

Academy players selected for regional training programme

HOCKEY

by Matt Lihou

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SIXTEEN players from the PwC Hockey academies have been selected to attend the England Hockey regional training programme, known as JRPC, this season.

The players attended the rigorous age-group training programme run by England Hockey coaches at the Haslemere JRPC centre alongside other players selected from Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire.

It is an achievement to be selected for this programme, which in the latter stages features those who are playing for England at their age group.

The JRPC programme is also part of the England Hockey process to select players to attend the England age-group squads, also known as NAGS.

Four players were chosen to take part in the equivalent of a NAGS high performance training camp – namely Will Thompson, Jack Ewins and Laura Cashin at under-17 level, as well as Jay Piset at under-15.

The under-17 HiPAC was held at Bisham Abbey, which is where the England senior squads train.

Players were put through a challenging programme of fitness, skills and matchplay awareness before then being selected to take part in a talent academy at under-17 level.

All three Guernsey players were successful and have been asked to make the trips to the UK training camps in 2016.

Piset attended the under-15 HiPAC at Weetwood in Leeds and from there was asked to attend trials in December for the England under-16 squad.

He acquitted himself well in



Will Thompson, pictured, is one of the young Guernsey hockey players to have been selected for the JRPC programme.

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the tough sessions, which involved early morning running followed by core fitness sessions as well as hockey skills, and was selected to train with the boys' under-16 squad in 2016.

England Hockey will use the sessions to select squads for the under-16 Boys International Series that starts at Easter with the Four Nations tournament.

'This is a huge personal

achievement for all the players, especially Jay,' said Guernsey's hockey development officer Sally Bushell.

'It is fantastic to be selected as one of the top 40 players in England and to train with these boys and girls at the top level.

'For Jay it is even more so because he is a year younger than the majority of the squad.'

The last Guernsey player to

achieve a national call-up was Andrew Oxburgh, who also played for the under-16 England boys a year young.

'Hopefully he [Oxburgh] can give Jay the benefit of his experience at this level,' continued Bushell.

'It is a great morale boost for all Guernsey junior players to be training and playing alongside those who have benefited from

the experience of training at the top level of England Hockey.

'It shows the younger players what it is possible to achieve and the older players can be good role models for them.'

'Guernsey Hockey is lucky to have some very dedicated and experienced coaches at both junior and senior level whose aim is to assist each player to help them achieve their potential.'