

## Chairmans Womens Section Report 2018/19

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to today's section meeting and thank you for taking the time to attend.

I am sure everyone will agree that the last season has once again been very competitive and for that I thank everyone for once again taking up the challenge, as always nothing ever goes without some cancelled and moved games mainly due to the weather.

The Trophy Weekend that evolved from the final positions made for a great weekend and was well supported by those with teams present once again the event was streamed live by 24/7

The top four from the Womens Elite League competed for the Bill Britton Memorial Trophy

The top four from the Womens Premier League competed for WPL Cup

The top two Womens teams from D1 north and south competed to reach the Division One final with the winner of that game being promoted to the WPL.

We also had the u16's girls National final – its been a difficult season once again for the 16's teams we still need many more teams – come on you women's teams these girls are the future you have to do everything possible to support this programme – a big thank you to all that have ran the teams and the fixture secretaries that have worked so hard with clubs to get the games played.

A change of location for The England trip this year saw a U14 and U17 team travel to Slovakia to take part in a camp and challenge games it was again a great opportunity for the players experience playing teams from other countries and was a great success along with the rest of the Female programme something that would not happen without the dedication of all the staff involved from the trials to end camp - it takes a great deal of effort to keep this programme growing, there is a great deal happening within the EIHA and Women's hockey as with the U16's league everyone has to work together to GROW THE GAME. There will be more changes and fine tuning in the coming year as we work to create a stable elite pathway for our females from club England GB.

I believe the current league structure will continue to lift the status of the womens game season on season but this will not be done without considerable hard work from everyone involved.

We have the chance to go to the very top in Female Hockey we are producing some great young players and the EIHA and IHUK are providing great opportunities for female players, everyone has to work together to make sure we make the most of this, everything we do on the international stage only helps develop the teams and players at clubs – we all must work together – this includes recruitment of new players.

Ryan Rathbone is more than happy to bring the female learn to play programme and taster sessions to your rink – he will bring coaches – advertising material – practise plans – even help promote it. All you have to do is provide the ice and advertise the event locally – now that's not too hard is it.

In addition to the above the EIHA through the Womens Section – JLMC and ENTP are working together organising an extension to the JLMC Power of TEN programme specifically for young girls. More news on this later these are great days the ENTP and the JLMC will manage and run the day – any coaches are more than welcome to come along to these events.

Finally thanks to the committee for all their help organising the fixtures – ensuring all relevant information gets out to everyone – processing dispensations all the jobs that make the leagues work and games get played and would not happen with out them

Well done to

WEL League Winners Bracknell & Bill Britton Memorial Trophy

WPL League Winners Swindon (promoted to WEL) – Milton Keynes WPL Chairman’s Cup

Whitley WD1 Winners (promoted to WPL)

U16G National Winners Bracknell

*Geoff Hemmerman*

Women’s Chairman