

27th April 2024



Chairperson – Ruth Wharton

This season has been a season of many emotions, low and high, but overall it's been another good season for Poole Hockey Club. Club membership numbers have remained stable and we've been delighted to welcome some familiar faces back to the club.

For the senior section, following the promotion of both the men and women 1s teams last season, plus men 2s staying in south division 4 (which was as good as a promotion due to double promotion the previous season) we knew it was likely to be a tough season. Despite the high expectations which come following promotions, all senior teams have managed to remain the same division for next season.

For the junior section, the standard of coaching continues to improve and we've received some really good feedback from parents.

I believe the club has many highlights and positives from this season:

- Updated / new club policy and guideline documents written:
 - Development strategy and action plan.
 - Safeguarding policy.
 - Behaviour guidelines.
- Website changes (please do have a look and share any feedback).
- Increased social media activity.
- Increased number of junior coaches sharing Tuesday coaching and Sunday tournaments, giving variety for the players and welcomed rest weeks for the coaches.
- 2nd year of sponsorship from Charles Trent Ltd and Amethyst Sports.
- No relegations across senior teams.
- Reintroduction of the women 2s team.
- U14s attending senior development coaching, aiding the transition from junior to senior hockey.
- Well attended senior Christmas & EOS Awards Celebration events, thoroughly enjoyed by all.
- Continuation of Thursday senior indoor game sessions.
- Improved attendance at coaching sessions.
- Students from Milton Abbey School joining in with the women's coaching sessions.
- Involvement with South Coast Talent Academy (now with representation on the board).
- Sam Beveridge from GB Hockey ran 3 sessions for our coaches (x2 online and x1 in person).
- Introduction of U8s Saturday morning coaching sessions.

No season goes without its challenges and things we can work on:

- No umpiring assessments.
- Low junior member numbers.
- Lack of match time for our U14 players, due to low numbers.
- Room for improvement with game day team organisation and discipline.
- More work needed with engaging schools in hockey (started with Broadstone).
- ClubMark remains outstanding.

None of this takes anything away from what we have achieved this season and I believe that we have the foundations to make next just as good and if not better.

Thank yous

Without the help and support of various people throughout the season the club would not exist. This season we've been grateful to have more people involved and helping to lighten the workload. Even the tiniest bit of help has made a huge difference, anything from washing bibs or taking the kit bag to a match, to organising a team social or taking on a Club role. So, if you have offered or given any

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help at all throughout the season, no matter how big or small, thank you! The Club simply wouldn't function and be as brilliant as it is without you!!

There are a few people who have gone above and beyond to help. Firstly, all the coaches and umpires. The club gives a small financial incentive for umpiring and coaching, in the form of discounted membership or match fees, but this really is just a small token of appreciation. There are also many people who give their time without any financial thank you, our club volunteers.

Every week we all turn up to play hockey, we arrive, play and go home, but there is a huge amount of work which goes on in the background to allow that to happen. Filling in Teamo and GMS with various bits of information, communicating with players, organising drivers, hunting for players on weeks when we're short...the list goes on. Hazel, Katy, MP, Lisa, Theo, Nick, Gareth, Martin and Rich have all been involved with team management over the season, getting us all to games and playing.

There are also several people who support the broader running of the club, everything from keeping us all safe whilst participating in hockey to working to grow the club and seeking opportunities for us all to enjoy and benefit from. Plus a handful volunteer coaches and umpires who don't play.

- Lloyd Moore – helps with senior coaching.
- John Hodgman – umpires and helps with junior coaching.
- Trevor Dyson – club umpire over many seasons, also often seen on the sidelines supporting.
- Ali King – GK coach, has umpired the most matches this season and has recently taken on the role of Umpire Development Officer, supporting and encouraging more club umpires.
- Sarah Badley – Welfare Officer.
- Helena Darragh – Kit Manager and also sourced an amazing list of donations for our prize draw.
- George Collen – Discipline Officer.
- Mike Hampton – Schools Liaison and previously the main point of contact with The Pilot.
- Nickie Spalding & Trevor Bailey – Match Day Secretaries.
- Deb Chase – organises club umpires every week.
- MP Cottam – Christmas and EOS event organising (with help from Martin and Casey) and has also helped with our social media, do you know we now have a Club Tik Tok?!
- Casey Fudge – leads on the junior side of the club.
- Laura Allen – organises Thursday indoor sessions.
- Scott Chappell – who took some fab match photos, hoping to join us for more games next season.
- Adrian Potter – our Club President, overseeing all aspects of the club offering help and support.

And last, but certainly not least, Paul, TJ and Martin. These guys spend many hours in the background sorting paperwork, dealing with associations, attending meetings, making sure we have the right equipment, constructively challenging to ensure the best for our club members... the list goes on!

So, to all the Coaches, Umpires, Team Managers, Club Officers and anyone else I haven't mentioned, a huge huge thank you for all your hard work and involvement with making the hockey club what it is. Poole Hockey Club is a vitally important community club and your involvement contributes to improving the health and wellbeing of us all. As always, if you think you can give any time to help with anything (big or small), many hands make light work and we'll be grateful for and welcome you're input.

We have also received kind donations from some of our Honorary Members, plus some who have donated their fuel expenses back to the club (particularly the Baileys), and everyone who has bought

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tickets for the prize draw! These kind contributions enable the club to fund things such as coaching equipment, social events, training our coaches and umpires etc.

We also have a special mention of gratitude, to Lisa from The Pilot. Lisa will shortly be leaving The Pilot and we will be sad to see her go but hope that we can continue the positive relationship with the new management.

Recommendations for next season

- Creation of Club Captain/s – to provide support to Team Managers and players, aiding the movement of players between teams and supporting Team Managers with selection to ensure player progression and building the strongest teams possible. The hope is that this will support a smoother process for weekly selection and enable the elected management committee to remain impartial and only get involved with decisions when there is a club consideration. Role description to be prepared over the summer and shared with all team managers for input.
- Creation of guideline documents to clarify club expectations with the aim of supporting Team Managers and other relevant club officers. Documents to cover and provide information about:
 - Selection
 - Playing
 - Forfeiting a match
 - Coaching (dependant on the team standard)
- Consider club budgets with the intention of sourcing and allocating additional funds to developing the club's coaching offer in the future.