

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Junior Festivals Organiser report for GHA Committee Meeting on Thursday 12th January 2023.

In the first half of the season (October to December) there were Clubs Festivals for U8 mixed, U10 girls and boys, U12 girls and boys and U12 A Teams girls and boys. These were generally well supported as can be seen from the table below. The numbers would have been higher, but the weather on 11th December and 18th December meant the fixtures were cancelled due to snow on the pitches. Only the U12s went ahead on 4th December. The total entries were as follows:

U8 Mixed	U10 Girls	U10 Boys	U12 Girls	U12 Boys	U12 A Girls	U12 A Boys
22	33	18	56	36	17	14

Overall a total of 196 teams entered and average numbers were an increase over 2021 - 22. However, the trend has been for a rise in the numbers of girls teams and a decrease in the boys. A further positive has been that Westbury Academy has been sending teams which they have not done previously and even Clifton Robinsons sent a boys team on one occasion. These Clubs previously only entering Avon League competitions.

Invoices for a total of £4,625.00 have been sent out although payment has still to be received from some of the Clubs.

Support for the Festivals in January has started well and some entries for the In2Hockey U10 and U12 girls and boys have been received although the deadline is not until the end of this week. Efforts have been made to exclude any Clubs that are now part of Avon.

I have attended a couple of the West Junior Competitions Committee meetings and I have copied below extracts from the most recent meeting Minutes relating to Clubs Junior Hockey.

League

142 junior games played to date. 9 walkovers awarded, 10 results waiting. All clubs have been asked to rearrange their games before 31st December and have them played by 31st January 2023. Top 3 teams from West Boys and Girls under 14 & under 16 Tier 1 leagues have been given places in the EH supra league.

Results

Boys 14 T1	Girls 14 T1
Wotton Under Edge Boys U14	Clifton Robinsons Girls U14 A
Taunton Vale Boys U14	Team Bath Buccaneers A Girls U14
Clifton Robinsons Boys U14 A	Taunton Vale A Girls U14
Boys 16 T1	Girls 16 T1
Isca Boys U16 A	Clifton Robinsons Girls U16 A
Cheltenham Boys U16	Isca Girls U16 A
Team Bath Buccaneers A Boys U16	Cheltenham Cobras Girls U16

G16 3rd place was a complete tie with Lansdown and Cheltenham – Cheltenham won due to their individual fixture result against Lansdown.

Bristol Firebrands may have the opportunity to play in the B14 1B Supra league if a space arises. The B16 T1 league will not continue because only 1 team remain in for B16T1B.

The remaining teams from tier 1 leagues have been sent their new fixture for T1B after Christmas and have been put on to GMS.

Tier 3: A few big defeats. Clubs have asked if players that play in Senior league should be allowed to play in a Tier 3 competition. Definition of Tier 3 needs to be clearer to new clubs taking part in the league for the first time.

A few clubs have expressed their unhappiness regarding poaching of player by other coaches and clubs. It was talked about at length and the committee felt that there was nothing we could do to stop this from happening but felt that we should send the EH link to RARE, right athlete right environment.

Indoor

There seems to be a lack of communication between Counties, Schools and Clubs regarding West indoor competitions that has resulted in lots of emails over the dates and structure of the competitions. In acknowledgement of this, a meeting has been arranged on 11th January via Teams to discuss the best way forward for next year.

Indoor Results

Club Boys 16	Wotton Under Edge	Isca
Club Boys 18	Clifton Robinsons	Team Bath
Club Girls 16	Lansdown HC	Cheltenham HC
Club Girls 18	Cheltenham HC	Isca

1st place team to represent the West at the England Hockey round.

A.O.B.

Jackie reported that EH had bought in external help to resolve the issues with GMS. Under 18 players need to register on GMS through their parents/guardian's account. Any player wanting to transfer to another club will need to contact GMS support who will process for them.

All Area Web sites are up and running. Point people to the web site for information.

A 'How to Add a Match Sheet and Team Sheet' video has been asked for to help teams with inputting on to GMS.

Supra League fixtures will be sent out to teams involved by Christmas by England Hock

Grass Roots: Jackie asked what the West could do to help and encourage more clubs taking part in the West Junior T3 leagues. There have been clubs wanting to take part in T3 competitions across the West but due to their location it hasn't been possible as clubs aren't prepared to travel long distance. County representatives informed us that they do hold a selection of 11 aside tier 4 and 7 aside under 8s, 10s and 12 competitions. It was felt that the best way forward was to gain information from clubs about why they only enter limited or no competition.

Ian Harvey

9th January 2023