Junior Section GBHC

During the 2018/19 hockey season the junior section of the club has gone from strength to strength. With new enquiries about joining the club we have had approximately eight new members actively participating in training, mini festivals and matches. The new members have covered all age groups in the junior section of the club.

Pre Season on 30th June 2018 GBHC held an open day for the opening of the new pitch at St Vincent College. During the day the juniors had sponsored events to raise funds. The events included beat the goalkeeper in the morning and a hockey assault course in the afternoon. All the children had a great time. The money raised is still waiting to be used towards something for the junior GBHC players, possibly training t-shirts, or equipment.

On 9th December 2018 it was GBHC’s turn to host the U8s/ U10s mini festival. Clubs from around the Hampshire area came to participate in matches with U8s in the morning and U10s in the afternoon. There was great support from members of GBHC and parent helpers. Some of the U18s also played a big role in umpiring on the day. We had a refreshments tent selling hot dogs, cakes and tea and coffee raising funds for the club. There was also lots of support from coaches leading up to and during the day making sure things ran smoothly.

This year for the first time we entered a competitive EH In2hockey tournament, for U12 Boys, U12 girls and U10s boys/girls. The tournament took place at Haslemere Hockey club where teams were grouped in to pool matches and then playing for placement. Each of the teams we entered did very well and were playing against some more experienced teams and teams we had not played before. This was also the first time that the U12 girls played as an all girls team.

U12s has been a successful year for membership with matches being played with a mixture of boys and girls sometimes also fielding keen U10s players when they have been short. It has sometimes been oversubscribed on match days but still not enough to field boys and girls only teams. The team is quite new so it’s been challenging playing against some more experienced teams.

U18s this season have still not been able to enter a competitive league unfortunately, again with not enough players to enter a separate boys and girls teams. However a lot of the U18s have now taken the step up to adult league games in both the men’s and women’s section of the club. Also choosing to not only train with their age group but also the adults.

Hopes for 2019/20 season are to look at entering a girls U12s team and a boys U12s team. With some players from U10s moving up this might possible. Also looking at U18s to try and get some matches set up so they can play age related hockey. This will also be dependent on player numbers.

Claire Searle

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