

Welcome

This is the twenty eighth Newsletter in the current format. It covers the second part of the 2019-20 season as far as we can take it. This is with the risk that future developments and announcements might make some of the news and comment irrelevant or out of date. As there is to be no more hockey until the start of July, much of the cut and thrust end to the season will be lost. A few artificially arrived at solutions will have been applied to bring some certainty to competitions that will no doubt leave some clubs feeling hard done by.

Celebration

The outstanding Club performance of the season was that of the H&W women's 2nd XI. The team won the truncated South League Division 1 in its first season at this level and in doing so gained promotion to the National League. The Club now joins a handful of others with three teams in the National League.

1	Hampstead and Westminster 2	19	14	1	4	50	19	31	43
2	Witney 1	19	11	4	4	48	38	10	37
3	London Wayfarers 1	19	10	4	5	53	35	18	34
4	Tulse Hill and Dulwich 1	19	10	4	5	38	33	5	34
5	Guildford 1	19	9	4	6	47	30	17	31
6	Spencer 1	19	7	4	8	29	27	2	25
7	Maidenhead 1	19	7	4	8	31	40	-9	25
8	Surbiton 3	19	7	3	9	28	34	-6	24
9	Marlow 1	19	6	5	8	34	39	-5	23
10	Reading 2	19	4	6	9	29	42	-13	18
11	Teddington 1	19	4	4	11	24	45	-21	16
12	East Grinstead 2	19	2	3	14	25	54	-29	9

This is a team that in 2002 was placed eighth in the Middlesex Premier Division and gained promotion to the South 3A Division in 2005. After two seasons, it was relegated back to the Middlesex League, where it came second and then first at the end of the 2008-09 season, to return to the South League. It played eight seasons in Division 3A. The 2s were promoted to Division 2 in 2017 and this season was its first in Division 1. Here is the team, with coach Toby Reynolds-Cotterill of the Men's 1st XI.





And in the away kit

The other women's team to win a League this season were the 6th XI in Middlesex Division 1, covered later.

[Suspension of Hockey](#) [England Hockey Board Statement](#)

The Board issued a statement on 28 April 2020. It was eagerly anticipated to confirm how the 2019-20 season would end. This anticipation led to some detail being leaked to the *The Hockey Paper* before the announcement was made. It was not fully accurate and set a few hares running that morning, particularly regarding the top four places in each Premier Division and the resulting decision on who would qualify for the European Hockey League in 2020-21. It also meant that the Board was unable to make contact with adversely affected clubs before the news became public knowledge, which caused distress.

The Board said, that following the suspension of domestic hockey in March and the decision no domestic hockey would be played before 30 June, it had confirmed how the 2019-20 season will be concluded. It varied from the standard League regulations and comes after England Hockey fully considered other sports' decision, as well as other possible options open to them. Compared to other possible alternatives these are judged negatively and positively to have an impact on a smaller number of teams.

The statement said: "There is of course no perfect solution to resolve an unprecedented issue such as this, but the decisions best complement these principles and affect the fewest teams. Ultimately, decisions have been based on what has happened in 85 out of 90 games in a Division, not what might happen in five out of 90 games. A number of promotion and relegation issues were ordinarily resolved prior to the last round of matches not being played.

"Following a full analysis of all possible options and a period of discussion, the key points are summarised below:

- **League Finals** – As the league semi-finals and final were not played, the Champions of the League and qualification for European competition is determined by the standings at the end of the regular season. This means that Surbiton are both men's and women's League champions.
- **Promotion & Relegation** – Teams' standings when the league stopped will be their final standings. Existing promotion and relegation regulations will be applied based on these standings (subject to the third bullet point below), including promotion from Regional Leagues.

In the Investec Women's Hockey League, Swansea and Wimbledon are promoted into the Premier Division, while Oxted and University of Durham enter the Men's Premier Division

- **League Play-offs** – It is judged that there is no fair method to resolve the league play-offs in line with regulations. Under normal circumstances, the play-offs would see the two Division One North & South winners and the Premier Division ninth-placed team play off for two Premier Division places. For 2020-21 season only the Premier Division will run with eleven teams, all of these three teams will play in the Premier Division. This also means that one team is relieved relegation at both Division One and Conference levels. Existing relegation regulations at these levels, based on teams' playing records in parallel divisions, have been extended to determine which teams are relieved.

England Hockey took this decision guided by the following principles, in priority order:

- to retain the integrity of the competition and use existing regulations relating to promotion and relegation where possible - the outcome to be as close as possible to likely outcome for teams had the season concluded and therefore to be seen as fair
- a consistency of decisions for teams at different levels within the league; and
- teams not to be disadvantaged by games that were not played”.

The Chief Executive of England Hockey, Nick Pink, said: “These are unprecedented times for all of us, and we are grateful to clubs for their patience while we finalised the fairest course of action. We have undertaken a very thorough process and have arrived at a solution that gives us a roadmap of how we can get the Leagues back up and running as soon as possible. We congratulate all teams who have won their division. We commiserate with relegated teams and others negatively impacted by the season being curtailed.”

