



## DEVON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

### 16th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Held on 21st May 2018 at the Ley Arms, Kenn.

Present

| <b>DHA Officers &amp; Officials &amp; Reps to DHA<br/>(* ** denotes eligibility to vote)</b>                                    |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| Chair   | David Chard                                  | Hon Secretary                           | Michelle Judge                          |
| Hon Treasurer   | Peter Hodge                                  | Vice-Chair                              | Jamie Oxley                             |
| DHUA President  | Bob Whittle                                  | Devon County Disciplinary administrator | Sam Tallowin                            |
| <b>Other attendees who signed the attendance sheet<br/>(* denotes designated voter for club ** denotes eligibility to vote)</b> |  |   |   |
| Ashmoor HC  | Steve Dinnie, Richard Hill                   | Dart HC                                 | Claire Powlesland, Cath Causey          |
| Dartmouth HC  |  | Dawlish LHC                             |   |
| DHUA  | Bob Whittle                                  | Exe HC                                  | Jane Bailey, Sally Turner, Rosie Parkin |
| East Devon  | Lewis Hayes                                  | ECV Homets                              |   |
| Honiton Homets  |  |   |   |
| ISCA  | Jane Cornelius, Bill Goodridge, Chris Booker | Kingsbridge and Salcombe                | Fiona Wadey                             |
| Newton Abbot LHC  | Sara Ellis, Harriet Ellis                    | N Devon HC                              | John Brett, Nick Howells                |
| Mannamead   | Lorri Rickard                                | Okehampton Men                          | Richard Jones                           |
| Okehampton Ladies   | Jane Jones                                   | OPM MHC                                 | Rob Logan                               |
|   |  | Plym valley                             | Denise Doddridge                        |
| Plymouth Marjon HC  | Jamie Oxley                                  | PGSOB                                   | Steve Wherry                            |
| Sidmouth and Ottery HC  | Samantha Parkyn, George Powell               | Tavistock                               | Ross Reid                               |
| Taw Valley HC   | Stuart Govier                                | Tiverton White Eagles LHC               |   |
| Teign   | Jackie Brooks                                | Tiverton HC                             | Paul Williams                           |
| Torbay Ladies   | Abby Hales, Caz Ladbrooke                    | Torbay MHC                              | Peter Hodge                             |
| University of Exeter LHC  |  | Devonport Services                      | John Rigby                              |
| University of Plymouth LHC  |  | University of Exeter MHC                | Sean Holmes                             |
| Hon VP  | Sam Tallowin, Martin Stoneman                | University of Plymouth MHC              |   |
| EH  |  |   |   |
| <b>Clubs not represented at the AGM</b>   |  |   |   |
| See gaps above  |  |   |   |
|   |  |   |   |
|   |  |   |   |
| <b>Apologies</b>  |  |   |   |
| See item 1 below  |  |   |   |
|   |  |   |   |
|   |  |   |   |

The above is based on signatories of the attendance sheet at the meeting and apologies received directly by the Hon Secretary or presented on the evening.



*Minutes*

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Barbara Reynolds EH, Karen Dutton SOHC, Sanchia Bradford, Martyn Granville Tavistock HC,

**2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017 (available on the evening)**

**Signed as a true copy** – carried by the floor

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017**

**4. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

To be discussed at AOB

**5. REPORTS**

**5.1 EH Devon Report**

**(Barbara Reynolds)**

Attached

Comments from the floor – none

**5.2 Hon. Secretary and Competitions Report**

**(Michelle Judge/Ross Reid)**

Attached includes a short report from Ross Reid re communications in Devon

Comments from the floor – none

**5.3 Schools and Youth inc Player Pathway Reports  
Hough)**

**(Jamie Oxley/Claire Rochelle/Ash)**

Attached

Comments from the floor –

Sam Tallowin – any idea why Devon are haemorrhaging players? Jamie Oxley (JO) commented that this cannot be explained, the drop is around the mid teen age group. Clubs can be proactive to find out why players leave and how can clubs keep them involved in the sport. It's a national trend.

Anne Baker, Isca added that some schools make children chose between sports, which has a knock on effect.

Sally Turner, Exe – communicating re GDPR – what do clubs need to do? JO - From a Devon HA perspective, the DHA website is GDPR ready. Bob Whittle commented that clubs need to take their own responsibility for their methods. JO added that the DHA Junior website will be compliant through Club Buzz.



Anne Baker, Isca – how can we move competitions through the county, Exeter are looking to make their rates more competitive? JO – Festivals happen around the county, teams such as North Devon and Tiverton do take part in the festivals hosted on in county and do not consider themselves excluded. DHA do try and host events throughout the region where possible.

Nick Howells, North Devon – U14/16 age groups, how does that work within the player pathway? JO – Year 9s and upwards go straight into the Academy for selection. Provisional dates will be advertised shortly.

#### **5.4 Devon Umpires Associations Report (Bob Whittle)**

Attached

Comments from the floor – none

Taw Valley - Opportunity for umpiring at a club level, how can this be approved, it was felt that the system does not support our younger members? Players also want to play and are not always available to umpire.

How do we encourage players to take up courses? Can DHA subsidise umpire courses? Bob Whittle – Subsidises are offered at a buy one get one free level, perhaps focus should be on umpiring at a junior festival level, this will help encourage players to carry on umpiring rather than be put off by going straight into adult hockey.

Jamie Oxley echoed the suggestion that players should be encouraged to help out in the junior festivals and noted that players don't always want to carry on and do a level one qualification.

#### **5.5 Disciplinary Officer's Report (Sam Tallwin)**

Attached

Comments from the floor – none

### **6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (Peter Hodge)**

The accounts were presented as attached.

Comments from the floor –

Anne Baker, Isca – have the numbers increased at JDC level to help with losses higher up? Jamie Oxley – this is being looked at later on, as we won't be able to have details of numbers yet.

Sally Turner, Exe – Pitch hire costs seemed to have tripled and have we looked at sponsorship? Peter Hodge stated that the costs have merged into one, they were split last year, there is an increase in pitch hire fees. JO commented that DHA are always looking for sponsorship and would like help and suggestions if any one knows of anyone willing to help.

Nick Howells, North Devon – could DHA hire only half a pitch if numbers are lower and have DHA got the right players/coaches ratios right? Jamie Oxley, this is difficult as pitches cannot be cancelled at the last



minute, ratios are based on as per regulations from England Hockey, DHA will be looking at coaching fees going forward to understand what changes need to be made.

