

Yorkshire HA Annual General Meeting. May 2014.

Yorkshire Youth Report.

What to include and what to leave out???

With so many Club Members attending the YHA AGM much of the included information has already been seen to the YHA Committee, so apologies to them for repetition, but it is important the Yorkshire Hockey Membership is aware of the wide range of Youth Hockey going on in the County.

North & Yorkshire Youth Hockey has more than its usual share of hiccups and potential pitfalls this season.... At least it was not the weather causing the issues!!!!

Whilst the general direction has been positive, encouraging and successful, there have been too many issues that have created problems that hindered progress.

Two of our long term Volunteers have stepped down from their Roles in North Youth Hockey – **Bob Maltby, City of York - North Youth Competitions Chair & David Boddy, Kingston upon Hull – North U18/18 Boys Clubs Indoor Organiser** have retired from their roles. Bob after completing what he said he would do and David after over 20 years of Youth Indoor organisation.

Finding volunteers/replacements for both is not going well, despite personal approaches and a widely distributed adverts across the North no replacement has come forward for either vacancy.

Chris Darling, Ben Rydding - Chair of North Performance Committee has sown the seed of his stepping down as well. An even bigger role to fill when the time comes.

North Performance Committee

The NPC under the Chairmanship of **Chris Darling** (Ben Rhydding HC) has continued to oversee the North Youth Competitions Group, the Single System activities... JRPC, JAC & JDC, Schools & Club Competitions at all ages both Indoor & Outdoor, & Young Umpire Development.

Chris feels the time is approaching for him to make way for another person to take the reins, however the NPC Committee feels that one person could not step into Chris's shoes as he has so much experience, and links to other areas of the Hockey family, that we may need 3 volunteers to take over his full contribution to North Youth Hockey.

North input into National discussion continues to have a significant input to improve systems and approach to the implementation of aspects of the Single System.

However the North's strong feelings on the EH recommendation of non participation by the NAGs Academy and ASSE (Apprenticeship) players from the JAC programme had the outcome that had been foreseen by the North....fewer players wanting to be part of the JAC process meant that we had fewer JAC Teams available when competition selection took place.

North were not the only Region affected all Regions Nationally were similarly down on numbers particularly at the older age groups.

North Junior Competitions Committee.

North Youth Competitions Committee chaired by **Bob Maltby (City of York HC)** oversees the organisation of certain Regional Competitions, including Schools & Cup Mini Hockey(In2Hockey); Schools & Cup U18/16 Indoor, and Schools U18/16/14 Outdoor.

Also to feed grass roots concern about competition through the NPC to EH.

Bob has indicated that he is stepping down as Chairman, however despite personal approaches and a widely distributed advert across the North no replacement has come forward.

JRPC.(Junior Regional Performance Centres)The Single System

Leeds Pumas

Chairpersons Bev Barstow (Bradford/Wakefield HC), John Dowley (Ben Rhydding) continue to keep Leeds Pumas on the straight and narrow with a full complement of Coaches & Managers, Treasurers and Administrators appointed.

The addition of 3 more Centrally Contracted Coaches taken from the originally appointed Leeds JRPC Coaching Team delayed confirmation of the full Leeds appointment list but this was finally achieved.

Some JRPC Coaches are also JAC Coaches and this creating some availability and responsibility issues when the JAC/JRPC selection/identification process was being carried out.

The player selection process for this years JRPC programme has been completed.

Leeds Pumas dates and programme have been agreed Venue Leeds University....

The Tour de France..."Grand Depart"...has forced the move of the Leeds JRPC sessions originally planned for 5th/6th July to moved back a week to 12th/13th July.

JRPC Leeds Pumas. (Junior Regional Performance Centres)

Dates for Tier 1 preparation are

21/22 June : 28th/29th June : **12th/13th July** ; 18th/19th/20th/21st August ; 30th/31st August.

Tier 1 Competition: 14th & 28th Sept.

Tier 2 Preparation : 12th & 26th October.

HiPAC

U15 Leeds 26th/28th Oct. U17 Lilleshall 26th/28th October

Futures Cup Cannock HC

U15 30th Oct/1st Nov U17 30th Oct /2nd Nov.

North JAC Championships.(Junior Academy Centres) The Single System

The Single System is about identification and progression through JDC/JAC & selection to JRPC and National Age Group (NAGs) participation.

It was felt that a North East & North West JAC Competition would provide enough opportunity to make that selection and identification work.

