

Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club

(Affiliated to England Hockey and Hertfordshire County Hockey Association)

www.bshc.hitssports.com



BSHC Junior Report 2017/18

We have had another very successful year of junior hockey with over 400 children playing competitive hockey every week. We have a fantastic group of coaches and assistants and without these people the sessions would not go ahead. We are currently running a few extra sessions to compensate for the bad weather in January, which everyone is enjoying. Please see below a brief summary for each age group.

U8 Mixed

The U8s training has been very popular again this year with over 45 children registered and over 30 regularly attending the sessions. The group is led by Pippa ably assisted this year again by Cuz and Ros, Scarlett, Hallie and Lawrence. Due to the numbers, and the experience of players that have been in the group for two years, after the initial introductory sessions the group was split into two; the more experienced or confident players working with Pippa and the younger group, some just 5 years old coached by Cuz and Ros. Hallie and Scarlett moved between groups supporting where needed depending on the numbers each week.

First and foremost, the training is fun, all-inclusive ensuring that all the children get a good first experience of hockey, learning the basic skills and a simple understanding of game play and rules. The more experienced players again this year had the opportunity to play in friendly games arranged with Blue Hornets and Old Loughts, which they all thoroughly enjoyed participating enthusiastically, applying their skills to 'real game' situations. The final session before Easter included the whole group playing games with Blue Hornets. The additional sessions provided this summer due to poor winter weather, have been well attended. The coaches look forward to seeing the players moving on and developing their skills further and welcoming many of the youngsters back in September.

Primary School Hockey

Pippa has been coaching in the Primary schools again this year as part of the Herts Schools Partnership offer. This year 10 schools signed up each being offered six hours of coaching. In some schools this would include two classes for three sessions, in the smaller schools the same class for 6. Approximately 480 pupils were coached, many taking part in the Quick Sticks tournament at the end of the Spring Term.

Pippa is also offering coaching for the Primary schools at the Birchwood Games on 2nd July, providing a further opportunity to promote the club across the schools in the town.

U10 Boys

The relatively small training squad for this age group was quite young, containing several U9s and not surprisingly lacked experience as a result. This showed in the early games where the boys were not that competitive against bigger, stronger and better opponents from other clubs. However, they worked hard in training to both develop their technical base and tactical understanding, whenever the harsh weather on Sunday mornings allowed.

The whole squad improved but several players started to pull away from the others in terms of their skills, competitiveness and understanding of match play. These then formed the core of a team that started to compete in their tournament games in the second half of the season.

Many of this year's group are U10 again next year and should form the basis of a team with some promise. There is still much to be done in terms of production of secure and repeatable technique and skills, as is expected for young players, but the enthusiasm and desire to train hard and improve shown by so many will help achieve that goal. The aim for the club must be to produce a larger squad with a



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suitable base level of skill and tactical knowledge to be able to perform effectively in the match tournaments. With a good training ethic from current players and hopefully some new faces to join the club then I believe this can be achieved.

In years to come, some of these boys could become decent hockey players and it will be exciting to see how they develop in the future.

TABLE	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>GA</u>	<u>Points</u>
Hertford	19	16	3	0	44	7	48
Old Loughts	19	14	2	2	49	11	45
Blue Hornets	19	9	5	5	23	19	33
Saffron Walden	19	6	9	4	17	14	22
Crostyx	19	1	14	4	4	41	7
Bishop's Stortford	15	1	11	3	3	34	6

U10 Girls

It's been a good year for the under 10's at Bishop's Stortford Hockey club. The group size has continued to grow, and by the end of the year there were 25 children regularly turning up on Sunday morning. This year we been focusing mainly on basic skills, passing and of course the fun part, shooting.

The group has gone from strength to strength this year, with individuals like Malli Came and Eryn Foote really pushing on and continuing to develop nicely. Harriet Turner has also shown a key eye for goal and is looking like a star of the future.

The group performed excellently in the Essex league and towards the end of the North league the group really showed what they are capable of, with Gracie Streeter scoring the winner in the final game of the tournament.

Overall, they have been a pleasure to coach, and I look forward to seeing them develop through the club over the coming year.

TABLE	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>GA</u>	<u>Points</u>
Hertford	21	16	2	3	42	4	51
Chelmsford	21	15	1	5	31	2	51
Bishop's Stortford	21	8	7	6	23	16	32
Old Loughts	21	8	8	5	18	26	31
Blue Hornets	21	8	9	4	23	17	29
Crostyx	21	2	14	5	4	27	12
Saffron Walden	22	1	17	4	3	53	10



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U12 Boys

There were 23 regulars in the boys U12 group enabling us to field 2 teams in the leagues. As the majority of the boys were in the group last year hopes were high for this year's matches.

The A team contained a good deal of talent and skill and worked well at training but lacked team-work and discipline on match days. As a result, we had had a mixed set of results which were not a good reflection of their ability or of the progress they made during the season. There was a notable win against arch rivals Blue Hornets (the first for this particular group of boys since their U8 days).

In contrast, the B team played some excellent hockey at times and could teach the A's a little about working together as a team. Highlights of the season were two goals from Elliott Smith in a win against Blue Hornets and John Sporberg's tireless running and "Duracell like" stamina in attack (in midfield and in defence).