“The decision has a direct impact on the 2020-21 season. The process to determine which teams are in North and South divisions will now begin. All being well the season will begin on 26/27 September 2020 but contingencies will be put in place if the start date proves to be later.”

Effect?

This means that H&W's men qualify for the European Hockey League, having finished as runners-up to Surbiton in the regular season. The Premier Division will contain 11 clubs for the one season in 2020-21. In the case of the men, Oxted and University of Durham (who led Divisions One South and North respectively) will join and the University of Exeter, who finished in ninth, retains its place.

In the women's Premier Division, the University of Birmingham retains its place and is joined by Wimbledon and Swansea.

The disclosure by *The Hockey Paper* had suggested that the top four places in the Premier Divisions were to be based, instead, by the results of each top four team in games against the others. In the case of the men, this allegedly placed H&W third, instead of second. This was baffling as the Division had at least managed to fulfil all its fixtures before all hockey was postponed because of the virus.

Youth

Alex Smart reports on a rather good season

The junior club has continued to accommodate as many enthusiastic young players as possible this season. With the loss of the 3G pitch at Paddington Recreation Ground, now only suitable to house U6 - U9 players, junior training sessions have extended to UCS playing fields in Cricklewood.

Five age groups now train from 9am on a Sunday morning at the school site. This has meant the loss of a few members who live in Maida Vale and are not willing to travel. However, it has allowed the expansion of the U6 - U8 age groups who can still use the 3G pitch. These age groups had the longest waiting lists last Summer and the club now accommodates 108 players from age 5-8.

Overall, the junior club has grown to around 600 members from U6 - U18.

County representation grows year on year. This season 28 players were selected to represent Middlesex at Academy Centre with a further 8 in development squads. 3 players are currently part of the Performance Centre programme: 2 U15 boys and 1 U16 girl.

Integration into senior club teams continues to develop, particularly for the boys. 18 junior boys from U14 - U18 played senior hockey this season, from the new Men's Colts team up to the Men's 3s. Just

3 junior girls from the U18 age group played regularly for Ladies teams. One of the girls is the goalkeeper for the Ladies 2s who enjoyed a fantastic season with promotion to National League.

At the annual U12 Middlesex competition the Girls took the Middlesex Cup championship for the first time. A new format proposed by HWHC saw the competition streamed into a Cup and Plate. Our Plate team were Runners Up to Staines' 1st team. Due to the suspension of hockey at the end of March, South Finals were cancelled with no chance for the U12 Girls to compete further.

Despite a clean slate conceding no goals at the group stage, the U12 Boys Cup team was cruelly knocked out of their competition at the semi-final stage on penalty flicks. The Boys Plate team was delighted to be crowned champions of their competition.

The U14 Girls 1st team, known as the 'Blues', won their regional league for the first time. They were due to play a quarter final in March but sadly this was suspended.



League winners U14 Girls Blues, coached by Joyce Esser this season

The U14 Boys Blues played in the England Hockey Cup competition for the first time and won all four of their group matches to progress to the next stage. Sadly the remainder of the competition was also suspended.

Despite several weekends with extreme weather wreaking havoc on the junior season, and the abrupt end to the Spring term, we are hoping that junior hockey can resume in some form over the Summer.



The U12 Girls at the Middlesex competition

FIH Pro League

The much debated 2020 FIH Pro League has been interrupted by Covid 19. On 24 April, it was announced that the competition is extended until June 2021. The Great Britain teams have only played four matches,

Men

1.2.20	Australia 4 Great Britain 4 (Australia win 3-1 after penalties)	Sydney
2.2.20	Australia 5 Great Britain 1	Sydney
8.2.20	New Zealand 1 Great Britain 1 (New Zealand win 3-1 after penalties)	Auckland
9.2.20	New Zealand 2 Great Britain 2 (Great Britain win 5-2 after penalties)	Auckland

Women

1.2.20	Australia 2 Great Britain 1 (Australia winner in last minute)	Sydney
2.2.20	Australia v Great Britain game cancelled by bad weather	Sydney
8.2.20	New Zealand 0 Great Britain 3	Auckland
9.2.20	New Zealand 2 Great Britain 2 (Great Britain win 5-4 after penalties)	Auckland

Controversy surrounded the cancellation of the second women's game against Australia where the match (and its three points) was awarded to Australia, despite the home side being 0-1 down when the weather intervened. This oddly followed tournament rules, which the FIH was quick to point out

had been implicitly accepted by participants. However, it was far from well received. In the second men's game against Australia, four Hampstead players were on the pitch for Great Britain – a first!



