

IGNITING A PASSION

for Hockey





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Chair and CEO message

It is with great pride that we welcome you to our Annual Report for the year 2024/25. This year has been a testament to the sector's resilience and unwavering commitment to excellence. As we reflect on our journey over the past twelve months, we are reminded of the progress we have made, the challenges we have overcome, and the opportunities that lie ahead.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the clubs, volunteers, players, coaches, umpires, officials, and committee members who work tirelessly to make hockey possible year-round. Despite the challenges, your dedication has been nothing short of amazing, and we deeply appreciate your hard work and commitment to our beloved sport.

At the grassroots level, it's encouraging to see the number of adult hockey teams holding steady compared to last year. Hockey has demonstrated remarkable resilience in the post-Covid era, faring well against other team sports. Junior hockey remains robust, with clubs reporting healthy participation across all levels.

We're also thrilled to see gender equality thriving in our sport, even amid concerns about the rising popularity of girls' and women's football and cricket. Our stance remains firm and inclusive: as long as hockey continues to offer fantastic experiences nationwide, opportunities for growth and success will only increase.

Our achievements this year have been notable

Launched our new 3-year strategy in July 24. This strategy has provided clarity for all stakeholders. Our vision – Igniting a passion for Hockey by delivering on 3 strategic pillars, provides a clear direction for the sport in the coming years and enables key stakeholders with the opportunity to collaborate on areas with shared objectives.

Our aims are clear

ENGAGE – Hockey for everyone, everywhere, in multiple variations, and on different surfaces.

COMPETE – The ability to spectate or compete in hockey, nurturing a fun and exciting atmosphere.

PERFORM – Consistently challenge and inspire with our International Performance.

"Our stance remains firm and inclusive: as long as hockey continues to offer fantastic experiences nationwide, opportunities for growth and success will only increase."



We have realigned our team, expanded our range of partners, and embraced new services that are driving efficiency and sustainability for Hockey. These accomplishments are a direct result of the dedication and hard work of our talented team, the loyalty and trust of our members, and the unwavering support of our partners.

Despite a challenging economic environment, a revised funding model for sport in Wales, the cost of living and inflation we delivered a sound financial performance. Delivering a new financial plan and identifying efficiencies and savings for our future, has been a very deliberate act by the board.

We are thankful to Sport Wales and Welsh Government for their continued financial support, which enables us to deliver on the objectives of the Partnership agreement and the Vision for Sport in Wales.

On the pitch we have seen another incredible year!

It has been a tremendous year for athletes representing Great Britain, there were 10 athletes within the GB set up 5 at senior level and 5 at Elite Development (EDP). 4 Players went on to represent GB

at the Paris Olympics. A huge Congratulations to Sarah Jones, Jacob Draper, Rupert Shipperley and Gareth Furlong.

It's fantastic to see Wales punching well above its weight and a huge congratulations to all involved. As we move into 25/26, we have already exceeded this number, with Wales having 11 athletes in the new GB pathway ahead of the LA games in 2028.

At the club level, the indoor league went from strength to strength thanks to the outstanding efforts from Darren Morgan-Lock and volunteers. The stage is set for an even bigger and better competition in 2025/26. Plans are well underway to see the emergence of a North Wales indoor league.

Cardiff & Met Men continue to excel, winning the indoor league and maintaining their Premier league status, a significant achievement for the club. The women's section has won their league and will be promote to National league in 25/26.

Within schools, the team listened to feedback and made some operational changes, that made schools hockey easier to access and create teams. These changes resulted in a 25% increase in entries, with the largest growth in boys' teams. A big thank you to Christ College, Brecon who supported us with hosting a series of successful final events.

Masters' hockey continues to flourish, with Wales sending multiple age groups to the World Cups in South Africa and New Zealand. A very special mention goes to the Womens over 65s, who returned home with a silver medal.

Further detail is provided on all aspects of hockey through this report.

Finally, a very big thank you to all the players, coaches, umpires, officials, and volunteers who make hockey so special. Your commitment and hard work keep our sport thriving. We hope you enjoy reading about the vital role you play in our great team sport of hockey.

Thank you for everything you do!

Diolch,



Bill Riley
Chair



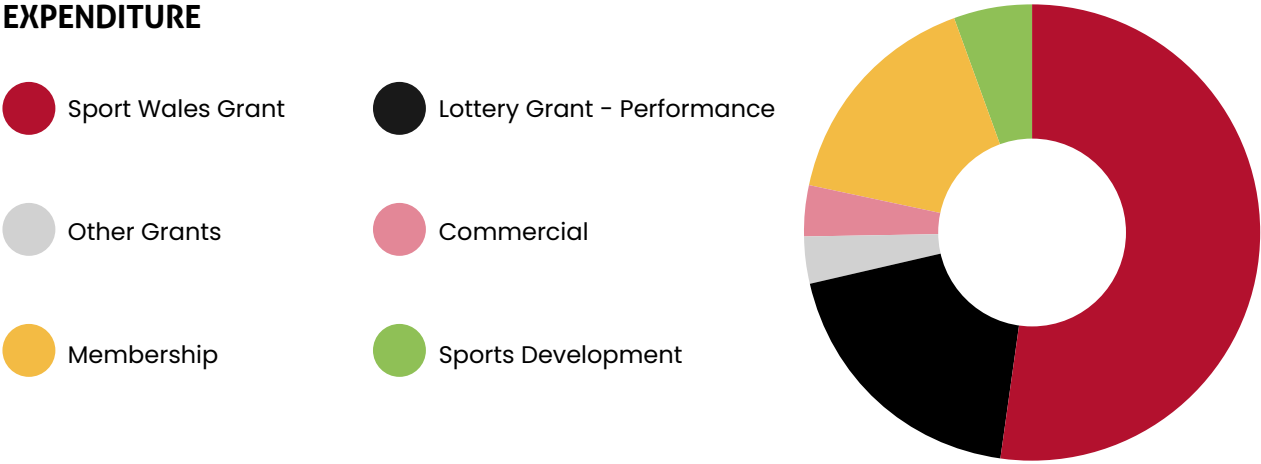
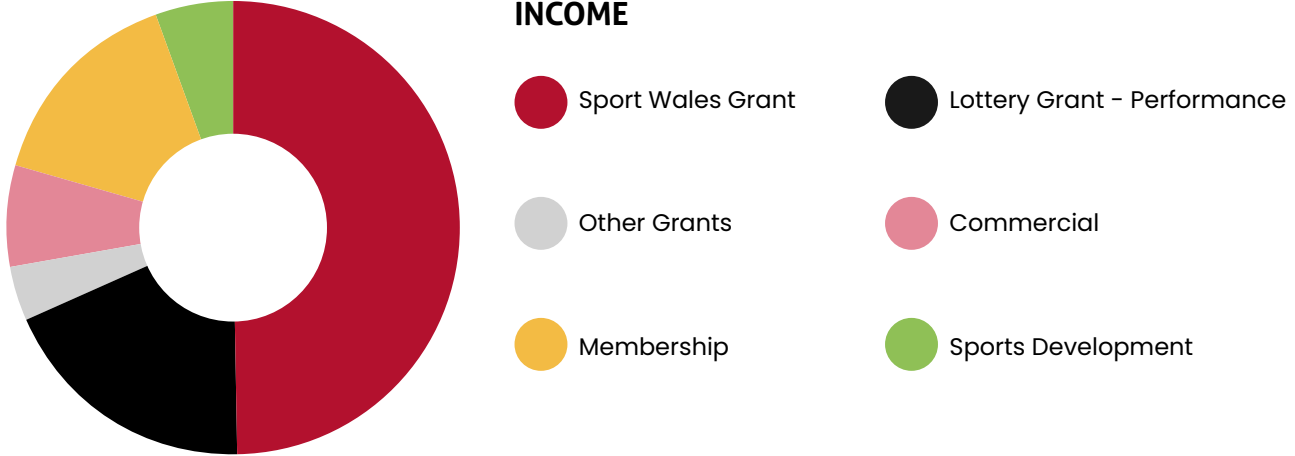
Paul Whapham
Chief Executive Officer



