

Junior Report AGM 2022/23

We have had another really strong season in the Junior section. Thank you to everyone who has contributed whether that be coaching, managing, being on the committee or volunteering in one of the 80 roles we have in the junior section. The club could not function without you!

Members

The number of juniors has grown again and is now over 400 about 10% up on last year. The biggest gains were seen in U10 girls, U14 girls and U16 boys. We are now at maximum capacity in several age groups (and running waiting lists) as we are restricted by pitch space. Turning interested players away is not what we like to do but at the same time we want to run quality coaching sessions and not put quantity of members over a quality hockey experience. On the flip side, the number of boys in U8s and U10s is low and these are squads we are keen to grow.

Playing and Competition

We have entered a wide range of competitions across the junior section from local friendlies to Essex and East leagues, as well as the England Hockey championships. We hosted the North Essex League U10s and U12s finals day in March – an all day competition on both pitches for over 250 children. The U16 girls progressed well in the England Hockey Championships and the U10 girls and U12 boys made it to the East In2 hockey finals. We continue to struggle for umpires and hope that the umpire courses we are running over the coming months will mean we are in a better position next season as these are clearly vital for us to enter competitions.

Coaching

We have been able to continue to provide additional sessions to year 6 and 7 juniors during the week which has really helped them develop their hockey. We have increased the number of coaches again this year and are really pleased to see so many coaches sign up to further coach development courses.

Talent

30 of our youth players were selected to play for Essex this year and 10 for Talent Academy. Congratulations to all those selected.

Youth playing senior hockey

We continue to try to facilitate youth players transitioning into the senior sides and the addition of the men's 8th team has helped with that. Thanks to everyone who has helped to run this side.

Camps

We have run our usual holidays camps again this year with the coaching team run by Glenn Kirkham. These not only offer a great opportunity for juniors but also raise funds for the club.

Socials

We have seen some good social events run across the junior club ranging from pizza nights to games, quizzes and ice skating. Last weekend in June over 100 of us went along to Lee Valley to see the GB teams compete in the Pro League. Despite much effort from a few parents the youth tour did not get off the ground this year. This is something we would like to pursue again in the future and would welcome interest in organising this for next season.

School outreach

We continued our coaching in local primary schools (Moulsham and Mildmay junior schools) and have hosted two tournaments at the club. We hope to continue this work but need to find coaches to help us deliver this. The role is paid!

Talent Centre

We are still working on our application to be a Talent Centre and intend to complete this in the 2024/25 season.