

# A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF A HOCKEY CLUB CHAIR



The chair is often seen as the figurehead of a hockey club, but the reality is far more hands-on. They provide leadership, support decision-making, coordinate volunteer and help ensure the club remains sustainable, inclusive and forward-looking. Every season brings different challenges but the chair is there to help keep the club moving in the right direction.

## **August to September: Setting the Club's Direction**

As a new season begins, the chair helps bring the committee together and establish priorities for the year ahead.

Typical responsibilities include:

- Leading pre-season committee meetings
- Agreeing the club's key objectives and priorities
- Supporting membership recruitment and retention
- Reviewing club policies and governance requirements
- Working with captains, coaches and volunteers to prepare for the season
- Ensuring committees and sub-groups understand their roles

**The chair's role is not to do everything but to make sure the right people are working together effectively.**

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## October to December: Keeping the Club Running

With league fixtures underway, the chair focuses on supporting volunteers and helping the club operate smoothly.

Key activities often include:

- Chairing committee meetings
- Supporting team captains and section leads
- Managing relationships with England Hockey, Areas, leagues and facility providers.
- Resolving issues that arise between members or teams
- Monitoring progress against club objectives
- Celebrating volunteer contributions and successes

**A great chair spends much of their time listening, encouraging and connecting people across the club.**

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## January to March: Looking Beyond the Current Season

Mid-season provides an opportunity to review progress and plan for the future.

This may involve:

- Reviewing strategic priorities
- Leading discussions on club development projects
- Supporting funding and grant applications
- Identifying volunteer succession opportunities
- Strengthening partnerships with schools and community organisations
- Monitoring risks and opportunities facing the club

**The chair helps the committee balance today's needs with tomorrow's ambitions.**

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## April to May: Reflecting and Recognising

As the season draws to a close, the chair often takes the lead in celebrating achievements and evaluating performance.

Responsibilities may include:

- Recognising volunteers and member achievements
- Supporting end-of-season events and awards evenings
- Leading reviews of the season's successes and challenges
- Gathering feedback from members
- Identifying priorities for the following season
- Supporting recruitment of new volunteers and committee members

**This is an important time to reflect on what worked well and what can be improved.**

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## June to July: Governance and Succession

The close season is often the busiest strategic period for a chair.

Activities typically include:

- Preparing reports for the AGM
- Leading annual planning discussions
- Reviewing governance and policies
- Overseeing committee recruitment and succession planning
- Supporting budget discussions with the treasurer
- Building relationships with key stakeholders and partners

**An effective chair ensures the club is not only ready for next season but also positioned to thrive in the years ahead.**