



# IGNITING A PASSION

*for hockey*



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# Chair & CEO message

Dear Members,

As Chief Executive and Chair, we would like to thank you for your continued commitment to hockey in Wales and to reflect on what has been one of the toughest years in our organisation's recent history.

This year brought significant financial challenge, with the lowest level of Sport Wales funding we have received in many years. Despite this, the resilience shown by our clubs, volunteers, officials, coaches, players, and staff has been exceptional. Time and again, the hockey community has demonstrated its ability to adapt, support one another, and keep our sport thriving.

Our latest Annual Report highlights just how strong hockey in Wales remains. At its heart is community, inclusion, welcoming, and proudly diverse. Participation in schools' competitions has increased by 37%, junior membership is up year on year, and we have seen encouraging growth in people stepping into roles beyond playing. New coaching and umpiring licences issued this year reflect the breadth of individuals giving their time and expertise to support the game at all levels.



On the field, Welsh hockey continues to punch above its weight. Our international teams have competed with pride on the world stage, most notably with the Wales Men qualifying for a World Cup for only the second time in our history. A landmark achievement that will hopefully inspire the next generation. We are also immensely proud of the number of Welsh Masters teams represented at the Indoor World Cup, underlining that international hockey does not have an age limit.

Equally powerful are the stories from our communities. Initiatives such as the Cwmtawe Walking Hockey sessions show how hockey supports lifelong participation, connection, and wellbeing. From playground to podium, and from youth to Masters, hockey continues to be a sport for life across Wales.

As we look ahead, we do so with realism about the challenges, but with confidence rooted in our people. Thank you for your passion, perseverance, and belief in what Welsh hockey stands for. Together, we will continue to grow a sport that is inclusive, ambitious, and deeply connected to its communities.

*With sincere thanks and best wishes,*



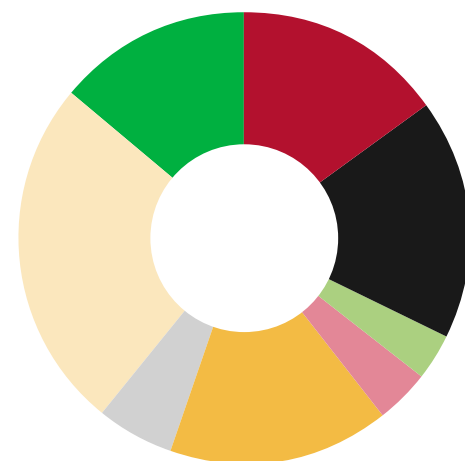
**Bill Riley**  
Chair



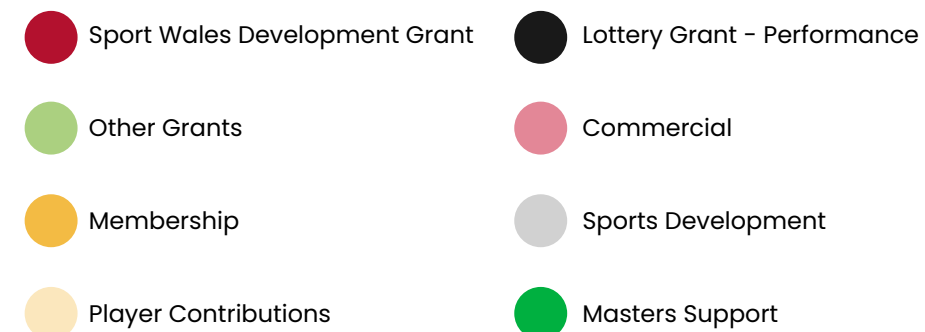
**Paul Whapham**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Financial report

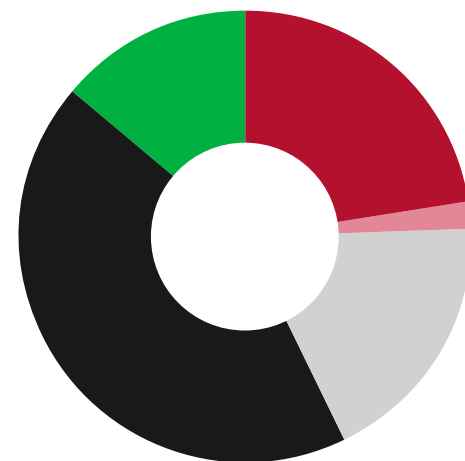
Income	
Sport Wales Development Grant	£231,808
Lottery Grant - Performance	£261,779
Other Grants	£50,220
Commercial	£56,004
Membership	£244,309
Sports Development	£81,647
Player Contributions	£384,960
Masters Support	£209,732
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,520,459</b>



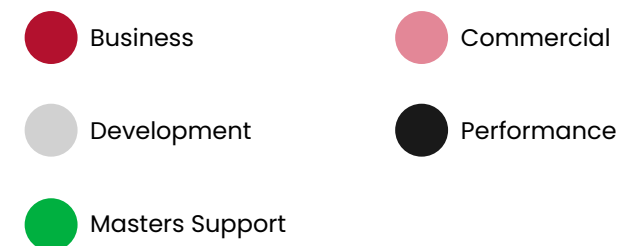
## INCOME



Expenditure	
Business	£345,809
Commercial	£32,327
Development	£280,906
Performance	£666,657
Masters Support	£209,732
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,535,431</b>



## EXPENDITURE



# Hoci Cymru board & staff 2025/26

## Board of Directors

**Paul (Bill) Riley** ..... Chair

**Kate Williams** ..... Elected Director

**John Bowyer** ..... Elected Director (September 25)

**James Fortnam** ..... Elected Director (September 25)

**Andrea Byrne** ..... Appointed Director

**David Francis** ..... Appointed Director, Senior Independent Director

**David Hagendyk** ..... Appointed Director

**Jeevan Chagger** ..... Appointed Director

**Matt Clement** ..... Appointed Director (September 25)

**Paul Whapham** ..... Chief Executive

**Debbie Wakeford** ..... Appointed Director (until September 25)

**Martyn Gallivan** ..... President (until July 25)

## Staff

**Paul Whapham** ..... Chief Executive Officer

**Joe Gage** ..... PT Director of Development & Participation

**Katie Glynn** ..... Performance Director (started October 25)

**Amanda Roberts** ..... National Events & People Development Manager

**Ella Jackson** ..... Pathway & Compliance Manager

**Sarah Hardman** ..... PT Performance Coordinator (started September 25)

**Jane Price** ..... Business Support Manager

**Chelsea Jenkins** ..... Hockey Development Officer (South West)

**Rachel Dathan** ..... Hockey Development Officer (North – started September 25)

**Matty Sears** ..... PT Hockey Development Officer (South East – started September 25)

**Tony Waymouth** ..... PT Fundraising Manager – (started September 25)

**Jonny Fleck** ..... PT Club and Membership Lead – (started June 25)

**Stephanie Bullen** ..... PT Performance Coordinator (until April 25)

**Cerys Studt** ..... Hockey Development Officer (North) (until May 25)

**Kevin Johnson** ..... PT Director of Performance (until September 25)

**Matt Davis** ..... PT Hockey Development Officer (South East) (until September 25)

**Sydney Davies** ..... PT Performance Media & PR Lead (until December 25)

# Martyn Gallivan

In July 2025, Martyn Gallivan stepped down after 5 years as Hoci Cymru President.

With involvement in Welsh hockey dating back to 1975, Martyn has made a significant contribution to the sport in Wales and internationally, notably as an international Grade 1 umpire and later, for a decade, as FIH Competitions Manager. His commitment to development, governance and inclusion across all levels of the game has left a lasting legacy on the global stage and we are grateful for his commitment and contribution to national and international hockey.

Sincere thanks Martyn for all you have done and continue to do for us.



# Social Media engagement

	Followers	Published content	Impressions
	<b>7,490</b> 5.7%	38.5%	<b>2.99m</b>
	<b>11,760</b> 15.8%	116%	<b>7.85m</b>
	<b>12,900</b> 1.5%	20%	-
	<b>1,143</b>	15%	<b>24k</b>
	<b>1,463</b> 21.9%	2%	<b>114k</b>

	Hoci Cymru	Industry average
<b>Newsletter</b>		
Subscribers (per month)	<b>3,946</b>	-
Total opens	<b>96%</b>	38-40%
Unique open rate	<b>57%</b>	38-40%
Click rate	<b>12%</b>	2-4%
Unique click rate	<b>9%</b>	2-3%

# ENGAGE

# Facilities & Funding

## Sport Wales Collaboration Group

Hockey's place in the Welsh sporting landscape has been shaped, in no small part, by a decade of collaborative investment. The Sport Wales Collaboration Group, a three-sport partnership between Hoci Cymru, the Football Association of Wales (FAW), and the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU), has grown from a strategic vision into one of the most impactful facility programmes operating across Wales today.