Financial report

Income	
Sport Wales Grant	£509,654
Lottery Grant – Performance	£191,260
Other Grants	£38,942
Commercial	£73,562
Membership	£155,234
Sports Development	£54,512
TOTAL	£1,023,164

Expenditure	
Sport Wales Grant	£509,654
Lottery Grant – Performance	£191,260
Other Grants	£33,574
Commercial	£36,767
Membership	£155,234
Sports Development	£54,512
TOTAL	£981,001



Hoci Cymru staff 2024/25

Board of Directors

Paul (Bill) Riley Elected Director, Chair, Competitions TAG Chair

Kate Williams Elected Director

Andrea Byrne Appointed Director

David Francis Appointed Director, Senior Independent Director

David Hagendyk Appointed Director

Jeevan Chagger Appointed Director

Debbie Wakeford Appointed Director & Company Secretary

Paul Whapham Chief Executive

Martyn Gallivan President (non-voting)

Robert Croft Appointed Director (*until May 2024*)

Tony O'Regan Elected Director (*until Dec 2024*)

Staff

Paul Whapham Chief Executive Officer

Joe Gage PT Director of Development & Participation

Amanda Roberts Events Manager

Kevin Johnson PT Director of Performance

Stephanie Bullen PT.... Performance Coordinator

Ella Jackson Pathway & Compliance Manager

Sydney Davies PT Performance Media & PR Lead

Jane Price Business Support Manager

Matt Davis PT Hockey Development Officer (South East) (*from January 2025*)

Chelsea Jenkins Hockey Development Officer (South West)

Cerys Studt Hockey Development Officer (North)

Bethan Collier PT Community Support Officer (*until August 2024*)

Harriet Barker PT Hockey Development Officer (South East) (*until November 2024*)

Alice Gregory Projects Manager (*until February 2025*)

Geat Britain President



Shelia Morrow, Great Britain President and Hoci Cymru Life member

In February 2025, Shelia Morrow, Great Britain President, confirmed that she will be stepping down from her role.

Shelia, who has served in the role since 2017, has been a pivotal figure in the sport, bringing a wealth of experience and dedication to the development of hockey in Great Britain.

Under Sheila’s leadership as GB Hockey President, the organisation has seen significant growth and success, including the continued development of both the men’s and women’s programmes. Her tenure has been marked by a commitment to inclusivity, innovation, and excellence within British hockey.

On behalf of everyone in Welsh Hockey, we would like to extend our deepest thanks to Sheila for her outstanding service and leadership and wish her all the best for the future.

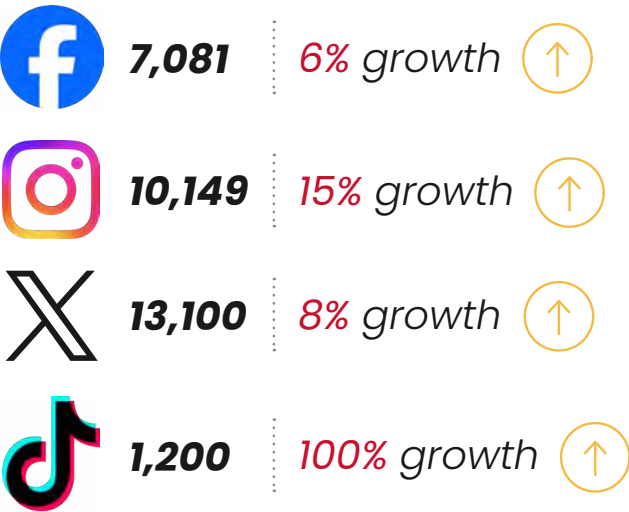
For further Information, [click here](#).

“It has been an immense privilege to serve as President of Great Britain Hockey. Hockey has been a defining part of my life, and I am incredibly proud of the progress we have made in growing and promoting the sport.”

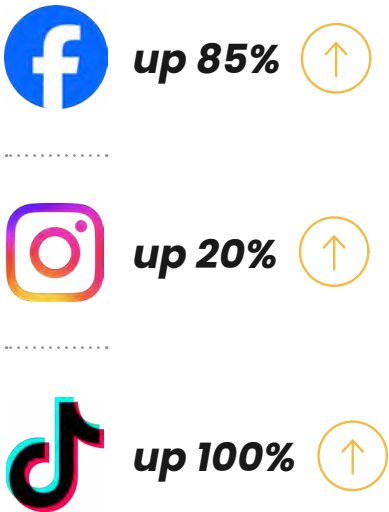
“I would like to thank all the players, coaches, officials, and volunteers who make British hockey the thriving community that it is today, and trust my successor enjoys their period of tenure as much as I have.”

Social Media engagement

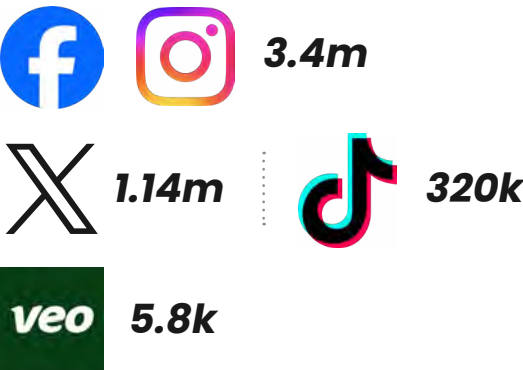
Followers



Published content



Views/impressions



Newsletter

	Hoci Cymru	Industry average
Subscribers	5k+	N/A
Unique open rate	54%	40%
Click rate	10%	2-4%
Unique click rate	8%	2-4%

ENGAGE



Facilities and funding

Over **£205,000** invested into hockey facilities across Wales



Rydal Penrhos School
– **£168,313** invested

Thanks to grant funding from Sport Wales Pitch Collaboration Group, a crucial investment has secured a new pitch in North Wales at Rydal Penrhos School, supporting club and community access. Located near Eirias Hockey Club, this facility increases capacity for matches and training.

A community use agreement ensures broader access for masters hockey, Welsh national teams, and any teams – with added benefits including access to surrounding indoor facilities and a dedicated viewing area.

Read more about it: [click here](#)

£60,000+ invested into club development

15 clubs across Wales accessed the Be Active Wales Fund this year, supporting a range of initiatives that strengthen grassroots hockey.

Funding was used to:

- Deliver coaching and volunteer development courses
- Purchase essential training equipment
- Run youth and adult hockey sessions to attract new players
- Running initiatives like walking hockey and summer programs

This investment has helped clubs grow their offer, develop their people, and create more opportunities for communities to get active through hockey.

National Hockey Centre – **£45,000** invested



Upgrades at the National Hockey Centre have enhanced performance, safety, and the spectator experience.

Key improvements include:

- AP Capture for live match coding and analysis
- New seating and segregation zones for officials, players, and spectators
- Enhanced streaming and scoreboard tech to meet FIH standards

These developments support Welsh national teams, Cardiff & Met, masters, and community teams, while significantly boosting the visibility of hockey in Wales and creating new commercial and performance opportunities.



Safeguarding

Regular check-ins with Club Welfare Officers (CWOs) have helped refresh and reinforce our reporting processes. These sessions provided updated guidance and created space for questions and feedback.

