



**Winchester Hockey Club – 2024-25 Season**  
**Junior Chairman Report**

2024-25 has been another successful season for the junior section. We have continued to strive towards our twin objectives of providing the opportunity for as many children as possible to play hockey and stretching our more motivated and talented players to maximise their abilities. Once again, we are greatly appreciative of the dedication of our team of coaches, volunteers and Happy Hot Tubs, our junior section sponsor, without whom none of our achievements would be possible. It has been wonderful to see some of our older juniors starting on their own coaching and umpiring journeys, whether that be for DofE awards, or merely the enjoyment of doing so. We were delighted to celebrate this season at our end of season awards ceremony, with recent alumni and now senior England international, Rory Penrose as special guest.

After several years of change, there has been more stability this season as we look to continue and strength the various programmes. Our coaches are working more collaboratively, and we have made a concerted effort to improve the links between the junior and senior sections. We hope that this will benefit both sections and improve the experience that the juniors have playing senior hockey.

The outreach programme continues to expand, and we have again seen strong demand for the summer introduction to hockey sessions. Our player numbers continue to increase, especially in the younger age groups, all of which feeds into a pipeline for success in the coming years. Our talent development initiatives are as popular as ever, and our age group coaches are striving to push their strongest players and top teams to greater and greater achievements. These initiatives mean that we are now providing a full spectrum of opportunities from community-based beginners to talent development for our motivated and high performing youngsters. We fully expect that the junior section will go from strength to strength over the coming years, with more players starting at an earlier age, enjoying the opportunities to participate in a healthy club environment and developing as better hockey players.

In terms of results, we are delighted that the successes, for individuals and teams, have been much more broad-based than has been the case in the past. Rory Jack and Tom Nolan were selected for the England U16s and Violet Lacey for the UK Lions U14s. We have many players representing the South Coast Talent Academy, the South Saxons and the Hampshire age groups. It is also fantastic to note the contribution of many of our juniors to the senior section successes this season. Our U10 boys, U10 girls and U12 girls all won or were runners-up in the Hampshire competition and qualified for the regional in-2-hockey finals, our U14 girls have qualified for the Supra League national finals, and our U16 boys won the England Hockey tier 1 vase and were runners up in the England Hockey indoor national finals. Each one of these is an achievement, but to have them all in one season is exceptional.

There remains a lot of work ahead to maintain this progress, but we are excited about the impact that these will have for individual players, teams, the junior section and the wider club. If you would like to be part of this journey, you are very welcome; please contact us to express your interest.

***Tim Lander***

Junior Chairman

6<sup>th</sup> May 2025