



HORSHAM HOCKEY CLUB

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Chairman's Report – 51st Season 2019-20

Dear Members

Welcome to my second AGM, delayed from the end of the 51st season of Horsham Hockey Club which ended with the all too familiar COVID-19 virus impacting many parts of our lives.

This report will include a short review of the previous season but owing to the uncertainty ahead of us, a significant section will also be directed to outlining our plans for the 2020-21 season which will be run alongside the risks associated with COVID-19.

Horsham Hockey Highlights – 51st Season

The season was not completed for many teams and cup competitions scrapped, so the results will be less extensive than previous seasons, but overall, there are still many encouraging signs on the pitch.

We hosted two EVO camps at Horsham and whilst the overall numbers attending was lower than desired, the quality of the camps was very good and those that attended gave positive feedback. We believe the external camp concept has merit and we continue to explore multiple options to offer local camps hosted by external providers.

Adult Section League and cup results

- Ladies' 1s – remain in the National League with some close games just edging the wrong way but a happier squad overall.
- Men's' 1s - were relegated from the South Premier 2 league after another tough year. Andy Blood took over as coach and Canadian International Matt Barnett joined to boost the team, and the game play improved a lot but the results just went the wrong way and we enter the new season with a renewed focus and squad for 2020-21.
- Men's 2 and 3 battled through in the same league with the 2XI just missing out on promotion and the 3's working hard to pull them self-up from the bottom positions.

As always, we need to say a huge "thank you" to all the people who work tirelessly to ensure the success of the Club: team and club captains, coaches, managers, umpires, committee members, event organisers etc. Your efforts are very much appreciated, and the Club could not operate without you both in the Adult section and in the Colts section. Thank you all.

Colts

Brian Humphreys completed his last season as Head Coach with all the enthusiasm and professionalism we have become accustomed too after announcing his intention to step down in February. Unfortunately, the early end to the season meant that most of the end of season celebrations and tributes Brian deserves were overtaken, so there is unfinished work to do here.

However, we can all agree that Brian has contributed hugely to the Colts section over the years and leaves a much larger and successful organisation behind. I would like to thank Brian for all his hard work supporting the club, coaches, players, parents, and volunteers at Horsham Hockey club for so many years. We are grateful to him for all his time and support.

Again, the Colts season was cut short, but some notable highlights are

u8's - sadly didn't manage to have their mini festival
u10B's - Winners Sussex West Ron Easton

u10G's - Winners Sussex West Ron Easton
u12B's - Winners Sussex West Ron Easton

u14B's - Competed in EH - W2 / L2
u14G's - Competed in EH - W1 / L3

u16B's - Competed in EH - W1 / D1 / L3 - hosted 2 Triangular's, with Jersey & Guernsey.
u16G's - Competed in EH - W1 / L3

u18B's - Competed in EH Knockout - Knocked in R1 T2 & T3
u18G's - Competed in EH Knockout - Knockout in Pen SO R1 T2

U10's and u12's was strong and had a good season.

Next Seasons targets

Our plans for the coming season are as follows:

- Ladies' 1s retain National League, strengthen the squad and finish above mid-table.
- Ladies' 2s will have a permanent Saturday coach to help build their position in the South Div 3B and aim for a top place finish and potential promotion.
- Men's 1s rebuild to take shape with integration of Men's 1XI and 2XI squads training together, aiming for both to push for league promotions.
- Colts U8 to U14 age groups to receive more coaching resources and development
- U16 and U18 training to be integrated into weekday slots instead of Sundays

Pitch developments

Horsham members submitted 94 named emails to the local planning consultation supporting the Golf and Fitness Village concept. The developers are now in discussions with Horsham Council and its planning team and we continue to engage in more detailed dialogue. We have also strengthened our base at Christs Hospital with a dedicated equipment shed being added for Horsham Hockey Club for all teams to store our club training kit.

2020-21 Season and COVID-19 Plans

We will run a smaller simpler season with less activity to allow resources to focus on the extensive work required by England Hockey on COVID-19 procedures. A summary of key points:

- Risk Assessment plan written, to be published on our website
- COVID-19 Officer is Tom Surrige
- All England Hockey Stage 4 plans to be followed
- Teamo track and trace to be implemented
- Restructure training slots to accommodate distancing and capacity constraints
- Hockey training and leagues to take priority, cup games and tournaments not supported pre-Xmas, we shall likely withdraw from many of them for Adults and Colts
- Colts section to be supported by committee, no Head Coach for this season
- Proposal to reduce all membership costs, and restructure payments for this season
- Offer members in financial difficulty further assistance, rather than not to play
- Due to capacity at the Sports Club, Team teas will not be offered this season and the match fees will be reduced accordingly (Exc Ladies 1XI due to league regulations)
- No social events will be planned pre-Xmas, next year to be reviewed later
- To run a limited budget deficit this year

Chris Poland

Chairman