As a result, we launched the 'Safeguarding Network' on Spond, inviting all CWOs to share best practice and engage in weekly discussions. New resources and updates are circulated regularly, strengthening our collective approach to safeguarding.



Achieved Level 3 Safeguarding Standard – May 2024

We proudly secured the Level 3 CPSU Safeguarding Standard, supported by strong club engagement, effective reporting, and ongoing feedback.



25% Increase in Safeguarding Reports

While we aim to reduce the number of concerns, the 25% rise in recorded reports (via our online form and MyConcern) reflects improved awareness and confidence in using our processes. It provides a more accurate picture of the challenges faced in our sport, helping us identify areas where we can offer better support, reduce pressure on volunteers, and prevent issues before they escalate.

- 'Safe Socials' Week – myth-busting content to encourage reporting
- Increased visibility of safeguarding across the season
- Ongoing feedback loop with clubs to improve our support and resources

A special thank you to our members and Club Welfare Officers for your commitment to safeguarding, for following processes, and for helping to keep hockey in Wales a safe, supportive environment for everyone.



Thanks to the incredible work of Steve Knight and Phil Bailey, our Heritage Project continues to grow in both reach and impact.


- **250+** vintage items digitised and restored – dating back to 1895
- **559** alumni contacts collated – **253** women and **306** men
- Rare historical images brought back to life for future generations
- Over **90** attendees joined our annual Caps Celebration Event, where **39** alumni received their first international cap for representing Wales

Now in its final year of funding, the project has built real momentum. We're now turning our focus to capturing the rich histories of clubs across Wales – helping raise awareness of hockey's journey through the decades.



If your club has stories, photos, or memorabilia to share, please get in touch with us at:

or check out the project online:

 www.hockeywales.org.uk/hockey-heritage



A huge thank you to the **National Heritage Fund** for their ongoing support and contributions – enabling us to reconnect with our roots and celebrate the history of hockey in Wales.



Hoci Cymru caps celebration event 2024

Hoci Cymru was thrilled to be joined by 39 alumni at this year's caps celebration event where they received their first cap for representing Wales! We were joined by over 90 people, with alumni's friends and families joining them on this special occasion, there was plenty of laughter, tears, and hugs!

During this afternoon of reminiscing, we had a Q&A with two of our alumni, David Hacker and Eirianwen Thomas, where they shared their experiences and memories representing Wales and in David's case, GB as well. Further speeches came from Hoci Cymru CEO, Paul Whapham, one of our amazing Hoci Cymru Volunteer Historians, Phil Bailey, Hoci Cymru Project Manager, Alice Gregory, and closing the day off we had Hoci Cymru Young Ambassador, Lily Morgan, presenting on her work on Neurodiversity In Sport.

To see more of this event, please click [here](#)



◀ Margaret Richardson

In 1962, Margaret Richardson was part of the first-ever Welsh hockey team - men's or women's - to defeat England, securing a 1-0 win at Wembley Stadium in front of more than 60,000 fans!



Howie Williams' children, Kate and Adam, with his Caps

Equality, diversity and inclusion

- Over 370 disabled pupils/ participants attended food & fun, school festivals, DSW multi-sport festivals or our 'come and try' sessions.
- 6 inclusion drop-in events delivered in collaboration with Disability Sport Wales and University of Wales Trinity Saint David
- Activity at 7 ALN schools
- Engaged with 8 local authorities (Newport, Gwent, Cardiff, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire)
- Disability Hockey Club being developed in Neath Port Talbot, through our ongoing partnership with NPT PASS
- Lily Morgan (former YA) awarded the Youth Changemaker Young Activist of the Year for her outstanding work raising awareness and advocating for neurodiversity in sport
- RALPHH – defibrillators installed at 7 venues



RURAL AREAS:

West

- **Fishguard:** hard to travel due to it being so far west. Partnerships with Fishguard and Goodwick hockey club, Sport Pembrokeshire, Fishguard Leisure Centre, Ysgol Bro Gwaun (Leadership Award) and Hockey Young Ambassadors. Attended half term events in free school meal areas and supported children from army families. Hwyl Hoci Summer camps run with support of the club and Hockey Young Ambassadors. Club have been successful with the Be Active Fund Wales.
- **Carmarthenshire:** partnership with Carmarthenshire hockey club and Carmarthenshire sports network to achieve more engagement and participation. With Hoci Cymru's support Carmarthen hockey club went into primary and secondary schools to deliver hockey sessions to give the opportunity to those schools across the local authority. They targeted over 650 pupils across the local authority, and they've seen an increase in junior participation.
- **Cwmtawe:** worked in partnership with Cwmtawe Hockey club, Sports Powys, Ysgol Maesydderwen (leadership award – 20 new Hockey Leaders), Freedom Leisure Ystradgynlais. Primary school festival with over 200 pupils in attendance. Cwmtawe's hockey club's junior section has tripled since the festival and now attend more hockey events. We have an engagement Hwyl Hoci Camp and an Inclusion camp in the summer and have also started a Walking Hockey Club (age 17–82).

East:

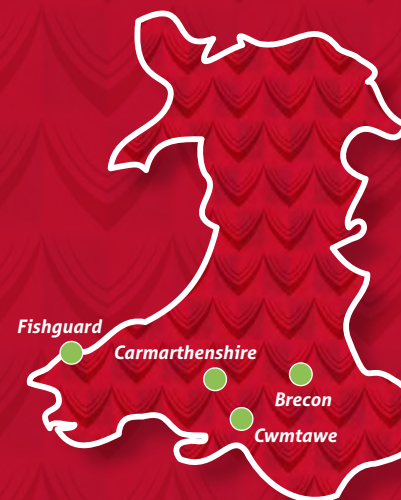
- **Christ College Brecon:** To bring as much hockey to the area as possible National School Finals were hosted at the school in 2025 and a new residential hockey camp offered in May 2025.



Fishguard



Cwmtawe



Carmarthenshire



- **Food & Fun 2024** - **1343+** pupils, **49** schools, **13** Local Authorities, **5** inclusion-specific sites.
- **Donated equipment** - **12** primary schools and **5** secondary schools.
- **Action for Children** - In partnership with Action for Children, Ospreys in the community and Gower College, Swansea.com stadium was host to **540** pupils who participated in physical activity focusing on support for their mental health and wellbeing.
- **Gareth Bale's Festival of Sport (in partnership with StreetGames)** - The aim of the event was to provide opportunities for young people living in low income, underserved communities to try a range of different sports and activities. 103 Young People, age between 11-18, from 9 different communities attended the 2024 festival, held at Celtic Manor, Newport.



Event Headline Statistics 2024/25

Event name	Average event footfall	No. engaged in hockey
Royal Welsh Agricultural Show	100,000	1200
Action for Children	600	540
Para-Festival - Disability Sport Wales	200	100
Actif Young Ambassador festival	150	150
NPT PASS Para Festival	80	80
Gareth Bales' Festival of Sport	100	100
RR81 charity event	300	250

ETHNIC MINORITIES:

- **Neath Port Talbot** - we have done a lot of work and engagement with St Joseph's Catholic Junior School. The school speaks a total of 11 languages across all pupils. They have attended primary school festivals, and we have attended the school on multiple occasions for taster sessions and theme weeks such as mental health week and India week where they learnt about the culture of India (hockey = national sport). We have also donated equipment to the school to enable continued participation and encourage the school's ongoing involvement in local events.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, YOUNG AMBASSADORS & VOLUNTEERS:



County pathway

October 2024 marked the beginning of our successfully rebranded County Pathway for the second consecutive year. Eight counties from across Wales took part, including:

- Dyfed
- Cardiff
- Afan Nedd Tawe
- Northeast
- Eryri
- South Coast
- Gwent
- Glamorgan Valleys



This year, we received over **800** player nominations from schools and clubs—a **33.3%** increase from **600** in 2023/24—with all nominated players aged between 13 and 17.

