all.

Lastly, whilst there is as yet no clear direction for the role of county (Sub-area) that will result from the EH AGM resolution on governance, it does seem likely there will be changes. Whether therefore this will be the last season for Festivals as we have known them I am unsure.

Ian Harvey