

SCOTTISH HOCKEY FACILITY STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1 INTRODUCTION

Hockey is a sport that is reliant on facilities. Pitches and social facilities are expensive and their development is at a premium therefore there is a need to prioritise their development and use to maximise the benefit to hockey. The purpose of this strategy is to identify hockey's needs in relation to our objectives and to advise partners of our priorities. This strategy is nothing new, it is a revision and expansion on previous strategies that have identified our priorities. It takes into account the needs of the game in terms of indoor and outdoor hockey and the social aspect of hockey.

2 CURRENT SITUATION

Hockey is currently driven by the business plan *Managing the Business 2004 – 2007*. This identifies the need for facilities and a facilities strategy. This need for facilities is driven by the objectives set out in the strategy, most have a facility requirement to achieve the targets. But we are not starting from scratch. There is a current facility provision that needs to be considered. The strategy acknowledges this and makes recommendations based on current provision of facilities and current and future demand for hockey. The SHU is not a facility provider as such. We are reliant on others to both develop and fund the facilities. The SHU is able to work with partners and funders to ensure the most suitable facilities are developed for hockey.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

This strategy identifies the need for both indoor and outdoor facilities. Both these versions of the game require facilities at national, regional and local level. Outdoors there is the need for two facilities at national level. A national stadium is needed to host international and national events and for international training. To facilitate training camps and other developmental activity there is a need for a national residential facility. At regional level there is a need for a network of regional facilities. These enable national training to be held locally. In addition they provide the facilities for use by the Area Institutes of Sport, by clubs competing at high levels and for aspiring athletes through district and development squad activity. These facilities need to be geographically distributed with a minimum of one in each region. The hockey playing public has a need for local facilities. These are required to cater for needs ranging from introducing hockey to primary school children through to local league hockey. They also need to cater for the social side of the game, that is the heart of being a family team sport. This document sets out the minimum requirements for each of these facilities. In addition, in the appendix, the current situation is identified and the actions required addressed.

Scottish Hockey supports the development of a mixed facility stock in each local authority. Multisport facilities should be developed before sport specific facilities as this enables the facilities to meet the needs of a multitude of users.

Indoor the position is more varied due to the multi use nature of these facilities at all levels. There is the need for consideration to be given to the hockey use of these facilities within their context. All facilities suffer wear and tear. This needs to be considered by all providers to ensure the facilities not only meet health and safety requirements, but also to increase the life of the facility and the enjoyment of using the facility. Each facility needs a maintenance programme identified to maximise the condition of the facility, especially the surface, and ensure an extended life for the facility. The development of the facilities should consider not just the infrastructure, but the development of usage around the facilities. Programmes should be put in place to generate maximum usage of the facility.

Other types of surfaces are currently used for hockey. Grass is suitable for lower level hockey. The development of new build grass pitches is not a priority for hockey. We will support the refurbishment of existing pitches, where this can be identified as the best option. MUGA's are suitable for introducing hockey, but limit the development of the game due to their size. The SHU prioritise the development of full size facilities due to the increased options for larger areas. There is an increasing trend for the development of third generation turf facilities. These facilities are not suitable for competitive hockey. Blaes is suitable for the introduction of hockey, but the development of these facilities would not be supported. All facilities should have a pricing and access policy that enables hockey to access it at a reasonable cost, appropriate times and recognises the value sports clubs bring to the local community.

4 CURRENT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FACILITIES (2006-7)

Scottish Hockey Union is involved in a partnership with the University of Edinburgh to provide a National Stadium at Peffermill playing fields. This facility also provides the regional facility in the East. We also work with sportscotland to utilise their facility at the National Sports Centre, Inverclyde, to access a National Residential Facility.

Dundee City Council has developed Dundee International Sports Centre that forms our regional facility in the Midlands. Aberdeen City Council is in the process of redeveloping Chris Anderson Stadium, which will provide a regional facility in the North. Bellahouston Sports Centre run by Glasgow City Council provides the regional facility in the West. A need for a facility has been identified for the central area of Scotland but has yet to be realised. Details of local provision are available on request.
Implementation plan

Hockey acknowledges it is reliant on others to provide facilities. Conversely they are reliant on hockey for income. The SHU will work with facility providers to ensure maximum benefit for both parties. We will communicate this strategy as widely as possible, to ensure partners are aware of our priorities. We would request that anyone developing a facility with hockey as a potential user, contacts the SHU at the earliest opportunity to ensure the needs of hockey are taken into consideration and links can be developed with potential users.

The SHU will support each development on an individual basis. Where we have identified specific needs, we will identify an action plan to encourage the development of facilities to address these needs. The SHU will be proactive in the development of facilities that meet the needs of hockey.

5 APPENDICES

The facility provision across Scotland is constantly being developed. The appendices will form an annual action plan and will identify the current provision at national, regional and local level and identify the actions the SHU will take to redress the situation.

6 CONCLUSION

Hockey has a need for facilities for the continued development of the game. Facilities have an influence on both participation and performance. This strategy sets out the requirements for hockey facilities at national, regional and local level. It identifies what is required, and the actions the SHU will take to address these issues. Within the appendices, the current provision and required actions are identified to move the provision of facilities closer to the ideal.

The full Scottish Hockey Facility Strategy is available from www.scottish-hockey.org.uk. Enquiries can be directed to facilities@scottish-hockey.org.uk

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