What began in 2015 as a framework to influence future investment decisions has since delivered over £10 million of grant funding, supporting more than seventy projects from Ynys Môn to Monmouthshire. For hockey specifically, the Collaboration Group has channelled over £4.99 million into artificial pitch development since its inception, a figure that represents not just surfaces and floodlights, but communities able to access the game year-round.

## How the Programme Works

The funding process is deliberately rigorous. Projects are typically developed over a minimum of twelve months before formal submission, with Hoci Cymru staff working alongside local authorities, schools, and leisure trusts to build credible, well-structured applications. Each bid is then reviewed by a multi-sport working group against criteria covering facility landscape, sporting significance, governance, and return on investment. Final approval sits with the CEOs of all three Governing Bodies and Sport Wales, ensuring the highest level of accountability.

Annually, Sport Wales allocates £1 million toward artificial pitch development across Wales. Hockey competes for a share of this alongside football and rugby, making early and effective collaboration with local authorities and the FAW essential to unlocking investment.

## 2025/26 Panel Outcomes

This year, hockey submitted four applications to the Collaboration Group with a combined requested value of £1,381,000. Of the £1,320,000 capital funding pot available, £530,000 has been confirmed for hockey. Across all three sports, football secured three successful applications totalling £540,000, while rugby received one award of £250,000 from three applications totalling £750,000.

## Active Projects & Stakeholder Engagement

Hoci Cymru is actively engaged with a pipeline of projects across Wales.

Key results include:

- Pitch completed and officially opened at Dysynni.
- Development at Northop Hall to start later this year with monies from the £530,000 collaboration capital funding pot confirmed for hockey



## Be Active Wales Fund: Hockey Awards 2025–26

Alongside capital investment in facilities, Welsh hockey clubs have been active participants in Sport Wales' Be Active Wales Fund (BAWF), a grassroots grant programme designed to support clubs and community groups in improving participation and widening access to sport. Across three funding windows running from April 2025 to March 2026, a total of ten hockey applications were successful, delivering £32,022 in direct funding to clubs across Wales.

From junior sections in rural mid-Wales to clubs spanning the north and south, the breadth of organisations supported reflects the diversity within the hockey community. Nine of Wales's twenty-two local authority areas are represented across the successful awards, a geographic spread that speaks to the reach of hockey across the country.

### WINDOW 1 — SUMMER 2025 (July Panel)

Three hockey clubs applied in Window 1, with all three receiving funding decisions in their favour by the July 2025 panel. Combined committed funding reached £5,795:

#### Risca Ladies Hockey Club (Caerphilly)

**£1,928** awarded toward Junior Section Redevelopment, supporting the next generation of female players in the region.

#### Clwb Hoci Pwllheli (Gwynedd)

**£1,259** committed to a project focused on "Keeping seniors on the pitch and juniors in the game", addressing both retention and recruitment in one initiative.

#### Presteigne Junior Hockey Club (Powys)

**£2,608** committed to "Promoting a healthy hockey lifestyle!", a club working to embed hockey into the sporting culture of a rural Welsh community.

### WINDOW 2 — AUTUMN 2025 (November Panel)

Window 2 saw four hockey clubs receive awards, with committed funding of £17,754. The cohort demonstrated the breadth of the game geographically, from Pembrokeshire in the west to Denbighshire in the north:

#### Milford Haven Hockey Club (Pembrokeshire)

**£1,215** committed from a £5,065 total project cost.

#### Clwb Hoci Llandysul (Ceredigion)

**£3,245** committed from a £3,605 project, a strong funding rate of 90% of the amount applied for.

#### Gowerton Hockey Club (Swansea)

**£6,832** committed from a £7,592 project, the largest single award in this window for hockey.

#### Ruthin Hockey Club (Denbighshire)

**£6,462** committed from a £9,780 project.

### WINDOW 3 — WINTER/SPRING 2026 (February Panel)

Window 3 delivered the largest single-window total for hockey, with three awards committing £11,081 across a varied group of organisations:

#### Wrexham Glyndwr Hockey Club (Wrexham)

**£5,400** committed from a £5,890 project, 100% of the amount applied for, reflecting a well-prepared application.

#### Clwb Hoci Castell Newydd Emllyn (Pembrokeshire)

**£3,731** committed from a £4,996 project. This club was unsuccessful in Window 2 and returned with a revised application, a testament to persistence and the value of re-engaging with the process.

#### Clwb Hoci Tywi Teigrod (Carmarthenshire)

**£1,950** committed. This club was also rejected in Window 2 and successfully reapplied, a notable example of a club working with the process rather than stepping away from it.

## Year in Numbers

Across all three Be Active Wales Fund windows in 2025–26:



**10** successful hockey applications supported across Wales



**£32,022** total committed funding to hockey clubs and organisations



**9** local authority areas reached, from Gwynedd to Cardiff, Pembrokeshire to Wrexham



**Window 3** was the strongest window for hockey, delivering **£24,081**, more than Windows 1 and 2 combined



**Two clubs**, Clwb Hoci Castell Newydd Emlyn and Clwb Hoci Tywi Teigrod, were rejected in Window 2 and successfully reapplied in Window 3

Combined with the £530,000 confirmed through the Sport Wales Collaboration Group in 2025/26, and the broader pipeline of capital projects in development with local authorities across Wales, this has been a year of significant funding activity for Welsh hockey. The work continues.

# Safeguarding

## Overview

Safeguarding remains a central priority for Hoci Cymru. In 2025/26 we have continued to strengthen our processes, increase support for Club Welfare Officers (CWOs), and build a culture where reporting is seen as a sign of strength.

This year saw a 20% increase in safeguarding reports received. As in previous years, we view this positively, it reflects improved awareness, greater confidence in reporting pathways, and stronger relationships with clubs across Wales.

## Three-Year Comparison: 2024/25 – 2025/26

### Safeguarding Reports Received

2024/25: **78** | 2025/26: **94** (+20% on previous year)

### CWO Check-ins Completed

2024/25: **3** | 2025/26: **3** (+38% on previous year)

### CPSU Safeguarding Standard

2024/25: **Level 3** (Achieved May 2024) | 2025/26: **Level 3** (Maintained)

### Best Practice Sessions Held

2024/25: **0** | 2025/26: **3**

### Average Report Response Time

2024/25: **3 days** | 2025/26: **1 day**



## Club Welfare Officer Programme

Unlike previous seasons, 2025/26 saw structured CWO check-ins run throughout the year rather than at isolated points. These regular touchpoints allowed us to identify gaps early, offer timely support, create space for questions and feedback, and track CWO confidence levels across the season.

## CLUBS SHARING BEST PRACTICE

A significant development this season has been clubs actively sharing what works well within their own environments. This peer-led approach has included:

- How clubs structure safeguarding inductions for new members and volunteers
- Communication approaches clubs use to remind members of reporting processes
- How clubs handle welfare conversations sensitively with parents and young players
- Practical approaches to running safeguarding-aware team environments

The Safeguarding Network on Spond continues to serve as the hub for CWO communication, with new resources and updated guidance circulated regularly.

## Reporting in 2025/26

This season Hoci Cymru received 94 safeguarding reports, a 20% increase on 2024/25 and 52% up on 2023/24. Reports are received via our online incident report form and MyConcern, our case management platform.

This increase reflects:

- Greater awareness of what constitutes a safeguarding concern
- Higher confidence in our reporting processes
- A culture shift within clubs where speaking up is normalised
- The impact of Safe Socials, CWO communications, and myth-busting content

Our goal is not to reduce the number of reports, it is to ensure every concern is heard, handled well, and used to improve our sport.

## What We Have Done This Season

- Safe Socials Week, myth-busting content to encourage confident reporting
- Year-round CWO check-ins, not just at the start or end of season
- Clubs presenting best practice to other clubs
- Updated guidance documents circulated via the Safeguarding Network
- Performance team safeguarding protocols reviewed and refreshed
- CPSU Level 3 Standard maintained for the second successive year

## THANK YOU

Safeguarding is only as strong as the people who commit to it. The progress made in 2025/26, and across the past three years, is only possible because of the dedication shown throughout Welsh hockey.

### To our Club Welfare Officers

Thank you for your time, care, and willingness to engage throughout the year. Your role is vital and does not go unnoticed.

### To our clubs

Thank you for embracing best practice, sharing your approaches openly, and building environments where every member (players and volunteers) feels safe.

### To our performance teams

Thank you for modelling the standards we expect across Welsh hockey.

### To all our members:

Thank you for getting better, year on year. That is what this is all for.



