

Welcome to the Yorkshire and Humberside (Y&H) region's report for February 2016. This report aims to look at how the Y&H region will look at implementing the five strategic aims (Grow our Participation, Deliver International Success, Increase our Visibility, Enhance our Infrastructure and Be a Strong and Respected Governing Body) in order to become a region where hockey matters.

### Tony Moffatt

We begin 2016 with great sadness. Tony Moffatt will always be remembered by the North Office and Yorkshire and Humberside as a truly committed ally to England Hockey. I personally will miss his no-nonsense approach to meetings, his sense of humour and his unbelievable ability to grasp the bigger picture for the benefit of the game. He was incredibly approachable and I knew he always had my back. My thoughts are with his family and friends at this time.

## GROW OUR PARTICIPATION

### Affiliation Completed

Congratulations to all the Y&H clubs who managed to affiliate before the deadline. Y&H now have 71 affiliated clubs and since the 2014/15 season have shown a 7.3% growth in the numbers of players. Nationally we have seen an increase of approximately 9,000 new players since last season.

Of the 71 clubs in Y&H, 33 clubs have shown growth, 17 have remained stable and 21 have shown a decrease in numbers. We believe there are many reasons for this. Towards the beginning of this season we campaigned in Y&H to ensure that "Every Member Counts", based on our player definition, this has contributed highly as it encouraged clubs to look at their complete playing membership. The process of accurate counting has recorded that some clubs have significantly increased their member base, as the table below suggests, whilst other clubs have shown a decrease. Although this may seem disappointing, we now have a more accurate account of the players in our area. Overall moving the deadline and making sure every member counts have had a positive correlation.

**Table 1.** The percentage growth of clubs between 2014/2015 and 2015/2016

	2015/2016 Affiliation	Season	2014/2015 Affiliation	Season	Percentage Growth
North Region	25,612		23,954		6.92
Yorkshire and Humberside	8,544		7,959		7.35

We cannot just attribute counting properly to the successful growth in Y&H as many clubs work very hard at attracting new members through initiatives including, Back 2 Hockey, RUSH Hockey, Club School Links, Satellite Clubs, having better relationships with Universities and Colleges and club mergers with Universities to name a few. We are continually working hard this season to support clubs to grow.

## **Summer of Fun – Back to Hockey Campaign 2016**

Taking place from **9th May to 19th June 2016** our Back to Hockey (B2H) 2016 national campaign promises to be bigger and better than ever as we aim to attract thousands of players back to hockey. Last year over 243 clubs delivered sessions and 4,440 players took part. Based on feedback from players, towards the end of this campaign we are also encouraging local clubs to come together and play small sided games against each other.

Many clubs have very successful summer get-togethers and leagues and in Y&H a small amount of money has been put aside to help with the facility hire if clubs do want to try and get together. Information regarding our latest B2H campaign will be send directly to clubs soon.

### **HockeyFest on Tour**

This summer, in celebration of the Women’s Champions Trophy and the Olympics in Rio, England Hockey will be encouraging clubs across the country to get involved in small-sided games. Clubs can get together in a fun, sociable and competitive format to play each other or mix everyone up to play games on an informal basis.

A series of small-sided regional festivals will be taking place across the country. Primarily aimed at current players, shorter games (circa 15-20 minute) will see between 6 and 9 pitches running at any one time (three pitches across one Artificial Grass Pitch). We will be using the festivals as an opportunity for players to play small-sided games with a view that more clubs will offer alternative versions of the game alongside 11v11 more regularly in the future.

A team can consist of up to 10 players who can enter into one of ten categories below. The events will have a festival feel to them and is as much about the sociable off-pitch activities as well as playing the game. Whilst the festival will be at a venue for the weekend, each category will run on one day. The venue for Yorkshire festival will be Leeds on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Clubs can sign up via EH website from February 2016.