**7. ADOPTION OF ACCOUNTS (incl. setting of affiliation fees) - proposed on block - Sam Tallowin, seconded by the floor**

**8.1 Adoption of accounts**

**8.2 Setting of Affiliation Fees for Season 2017/18 – No increase proposed**

**8.3 Setting of Honorarium for Hon Sec and Hon Treasurer**

**8.4 Appointment of Independent Examiner – Jackie Brooks**

**8. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS & REPRESENTATIVES FOR DHA OFFICERS**

- a. **Chairperson** - elected unopposed David Chard
- b. **Vice-Chair (West Rep)** – elected unopposed Jamie Oxley
- c. **Hon Secretary** – elected unopposed Michelle Judge
- d. **Hon Treasurer** - elected unopposed Peter Hodge
- e. **County Disciplinary Administrator** - elected unopposed Sam Tallowin
- f. **Men’s League Representative** – vacant
- g. **Women’s League Representative** – elected unopposed Alison Franklin

**Proposed in block by Rob Logan, Seconded Bob Whittle**

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. **Presentation of “Treece Rose Bowl”** – awarded to Rose-Marie Parkin
- b. **Anne Baker – coaching courses – are clubs bothering to get coaches qualified or not?**

Jamie Oxley – DHA can get proactive and organise internal courses with clubs nominating coaches, perhaps in May or June, DHA would then get in touch with EH and look to hold courses.

**Other Information:**

**Notes:**

The meeting finished at 9 pm.



The above are an accurate record of the Devon Hockey Association committee meeting held on 21 May 2018

Name: Dave Chard

Position: DHA Chair

Signed:

Date

#### Honorary Secretary's Report 2018 – Michelle Judge

- Devon Cup Competitions

- 43 up by 8 teams from the previous year, for the first time in years we have been able to hold a ladies trophy plate competition.
- This year we were also able to hold an U18 girls competition, 6 teams entered, Teign, Plymouth Marjon, Okehampton, Sidmouth and Ottery, Kingsbridge and Salcombe, Isca, however Isca withdrew early before any games were played. Format was 2 groups, playing round robin, with semi-finals and final.
- All finals were held at Plymouth Marjon in April, 21, another great day which was well attended with warm weather, perhaps too warm at times, the results were:

|                    | Winner            | Runner Up         |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cup Men            | Plymouth Marjon   | Plymouth Uni      |
| Trophy Men         | Okehampton        | Plymouth Marjon B |
| Cup Women          | Exe               | Plymouth Marjon   |
| Trophy Women       | Plymouth Marjon 3 | Dart              |
| Trophy Plate Women | ECVH              | Teign 2           |
| Girls U18 Cup      | Plymouth Marjon   | Teign             |

- DHA are undecided if there will be a small entry fee of £10 per team next year to go towards to funding of pitches and umpires for the finals, it is also hoped that some sponsorship may be sort
- Hopefully we will see a further increase of entries and a boys U18 competition as well.
- You will also see some rule changes to the competition next year for finals day, namely the introduction of shuffles instead of strokes and quarters instead of half's.
- Devon Round for the Regional Indoor competition
  - As 4 teams expressed an interest of representing Devon in the regional finals, it was necessary to hold a Devon round. It was played at Exeter University with Teign, Isca, Plymouth University and Exe taking part. This gave an excellent opportunity for umpires to experience the indoor game with the added bonus of some mentoring by Nick White. Exe and Isca were the 2 clubs going on to the Regional round. For the men, we had Ashmoor and Isca taking part in the Regional round, with Ashmoor going through to be Divisional winners and progressing into a higher tier for next year.
- Vet's Tournament
  - Really pleased to hold a joint men's and women's O35s competition this year on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April at Plymouth Marjon, 8 teams took part, 4 teams in each competition. It was a great day with excellent hockey and umpiring. The winners were Plymouth Marjon in both competitions.



- Club updates on the website – hopefully those of you who have had your AGMs have been onto the DHA website and updated your club contacts, if you are unsure of who has access or how to do this, please see me after the AGM and I will show you how.
- Again I have indicated that I am willing to continue my association with DHA and have expressed my willingness to stand again for election as secretary unless, of course, there is anyone else that would like to take on the role.
- Ross Reid is DHA's communications representative who has a report to present.



**Ross Reid, publicity & communications officer**

**21 May 2018 Devon Hockey annual meeting report**

First things first I would like to thank David (Chard) and the committee and Barbara Reynolds (at England Hockey) for their support this year and to Jamie Oxley for his initial vision in how promoting Devon Hockey would enable us to engage with more people not just within in our sport but further afield, outside the parameters of our relatively small, unknown, playing field...

Importantly Devon Hockey Finals Day has become a focal point for the county's hockey community and the more we can do to support this end of season family event the better.

Huge thanks must go to Michelle Judge and all participants for making this year's finals day the best yet. Not only were we blessed with amazing weather but it was also great to see so many people stay around all day to support other teams than just their own. I am sure the decision to add the girls U18s final to the senior games also had a huge bearing on increased numbers of supporters and having two pitches side by side added to the excitement and spectator enjoyment at Plymouth.

We have a county and hockey set-up that is second to none – and I say that as a Cornishman living in Devon. There is plenty to be proud of...

Exeter University men's 1s not only regained their national hockey league Premier Division place but also turned the national spotlight on the county again; something I aim to use to our advantage going forward next season as they will play at least nine top flight games at the university and as many of us as possible should get along to support their position in the country's top 10...

and Dinnie do well? On Saturday, Ashmoor Hockey Club won the England Hockey men's team of the year award. As a standalone achievement this is great news for the club and county hockey and testimony to the hard work that Steve Dinnie has put in at Ashmoor over the years.

If you then consider in three years two Devon clubs have won the award – Si Fenwick's Tavistock were men's team of the year in 2016 – then it makes this a remarkable time for Devon Hockey. Si returned to coach his former club Plymouth Marjon to within a whisker of national league promotion this season.

Exe went one better and won promotion back to the England Hockey Women's Conference West at the first attempt – and will represent Exeter and, again Devon Hockey, in the national league again next season. The girls at Exe are another group who give me great support/help throughout the season so my thanks go to Jane Bailey and her "team" behind the teams.

National success proves we must be doing something right and it is my job to continue to promote our great sport to all corners of the county, and beyond.

Our relationship with BBC Radio Devon and BBC Spotlight continues to be as successful as our teams and we had prime time coverage again of national league hockey throughout the season, which peaked with Exeter winning the England Hockey Men's Premier promotion play-offs.



This year I anticipate even more interest from television and radio as international star Giselle Ansley will represent England in the Women's World Cup being staged at Lee Valley, hockey central.

Belief, passion and commitment are three outstanding virtues. But they are nothing without support. I am sure if you ask Steve Dinnie, Si Fenwick, Giselle or the team at University of Exeter all would say the same.

I am thankful to every member of the Devon Hockey community who has lent me their support this season and also to umpires like Mike Daniel, Rob Logan and Graham Woolcock who work tirelessly not just to promote the third team – our Devon Umpires – but also to clubs they attend and a sport we all love.

I believe we always have to set ourselves new goals and I am no different.

Hopefully next season our sport will play an even more prominent, evident role in county life... that remains my number one goal.

With your support we can get more people talking about Devon Hockey than ever before but I am a realist and realise, promotion – like the game itself – relies on teamwork not individuals.





### **Devon Hockey AGM 2018 - Schools & Youth Report – Jamie Oxley**

This year has been particularly challenging due to the changes in the Player Pathway introduced by England Hockey and changes in staffing to oversee the competitions and player pathway in the autumn.