# Heritage project

## The Welsh Hockey Cap Project

Now seven to eight years in the making, the Welsh Hockey Cap Project remains one of the most ambitious and meaningful pieces of historical work ever undertaken by Hoci Cymru. The aim is simple but extraordinary: to produce a complete match and player cap record for every capped Welsh international, men and women, from 1895 to the present day.

That goal is closer than ever. Thanks to the remarkable dedication of Phil Bailey and Steve Knight, what started from nothing has grown into a rich, detailed, and still-growing archive that will serve Welsh hockey for generations to come. The large majority of the research is now complete or near completion, and the final pieces of the jigsaw, while the hardest to find, are firmly in our sights.

## Phil Bailey and Steve Knight

None of this would exist without Phil and Steve. Voluntarily and tirelessly, they have driven this project forward, visiting archives, contacting former internationals, cross-referencing historical records across multiple sources, and piecing together a picture of Welsh hockey history that had never previously been captured in one place.

Their work this year has continued at pace. Key highlights from April 2025 to April 2026 include:

- Using photographs taken at The Hockey Museum (THM) in 2024 of Patrick Rowley's match records to fill in gaps in historical match data, a significant step forward in completing our records for specific decades
- Meeting with England's Katie Dodd at Lee Valley, which opened a hugely exciting opportunity: a potential joint visit to FIH Headquarters in Lausanne with researchers from England (Katie Dodd) and Scotland (Alan Veitch), where match sheets held in the FIH archive could unlock missing records for all three nations
- Receiving further information and contacts from Chris Brewer and Martyn Gallivan following the most recent Caps Presentation, adding new leads to chase for player records
- Continuing correspondence with Nan Thomas to arrange a meeting and review her personal records

- Following up with Zak Jones, who played through one of the most complex periods in the cap record (post-2002) and who has already provided valuable context around how caps were awarded in that era
- Coordinating with Rae Ellis, who has been going through the records and belongings of a former Welsh international and has set aside boxes of historical material, including photographs, programmes, and personal memorabilia, for Phil and Steve to collect
- Presenting Lorraine Sharp with her international cap, one of the most personal and meaningful parts of the project
- Planning a presentation for Helen Jones, who will receive her cap when she travels over from the United States

## Sources and Research

The project draws on a remarkable breadth of sources that Phil and Steve have spent years identifying, accessing, and cross-referencing. These include:

- British Newspaper Archive and Welsh Newspapers Online
- The Times and The Telegraph historical records
- A men's Welsh Hockey Union match and player database covering 1899 to 2002
- Welsh Hockey Selection Books
- Coach and player records held by Hoci Cymru
- FIH database records from 2014 to present
- FIH match sheets
- Memorabilia held at Hoci Cymru, photographs, programmes, and historical documents
- Photographs of Patrick Rowley's personal match records, taken during a 2024 visit to The Hockey Museum

Patrick Rowley was a prominent newspaper journalist in the post-war period whose personal match records are among the most detailed sources for that era. His records have already allowed Phil and Steve to compile more complete match data for a number of periods, though individual player and scorer details remain outstanding pending receipt of the full digital records from THM.

## Outstanding Work and Next Steps

### FIH HEADQUARTERS VISIT — LAUSANNE

In January Steve joined representatives from England and Scotland in a visit to the FIH HQ in Lausanne. The group had access to 80 tournament files from the FIH archive, 56 files held relevant information, enabling Steve to fill many of the gaps in Welsh records.

The trip was a huge success and the co-operation and bonds formed between all parties will ease our ad-hoc requests for future information.

Our thanks to Katie Dodd for her involvement and her influence in pushing for this visit.

### PATRICK ROWLEY'S DIGITAL RECORDS — THM

Despite multiple requests, The Hockey Museum has not yet provided a digital copy of Patrick Rowley's Welsh records. This remains an outstanding action, and further correspondence has been sent. Receiving these records would allow Phil and Steve to cross-reference and further complete the match-level detail already gathered.

### MEN'S FIRST SELECTION BOOK

The first Welsh men's Selection Book, covering the period prior to and between the World Wars, was loaned to The Hockey Museum by Chris Brewer. Securing access to this book, even temporarily, would allow Phil and Steve to cross-reference current research and fill in remaining gaps for one of the most historically significant periods in Welsh hockey.

### GEOFF MEDLOW'S WOMEN'S RECORDS

Steve is still awaiting Geoff Medlow's records for the women's programme. These are expected to help fill a number of gaps in the women's historical record, particularly in the post-war decades.

### DIGITISATION OF THE ARCHIVE

Digitising the full record remains a priority. Some of the most important historical documentation is not yet in digital form, and capacity to complete this work is limited. This is something Hoci Cymru will need to continue to find a solution to ensure the archive is properly preserved and accessible.

## Caps Celebration Event

Our annual Caps Celebration, one of the most special events in the Hoci Cymru calendar, will not be held in the spring this year. With an exceptionally busy period of development and performance team activity taking priority, we have taken the decision to move this year's event to August or September 2026.

This means more caps to award, more stories to tell, and what promises to be an even more special occasion when we do bring our alumni together. We very much look forward to celebrating with everyone who deserves recognition, and to continuing our tradition of connecting Wales's current generation of players with the proud international history they are part of.



# Equality & diversity



### Donation of equipment

- 5 primary schools across 5 LA's



### Food & Fun 2025

Southwest = 390 children    North = 210 children    Southeast = 400 children  
**TOTAL = over 1000 children**

## THANK YOU!

The Welsh Hockey Cap Project is a labour of love, painstaking, detailed, and deeply personal work that will outlast all of us. It exists because two people cared enough to make it happen.

### Phil Bailey and Steve Knight

Thank you. The hours you have given, the archives you have visited, the letters you have written, and the conversations you have had with former internationals, often the first time those players have been asked to reflect on their contributions to Welsh hockey, are building something truly lasting.

### Thank you also to everyone who has contributed along the way

The former players who have responded to requests for information, the contacts who have shared records and memorabilia, and the staff at Hoci Cymru who have supported the project over the years.

The history of hockey in Wales deserves to be told properly. Thanks to this project, it will be.





### Fishguard primary school festival = over 150 pupils

Fishguard and Goodwick HC recently provided funding to get pupils from Croesgoch Primary School to Fishguard Primary Festival and take part in hockey activities.

One of the club's young players approached the school's headteacher about the opportunity to attend the hockey day, but unfortunately the school could not afford the travel. Croesgoch, a small school with limited funding, is already stretched with its travel commitments to activities such as swimming and other educational events.

As the information found its way to the club, the committee took a vote and decided to support the school with funding to pay for a bus. One of the club's committee members visited the school and explained how he would've loved the same opportunity when he was a pupil at Croesgoch.

The decision allowed 23 pupils to travel to Fishguard Primary Festival, enjoying a fantastic day taking part in a range of fun-filled hockey activities. As a result, Fishguard and Goodwick have welcomed three of the school's pupils into the club! Golden tickets were also handed out to the pupils that attended the festival, offering two free training sessions as an introduction to the sport and the club.

This initiative has also proved incredibly successful, with the club receiving multiple enquiries about joining up.

### Bridgend Ladies – engagement day

The club hosted an event to engage with pupils around Bridgend and surrounding areas, sharing the fun and benefits of hockey by offering a range of activities.

Also, offering goodie bags, free t-shirt and sweets. The club ensured the children attending the event knew how to join Hoci Cymru affiliated clubs. Supported by HYA and parents.



### Carmarthen Hockey club – fundraising:

The club’s commitment to making hockey more accessible to all and passion for sustainability is a great example of the impact our clubs can make in their local communities.

The clubs’ “Access to Hockey Fund” has supported over 15 families over the last 2 seasons and enabled them to take part in the sport they love and remain part of the CAHC community.

This year, the club’s annual bingo night has also gone towards the fundraising efforts for our U21 Women’s team who went to Chile for the Junior World Cup, led by former CAHC junior Betsan Thomas.

In addition, their kit bucket initiative has represented a large part of their commitment to the environment while providing more than 30 players with an affordable way to try the sport before committing to buying new gear.

### Wrexham Hockey Club links

Wrexham HC, linked with Wrexham University have offered taster sessions to local primary schools which led to the successful Wrexham primary festival, and extracurricular sessions in 2 secondary schools. The junior section has strengthened and a few coaching sessions in the community have been able to happen.

# Inclusion

## Inclusion engagement (past year)

- South West = over **700**
- North = over **150**
- South East = over **200**
- Local contact with **16** ALN schools over **10** local authorities

## Events

- **6** Disability Sport Wales events (including Para Sport Festival – Swansea & Bangor, Wizz Kidz – Carmarthen)
- **2** drop-in sessions with University of Wales Trinity Saint Davids
- First inclusion Cwmtawe summer camp = **17** participants
- **3** ALN schools in Food & Fun (summer)



We have 3 hockey clubs in West Wales which are in stages of being educated and equipped to be an inclusive club for all e.g. resource cards, equipment and training.





