**Rhondda Ladies Hockey Annual Report 2025**

The Club continues to offer members the opportunity to develop and enjoy

hockey at both Junior and Senior levels.

Throughout May, June and July 2024, members were offered our full ‘Summer

of Hockey’ programme. Once again, there was an excellent take up for

Summer 7s at Sue Noakes with 21 members signing up for 8 weeks of hockey in the sunshine! There was an increase in Senior members who took up the opportunity to play in the Mixed Hockey League with Cae & RCT men playing six matches through June and July in fast paced and skilful games. We worked with Sport RCT offering a Junior hockey session at USW as part of their ‘Summer of Fun’ programme.

We were absolutely thrilled that work on the new pitch at Hawthorn began in August 2024. RCT provided excellent support for the Club by providing an alternative venue at Tonyrefail Community School. They deep cleaned the pitch and installed new lights to ensure we could continue to offer hockey to our members during the refurbishments. Our new facilities at Ysgol Afon Wen (formally Hawthorn) were reopened in November 2024 and included:

* A football field with a fence

  AI-generated content may be incorrect.New pitch surface
* Dugouts
* New set of goals
* New Floodlights
* New fencing and kick boards.

We also accessed funding from Sport RCT to purchase 4 Mini Hockey goals, 2 rope dividers, new junior sticks, balls, cones and bibs. We successfully applied for a Friends of Welsh Hockey grant to purchase new Senior GK kit for the 2025/26 season. The work continues at the school and we hope to have access to refurbished changing rooms and storage facilities for the 2025/26 season.

Once again, we entered three teams into the South Wales Women’s League. Our 1st Team will move down to play in Division 1 next season. They played some excellent, closely fought matches, drawing five of their games and narrowly missing out on some wins. Our 2nd Team battled hard throughout the season and successfully managed to retain their place in Division 3 next year. We welcomed new members to our 3rd Team, who played 10 games in Division 5 with players supporting our 1st & 2nd Teams when needed. Huge thanks are extended, on behalf of the Club, to all Captains, Vice Captains and 3rd Team Managers for the work they have done both on and off the pitch throughout the season.

A group of women's football team posing for a photo

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of people in clothing

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of girls posing for a photo

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of women in sports uniforms

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of people posing for a photo

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of women posing for a picture

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Our Senior membership numbers (Thursday night sessions) stands at 55 and our Junior membership numbers (Monday night sessions) stands at 20. We are also delighted that our Back 2 Hockey sessions continue to prove popular with 10 new members this year. It is wonderful to see players who haven’t picked up a hockey stick in a while having fun and keeping fit!

Our online marketing campaign and recruitment drive for both Senior and Junior membership has continued this season with an increase in online enquiries. We are working closely with Sport RCT to raise the profile of hockey and have run 2 x Half Term Hockey sessions at Abercynon Leisure Centre attracting over 20 children to each session. We have also delivered 3 fun sessions at Ysgol Afon Wen to over 60 school children. We have been asked to return to deliver more after school primary sessions as the children enjoyed playing hockey so much! This summer, Hockey we will once again be on Sport RCT’s ‘Summer of Fun’ Programme with a planned Hockey Festival for Years 4,5 & 6 pupils in July.

There is still lots of work to do to recruit new members to the Club and we need all our members to keep encouraging players of all ages and abilities to come and join the Red Army!

We are extremely grateful to Vicky Sutton and Bev Rogers for their hard work throughout this season, coaching our Senior Club members. The players have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions with an excellent mix of fun and hockey development. Vicky Sutton has accepted the position of Head Coach for the 2025/26 season and we look forward to working with her as the Club continues to move forward.

We were delighted to enter two teams again this season in the SW Hockey Indoor League. Twenty six members attended Indoor training sessions in the lead up to the Trophy & Challenge Competitions, held in Rhydycar in December and January. We were absolutely thrilled and proud to make Club history by winning a Bronze Medal in The National Trophy Indoor Finals! What a result!

A group of women posing for a photo

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of people in masks playing hockey

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of women in sports uniforms posing for a photo

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Jan Jones (O60s), Bev Rogers (060s) and Kay Tyler, (065s) represented Wales Masters Hockey in the World Cup in New Zealand in November 2024. A fantastic experience, with the 065s reaching the World Cup Final and winning a Silver Medal.

We wish Kay good luck for the Home Nations in Swansea in June and The Europeans in Nottingham in August 2025.

One of the highlights of our Hockey Calendar is the Club Masters Weekend in Swansea. This annual event held in May was once again full of fun, laughter, sunshine and some 035s Hockey matches as well! Thanks to our army of supporters who love to attend this event!

**A group of people sitting on grass

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of women in sports uniforms on a blue field

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of people standing on each other

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**

**Club Junior Section**

Our Junior members have once again shown excellent commitment to both Monday night training sessions and Sunday tournaments. They are a delightful group of young players who have listened and worked hard for their Coaches. Their skills, game play and confidence has continued to improve over the course of the season.

We entered teams in the U8s, U10s & U12s SWYH Tournaments this season and attended ten Sunday morning Tournaments in total. It was wonderful to see the improvement they have made and we scored lots of goals as well! The group are an absolute joy to coach and their enthusiasm for hockey and energy is infectious!

Our juniors are the future of our Club and we are grateful for the wonderful support we receive from our parents and carers. The hard work and commitment of the volunteers who support our Junior Section is also acknowledged. Without their support Monday nights and Sunday Tournaments would not happen.

A group of kids wearing red shirts and holding hockey sticks

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of people posing for a picture

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of girls holding certificates

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of women in a bus

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Off the pitch, our Senior members enjoyed a Christmas meal in The Casa Bianca, Pontypridd and Nicola Bevan organised our famous annual Christmas Shopping trip to Bristol, filling the bus in record time!

Finally, a big thank you to all our supporters, parents/carers/family members/friends who continue to support us both on and off the pitch. And a huge ‘thank you’ to all of our members – juniors and seniors; our volunteers, coaches, umpires & committee members who work so hard to ensure this club keeps going from strength to strength.

We cannot wait for the next exciting chapter in the Clubs history – the future

certainly looks bright!