

Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club

Clubhouse: Herts & Essex Centre
Beldams Lane, CM23 5LX
www.stortfordhockey.co.uk

Ladies' Section AGM Report for Season 2020-21

The 'big momentum' from the unprecedented 2019-20 season seemed to be carrying over as all seven Ladies' league sides were in promotion contention before the leagues were shut down due to the pandemic at the end of October. In the brief interlude in December where league games became 'voluntary', BSHC took the view that we had to maximize playing opportunity for all – even if other clubs didn't have the appetite.

In April, we launched the Liberty League where we were able to field eight adult Ladies' sides with relative ease for three consecutive weeks. Each Division was won by Robinsons captained by Charlie Leonard and Gibsons captained by Hannah Brazil.

As the East League has expunged the 2020-21 season, the new EH restructure will be based on 2019-20 placings. This will mean some erratic and unbalanced divisions are likely next season. However, it should mean that there is a strong chance of silverware for all teams again.

My three years as Ladies' Club Captain is over now. Two of my three objectives have been achieved. We now have seven Ladies' teams playing league hockey and next season we can sustain eight. We now have more Herts & Essex girls' playing hockey than ever before in the last decade.

Regrettably, we didn't make it to National League despite being likely to have finished in the top two in Prem A. Yet it may transpire that we have dodged a bullet as East League teams playing National League are being bundled in with the Midlands clubs. This is a serious long-term threat not just to Stortford but to all clubs in the East.

It has been an honour to serve this section and the leadership from the captains has been exemplary. However, I would like to play for one more season in the men's section and it is time that the Ladies' section is run by the section.

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