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Tynedale Juniors HC

Season Summary 25/26



Tynedale HC is proud to celebrate a fantastic 25/26 season. We are grateful for the effort and commitment from all parents, guardians and players.

It has been a wonderful year filled with lots of fun, development, and enjoyment. It has been very rewarding to see many of our juniors have become assistant coaches, and their help is greatly appreciated.

We would like to introduce our new mission statement;

“We aim to provide junior hockey with an emphasis on enjoyment and participation for all. We want all our players to develop and become as good as they can be, in a supportive and fun environment.”

Age-group Reports

U8's



This season has been a wonderful journey for our U8s team. Every player showed the true spirit of the club—having fun, learning new skills, and most importantly for some of them, giving hockey a go for the very first time. It has been a season full of smiles, enthusiasm, and great effort from all.

We focused our season not on competition or matches in this age group but on teamwork and the values that make Tynedale special. Throughout the sessions, we spoke a lot about what it means to be a team player. Our players learned the importance of encouragement and kindness, both on and off the pitch. Supporting each other, cheering teammates on, and showing respect were at the heart of everything we did. This approach created a positive and welcoming environment where every child felt valued and motivated to try their best. We are proud of how everyone embraced these lessons and carried them throughout the season.

A big thank you to all the players, parents, and coaches for making this season enjoyable and meaningful. We look forward to continuing the journey next year with the same spirit of fun, teamwork, and growth.

- Written by Sally

U10's



As ever the U10 group has been the best fun! We have doubled in size from the beginning of the season as new players have joined us, it's especially great when players bring their friends along as they are enjoying themselves so much. Our top attenders were Jemima and Henry, they both attended 21 sessions which was fabulous, there were at least 10 other players who weren't very far behind.

In October we made our first ever trip down to Stokesley to play some teams from the Teeside area, we were joined by some U8s and U12s and played in very unusual combinations, in dreadful weather! I'm always very proud of the way our players adapt to play with different teammates, Alice stepped up as a leader with great assurance. We also played in tournaments at Durham, Sunderland, Newcastle and Morpeth.

By the end of the season we could play both a boys and a girls team in the U10 In2 Northeast championship. The girls won their tournament and the boys were runners up in theirs which was fabulous. We then went on to represent the NE at the area tournaments on a really hot day in Leeds. We were joined by Theo to play in goal and George played his first match for us too, what a baptism of fire for them! It was a fabulous experience, every single player worked so hard and the teams were noticeably improved by the end of the day. It was great that Jack joined our coaching group this season and we loved it when the older juniors came along to help too.

We were able to cover all the skills EH had identified as important at U10 and are looking forward to improving them all next season. We're sad to see all the year 5s leave us to move up to U12s but are very excited about building another immense cohort of U10s.

- Written by Maggie, Andy, Jack and Steve

U12 Girls



Tynedale welcomed several new members over the year which grew the overall squad to an impressive three 7-a-side teams with subs! This enabled the coaches to allow a range of training groups, team bonds & friendships to form across the season - from playing mixed with the boys (October Carlisle tournament), to intra-Year 6 or 7 teams against some local teams (Morpeth/Newcastle/WB&T), to playing mixed Year 6-7 teams against some other opposition (Leeds Adel, Durham, In2 Tournaments).

The Northumberland-Durham U12 England In2 Hockey tournament was run & hosted by Tynedale, but at The Parks Leisure Centre, North Shields. All three girls' teams represented the club fantastically! We were thrilled that two of those teams were able to progress to the next round - one team were runners up to Morpeth, they qualified for the teams finishing 1st-8th in the YNE Area. One of our other teams finished joint third, qualifying for the tournament for teams finishing 9th-16th in the YNE Area. At those tournaments our teams played some thrilling matches, which included some great wins and also challenging moments, with flicks and shuffled. Both teams played their hearts out in incredible heat, never once letting their heads drop.

The girls have been a pleasure to coach, as their work effort is faultless, and this has led to improvements in skill level, fitness and match performance, which is great to see.

