

London Hockey Juniors **Review 2023-2024**

The Junior section had an extremely busy season with activity covering Club leagues & festivals; In2Hockey Cup & Plate Tournaments at U10 & U12; U16 & U18 Indoor competitions; School competitions and Talent Development activity.

Clubs

Activity was arranged for groups aged U8-U18 as follows:-

- U8 - U12 Mega and Mini Leagues with 164 teams entered
- U10 & U12 In2Hockey Cup & Plate involved 216 teams across the two age groups and genders.
- U12 Performance Leagues (7 a side) had 38 entries across the two genders.
Winners Boys – Teddington ; Girls - Surbiton
- U14-18 leagues a total of 210 teams entered.
- The U14 Leagues were rearranged after Christmas after the U14 SupraLeague qualifiers were identified. The remaining Tier 1 teams were placed in a Tier 1B league with the stronger Tier 2 teams. Finals were held for the Tier 2 & Tier 3A Leagues.
- This season U16 Tier 1 entries were made centrally with England Hockey following a reframing of the Tier 1 Competitions. Tier 2 and 3 remained unchanged with Finals for T2 & 3A.
- The U18 Tier 1 & 2 teams also participated in a cross-border leagues. Crossover Finals were held where appropriate.
- EH Tier 3 Knockout Cup & Plate Competitions for U14s & U16s had 49 entries
- Indoor Area Finals were held in November & December for the U18 & U16 Boys & Girls. 20 teams entered across both age groups & genders.

Supraleagues

U14s

At the Christmas break, a number of teams qualified for the U14 national Supraleagues:-

U14 Boys – Wimbledon Stormers, Surbiton Seals and Blackheath & Elthamians

U14 Girls - Surbiton Wrens, Teddington, Surbiton Eagles and Wimbledon Stormers

In the National finals, two teams from the Area qualified and finished as follows:-

U14 Boys – Wimbledon Runners-up

U14 Girls – Surbiton Winners

U16s

The new format for the U16s is essentially a waterfall tournament where in the first part of the season, the teams played in geographically arranged leagues with their position at the end of January determining the competition they would play in for the remainder of the season. The top 16 teams remained in the T1 Cup in a league format with a Finals day for the top 4 teams.

The next 24 teams were placed in a T1 Plate & Vase and the remainder in Shield, all which were a knock-out format

Boys

Surbiton Coyotes T1Cup - Winners
Surbiton Huskies T1 Plate - Winners
Wimbledon Stormers T1 Plate
Hampstead & Westminster Shipperley T1 Plate/Vase
Teddington T1 Plate/Vase

Girls

Surbiton T1 Cup – Winners
Wimbledon Stormers T1 Cup – Runners-up
Surbiton Pioneers T1 Plate – Runners-up
Hampstead & Westminster Robinson – Plate/Vase
London Wayfarers – Plate/Vase

There were some issues in the second part of the season largely around the distances some teams were expected to travel & the scheduling of some knock-out rounds on consecutive weekends. EH have acknowledged the problems and will take steps to avoid the same issues arising next season.

In2Hockey

The In2Hockey Cup & Plate was again a hugely successful tournament with the Preliminary Rounds held over two weekends in March. The 4 qualifying teams from each of the age group & gender Cup & Plate competitions played at the Finals day at Lee Valley in April.

Winners

U10 Boys Cup – Spencer
U10 Boys Plate – Surbiton
U10 Girls Cup – Surbiton
U10 Girls Plate – Surbiton
U12 Boys Cup – Wimbledon
U12 Boys Plate – Ashford
U12 Girls Cup – Surbiton
U12 Girls Plate – Surbiton

Wimbledon U12 Boys & Surbiton U12 Girls qualified for the National Finals & finished as follows:-

Wimbledon Boys – Runners-up
Surbiton Girls - Winners

Indoor

Following the London Indoor rounds, Surbiton U16 Girls, U18 Boys and U18 Girls and Teddington U16 Boys represented London in the Super 6s Finals and finished :-

U18 Boys - Surbiton – Runners-up
U18 Girls - Surbiton – Jt 3rd
U16 Boys – Teddington 7th
U16 Girls – Surbiton – Runners-up

The full list of the Area winners is below.

2023/2024	
Tier 1	
U18 Boys (London/SC/SE)	N/A
U18 Girls (London/SC/SE)	N/A
U16 Boys	N/A
U16 Girls	N/A
U14 Boys Tier 1B	Wimbledon Tornadoes
U14 Girls Tier 1B	Surbiton Doves
U12 Boys Perf	Teddington
U12 Girls Perf	Surbiton
Tier 2	
U18 Boys (London/SC/SE)	N/A
U18 Girls (London/SC/SE)	London Wayfarers
U16 Boys	Spencer
U16 Girls	Wimbledon Tornadoes
U14 Boys	Southgate
U14 Girls	Richmond
Tier 3	
U16 Boys	Spencer Storms
U16 Girls	Surbiton Rangers
U14 Boys	Old Kingstonsians
U14 Girls	Hampstead & Westminster Turner
In2Hockey Cup	
U12 Boys	Wimbledon
U12 Girls	Surbiton
U10 Boys	Spencer
U10 Girls	Surbiton
In2Hockey Plate	
U12 Boys	Ashford
U12 Girls	Surbiton
U10 Boys	Surbiton
U10 Girls	Surbiton
EH Tier 3 Cup	
U16 Boys	Spencer Storms
U16 Girls	Richmond
U14 Boys	Cheam
U14 Girls	Sunbury & Walton
EH Tier 3 Plate	
U16 Boys	Ealing
U16 Girls	Surbiton Rangers
U14 Boys	Purley Walcountians
U14 Girls	Richmond
Indoor	
U18 Boys	Surbiton
U18 Girls	Surbiton
U16 Boys	Teddington
U16 Girls	Surbiton

As with last few seasons, a number of clubs also cancelled matches very late. Obviously this creates tension between clubs and we continue to work with the clubs to try to improve communication. Additionally, a number of disciplinary issues arose as the result of some unacceptable behaviour during the course of the season & again, we are working with the Clubs to avoid further occurrences.

