



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB

AFFILIATED TO SURREY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AND ENGLAND HOCKEY
Clubhouse & Ground: Broadwater School, Summers Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3BW
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AGM 2022 – Development Report – 2021/22

As we strive to continue to make Guildford a Great Place to Play, offering great hockey for everyone, we grow the club and deliver hockey through an ever bigger and increasingly complex organisation.

It is progressively more important to plan further ahead and to get as much representation from across the club as possible as we direct the club and allocate resources towards achieving our goals.

In January 2021 the club earned the Clubmark Certificate of Accreditation. Part of this process was submitting an updated Development Plan. England Hockey were gave us good feedback on our plan, which was based around the seven things that make a great hockey club. From England Hockey:

“Congratulations on becoming accredited – England Hockey ClubMark! We have had very positive feedback from your Relationship Manager, Gaynor. I understand that your Development Plan is a fantastic piece of work and both Gaynor and I are very grateful to you for putting in such a lot of effort. ClubMark is a great achievement and recognises that the club has adopted processes to help your Club run efficiently and effectively. We appreciate the hard work that has gone into achieving this for your club”

[Link to Vision 2024 – Development Plan \(submitted Jan 2021 for Clubmark\)](#)

Building upon this plan, a Strategy & Development group – “Vision 2030” – was started with representatives from across all areas of the club with the objective to continue to review, discuss and update the club’s direction and development plan on an ongoing basis.

The group – more than 25 club members from all areas of the club – met in May 2021 to review the development plan and think about the club and how to improve upon what we do. Suggestions were made in the 7 areas of focus: Leadership, Facilities, People, Ways to Play, Welcoming and Social, Local, Stretch.

The feedback was taken on board as we worked through this season. Facilities upgrades were an important part of this season as we built a new practice area, made updates to the clubhouse (interior painting, two new televisions in the club room), added signage around the grounds and worked to improve the match tea experience (after 1.5 seasons of disrupted service due to covid).

We also did well to deliver hockey in this first season of the England Hockey league restructure without too many hiccups (once the GMS caught up!).

Other changes from England Hockey on the near horizon and that have been in the works for many months now are those happening to how Talent Development will be delivered across the country. The Player Pathway that was run by Counties, Regions and England Hockey will be replaced with a more club-centric system of Talent Centres and Talent Academies which will be accredited through England Hockey.

GHC, through our Future Stars programme is well placed to be a productive and successful part of this due to the good work of Director of Hockey Dan Fox and Future Stars Leader (and M1s Coach) Beckie Middleton.

The club's double promotion (M1 and W1) to National League hockey next season and the implementation of the new EH Talent Development system (Talent Centres and Talent Academies) will create new challenges for us as a club and will help us pose and frame new questions about where we are headed as a club and what we will put in place to get there.

Due to time constraints (GHC publications/communications, Juniors and Welfare roles take up more than enough time already!), I am passing on the mantle of Club Development Lead to James Relph who will be supported at Board level also by Dave Dickson (Membership Secretary).

James has already held a first high-level meeting with Board members and our Director of Hockey in early April to talk about the direction of the club and the challenges we will face.

Melinda Rock

If you would like to be involved, please do get in touch.

James Relph – GHC Development Officer
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