However this leads to fewer young players experiencing the chance to play higher level competitions and to take part in National events. The Single System Review also identified this issue but EH has not moved positively to fill that opportunity.

As the players get to the older ages there are an increasing number who are stepping out of the Single System to concentrate on their education and gain competitive enjoyment within their Clubs.

As mentioned previously an EH decision on who should not take part in the JAC Competition meant that even more players decided not to take part this year .

With potentially 6 JAC/HDG Groups East of the Pennines we did not manage to get a full 6 teams in any of the JAC age group competitions, the U17 Girls for example had 2 team ...one from North Yorkshire and the other a composite team made up of players from the other JAC/HDG Groups.

Bob Maltby, City of York HC, did his best to organise this years North East JAC Championship by putting this years competition programme in place, however with teams dropping out at regular intervals, in the build up to competition, he was under constant pressure to revamp all age groups competitions to cope.

He deserves considerable praise and appreciation for his ability & flexibility to cope and adjust to reflect the constant changes.

Thanks to ALL the Umpires ... Young and not so young who have officiated at games a venues across the North East to make the Competition enjoyable

Yorkshire Region Youth Development Committee.

The YRYD Committee..... **Chairman : Nigel Herd CoYHC** plus the four HDG Chairman ... **Judith Nicholson (Humber/Kingston Upon Hull HC), Bob Maltby (North Yorkshire/City of York HC), Malcolm Pratt (SY-Sheffield Hallam))) & Phil Thomas (West Yorkshire/Bradford HC), David Woodward (YRYC Secretary), + Reps from the YHA Committee and some HDG Administrators** meet to monitor and assess progress in implementing the Single System.

Areas of responsibility include

Mini Hockey – Clubs and Schools:

JDC organisation & feedback:

JAC Tournament organisation & administration:

JAC Activities (a) player contributions:(b) standard of players (c) cost/time/repetitive sessions:

Umpire and Coach development and qualification.

Young Umpire Support.

YORKSHIRE Hockey Development Group Activity.

A BIG vote of thanks must go to the HDG Chairs and the Administrators of the four HDGs for the effort, control & guidance they have put in to ensure successful outcomes in all aspects of Yorkshire Youth Hockey, together with the other HDG volunteers who help make things happen.

a. JDC Programmes._(Junior Development Centres) Activity Club based taking place prior to Christmas aimed at the younger age groups.

b. JAC Championships and Player Development._(Junior Academy Centres)

JACs run largely on Sunday afternoons to offer higher level Coaching opportunities and progression through assessment and competition towards the JRPC programme and the North JAC Championships.

In setting up the Single System some feel that EH opened Pandora's Box in creating a situation where Coaches at all levels of the System would be paid for their services.

Umpires, particularly those outside the YHUA appointment system, are also expecting financial reward for their efforts, this is making the situation difficult.

Some folk won't step on to a pitch unless there are financial inducements.

What happened to the days of players of all ages wanting to put something back into the game we love so much..... perhaps they don't love the game so much after all.

The players participation contribution increases as a result (Attendance Fees) Pitch hire, coaches, umpire costs, playing kit & training equipment all needs to be sourced from funds raised from the players.

YORKSHIRE HOCKEY LEAGUE : Development League.

David Woodward Rotherham HC has continued to guide the Men's Development League and has made more excellent progress.

The Development League for the Women this year started with 6 teams initially expressing interest but once again this number reduced quite quickly.

It will be run again next season with, it is hoped, greater participation and commitment from Clubs.

Some Men's Clubs are now moving their Development Teams into Senior Hockey as players progress, develop & get older, Clubs are adding to the number of senior teams they are able to field each week, whilst at the same time keeping their Development Team going with new faces joining at the younger end.

What a success story!!!!

The principle regular Saturday afternoon hockey for young players (Boys Girls) either not old enough to play in the senior League, or not strong enough or good enough to yet make the grade at senior level.

Young players supported by senior players many of whom are coaches playing competitive hockey with controls on the contribution the senior players can bring to the game.

Youth Competitions. Regional & National.

Clubs Mini/In2Hockey Hockey Championships

Yorkshire:

Yorkshire Competition/Finals Organiser **Pam & Norman Hughes (Wakefield HC)**

Yorkshire Champions & Runners Up.