### Castell Alun Primary cluster hockey festival back on the calendar

The Castell Alun Hockey Festival which was supported by Lucie from Buckley Hockey Club and Will from Gwella provided a valuable opportunity for over 80 pupils from five local primary schools to experience and develop their hockey skills. Prior to the festival, each school received at least one taster session, delivered by a coach from Buckley Hockey Club where they learned the basics on the playground at their primary school.

The programme concluded with all participating schools attending a festival hosted by Ysgol Castell Alun on the school astroturf. 16 pupils from Castell Alun who had completed the Hockey Leaders award earlier in the year were able to run the event, umpiring the games and ensuring it all ran smoothly. Some of the hockey leaders have now started to help at the school extra curricular club, while others are assisting in their local clubs.

The event was very well received, with pupils demonstrating some excellent hockey skills as well as enthusiasm, teamwork and enjoyment throughout.

### Coaches & Volunteers (ALN/DSW trained)

- 3 head coaches
- 7 HYA



### Disability Sport Wales insport Series event in Bangor provided inclusive hockey for disabled adults and young people across North Wales

Hoci Cymru attended the Disability Sport Wales insport series event in Bangor along with support from Emily from Wrexham Glyndwr Hockey Club. Around 300 children from schools across Gwynedd were able to experience hockey for the first time. The event provided an inclusive and welcoming environment where pupils could learn basic hockey skills, develop their fundamental motor skills, build confidence and take part in physical activity alongside their peers.

Children took part in practical hockey activities designed to introduce the fundamentals of the game. Sessions focused on simple, engaging skills such as holding the stick safely, moving with the ball, passing, controlling the ball and for some they were working together in small groups. The activities were structured to be inclusive, allowing pupils of different abilities and confidence levels to participate successfully.

Pupils enjoyed the sessions, with many showing growing confidence as they became familiar with the equipment. The practical, hands-on nature of the activities helped children engage quickly

### Inclusive Practice

**A key strength of the event was its inclusive approach.** Activities were adapted so that children could participate at a level that suited them, with an emphasis on enjoyment, encouragement and personal achievement rather than competition. This helped create a positive environment where pupils could try something new without pressure.

# Hockey Young Ambassadors (HYA)

2025/26 = 116 HYA

Bronze = **46**      Silver = **40**      Gold = **16**      Platinum = **14**

## Steering Group

CHAIR: Ned Rees-Wigmore      VICE-CHAIR: Rhys Culley      MEDIA: Rhiannon Bevan      SECRETARY: Anna Norris  
WELSH LANGUAGE: Osian Jacob Benbow (new member)      INCLUSION: Gwen Bennett

## Events

- Royal Welsh / • Eisteddfod / • National Club Championships / • County Championships
- Disability Sport Wales events / • Easter Series (Wales v Canada) / • Hockey camps



## Webinars

- Mental Health & wellbeing / • Social media with 6 Nations rugby / • LeadHERship / • Safeguarding
- Balancing Sport & School / • Tiger EYE bra / • Inclusion



# HWYL HOCI Camps

## • Total camps held: **21**

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. There have been engagement camps for those starting out on their hockey journey, and Skills+ camps for those more established players looking to develop their existing skills and experience camps at a pace similar to the RPC level and beyond.

## • Total participants: **382**

A total of 382 children and young people have engaged with our camps, demonstrating a strong interest and growing demand for hockey opportunities at the grassroots level.

## • Average participants per Camp: **20**

On average, each camp has welcomed just over 20 participants which is an increase from last year. This uptake reflects both the accessibility of the sessions and our efforts to ensure manageable group sizes and low coach: participant ratios to ensure quality coaching and safety.

## • Future Camps

We have more camps with some new venues scheduled in the coming holidays. These will help us to further build on existing momentum and continue reaching new participants, particularly in areas identified as having less access to opportunities.

## • Completed Camps

The completed camps have shown where there is a need and an interest within community settings. There have been Engagement camps for 7 – 12-year-olds, and Skills+ camps for 13 – 18-year-olds across the regions. An introduction of a GK coach at certain camps when available has been a new addition and has been very well received, growing our provision of hockey at all levels.

**Locations in Wales:** Pwllheli, Colwyn Bay, Denbigh, Wrexham, Brecon, Cwmtawe, Fishguard, Cardiff.

## • Delivered in different locations across Wales

Camps have been strategically located across 8 different areas in Wales this year, with a strong focus on decreasing the travel time required for children to access a hockey camp in Wales. 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.

## • HYA involvement

We have had our Hockey Young Ambassadors volunteering at the Hwyl hockey camps this year. **30** HYAs have been involved across the country, developing their coaching skills.



*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.*

## Residential Camp — May 2025

### In Partnership with Christ College Brecon

May 2025 marked a landmark moment for our organisation as we delivered our first ever residential hockey camp, held in partnership with Christ College Brecon. The camp brought together 35 young players from across Wales, 22 girls and 13 boys aged between 13 and 17, for an immersive, multi-day hockey experience.

Participants benefited from high-quality coaching delivered by staff from both Hoci Cymru and Christ College Brecon, offering a blend of technical development, tactical understanding, and team building in a residential setting.

A highlight of the camp was the involvement of Wales women’s international Amy Cradden and men’s player Owen Sutton, whose appearances provided inspiration and invaluable insight for the young players, many of whom are aspiring to represent Wales at junior and senior level.

The camp received outstanding feedback from participants and parents alike. One attendee summed up the experience:



*“I absolutely loved the residential camp — there were loads of new drills that helped improve my skills, as well as meeting new players from across Wales. I will definitely book again.”*

This inaugural camp has firmly established the residential programme as a cornerstone of our player development pathway, and we look forward to building on its success in the years ahead.

### General participation

#### Hockey Development Officer (HDO) Delivery

North Wales: **39** sessions **2,269** attendances

West Wales: **21** sessions **951** attendances

South East Wales: **18** sessions **1,126** attendances

**TOTAL: 78** sessions **4,346** attendances

#### Young Ambassador Delivery

North Wales: **62** sessions **2,362** attendances

West Wales: **168** sessions **7,446** attendances

South East Wales: **111** sessions **3,654** attendances

**TOTAL: 341** sessions **13,462** attendances

#### Club Coach Delivery

North Wales: **8** sessions **478** attendances

West Wales: **27** sessions **453** attendances

South East Wales: **6** sessions **167** attendances

**TOTAL: 41** sessions **1,098** attendances

#### Club Volunteer Delivery

North Wales: **6** sessions **280** attendances

West Wales: **2** sessions **86** attendances

South East Wales: **12** sessions **265** attendances

**TOTAL: 20** sessions **631** attendances

COMPETE

# Wales Masters

## Tournaments attended by the Wales Men's Masters teams:

### APRIL 2025 – MARCH 2026

#### Celtic Cup – Edinburgh, Scotland (July 25)

M65	Finished 2nd
M70	Finished 3rd

#### 4 Nations Cardiff, Wales (May 25)

M40	Finished 2nd
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#### 4 Nations Cork, Ireland (May 25)

M35	Finished 3rd
M45	Finished 4th
M55	Finished 2nd

#### 4 Nations Cork, Ireland (May 25)

M60	Finished 4th
M65	Finished 2nd
M70	Finished 4th
M75	Finished 2nd

#### 4 Nations Cardiff, Wales (July 25)

M50	Finished 2nd
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#### European Championship – Valencia, Spain (May 25)

M45	Finished 4th
M50	Finished 7th

#### European Championship – Nottingham, England (August 25)

M55	Finished 5th
M60	Finished 6th

#### European Championship – Ludwigsburg, Germany (August 25)

M65	Finished 7th
M70	Finished 6th
M75	Finished 4th

#### Indoor World Cup – Nottingham, England (March 26)

M35	Finished 4th
M40	Finished 5th
M45	Finished 3rd – Bronze medal
M50	Finished 11th
M55	Finished 6th
M60	Finished 9th
M65	Finished 4th



**Tournaments attended by the Wales Women’s Masters teams:**

APRIL 2025 – MARCH 2026	
Friendly tournament – Namur, Belgium (April 25)	
W65 / W70	Finished 5th
European Championship – Valencia, Spain (May 25)	
W45	Finished 6th
4 Nations Swansea, Wales (June 25)	
W55	Finished 4th
W60	Finished 4th
W65	Finished 3rd
European Championship – Valencia, Spain (June 25)	
W35	Finished 5th
W40	Finished 2nd – Silver medal
Friendly Tournament – Southgate, England (July 25)	
W65 / W70	Finished 2nd
4 Nations Glasgow, Scotland (August 25)	
W35	Finished 4th
W40	Finished 2nd
W45	Finished 3rd
W50	Finished 4th
European Championship – Nottingham, England (August 25)	
W55	Finished 6th
W60	Finished 5th
W65	Finished 4th

Indoor World Cup – Nottingham, England (March 26)	
W35	Finished 4th
W40	Finished 4th
W60	Finished 3rd – Bronze medal
W65	Finished 4th



Women 40s at the European Championship in Valencia, Spain

# County Pathway

The County Pathway programme took place throughout Wales, covering 11 different locations (including County Championships in Swansea). Though inclement weather threatened to impact the programme, the large majority of feedback has once again been positive and reflects the hard work that has gone on behind the scenes to keep it running smoothly.

