



# HORSHAM HOCKEY CLUB

THE CRICKETFIELD, CRICKETFIELD ROAD, HORSHAM, WEST SUSSEX  
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## Chairman's Report – 57<sup>th</sup> Season 2025-26

Dear Members

Welcome to my eighth AGM, and some great team performances but also a tough season for many adult teams. The junior progression into the senior ranks this season has highlighted the talent coming through and all the great work that continues to be done in the junior section.

### **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 events filling the social calendar this year.
- Our social media continues to promote us online and this season the Ladies 1XI joined in with a fun montage of clips as we followed their impressive campaign this season.
- Our end of season dinner was a more comfortable 120 members attending a successful night
- The Presidents Day incorporated the end of season awards for the junior section, and it was great to see the club all together in one place on a sunny day.
- Our 100 club continues to create monthly winners, please give it a go.

### • **Adult Section Highlights**

- L1's came 2<sup>nd</sup> /12 – came 2<sup>nd</sup> plus a semifinal placing in the EH cup for a great season.
- L2's came 7<sup>th</sup> /12 – a decent year, with mixed results based on player availability
- L3's came 7<sup>th</sup> /12 – an improved season on last year, with better player availability
- L4's came 7<sup>th</sup> /12 – an improved season on last year with more youth players
- L5's came 4<sup>th</sup> / 10 – another solid year
- Hotstars 5<sup>th</sup> / 8 – a mixed team of experience and new players with a solid season.
  
- M1's came 11<sup>th</sup> /12 – A new young team, building for the future, gaining vital experience
- M2's came 12<sup>th</sup> / 12 – Post promotion, a tough season proved challenging
- M3's came 12<sup>th</sup> / 12 - Post promotion, a tough season proved challenging
- M4's came 12<sup>th</sup> / 12 – Post promotion, a tough season proved challenging
- M5's came 7<sup>th</sup> /14 – A 2<sup>nd</sup> season saw more back to hockey and juniors creating a lovely balance in what is a happy social side
- Hotshots - 8<sup>th</sup> / 12 – a new team of younger players meant lots of settling and learning.

### **Junior Section Highlights**

This season the U6 age group continues to grow with allot of new interest and happy faces coming into hockey . The U8 to U16 age groups had many wonderful, talented and committed children demonstrate their passion and skills. Alongside the usual training, festivals, tournaments, and competitive matches, we also introduced indoor training in January and February for the lower age group. Initially the sites took time to settle into, but the overall learning will help us to repeat this next season. A big thank you to all parents, volunteer coaches, supporters, and senior adult players who support this section. This year has seen ever more 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
- 4 juniors attended the EG talent academy with Emmie for the girls and Artie, Harry and Ollie for Boys.
- We had a very strong representation across the Sussex County age groups
- Our junior numbers are growing, with the total now up at 188 junior players.
- Several age groups attended the Ron Easton tournament, which appear to always have bad weather.
- The U14 girls won their league and will be going to play offs with Guildford and T wells

## **2026-27 Season targets**

Our plans for the coming season are as follows:

- Ladies' 1s to further strengthen their squad for a promotion push
- Ladies' teams to strengthen squads and increase junior integration, team co-operation, and player recruitment, deeper squad sizes and support upper team promotions.
- Men's 1s to continue to strengthen their squad depth and capability
- Men's teams to regroup and rebuild squads and integrate coaching and playing styles and to build up squad strengths
- Ladies and Men's 5's team to continue to help development of juniors and new adults & back to hockey players into enjoyable social Saturday hockey.

Southeast Hockey have also advised that there will be a league restructure for the 2027-2028 season, so next season your end league position will heavily influence your position for the next season. The number of leagues will be increased so a 7<sup>th</sup> place finish could see teams dropping a league. We are in consultation with the league on this and have received indicative placements based on this season. Southeast are open to feedback, and we will continue to monitor this and provide guidance to ensure that any changes are acceptable to Horsham.

## **Pitch developments**

The Golf and Leisure proposal was approved on appeal, and planning permission has been legally granted. The club has set up a subcommittee to work with the developer to support their needs. Initially this is overall space planning and satisfying planning conditions (called reserve matters) which is a collection of visual aesthetics, travel plans, planning laws, and community impacts.

We have so far amended outline space plans for both pitches to accommodate professional dugouts, hopefully with power and water, increased the space available for significant kit storage and specified an area for grandstand seating. All suggestions have been incorporated into the space plans, and they continue to be a supportive partner.

We have received an early copy of a club house design, which provides allot of the club's needs. We have submitted early comments on this, but further work on this will be a later stage of the project.

We are now a club with a new home on the horizon, and planning for this is now evident in all committee discussions as we consider a new future which will put us at the heart of hockey in Sussex.

## **Club development activity**

- We have been working on three key stages of development over the last 8 years to create a solid future for the club.
- Stage 1 – Administration – Make the club easier to run
  - The introduction of Teamo and Microsoft 365 accounts to improve admin
  - The consolidation of Club first and all of our club procedures
  - The development of our website and social media presence
- Stage 2 – Secure a new home
  - We explored options with many distinct locations and partners, coming close with Berkeley homes and finally succeeding with The Generator Group.
  - We have secured planning permission and expect to be in by around 2030
  - We have to be legally in place before the 100<sup>th</sup> home is built out of 800.

- This partnership continues to be positive and progressive.
- Stage 3 – Become a hockey centre of excellence in Sussex
  - We are boosting our coaching line up and have now secured a lead coach for the junior section to lead our next phase of development, along with a new Men's 1XI coach.
  - We now have lead coaches for the Men's, Ladies and Juniors sections.
  - We started an outreach programme with local schools, and this was well received.
  - We re-started Horsham hockey camps with great early feedback
  - We are now looking to expand on the Masterclasses concepts and add more holiday camps and options for 1-1 tuition for those who are interested.
  - And we will increase our external recruitment and approach to experienced players who wish to join us and contribute to building a stronger and bigger club, but we retain our position that we will not pay players to play for Horsham. This is a member's club, and we must remain financially strong to be successful.
- New Stage 4 – If we dare to look into the future, we will be a club with a home, a strong and growing membership base, increased income from commercial ventures, and more reinvestment into coaching provision and access to hockey within Sussex. We have all the necessary ingredients to become a formidable force in Sussex hockey and to lead in the delivery of coaching, development, training and as a host venue for tournaments. As ever, this will require lots of work, so please do help, volunteer and lend us your professional skills as and when we require them. This is your club and we can only deliver if we all take part.

And finally for this season, a huge "thank you" to all the team captains, coaches, managers, umpires, committee members, event organisers etc.

All your efforts are amazing, and the Club could not operate without you.

Thank you all.

Chris Poland

Chairman