

Junior Report 18/19

We have had another successful season in the junior section with over 300 children turning up regularly to training and matches. The coaches have all been brilliant and dedicated as always and without them volunteering their time we would not be as successful as we are.

We have had the addition of Adnan Zakir this year who has been coaching both our girls and boys throughout the season and even supporting them through relevant cup matches and tournaments. Adnan has confirmed he will continue to be part of our club next season and will be even more hands on. He will be supporting the coaches and running his own sessions teaching specific skills/tactics every week.

The Under 8s are the clubs youngest players and are always enthusiastic and willing to learn new skills. It's important that this group have lots of support to enable them to learn at their own pace safely. We have been really fortunate again this year to have three coaches Pippa, Cuz and Ros and two regular helpers Hallie and Vic. We are also supported by Adnan providing a strong coaching team. Participation has been really positive with generally 25-30 players attending each week, even in the cold and wet weather. Activities are planned to ensure the players learn new skills but, more importantly, enjoy possibly their first experience of hockey. The number of adults enables the group to be either worked together or divided according to their age and ability, so all can take part being given extra support where required. The children have the opportunity to play games in most sessions helping them to learn the rules and apply their skills in a more competitive environment. The feedback has been very positive from parents and children and can be seen by the numbers taking up the opportunity to participate in the academy this summer.

The U10 Girls have had a highly successful season. As well as their results which saw the B's top their competition at the End of Season tournament and the A's record a number of highly respectable outcomes; all of the girls have displayed excellent progress in training. The attitude in training has been exemplary and their dedication to improving and learning has been hugely commendable at every turn. I wish all of the girls the best of luck next season.

The U10 Boys finished their season in some style with a comprehensive victory in the free standing Essex League Finals Day Tournament, hosted at Old Loughtonians, and also gaining enough points from this to push Old Loughts, the eventual 2019 league champions, very close with total of 60 points for the season as opposed to OL's 62. In the final's day, the boys comprehensively won 5/5 matches, scoring 15 goals in the process and not conceding any! In fact, the BS GK only touched the ball a couple of times all day, such was their dominance.

As a side they have improved massively during the year and there are several players who have bright futures in the game if they continue to train hard, listen and improve. In the season as a whole, Ed has been immense in midfield, with and without the ball, also scoring 8 goals and Stanley offers a real threat in elimination of defenders and setting up others and additionally he has scored 10 goals. Ossie is top goal scorer with 24 goals, several just tap ins but he is also prepared to shoot early, from the top of the circle, which has caught out several GKs. The unsung hero of the team is Thomas, at FB, who consistently tackles well, passes securely and has developed his reading of defensive situations. However, it is not just these boys that created success but also all the others who have played who have contributed hugely to team performances during the season.

The overall results in the Essex League were:

Played 27, Won 20, Drawn 3, Lost 4 (only to OLs!)

and when the In2Hockey tournament is also included the final totals are:

Played 33, Won 23, Drawn 4, Lost 6

This has been an excellent season for the U10A's and they should be proud of their achievements

The U12 Girls have enjoyed a very successful and busy season, winning the Essex League, coming 1st/2nd/3rd in the North League and the "A" Team qualify for the East Regionals and sadly losing in the semi-finals to eventual winners Harleston Magpies. This proves great strength in depth and despite some girls moving up to the U14s, we are hopeful for another successful season next year. Development is paying off with some of those who started in the U8s now eligible to play ladies hockey at the age of 13 and looking forward to seeing them progress in the Ladies Section. As well as all of these successes we also had a number of girls selected for the Herts county team again this year.

The U12 Boys had an interesting season which started with a big low and finished with a huge high thanks to the hard work and determination of the boys. With an exceptionally small squad to choose from the boys committed to training every single week and were always available when required. They made tremendous progress over the

course of the season and ultimately won the end of season North League tournament, going unbeaten throughout the day. With such small numbers it would be unfair to select one or two players to highlight as they all contributed so much throughout the season. From the coaches point of view however, myself and Rick were extremely proud and slightly tearful when the final whistle was blown on the final match at Chelmsford; it has been a pleasure to watch these young men grow as players and as a team and I look forward to seeing them progress further over the coming seasons.

The u14 girls have had a mixed season with lots to learn for the younger ones who moved to 11 a-side for the first time. The alliance league team was varied from week to week with some players only making 1 or 2 guest appearances and others playing every tournament. This led for an eventful set of nominations from the oppositions for player of the season with Ibbey Welldon, Liv Fowke, Xenia Popov, Freya Sweeney, Issy Good & Molly Womack all gaining a vote. Lizzie Motson however managed to get 2 votes to win her player of the season for the alliance team. Top goal scorers were Elizabeth Clune & Emma Cox.

The cup team have so much potential with a blend of older experienced u14s and a few younger players who have just come out of the u12s. Inexperience showed in the first game of the season against Blue Hornets where some of the younger players thought they had finished at half time! By the time they hit their next game of the season against Folkestone they had the bit between their teeth to put the score into double figures. The next game the Chelmsford GK kept them at bay until eventually Emily Bramwell managed to put the ball underneath the keeper to secure the win. Bury St Edmunds came next with everything to play for as both teams were in a position to go through into the regional finals. Despite our superb press and a goal from Erika Smart it was not to be our day, something which was echoed in the final game against Hertford.