County Championships ran through the February half-term and was supported well by a number of our Young Ambassadors. Through their diligent work, over £450 was raised selling merchandise and accessories. They also contributed massively in helping run pitchside operations and the engagement stands (darts and speed gun).

This event was also well attended by parents and demonstrates the quality of the offering that is in place at the end of long training programme. Each county had 8 training sessions and scheduled matches, providing over 12 hours of contact time per county for coaches and players, this is in addition to school/club offerings that players already have in place.

There were roughly 900 nominations across all counties and this led to 500 participants (approximately 62 per county), an excellent sign for the development of players going forwards in the Welsh Pathway. This further translated into 180 players nominated for the Regional Development Programme. This signals a 55% retention of nomination to participation and a 36% through rate from County to Regional.



Eryri U15 Girls

All aspects of the County Pathway were discussed on an end-of-season forum. The major talking points of which were:

- 1 **Player Sign-Up & Nomination Process**
- 2 **Workforce Development & Coach Engagement**
- 3 **Facilities Planning**
- 4 **Administration, Communications & Kit**
- 5 **County Championships Review & Talent ID**

## 1. Player Sign-Up & Nomination Process

The move away from self-nomination towards coach and teacher nominations has been a positive step this year. However, there are still data protection concerns around the information collected at sign-up, and a proposal to allow parents to complete sensitive information directly should be explored. Expanding the ANT region to absorb some Dyfed players is also under consideration to manage participation numbers.

## 2. Workforce Development & Coach Engagement

Expanding the coaching workforce is a priority, as minimum standards are occasionally being compromised due to availability constraints. Coach attendance at meetings needs to be formalised and made compulsory, with meeting schedules shifted to better suit existing coaching commitments. All coaches must meet the required Minimum Operating Standards (MOS) before the start of next season.

### 3. Facilities Planning

Facility decisions for the coming season are largely in place, including Cwmbran for Gwent based on parental feedback. Planning for North Wales requires flexibility, with four potential venues being assessed based on player sign-up geography. The suitability of Mold's floodlighting for evening sessions remains an open issue.

### 4. Administration, Communications & Kit

A consistent and clearly communicated comms structure, centred on Spond, needs to be established from the outset. FAQs and pathway information should be redirected to the website to reduce ad hoc queries. Kit ordering should be consolidated at the start of the season, with a print-on-demand service considered to address sizing and stock challenges.

### 5. County Championships Review & Talent ID

The Championships were well-received overall, with 11-a-side formats praised on the boys' day and strong performances across the girls' age groups. Improvements proposed for next year include a Plate competition for lower-ranked counties, player walk-outs for finals, and post-game interviews for social media. Talent identification at the event should be better resourced, with staff ensuring they remain for finals where the highest-quality players are on show.

### Collection of Payments

Difficulties have been faced surrounding collection of payments throughout the programme. The cost of the Pathway still remains as a very good offering for the expenditure required and no changes in cost are anticipated for the coming season.



Glam Valleys v Gwent U15 Girls



Glam Valleys v Gwent U17 Girls

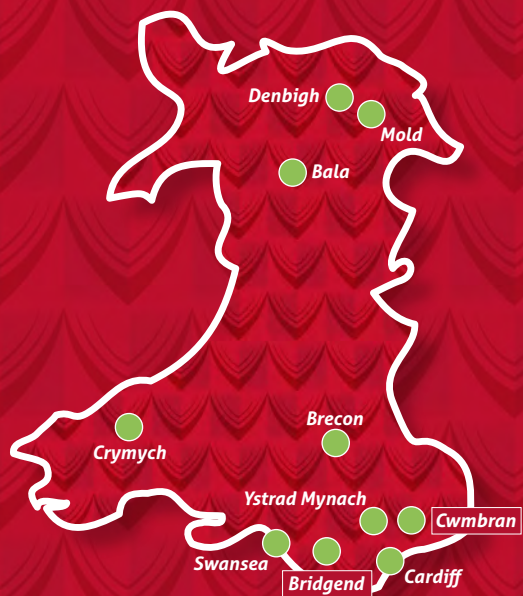


## PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

- 11** **locations** across Wales - 10 training venues plus County Championships
- 8** **training sessions** per county, plus scheduled matches throughout the season
- 12+** **contact hours** - per county for coaches & players - on top of school/club activity
- £450** **raised** by Young Ambassadors at County Championships via merchandise sales

### COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

**SWANSEA BAY SPORTS PARK**, Sketty Lane, Swansea



### TRAINING VENUES

- Elba - Freedom Leisure / Swansea
- Crymych Leisure Centre / Pembrokeshire
- Brynteg Comp. / Bridgend
- Christ College / Brecon
- Cwmbran Stadium / Cwmbran
- Fitzalan High School / Cardiff
- Ysgol godre'r Berwen / Bala
- Denbigh Leisure / Denbigh
- Mold Leisure Centre / Mold
- Sue Noake Leisure Centre / Ystrad Mynach

### END-OF-SEASON DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

#### Player sign-up & nomination

- Shift to coach & teacher nominations - positive step
- Review data protection at sign-up
- Parents to submit sensitive information directly
- Consider expanding ANT region

#### Facilities planning

- Cwmbran confirmed for Gwent
- 4 venues assessed for North Wales
- Selection based on player geography
- Review Mold floodlighting

#### Workforce & coach development

- Expand coaching workforce
- Formalise compulsory coach attendance
- Reschedule meetings to suit coaches
- All coaches must meet MOS pre-season

#### Admin, comms & kit

- Consistent comms via Spond from day one
- Redirect FAQs to website
- Consolidate kit orders at season start
- Explore print-on-demand for sizing

#### Championships & talent ID

- 11-a-side format well received
- Introduce Plate competition
- Walk-outs and post-game interviews
- Staff to remain for finals for Talent ID

### PLAYER DEVELOPMENT FUNNEL

From nomination to the Regional Development Programme



● County nominations   ● County participants   ● Regional Development Programme

# County Programme

2025/2026 saw our third cycle of the County Programme. With continued momentum, growth and development of the programme this year saw us expand the Boys County Programme to 11 a-side. With approx. 900 nominations and nearly 500 participants spread across 8 counties, it was brilliant to see the growth of hockey across the country in an extremely competitive County Championships.

Following a successful County Programme 180 players were nominated into the new Regional Development Programme.

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL PLAYERS, PARENTS, AND COACHES FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAMME.

## The 2025/2026 County Championships results were:



BOYS: **North East**  
U15 GIRLS: **Eryri**  
U17 GIRLS: **Eryri**



BOYS: **Eryri**  
U15 GIRLS: **Cardiff**  
U17 GIRLS: **Cardiff**



BOYS: **Cardiff**  
U15 GIRLS: **North East**  
U17 GIRLS: **South Coast**



COUNTY COACHES	
<b>Tom Viney</b>	<b>Afan Nedd Tawe Boys HC</b>
Ned Rees Wigmore	Afan Nedd Tawe Boys AC
<b>Emily Haywood</b>	<b>Afan Nedd Tawe U15 Girls HC</b>
<b>Carys Shaw</b>	<b>Afan Nedd Tawe U17 Girls HC</b>
<b>Robert Webb</b>	<b>Dyfed U17 Boys HC</b>
<b>Robert Codd</b>	<b>Dyfed U15 Boys HC</b>
<b>Lucy Griffiths</b>	<b>Dyfed U15 Girls HC</b>
Evie Taylor	Dyfed U15 Girls AC
Emrys Plant	Dyfed U15 Girls AC
Ella Moir	Dyfed U15 Girls AC
<b>Lucy Griffiths</b>	<b>Dyfed U17 Girls HC</b>
Simon Roberts	Dyfed U17 Girls AC
<b>Mollie Tuff / George Marshall</b>	<b>South Coast Boys HC</b>
<b>Graeme Jones</b>	<b>South Coast U15 Girls HC</b>
Tim Nicholls	South Coast U15 Girls AC
<b>Graeme Jones</b>	<b>South Coast U17 Girls HC</b>
Tim Nicholls	South Coast U17 Girls AC
<b>Jay Wilyman</b>	<b>Cardiff Boys HC</b>
<b>Judith Livesey</b>	<b>Cardiff U15 Girls HC</b>
Euan James	Cardiff U15 Girls AC
<b>Judith Livesey</b>	<b>Cardiff U17 Girls HC</b>
Euan James	Cardiff U17 Girls AC
<b>Tim Jones</b>	<b>Gwent Boys HC</b>
<b>Chris Williams</b>	<b>Gwent U15 Girls HC</b>
Hayley Jenkins	Gwent U15 Girls AC

