

GHA AGM

Schools Competitions Report - 2023/24

SUMMARY

Entries into the schools tournaments were up on the previous year and we have enjoyed a season of successful tournaments. A summary of competition winners & runners up can be found below. This season GHA were not involved in organising any Indoor Schools tournaments as this was transferred over to WHA however, we did add in a State School U14 7 a-side completion which proved to be a great day!

POINTS TO NOTE

Currently when county winners and runners-up head off to the WHA tournaments, we tend not to get feedback on how they have done. It would be great to have a better way to close this loop so we see how the teams progress and I hope that this is something that will be taken forward by the next custodian!

As per last season, schools self-selecting into which tier they enter continues to be controversial and I continue to remind schools of the criteria for each category when I correspond with them.

We have a small, select group of umpire helpers on tournament days and they always help make the day run smoothly. Schools (particularly State Schools, who often only have one staff member available on a tournament day) are always extremely grateful for the help that they provide and the support they offer the schools so a huge thank you goes out to all of those helpers.

The cost of running tournaments continues to outweigh the income as our entry fees remain relatively low despite the reduce pitch hire fees.

After awarding Crypt Grammar School a grant, James Doughty and I had a successful visit to the school and James is moving things forward with Crypt to help improve their hockey provision.

ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT - STATE SCHOOLS ONLY

We recently held an additional tournament following a directive from EH to try and increase the participation of State Schools into county tournaments. Unfortunately due to two forced date changes we lost over half of our entries but it did show us that there is a real appetite in Gloucestershire for this level of competition. Nonetheless, we proceeded with 7 teams - a mix of boys, girls and even a mixed team who all played each other. It was a really successful day and we were even blessed with some sunshine! The winning school was Crypt Grammar School and they were presented with an EH signed shirt.

MOVING FORWARD

Looking ahead to next season, I know there is a possibility that an external outfit will run these tournaments. I am more than happy to do a handover if required. I am however conscious that schools like to know the dates of the tournaments well in advance so they can get the dates into their calendars for the following academic year. For that reason, it is early in the summer term that I usually set tournament dates and send out entry forms. It would be great to have a decision as to who will run these tournaments well before the half term break so that if I am required to send out the entry forms and collate entries, I can do it all in good time.

As this is my last AGM report I would like to thank everyone I have had the pleasure of meeting during the past 5 or so years. I would like to give a special mention to Ian and Shaun who have given me so much of their time - and I am extremely grateful for all of their help and words of wisdom!

With best wishes to all at GHA.
Lisa Lundie
April 21st 2024

FINAL TOURNAMENT ENTRIES - The final numbers were as follows:

	U18 Tier 3	U16 Tier 3	U14 Tier 2	U13 Tier 1	U13 Tier 2	U12	U11
Girls entries	6 (5)	10 (7)	13 (10)	3 (2)	12 (11)	10 (8)	5 (5)
Boys entries	2 (2)	1 (1)	4 (3)	3 (4)	6 (3)	6 (4)	4 (4)

Last years entry numbers in brackets

RESULTS

	Girls Winners	Girls Runners-Up	Boys Winners	Boys Runners-Up
U18 - Tier 4	Pates Grammar School	KLB	Rendcomb*	St Edwards
U16 - Tier 3	Balcarras	KLB	KLB**	-
U14 - Tier 2	CLC	Balcarras	KLB	Leckhampton
U13 - Tier 1	Kings School	Cheltenham Prep	Dean Close	Cheltenham Prep
U13 - Tier 2	CLC	Hatherop	KLB	Hatherop
U12	Balcarras	Kings	Cheltenham Prep	Kings
U11	Dean Close Prep	Richard Pate School	Cheltenham Prep	Dean Close

* only 2 entries

** only 1 entry

Bullet Points For AGM Presentation

- Entries into the schools tournaments were up on the previous year and we have had a successful season of competitions
- Schools Indoor tournaments was transferred over to WHA this season
- A new State School only U14 7 a-side competition was introduced for the first time and it was a great success.
- It would be great to get feedback from schools re how they do in the West tournaments
- The choice of tiers still continues to be controversial
- We have a small but committed group of umpires helping at the tournaments
- Tournament costs continues to outweigh the income
- The grant we awarded to Crypt School is being put to good use to offer indoor hockey
- We need to confirm who will be running the tournaments next year as entry forms need to be sent out very soon
- This is my last AGM - thanks to everyone for all the help and best wishes for the future!