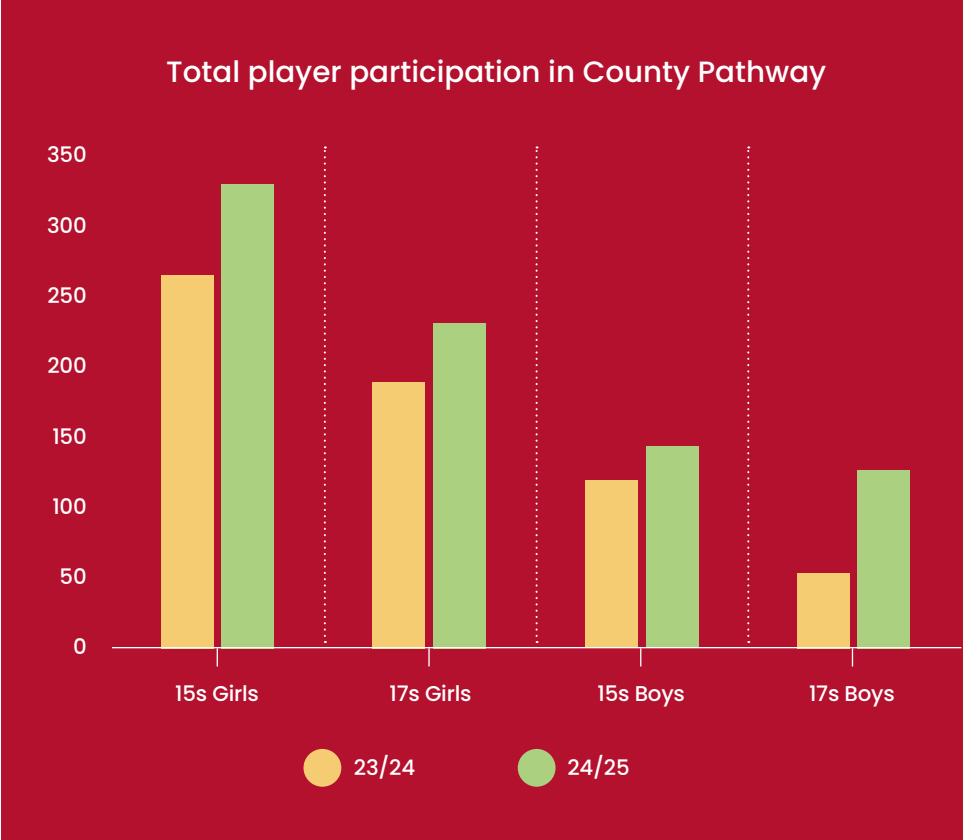
Following the same pattern as last year, each county trained every other Friday night and competed in three cluster matches against other counties, all while preparing for the County Championships.

During the Pathway program, each county and individual participant was allocated a total of 16 hours of training time, which took place between October and February. In addition to this, participants also received 6 hours of playing time, which was distributed across the cluster matches and the County Championship. This structure aimed to provide a balanced development experience, combining both skill development through training and practical application through competitive play.

Participation:

The increase in numbers from 2023/24 reflects strong growth and improvement, highlighting how effective the pathway has been this year in supporting player development, as well as preparing players for selection and competition in representative teams.

The significant increase in boys’ participation (138%) has been a great step forward in providing more opportunities within the boys’ game and supporting their development. It also aligns with Hoci Cymru’s goal of increasing boys’ participation in the sport.



County Championship

The County Championship was held at Swansea Bay Sports Park during the February half-term. It was a hugely successful week, showcasing fantastic hockey and a great atmosphere, with strong support for each county throughout the event.

County Championship Results



BOYS



South Coast 2



South Coast 1



Eryri

GIRLS U15



Eryri



North East



Gwent

GIRLS U17



South Coast



Combined team of Gwent/North East



Glamorgan Valley

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL TEAMS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE HOCI CYMRU COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP 2024/25.

A **huge thank you** to the coaches, umpires, and Young Ambassadors whose commitment and hard work were instrumental in making this event a success. Without your invaluable contributions, County Pathway and Championship would not be possible.



Progression

The County Championship provides an opportunity for RPC and NAG coaches to observe players. Our RPC and NAG coaches were in attendance throughout the County Championship.

Following this assessment, a total of **99** girls and **56** boys have been invited to join the **Regional Performance Centres**.



Camps

Hwyl Hoci Camps are designed for players aged 8-13 of all skill levels, whether they're picking up a hockey stick for the first time or looking to sharpen their game.

• Total Camps held: **21**

So far, we have successfully delivered 21 hockey camps across Wales. These camps have provided opportunities for children and young people to access quality hockey experiences in both school holidays and off-season periods.

• Total participants: **295**

A total of 295 children and young people have engaged with our camps, demonstrating strong interest and growing demand for hockey opportunities at the grassroots level.

• Average participants per Camp: **14.05**

On average, each camp has welcomed just over 14 participants. This steady uptake reflects both the accessibility of the sessions and our efforts to ensure manageable group sizes for quality coaching and safety.

• Upcoming Camps

We have more camps scheduled in the coming weeks. These will help us to further build on existing momentum and continue reaching new participants, particularly in areas identified as strategic priorities.

• Completed Camps

The completed camps have provided valuable insights into what works well in different community settings and how we can continue to evolve our delivery model.

• Delivered in **12** different locations across Wales

Camps have been strategically located across 12 different areas in Wales, with a strong focus on regions identified as having latent demand or historically underserved by hockey provision. This includes targeted work in areas where cost, geography, or facility access have previously been barriers to participation. By taking a community-first approach, we've aimed to ensure that more children have the chance to pick up a stick and get involved in the sport, regardless of background or postcode.

If you would like to know more or book onto a camp, please [click here](#)



People development in numbers 2024/25

HEADLINES

193 Total number of people trained

125 Number of people assessed

1,483 Number of learning hours

COACHES

108 Total number of people trained

94 Number of people assessed

888 Number of learning hours

UMPIRES

85 Total number of people trained

31 Number of people assessed

595 Number of learning hours



COMPETE

Wales Masters

Wales Masters Shine on World Stage

It's been a huge year for Masters hockey in Wales, with October and November capping it all off in style at the 2024 Masters Hockey World Cup.

Hosted in Cape Town, South Africa in October as well as Auckland, New Zealand in November, the Welsh took a host of teams to both locations to compete on the world stage.

Age groups ranging from O35s to O75s travelled thousands of miles bearing the Welsh flag, earning success and plaudits along the way.

The highlight came in Auckland as the Women's O65s earned the country's only podium finish across all age categories. Winning a silver medal. *A huge well done.*

For more information, [click here](#)

Women's O65s win silver medal in New Zealand after beating Australia in a shootout



Men's O60s fourth in New Zealand – first ever appearance in the final four



Wales Hockey squad arrives in Cape Town for the 2024 Masters Hockey World Cup





Glyn Thomas

2024 promised to be an immense year for Masters hockey in Wales, with the Men's O75s side preparing for a 4 Nations tournament in May and a World Cup appearance in Cape Town in October.

A key figure in that team, and someone for whom hockey has always been close to the heart, is goalkeeper Glyn Thomas.

To read more about Glyn's story, [click here](#)



"My favourite memories have to include singing the national anthem for the first ever Welsh team at an O60s World Cup, in Cape Town in 2010."