There are still many challenges to address within the county to support the development of the game. Membership across the clubs as a whole is static which is against the national trend according to England Hockey which is a worry as after a big surge the sport is not retaining as many of the members it has attracted. However the number of clubs running junior sections is growing

On a positive note more clubs are engaging with the Devon junior competitions. However due to the big difference in club demographics the programme is clearly not meeting the needs of all the clubs. It is clear a more long term plan with the development of competitive hockey linking junior/youth and senior hockey in the county needs to be considered.

This year Devon has started to develop a new young umpire/leadership programme which supported the In2Hockey competitions. This has been a joint venture with Devon Umpires with the aim to develop more officials.

### **The key priorities for 2018-19**

1. Establish a consistent, high quality player pathway across the whole county
2. Support the development of coaching in clubs through bespoke club mentoring and coaching engagement sessions
3. Develop the coaching delivery within the Devon Player Pathway
4. Support the development of young leaders supporting the delivery of hockey in clubs and schools
5. Support the development of umpires involved at grass roots within clubs and schools with a particular focus on developing a successful young umpires pathway.
6. Increase the number of clubs engaging in Devon festivals and competitions by
  - a. Considering a more long term plan
  - b. Gaining more feedback from clubs to shape a plan
  - c. Consider thinking outside of the box in order to grow the game and or reduce the numbers leaving the game
7. Increase the diversity of competitions available for clubs to enter to increase the number of clubs and players playing competitive junior hockey
8. Deliver a successful Devon Development Programme for players in schools year 5/6/7 to support the player pathway and engage more players in Devon and Club hockey.
9. Increase the visibility of Devon junior hockey through increased social media linking with clubs and schools



10. Improve the communication of Devon hockey with clubs and schools using the Devon Junior Hockey Website as the main hub for communication.

### Competitions Report – Ash Hough

This year was the first season when all the club and school competitions have been run under Devon Hockey. The main challenges relate to fitting everything into the calendar, the weather, a lack of umpires available and constant changes to the schedule.

On a positive note we have had a record number of schools and clubs entering the Devon competitions for many years. Moving forward with more changes being introduced by England Hockey with school competitions Devon and the schools are unsure of its impact on next years programme.

#### Clubs Entered into festivals this year:

Ashmoor, Plymouth Marjon, Torbay, Teign, Plymouth, Isca, East Devon, ECV Hornets, Ivybridge, Tavistock, Okehampton, North Devon/Taw Valley, Tiverton/White Eagles, Exe, Sidmouth & Ottery, Dart, Kingsbridge, Devonport, Plymouth (19)

#### Schools Entered into festivals this year:

Mount Kelly, West Buckland, Plymouth College, Exeter College, Devonport High Boys, Exeter School, St Andrews Monachorum, Tavistock College, South Dartmoor, Kings Ottery, Shebbear College, Colyton Grammar, Blundell's, Uffculme, Kingsbridge, Holsworthy, Maynard, Sidmouth, St Peters, Plymstock, Torquay Boys Grammar, Torquay Girls Grammar, Exmouth, Tiverton High, Cullompton (25)

#### Boys

| Competition | Winner          | Runner-up                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| U10 Clubs   | Tiverton        | Isca                        |
| U12 Clubs   | Isca            | Plymouth Marjon             |
| U14 Clubs   | Plymouth Marjon | Isca                        |
| U11 Schools | West Buckland   | St Andrews Buckland Mono... |
| U13 Schools | West Buckland   | Devonport High School Boys  |
| U14 Schools | West Buckland   | Exeter School               |
| U16 Schools | Exeter School   | Devonport High School Boys  |



## Girls

| Competition | Winner           | Runner-up       |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|
| U10 Clubs   | Plymouth Marjon  | East Devon      |
| U12 Clubs   | Isca             | Plymouth Marjon |
| U14 Clubs   | Isca             | Plymouth Marjon |
| U11 Schools | Plymouth College | Exeter School   |
| U13 Schools | Plymouth College | Blundell's      |
| U14 Schools | Blundell's       | Exeter School   |
| U16 Schools | Maynard          | Blundell's      |
| U18 Schools | Exeter College   | Exeter School   |

## Player Pathway Report – Claire Rochelle

The planning for the development centres was a little rushed due to not having a player pathway coordinator in post. Development Centres ran in Plymouth, Exeter and Tiverton after requests for something closer to North Devon. Unfortunately the Tiverton centre was poorly attended, the Plymouth and Exeter Centre ran with good numbers. Approximately 100 children were involved across all three areas. Early planning for the DC combined with the SWG this year has meant we have over 270 signed up so far.

The Academy centre ran 5 training sessions and 4 fixture dates. 2 friendlys leading to 2 competitive tournaments (unfortunately one was snowed off). The final tournament on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April saw all counties in the West come together, Devon proved strong in all age groups both boys and girls seeing wins over most other counties. It would be good if these tournaments had more of a purpose, perhaps leading to regional qualification or even just the presentation of medals.

Approximately 145 players were involved within the AC this season. The U14s now play 11 a side, something Devon has encouraged. U14s and U15s see one squad enter competitions where U17s planned to enter 2 teams. Devon along with many other counties struggled with this for the last competition date and there will be discussions as to whether just one team should be entered next season.

The coaching structure of the training sessions worked well with a head coach over seeing lead and assistant coaches. This allowed coach CPD and ensured training was quality and in line with England Hockey's golden thread.

The sessions run in the school holidays, Feb half term and Easter holidays were poorly attended and is something we will look at when setting dates for next season. Sessions have run in Exeter and Plymouth, comments from parents and clubs in the North Devon area have expressed concerns about the distance of travel to Plymouth in particular.



Unfortunately the coaching network and support is strong in these areas so we welcome any coaches and clubs within the North Devon area to become involved. We have a coach who is also a school teacher involved in the DC this summer

in Bideford and numbers are looking great so it shows if we can get the right people involved we can hold successful events within this area.

Entry into performance has become far more flexible this year, AC coaches at any point could nominate their top players to attend a PC training session. Many players had the opportunity to attend, unfortunately very few were invited back. The process of PC coaches selecting players from the final tournament still took place and they are also holding an U15 selection day in June for the potential U14s. Approximately 25 Devon players are currently in performance. Communication between PC and AC could be improved, many parents still seem to be confused about the process. There is discussion to make changes to PC, at the moment there are concerns that AC and DC are becoming increasingly detached from PC so there are talks about plans to overcome this including an increase from 2 PC to 4 in each area.



## **ENGLAND HOCKEY Report**

### **Regional Team Restructure**

Last summer, the England Hockey Board reviewed the staffing structure at England Hockey and made some changes across the organisation to ensure we are structured in the best way to deliver our strategy moving forwards. The reorganisation affected the team of Relationship Managers and Administrators in the regional offices.

One of the key risks to our sport going forward is pitch availability and development. Hockey has grown significantly since the 2012 Olympics and is due to continue following the gold medal win in Rio. In order to increase capacity to support facility development, the number of Relationship Managers (RMs) was reduced from 12 roles to 10 and the number in our facilities team was increased from 1 to 3 Facilities RM roles.

