

NORTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

North Performance Committee Report to NHA AGM 2016

Since taking on the role of Chair in January, it has been a huge learning curve. Thankfully Chris Darling has not retired from the group. His knowledge and experience remains invaluable. Apologies if this report lacks Chris's usual depth. I haven't yet managed to get fully involved in all aspects of the NPC areas of responsibility.

NPC and its sub-Committees

With the planning for fundamental changes in 2017 for the structure the Single System, this is also a turning point in the membership of the North Performance Committee and its sub-committees with a number seeing this as a time to retire. Thanks go to all but particularly to Dave Miller who has been an integral part of North and Durham junior hockey for so many years. It is also a time of welcome new members to various committees.

There is a core of members who attend NPC meetings but attendance is far from full and with meetings becoming crucial with the forthcoming implementation of the new structure, I feel the timings of meetings need reviewing. Evening meetings in Leeds may not be the best option when full attendance is important. The work of other groups, JAC, JDC, JRPC, In2Hockey and junior competitions continued to successfully complete their various programmes in 2015-16.

JRPC Preparations for the 2016 season are well advanced and virtually all coaching and managing positions have been filled. The JRPC Chairs and Vice Chairs of the three JRPCs have stayed in position and with Jane Turley administering staff applications, contracts and qualifications, there has been continuity in the administration. The chairs, vice chairs, administrators and treasurers continue to ensure that the centres are well run and provide enjoyable demanding hockey for the players. Local pre-season briefings have been well attended. All coaches are also expected to attend a coaches evening led by NAG coaches in preparation for the JRPC programme. A new position of Coach Developer has been made to support and advise the JRPC coaches in 2016. There are two, appointed by EH, for each JRPC. We can assess the value of the CD role over the summer.

JAC

The two groups, NE and NW, have successfully organised the selection tournaments that provide good competition and selection to the JRPCs. The difficulty in some JRPC Lead Coaches getting to JAC competitions and a lack of continuity with selectors has raised some issues regarding the assessment of players and selection to JRPC. These have largely been resolved before the start of the JRPC programme in June but raises the need for a review of selection to JRPC in future.

Club Competitions

In2Hockey. - Pre tournament organisation was done by Jane Turley and Louise Corkhill, and despite some late call-ups for replacement teams in the Finals, the event ran like clockwork, expertly led by Gemma Jones and her volunteers on the day.

Uniquely in Yorkshire, the U14 and U16 National Clubs Championships are successfully organised as tournaments by Phil Thomas. Ben Rhydding U16s went on to reach the final of the clubs competition at Lee Valley missing out only in a shoot-out to Surbiton.

Single System – Player Pathway

The new JRPC structure comes into action in January 2017 and there will be some fundamental changes with the establishment of a fourth JRPC, in the Preston area, The North will have more

venues than any other region because of the size of the North region, however questions do remain about whether we have sufficient players in the Durham and Preston areas of the required standard to populate them. Special arrangements will also have to be made for Isle of Man players as training will take place from January to July in the transition year (October to July subsequently), on Sundays and one Monday evening per month, with the Futures Cup being held in August. Full details, including the venues, dates, coaching should be available soon. Ann Marshall and Chris Darling both sit on the JRPC Working Group which is working to finalise the structure and staffing arrangements.

The JAC structure and programme is also being reviewed. This will run roughly in parallel with the JRPCs with competitions throughout the season and a national competition for U17s being planned. We are currently seeking two representatives from the North JACs for this group which will meet in June/July.

While I have been directly involved in the JRPCs, many others have taken responsibility for other areas under the NPC umbrella. I give many thanks to all of them for the work they do and the support I am getting while I try to grips with the scope of the NPC

Ann Marshall
Chair of NRC

May 2016