

**SPOTLIGHT
CLUB
OF
THE
MONTH**



Perthshire Hockey Club Club Connect Programme



Club Connect Programme



“Hockey is about being part of something bigger than yourself. It is about being a member benefitting your team, school, and community. The real marrow of life comes in proper personal development and spirited competition.”

This quote is used to summarise the Club Connect Programme. A mix of hockey, friendship and commitment all whilst working hard at school.

“The time we spend in school and at club has really paid off and whatever level we end up playing at, we have all improved so much from our first day!” (Olivia, S2)

“I am glad I joined Club Connect, I get to watch the Scotland team play and try and copy their tricks when I’m playing!” (Geordie, S1)



Club Connect Programme



In 2016, Perthshire Hockey Club began a process of evaluating what they offer in terms of junior hockey across Perthshire. This led to the decision that more time and financial resources needed to be invested in order for this area to strive to become one of Scotland's leading hockey clubs.

In partnership with Scottish Hockey and SportScotland, the club embarked on the Direct Club Investment Application Process to employ a part time coach who would focus their time on Perth High School as well as cluster primaries to increase hockey activity and ultimately club membership.

The club wanted to embed Perthshire Hockey Club within Perth High School by providing curriculum time hockey sessions to a group of twenty S1's in addition to all of the other hockey currently on offer within the school. The kids taking part went through a trial that assessed not only their hockey skills but their physical capabilities and enthusiasm to learn.

As part of the programme, the kids must register as a member of Perthshire HC which in turn allows them to access an additional 5 hours per week of hockey coaching at school and club.

What support was needed...

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1. Long term club vision, strong / supportive committee, a clear club development plan in place, willing club officials to drive programme and financial commitment over 4 years and beyond to sustain the post.

2. Sportscotland Direct Club Investment Funding successfully granted, over 4 years.

3. Scottish Hockey support via Regional Development Manager & Club Accreditation Programme to ensure correct governance is in place and clear vision of delivery identified.

4. School support to allow the programme to be delivered in the school and support from Department Heads to allow players to have time away from other core subjects to attend hockey sessions.

Pupil Benefits



Responsibility:

Pupils are very good at communicating with staff about work they need to catch up on. They are organised and thoughtful which will help them in their senior school years.

Co-operation:

Pupils work together in sessions and tournaments to achieve a collective success.

Health & Wellbeing:

Pupils are engaged in physical activity for a minimum of 5 hours per week over and above their curriculum PE hours with many of them now also attending other extra curricular clubs.



Club Benefits



- Perthshire HC has new and enthusiastic members! For example, the role that coach Jess plays has allowed the club to encourage pupils from Perth High School, its primary catchment and also other schools in PKC to come and play hockey.
- New volunteers have also been recruited to help with coaching, umpiring and the general running of sessions and tournaments. These are parents, club connect members and other pupils.
- Perthshire HC now has strong links with Scottish Hockey and surrounding clubs in Dundee, Fife and across Scotland. It has given the club a massive boost further showing positive impact.

School Benefits



- Perth High School currently has 31 pupils involved in Club Connect in S1 and S2. Each of them has brought at least 1 friend along to hockey or another extra-curricular club which has contributed to the improvement of the club's 'Active Schools' figures massively this year.
- 31 committed, responsible and engaged pupils have helped demonstrate to other pupils the benefits of being physically active and part of a team. They are excellent role models for their peers and younger pupils.
- A teacher commented that there is confidence that the kids involvement in Club Connect will benefit them significantly as they go into their senior years at school.

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“The programme has brought many benefits to the club, schools and players and I am excited to see how it can continue to grow and improve hockey in Perthshire.”

Jess Martin – Club Connect Coach



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