- Written by Mark

U12 Boys



Over the course of the season this fabulous, feisty bunch of lads have undergone a transformation as momentous as that of the humble barley grain on its journey to becoming a fine malt whisky.

In Sept 2025 we had an U12 squad made up entirely of forwards, no GK in sight. Notwithstanding this emphasis on attacking play, goals were hard to come by and playing 7 aside with 7 attackers left lads a wee bit exposed at the back. However, just as barley needs time to ferment, the boys took time to consider their options and to work out how best to achieve their potential. By agreement, wingers moved to the centre - and loved it; centre forwards tried defence - and realised that from there, they could dominate play; THREE lads tried GK, one took to it so well that he now plays GK for our Northumberland county team.

We felt so proud when this team took 8th in the whole of North East & Yorkshire because they achieved this through group problem-solving, making sacrifices for each other, appreciating each other's efforts and skills, learning the power of positive encouragement and - most of all - experiencing the joy of playing with a team that supports all of its members equally. A fine blend indeed. We can't wait to see where they go with more maturation.

- Written by Claire-Jane

U14 Girls



It was a tricky season for the U14 girls as our numbers are very low in that group. Our only matches were when we joined up with other clubs and their U16 girls to make composite teams. The U14 training sessions were great (thanks Russel) but unusually for Tynedale, the girls were outnumbered by the boys (which I don't think they loved!).

Having said that, our girls all progressed really well with their hockey. Evie J, Evie T, Katie, Charlotte, Poppy and Hannah all played in County teams as well as sometimes playing in our U16 team. Anna, Beth and Aurelia represented Northumberland in the first ever State County Championships, and as many of the girls that wanted to, could play in the Summer development league. It was amazing to welcome Olive, Lilly and Beth to the group. The future certainly looks bright for these players.

- Written by Maggie

U14 Boys

Yorkshire NE Open - Boys U14 Tier 2 Pool B									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	P		
1	Tynedale Boys U14	5	5	0	0	25	15		
2	Kingston-upon-Hull Boys U14	5	4	0	1	19	12		
3	Leeds Adel Boys U14	5	3	0	2	5	9		
4	Wakefield Boys U14 A	5	2	0	3	2	6		
5	Ben Rhydding Boys U14 B	5	1	0	4	-19	3		
6	Harrogate Boys U14	5	0	0	5	-32	0		



Yorkshire NE Open - Boys U14 Tier 1B									
	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	P		
1	Tynedale Boys U14	5	4	1	0	19	13		
2	Rotherham Boys U14	5	3	2	0	18	11		
3	Leeds Adel Boys U14	5	2	1	2	9	7		
4	Sheffield Boys U14 A	5	1	3	1	6	6		
5	Kingston-upon-Hull Boys U14	5	1	1	3	-15	4		
6	Thirsk Boys U14	5	0	0	5	-37	0		

This season Tynedale entered an U14 NE Hockey Tier 2 team combined with boys from Newcastle & Morpeth HCs. Three combined training sessions at the start of September generated cross-club bonds and allowed the basis of a team to form and for both defensive & offensive penalty corner routines to develop - my personal favourite is PC "Rhino" - top D entry to a fake hitter, before a switch left and "boom".

Autumn success saw the team win Tier 2 North with 4/4 wins (Leeds Adel, Hull, Harrogate and Ben Rhydding) and one walk-over victory against Wakefield. These results led to promotion from Tier 2 to Tier 1b for the post-Christmas league, which again saw Tynedale top the league with 2 wins (Sheffield TA & Leeds Adel), one draw (Rotherham) and two walk-over victories (Hull & Thirsk).

Through the matches we fielded x3 U12 boys with the rest being a 50:50 mix of U13/U14s and usually 2/3 of the overall match squad coming from Tynedale with excellent support from Newcastle/Morpeth.

The season saw lots of goals (Top Scorers Ben S & Ben H), some great saves (Zach & Charles), goal celebration of the year (Barnaby), a top-class "Tomahawk" finish (Ben H), several trips to the A1M & Wetherby Services, a revolutionary new cricket-hockey warm-up routine and generally good fun, particularly at Home post-match team dinners/picnics!