U10 GIRLS Winners **Wakefield HC** Runners Up. **Sheffield HC**

U10 BOYS Winners **Harrogate HC** Runners Up **Slazenger HC**

U12 GIRLS Winners **Wakefield HC** Runners Up **York HC**

U12 BOYS Winners **Harrogate HC** Runners Up **Driffield HC**

National:Mini/In2Hockey Club Championships: CannockHC 10th May. (From EH website)

U12 Girls : **York & Ben Rhydding.**

National : Mini / In2Hockey Schools Championships (From EH website)

U13 Girls : **Grammar School at Leeds & Wakefield Girls HS**

National : Schools Finals U16/14(From EH website)

Girls U16 : Grammar School at Leeds & Wakefield Girls HS

U14 Girls : Grammar School at Leeds

EHB Clubs U16/14 Championships

The Yorkshire Round Finals were successfully completed.

EH asked for 3 Yorkshire Nominations to progress to the North Finals.

Teams who progressed to North Finals were

Under 14 Boys

Yorkshire Winner Wakefield; Runners Up **Ben Rhydding;** 3rd **Doncaster**

U14 Girls

Yorkshire Winner City of York; Runner Up **Thirsk;** 3rd **Leeds Adel**

U16 Boys

Yorkshire Winner City of York; Runners Up **Slazengers;** 3rd **Ben Rhydding**

U16 Girls

Yorkshire Winner Wakefield; Runner Up **City of York;** 3rd **Sheffield Hallam**

National U16 Boys & Girls Clubs Finals at Wakefield Hockey Club..

Wakefield HC U16 Girls were the only Yorkshire Team attending. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful in defending their National Title held for 6 years losing to Surbiton HC.

National U14 Boys & Girls Clubs Finals at Wakefield Hockey Club.

Clubs Youth Indoor:

North Organisers.

Girls **Bev Barstow (Bradford/Wakefield HC)**

Boys **David Boddy (Kingston upon Hull HC)**

Note earlier comment about David Boddy stepping down as Organiser after over 20 years. We have really appreciated his commitment and enthusiasm for this aspect of Youth Hockey, he will be missed in a big way within this part of the game.

No volunteer / replacement has stepped forward yet.

Clubs Indoor.

National Finals

North Reps :

Boys U16 : Southport 4th Pool A : **Doncaster** 2nd pool B.

Boys U18 : **Ben Rhydding** 4th Pool A : Bowden 5th Pool B

Girls U16 : Kirby Lonsdale 3rd Pool A : **Wakefield** 4th Pool B

Girls U18 : Bowden 2nd Pool A : **Wakefield** 3rd Pool B

Boys & Girls Schools U18/16 Indoor

Organisers

Girls: Elaine McGregor WGHS

Boys: Phil Grainge Stockton.

Schools Indoor

National Finals

North Reps :

U16 Boys ; **Queen Elizabeth GS Wakefield** : Kings School Chester

U18 Boys : Egglescliffe : Rossall

U16 Girls : **Wakefield GHS** : Qu Elizabeth Girls School

U18 Girls : **Wakefield GHS** : Qu Elizabeth Girls School

Yorkshire Youth Hockey League:

Another very successful season, with Leagues for Boys & Girls at U16, U14, U12 & U10 & U11 Mixed.

The Yorkshire Rounds of the EHB U16/14 Cups were not included in the YYHL programme but played a separate non YYHL dates very successfully.

Will repeat this method of competition.

The YYHL is again running an Under11 Mixed Summer League to keep young players involved and active in the game over the "Off Season"... **BOB Maltby** is once again overseeing this initiative being played at Leeds University.

Participating Teams up this year, Summer 2104, to over 20 teams.

The League set off successfully with an increase in the number of Girls Teams taking part but a decrease in the number of Boys Teams particularly at U16 Boys.

Numbers this season were:

U16 Boys 14 with four Clubs running 2 composite TeamsBrid/Pocklington & Leeds/Leeds Adel.

U16 Girls 23 Teams with 6 Clubs running more than 1 Team.

U14 Boys 19 Teams with 3 Clubs running more than 1 Team

U14 Girls 27 Teams with 6 Clubs running more than 1 Team.

U12 Boys 30 teams with 7 Clubs running more than 1 Team.

U12 Girls 36 Teams with 9 Clubs running more than 1 Team - 4 Clubs running 3 Teams

U10 Boys 18 Teams.