As a result, the geographical areas covered by the RMs was increased and I added Avon Clubs (apart from those based in BANES and South Gloucestershire) to my portfolio of clubs. Additionally, the number of Administrators in the regional offices was reduced from 3 to 2 with your Administrator, Jenny Mitchell, now supporting six Relationship Managers, covering 20 counties and the 33 London Boroughs from our office in Exeter.

### **Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup**

We are hosting the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup (VHWWC) at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London from 21 July until 5 August. Since the Priority Booking Windows for club members last April, there has been a Public Ballot for tickets and then a general public sale of tickets, resulting in over 100,000 tickets being sold. All Clubs have also been offered a pair of tickets to allocate within their club as a reward or prize.

### **AGM Governance Review**

At the 2017 England Hockey AGM a resolution was put forward by members asking for a review of the governance of the sport at a local level. Following Consultation Meetings held around the country (Taunton in November) and online surveys for completion by individuals, clubs and Associations, the appointed Consultants produced a report which went before the England Hockey Board and the 2018 England Hockey AGM in March. A Governance Review Working Group is now developing a set of high level Principles which will underpin any changes and these will be the subject of the next phase of consultation.

### **League Review**

Following consultations with Leagues and Premier League clubs, changes to the structure of the Investec Women's Hockey League and Men's Hockey League were agreed by the England Hockey Board in March 2018. The changes, the first step in adapting to the evolving landscape of the Hockey Pro League and requests from clubs to review the domestic structure, will be implemented in the 2019-20 season. England Hockey is ambitious about creating a structure that encourages clubs to continue to develop, strive for success at the highest level of European competition and support our international success objectives.

### **Hockey Pro League**

In June 2017, it was announced that both England men's and women's teams will compete in the new Hockey Pro League, which will be launched in January 2019. Each of the nine participating countries will play each other on a home and away basis every year. The Hockey Pro League will provide a way of qualifying for the Olympics so England will play under the Great Britain banner in the two years prior to the Olympic Games.

### **England Hockey Championships**

The England Hockey Championships were launched this season, a re-brand of the Knockout Cup competitions, along with a new Competition Management System (CMS) operated by SportLoMo. A number of changes have been implemented to both our adult and junior competition programmes. The England Hockey Championships have been designed to be more inclusive, allowing more of our clubs and respective teams to participate in a national championship, with more evenly contested games. This has been achieved through a 'Tiered' programme allowing clubs and teams to enter the appropriate level of competition to their league status.

### **Summer Championships**

A NEW summer offer, three strands of competition – Hockey Small Sided Leagues (6-a-side), National Sixes Championships (6-a-side) and Masters KO Championships (O30s/O40s/O50s). The Summer Championships are perfect for both current and new players. Designed to create a relaxed, fun and social environment of out of season hockey for players of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. Teams can be formed not just by clubs but also other social groups e.g. businesses, university students at home for the summer, friends from different clubs etc.

England Hockey have appointed 4 new Area Championship Coordinators (ACC). This role was created to embed and grow the England Hockey Championships Programme and ensure that it is delivered in line with the national framework. Anne Tubb has been appointed to cover the West region as well as Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Warwickshire and Worcestershire.



### General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

GDPR comes into effect on 25 May and replaces the Data Protection Act. England Hockey are working with the Sport and Recreation Alliance to provide guidance to ensure that your Club is compliant- more information available on the England Hockey website [www.englishockey.co.uk](http://www.englishockey.co.uk)

## GROW OUR PARTICIPATION

### Affiliation data

There is one new informal club affiliated this season – Wrinkley HC. Changes were made to the way in which we have collected affiliation data this season. Clubs have reported their participation numbers in categories:

1. **Typical club player** – this junior or adult club member plays regular league hockey or in tournaments.
2. **Informal player** – this junior or adult club member takes part in social hockey activity, such as play nights, small sided sessions, Back to Hockey, Summer League, walking hockey etc.
3. **Community player** – this junior or adult isn't a member of your club yet, but takes part in local activities that have been organised by the club. This could include, coaching within schools or a local community programme.

In Devon, affiliation data (Typical & Informal only) shows the total number of people playing club hockey in the county decreased by -0.85% as broken down below:

|               | Junior | Adult | Total |
|---------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Total 2016/17 | 2308   | 2630  | 4938  |
| Total 2017/18 | 2285   | 2611  | 4896  |
| Difference    | -23    | -19   | -42   |

Fourteen clubs have seen their membership increase, ten have stayed constant (within 5%) and eleven have seen a decline. Moving forward, our focus is to retain these players within our sport. Thank you to those clubs who amended their affiliation data during the course of the season.

### The Playing Offer

Our player research and wider knowledge of participation habits have made it clear that behaviours are changing. Many players don't want to play every week but are happy to play at any time of the year. They want opportunities that provide good experiences but are also local enough to allow room for other interests and commitments.

Saturday league hockey is in good shape, we have slightly more affiliated teams in the last few years, but it is also not only thing we should try to offer. Time is becoming more precious and we believe that providing variety is key to help retain players. There are many players who would like to join a club but don't as the offer isn't right.

Increasingly clubs are offering more varied Ways to Play including; HockeyFest, Back to Hockey, Walking Hockey, Club School Links, Badgers/Development teams, Pay & Play, small sided mid-week leagues as well as supporting community events like fetes, carnivals and local shows.

## ENHANCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

### Devon Club Forum

The Club Forum gives clubs the opportunity to discuss the main issues for the development of hockey across Devon and input into county planning. This we had two venues for the Forums (Plymouth and Exeter) to reduce travel as well as attract more clubs to the meetings. Attendance from clubs at the six forum meetings this season has been very good, with on average only 12 clubs attending. Devon Hockey have been proactive in responding to the Forum feedback, amending junior league festivals, coach observation sessions and offering coaching support for example. Please give some thought as to what your club would like to see at these meetings so that they are beneficial and incentivise more clubs to attend.

The main themes for the Club Forum this season were:

1. **Planning for 2017/18 season – 12 June & 3 July 2017**
2. **Umpiring Forum with DHUA – 13 October 2017**



**3. What Makes a Great Club – 6 November 2017**

**4. Your World Cup – 22 January & 5 February 2018**

In the summer of 2018 we will be hosting a Women's Hockey World Cup for the first time in our history! This will be a huge moment for our sport. Thanks to our amazing hockey clubs and volunteers, hockey has seen a 41% growth in the number of people playing in clubs since London 2012. Hosting a home World Cup presents us with another golden opportunity to grow our game and celebrate our success. England Hockey are launching our largest participation campaign to date and we would love your club to get involved because this is Your World Cup too!

**What is it?**

A National Campaign to support each and every club to thrive from the unique opportunity of having a World Cup on home soil.

**What does it mean?**

Your World Cup is a suite of tools and support to help clubs maximise the opportunity hosting a home world cup

**So what?**

Your World Cup gives all clubs the opportunity to develop, by offering playing, spectating or volunteering opportunities and celebrating club success!

