



HORSHAM HOCKEY CLUB

THE CRICKETFIELD, CRICKETFIELD ROAD, HORSHAM, WEST SUSSEX
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Chairman's Report – 52nd Season 2020-21

Dear Members

Welcome to my third AGM, delayed again due to COVID-19 which shut down a vast part of the last season making the results null and void for all teams and leaving their future leagues at the mercy of past results and some luck as this coincided with the Nationwide league restructure being implemented by England Hockey.

A big thanks for all Volunteers and committee members who worked three times harder to deliver less than half the normal hockey during Covid but provided much needed relief to all members from just sitting indoors watching telly.

The 2021 Summer league unofficially set up by Sussex clubs also provide a large boost to many and thanks were given to those who contributed to its success.

Horsham Hockey Highlights – 52nd Season

The season was not completed so there are limited highlights:

- Covid controls were observed in the main and we got through well thanks to Tom Surridge acting as Covid Officer to steer us all through the extra work
- No social events occurred
- We are all fed up with Covid and Government rules being changed

Adult Section League and cup results

- L1's struggled but will retain National League status thanks to Suzy for battling through.
- M1's results improved allot thanks to the work of Andy Blood
- L1/2 and M1/2 Entered a summer league team in Sussex
- M4 are bringing thought allot of Hots players who are developing well thanks to Beany and Tim and the summer friendly fixtures organised
- Ladies 3/4/5 organised summer games via their own friendlies again with much success

Colts Section League and cup results

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

- We hosted a masterclass for U14-U18's which received good feedback and will return
- Two Colts camps run by (The Only Camps) and a Horsham HC proved popular and will return
- Rachel took over the Colts Coordinator role this season taking over from Biba and Tracey

Next Seasons targets

Our plans for the coming season are as follows:

- Ladies' 1s retain National League, strengthen the squad and finish near mid-table.
- Ladies' 2s to find a permanent Saturday coach to help build their league position
- Men's 1s rebuild to continue with the integration of Men's 1XI and 2XI squads training together, aiming for both to push for league promotions.
- L1 and M1 to train twice a week
- Colts U8 to U14 age groups to receive more coaching resources and development

Pitch developments

Horsham HC continues to have positive discussions with the owners of the Golf and Fitness Village concept.

The developers of the Golf and Fitness Village are now in discussions with Horsham Council and building broad political support for it, but its planning team are proving to be an obstacle. The aim to get the scheme adopted into the local plan is the fastest route to success. If this fails a full planning application and many appeals are likely.

A recent delay in the local plan due to Government rule changes has complicated matters but Horsham HC has again mobilised members letters to reinforce our support including a direct letter from the England Hockey CEO. We await further news on the next steps.

We continue to remain based at Christs Hospital with a renewed level of support and understanding from the blue coats team, but the Tanbridge school Astro refurbish is now delayed by one year due to carpet shortages.

2021-22 Season plans and expectations

Whilst we are planning for a full season, we do anticipate that there may be some mild Covid disruption along the way, and so we will be retaining our Track and trace requirement on Teamo in line with England Hockey Guidance and asking all players to use it as per last season.

A summary of key points:

- Full England Hockey league restructure is now in place, mostly beneficial for our teams with no change, except for the L2/3 who will now play in the same league but perhaps travel less distance
- New player registration system and Game management system coming in and will require all players to register online, manage team sheets online and report fixture results. This will be in force nationwide.
- New Social media tools to be introduced to enhance our ability to post more information across multiple platforms quickly and centrally
- Inflation is adding cost increases to the club, with increases to pitch hire, sports club costs, teas, and IT all coming through. This is reflected in finance section budget.
- The cost of Club teas has increased 42% against a background of historic poor quality and are unsustainable within the match fee at this level, so we will be changing teas to the provision of sandwiches instead, with a view to monitoring value for money.
- We are clarifying the requirement for the Ladies 1XI due to league regulations
- Limited social events will be planned as Covid permits with an End of Season Dinner a definite must have event.
- We expect to run a limited budget deficit this year

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.

Chris Poland

Chairman