**Corsham Hockey Club Junior Section Report for 2019/20 Season**

The 2019/20 Season represented the end of an era for Corsham Juniors as we bid a sad goodbye to previous Junior Chair, Carolien van Dongen (who returned to The Netherlands) and the Club’s Head Coach, Jackie Stanley. Both of these amazing women had dedicated themselves to the growth and development of the Junior Section since it’s inception 5 years ago and had both worked tirelessly and selflessly in their roles. So, these were very big shoes to fill! I am pleased to say, though, that the Junior Section continues to grow and thrive and I would like to thank all those who have rolled up their sleeves and helped out during the season. The two main development priorities for the year were:

1. **Junior Safeguarding - the aim was to raise the profile of Safeguarding within the Club and ensure we met ClubMark standards:**

* Corsham HC specific face-to-face safeguarding training was held and all regular volunteers completed the session to EH requirements (thank you to our sponsors i3Works for funding this)
* All regular junior volunteers and Club officials now have an up-to-date DBS
* Development of Junior Safeguarding Information card (delayed by Covid 19)

1. **Expansion of Junior Coaching - thank you to everyone who contributed to the fantastic coaching of the Junior squads over the season.**

* We welcomed a whole new coaching team for the U8s/U10s - Mo Hooker, Sara Sharkey and Jo Aldred. Supported by Ro Lamb as Squad Manager.
* Lorraine Robinson and Leon Chignell stepped up to coach and manage the U12s
* Mike Aldred and Mike Tolley both provided specific goal keeper coaching
* Matty Lewis, Joe McAllister and TJ supported me to run the Academy coaching sessions for the U14 and U16s.
* We had several Club players and parent helpers pitch in and help out on an ad hoc basis meaning we were able to hit our adult:child ratios each week.
* Our new young leaders turned up every week without fail: Rachel Andrews, Abby McCracken-Dunn, Katie Chapman, Zoe Stansfield-Cox
* Several of the new coaches attended the Introduction to Hockey training course in January 2020 which was run by England Hockey at Corsham HC (thank you to our sponsors Bellway Homes for funding this).

**Competitions:**

Corsham Juniors were well represented at the Avon League (U12s), Wiltshire Festivals (U8s, U10s, U12 and U14s) and the Wiltshire County In2Hockey Tournament (U10s & U12s).

For our older Juniors we participated for the first time in the Wiltshire Badgers & Vixens Leagues which were a great success. Thank you to Debbie Barefoot and Gavin & Carol Johnson for leading these teams.

**Wiltshire County Academy Centre representation:**

Corsham HC had several young players selected to represent Wiltshire County and train throughout the year at Academy Centres and we can see their impact in our senior teams at Corsham.

**Moving forward the Junior** **Section needs a team of people to run it as opposed to just one person**. So, it is proposed that a Junior Committee is formed comprising: Junior Chair, Junior Secretary (Vice Chair), Junior Head Coach, Parent representatives x 2. Under this structure the Squad Coaches & Managers for each age group (U8s, U10s, U12s and U14s Boys/Girls) will become more autonomous while being supported by the Head Coach.