U10 Girls 30 Teams with 9 Clubs running more than 1 Team

YYHL League Winners & Runners Up: 2013-2014

U10 Boys League Champions **Ben Rhydding** : Runners Up **Harrogate**

U10 Girls League Champions **Doncaster** : Runners Up **Wakefield**

U12 Boys **AUTOMAGIC** League Champions **Drifffield** : Runners Up **Ben Rhydding**

U12 Girls League Champions **Harrogate** : Runners Up **Thirsk**

U14 Boys League Champions **Thirsk** : Runners Up **City of York**

U14 Girls **LUCY CALEY TROPHY** League Champions **City of York** : Runners Up **Ben Rhydding**

U16 Boys GATESHEAD CUP League Champions **City of York** :Runners Up **Slazengers**
U16 Girls LUCY CALEY TROPHY League Champions **City of York** : Runners Up
Leeds Adel

Play Off Finals 2013/2014

U14 Boys AUTOMAGIC Play Off Winners **Thirsk** : Runners Up **Airedale**

U14 Girls YORKSHIRE SHIELD Play Off Winners **Thirsk** : Runners Up **Ben**

Rhydding

U16 Boys AUTOMAGIC Play Off Winners **Slazengers** : Runners Up **City of York**

U16 Girls YORKSHIRE SHIELD Play Off Winners **City of York** : Runners Up **Ben**

Rhydding

Once again

A VERY BIG THANK YOU to the “YYHL Inner Circle” who have organised, helped and advised throughout the Year **Bev Longthorne, Morag Wilkinson, Bob Maltby, Norman Hughes & Martyn Scott.**

Also **Andy Pettigrew** for his continued control & input of YOUTH records on the YHA website & coping with the sudden changes of direction that are often forced upon us. Putting more responsibility of Results Recording on Club Officials has been successful and we have reduced the need for Andy’s input considerably.

THANK YOU to the **YHUA (Chris Blogg & Richard Skippings)** for assisting and supporting by appointing Senior Umpires to the Boys Finals : **Christine Renshaw & Gill Meacham** for help at the Girls Play Off Finals.

All Umpires who assisted seem to have enjoyed an excellent competition.

Disappointing that Christine was not able to attend the Play Offs, we missed her greatly, and hope her broken bone continues to mend/heal successfully.

Finally **Thank You** to **Halifax Hockey Club** who hosted the Play Off Finals at U16 / U14 Boys & Girls always a warm welcome and excellent support from the Halifax Club.

Yorkshire Youth Hockey:

Where to from here???

The FUTURE: NEXT SEASON:

As with previous seasons Reports our targets remain in place and we plan, with luck and good planning to achieve even higher success next season.

EHB Clubs Cup.

To use a separate non YYHL dates to establish 2/3 teams (EH Decision) in each age to progress to the North Finals..

JDC/JAC Organisation

The Single System continues to struggle to gain the recognition it deserves.

The Old County competition and structure still holds more relevance than the JAC participation and its title.

In view of the issues and problems this years JAC Competition and player non participation, unless there is a change of mind on the part of EH we may well see the return of the County Structure in the North of possibly 7 County Teams rather 13 JAC/HDG Teams we are currently trying to run.

JAC uptake at the older age groups was less than last season, which was less than the season before, with more need to have amalgamated/composite teams in competition ... there are still players wanting to be involved at U14/15 but U16/17 however we again saw a drop off. Education pressures, lack of higher level competition, lack of progress to higher level(JAC to JRPC), cost & travel, perception that JAC does not equate to County, Club offers more to players than JAC/JRPC does all influence players participation.

The **Single System Review** was meant to address some of these issues and some excellent outcomes were recommended. EH said that it would take time to implement many of themwe hope that this implementation will come sooner rather than later.

The **Single System Review** was completed and a Review Report of 80 pages produced...
Some of the outcomes included

- (1) The ethos/perception of the SS as an elitist system needs to be changed with more emphasis on the development of all players. So the emphasis will be placed on Talent Development as well as Talent Identification – dual role.
- (2) It is recognised that U12s need to be incorporated into the system.
- (3) More JDCs and JACs to be developed.
- (4) JRPC – all players should have the opportunity to play in competition.
- (5) The JAC tournament should lead to national competitions starting with U17s
- (6) Create a SS brand.
- (7) Establish SS implementation Group in each area.
- (8) Hold annual meetings to provide the pooling of knowledge and to pass on SS information to JAC/JRPC
- (9) Calendar – no specific changes agreed but the ability to adapt dates in areas to become feasible.*(Yorkshire already do this!!!)*

EHB advice is ... do not expect quick fixes and it may take up to 2 years to implement most of the recommendations.

Phil Thomas

Youth Rep on YHA Committee
Chair YYHL/ Chair WYHDG
Member of NPC / Leeds JRPC / NYCC.