COUNTY COACHES	
<b>Chris Williams</b>	<b>Gwent U17 Girls HC</b>
Hayley Jenkins	Gwent U15 Girls AC
<b>Mark Zeigler</b>	<b>Glamorgan Valleys Boys HC</b>
Jamie Everett	Glamorgan Valleys Boys AC
Jess Owens	Glamorgan Valleys Coordinator
<b>Mark Zeigler</b>	<b>Glamorgan Valleys Girls HC</b>
Sarah Rawlins	Glamorgan Valleys Girls AC
Michaela Gallie	Glamorgan Valleys Girls AC
<b>Liam Bell</b>	<b>North East Boys HC</b>
Simon Samuels	North East Boys AC
Stephen Bullock	North East Boys AC
<b>Tom Williamson</b>	<b>North East U15 Girls HC</b>
Luke Doughty	North East U15 Girls AC
<b>Tom Williamson</b>	<b>North East U17 Girls HC</b>
Luke Doughty	North East U17 Girls AC
<b>Luke Edwards</b>	<b>Eryri Boys HC</b>
<b>Lynda Bennett</b>	<b>Eryri U15 Girls HC</b>
Ryan Goddard	Eryri U15 Girls AC
<b>Ellis Lloyd-Jones</b>	<b>Eryri U17 Girls HC</b>



# Competition winners 2025/26

## Club competitions

Women's Indoor	Cardiff & Met
Men's / Open Indoor	Cardiff & Met
Women's Championship	Penarth
Men's / Open Championship	Cardiff & Met
Women's Trophy	Bangor City
Men's / Open Trophy	Gwent
Women's Challenge	Ruthin
Men's / Open Challenge	Dysynni
Women's Masters Championship	Eryri Gogs
Women's Masters Trophy	The Bears
Men's / Open Masters	Whitchurch



## Youth competitions

U18 Girls	Cardiff & Met
U18 Boys / Open	Swansea
U16 Girls	Cardiff & Met
U16 Boys / Open	Whitchurch
U14 Girls	Cardiff & Met
U14 Boys / Open	Whitchurch
U12 Girls	Whitchurch
U12 Boys	Swansea

## Eurohockey competitions

EuroHockey Club Trophy II Women 2025	Swansea, 7th place
EuroHockey Club Challenge I Women 2025	Cardiff & Met, 1st place
EuroHockey Club Trophy I Men 2025	Cardiff & Met, 3rd place
EuroHockey Club Challenge I Men 2025	Whitchurch, withdrew
EuroHockey Indoor Club Challenge II, Women, 2026	Cardiff & Met, 1st place
EuroHockey Indoor Club Challenge I, Men, 2026	Cardiff & Met, 8th place
EuroHockey Club Trophy II Women 2026	Cardiff & Met, 6th place
EuroHockey Club Challenge I Women 2026	Penarth, 1st place
EuroHockey Club Trophy I Men 2026	Cardiff & Met, 1st place
EuroHockey Club Challenge II Men 2026	Swansea, 5th place



## Schools competitions

U18 Schoolgirls	Cathedral School
U18 Schoolboys / Open	Christ College Brecon
U18 Schoolboys / Open 7's	Brynrefail
U16 Schoolgirls	Howell's School
U16 Schoolboys / Open	Denbigh
U16 Schoolboys / Open 7's	Bishopston
U14 Schoolgirls	Howell's School
U14 Schoolboys / Open	Ysgol Glantaf
U12 Schoolgirls	Howell's School
U12 Schoolboys	Christ College Brecon



# Competition in numbers 2025/26

## HEADLINES

**29**

Total number of competitions coordinated up from **27** in the previous year

**492**

Number of teams entered up from **427** in the previous year

**6,174**

Number of players engaged up from **5,506** in the previous year

## CLUBS

**19**

Total number of competitions coordinated

**218**

Number of teams entered up from **175** in the previous year

**2,930**

Number of players engaged up from **2,488** in the previous year

## SCHOOLS

**10**

Total number of competitions coordinated up from **8** in the previous year

**274**

Number of teams entered up from **252** in the previous year

**3,244**

Number of players engaged up from **3,018** in the previous year

## LIVE STREAMING (VEO)

**258**

Number of games streamed

**4,655**

Number of viewers

**7740**

Total number of minutes of hockey

**2090**

Number of followers

## COMPETITIONS PLATFORM (TOURNIFY)

**42**

Number of competitions managed on the platform

**12,125**

Number of unique visitors



# Welsh Hockey Umpires Association

- Online Level 1 umpiring course launched
- 11 learners signing up in the first month and a 36% completion rate
- 8 x umpire webinars delivered including rules seminars and an indoor webinar
- 341 x attendees
- 158 umpire licences issued
- Umpire fees collected per team
- Mike Cleverley stepped down as WHUA Treasurer

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



EuroHockey Appointments 2025 / 2026			
Date	Competition name	Umpire/Official name	Role
APRIL 2025	EHL Final 8 (M) & Final 12 (W) @ Den Bosch (NED)	Clare Barwood	EHF UMP
	Outdoor Women's Club Trophy 1 @ Rakovnik (CZE)	John Taylor	TO
	Outdoor Women's Club Trophy 2 @ Glasgow (SCO)	Cathy Wright Moli Smith	UM UMP
	Outdoor Women's Club Challenge 1 @ Alanya (TUR)	Chloe McCall	UMP
JUNE 2025	Outdoor Men's Club Trophy 2 @ Lousada (POR)	Karen Evans	UM
	Outdoor Men's Club Challenge 2 @ Siauliai (LTU)	Kevin Roberts	EHF, UMP
JULY 2025	Outdoor Men's U18 Championship II @ Alanya (TUR)	Liam Wade	UMP
	Outdoor Women's U18 Championship II @ Glasgow (SCO)	Mark Staunton Liv Turner	UM UMP
	Outdoor Men's Championship II @ Lousada (POR)	Christian Phillips Adams	UMP
	Outdoor Women's Championship II @ Gniezno (POL)	Chris Brewer Chloe McCall	TD UMP
AUGUST 2025	Outdoor Men's and Women's Championships @ Mönchengladbach (GER)	John Taylor	Judge
OCTOBER 2025	Outdoor Men's EHL KO16 @ Barcelona (ESP)	Kevin Roberts	EHF, UMP
JANUARY 2026	Indoor Men's Indoor Championship @ Heidelberg (GER)	Kevin Roberts	EHF, UMP
	Indoor Women's Indoor Championship @ Prague (CZE)	Abby MacArthur	EHF, UMP
	Indoor Women's Indoor Championship II @ Lousada (POR)	Christian Phillips Adams	UMP
FEBRUARY 2026	Indoor Men's Indoor Club Challenge I @ Sofia (BUL)	Harri Pritchard Evans Cathy Wright George Marshall	Judge UM UMP
	Indoor Men's and Women's Indoor Club Challenge II @ Vantaa (FIN)	John Taylor Chloe McCall	TO UMP
	Indoor Women's Indoor Club Cup @ Swarzędz (POL)	Abby MacArthur	EHF, UMP
	Indoor Women's Indoor Club Trophy @ Lambersart (FRA)	Clare Barwood	EHF UMP

PERFORM

# Performance Director summary 2025

The 2025 season has been an extremely positive and progressive year across our performance programmes, marked by continued growth, strong competitive results, and meaningful development throughout the pathway.

Across both the men’s and women’s programmes, we have seen significant success on the international stage. Both senior teams achieved podium finishes at European competition, marking an important milestone in our progression and securing a return to the European A Division. These performances reflect the consistency, resilience, and quality that has been building across the cycle. In addition, the men’s programme achieved qualification for the next World Cup, representing another major step forward and a testament to the continued development of the group. Encouragingly, both teams have also demonstrated their ability to compete strongly against higher world-ranked opposition, reinforcing belief and confidence in our direction of travel.

A particular highlight of the year has been the success of our junior programmes, culminating in a hugely positive Junior World Cup campaign. This provided an invaluable experience for our athletes on the world stage and demonstrated the strength and potential within our pathway. The exposure to high-level competition continues to be a critical component of long-term player development.

