

# GHA Player Pathway Report

## March 2021 - September 2021

James Doughty

### 2021 - 2022 Season

- DCs for U13 and U14 were held in May and June (285 Nominations - 202 attendees - cost kept to minimum (£20) - players could only attend 2 sessions
- England Hockey changed the age band for county hockey from Year of Birth to Academic Year in April (just after we sent out the DC invites based on Year of Birth)
- For the first time, we are running a DC in parallel with the AC. This is being run by GoCrea8 - it will probably make a slight loss (@£1k)
- For the first time we are running U13AC squas for boys and girls - this is the lowest age band that England Hockey suggests we run.
- All AC squads have been selected except for U16/17 girls - all squads will be in place by 12th October ready for matches in November
  - Appeals - we have had a few and managed them well with the exception of one. They have requested information from us under GDPR - see AOB
- AC cost gone up from £45 to £60 per player - it will probably make a slight loss (@£2k)
- PC is up and running - we have 16 girls and 9 boys at PC or beyond

### Coaches

2 lead coaches left at the end of 2020-21 season - we have replaced one and worked around lead coaching roles by combining training for the U15 boys with the U16/17 boys. We hope that all age bands can put out a competitive side.

A request for more female coaches sent to all schools and clubs elicited zero responses.

### Talent Strategy and England Hockey

The first tranche of clubs being processed that are in reasonable travel distance of Gloucestershire are are listed below

Clifton Robinsons Hockey Club  
Team Bath Buccaneers Hockey Club  
Isca Hockey Club  
Reading Hockey Club

This season is the final cycle of PC

We have been unaffected by the Game Management System problems

The future of the Player Pathway System is uncertain

The England Hockey Player Pathway System Administrator and Manager both resigned last week. By close of play tomorrow they will both have left England Hockey

### Opportunities

We have had an initial conversation with the Director of Elite Sport at Hartpury about working together to see if some of the strength and conditioning work they do is relevant to our AC squads

We have also been approached by an organisation specialising in mental health for sports persons.

**Administrative Help**

Helen Jefferies has settled in and is proving to be a valuable and reliable source of help - a big thank-you from me. She helps with the PPS, the calendars, match arrangements and pitch bookings

Payments for coaches are now automated and seem to be working well

The full schedule for 2021-22 season is on the GHA Website, in the PPS and on the Coaches Schedule Spreadsheet - please do not ask me why we have 3 systems to do this.

James Doughty

## Next Steps

- James Doughty is now a single point of failure for most of Player Pathway activities - this needs to be resolved - Committee is asked to consider how more support could be provided.
- Coaching delivery on pitch continues to vary, despite their being a coaching framework. - Committee is asked to consider how the coaching offering could be improved. Options are
  - Revisit outsourcing some/all of the coaching
  - Provide more coaching support to all coaches
- AC hockey from January will be affected by COVID - other counties may not have squads in place until March and the final tournaments have already been cancelled in principle.
  - The November lockdown will save just over £900 in coaching and pitch costs
  - It is proposed that the cost of delivering AC activity from January to March is covered from GHA reserves
    - 10 Oxstall Sessions (@£1,400) and 5 Sunday Matches (@£2,100) is the likely exposure, less the £900 not spent. Net exposure is unlikely to be more than £3,000.