

Ladies 1<sup>st</sup> XI

## SOUTHERN COUNTIES HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

To: All county secretaries, league secretaries and clubs.  
From: Alison Pope, League Secretary  
Date: 10/09/2004  
Ref: Decision on Restructuring South Clubs' League

### **Decision on Restructuring the South Clubs' League**

In order to implement the principle that if you win your league you gain promotion throughout ladies league hockey in the Southern Counties the following changes will be implemented from season 2005-2006 in the South Clubs' League.

#### **1. Structure:**

Two further divisions will be added to the South Clubs' League to provide an additional tier of hockey above county level in the following structure.

SL1 (10 teams)

SL2 (10 teams)

SL3A (10 teams)

SL3B (10 teams)

#### **2. Division 3 Composition:**

The composition of the SL3A and SL3B should be determined according to a fixed structure and not be redrawn each season.

SL3A should consist of teams from Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex

SL3B should consist of teams from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Middlesex

#### **3. Organisation:**

The new divisions will be divisions within the South Clubs' League and the organiser(s) will be part of South Clubs' League Committee.

#### **4. League Size:**

Each division in the South Clubs' League should consist of 10 teams making a total of 40 teams. There was some feedback regarding league size but not sufficient to change the original proposal. This is something the league committee will continue to monitor as the structure settles down.

### **5. Umpire Appointments:**

The Southern Umpiring Appointments Committee will continue to appoint umpires of the required standard to SL1 and SL2 games. Appointments to SL3A and SL3B games will be made by the home county. The league fee will be set appropriately for each division to cover these costs.

### **6. Promotion Relegation:**

Promotion/relegation to establish the new divisions for season 2005/2006 should be as follows:

- 1) The two teams finishing 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in SL1 will be relegated to SL2.
- 2) The two teams finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in SL2 will be promoted to SL1.
- 3) The end of season play-offs will take place as usual with the top two teams being promoted into SL2.
- 4) The two teams finishing 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in SL2 will be relegated into either SL3A or SL3B according to their county.

**The remaining promotion/relegation place will depend on relegation into SL1 from EHL Premier 3.**

- 5) If a team is **not** relegated into SL1 from EHL Premier3 then the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed team in SL1 will be promoted to SL1. If a team is relegated into SL1 from Premier 3 then the 9<sup>th</sup> placed team in SL2 will be relegated to either SL3A or 3B
- 6) The remaining 3 teams from playoffs, the relegated sides from SL2 and the required number of second, third and fourth placed teams from the County Leagues will form SL3A and SL3B

Promotion/Relegation for subsequent seasons can only be decided on a season by season basis once the promotion/relegation between SL1 and EHL can be anticipated. The general principles will be:

- 1) The winners of SL2 will be promoted to SL1 and the team finishing last in SL1 will be relegated to SL2. The league committee will decide on any further promotion/relegation between these divisions each season.
- 2) The winners of SL3A and SL3B will be promoted to SL2 and the teams finishing in the last two places in SL2 will be relegated to either SL3A and SL3B according to their county.
- 3) The winners of each county league will be promoted into either SL3A or SL3B according to their county.
- 4) The appropriate number of teams will be relegated from SL3A and SL3B to their county leagues. This number will vary.