A Junior Clubs meeting was held on 12th June at The Wimbledon Club with representatives from 16 clubs in attendance. Useful discussions took place on the various leagues & competitions & proposals for 2024-2025. Thank you to Wimbledon HC for hosting us.

Many thanks to the League/In2 Competition/Mega & Mini League/U12 Performance Administration team of Adrian Darley, Jenny Walker & Andrea Cole for all their hard work over the last 12 months as without them, the huge amount of activity organised by the Area would not have happened. Also, many thanks to all those who gave up their time to run the various tournaments on our behalf, it is much appreciated.

Enormous thanks also to Joergen Jaehnig for leading on the Indoor competitions. They were very successful and a very enjoyable experience for the players.

Talent System

Development Centre (DC) activity ran throughout July & August for U12-15s for around 785 children, a number of whom were selected to the Squad Assessment phase. The players selected for 2022-2023 squads were not required to attend the DC but were invited for assessment together with the players taken through from DC in October. A further 90 new players were assessed alongside the previous season's squads for the U16 & U17s

The Assessment phase was complicated & extended due to the TA Assessments at some centres not being completed until January 2024.

Following the Assessment sessions, 450 players were selected for 20 representative squads, two squads being selected for each gender in each age group.

After the training phase was completed, all the teams participated in the South Counties AC Championship playing against the seven counties which formed the former South Region. Matches were played in a triangular format across weekends in March-May.

The final standings for the teams were:-

2023-2024					
	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
Boys					
North	5th	6th	5th	6th	5th
South	2nd	3rd	6th	7th	1st
Girls					
North	7th	2nd	8th	2nd	5th
South	6th	7th	4th	7th	1st

Following the completion of the programme 101 players have been nominated for assessment at Talent Academies.

Clare Cogswell & Claire Sabourin continued in their administrative roles for London North & London South respectively. I am very grateful to them for all their hard work in running the programme so efficiently.

I must also mention the coaches without whose enthusiasm and work throughout the season, we would not be able to run the Talent programme.

Schools

The London team of Marilyn Walker, Sandra Marlow & Stephen Biggins continued to oversee the extensive Schools' programme across both Outdoor & Indoor formats.

A total of 62 Schools entered 305 teams across all competitions. The Area Winners were as follows:-

2023-2024	
School Competition	
Indoor	
BU18	Whitgift
GU18	Kingston Grammar
BU16	Whitgift
GU16	Surbiton High
Outdoor	
BU18 Tier 3	Royal Russell
GU18 Tier 3	St Benedicts
BU16 Tier 3	Dulwich
GU16 Tier 3	Croydon High
GU15	Streatham & Clapham
BU14 Tier 2	Royal Russell
GU14 Tier 2	Emanuel
BU14 Tier 3	UCS
BU13 In2	Whitgift
GU13 In2	Alleyn's
BU13 Tier 1	Whitgift
BU13 Tier 2	Trinity
BU13 Tier 3	Richmond Park
GU13 Tier 1	Alleyn's
GU13 Tier 2	Forest
BU12 Tier 1	St Dunstans
GU12 Tier 1	Surbiton High
GU12 Tier 2	St Dunstans
GU12 Tier 3	Eltham
GU11 Tier 1	Eltham
GU11 Tier 2	Harrodian

National School Finals

Qualifiers from some of the London Area rounds participated in the EH Schools' Finals

Outdoor

U18 Boys Tier 3 – Royal Russell – 8th

U18 Girls Tier 3 – St Benedict's – 5th

U16 Boys Tier 3 – Dulwich – 7th

U16 Girls Tier 3 – Croydon High – 8th

U14 Boys Tier 2 – Royal Russell – 8th

U14 Girls Tier 2 – Emanuel - 7th

U13 In2 Hockey Girls – Alleyn's – 7th

U13 In2Hockey Boys – Whitgift – 3rd

Indoor

U16 Boys – Whitgift – 1st

U18 boys – Whitgift – 1st

U16 Girls – Surbiton High – Jt 3rd

U18 Girls – Surbiton High – 6th

Our thanks to all the schools which hosted the competitions and last but not least, huge thanks to Marilyn, Sandra & Stephen for running another successful London season.

Many thanks must also go to Phil O'Hagan & the London Officiating team for appointing for the South Tournament matches, Indoor Finals, League Finals and the In2Hockey Finals. Also thanks to Stephen Mason for acting as the Technical Official for the In2Hockey Finals & arranging the online results.

Finally, whilst it is clear we are providing an extensive programme of Junior hockey, it is also evident we are reliant on a small number of volunteers who are doing a massive amount of work behind the scenes to organise & manage all the competitions. It is imperative more people step forward next season to assist us and if you are able to help, please do not hesitate to contact me on juniors@london.hockey

I would also like to express my personal thanks to the Board of Directors, the rest of the Management Committee, Step Parikian and Catalina Giglio for their invaluable support throughout the season.

Judith Jones
June 2024