



Report from Felixstowe Hockey Club 2018

Felixstowe Hockey Club is a friendly club that welcomes players of all ages and abilities. We have been established as a club in the coastal town of Felixstowe since 1905 (3 years before hockey was introduced as a sport into the Olympic Games in 1908).

Our clubhouse is located on the same site as the pitch and is open to members and guests. We organise several social events throughout the season so that our members can get together and enjoy themselves after a hard day of playing hockey! We have 8 adult teams entered into hockey leagues (4 men's teams and 4 ladies teams). Our club has expanded to include our new Ladies 4th team, our ladies second team were promoted to the Suffolk Premier division this year and we have 10 youth teams ranging in age from U8 – U18 (equating to over 150 juniors).

We aim to provide hockey for all and to widen participation in our local area, ensuring hockey is accessible and affordable for all those that want to play. Our team of volunteers currently stands at around 50, supporting with all aspects of the club's PR, administration, finances, coaching, umpiring and socials. We pay one member of staff to run our bar and one male coach (a former Scottish national hockey coach).

Earlier in the Hockey season, we made an application to the Felixstowe Council for some funding to support our resourcing of vital equipment for our new ladies fourth team. We were delighted to be gifted £500 towards our new goalkeeping kit which we have since gone on to purchase and use.

Below, you will see an example of our new kit being modelled by one of our young goalkeepers – Tabitha Strang (bottom left corner).



Kit is such an integral factor in playing and of course, player safety is paramount. Thanks to the support of the town council, we have been able to supply kit for young players who are interested in goalkeeping and we have embarked on their training.

Our club has had another successful season, with some notable 'firsts':

- The ladies fourth team completed their first season, finishing with 6 points – two wins!
- The men's fourth team recorded their highest accumulation of points.
- The ladies third team finished their season with the highest number of points in their history.
- The ladies second team finished mid table in their first season in the Suffolk Premier division following their promotion at the end of last year.
- The ladies first team finished second in the Suffolk Premier division, securing promotion to the East League for the first time in our history. The ladies are now only three promotions away from playing National league hockey – a huge achievement for our little coastal town!
- Three youth players trialed and were successfully selected to train with the England Hockey regional performance centre at Culford in Bury St Edmunds. This is their first major step towards hopefully representing their country in the future.
- Our U12 boys team have made it to the regional finals of the In2 Hockey tournament and will play these fixtures shortly.
- Approximately 15 youth players represent FHC at a county level, having been selected to play for Suffolk in their respective age divisions.

All at the club would like to offer our sincere thanks to the Town Council for your generous donation which will continue to support hockey playing in our town.