2024 route to World Cups

Many tournaments and matches played on the World Cup journey including:

- BELFAST**
Top goal scorers, Ian Johnson and Steve Sparkes (4 each) helped achieve a **3rd** place finish for O70s Men in the 4 Nations. The O65s and O75s also finished **3rd** and the O60s finished **4th**
- CORK**
Consistency from the Women’s O35s, O40s and O45s with **3rd** place finishes for all 3 teams in the 4 Nations tournaments
- DUISBURG**
A **2nd** and **3rd** place finish for Women’s O60s and O55s at this invitational tournament and an opportunity to play teams from Belgium, France, Germany and Netherlands as well as England
- GIBRALTAR**
Women’s O40s & O45s played in a tournament against 2 club sides and a Gibraltar representative side
- GLASGOW**
Some close results with our Celtic Cousins and a **4th**, **4th** and **3rd** placed finish in the Men’s O35, O45 and O55, 4 Nations tournaments
- NOTTINGHAM**
Mixed results at the Women’s 4 Nations with O65s finishing **2nd**, O60s **3rd**, O55s **4th** and O50s **4th** in their respective tournaments
- PORTSMOUTH**
Women’s O35s & O40s opposition included UK Armed Forces (not Masters age)!
- SOUTHGATE**
Gold medal for Women’s O65s at the Summer Nations tournament after beating England 1 – 0. Two x **4th** place finishes for O40s and O50s Men in the 4 Nations
- SWANSEA**
1st place finish for O70s, **2nd** for O65s and despite some tight scores a **4th** place finish for O60s in the Men’s Celtic Cup – great to see Welsh Dragons teams taking part in the Men’s O65s and O70s tournaments

Some of the results can be found [here](#)

Masters Forum

In March we held the first Masters forum, bringing together Hoci Cymru, Masters TAG, Team Managers, Coaches and Players.

The forum provided a platform for all key stakeholders to update on current developments, answer questions and look ahead at how we continue to develop Masters Hockey in Wales.

The next Masters forum will be held on **Monday 3 November**.



Looking ahead

Another busy year for our Masters Teams. In April and May 2025 squads to represent Wales were announced. These squads would take part in key tournaments such as:

- 9 – 11 May** Masters Four Nations Men O40 – Cardiff (Wales)
..... Masters Four Nations Men O35, O45, & O55 – Cork (Ireland)
- 16 – 18 May** Masters Four Nations Men O60, O65, O70 & O75 – Cork (Ireland)
- 23 May – 1 June**... European Championship Men O45 & O50 and Women O45 & O50
– Valencia (Spain)
- 13 – 15 June** Masters Four Nations Women O55, O60, O65 & O70 – Swansea (Wales)
- 20 – 29 June** European Championship Men O35 & O40 and Women O35 & O40
– Valencia (Spain)
- 4 – 6 July** Masters Celtic Cup Men O60, O65, O70 & O75 – Edinburgh (Scotland)
- 25 – 27 July** Masters Four Nations Men O50 – Cardiff (Wales)
- 1 – 3 August** Masters Four Nations Women O35, O40, O45 & O50 – Glasgow (Scotland)
- 8 – 17 August** European Championship Men O55 & O60 and Women O55, O60, O65 & O70 – Nottingham (England)
- 21 – 30 August** European Championship Men O65, O70, O75 & O80 – Ludwigsburg (Germany)

Teams

Women 7 age groups (35s to 65s)

Men 9 age groups (35s to 75s)

Keen to join?

Check out all the key contacts at our web page - www.hockeywales.org.uk/masters

Follow *Wales Masters Hockey* on

 | 

Huge thank you to all Masters Coaches, Friends, Managers, Medics, Players, Supporters, Umpires and Technical Officials – we couldn't do it without you.

DIOLCH YN FAWR.



Competition winners 2024/25

Club competitions

Women's Indoor	Cardiff & Met
Men's Indoor	Cardiff & Met
Women's Championship	Cardiff & Met
Men's Championship	Cardiff & Met
Women's Trophy	Eirias
Men's Trophy	Cardiff & Met
Women's Challenge	Fishguard & Goodwick
Men's Challenge	Aberystwyth University
Women's Masters Championship	Eryri Gogs
Women's Masters Trophy	Merched Maldwyn
Men's Masters	Penarth



Youth competitions

U18 Girls	Swansea
U18 Boys	Swansea
U16 Girls	Cardiff & Met
U16 Boys	Whitchurch
U14 Girls	Pwllheli
U14 Boys	Northop Hall
U12 Girls	Whitchurch
U12 Boys	Cardiff & Met

Eurohockey competitions

EuroHockey Indoor Club Challenge I, Women, 2025	Swansea, 8th place
EuroHockey Indoor Club Challenge I, Men, 2025	Cardiff & Met, 4th place
EuroHockey Club Trophy II Women 2025	Swansea, 2nd place
EuroHockey Club Challenge I Women 2025	Cardiff & Met, 1st place
EuroHockey Club Trophy I Men 2025	Cardiff & Met, 3rd place

Schools competitions

U18 Schoolgirls	Christ College Brecon
U18 Schoolboys	Christ College Brecon
U16 Schoolgirls	Monmouth Haberdashers
U16 Schoolboys	Bishopston
U14 Schoolgirls	Cathedral School
U14 Schoolboys	Christ College Brecon
U12 Schoolgirls	Howell's School
U12 Schoolboys	Ysgol Glantaf



Competitions in numbers 2024/25

HEADLINES



CLUBS



SCHOOLS



LIVE STREAMING (VEO)



COMPETITIONS PLATFORM (TOURNIFY)



Welsh Hockey Umpires Association

Congratulations to:

- **Clare Barwood** who made history in Oman. To read more, [click here](#).
- **Abby MacArthur** on her appointment to the Indoor Hockey World Cup in Croatia. To read more, [click here](#).
- **Chloe McCall** on her promotion to FIH.
- **Liv Turner & Liam Wade** on their promotions to Level 2.
- **Kevin Roberts** on his upgrade to Centre Panel.

In addition to delivering **9 x Level 1 on-line umpiring courses** and **30+ assessments** this season, the WHUA also delivered a **Technical Officials seminar** and a **Young Ambassadors introduction to officiating and umpiring workshop**.

Thank you to all umpires, officials and administrators who give up their time to ensure we are all able to play our sport.



FIH & EuroHockey Appointments			
Competition name	Date	Umpire/Official name	Role
FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup Spain 2023-24, Terrassa (ESP)	3-9 June 2024	Clare Barwood	FIH Umpire
EuroHockey 5s Championship Men 2024, Walcz (POL)	3-6 July 2024	Linda Treharne Jonathan Goold	Technical Officer National Umpire
EuroHockey 5s Championship Women 2024, Walcz (POL)	3-6 July 2024	Linda Treharne Jonathan Goold	Technical Officer National Umpire
EuroHockey U21 Championship Women 2024, Terrassa (ESP)	14-20 July 2024	Clare Barwood	Neutral Umpire
EuroHockey U21 Championship Men 2024, Terrassa (ESP)	14-20 July 2024	Clare Barwood	Neutral Umpire
EuroHockey U21 Championship II-A Men 2024, Walcz (POL)	15-20 July 2024	Chris Brewer	Technical Delegate
EuroHockey U21 Championship II-B Men 2024, Lausanne (SUI)	15-20 July 2024	Kevin Roberts	National Umpire
EuroHockey U21 Championship II-A Women 2024, Rakovnik, (CZE)	16-20 July 2024	Moli Smith	National Umpire
2024 Test Matches Wales v Malaysia Women, Cardiff (WAL)	7-10 August 2024	John Taylor Lesley Bayne Chris Brewer Matthew Heiberg Darren Morgan-Lock Linda Treharne Clare Barwood Chloe McCall Christian Phillips-Adams Kevin Roberts	National Association Technical Delegate National Association Technical Official National Association Technical Official National Association Technical Official National Association Technical Official National Association Umpire National Association Umpire National Association Umpire National Association Umpire