There are 6 areas identified in the Your World Cup Campaign;

- Inspiring the next Generation
- Supporting Schools to Deliver Hockey
- Offering more Ways to Play
- Celebrating & Supporting People
- During the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup
- Legacy

The Your World Cup Club Guide that was handed out to each attending club at the Forum, with non-attendees receiving their copy via post, gives ideas on how you can involve your club. Sign your club up to the Your World Cup and register your activities at;

[www.englandhockey.co.uk/YourWorldCup](http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/YourWorldCup)

**England Hockey ClubMark**

Sidmouth & Ottery and Isca have achieved ClubMark status. Five Devon Clubs are currently working towards ClubMark – Okehampton Ladies, Okehampton Men, Tiverton White Eagles, Dart and Exe. The new system is much more streamlined, with only 18 pieces evidence required to meet this minimum operating standard.

**Courses and Workshops**

During the past season the following courses and Workshops have been held:

- Level 1 Umpire Award Courses (Plymouth, Tavistock & Exeter)
- West HA Coaching Conference (Taunton)
- Coach Award Course (Okehampton)
- Sessional Coach Award Courses (Plymouth & Exeter)
- Time to Listen Workshop (Exeter)

**Facilities**

Playing Pitch Strategies (PPS) are currently active in the following Local Authorities, ensuring that our facilities are protected, improved or developed: Plymouth, South Hams, West Devon, Exeter, East Devon, Torbay, Teignbridge, North Devon and Torridge. Only Mid Devon who doesn't have a live PPS. As part of the process our clubs are asked to complete a PPS survey and it is essential that, if asked, your club completes these documents. It is vital that hockey data is correct and up to date in these strategies, in order to influence current facility provision but also more importantly future demand. This evidence feeds into the England Hockey National Facility Strategy.

Current issues / developments are;

1. Plymouth Marjon – new AGP opened August 2017



2. Stonehouse, Plymouth – bring AGP back into use, identified in Plymouth Plan
3. KEVICCS, Totnes – resurface complete summer 2017
4. Kings School, Ottery – resurface complete summer 2017
5. Tavistock – resurface complete, potential new MUGA & clubhouse
6. Culm Valley Leisure Centre – under threat to 3G
7. Sidmouth – install floodlights
8. Sherford – new sand AGP
9. Torbay – Clennon Valley AGP refurbishment
10. Torbay – TGGS refurbishment
11. Stover School – potential new AGP
12. Clyst Vale College – potential new AGP
13. Uffculme – potential new AGP
14. Honiton – potential new AGP

Finally, thank you for your support over the last 12 months. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

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**DEVON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - GENERAL**

Page 1

|  | <u>ACTUAL</u><br><u>Year ended</u><br><u>30 April 2017</u><br>£. | <u>BUDGET</u><br><u>Year ended</u><br><u>30 April 2017</u><br>£. | <u>ACTUAL</u><br><u>Year ended</u><br><u>30 April 2016</u><br>£. | <u>ACTUAL</u><br><u>Year ended</u><br><u>30 April 2015</u><br>£. |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>INCOME</b>  |  |  |  |  |
| Bank interest  | 6  | 7  | 7  | 7  |
| Devon Affiliation fees                               | 8,145  | 7,560  | 7,215  | 7,155  |
| WCHA Affiliation fees                                | 2,880  | 1,200  | 1,170  | 1,300  |
| Devon Affiliation fees - Juniors                     | 1,090  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Boys/girls junior hockey                             | 220  | 4,500  | 4,290  | 840  |
| Reallocation of junior subs to Single system/juniors | -1,090   | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Income from County Championship May 2015             |  |  | 690  | 0  |
| Indoor competition income                            | 0  | 0  | 0  | 100  |
|  | <u>11,251</u>  | <u>13,267</u>  | <u>13,372</u>  | <u>9,403</u>   |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                   |  |  |  |  |
| Competition expenses (Aug 16 pre season tournament)  | 500  | 1,000  | 1,047  | 728  |
| Committee expenses                                   | 493  | 450  | 192  | 35   |
| AGM costs (Ley Arms)                                 | 280  | 200  | 150  | 100  |
| Pitch hire costs - juniors                           | 240  | 6,500  | 6,467  | 3,922  |
| Pitch hire costs - Devon finals + associated costs   | 666  | 300  | -138   | 109  |
| Indoor competition                                   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 760  |
| WCHA affiliation fees paid                           | 2,880  | 1,200  | 1,055  | 1,300  |
| Donations - veterans (ladies)                        | 200  | 0  | 0  | 200  |
| Sundry expenses                                      | 100  | 200  | 160  | 0  |
| Secretary's honorarium                               | 750  | 750  | 750  | 750  |
| Treasurer's honorarium                               | 750  | 750  | 750  | 750  |
| Forum costs  | 225  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Insurance (Public liability only)                    | 185  | 190  | 179  | 179  |
| Website expenses                                     | 292  | 300  | 290  | 232  |
| Publicity costs                                      | 1,020  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| County Chamionship costs                             | 315  | 1,500  | 3,091  | 1,438  |
| Courses  | 250  | 300  | 200  | 30   |
| Shirts for single system                             |  | 0  | 0  | 1,259  |
| Contribution due to DHUA for umpire development      | -1,250   | 0  | 0  | 0  |
|  | <u>7,896</u>   | <u>13,640</u>  | <u>14,192</u>  | <u>11,791</u>  |
| <b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>                | <u>3,355</u>   | <u>-373</u>  | <u>-819</u>  | <u>-2,389</u>  |
| Proof  |  | -373   | -819   | -2,389   |



**DEVON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**BALANCE SHEETS**

|  | <b><u>30 April 2017</u></b> | <b><u>30 April 2016</u></b> | <b><u>30 April 2015</u></b> |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  | £.                          | £.                          | £.                          |
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                             |                             |                             |
| Bank current account - Nat West  | 22,439                      | 16,655                      | 20,873                      |
| Bank deposit account - Nat West  | 14,718                      | 14,713                      | 14,705                      |
| Debtors  | 175                         | 2,143                       | 350                         |
|  | <hr/> <b>37,333</b>         | <hr/> <b>33,511</b>         | <hr/> <b>35,928</b>         |
| <b>DEDUCT LIABILITIES</b>  |                             |                             |                             |
| Sundry creditors   | 2,795                       | 2,328                       | 3,926                       |
|  | <hr/> <b>34,538</b>         | <hr/> <b>31,183</b>         | <hr/> <b>32,002</b>         |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>  |                             |                             |                             |
|  | <hr/> <b>34,538</b>         | <hr/> <b>31,183</b>         | <hr/> <b>32,002</b>         |
| <b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>   |                             |                             |                             |
| Accumulated funds brought forward  | 31,183                      | 32,002                      | 34,391                      |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year   | 3,355                       | -819                        | -2,389                      |
|  | <hr/> <b>34,538</b>         | <hr/> <b>31,183</b>         | <hr/> <b>32,002</b>         |
| P J HODGE<br>TREASURER FOR THE DEVON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION<br>DATE: 14 MAY 2017 |                             |                             |                             |



