



WHC AGM 13th June 2025 – Chairman's Report

Welcome to all participating at this year's AGM, and to all Club Members reading this.

Recognition

In 2025 we once again received EH accreditation renewal as a ClubMark Club – a true reflection on the successful running and operation of our Club, and recognition of all the hugely varied hockey we provide to all Members. Winchester remains a vibrant, open and successful club for everyone.

I take this opportunity to thank all the club members who stepped up and served the club on either the main Exec committee or junior committee this year – giving their time to ensure the club functions well.

I also thank our Umpires, Coaches, team managers and team Captains who organise, motivate and make everything happen every week! We do have more people qualifying as umpires, but we still need every team to contribute more. Practising umpiring (with our club coaches) during our summer hockey games is a fantastic way to learn and be coached. Please step up now!

It has been a privilege, and fun, to collaborate with a great group of people over the last 12 months – thank you. As ever, I encourage you to get involved in the running of our club, on either the Committee, or in other ways. It's easy to get involved; there is help and support from the Committee, and opportunities to work alongside people to learn the ropes.

Headline view of 2024-25 Season

Another great season for the club, that included the re-introduction of the Women's 5th XI Tigers. After a two year hiatus its great to see M1 return to South Prem 1, and promotion for the 2nd XI too – congratulation to both on their success. Our Womens 1st XI faced a very tough year in Prem 1, with three national league teams coming back down into their league; although they just missed out on the points to stay up, I am sure with the way they were playing they will quickly return. Meanwhile our W4 and W5 (winners!) were simply awesome - blasting their way to league promotion. Well done all.

Our Junior section continues to build on its successes, with an excellent coaching and development programme, and good opportunities for all at every level. Numerous high level team performances, including the outstanding U16 boys cup final result in Nottingham (see Junior report). Our hugely valued support from our Junior sponsors HappyHotTubs enabled us to continue developing coaching and supporting our hugely successful school outreach programme at local primary schools. Our approach and support based on our EH Talent Centre accreditation enables us to provide a great coaching and development pathway for our juniors, right through to senior hockey. We thank all parents and volunteer coaches for their wonderful support.

The committee team fully supports the desire to play as much hockey as possible throughout the year, and we remain committed to putting in place as much hockey to fulfil this need as possible – once again we have seven summer hockey teams playing currently. We also have summer back to hockey sevens organised, and a full programme of junior development and taster sessions throughout the summer.

Importantly, the continued success of the Women's hockey will see us return next season with another full adult team entered – now six women's teams playing in the league. This will ensure more can play, and importantly will play more full games. I urge all Players to support their team Captain's and the Club by making themselves fully available to play every match day as far as possible in advance. It's easy to do!



Facilities

Both Kings and UoW Bar End facilities are working well for the club, albeit pitch hire costs continue to increase year on year. We still need to use out of area facilities at Ganger & Chandlers Ford to meet our needs. This shortfall has been highlighted and recognised within the Winchester City Council Pitch Playing Strategy Plan, and we are hopeful that positive action will be taken to support this.

The Club has been working closely with www.sportwinchester.org to campaign and pro-actively work with all the stakeholders involved in the development of our city. We recognise that in isolation we are unlikely to achieve this, but by working together with the Sport Winchester organisation, we believe the chances of achieving this will be much greater, as all sporting clubs combine to develop and propose good sporting strategies for Winchester City and the wider community.

Unfortunately the new Winchester College Sports Hall, now completed, is unable and unwilling to host indoor hockey, which has cancelled our intention of starting our indoor hockey programme in Winchester. The Committee continues in its search for a suitable facility.



Club Mark and Talent Centre accreditation.

The Club remains committed to working this way, and ongoing accreditation will ensure we continue to be fully prepared to retain our Talent Centre accreditation, and the wider junior programme behind this.



Club Communication

The move over to the Teamo website was delayed this season, but will be in place for the new season. It will facilitate better interface and live updates of all activities, as well as integrating our social media comms. This will also facilitate team match reports and player stats.

The Club has plenty of great news to communicate, including fixtures and results, and once again we appeal for a couple of people to come forward and lead our communications and reporting to lift the profile of our Club, both within our community and the wider hockey world. Interested? Please contact any of the Committee.

Club Socials.

The Club thanks Frankie Hallett for her work this year organising our club socials, including the season opener at the Golf range and the successful senior awards dinner at the Winchester Hotel and SPA. On the previous evening we had the opportunity to run our Junior Awards evening at the Vineyard church, where ex Winchester junior and coach Rory Penrose, now with his first England Caps, gave an inspiring talk to all.

Any ideas for this coming season's social calendar would be good – please contact the team.

Sponsorship & Fundraising

We sincerely thank Happy Hot Tubs for their continued support and sponsorship of our Junior Hockey programmes again this season - their support is truly outstanding. They make a substantial difference to our junior section, with booming number of participants, great support to the whole team, and our ambitions. Thank you.



AGM Business – matters arising.

There were no specific matters arising from the previous years AGM.

However, the Committee, as ever, responded and actioned all the things that were raised by





Members and teams within the normal operation of the Club in a year. Members can raise any idea or point to be addressed to and by the Committee, but are politely reminded not to take any direct action that commits the club in any way, outside of the regular committee meetings..

Looking forward – planning the new season.

Again, we are already planning our start to the new season, with league entries confirmed and Cup competition entries planned.

At the EH AGM this April, a motion was passed for EH to recover costs, and financially support coach & umpire development, schools hockey, and ongoing TV coverage. This will be covered by a substantial increase in our club EH affiliation costs, which we will need to cover by an increase in subs, as will be explained in the finance and accounts report. This is beyond our control.

Furthermore – all members, including Juniors will need to be registered on GMS for the purposes of insurance. This GMS note will be communicated to all Members separately in July.

Our core objective remains to provide excellent playing and development opportunity for all our members – U8 to Vets, with aspirations to compete at the highest levels possible. Our 1st XI teams and U18 teams represent the pinnacle of our aspirations, and we will continue to support their performance objectives, and to compete at the highest levels possible.

Our commitment to coaching and player development continues, and the club remains committed to providing over 40 hours of coaching a week during season. We continue to welcome & encourage parents and players to develop their coaching / umpiring skills and take the necessary EH courses.

TeamFuture2030 . In July we will be launching a select team of people who will help by contributing to making our plans for the future a reality – away from the day2day club operations but focussed on taking the club to the next step. I would encourage anyone who believes in the future and wants to be part of this team to contact me and help make this happen. More details to follow.

Our reputation for being an excellent sporting club remains paramount – when winning and losing – the same positivity. Our Club reputation across the umpiring world is critical – both to visiting appointed umpires and equally to our own home umpires; ensuring we deliver excellent communication and provide suitable good post-match entertainment. Your help is appreciated.

Wishing everyone across the WHC Club a happy and safe summer. I look forward to catching up pitch-side before too long. Any questions or comments please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Andy Craig

Chairman

Chairman@winchesterhc.co.uk

14th May 2025



easyfundraising

This is a simple request. **Could just 360 player members and juniors / parents please sign up** and use this no cost, easy to use fundraising system. If you registered and used this, **we could raise**

£20,000 a year which would transform the finances of the club and what we could do. Simple – see website – **please just do it.** [£3.5k+ raised from 39 supporters!]