Central to this progress has been the continued evolution of our pathway structure. This year has seen further development of our Regional and National Age Group (NAGs) model, including the introduction of Aspiring and Emerging squads. These programmes provide clearer and more aligned stepping stones for players, ensuring that we are supporting athletes at the right stage of their journey while building depth across the pathway. This approach will be key in sustaining long-term success and strengthening the transition into senior international hockey.

As we look ahead to the 2026/27 season, we do so from a position of strength. The foundations we have built, across player development, competition exposure, and pathway alignment, give us confidence in our ability to continue progressing and achieving our collective ambitions.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all players, parents, coaches, and support staff who have contributed to the success of our programmes this year. Your commitment, energy, and support remain fundamental to everything we do, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.



**Katie Glynn**  
Performance Director

## Performance Staff

SENIOR MEN	
Danny Newcombe	Head Coach
Martin Schouten	Assistant Coach
Luke Hawker	Assistant Coach
David Ames	Assistant Coach (Now departed)
Gwyn Williams	Manager
Debbie Mason	Physiotherapist
Mark Hill	Strength and Conditioning Coach

SENIOR WOMEN	
Kevin Johnson	Head Coach
Walid Abdo	Assistant Coach / U21 Head Coach
Matty Sears	Assistant Coach
Chris Davis	Assistant Coach (India WCQ / Under 21 Womens Head Coach)
Rebecca Daniels	Manager
Samantha Walker	Physio
Rhiana Galvin	Performance Analyst
Sam Thirwell	Strength and Conditioning Coach

PERFORMANCE SUPPORT	
Connor Hetherton	Head of Strength and Conditioning
Jonny Harper	Head of Medical Services

# Celebrating 2025/26: Performance Round Up

2025/26 has been another exceptional year for our performance squads, packed with international milestones, historic results, and a clear demonstration of progress across both our senior and junior programmes. The year has seen Welsh hockey teams continuing to rise through the ranks on the European and world stage, setting even higher standards for the seasons ahead.

## Senior Men

The Wales Men's Squad delivered one of their most impressive years to date. After a strong showing at the Nations Cup in Malaysia, where they finished 5th and produced high-quality performances against several higher ranked nations, momentum continued to build heading into the 2025 EuroHockey Championship II.

In Portugal, the squad showcased exceptional consistency and composure, culminating in a dramatic shoot out victory over Ireland to take gold. This triumph not only secured them promotion to the EuroHockey Championship A Division in 2027 but also qualification for the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers.

Early in 2026, the team travelled to Santiago, Chile, for the World Cup Qualifiers, an intense competition featuring some of the world's strongest sides. After being drawn in a challenging pool, the team faced a must win match against Scotland, needing to prevail by three goals to progress. Rising to the challenge, they did exactly that in outstanding fashion.

A thrilling 2-1 win over Poland in the classification match sealed 3rd place overall and, most importantly, qualification for the 2026 World Cup, which will take place in the Netherlands and Belgium in August 2026. This marks another historic milestone: Wales Men have now qualified for their second ever World Cup, an achievement that highlights the team's determination, quality, and growth on the international stage.

***"It's been a hugely successful year for the senior men's team. Competing for the first time at the Nations Cup, winning the European B division to secure qualification for next summer's European A Division Championships in London and sealing our place at this summer's world cup with a standout qualifying campaign in Chile. The squad continues to go from strength to strength, with younger players stepping up and making a real impact at senior level. We have a busy summer schedule ahead of us, as we look to put ourselves in the best position to compete with the top teams in the world in August."***

Ben Francis





## Senior Women

The Wales Women's Team also produced a standout year, continuing to strengthen their international presence with outstanding performances and record-breaking results.

Their campaign began with a brilliant bronze medal at the FIH Nations Cup II in Poland, showcasing their ability to compete with, and defeat, nations ranked well above them. Returning to Poland later in the year for the EuroHockey Championship II, the squad went one better, reaching the final and narrowly missing out on gold after a 2-1 loss to Italy. That silver medal secured promotion to the EuroHockey Championship A Division in 2027, their first return to the top tier in 22 years, and qualification for the 2026 World Cup Qualifiers.

At the start of 2026, the team travelled to Hyderabad, India, for the World Cup. Drawn in a tough pool alongside hosts India, Scotland, and Uruguay, the squad performed fearlessly and consistently, pushing Scotland close and putting together highly competitive displays against India on home soil.

Their performance continued into the crossovers, where they recorded a historic first ever win against Korea, a team ranked six places higher. The women finished the World Cup Qualifiers in an excellent 6th place, proving not only their ability to compete with the world's best but also their growing confidence and maturity on the biggest stage.

***"It's been a successful and rewarding year for our team. We picked up medals at two of our three international tournaments, earned promotion to the European Championships, and bettered our ranking at the World Cup Qualifiers. Several players made their first appearances and have added real strength to the squad, and were looking to build on this positive momentum as we head towards the European A Division Championships in London next year."***

Beth Bingham

# Milestones / Caps / Achievements

## 1ST CAP

Sam Welsh | Ffion Horrell | Beth Peers | Katie Partridge | Lottie Atkinson  
Tilly Edwards | Amy Hughes | Holly Done | Jamie Bulbring

## 50TH CAP

Jolyon Morgan | Gareth Griffiths

## 150TH CAP

Gareth Furlong

## 150TH COMBINED

Daniel Kyriakides

## 200TH COMBINED

Sarah Jones

## PLAYERS OF THE TOURNAMENT

### EUROHOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP II

Betsan Thomas | Jacob Draper

## 100TH INTERNATIONAL GOAL

Gareth Furlong

# Great Britain Representation

## SENIOR MEN & WOMEN

Jacob Draper | Fred Newbold | Toby Reynolds-Cotteril  
Gareth Furlong | Millie Holme | Rebecca Daniel

## EDP MEN & WOMEN

Harry Davies | Amy Cradden  
Caitlin Witham | Betsan Thomas



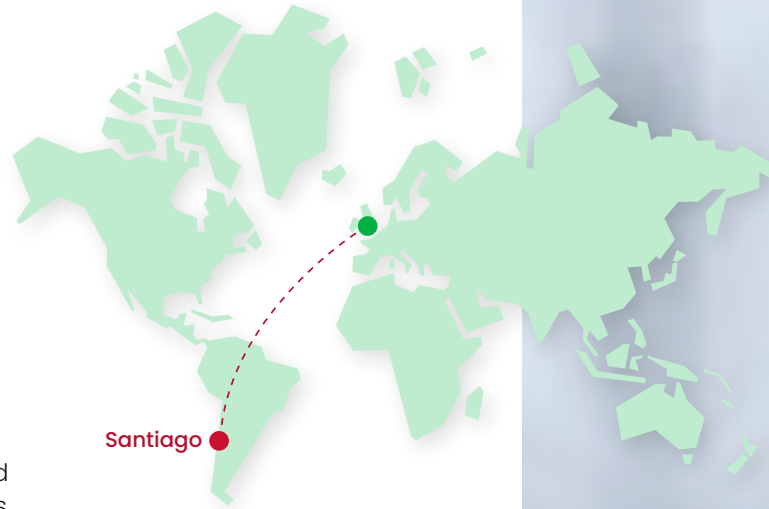
# Junior World Cup

The success of our senior teams has been mirrored by exciting developments within our junior performance pathway, with the next generation of Welsh players gaining invaluable international exposure and experience.

In December 2025 our Under 21 Womens team travelled to Santiago, Chile, to compete in the Junior World where they faced an exceptionally tough pool featuring Belgium and Argentina, both ranked among the world's elite youth sides.

Despite the challenge, the team competed brilliantly, pushing Belgium all the way and showing tactical growth and resilience throughout the tournament. In the crossover stages, they claimed an outstanding victory over South Africa, another higher ranked opponent, and went on to finish 14th overall, a strong finish that surpassed expectations and reflected the rapid progress of the squad.

The Junior World Cup journey was a true testament to the strength and depth within our women's programme, with performances that not only demonstrated individual potential but also collective belief, unity, and ambition. This experience will play a vital role in shaping the next generation of Welsh internationals.



Santiago



## JUNIOR WORLD CUP STAFF

Walid Abdo

Kevin Johnson

Paul Edwards

Sarah Hardman

Samantha Walker

Matty Sears



# National Age Groups (NAG's)

## 2025 Overview

The 2025 season concluded with our U18 Boys and Girls Programme competing at the European Championship II competitions. Our U18 Boys faced some tough competition and conditions in Turkey finishing 8th, whilst our Girls stayed a little closer to home and competed in Scotland, finishing 5th.

