



HORSHAM HOCKEY CLUB

THE CRICKETFIELD, CRICKETFIELD ROAD, HORSHAM, WEST SUSSEX
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Chairman's Report – 56th Season 2025-26

Dear Members

Welcome to my seventh AGM, and a tough season for many adult teams but some great junior progress and progression into the senior ranks.

Horsham Hockey Social Highlights

This season's social activity highlights:

- Our Club Day once again started of the season with multiple social events, a quiz, team curry nights and plenty of junior cake bakes filling the social calendar this year.
- Our 100 club has generated plenty of winners. At only £5 a week to enter, please give it a go.
- Our social media is growing impressive wings with increasingly regular posts with photos, events, drone videos and match photos. Please send Emily content to help to promote Horsham HC.
- Our end of season dinner was a more comfortable 120 members attending a successful night
- The Hugh Thomas Presidents day and this new Mixed festival have closed off another season.
- **Adult Section Highlights**
 - L1's came 5th /12 – a good solid year of results
 - L2's came 8th /12 – a fair year, with mixed results based on player availability
 - L3's came 12th /12 – tough year based on player availability
 - L4's came 12th /12 – tough year based on player availability
 - L5's came 3rd / 11 – a good year, up again one place on last season.
 - Hotstars – A great season winning their Sussex development league
 - M1's came 10th /11 – A new young team, building for the future, gaining vital experience
 - M2's came 11th / 12 – Post promotion, a tough step up in leagues proved challenging
 - M3's came 11th / 12 – Post promotion, a tough step up in leagues proved challenging
 - M4's came 2nd / 12 – Promoted, a nice blended team of youth and experience
 - M5's came 7th /11 – A great first season debut from a promising team
 - Hotshots – A great season winning their Sussex development league

Junior Section Highlights

The section has over 200 juniors ranging from U8 to U16 years old, and continues to provide a great experience for lots of wonderful, talented and committed children in our club. Once again, we have participated in training, friendly matches, festivals, tournaments, development leagues, EH tier league and masterclass sessions. A big thank you to all parents, volunteer coaches, supporters and senior adult players who support this section. This year has seen a number of juniors break into the adult teams and long may this continue.

A few of the highlights for the season are:

- Our junior GK development session with Mandy and Rosie has done a fabulous job with strong uptake
- U10B came 1st and 3rd and U10G came 3rd and 4th at the Ron Easton tournament
- U12G and U12B both came first at the Ron Easton tournament
- Nick Evans helped raise £512 for the junior section by taking some excellent face pictures of the juniors
- 4 juniors attended the EG talent academy with Grace and Emmeline for the girls and Ben and Ollie for Boys.
- All teams improved and represented themselves and the club very well this season, well done.

2025-26 Season targets

Our plans for the coming season are as follows:

- Ladies' 1s to strengthen their squad under a new coach for a promotion push
- Men's 1s to continue to strengthen their squad depth and capability
- All other adult teams to retain league positions and build up squad strengths
- Ladies and Men's 5's team to continue to help development of juniors, new adults & back to hockey players into enjoyable social Saturday hockey.

Pitch developments

The Golf and Leisure proposal was rejected by the council planning committee and so developers are taking this to an appeal, believing the decision is wrong and without merit. This appeal is scheduled for 2nd June 2025 and of the 9 original reasons for rejection, only 3 remain after the council conceded on the other 6. The developers legal advisers are confident in their case we await the outcome.

We remain committed to finding a solution, and the Generator group remain committed and supportive of the Golf and Leisure Village concept and Horsham Hockey Club. We remain optimistic that this appeal could be the gateway to a full planning application, without any further delays.

Club development activity

- We remain committed to find a permanent home for HHC
- We are focusing on increasing investment into our Junior section with more coaching and a clearer vision for the section as we update the junior development plan.
- We are looking at options to add a schools outreach programme into the club
- We are looking at options to add a lower U6 Sunday session for younger children
- To strengthen the Ladies and Men's section and try to recruit some experienced players
- To continue to build on the Masterclasses concepts and add some holiday camps

As always, we need to say a huge "thank you" to all the people who work tirelessly to ensure the success of the Club: Both club and team captains, coaches, managers, umpires, committee members, event organisers etc. All your efforts are amazing and you are the Club could not operate without you.

Thank you all.

Chris Poland

Chairman