Player of the season (again decided by our oppositions) was Erika Smart for her superb work rate and tackling. With a vote a piece also for Ibbey Welldon, Isabel Hatfield, Esha Singh & Lottie Lynch. Top goal scorers: In 1st was Issy Hatfield with 4 goals, 2nd with 3 goals Tash Reid, 3rd with 2 goals Emma Cox & Lottie Lynch & 5th = with 1 goal each Lizzie Motson, Emily Bramwell & Erika Smart.

These girls are definitely the future of the club & with 12 of the cup team playing academy or performance centre hockey the future is bright.

It has been an absolute pleasure to coach these girls this season & I look forward to seeing some of them again next season.

The U14 Boys with two teams playing in different competitions on different Sundays it felt like the squad was not all together at training very often this season. However, this did create more chances for the boys to play in matches so there was a compromise.

On reflection we entered competitions at a level above our capabilities and only managed one win and 3 draws across both teams all season. We'll have a rethink on what we enter this age group for in the 2019-20 season.

The B team enjoyed their hockey and played in a fun and enthusiastic way which is a pleasure to coach and watch. They play as a team and enjoy themselves with the results being somewhat secondary. Not a bad attitude to have and you feel these may well be the boys that become a significant part of the men's sides of the future.

We waited until the last game of the season to see just how capable and how determined the A team can be. The match against Felixstowe was a cracker. End to end hockey and tension to the final whistle. The 1-1 score line does not do the game justice.

Once again, the standard improved enormously during the season. After Christmas the boys at the college benefit from hockey 4 days a week at school and yet it was Barnaby (a non-BSC boy) who was the most improved player this year moving from B team to A-team and becoming a formidable tackler in the centre of defence.

U16 girls

Outdoor

Finished area group as undefeated 'champions' with two wins over Cambridge City. But came third in the regional finals behind St Neots and Bedford.

Indoor

The girls competed in both the Super6 and #indoorhockey competitions. Super6 - We passed through the regional competition beating Chelmsford and Old Loughts. In the East competition we succumbed to Sevenoaks (the eventual national champs), Southgate and Harleston. But drawing with Bury St Edmunds and beating Saffron Walden meant we finished in 4th place.

#Indoorhockey - we played some strong national league sides. Some excellent performances saw the girls finish by beating Canterbury with the final touch of the game to end the tournament in 5th behind the likes of Sevenoaks and Southgate again.

The U16 Boys team played in the Mercian League and the HA Cup (league). Had a very young team with the vast majority of the team still U15. Standard of the leagues were very high and while the team were competitive in most of the matches results did not go our way. Suffice to say the experience gained by this young team, as well as the positive attitude, hard work and commitment shown throughout the season will stand them in good stead in years to come.

No U18 Girls Team

The U18 Boys had a successful and enjoyable season this culminating in a very successful tour to Hamburg where the boys won all 4 games against teams ranked in the top 8 in Germany.

From the start this season promised to be a successful one. The powerful U16 national finalists of last year were boosted by the arrival of Saxon Tigers Jamie Brooks, Jeremiah Donoghue and Tom Grove Smith and despite the lack of time to train given busy club schedules, acquitted themselves well in warm up games and early national cup games. In the end a narrow defeat to Norwich in the last 16 of the national cup (2-3) finished our highly enjoyable cup run, enabling us to look forward to the end of season finale in Hamburg. The boys as ever were a pleasure to coach and watch and it was lovely as always to see so many supportive parents on the touchline throughout the season. It was great to have so many parents with us enjoying the hockey at Harvestuder in Hamburg and some of the night life too. With the core of the U18s still there next year BSHC hopes that we will have another good year in 2020.

We have continued our outreach coaching in local Primary schools has also taken place again this year led by Pippa. Local schools have been involved receiving 6 hours of coaching as part of the Herts Sports Partnership, involving approximately 250 pupils. This helps to enhance the children's basic hockey skills and promote the clubs junior section within the local community.

Dicky T has started to do something similar with Herts and Essex Students and as of this summer we are offering them extra training on Sunday mornings throughout the summer. This will further enhance our link with the school as we get closer to sharing facilities at Beldams Lane.

As you can see it has been an extremely busy year and I hope all the children, coaches, umpires and parents involved have enjoyed it. Without all your help and support our junior section would not be what it is today. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers so please let one of us know if you're keen to get involved.

I know I have said I am stepping down for the last couple of seasons, but I really am this time!!! I have enjoyed my time watching the children improve and develop and will look forward to playing alongside some of them in the coming years. I will not disappear completely so hopefully see you at some point soon...My role is going to be split into two and Adnan Zakir is going to lead the coaches and anything to do with playing/matches etc, whilst Rachel Armitage will be taking over the admin...Good Luck for next season as I leave you in Adnan and Rachel's capable hands!

Jemma Pettit
BSHC Junior Manager