**DEVON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS**  
**SINGLE SYSTEM/JUNIORS ACCOUNT**

PAGE 3

|  | <u>ACTUAL</u><br><u>Year ended</u><br><u>30 April 2017</u><br>£. | <u>BUDGET</u><br><u>Year ended</u><br><u>30 April 2017</u><br>£. | <u>ACTUAL</u><br><u>Year ended</u><br><u>30 April 2016</u><br>£. | <u>ACTUAL</u><br><u>Year ended</u><br><u>30 April 2015</u><br>£. |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>INCOME</b>  |  |  |  |  |
| Devon Active (contribution towards coaching)   | 0  | 0  | 0  | -80  |
| Kit income (included in overall income below)  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 3,266  |
| Junior subscriptions 2016/17   | 1,090  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Devon Schoolboys   | 1,248  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Boys/girls junior hockey   | 7,061  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Boys/girls junior hockey re Single System/juniors                                    | 20,129   | 21,000   | 26,715   | 15,661   |
|  | <u>29,528</u>  | <u>21,000</u>  | <u>26,715</u>  | <u>18,847</u>  |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>   |  |  |  |  |
| Pitch hire costs -Single System  | 4,342  | 8,500  | 8,073  | 1,270  |
| Pitch hire costs - reference under provision in 2014 - reported in 2015              |  | 0  |  | 2,490  |
| Pitch hire costs - juniors   | 1,227  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Expenditure re South Dartmoor Academy on DHA behalf (Includes pitch hire & trophies) | 3,569  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Administration fee by South Dartmoor Academy   | 2,333  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| Coaching costs -Single System  | 10,917   | 8,500  | 8,360  | 10,488   |
| Coaching costs - Underprovision in 2016- now reallocated                             | -2,514   | 0  | 2,514  | 0  |
| Telephone  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 221  |
| Entry fees - Junior indoor/Somerset tournament                                       | 962  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
| JAC entry fees   | 0  | 1,120  | 1,120  | 0  |
| Stationery & postages  | 90   | 175  | 174  | 20   |
| Single System Administrator payments   | 3,167  | 2,004  | 1,833  | 1,400  |
| Web site costs   | 120  | 450  | 480  | 0  |
| Sundry   | 206  | 350  | 340  | 0  |
| Other payments re Single System<br>Kit for juniors/coaches                           | 2,726  | 0  | 5,886  | 2,469  |
|  | <u>27,144</u>  | <u>21,099</u>  | <u>28,781</u>  | <u>18,358</u>  |
| <b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)FOR THE YEAR</b>   | <u>2,384</u>   | <u>-99</u>   | <u>-2,066</u>  | <u>488</u>   |

For the year 2016/17 Junior hockey has been incorporated with the Single System as both relate to juniors. For previous years juniors was included in the general account & single system stood on its own.

The split of income & expenses between the two for 2016/17 are:

|             | <b>Juniors</b> | <b>Single System</b> |
|-------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Income      | 9,399          | 20,129               |
| Expenditure | 8,091          | 18,933               |
| Surplus     | <u>1,308</u>   | <u>1,196</u>         |



| <b><u>DEVON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION</u></b>            | <b><u>30 April 2017</u></b> | <b><u>30 April 2016</u></b> | <b><u>30 April 2015</u></b> |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b><u>BALANCE SHEETS</u></b>                      | <b>£.</b>                   | <b>£.</b>                   | <b>£.</b>                   |
| <b><u>SINGLE SYSTEM ACCOUNT AND JUNIORS</u></b>   |                             |                             |                             |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                                     |                             |                             |                             |
| Bank current account - Nat West                   |                             |                             |                             |
| Single System/Juniors a/c                         | <b>3,048</b>                | <b>4,622</b>                | <b>6,270</b>                |
| Stock   | <b>232</b>                  | <b>0</b>                    | <b>0</b>                    |
| Debtors   | <b>2,249</b>                | <b>0</b>                    | <b>393</b>                  |
| <b>DEDUCT LIABILITIES</b>                         |                             |                             |                             |
| Amounts due for coaches                           | <b>-1,037</b>               | <b>-2,514</b>               | <b>0</b>                    |
| Pitch creditor - Exeter University                | <b>0</b>                    | <b>0</b>                    | <b>-2,490</b>               |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>                                 | <b><u>4,492</u></b>         | <b><u>2,107</u></b>         | <b><u>4,173</u></b>         |
| <b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>                            |                             |                             |                             |
| Accumulated funds brought forward                 | <b>2,107</b>                | <b>4,172</b>                | <b>3,684</b>                |
| Surplus/(Deficit) for the year                    | <b>2,384</b>                | <b>-2,066</b>               | <b>488</b>                  |
|   | <b><u>4,492</u></b>         | <b><u>2,107</u></b>         | <b><u>4,172</u></b>         |
| <b>P J HODGE</b>                                  |                             |                             |                             |
| <b>TREASURER FOR THE DEVON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION</b> |                             |                             |                             |
| <b>DATE: 14 MAY 2017</b>                          |                             |                             |                             |



**DEVON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS**  
**SINGLE SYSTEM ACCOUNT AND JUNIORS**

PAGE 5

**THE FOLLOWING IS A BUDGET FOR THE SINGLE SYSTEM FOR THE YE 30 APRIL 2018**

|  | <u>BUDGET</u><br>Year ended<br>30 April 2018<br>£. | <u>ACTUAL</u><br>Year ended<br>30 April 2017<br>£. | <u>BUDGET</u><br>Year ended<br>30 April 2017<br>£. | <u>ACTUAL</u><br>Year ended<br>30 April 2016<br>£. |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| <b>INCOME</b>  |  |  |  |  |
| Junior subscriptions   | 1,100  | 1,090  |  |  |
| Devon Schoolboys   | 0  | 1,248  |  |  |
| Boys/girls junior hockey   | 7,100  | 7,061  |  |  |
| Boys/girls junior hockey re Single System/juniors                                    | 20,500   | 20,129   | 21,000   | 26,715   |
|  | <u>28,700</u>                                      | <u>29,528</u>                                      | <u>21,000</u>                                      | <u>26,715</u>                                      |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>   |  |  |  |  |
| Pitch hire costs - Single System   | 4,500  | 4,342  | 8,500  | 8,073  |
|  |  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
|  |  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
|  |  | 0  |  | 0  |
| Pitch hire costs - juniors   | 1,200  | 1,227  |  | 0  |
|  |  | 0  |  | 0  |
| Expenditure re South Dartmoor Academy on DHA behalf (Includes pitch hire & trophies) | 3,500  | 3,569  |  | 0  |
|  |  |  |  | 0  |
| Administration fee by South Dartmoor Academy   | 4,000  | 2,333  |  | 0  |
| Coaching costs - Single System   | 8,600  | 10,917   | 8,500  | 8,360  |
| Coaching costs - Underprovision in 2016 - now reallocated                            | 0  | -2,514   |  | 2,514  |
| Telephone  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0  |
|  |  | 0  |  | 0  |
| Entry fees - Junior indoor/Somerset tournament                                       | 1,000  | 962  | 0  | 0  |
| JAC entry fees   | 0  | 0  | 1,120  | 1,120  |
|  |  | 0  |  | 0  |
| Stationery & postages  | 100  | 90   | 175  | 174  |
|  |  | 0  |  |  |
| Single System Administrator payments   | 3,600  | 3,167  | 2,004  | 1,833  |
|  |  | 0  |  |  |
| Web site costs   | 0  | 120  | 450  | 480  |
|  |  | 0  |  |  |
| Sundry   | 350  | 206  | 350  | 340  |
|  |  | 0  |  |  |
| Other payments re Single System Kit for juniors/coaches                              | 2,500  | 2,726  | 0  | 5,886  |
|  | <u>26,500</u>                                      | <u>27,144</u>                                      | <u>21,099</u>                                      | <u>28,781</u>                                      |
| <b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>  | <u>2,200</u>                                       | <u>2,384</u>                                       | <u>-99</u>   | <u>-2,066</u>                                      |