**Table 2.** HockeyFest on Tour categories

<b>Categories</b>				
Men’s adult*	Women’s adult*	Boys under 16	Boys under 14	Girls under 12
Mixed adult*	Families	Girls under 16	Girls under 14	Girls under 12

\*Adult classed at 16+

## **INCREASE OUR VISIBILITY**

### **Hockey on TV - Super 6s**

BT Sport televised live the delivery of an excellent Super 6's National indoor hockey finals on Sunday 31st January 2016. BT Sport’s audience peaked at 75k and there was plenty of social media interaction so the day was positive for the visibility of our sport.

It was great to see so many people enjoying their day out with us and it’s always a highlight when the international players get mobbed at the autograph signings. No doubt those children will remember meeting their heroes for years to come.

## **Women's Champions Trophy**

The Women's Champions Trophy is an international hockey tournament held by the International Hockey Federation. A biennial women's tournament was added to the men's competition in 1987. It features the world's top-ranked women's teams competing in a round-robin format.

This world class event is coming to Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, hockey's Olympic legacy venue on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, on **18th to 26th June 2016**. This is your chance to join Great Britain's Olympic stars on their journey to Rio in the last tournament before the highlight of the 2016 hockey calendar, the summer Olympic Games. Don't miss out. Tickets to all the days of the Women's Champions Trophy 2016 are [on sale here!](#)

## **ENHANCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **England Hockey Workshops and Courses**

We continue to make available workshops and courses and they are always advertised extensively to all clubs in and around Y&H. Recently we have had to cancel two workshops due to lack of interest; the Great Britain Coaching Club Programme – Engaging Games for Children workshop, that was supposed to be running on 31st January 2016 at Doncaster HC, and the Time to Listen workshop that would have been running 4th February 2016 at Wakefield HC.

This is extremely disappointing as we are told by clubs that they want these workshops and yet we have to cancel them. We do understand that we can't accommodate a day and time for everyone but we have to select a venue that is as local as possible to the whole region and we have to pick a date that we can get a tutor. Below are the workshops and courses we have available to book on to. Please circulate these to as many people as possible.

For more information or to book onto an umpiring course, please click on [find a course](#) or to book onto a workshop please click on [find a workshop](#).

### **Great Britain Coaching Club Programme – Coaching for Talent Workshop**

**Leeds Grammar School** – 11 April 2016

### **Umpiring Courses**

**Doncaster HC** – Level 1 Umpire Course – 21 February 2016

**Harrogate HC** – Level 1 Umpire Course – 28 February 2016

**Hull University** – Level 1 Umpire Course – TBC

## **BE A STRONG AND RESPECTED GOVERNING BODY**

### **What Makes A Great Club?**

Our club development support is continuous and we are working with a number of clubs to develop the seven key components from the survey. The seven components identified are Leadership, Facilities, People, New Ways to Play, Sociable, Community and Stretching. Of the 26 clubs I've met with there have been two key themes for development and support that have regularly been highlighted. These are People and Facilities with Community coming in a close third.

To try and address the People component, we will be working closer with clubs to find out what their current supply of coaches is in each club and if there are any shortfalls. We will also be looking at the club's aspirations for growth and to find out what 'people' they may need in the future. We will be coming out to clubs with a coaching audit tool to enable us to analyse this information and to help design coach education programmes going forward based on the findings of the new audit tool.

With regard to Facilities these are usually quite an individual concern as they differ whether you are an asset owner or if you hire your facilities. Some issues raised include the condition of the pitches, for example, Huddersfield Dragons HC's pitch and Tadcaster Magnets HC's pitches are in very poor condition. We have arranged for independent condition tests to be carried out to enable the club to have better conversations with the facility owners about maintenance and the ongoing financial commitment required by the club.

In regard to the Community component and establishing connections, we have been able to foster links with local primary and secondary schools for some clubs and have been successful in getting these funded through the respective County Sports Partnerships. Clubs involved with Sport England's Satellite Club programme include Brigg HC, Driffield HC, Doncaster HC, Rotherham HC and Leeds HC. Other Club School Links exist across the area where clubs have been proactive in approaching the schools and releasing coaches into the schools to deliver.

**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016**

**Heather Douglas**

England Hockey's Relationship Manager for Yorkshire and Humberside