

North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership
Year 5/6 Mini-Hockey Festival 2012 for Southern Schools

The North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership Year 5/6 Mini-Hockey Festival for Southern Schools took place at The Cooper School on 1 February 2012. The event, which was organised by the Partnership and Bicester Hockey Club, attracted entries from three Bicester Area Primary Schools; Langford Village, Fringford and King's Meadow. More than seventy children took part in the competition.

The teams played in a series of round robin matches which were umpired by Year 9 and 10 Sports Leaders from The Cooper School and members of Bicester Hockey Club. Despite the very cold conditions, the players were very enthusiastic and clearly enjoyed the event. One young participant said "I've loved competing against other Schools and having fun". Congratulations to Fringford and Langford Village Schools, winners of the boys' and girls' competitions respectively, with both teams winning all of their matches.

Andy Walkey, Development Officer at Bicester Hockey Club, has been running a series of coaching sessions in a number of local Schools which have developed the children's skill and confidence. Through this coaching programme and competitions such as the Mini-Hockey Festival, young people are "signposted" to further playing opportunities available to them in the local community. It is hoped that many will have been inspired to join their local club.

G. Allen
SSCo The Cooper School