



GUILDFORD HOCKEY CLUB

AFFILIATED TO SURREY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION AND ENGLAND HOCKEY
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AGM 2021 – Junior Section Report – 2020/21

The Junior Section continues to grow in all age groups and all ability levels. Just under 700 registrations at the end of 2019/20, this season we are well above 800 (see Membership report for more detail).

It is important that we continue to improve the quality of experience as the age group numbers increase and Director of Hockey, Dan Fox, did an excellent job ahead of the season to ensure we had lead coaches, age group managers, assistant coaches, and helpers to deliver a great experience to all.

There are too many names to include here – we have more than 130 people taking on various roles in the Junior Section. A huge thank you to all for helping make GHC a great place to play. Thank you to all who took on roles large and small:

- Volunteer coaches
- Pro coaches
- Umpires
- Young Leaders
- Age Group Managers
- Age Group Admin Support
- First Aiders
- Welfare Officers
- Match Reporters
- Photographers
- Bib and kit washers
- Second hand clothing sale
- Kit liaison
- Goal movers
- Register takers
- Ball collectors ...

We started training and playing under strict covid-safe measures and it was frustrating to have to stop. Great to get started again only to have to stop again. It was impressive to see how resilient our young players are, adapting to all the changes including getting involved in online skills sessions, online mentoring sessions, online camps, cake baking competitions and more to keep connected to hockey, their friends and GHC.

A special mention to every parent and guardian out there who supported their families during such a difficult time. We get used to thanking you for driving to and

from events and supporting from the side-lines – this season you’ve had to be so much more than that, and it is much appreciated.

And of course, a huge thank you to DoH Dan Fox, supported largely by James Bennett and Ryan Colman, who continued to push ahead with new ideas and ways of engaging our juniors when we couldn’t get them to the club.

There were many plans we had that couldn’t come to fruition due to the pandemic. We look forward to getting past covid and hope that 2021/22 can include so many of the normal activities we want to offer to our Juniors: half-term camps, mid-week academy sessions, indoor sessions and competitions, international tours, tournaments, social events and more.

In new developments for the coming season and beyond...

New EH League and Competition Structure and Platform

We look forward to a new England Hockey league and competition structure for the new season. This is in design phase now and new leagues and competitions will be rolled out ready for the new season in a new Game Management System that will replace all other league and competition platforms.

GHC will be in a new South East area for Area and National competition progression; as a “border” club we can also play clubs that may be closer to us but in a different Area. We are likely to continue to use the MegaLeague format pioneered last season as well.

We bid farewell to the Home Counties Junior League (including the formerly known Mercian boys’ league) and to Fixtures Live. And we say hello to a new Junior Competitions Framework and a new Game Management System (currently called the “GMS”).

As with any new system, it may not be exactly what we want on the first day (or in the first season). But we look forward to the changes and to helping feedback to EH so that we get what works best for our keen Juniors.

New EH Talent Development System (Player Pathway)

Many parents will have attended the Future Stars information presentation in May presented by Dan Fox and Beckie Middleton. This is a new GHC programme that will lead nicely into the changes coming from EH around how best to develop young talent.

This is very exciting and will grow into a separate Talent Section at GHC over the years.



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As we close out 2020/21, the EH Championships are still being played (hurrah!) by some teams, there are mid-week sessions on offer for all age groups, and we look forward to a new set of summer camps in July and August.

143 names of Juniors ages 12-16 have been put forward for Surrey Development Centre camps taking place over the summer as well (though some may choose not to do this as the system changes from September and they may choose to do the GHC Future Stars programme instead).

Once again, a big thank you to everyone who helps make the Junior Section at Guildford a special place. And a thanks also to all of you junior players out there for being such good sports this (and every) season!

Looking forward to what we hope can be lots of activity over the summer and next season...

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