FIH & EuroHockey Appointments (continued)

Competition name	Date	Umpire/Official name	Role
2024 Test Matches Wales v Austria Men, Cardiff (WAL)	8-11 August 2024	John Taylor	National Association Technical Delegate
		Lesley Bayne	National Association Technical Official
		Chris Brewer	National Association Technical Official
		Harri Evans	National Association Technical Official
		Adrian Marshall	National Association Technical Official
		Darren Morgan-Lock	National Association Technical Official
		Linda Treharne	National Association Technical Official
		Clare Barwood	National Association Umpire
		Christian Phillips-Adams	National Association Umpire
EuroHockey Championship Qualifier A Women 2024, Glasgow (SCO)	22-25 August 2024	Kevin Roberts	National Association Umpire
		Kevin Roberts	National Association Umpire
		Kevin Roberts	National Association Umpire
EuroHockey Championship Qualifier A Men 2024, Vienna (AUT)	22-25 August 2024	Kevin Roberts	Euro Hockey Appointed Umpire
Indoor Men's EuroHockey Indoor U21 Championships, Geneva (SUI)	17-19 January 2025	Abby MacOram	Appointed Umpire
Indoor Men's EuroHockey Indoor U21 Championships, Lousada (POR)	18-19 January 2025	John Taylor	Technical Officer
FIH Indoor World Cup, Porec (CRO)	3-9 February 2025	Abby MacOram	Appointed Umpire
Indoor Women's EuroHockey Indoor Club Cup, Siauliai (LTU)	14-16 February 2025	Abby MacOram Kevin Roberts	Appointed Umpire Appointed Umpire
Indoor Women's EuroHockey Indoor Club Challenge I, Vienna (AUT)	14 -16 February 2025	Chloe McCall	National Umpire
Indoor Men's & Women's EuroHockey Indoor Club Challenge II, Porvoo (FIN)	14-16 February 2025	Cathy Wright	Umpire Manager
FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2, Muscat (OMAN)	17-23 February 2025	Clare Barwood	FIH Umpire
Indoor Men's EuroHockey Indoor Club Challenge I, Puconci (SLO)	21-23 February 2025	Karen Evans Christian Phillips-Adams	Umpire Manager National Umpire



▲ Young Ambassadors

▼ Technical Officials Seminar



PERFORM



Celebrating 2024: Performance round-up

2024 has been a fantastic year for our performance squads.

Wales' senior men have had an impressive year. We witnessed two victorious international campaigns against Scotland and Austria alongside a fantastic European Qualifier campaign which saw a number of players achieve impressive milestones.

Across the year, seven young players were awarded their first senior international caps with further milestones including Owain Dolan Gray collecting his 150th international cap and Alf Dinnie celebrating his 50th cap for Wales.

Senior Men's captain Ben Francis summarised the year by commenting:

"It's been a very positive year leading the senior men's group. It's been great seeing younger players join the squad, get their first experience of international hockey and put in big performances in test series wins. I believe we have set ourselves up well for what is going to be an exciting 2025.

From a personal perspective it is an honour and a privilege to captain the senior men, something you dream of as a child growing up playing hockey in Wales."



Similarly, **Wales Women** have been able to continue their positive momentum this year. This summer saw us welcome Malaysia to the National Hockey Centre for a home summer series. Rachel Goodwin, Lily Roberts, Ava Dempsey, Freya Diamond and Caitlin Witham all made their debut in Cardiff, gaining their first cap on home soil.

The squad were also able to secure a place in the final of the Euro Qualifiers in Glasgow 2024, where we narrowly lost out to hosts Scotland. We also celebrated further milestones, with Ella Jackson and Emily Rowlands gaining their 50th caps.

Senior Women's Captain Beth Bingham commented:

"Overall as a squad we've had a really positive 12 months. The team have jelled together quickly and played some exciting, attacking hockey. Most notably, in the series win over Malaysia in August where 5 of the team received their first caps.

Looking ahead to 2025, I'm excited to see what this talented group can achieve."



In recent years, there has been a real focus on the performance pathways at Hoci Cymru, and it is great to see the reward of that hard work with a strong number of players smoothly transitioning between our junior and senior international programmes.

Meanwhile, the **U21s squads** also had a great year of development. The women had one of their most successful cycles to date, including winning Gold at the Euros in Czech Republic last July alongside qualifying for both the Junior World Cup and A division Europeans. Whilst the men faced quality test series against England, a fantastic Tri Nations event against Ireland and Scotland and their European Championships in Switzerland alongside many training camps.



Our **National Age Group squads** all had a large variety of activity this year, providing a fantastic opportunity to build foundations ahead of an exciting 2025 for junior hockey.

Both **U18 squads** faced competitive Easter series against Ulster and Canada before facing England in May. They then went head-to-head with some top hockey nations in the summer including Holland, Spain and Ireland. Challenges which will have stretched and developed them in preparations for the 2025 U18 EuroHockey Championships II.

Our **U16 players** got a first taste of international hockey with the new format, a test series against Switzerland at Easter was followed by U16 EuroHockey Championships 5s in the summer. Another great opportunity to expose our players to international hockey and tournament experience.



The success of our senior players also extended beyond our Welsh borders with five senior players making appearances for the Great Britain Squad. **Toby Reynolds-Cotterill** secured more GB caps at the FIH Pro League, **Gareth Furlong** officially made the centralised squad and joined **Sarah Jones, Jacob Draper** and **Rupert Shipperley** at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Furthermore, **Nic Morgan, Owen Sutton, Caitlan Witham, Amy Cradden** and **Betsan Thomas** secured their places in the GB Elite Development Programme with **Millie Holme, Fred Newbold** and **Rebecca Daniel** all graduating from the programme to be offered contracts in the centralised GB training programme for 2025.

**THE FUTURE FOR OUR PERFORMANCE TEAMS
CERTAINLY LOOKS BRIGHT!**

Regional programme

In 2024, our four Regional Centres (North, South West, South East 1, and South East 2) supported the technical and holistic development of over 200 junior athletes. The inaugural Regional cycle concluded with a Wales Regional Representative Team competing at the UK School Games in Loughborough—an invaluable experience for both players and coaches.

This exposure led to three Regional players being selected for the 2025 National Age Group (NAG) cycle, highlighting the immediate impact of the new pathway.

The 2025 Regional Programme began in January with NAG and NAG-assessed players, expanding in April to include County Festival selections. The programme aligns with NAG standards, delivering 4-hour, full-day sessions combining on- and off-pitch development. Our regional partnerships with Wrexham University, Swansea University, and Sport Wales play a key role in delivering this programme.

A sincere thank you to all players, parents, and coaches for their continued commitment to the pathway.



National Age Groups (NAG)

2024 Overview

The 2023/24 season concluded with several key milestones. We launched our new Hoci Cymru branding and partnered with kit supplier Castore, debuting the new kit during our Easter series—NAG Girls vs. Canada and NAG Boys vs. Ulster.

U16 Boys and Girls 5s teams also competed internationally in Switzerland, followed by participation in the U16 EuroHockey 5s in Croatia. Meanwhile, our U18s faced some of Europe's best junior players in Cork, playing against Holland, Spain, and Ireland in a Four Nations event. The summer concluded with both squads at the England Hockey Talent Festival, where the U18 Boys won their group and finished a joint second.



2024/25 NAG U18 Programme

Following a competitive selection process (Sept–Jan), two 24-player squads were named for the 2025 NAG cycle. Their programmes began with residential camps in February—Girls at Rydal School and Boys at Christ College Brecon—focusing on team-building and development.

