



Juniors review 2022-2023

The Junior section had a very busy season covering Club leagues & festivals, preliminary rounds on behalf of England Hockey for In2Hockey & 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 147 teams entered
- U10 & U12 In2Hockey Cup & Plate Preliminary rounds which involved 220 teams across the two age groups and genders. Area Finals for the top 4 teams in the Cup & Plate competitions were held at Lee Valley on 23rd April. The winners of the U12 Boys & Girls Cup competitions (Surbiton Pumas & Surbiton Jays) qualified for the EH National Finals.
- U12 Performance Leagues (7 a side) had 34 entries across the two genders. Finals were held at the end of the season.
- U14-18 leagues had 220 teams entered. All Leagues were rearranged after Christmas after the U14 & U16 SupraLeague qualifiers were identified. The remaining Tier 1 teams either participated in cross-border "Plate" leagues or were placed in a Tier 2A league with the stronger Tier 2 teams. The U18 Tier 1 teams also participated in a cross-border league for the second half of the season. Crossover Finals were held where appropriate.
- EH Tier 3 Knockout Cup & Plate Competitions for U14s & U16s had 55 entries
- Indoor Area Finals were held in November & December for the U18 & U16 Boys & Girls. 24 teams entered across both age groups & genders which caused some logistical problems despite the competitions being split over 3 weekends

Supraleague

At the Christmas break, a number of U14 & U16 teams qualified for the national supraleague:-

U14 Boys – Surbiton & Wimbledon

U14 Girls - London Wayfarers, Surbiton and Wimbledon

U16 Boys – Hampstead & Westminster, Surbiton and Wimbledon

U16 Girls – Surbiton, Teddington and Wimbledon

In the finals

U14 Boys – No London teams qualified

U14 Girls – Surbiton 3rd; Wimbledon 7th

U16 Boys – Hampstead & Westminster 2nd

U16 Girls – Surbiton 1st; Teddington 7th

In2Hockey

Surbiton U12 Boys & Girls qualified from the London Area Finals for the National Finals & finished as follows:-

Surbiton Boys – 1st

Surbiton Girls - 2nd

Indoor

Surbiton U16 Boys, U18 Boys and U18 Girls and London Wayfarers U16 Girls represented London in the Super 6s Finals and finished :-

U18 Boys - Surbiton - 3rd

U18 Girls - Surbiton – 2nd

U16 Boys – Surbiton – 2nd

U16 Girls – London Wayfarers – 5th

The full list of the Area winners is below

London Juniors Winners	
U12 Performance	
U12 Boys	Wimbledon HC
U12 Girls	Teddington HC
Tier 2	
U18 Boys	Spencer HC
U18 Girls	Spencer HC
U16 Boys	Bromley & Beckenham HC
U16 Girls Tier 2A	Southgate HC
U16 Girls Tier 2B	Bromley & Beckenham HC
U14 Boys	Hampstead & Westminster
U14 Girls Tier 2A	Southgate HC
U14 Girls Tier 2B	Surbiton HC Ospreys
Tier 3	
U16 Boys	Ashford HC
U16 Girls	Bromley & Beckenham HC
U14 Boys	Spencer HC Cyclones
U14 Girls	Surbiton HC Sparrows
In2Hockey Cup	
U12 Boys	Surbiton HC
U12 Girls	Surbiton HC
U10 Boys	Surbiton HC
U10 Girls	Surbiton HC
In2Hockey Plate	
U12 Boys	Purley Walcountians HC
U12 Girls	Surbiton HC
U10 Boys	Merton HC
U10 Girls	Spencer HC
EH Tier 3 Cup	
U16 Boys	Spencer HC Storms
U16 Girls	Ealing HC
U14 Boys	Spencer HC Cyclones
U14 Girls	Ealing HC
EH Tier 3 Plate	
U16 Boys	Surbiton HC Jackals
U16 Girls	Richmond HC
U14 Boys	Purley Walcountians HC
U14 Girls	Old Cranleighans HC
Indoor	
U18 Boys	Surbiton HC
U18 Girls	Surbiton HC
U16 Boys	Surbiton HC
U16 Girls	London Wayfarers



Unfortunately, GMS continued to be problematic this season and a series of spreadsheets were made available to the clubs for all Tier 3 activity in a shared folder. Tiers 1 & 2 were initially using GMS until a problem arose around player ages which made online match administration impossible. As a result, where required, team sheets were completed manually for the remainder of the season.

