** Clifton Robinsons Junior Performance Development**

**Background**

Clifton Robinsons Hockey Club is justifiably proud of the way in which so many young players have progressed through its age group and adult hockey teams to play in the national league, at international level, and benefit more widely in terms of personal development. The Club also recognises that right now there is an opportunity to make an even greater contribution to the development of young players.

Specifically next season, Clifton Robinsons Hockey Club will be offering National League competitive opportunities in 3 squads for young players who aspire to play at that level, in addition to plentiful prospects of other high-quality adult and junior competition. The Club aims to provide a fair and open pathway for young players who have the desire and determination to progress to this level and therefore seeks to support those players to the best of its ability.

**Formation of a Junior Performance Group**

Success of the Club has also brought challenges. Therefore, to maximise the marvellous opportunities that exist for junior player development, Clifton Robinsons has formed a new Junior Performance Group (JPG) comprising Juliet Rayden (L1s), Jamie Mortimore (M1s), Ian King (Head of Junior Hockey) and Mike Leatt (Lead for the JPG) with the aim of defining a clearer pathway for developing individual talent. It is also in full recognition that many players may wish to enjoy hockey in a junior or more social environment and that this is also to be encouraged. The Club acknowledges that whilst every effort will be made to meet everyone’s aspirations, that may not be possible, but it will continue to work in the best interests of individuals within a Club context without fear or favour.

**Aim of Junior Performance Development at Clifton Robinsons**

To develop individual talent.

**Who is it for?**

This is for young athletes that are members of Clifton Robinsons Hockey Club and who have shown the potential and desire to progress in age group and adult training and games. Players will be selected on merit from the wide and varied training and playing opportunities at the Club by appointed and impartial coaches and selectors.

**What will happen?**

Players will be assigned to train with adult squads on merit. It needs to be stressed that the team squads need to deliver results at their respective levels and so a correct balance of age and experience is needed to achieve this. Every effort will be made to provide development opportunities for young athletes aspiring, but yet to reach that standard. Alongside this, there will be a specific junior performance development training programme and, in addition, there will be age group training and competitive opportunities for those selected, on merit.

All athletes who are part of the performance development programme will receive an opportunity to advance their skills (technical and mental), tactical and physical attributes and receive support to help with this. The programme will draw on current and evolving hockey concepts, by creating positive learning environments, with access to feedback and mentoring systems. It will require a high degree of commitment from the athlete, which will increase as the athlete moves through the Club. It should be noted that players assigned to squads may be moved up or down to best meet with their development needs and to maintain a balance of opportunities.

**Links with Others**

The Club will seek to further develop relationships with local schools and work as closely with EH at all levels and the ‘player pathway’ as possible for the benefit of the athletes. Athletes from any schools will be given equal opportunity at the Club.

**Communication**

Communication will be a high priority on 3 levels; strategic with published policies, processes and other support procedures; with the individual to help focus and support their efforts; and with the individual’s parents and external coaches. The JPG will provide more detail in the coming weeks, with open, on-line forums to follow.

**Work in Progress**

The JPG is currently working more widely with those within the Club to establish firm and fair processes that will ensure the athletes receive the best we can offer.

More detailed information will appear over the coming months

JPG

28 April 2021