**DEVON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION****INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - GENERAL - BUDGET FOR YE 30/4/2018****THE FOLLOWING IS A BUDGET FOR THE GENERAL ACCOUNT FOR THE YE 30 APRIL 2018**

|  | <u>BUDGET</u>        | <u>ACTUAL</u>            |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|
|  | <u>Year ended</u>    | <u>Year ended</u>        |
|  | <u>30 April 2018</u> | <u>30 April 2017</u>     |
|  | £.                   | £.                       |
| <b>INCOME</b>  |                      |                          |
| Bank interest  | 5                    | 6                        |
| Devon Affiliation fees                               | 8,200                | 8,145                    |
| WCHA Affiliation fees                                | 2,880                | 2,880                    |
| Devon Affiliation fees - Juniors                     | 1,100                | 1,090                    |
| Boys/girls junior hockey                             | 0                    | 220                      |
| Reallocation of junior subs to Single system/juniors | -1,100               | -1,090                   |
|  | <u>11,085</u>        | <u>11,251</u>            |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                                   |                      |                          |
| Competition expenses (pre season tournament)         | 500                  | 500                      |
| Committee expenses                                   | 500                  | 493                      |
| AGM costs (Ley Arms)                                 | 280                  | 280                      |
| Pitch hire costs for junior hockey                   | 0                    | 240                      |
| Pitch hire costs - Devon finals + associated costs   | 700                  | 666                      |
| WCHA affiliation fees                                | 2,880                | 2,880                    |
| Donations - veterans                                 | 0                    | 200                      |
| Sundry expenses                                      | 250                  | 100                      |
| Secretary's honorarium                               | 750                  | 750                      |
| Treasurer's honorarium                               | 750                  | 750                      |
| Forum costs  | 250                  | 225                      |
| Insurance (Public liability only)                    | 195                  | 185                      |
| Website expenses                                     | 350                  | 292                      |
| Publicity  | 1,494                | 1,020                    |
| County Championship costs                            | 750                  | 315                      |
| Courses  | 300                  | 250                      |
| Contribution due to DHUA for umpire development      | 0                    | -1,250                   |
|  | <u>9,949</u>         | <u>0</u><br><u>7,896</u> |
| <b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>                | <u>1,136</u>         | <u>3,355</u>             |



## DHUA President's Report to DHA AGM May 21st 2018

I have been in post as President for just over 2 years...the time has flown by and I am still trying to get to grips with the complexities of administering hockey matters and overseeing the role of umpiring in securing success for everyone involved in our sport in our County.

What I can say is...it doesn't get any easier as there are always issues to address and challenges to overcome! However, I am pleased to represent DHUA at this AGM of DHA this evening.

Reflecting back on the 2017/18 season...

as usual we can reflect on the season and try to unpick all of the events and issues, to analyse what has gone well, what could have been better and what we need to do to plan for an effective future.

Like many of you, especially those who are DHA officers, or officers in your Clubs, I find myself thinking...does it really take all of this effort to umpire a game of hockey?

Well, I can assure you that there is a huge amount of hard work and effort that takes place behind the scenes to manage the week by week deployment of umpires and more significantly to develop umpiring in our County and across the region.

Can I take you through some of the key issues and challenges that WE face together?

Umpire numbers have fallen...that is the number of umpires in the neutral pool able to make a regular commitment. As a consequence the number of appointments made by the Association has reduced this year.

This is a significant concern and should be something that we all need to consider!

Why is this happening?

- We have lost services of a few long serving umpires
- We have had a few injuries .etc.
- We are victims of our own success in that we provide a large number of umpires to the West higher level appointments (the highest number of any other County HUA)...a number of Devon Clubs do of course benefit from that.
- We rely on umpires doing more than one game...but timings of games and West expectations (must not umpire before a West game); the geography of our area making travel time an issue when considering doubling up ; less umpires willing/or able to more than 1 game...so making this a fragile and unreliable means of coping with demand.

Despite our developmental efforts this is the scenario...it is a worrying trend that needs to be addressed.

With the success of a number of our Devon clubs in the league, we are very likely to find that we will not have enough resources to cover all of these higher level games. Clubs should be aware that next season there will be no guarantees that we will be able to appoint to all games in Mens Leagues Conference South or Southern One or in the Ladies League Prem 2b.

So what is happening within DHUA?

We operated through the season with a full Committee and with all of the main officer posts in place. Delighted that we have an improved gender balance on our Committee too!

The core element of DHUA is the Selection and Coaching Committee, chaired by Peter Hammond.

We have reviewed the progression of umpires and the opportunities for development activities.

During the season, we were able to promote a number of umpires to higher panels and identify a number who wish to progress to the West including 2 young colleagues who achieved men's L2 West Umpire status.

The 2017/18 season presented a challenge to our ambitions to prioritise coaching and mentoring. The umpiring shortages have meant that we found ourselves frustratingly short of the resources necessary to implement the levels of coaching we set out to achieve.

That's not to say that we have made some progress on this action.

We have increased the coaching capability with 15 L1 assessors, as well as 15 coaches and 15 mentors.

I am grateful to those who have made themselves available to assess, coach and mentor as well as fulfilling umpire appointments. We also built a relationship with Cornwall HUA and received a visit from a L2 coach from Beds & Herts HUA.

With the larger coaching/mentoring team:

- we completed 102 coaching appointments (not including the group junior and senior coaching sessions conducted this season) and 52 assessments
- 28 L1 assessments were completed only 3 candidates did not reach the standard required. (2 of those candidates were successful in a subsequent assessment opportunity)

As well as group coaching opportunities based around junior and senior tournaments and regional events, there have also been several other development activities this season:



- On 24th October 2017, we ran an event at Exeter University for umpires and Captains which helped develop our relationship with Exeter University, including the ongoing development of the many umpires they encourage to attend on the L1 course held at the University each year.
- On 19th November 2017, we ran an umpire development opportunity at Exeter University around a National League match – 7 coaches attended but only 1 umpire from Devon and 1 from Cornwall.
- Also, on Sunday 16th December, we ran a development and social evening at the Jubilee club in Exeter- this was only attended by half a dozen initially with a further half a dozen turning up throughout the evening.
- In 2018, we set up a Club Umpire Developer course to run alongside a L1 umpire course at Tavistock in February and invited 2 umpires who had expressed an interest and asked 18 Club UDOs to send a delegate. Unfortunately, the 2 were unable to attend and none of the club UDOs responded in any way despite a reminder so the course was cancelled.
- On 14th February 2018, we ran a development at the invitation of Okehampton Ladies, which was attended by 5 of their umpires and extremely well received.
- On 25th March 2018 we ran a development event on the National League match between ISCA and Clifton Robinsons. All Level 1 unassessed umpires were personally invited and an open invitation extended to all DHUA members – this resulted in 10 of the 'usual suspects' attending as well as 1 Level 1 unassessed umpire.

