

# NORTH PERFORMANCE REPORT

## September 2020

### Performance Centres

Pleasingly all four Performance Centres began their programme as scheduled on September 13. This is significant as only 8 of the 16 PCs in the five regions started. Covid compliance requirements presented additional organisational demands for Performance Centres for 2020-21 but all such requirements have been addressed. All Centres have risk assessments, registers of participants for track and trace and Covid compliance arrangements.

Head Coaches have appointed at each centre (apart from Durham Boys where the lead coaches have yet to be decided)

Fylde: Nick Davey and Robin Taylor

Durham: Lewis Butcher

Manchester: Amanda Partington and Kelly Fillingham

Yorks: James Ross and Gary Johnson

Each centre has a full quota of regional coaches. Coaches who applied but were not given a position will be invited to PC sessions for their coach development.

Centres are remaining at their venues: Mill Farm (Fylde), Brooklands HC (Manchester), Durham University (Durham) Hill House School (Yorks).

Selection of players for the U15 and U17 squads normally takes place during the summer. As this was not possible in 2020, U15 players were nominated by ACs, all eligible U17 players from last season's PCs have been invited. All players will attend to the first two sessions (both 3 hours of coaching). 25 players per age group will be taken though to the Christmas break before squads will be reduced to around 18 for Cluster Competitions (hoping that these will be allowed in 2021). Any players who have been unable to attend the first two sessions will not be disadvantaged, but will be assessed when they are able to attend later coaching sessions. Opportunities will be made for talented players from ACs to be assessed and possibly added to the PC squads after Christmas.

The Academy Centre programme has begun in some counties across the North. Each county does this individually. At this stage, ACs will focus on coaching. The NW ACs would not normally begin their AC competitions until around March, the NE ACs would normally begin the first age group competitions in November. There is no prospect of this being possible in the near future.

England Hockey have decided to end the Player Pathway by the end of 2022 and replace this with performance hockey based in centres of excellence in various schools and clubs. The motivation for the change is to improve the performance of the England Senior teams by Paris 2024 and to focus the coaching where players currently receive 80% of their coaching, that is, at school or club. The younger age groups will still attend Academy Centres. Progression has not yet been clarified. There may be advantages to this performance pathway but also fairly obvious consequences. At this early stage EH have not presented any detail. Further discussion at the Player Pathway Committee and the Performance Centre Working Group meetings will certainly challenge the issues for our region.

In the meantime the Performance Centres will work, as ever, to give the best young players in the North quality, challenging coaching.

Ann Marshall

Chair of North Performance Hockey