At Easter, both squads began match play: Girls vs. Canada and Boys vs. Ulster in a three-match series. The programme builds towards July's U18 EuroHockey Championship II.

- NAG Girls – Glasgow, Scotland, 13–19 July (AUT, CZE, IRL, LTU, SCO, TUR, WAL, SUI)
- NAG Boys – Alanya, Turkey, 13–19 July (AUT, IRL, ITA, POL, SUI, TUR, UKR, WAL)

COACHES

National Age Group Boys

Mark Ramage	Head Coach
Shelley Robinson	Programme Manager
Brett Madden	Assistant Coach
Dave Sharp	Goalkeeper Coach
Connor Heatherton	Strength and Conditioning Coach

National Age Group Girls

Chris Davis	Head Coach
Emily Tyler	Programme Manager
Matt Way	Assistant Coach
Dave Sharp	Goalkeeper Coach
Gwyn Davis Murray	Strength and Conditioning Coach

PHYSIO POOL

Carmen Ansley
Chelsie-Jane Mason
Cora Hogan
Ashleigh Abbott
Callum Chapman
Aimee Jones

REGIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRE COACHES

Brett Madden	North Head Coach
Tom Williamson	North Assistant Coach
Rob Williams	North Assistant Coach
Matt Wilkinson	North Assistant Coach
Luke Edwards	North Goalkeeper Coach
Callum Chapman	South West Head Coach
Fleur Gallagher	South West Assistant Coach
Charlie Johnson	South West Assistant Coach
Robert Webb	South West Goalkeeper Coach
Matt Magann	South East 1 Head Coach
Nic Morgan	South East 1 Assistant Coach
Ethan Broadbank	South East 1 Assistant Coach
Rhys Payne	South East 1 Goalkeeper Coach
Meg Langley	South East 2 Head Coach
Lucy Pugh	South East 2 Assistant Coach
George Marshall	South East 2 Assistant Coach
Rhys Payne	South East 1 Goalkeeper Coach



COUNTY COACHES	
Fleur Gallagher	Afan Nedd Tawe Boys HC
Charlie Johnson	Afan Nedd Tawe Boys HC
Emily Haywood	Afan Nedd Tawe U15 Girls HC
Meg Langley	Afan Nedd Tawe U17 Girls HC
Robert Webb	Dyfed U17 Boys HC
Robert Codd	Dyfed U15 Boys HC
Charlotte Harris	Dyfed U15 Girls HC
Ffion Dart	Dyfed U15 Girls AC
Lucy Griffiths	Dyfed U17 Girls HC
Simon Roberts	Dyfed U17 Girls AC
George Marshall	South Coast Boys HC
Graeme Jones	South Coast U15 Girls HC
Jason Arnold	South Coast U15 Girls AC
Jason Arnold	South Coast U17 Girls HC
Graeme Jones	South Coast U17 Girls AC
Angus McDermid	Cardiff Boys HC
Rebecca Daniels	Cardiff U15 Girls HC
Ethan Broadbank	Cardiff U15 Girls HC
David Robinson	Cardiff U17 Girls HC
Tim Jones	Gwent Boys HC
Matt Magann	Gwent U15 Girls HC
Matt Magann	Gwent U17 Girls HC
Kelly White	Gwent Coordinator
Mark Zeigler	Glamorgan Valleys Boys HC
Jamie Everett	Glamorgan Valleys Boys AC

COUNTY COACHES <i>(continued)</i>	
Jess Owens	Glamorgan Valleys Coordinator
Mark Zeigler	Glamorgan Valleys Girls HC
Sarah Rawlins	Glamorgan Valleys Girls AC
Liam Bell	North East Boys HC
Stephen Bullock	North East Boys AC
Danny Foulkes	North East Boys AC
Tom Williamson	North East U15 Girls HC
Luke Doughty	North East U15 Girls AC
Sam Barrett	North East U17 Girls HC
Luke Doughty	North East U17 Girls AC
Luke Edwards	Eryri Boys HC
Lynda Bennett	Eryri U15 Girls HC
Ryan Goddard	Eryri U15 Girls AC
Ellis Lloyd-Jones	Eryri U17 Girls HC
Matt Wilkinson	Eryri U17 Girls HC
Pip Payne	Eryri Coordinator



International caps

1ST CAP

Rachel Goodwin | Lily Roberts | Ava Dempsey | Freya Diamond
Caitlin Witham | Nic Morgan | Jamie Rawlings | John Bennett
Will Penrose | Ben Wall | Will Riley | Sam Rollett

50TH CAP

Alf Dinnie | Ella Jackson | Emily Rowlands

150TH CAP

Owain Dolan-Gray



Performance Director summary

As seems to be the case in most years, there was a good deal going on in the Performance space in 2024 in a busy summer of activity for all our squads as the associated reports will support.

Pleasingly all our squads continue to reach beyond the resources that can be provided which is inspiring to witness and be a part of and this offers continued hope as we prepare to navigate a difficult 12-18 month period ahead where we see a further reduction in resource but no let up in the amount of tournaments we are having to take part in, with the senior squads alone facing 3 major events between June 2025 and March 2026.

2024 certainly proved that in High Performance sport often it's the narrowest margins that decide one's fate, with both the Senior Men and Women narrowly falling the wrong side of qualification to European 'A' division in their respective European Qualifier finals but produced some fine performances in the process of getting there. Our U21 men in their European Championships had some very close and competitive games with scorelines changing hands throughout matches but again the fine margins counted against them as they finished outside of a podium chance whereas our U21 women produced a real highlight of the summer in winning their European 'B' division competition overall, booking them a place back in the 'A' division in 2026 and a qualification to the next Junior Women's World Cup in Chile in December 2025.

We are seeing improved and additional opportunities for our young players as a result of the County and Regional Pathway programme and most importantly this is exposing our talent to more competitive opportunities to learn and develop from and adding depth to the potential in our National Age Group programme.

Finally, with 2024 being an Olympic year, it was amazing yet again to see us very well represented on the pitch with GB in Paris and in what turned out to be an exceptional tournament played at an impressive intensity and skill level which highlighted all the best parts of our sport. We have continued to see success in the transition of new players to the GB senior programme over the last few months proving that our programmes continue to support both individual development as well as working towards our collective aspirations.

I would like to thank all players, parents, organisational and team staff who have supported all our programmes as without them we would not be able to achieve what we are able to.