The Development Panel has worked well for those who have taken advantage of it – with 4 members of that panel again being appointed to a hugely successful Devon Finals day. We will look to build on the success of this panel next season. Once more we have planned to use the Summer Leagues as an opportunity to support umpire development. We contacted all coaches and mentors who responded positively to the idea. We contacted all L1 unassessed umpires and club umpires asking them to enter availability – to date the response has been disappointing with only a few taking the opportunity – hopefully this will improve as the success of the few becomes known.

My thanks go to all those who have coached and assessed during the season and often changed their plans at short notice to enable our members to receive these coaching and assessment opportunities. I am also appreciative of the approach shown by our members to receiving coaching and assessment – which has resulted in our association and members being recognised as excellent in Devon, other counties and at England Hockey.

My own role has been to try and work with Clubs and colleagues in dealing with, shall we say, discipline matters or differences in opinion!

I am pleased to report that the number of yellow and red cards awarded this year has fallen! I am not sure if this is due to better player behaviour or the umpires' tolerance levels being higher! Regardless of this, this is an encouraging statistic and so all clubs who have worked on their discipline over the last 12 months are to be congratulated.

From time to time we receive a complaint about the umpires...quite often about biased home umpires! When we investigate, it is usually a Club umpire...there is little that we can do about this.

We want to appoint to all games...to coach/monitor performance...we are prepared to visit clubs and umpires and discuss umpiring issues. We establish developmental opportunities.

But ...until we get more members into a neutral pool this will remain an issue!

Initially the Umpires feedback system worked extremely well where we could identify trends in our members and be able to give coaching to help and assist them going forward. This past year the majority of clubs have not used the system correctly or haven't bothered to complete any feedback at all, which is disappointing as this was introduced at the clubs request. We regret to say that this feedback has been removed for the new season.

So what can I say to our Clubs?

So what have we done? Where have we made progress?

We hosted a very useful, well-attended workshop meeting with Chairs and UDOs in September 2017. This meeting has proved very useful to us and the feedback from the UDOs was most positive.

There is a UDO Meeting scheduled for 14th September this year.

In response to Club requests at this meeting, a couple of years ago, a number of Umpire Level 1 courses were established and publicised well in advance, very nearly a year ahead!

We set up 4 courses for Level 1 Umpire qualification:

- A 1 day Course at Marjons University, in October 2017 ( transferred at late notice to Mount Kelly, Tavistock)
- A 1 day course at Exeter University in November 2017
- A 2 evenings course at Tavistock in January 2017





- A 1 day course at Exeter University in March 2018: sadly this was cancelled because of a very low level of interest. This was very disappointing...much publicity/reminders, etc. and promoting this as an opportunity to use prior to summer leagues when we can then support development.
- We also advertised our involvement in leading courses in Bridgwater (September 17). Taunton (October 17) and Truro in January 18.

So numerous opportunities are there!

- Some of these courses had the minimum level of attendance despite encouragement
- Sadly the conversion rate from courses is disappointingly low
- We reminded colleagues/Clubs that summer league was an ideal way to progress, to attain 'assessed' status
- Sadly the conversion rate from courses is disappointingly low

I am liaising with Marjon re a course in late September/early October and with Exeter University re late October/early November. Despite my own efforts I await responses

We are keen to promote umpiring with young players...we have tried to attend junior competitions to mentor the youngsters who were giving umpiring a go!

We recognise that this is a key development priority...we reiterate, though, that Clubs must also take this on board and do what they can to make umpiring a focus as well as just develop playing skills.

We have not been able to liaise as effectively as we would like in terms of promoting opportunities for Young Umpires. We are looking for someone to join our Committee in this role.

We organised (with DHA support) the 4rd Pre-Season Tournament. The Ladies Tournament was very successful but sadly the Sunday Mens Tournament had to be abandoned because of the appalling weather conditions on the day! We have sent out our invitations to all Clubs for this year's pre-season Tournament.( the Mens teams that paid for last year will not need to pay this time round)

This year, we will be based at the University of St Mark and St John on September 1st and 2nd. Invitations have been sent out to Clubs and the deadline for entry forms is 11th June/payments by 18th June.

The Devon Finals Day was well-organised by DHA– our own thanks to Marjons for support with the venue and hospitality. A good day!

All BUCS games had appointments throughout the season. There are 12 teams at Exeter Uni (6 Men and 6 Ladies), 4 teams at Plymouth Uni ( 2 Men and 2 Ladies) and 2 teams at Marjons (1 Men, 1 Ladies)...so 18 teams. We need more help in Plymouth to be able to sustain the appointments required. Also, this provides a good opportunity to do the occasional game, perhaps for developmental experience.

A number of umpires have progressed through the panels this year. We are delighted to see that one of our young umpires (Joe Spooner) continues to make excellent progress in the National Youth Umpiring pathway...she is now umpiring at national level for under-16s, under-18s and under-21s matches. Paul Earnshaw is being appointed regularly to International Events as a TD.

I am pleased to report that for the first time in our history that Devon had 2 umpires appointed by NPUA to the end of season Championships held at Lee Valley earlier this month.

Congratulations to Martin Harvey and Peter Hammond for being appointed to one of the EH Finals.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard-working members of DHUA committee...Graham Woolcock (Appointment Secretary), Peter Hammond (Chief Coach), Jackie Brooks (Treasurer) and Denise Aplin (Membership Secretary), Matt Reynolds (Webmaster).

All of these colleagues work hard behind the scenes for the benefit of DHUA.

Our aim is to play our part in making hockey in Devon a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone involved!

So, in terms of reflection on the season my wish list is that everyone plays their part in making this happen.

In other words we share RESPONSIBILITY and take responsibility!

- Players to take responsibility for their own behaviour
- Captains to take responsibility for their teams and for ensuring umpires are incorporated into the experience



- Officers to take responsibility for carrying out their roles effectively (prompt communication...does this involve umpires?? Use the website, etc.)
- Clubs to take responsibility for their members, for their venues and for their own organisation...to recognise in a more pro-active manner that umpires are a part of the game.
- Umpires to take responsibility for promoting positive behaviours, being exemplars of good practice ,for PR, to be ambassadors for our sport...to be pro-active in managing development....and to use the website!

If everyone did their bit and perhaps demonstrated a bit more effort to give more for others then just maybe we would all benefit.

We have done the best we can with limited resources. We know that too many games are without quality appointments on a Saturday...the playing community must help us to address this. At our AGM, we made a number of awards to acknowledge the contribution of individuals and clubs in promoting good practice.

We are here to help clubs who make the effort to help themselves.

We will be doing our utmost to increase umpire numbers, raise the quality of umpiring and promote the future enjoyment of hockey in our county for all who participate in the game.

Bob Whitell

President DHUA  
21/05/18