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NEW LEAGUE TO BOOST ISLAND'S YOUNG HOCKEY TALENT



Praxis' Managing Director Simon Thornton with Player from the Praxis Junior Development Hockey League.

A NEW initiative will give Guernsey's young hockey players the chance to develop their game.

The Praxis Junior Hockey Development League got underway on Sunday (7 October) with more than 120 secondary school students between the ages of 11 and 16 years old turning up to take part.

Established by Guernsey Hockey it is the first time there has been a formal league structure in place for young hockey players across all of the island's secondary schools.

Running from October through to Easter, its main aim is to provide a formal and enjoyable competitive environment in which the young players can play seven-a-side matches.

Although ultimately managed by Guernsey Hockey the League also gives juniors the chance to train up as umpires, learn from the development staff and assist with the organisation of the League matches.

'The Praxis Junior Development League will give the island's growing number of young hockey players the chance to compete in teams against players of a similar age and

standard,' said Director of Junior Hockey Development Andrew Lindsay.

'Our objective is to build on the work already done by the secondary schools, nurture the talent coming through and develop the sport as far as possible. The new League is a huge step forward in achieving our goal and we are grateful to Praxis for their support in making it happen.'

The Praxis Junior Development League is split in two: the U15 league (comprising four teams of U15 boys and two teams of U17 girls) and the U13 league (comprising four teams of U13 boys and two teams of U15 girls).

The Praxis Group has signed up to sponsor the Junior Hockey Development League for three seasons.

Managing Director of the Praxis Group, Simon Thornton, said: 'We take personal development very seriously at Praxis. It is particularly fitting, then, that we are supporting Guernsey Hockey in their new venture to not only nurture and develop the sport of hockey amongst the island's youth, but also provide a junior support network of officials and umpires.

'Seeing all the players that turned up on Sunday shows just how worthwhile and valuable the Praxis Junior Development League is to the future of the sport in Guernsey.'

If you are aged between 11 and 16 years old and interested in playing in the Praxis Junior Hockey Development League please contact Andrew Lindsay on 07781 439 409 or at hockey.development@guernseyhockey.com