



Board Update August 2025

At the West Annual General Meeting, the West Board agreed to post a synopsis of Board meetings to keep members informed on what is going on at Board level.

Since the AGM, the Board has held two meetings, both in August.

The first meeting dealt with administrative matters following the AGM. In particular, the Board

- co-opted Jan Bowen and Matt Johnson as Directors. Jan has been instrumental in developing the West strategy and is now helping us to track progress against its objectives. Matt brings considerable business experience to the Board and strengthens the Board accordingly.
- Unanimously agreed to appoint Steve Hamey as the new chair of the Officiating Committee.
- Ratified Lesley Love as the A DDA
- Ratified all committee positions
- Discussed the new England Hockey Area Membership fee and agreed to the proposed increase subject to more information on the specific £500 proposed for Junior Competition administrative support.
- Discussed circulating the Board synopsis to clubs and asking for website content.

The second meeting focused on ensuring the West is 'season ready' and checked in on progress against the strategic plan.

- The new league structure has been announced for next season
- It was agreed that the West website needs to be refreshed, with more content to be added. Caroline Baynes and Keith Dingle will be working through this. It is hoped to recruit to the West volunteer communication role.
- The Junior strategy was approved by the Board. This represents a big step forward in standardising the junior competition offering in the West and also sets out how hockey in state schools will be encouraged and supported by the West, and also how the West will support counties to do this more locally.
- The Board agreed how important supporting officials is and will send out a note to all clubs reminding them of the Code of Conduct and setting expectations for behaviour to reinforce the messages coming from England Hockey.
- There is a new simplified Red Card Form to be used and it will be posted on the West website for the new season.

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- A Complaints Policy and Dispute Policy were discussed and agreed
- England Hockey has proposed that Areas get more involved in the England Hockey National Awards next year. More detail is required; however, the Board agreed in principle to support this initiative. West nominations to the awards have historically been low and anything to promote West clubs should be encouraged.
- It was agreed to close down the dormant Twitter account.
- It was reported to the Keith Carder, the England Hockey Observer at the meeting that the West cannot access or access reports on GMS in respect of some data. England Hockey have requested this data from the Contractor, but it is challenging.
- Amended Junior Competition regulations have been issued. The turnaround time for comments was very tight. Keith Carder confirmed that the process will start earlier next season to alleviate the problems.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 30th October