***Junior Section Report***

***AGM June 23rd 2017***

***Growth***

200 to 270 players

U8s had 2 new coaches

3 teams at U10 girls and 2 new coaches

3 teams at U12 girls and 1 new coach

3 teams at U12 boys and 2 new coaches

U10 boys 2 new coaches

U14 boys played 3 fixtures of 7-aside and they had different coaches each time but coped really well

U16/U18 boys had the addition of James McCann coaching this year too.

*Firstly to the Team Successes:*

The U10 girls had a very successful season they fielded 3 teams at all minis tournaments and then at the into hockey tournament cam 2nd and qualified for East round where they produced some great form and narrowly missed out on going further. Lots of promise for the future

The U12 girls are a large group and put out 3 teams to each tournament.

The U14 girls had new coaches this year and are developing well and there are some very talented players who are also playing senior hockey for the club

U16 girls came 2nd in England Hockey group. Only losing to Southgate. Qualified for tier 2 regional round. Hosted at Chelmer Park with lots of great help from parents. Beat Spencer in first game but unfortunately couldn't beat Surbiton or Canterbury.
Indoor we beat Crostyx but lost to OLs in Essex round so didn't qualify for easy this season.
Copper Box competition was a great experience but young squad couldn't quite match the opposition despite great improvement over group matches.
Home counties league was disappointment with no opposition willing to travel to Chelmsford. Only played 2 away matches with 2 cancelled by weather.
We've had a large strong squad and I've been pleased how a number have progressed through the ladies teams with a number playing 3s and 2s and Annie Steingold starting to become part of 1st XI squad.
Also aware we have number of younger players who've not trained or played with U16Gs but have played regularly on Sat for lower XIs and trained on Wed with Ladies. These are just as important to develop for the club as the elite EHB squad.
Challenge will be to keep a number of the stronger players involved in club next season with U18s. We have 4\5 who are at Felsted who've played with club since U10s but don't play on Sat for club due to school, nor participate in England single system.

U10 boys squad has grown in numbers over the season and are really good group of players. They have played in some tough matches both outdoors and indoors but they have taken it all in their stride as a learning curve.

U12 boys has also grown in numbers and parents have stepped in to help. Really good number of goals and good results. They also had an extra triangular fixture which has inspired us to try and offer this to other teams.

U14 boys- no team last year so really pleased they could have fixtures this year. Next year will be a big group

U16/U18 Boys are developing well and had the extra benefit of James McCann coaching alongside Karen Cooper and the ever enthusiastic Matt Gore. These boys have been given some challenges and they have grown in confidence as a reasult.

*MINI'S TOURNAMENTS*

We held a couple of these events this year. Thanks go to Sam Wilkinson who ran these events and organised the game shedule and volunteers. Thanks to those volunteers who helped with umpiring and manning the kitchen- these events did help generate more income.

*Zevenburgen Tour*

This was the 25th year of this fantastic international hockey relationship and it was our turn to travel to Holland. There was lots of wearing silver and even a vets match too. This is a real feather in the clubs hat to be able to provide this opportunity to our teenagers.

*Junior Socials*

We ran for a third year the Junior Christmas Party with party games and food. We had a great end of season club day with parents v kids match which is proving to be very popular and a very informative talk from Ex international footballer Christian Dailly. This was followed up a week later with a swim party at Riverside where 93 juniors took over the pools and had a fantastic time followed by snacks and drinks..

A massive thank you to again goes Liz, and Adry and also Beverly and Becky for being the parent support group, running the Sunday kitchen and organising these amazing events. Thank you!

The kitchen not only is a focal point for players/parents but has also raised over £3000 this year for GK equipment and protective face masks!

*Primary Schools Coaching*

After gaining a third year of three way funding from England Hockey, Schools sport partnership and the club we have been able to provide 4 hours of coaching each in 12 different schools who had expressed an interest in Hockey. We have been lucky enough to have Richard Ross and Jo Baker who have been in coaching the schools. With the addition of Sally going in and giving assembly talks which has really helped with uptake to join the club.

We held our own quick sticks tournament at the club in March for 22 teams and it was brilliant, lots of help from Jo Baker, Amanda Waite and of course Richard Ross.

We then had the Chelmsford Level 3 competition at the club hosting 24 schools for a 4 aside quick sticks tournament, three of our club umpires helped out at this event and leaflets about the club were distributed to every player.

*Junior Coaching Camps*

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Sally Dalton and Glenn Kirkham for organising and running these camps. They have helped offer new opportunities to our juniors, local juniors and its helped galvanise the coaching team. It has also been a financial success which will ensure our future sustainability.

*Volunteers*

I can't express loudly enough how grateful I am to all the volunteers who help make not only the junior section run smoothly but the whole club happen!

With the increased numbers of players we have had to call upon an increase in number of volunteers- we have taken the view that these volunteers need support from within the club and need training from England Hockey to ensure the quality of what we are delivering which the club had helped fund. We held an information introduction evening early in September and Richard Ross arranged a really good coaching forum in December where we had talks from Tony Cole and Glenn Kirkham. We will do this again next season as in our opinion there is still a gap in knowledge provision from the England courses.

Wishing you all a restful summer and looking forward to September!

Kathryn Macdonald

Chairman of Junior Section