- Written by Mark

U16 Girls



This group have always been something of a trailblazing bunch: our first Tier 1 team at U14 and quarter-finalists in national KO competitions. They consistently outperform expectations through a combination of collective ambition, team spirit and individual skill - a powerful concoction! We did, however, hesitate before entering them into the U16 Tier 1 Supra League, the highest level of hockey available in their age group. Although our core team have played club hockey together since they were U12, there's only so far that a shared history can take a team. We knew that most of the clubs we would face would be dominated by girls who played together regularly at school, county, TA and ladies teams; our girls were stretched across 4 county age groups, 7 schools (not all of which offer hockey) - and few of them play ladies hockey; they only meet at Tynedale on Sunday mornings - impossible to replicate the familiarity of repeated drills and set pieces in one weekly session.

Notwithstanding our hesitation, the girls asserted their view that they should be given the chance to test themselves at the highest level, so strengthened by their resolve, we took a deep breath and plunged in. From our first match at Morpeth to our last at home against Cheltenham, we were impressed at the girls' fitness and resilience. With the exception of a particularly hard day in Leeds, the girls were in every match - a highlight being the narrow loss to an older York side where Ellie broke her ankle (I can still PLAY, it's just a bit "hurty"), Maggie also receiving a smack on the foot (lucky to avoid a break there!) and where Eva made her first appearance for us, coming off her line with courage and determination and making the York players miss their mark.

In the national KO competition, the girls exited - for a second year in a row - in the quarter-finals where we were reminded that life isn't always fair, but this is sport and we move on with good grace. Last 8 in the Plate. Not bad...but next year, with more experience, we can do better! And regardless of the result, we were proud that many of our U14s who hadn't had as much match time over the season, were able to play in the quarter-final. They'll be stronger players for that experience; and we're a stronger club because we remain committed to giving opportunities to those who feel ready to test themselves. Our teams can only compete at a high level because we are blessed with a number of superbly skilled players, a number of extremely fit players; and that they are all brave and committed. The stretch in age range means that our most ambitious youngsters have an opportunity to play alongside our more experienced girls, gaining challenge and "stretch" that few other clubs can provide.

We're particularly proud of the way that our oldest players look after the youngsters - on and off the pitch. That sporting spirit is prevalent, too, in the U16 Tier 3 team, in which those girls who didn't want to travel to fixtures played alongside our U14s, helping them make a transition to U16 hockey. Particular thanks to Corinne who volunteered to play in the Tier 1's hardest match in Leeds, making a brilliant goal-line clearance, but who also agreed to help coach others at QE rather than play herself. A club has no heart without people who are prepared to volunteer their time and we're so grateful for her support - and for all the parents and juniors who worked alongside our coaches and managers to give our U16 girls opportunities to play hockey this season. A few of you have offered support next season too and, since we're hoping to run Tier 3 and Tier 1 teams, we're keen for you to get involved!

- Written by Claire-Jane

U18 Boys



Continuing their collaboration with North Shields and WBTHC, which first began in the U14 Tier 2 league, our U18 boys - almost exclusively U17 - took on the challenge of the U18 Tier 1 National Cup.

They had the privilege of meeting last year's finalists, Doncaster, in the opening round and quickly learned what the highest level of U18 hockey looks like: Fast. Very fast. Physical. Very physical. Hewitson - who often has very little to do in goal - had the workout of his life and had to be scraped off the pitch by his team-mates post-match. A courageous effort from all in defence - which was all of the team that day. A tough day out, only marginally improved by a massive plate of roast potatoes post-match.

The lads' second match - in the Plate- was a much closer affair: on a different day, perhaps a different result. The lads showcased some excellent skills, fitness, resilience and team work - it's notable how much they communicate on the pitch which aids their organisation and sense of unity.

Regardless of score lines, over the years this bunch has had much hilarity on and off the pitch; we love that they continue to enjoy "pay & play", that they support the younger players in the development team and through coaching - and we really love the cross-club friendships this team has helped them make and which we know they will carry through their lives.

