

Junior Report AGM 2022/23

We have had another good season in the Junior section. The number of juniors is now around 400 which is double the number we had 10 years ago (197 were recorded in the 2014/15 season). We continue to see really good numbers of children come into the club with the u8s, u10s and u12s numbers looking really strong. This means we are able to offer fun competitive hockey to a wide range of abilities, making the junior club open to all who want to play.

In terms of successes the first of our four u12 boys teams were successful this year in winning the Essex in2hockey tournament and progressing through to the regional East finals. The U14 girls also did well by comfortably coming top of the tier 2 East league.

Given the growth of the junior section as a whole we are now seeing higher numbers of juniors ready to transition to senior hockey. There is great work being done here between the junior and senior sections and we hope to add an 8th men's team to accommodate this growth.

We continue to do outreach work with local primary schools Moulsham and Mildmay, offering coaching in curriculum time, for after school clubs and running inter-school tournaments for them at our club. We have also started to work with Maldon HC to offer after school training and competitions to secondary school children from state schools Plume, Maltings and Thurstable. We intend to try to continue this in the Chelmsford area with interested state schools.

We renewed our Club First accreditation earlier in the season and have been selected by England Hockey to apply to become a Talent Centre which we hope to be awarded later this calendar year.

Our growth and success would not be possible without the massive effort of well over 60 volunteers for the junior section alone, both on and off the pitch. A huge thanks goes to all of these people. They include those who coach, manage, buy and sell kit, book pitches, help run tournaments, act as welfare officers, arrange first aid courses, train umpires, umpire matches, organise socials etc. Not least of these are the team behind stocking, organising and running the tea hut who have taken just shy of £7k in revenue for this season. The profit from this is much needed and will help go into maintaining our facilities and providing the equipment, such as junior GK kits, that we need to run the club and enable kids to enjoy hockey safely.