Most improved player across the whole group was Harry Bannister who showed what can be achieved with concentration and determination

TABLE	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>GA</u>	<u>Points</u>
Old Loughts	20	17	0	3	59	7	56
Blue Hornets	20	15	2	3	48	10	51
Saffron Walden	20	8	8	4	18	21	34
Crostyx	20	5	9	6	9	32	24
Bishop's Stortford	20	6	11	3	16	24	21
Hertford	20	0	19	1	1	53	2

U12 Girls

A superb season for the U12 girls with 4 teams playing in the monthly tournaments and over 50 girls registered for the age group. The U12 girls finished 3rd in all the clubs in Essex which was an excellent performance particularly as many of the girls remain in the U12 age group next season. A special mention goes to Pearl Mason Smith as the lead goal scorer for the season & to Millie Andrews who started with the club last season and who has gone on to represent Hertfordshire. Good luck to all the girls who are attending the Development Centres over the summer.

TABLE	<u>Played</u>	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Drawn</u>	<u>GF</u>	<u>GA</u>	<u>Points</u>
Saffron Walden	18	12	4	2	40	6	40
Blue Hornets	18	9	6	3	21	15	30
Bishop's Stortford	18	8	2	5	13	8	30
Crostyx	18	8	5	5	17	17	30
Old Lought	18	8	8	2	16	13	26
Chelmsford	18	1	16	1	12	35	5



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U14 Boys

The boys have had a fantastic season, finishing unbeaten with victories over all opposition apart from Peterborough who we drew with. All of the boys have played fantastically throughout with mention going to Harry Markham and Freddy Cooke for being incredibly consistent providers of goals and Tom Pettit and Jack Roberts leading the defence superbly. In training as well, the boys have been dedicated and have constantly improved which has been reflected in both the individual and team performances throughout the season.

U14 Girls

This year was hugely successful. We had over 50 girls in the group with 3 teams. The girls had many successes including beating arch rivals Old Loughts and Blue Hornets. The commitment was immense, special notice to Lottie Lynch who won Young Player of the Year and to Chloe Wright and Anoushka Shaw who played in the Ladies 4s this year who won Ladies Team of the Year. Daisy Wilson, Tara Mistry, Charlotte Range, Matilda Wainman, Lottie Lynch Natasha Reid, Esha Singh and Olivia Fowke have also played their first adult league games and have done amazingly well. Esha is our GK and played against the England Ladies veterans, a fantastic experience. Several girls have been invited to attend the county training days in the summer for the first time including Erika Smart, Natasha Reid, Isabel Smink, Isabel Good, Anoushka Shaw, Esha Singh, Chloe Wright and Olivia Fowke, joining Lottie who already attends. Well done U14s 2017/18 - you have done great

U16 Boys

The Boys U16s have been a strong group in their time with the Club so we had high hopes for them going into the season. They started very strongly with some good wins in the England Hockey Cup group stages and a very enjoyable draw at Southgate in the Mercian League. After Christmas we endured what football managers call a "bad moment" with some unavailability and a game against a very strong Old Loughts team (who just failed to make the final at the National Finals) but the team picked up their performance levels in the nick of time to qualify with three tight wins at the EH Regionals over Blue harts, Saffron Walden and Cambridge City. The boys performed well at the National Finals at Nottingham: they should have beaten Beeston but lost 3-2; then lost to strong Guildford (runners up) and Old Loughts sides 3-1 and 3-0. The Old Loughts game was definitely one we should have scored a couple of goals in - but they were the better side. Nonetheless, it was fantastic to have a side competing at the highest level and the weekend was enjoyed by team and parents alike.

In the EH Finals squad the midfield of Luke Kennedy, Ben Brooks and Josh Brown was a real strength with strong defending from Jamie Munro, Tom Snelling, Jared Bassingthwaighte, Alex Bruce-Smith and Joe Power and a forward line led with great energy by James Murphy with Henry Marsden, Dan Evans, Alex Smink, Max Davies and Josh Hutley. The goalkeepers, Josh Cawthray Stern and Greg Moore, who put in some great performances, should not be forgotten!

We plan to run a U18s Boys next season to keep this strong group, who have started to play with success for the higher men's sides, together.

U16 Girls

An interesting season for the U16s which started with an exodus of five of last season's U14 Regional Finalists to Cambridge City - a career path greased with lucre! However, this gave playing opportunities for younger players including some U14s. We also bedded in a new 'keeper in Dulcie Fisher who showed a lot of promise once she had learnt the ropes. In Tier 1 National Cup, we dominated a lot of territory



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yet found scoring goals difficult. You can't score goals if you don't enter the D! We also entered the Indoor Cup and despite only two training sessions from Andy Halliday, we didn't learn the ropes in time and only won one match.

However, we reached the Quarter-Finals of the Home Counties Girls League and played some very attractive hockey. Again, the story of our quarter-final defeat was one of not taking chances. From a development point of view, we only lose three players for next season which means a more experienced side will return to compete in the National Cup and Indoor Cup coached by Phil Mathison. Players representing their counties include Josie Hofer (also nominated for PC trials), Scarlett Cashman, Minky Carr, Dara Selway, Clodagh Ryan and Imogen Basavaraj.

Player of the Year was Annie McGloin and we hope to see her play Ladies 1s next season. Most Improved Player was Dulcie Fisher with Georgia Watkin winning the Coach's Player of the Year for her constant upbeat attitude.

This is my last season as Junior manager and I would like to thank everyone that has helped me over the past 8 years. All those early Sunday mornings, umpiring, making bacon sandwiches, travelling to away games and generally supporting the club. Without you all the junior section would not have grown to where it is now...thank you and keep on volunteering!!!