- 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)

Both were valuable learning experiences for our players, staff and programmes. Following completion of the cycle we said goodbye to some of our staff and would like to express our thanks for their contributions to our programmes.

## 2025/26 NAG U18 Programme

Following a review of our pathway and in recognition of the challenges around available resources, we made the decision to realign our age group programmes into two distinct areas. This shift allows us to focus more on stage of development rather than purely on age. In September 2025, we introduced our Aspiring and Emerging programmes, alongside the appointment of new staff to support their delivery.

Following a competitive selection process (September–January), two full squads were selected for the 2026 Aspiring Programme cycle. Using the same assessment process, we also identified our 2026 Emerging programme cohort, a deliberately smaller group of approximately 14 players, made up of those eligible for the U18 European Championships in 2027 and the U21 European Championships in 2028.

Throughout the programme cycle, we will continue to invite high-performing Regional players into the environment. This approach allows us to expose and develop a broader pool of athletes, particularly in a non-European competition year for U18s. This group will also work towards competing at the School Games in September. All programmes commenced with a residential camp in February, focusing on team building, individual development, and setting clear expectations for the year ahead.

Over Easter (2026), both the Aspiring Girls and Aspiring Boys competed in the Euro 6 Nations tournaments. The Girls travelled to Tonbridge to face Holland, England, USA, and Scotland, while the Boys competed in Frankfurt against Belgium, Poland, Scotland, and Holland. Alongside this, the Emerging Boys held a development camp in Cardiff,

while the Emerging Girls hosted Canada U18s for a three-match series. This proved to be a highly competitive and valuable first experience of junior international hockey for many of the players.

Looking ahead to May, our Aspiring Girls have a comprehensive training programme, while the Emerging Boys will face England Colleges. The Aspiring Boys will also have a series of fixtures against England Over 35s and England U18s, providing further high-quality competition opportunities.

- **Aspiring Girls – Championship I, Valencia, Spain**  
26th July – 1st August 2026 (BEL, ENG, ESP, GER, IRL, NED, SCO, WAL)
- **Aspiring Boys – Championship II | Plzeň Litice, Czech Republic**  
28th July – 1st August 2026 (CZE, TUR, SCO, WAL)



**GROUP STAFF**

**National Age Group Boys - Aspiring Programme**

Oli Lum	Head Coach
Jonny Fleck	Programme Manager / Assistant Coach
Matty Sears	Programme Manager / Assistant Coach
Connor Heatherton	Strength and Conditioning Coach
Callum Chapman	Physiotherapist

**National Age Group Boys - Emerging Programme**

Brett Madden	Head Coach
Reuben Elliot	Assistant Coach / Manager

**GROUP STAFF**

**National Age Group Girls - Aspiring Programme**

Chris Davis	Head Coach
Emily Tyler	Programme Manager
Matt Way	Assistant Coach
Gwyn Davis Murray	Strength and Conditioning Coach
Aimee Jones	Physiotherapist

**National Age Group Girls - Emerging Programme**

David Robinson	Head Coach
Josie Rixon	Assistant Coach / Manager

**PHYSIO POOL**

Ffion Thomas	Chelsie-Jane Mason
Cora Hogan	Ashleigh Abbott



# Regional Programme

In 2025, our three Regional Centres (North, South West, South East) supported the technical, physical and holistic development of 180 junior athletes.

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.

Excitingly in 2026 we introduced an additional Regional Tier; Regional Development Programme. The Regional Development Programme is composed of the selected County players, following completion of the County Championships in February.

Throughout the programme the Regional Performance Programme players can be invited into Emerging Programme Camps. The Programme will culminate with players either joining the Emerging Programme to compete at the School Games in September or they will participate in our inaugural Regional Competition in Cardiff in August. A sincere thank you to all players, parents, and coaches for their continued commitment to the pathway.



## REGIONAL PERFORMANCE CENTRE COACHES

<b>Brett Madden</b>	<b>North Boys Head Coach</b>
<b>Tom Williamson</b>	<b>North Girls Head Coach</b>
Rob Williams	North Boys Assistant Coach
Matt Wilkinson	North Girls Assistant Coach
Luke Edwards	North Goalkeeper Coach
<b>Callum Chapman</b>	<b>South West Boys and Girls Head Coach</b>
Mollie Tuff	South West Assistant Coach
Emily Haywood	South West Assistant Coach
Robert Webb	South West Goalkeeper Coach
<b>Jonathan Forey</b>	<b>South East Girls Head Coach</b>
<b>Will Schuler</b>	<b>South East Girls Head Coach</b>
<b>David Robinson</b>	<b>South East Boys Head Coach</b>
Jonny Fleck	South East Boys Assistant Coach
Freddie Taylor	South East Goalkeeper Coach

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTRE COACHES

<b>Rob Williams</b>	<b>North Boys Head Coach</b>
<b>Ryan Goddard</b>	<b>North Girls Head Coach</b>
Gemma Phelps	North Girls Assistant Coach
Luke Edwards	North Goalkeeper Coach
<b>Rob Codd</b>	<b>South West Boys and Girls Head Coach</b>
Jamie Pitman	South West Assistant Coach
Ned Ress Wigmore	South West Assistant Coach
Robert Webb	South West Goalkeeper Coach
<b>Chris Williams</b>	<b>South East Girls Head Coach</b>
Jamie Everett	South East Girls Assistant Coach
<b>Adam Broomfield</b>	<b>South East Boys Head Coach</b>
George Marshall	South East Boys Assistant Coach
Freddie Taylor	South East Goalkeeper Coach



# Friends of Welsh Hockey



**Support**

Rhondda Ladies Hockey Club  
Flyerz Project



**237**

members



**48**

monthly prize draws



**13**

club winners



**35**

individual winners



Our Facebook page has

**945 followers**

**447 likes**

Friends of Welsh Hockey



Our Instagram account has

**445 followers**

**392 posts**

friends\_of\_wh



Our X account has

**342 followers**

@FriendsofWH

[www.friendsofwelshhockey.org.uk](http://www.friendsofwelshhockey.org.uk)

Charity No: 1140894



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

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

## Headline Partners



## Official Partners



## Key Stakeholders



Child Protection in Sport Unit



# Look ahead to 2026/27

## Raising the Bar: Club Minimum Standards

As we look ahead, a renewed focus on governance and sustainability underpins our ambition to raise standards across the game. The development of Club Action Plans will provide clear, practical frameworks to help clubs strengthen leadership, safeguard participants and plan for long-term success. Alongside this, enhanced governance arrangements for affiliated leagues and bodies will promote consistency, accountability and collaboration at every level. The introduction of updated coach and umpire licensing is a key step in supporting development, quality and confidence on the pitch, while reinforcing safe, inclusive and enjoyable environments for all. Crucially, these improvements are not delivered in isolation. Every club, volunteer, official and player has a role to play in shaping a sport that is welcoming, well governed and sustainable. Together, we are building a stronger foundation for hockey in Wales, now and for the future.

## Wales On the Global Stage

Wales will shine brightly on the global stage in the year ahead, with our national teams flying the flag at some of the sport's biggest events. At the U21 Euros, Welsh hockey celebrates a major milestone as the girls compete in the A Division for the first time in many years, taking on Europe's elite. The men's squad return to the World Cup for only the second time, reigniting one of hockey's great rivalries as they face old foes England. Meanwhile, the Masters World Cup reflects the game's depth and passion, with a record number of Welsh teams entered across multiple age groups.



## Exciting Club Season

As we look ahead to the new club season, the momentum across Welsh hockey has never felt stronger. Promotions earned through hard-fought campaigns are seeing teams' step confidently into new divisions, raising standards and sharpening competition week in, week out. At the same time, cup competitions continue to grow, with more teams than ever embracing the challenge, opportunity and drama of knockout hockey. From opening pushback to finals day, the season promises intensity, ambition and unforgettable moments. This is a club season defined by progress, pride and possibility. Everyone has a part to play.

## People Development

Continued investment in coaching, umpire and officials' education remains central to raising standards across Welsh hockey. The expanded training offer is being transformed through our digital learning platform, Hoci Dysgu Hwb, increasing accessibility, quality and consistency for everyone involved in the game. Flexible, online learning allows participants to develop at a pace that fits around busy lives, while ensuring key messages around safety, inclusion and best practice are delivered consistently nationwide. Combined with face-to-face learning and mentoring, this blended approach supports confident, well prepared coaches and officials, strengthens retention and progression, and helps create positive, enjoyable experiences on and off the pitch for all.

# BE PART OF IT - 2026/27!

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 2025/26**

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](http://www.hockeywales.org.uk)**

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 Hoci Cymru

Or email us at: **[info@hockeywales.org.uk](mailto:info@hockeywales.org.uk)**

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