- Written by Claire-Jane

Development Team



Our development team perfectly encapsulates our club ethos: we prioritise enjoyment, participation, fun - alongside player-appropriate challenge. Any player 13+ can make themselves available for selection and we love that boys and girls of all ages play alongside each other, creating a really strong sense of "club".

Some of the best coaching our juniors get is from their team mates during these matches; our most experienced players hold up the ball whilst encouraging younger players to take up positive positions in which to receive passes, and they demonstrate how to play out of a press, "rolling" and lead-making in a way that's difficult to replicate at training.

We're particularly proud of the spirit in which Tynedale plays these matches - even when we can, we don't dominate the scoreline. Older players will offer to umpire so those who get less match time can play - and they have developed an unwritten rule that if there's a younger player in the D, a pass will be made instead of a shot on goal.

Even this team has its limits though; when we went 2-0 down against a particularly competitive team, our older players switched up a gear - one-two-give-and-go through midfield and hey presto, 2-2. Job done, they switched down again, sat back and presented a master-class in defending. Undeclared this season and winning at "the spirit of hockey". A team to be proud of.

Notable performances, when we needed them most, came from Isabella Q, Isobel McC, Eva W & Luke D.

- Written by Claire-Jane

●●● End of season Awards ●●●

🏆 Players of the year:

U10 girls - Alice Leadbetter

U10 boys - Henry Carr

U11 girls - Cecily Stewart

U12 boys - Oliver Burns

U12 girls - Isla Davies

U14 girls - Anna Pocock

U14 boys - Zach Dickens

U16 girls - Maggie Copland

U18 boys - Samuel Foot

🏆 Most improved // Runner up:

U10 girls - Florence Young // Anna Clayton

U10 boys - Benjamin Walters // Jack Perkins

U11 girls - Matilda Amey

U12 boys - Max Lukins // Edgar Woodford

U12 girls - Betsy Hope-Castonguay

U14 girls - Aurelia Kitching

U14 boys - Barnaby Stewart

U16 girls - Charlotte Bryce // Grace Powell

🏆 Junior Club Member of the Year - Ben Chambers

🏆 Runner up - Jemima Greenley



Summer Tournament & BBQ



Our annual Summer Tournament and BBQ took place on Sunday 5th July. It was a brilliant day filled with lots of fun, laughter and hockey.

We had two tournaments running over the day - the Shield, with younger juniors, parents/guardians and siblings playing, as well as the Cup with older juniors and club players playing.

The 'Marshmallows' won the Shield, and the 'Red Team' won the Cup. There was a lot of awesome hockey, teamwork and enthusiasm displayed by everyone involved.

After the hockey excitement was over, we headed to Tynedale CC, for a fabulous BBQ. It was a great reminder of the true Tynedale spirit, with all the players and families mixing, enjoying themselves and having lots of fun, alongside some delicious food.

Netherlands Tour



We are looking forward to the first 'Tynedale Tour', at the end of August, with a group of 21 players and coaches heading to the Netherlands. This is an exciting opportunity to play new opponents, make international friends and learn from the best as we watch some games at the Hockey World Cup.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the fundraising for this trip with their baking, as well as buying raffle tickets!

2026/27 Season

Training for the 26/27 season will begin on **Sunday 30th August**.

Timings:	Age group:	Coaches:
09:00 - 10:15	U12 (year 6)*	Mark, Steve, Andy & Jill
10:15 - 11:30	U16/18**	Mark & Claire-Jane
11:30 - 12:45	U14	Russel, Sophie & Henry
12:45 - 14:00	U10	Maggie, Jack, Duncan, Vanessa & Nicky
12:45 - 14:00	U8	Sally, Erika & Sue

*There will be an additional U12 session for year 7's Friday evenings, 5:45-7:00, starting Friday 4th September. All players affected by these U12 tweaks, will receive an email from Mark to explain it all in more detail.

**There may also be a midweek session for this agreement group, depending on numbers.