

Hampton in Arden Sports Club
Hockey Section AGM Report 2024

Hampton Hockey continues to be a fantastic, family friendly hockey club. Currently offering competitive hockey for 5x Mens Teams, 3x Ladies Teams, a Vets teams, a Badgers team (u16 with an adult) and junior teams from u8 through to u16.

This season's focus as a club is to maintain our senior teams league positions whilst pushing for promotion for our Men's and Ladies 1s. As part of this aim, securing promotion for Men's 2s will help raise the standard of the 1s and 2s squad as a whole and solidify our position as a place to play hockey at a competitive level and keep pace with local teams. We continue to look to recruit new players to strengthen the depth of our squads - something which has hindered some teams this year.

A priority for all teams is to continue to push our young talent. We are extremely proud to see so many u18s in our top teams.

Special mention must go to Ryan Bennett and Archie Goodrem for being selected for England u16s. Our international honours go further with Jean Scott Miller's selection for England 70s and as vice-captain, Tony Brimble's selection for England o60s and as Captain, Greg Wade's selection for England o45s, Daffyd Bowles selection for England o40s, and Scott Angliss' selection for England o35s.

Our coaching team do a fantastic job at delivering hockey to the whole club. This season we have adjusted weekly training to facilitate Men's training on a Tuesday and Ladies training on a Wednesday. We have added a second coach to both sessions allowing for both a performance element and a team focus each night.

A huge thank you to Ricardo Tomassoni, for his work with the Ladies 1s and Ladies club training and, Greg Wade for his support with the Men's section and taking on a player coach role for the M1s.

A big aim from last year was to develop our junior provision. Helen Bowles has taken on the role of junior coordinator and along with a brilliant team of volunteer coaches has seen a rejuvenation in Sunday morning sessions. This has been reinforced by the new sports club junior membership making it easier for new players to join the hockey section. Special mention to John Horton, Nic Gotrel, Sarah Ginn, and John Grundy for their continued support and enthusiasm for the junior section.

Socially, we are pleased to see an increase in players staying for post-match teas after games. This is a requirement of the league, and we are extremely thankful to Faith for keeping everyone well fed! Our social calendar, which this year has included Christmas karaoke, has been a great success which continues to encourage members to support our fantastic bar. We are also exploring more ways to include our junior members in these events.

Current season highlights include progression into the 3rd round of the England Tier 1 Mixed Competition, our u16s beating Newport in the first round of the cup and our M1s drawing Guernsey in the first round of the England Hockey Championship. This resulted in a fantastic weekend away but sadly the team lost on penalty shuffles after drawing 3-3 to a side who made the semi-finals last year.

I would like to thank Jackie Minshull for the countless hours she invests into the section and Warrick Laverick for his continued dedication to the role of chairman. He, along with the rest of the committee, continue to drive the club forward. Lastly, I would also like to thank Hampton in Arden Recreation Trust for their hard work to provide us with a top quality surface on which to play hockey.

April will see the end of the season which we will celebrate with our annual dinner at West Midlands Golf Club. We will continue to provide hockey over the summer for all ages and abilities with summer leagues and social hockey.