Kevin Johnson
Performance Director

Performance Support Staff

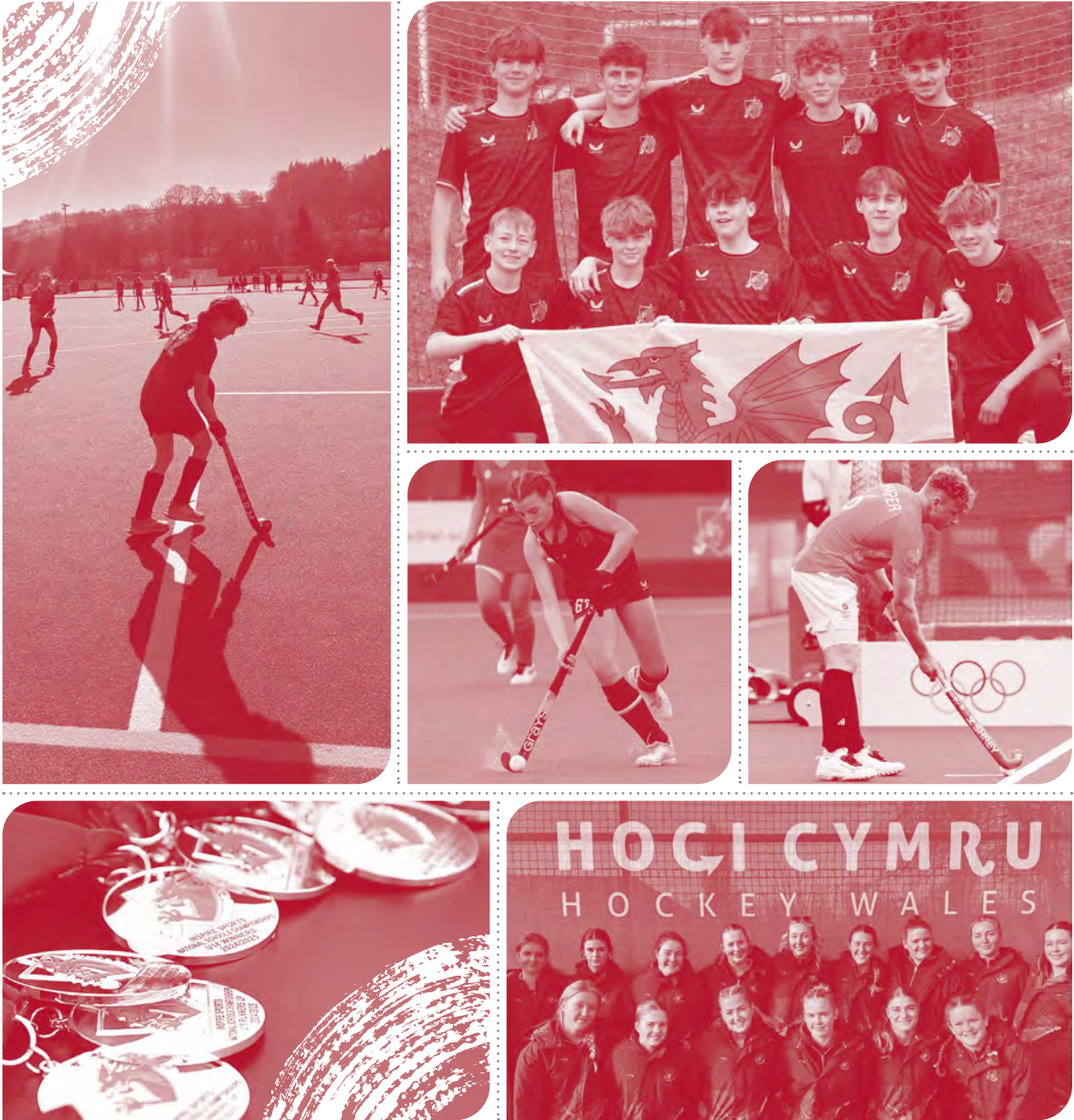
SENIOR MEN	
Danny Newcombe	Senior Men's Head Coach
Gwyn Williams	Senior Men's Programme Manager
Martin Schouten	Senior Men's Assistant Coach and Men's Dreigiau Head Coach
Sam Rowe	Senior Men's Analyst and Men's Dreigiau Assistant Coach
Reuben Elliott	Men's Dreigiau Support Staff
Debbie Mason	Senior Men's Physiotherapist
Mitchell Walsh	Senior Men's Strength and Conditioning Coach
Mark Hill	Senior Men's Strength and Conditioning Coach

SENIOR WOMEN	
Kevin Johnson	Senior Women's Head Coach
Rebecca Daniels	Senior Women's Programme Manager
Walid Abdo	Senior Women's Assistant Coach and Women's Dreigiau Head Coach
Samantha Walker	Senior Women's Physiotherapist
Rhiana Galvin	Senior Women's Performance Analyst
Sam Thirlwell	Senior Women's Strength and Conditioning Coach
Paul Edwards	Women's Dreigiau Support Staff
Alyssa Mildenstein	Women's Dreigiau Physiotherapist

PERFORMANCE SUPPORT	
Henry Davies	Head of Strength and Conditioning
Jonny Harper	Head of Medical Services
Tom Millington	Senior Men and Women GK Coach
Rhys Payne	Women's Dreigiau GK Coach



“We are seeing improved and additional opportunities for our young players as a result of the County and Regional Pathway programme...”



We would like to thank our Partners and Stakeholders for their support

Headline Partners



Key Stakeholders



Official Partners



Child Protection in Sport Unit



Friends of Welsh Hockey



Support
Ysgol Bro Morgannwg school



249
members



48
monthly prize draws



14
club winners



34
individual winners



Our Facebook page has
976 followers
957 likes
Friends of Welsh Hockey



Our Instagram account has
410 followers
338 likes
friends_of_wh



Our X account has
348 followers
@FriendsOfWH

www.friendsofwelshhockey.org.uk

Charity No: 1140894



Friends of Welsh Hockey is a charity set up to support field hockey activities within Wales.



Looking ahead: Action for 2025/26

As we close another dynamic year, we're excited to share what lies ahead for the 2025/26 season. With a continued focus on inclusivity and excellence, here are the key developments shaping the future of our sport:

Raising the Bar: Club Minimum Standards Launch

Starting September 2025, we will officially launch the **Minimum Standards Framework** for clubs across the nation. This initiative covers vital areas such as **coaching, umpiring, governance, and marketing**, ensuring that all clubs meet a consistent benchmark. This approach is designed to promote **sustainability, professionalism, and inclusivity**, securing the future of our sport for generations to come.

Membership Fee Update:

Beginning in the 2025/26 season, we will introduce updated membership fees, including a price increase to support continued investment in the game. To make hockey accessible for all, we are also introducing:

- A monthly payment plan for easier budgeting
- A hardship fund to support those facing financial challenges

These changes reflect our commitment to keeping hockey open, fair, and supportive for everyone.

On the Global Stage: U21 Women's World Cup

In December, our Under 21 Women's team will proudly travel to Chile to represent Wales at the Junior World Cup. This is an incredible milestone and a testament to their talent and dedication. Stay tuned for updates as we support them on this exciting journey.



Road to the World Cup 2026: Men's and Women's Qualifiers

March 2026 will mark a crucial moment as both our men's and women's national teams compete in the World Cup qualifiers. With the 2026 tournament taking place in Holland and Belgium, the women's team will aim to make history with their first-ever qualification. We'll be cheering them on every step of the way!

Hockey IQ: Inspiring the Next Generation

Launching in September, **Hockey IQ** is our brand-new educational programme for schools, bringing hockey into the classroom and beyond. The initiative features:

- Engaging, curriculum-aligned resources
- Tools to help teachers confidently deliver hockey on any surface
- Opportunities for children to play and connect through sport

Hockey IQ is more than a programme – it's a pathway to lifelong passion and participation.

Flyerz Hoci: Building a Truly Inclusive Game

We're proud to continue expanding Flyerz Hoci, our inclusive hockey initiative developed in collaboration with clubs, schools, and stakeholders. This project aims to ensure that everyone—regardless of ability or background—has the chance to pick up a stick and play. We believe hockey should be a game for all, and Flyerz Hoci is central to making that a reality.

BE PART OF IT - 2026!

The year ahead promises exciting opportunities and powerful progress. Thank you to everyone who continues to champion and support hockey in Wales. Here's to building a stronger, more inclusive future—together.





THANK YOU

Hoci Cymru Annual Report 2024/25

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the report, to Irfon Bennett for capturing those precious moments, and to the hockey family for your continued support.

For more information or to get involved go to: **www.hockeywales.org.uk**

 @HockeyWales

 @Hoci_Cymru

 Hoci Cymru

Or email us at: **info@hockeywales.org.uk**

Hoci Cymru, Sport Wales National Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, CF11 9SW.