

## **Junior Report 2024/2025**

### **What. A. Season.**

I have been blown away by the enthusiasm and efforts of so many people to make this season a success. We've had more players than ever before, more young umpires, more parent helpers, more coaches qualified, more DBS checks (!) and more extra hockey sessions. I can feel the positive momentum around our club and can see the results of this as we attract more and more young people - even those hard-to-get young boys are starting to trickle in faster than before! *And* we've had more success across the age ranges than I have ever seen before in both competitions as well as in the numbers being selected for county or talent academy.

- Well done to all the players this season for showing up and giving your all.
- Thanks to parents for your support and encouragement.
- And thank you, thank you, thank you to ALL the volunteers.

### **Membership and teams**

In 2024/25 we had around 400 junior members supported by over 80 coaches, assistant coaches, parent helpers and managers.

The junior membership breaks down as follows:

- Over 100 U8s
- 3 teams in U10 boys
- 7 teams in U10 girls
- 2 teams in U12 boys
- 5 teams in U12 girls
- 2 teams in U14 boys
- 3 teams in U14 girls
- 1 team in U16 boys
- 1 team in U16 girls

### **Success**

- Our U10 boys won the Essex In2 tournament and the U10 girls and U12 girls came second, meaning all 3 teams qualified for the East In2 finals where they all performed really well, only narrowly missing out on the top placings.
- Our two U14 girls teams won their respective Tier 2 finals day play offs.
- Our U14 boys did very well to get to the Tier 2 Plate semi-final losing very narrowly to the eventual winners.
- Our U16 girls convincingly won the East Tier 2 league finals day play offs.
- 42 junior players were selected for Essex or Talent Academy

### **Coaching qualifications**

Over 10 coaches embarked on their sessional coaching qualification with several completing this meaning they are qualified to lead a coaching session. Several others also completed an 'Introduction to Hockey' or 'Engaging Games for Children' course making them a qualified assistant coach

### **Camps**

We ran our successful Easter and Summer camps again but have also added to our holiday provision by offering 'elite skills camps' during half term holidays. All these camps develop our players but raise vital revenue for the club.

### **School outreach**

We have continued our school outreach programme, focusing primarily on Mildmay Primary school with whom we have a really good relationship. We have extended this to include Beaulieu primary and secondary school and Great Baddow secondary school. We are always looking for coaches to help us with coaching in schools so please get in touch if you can help.