

## **BSHC JUNIORS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019/20 SEASON**

We currently have around 250 junior U16 members.

Numbers within the girls' section are continuing to grow.

Our Under 14 girls have a strong squad. With 30 girls regularly attending training each week. They won all games bar one in the EH cup and qualified for the regional finals. Unfortunately, this did not get played due to COVID. 11 players were selected for the academy sides with Ibbly Welldon being selected for the Performance Centre. Congratulations to all, this is a wonderful achievement.

We had a long waiting list to join for the U14 girls, which we will be able to accommodate in the 2020-21 season.

Our U12 Boys were very successful this year and won through to the East League Finals. Unfortunately, due to COVID, the Finals were cancelled – but congratulations to Charlie and the team.

Some of our other boy', teams did struggle to field teams and fulfil our fixtures this season.

– we had to withdraw our U16 Boys from EH Cup and Mercian as too strong for us. However, the group improved a lot working with Adnan on Monday evenings and we had some good performances in friendlies after Christmas with our boys also playing in the men's teams including being a big part of BSHC being able to put a men's sixth team into the League for this season.

We will be entering teams into the newly formed Essex League this season, which will hopefully allow U14 and U16 teams to play at the appropriate level.

We had a full complement of fully qualified coaches, but definitely need to do some player recruitment for this section if the boys are to enjoy a full fixture card.

Although our season was cut short by a month we still managed to fulfil all but one of our U10 and U12 Essex and North Essex League fixtures. Our girls regularly field 3 teams at each tournament.

Thank you to all involved, from coaches to parents and to our DofE students. Without the help of Toby, Isabelle and Laura, running our home tournaments would have been far more stressful.

I do also need to mention all the umpires too that turned out on a Sunday morning to help out and with BLAZE catering providing refreshments, the feedback from visiting teams was very favourable.

John Kirton's GK session have proved very successful with some great feedback and we would like to thank him for making these sessions so enjoyable.

The forming of a junior committee next season will help share the load and we are looking forward to welcoming our 1<sup>st</sup> eleven players to the coaching roster. We are working hard with Adnan our Head Coach to centralise our training and give our young players set goals and targets.

The current COVID pandemic is going to throw up issues along the way, but if we adhere to the strict England Hockey guidelines we can at least get our young members playing again.

Many thanks

Rachel Armitage

BSHC JUNIOR ADMINISTRATOR