As with last season, a number of clubs also cancelled matches very late, in some cases only the day before or simply did not turn up. Obviously this created some tension between clubs and we intend to continue to work with the clubs to try to improve communication.

Many thanks to the League/In2 Competition Administration team of Adrian Darley, Jenny Walker & Andrea Cole for all their hard work over the last 12 months as without them, the leagues, cup & In2Hockey Competitions would not have run as well as they did. Also, many thanks to all those who gave up their time to run the various tournaments on our behalf, it is much appreciated.

Thanks also to Joergen Jaehnig for arranging the Indoor competitions. They were very successful and an enjoyable experience for the players.

Talent System

At the start of the season, the Player Pathway was rebranded as the Talent System.

Development Centre (DC) activity ran throughout July & August for U12-15s for around 793 children, a number of whom were selected to the Squad Assessment phase. The players selected on 2021-2022 were not required to attend the DC but we invited for assessment together with the players taken through from DC in September & October.

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 4 weekends in March-May. The final standings for the teams were:-

South Counties Tournament					
Boys	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
North	7th	1st	2nd	7th	2nd
South	2nd	6th	3rd	2nd	7th
Girls	U13	U14	U15	U16	U17
North	2nd	3rd	6th	3rd	3rd
South	7th	7th	1st	4th	8th

All age group tables can be found at <https://www.southcountieshockey.net/public/leaguereults.php>

Following the completion of the programme 115 players have been nominated for assessment at Talent Academies.

Clare Cogswell continued to provide administrative assistance and at the start of the season we were joined by Claire Sabourin. I am very grateful to them for their hard work. Huge thanks also to Simon Haspel for his organisation of pitches for the DC activity. We were very sorry when Simon decided to step back from this role in September as his assistance was invaluable in the initial stages of setting up the Talent programme. I must also mention the coaches without whose enthusiasm and hard work throughout the season, we would not be able to run such a successful programme.

Many thanks must also go to Peter Mackintosh & the London Officiating team for appointing for the South Tournament matches, Indoor Finals and In2Hockey Finals and also to Stephen Mason for acting as the Technical Official for the In2Hockey Finals.

Schools

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

A total of 33 Schools entered 308 teams across all competitions. The Area Winners were as follows:-

School Competitions	Winners 2022-2023
Indoor	
BU18	Whitgift
GU18	Surbiton
BU16	Whitgift
GU16	Surbiton
Outdoor	
Girls' U18 Tier 4	Mill Hill
Boys' U18 Tier 4	Aldenham
Girls' U16 Tier 3	Tiffin
Boys' U16 Tier 3	Eltham
Boys' U16 Tier 4	Mill Hill / Fortismere
Girls' U15	Kingston
Girls' U14 Tier 1	Surbiton
Boys' U14 Tier 1	Whitgift
Girls' U14 Tier 2	Colfe's
Boys' U14 Tier 2	Whitgift B
Girls' U14 Tier 3/4	Northwood
Boys' U14 Tier 3/4	UCS
Girls' U13 Tier 1	Surbiton
Girls' U13 Tier 2	Surbiton B & Harrodian
Girls' U12 Tier 1	Surbiton
Girls' U12 Tier 2	Belmont
Boys' U12 Tier 3	Richmond Park Academy

National School Finals

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

Outdoor

- U18 Boys Tier 4 – Aldenham – 6th
- U18 Girls Tier 4 – Mill Hill – 1st
- U16 Boys Tier 3 – Eltham College – 2nd
- U16 Girls Tier 3 – Tiffin Girls – 2nd
- U14 Boys Tier 1 – Whitgift – 2nd
- U14 Girls Tier 1 – Surbiton High School – 1st
- U14 Boys Tier 2 – Whitgift – 8th



U14 Girls Tier 2 – Colfe’s - 8th
U13 In2 Hockey Girls – Surbiton High – 1st
U13 In2Hockey Boys – Whitgift – 1st

Indoor

U16 Boys – Whitgift – 1st
U18 boys – Whitgift – 1st
U16 Girls –Surbiton High– Jt 3rd
U18 Girls -Surbiton High – 6th

This season, England Hockey introduced an U14 In2Hockey Festival competition specifically for State Schools which had direct entry. It took place in Nottingham with only a few London State schools entered. Many congratulations to the Coombe Boys team which finished 2nd in the Tier 2 (Emerging Schools) competition. As a result of this, we have identified a number of schools which are now playing hockey and will be encouraging them to enter our competitions next season.

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

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 and Catalina Giglio for their support throughout the season.

Judith Jones
June 2023