

Junior Section AGM Report 20th April 2019

Schools coaching

We have coached over 600 children this year in 10 primary schools.

We have hosted the Chelmsford Quicksticks tournament, the County Quicksticks Finals Tournament and have organised and hosted a new tournament for younger year groups (yr3-4) from local schools. Our investment was matched by the Chelmsford School Sports Partnership and we have the same agreement for next year.

Our focus next year will be on fewer schools close to us with whom we can develop stronger relationships. We hope to deliver even higher quality coaching leading to greater conversion to club members.

Membership numbers

267 junior members last year and 325 this year - a 22% increase.

U8s is thriving, U10 Girls had great success both at Copperbox and In2 Hockey tournament getting to East finals. U12 Girls grew over the season and by the end was putting out 4 teams for the first time ever. U16 Girls enjoyed success but just missed out on major win. U10 and U12 boys have now had to take on more coaches as the group is growing. U14 boys are up to 29 players now and although results were mixed 5 players are playing senior hockey and Essex representation. Same with the small U16 group and U18 boys are strong within the senior teams.

New Opportunities

Next season we are piloting a new England Hockey initiative of "Hockey Heros" designed to attract those not at all familiar with hockey to our sport. Designed as a 6 week course for 5-8 year olds its about fun games that might also involve hockey. Sally Dalton is leading this and has already got coaches and helpers in place. We are also optimising our usage of our warm up pitch.

Fund Raising

The junior section has again added money to the general club by the weekend kitchen and tournament kitchen raising over £2000.

This month we held a memorial match for David Flannigan the U10/12 boys manager who sadly passed away suddenly in December. £500 was raised for the British heart foundation.

I am stepping down as Chair of Junior Section and would like to thank all my friends and colleagues within the junior section for all their help and support over the past 5 years. My aim was to incorporate more juniors into the senior section of the club and not have them as a stand-alone entity. I am confident we have achieved this as they have helped grow the senior club and their parents have taken on volunteer roles within the wider club- however each year brings new challenges and we need to look forward and meet these challenges with the aid of more volunteers from both the senior and junior sections.

Kathryn Macdonald