Rupert Shipperley celebrates his goal on his GB debut against Australia

Pos	Team	P	W	SOW	SOL	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Belgium	6	4	1	0	1	19	11	+8	14
2	Australia	8	3	1	3	1	27	20	+7	14
3	Netherlands	6	2	2	1	1	17	17	0	11
4	India	6	2	2	0	2	17	15	+2	10
5	Argentina	8	2	1	2	3	22	24	-2	10
6	New Zealand	8	2	1	0	5	15	25	-10	8
7	Spain	8	2	0	1	5	19	27	-8	7
8	Germany	2	1	1	0	0	7	3	+4	5
9	Great Britain	4	1	0	2	1	9	10	-1	5

SOW = win after a shoot out (2 points) SOL = loss after a shoot-out (1 point)

Pos	Team	P	W	SOW	SOL	L	GF	GA	GD	Pts
1	Argentina	8	5	1	0	2	23	12	+11	17
2	Netherlands	5	4	0	0	1	19	5	+14	15
3	New Zealand	8	4	0	2	2	19	14	+5	14
4	Australia	5	1	1	1	2	6	9	-3	9
5	Belgium	4	1	1	1	1	7	9	-2	6
6	Great Britain	3	1	1	0	1	6	4	+2	5
7	Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	China	2	0	0	0	2	2	7	-5	0
9	United States	5	0	0	0	5	5	27	-22	0

The Hockey Paper has covered the Pro League in particular depth since the turn of the year
We've had some great games, empty stadiums, players away for weeks on end. And there are still four more months to go until the end of the FIH Pro League.

Players are coming back tired, some even injured. For the clubs which pay their players and are asked, by federations who don't, to part company with their stars for international camps and tours, they are beginning to pay the price. Either in respective domestic competition or at the EHL.

And so the time has come to speak up. Meetings have been taking place on the continent between top clubs and officials from leading European nations.

The idea is for clubs to have more of a say as far as the Pro League is concerned and for world hockey to have less of a stranglehold.

Four nations are on board and the hope is that English clubs will follow suit. After all, there is increasing talk that the GB central programme could change following the Olympic Games, with players having more contact time with their clubs.

The plans, which were set to launch at the EHL at Easter, are for competition dates to be aligned across Europe, with a trimmed slot for the Pro League and the international calendar.

Clubs must come first, say detractors of the Pro League. And we will be first with the news in our next edition

[European Hockey League](#)

The KO8 games were due to be played in Amsterdam between 9 and 13 April but are presently on hold.

HC Bloemendaal v Surbiton
SV Kampong v Royal Leopold Club
HTC Ulenhorst Mulheim v Rot Weiss Koln
Mannheimer HC v Club Egara

[Indoor](#)



This season's Jaffa Super 6s Men's Premier Division Indoor Championships completed its rounds at Repton College, Derbyshire on the second weekend of January. The Men's team finished in sixth place. This did not do justice to their results.

Rank	Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Difference	Points
1	Surbiton	8	7	0	1	62	30	32	21
2	East Grinstead	8	6	0	2	40	28	12	18
3	Holcombe	8	5	1	2	42	26	16	16
4	Wimbledon	8	5	0	3	42	30	12	15
5	Sevenoaks	8	5	0	3	36	27	9	15
6	Hampstead & Westminster	8	4	1	3	48	27	21	13
7	Reading	8	1	1	6	27	41	-14	4
8	Bowdon	8	1	1	6	21	65	-44	4
9	Canterbury	8	0	0	8	17	61	-44	0

The team had the second-best goal difference and the three defeats were by a single goal. Against Holcombe, the score was 4-2 to Hampstead with eight minutes to play but two goals were conceded late on. Against Sevenoaks, Hampstead scored in the first minute but then conceded six. Goals in the 31st 35th 39th and 40th minute were just not enough, as time ran out to finish 6-5 down. The win against East Grinstead partially atoned for the defeat at the Copper Box in the finals in the preceding season. Kyle White (guesting indoors) scored 11 and Richard Smith 10 for Hampstead. This year the tournament was won by Surbiton.



Miraculously, Will Calnan has his correctly numbered shirt...



At the end of the campaign

Sara Hart (physio) Gotz Mehdi, Lekan Ogunlana, Lukas Egloff, James Oates, Richard Smith, Chris Cargo.. Front; Jacob Draper, Sam French, Will Calnan, Marc Edwards, Kyle White, Kwan Browne

Governance

The proposals for the restructuring of English hockey that were covered in the last edition were to be concluded at the AGM of EH on 17 March 2020 at Bisham Abbey but had to be postponed.

Although not an official response the Club's reaction to the proposals was along the following lines, bearing in mind the principles behind the proposals, which are to bring about

- a fairer structure for clubs and participants to progress within competitions and league structures
- common league rules across the genders and different areas
- improved junior competition structures
- less travel for clubs and players
- common structures and approaches that will make administration easier for clubs and associations
- a leaner, more accountable structure that will be easier to improve in the future, aligned to clubs' wishes

We support it. We recognise that the impetus for change came from the clubs and not English Hockey. The reorganisation will amalgamate essentially all our teams under one geographic area and set of rules and eliminate inconsistency within league structures and administrative requirements. It ought to reduce distances to away fixtures and, hence, travelling times.

The South has a large area under its auspices and it makes little geographic sense to us, despite its separation in leagues between MBBO, Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Kent.

The M25 appears to offer a manageable area and one relatively simple to understand and become familiar with.

At present, we have to deal with the National League, the Men's South League, the Women's South League, the London League and the Middlesex League. Each has its own rules and requirements. Some are more democratic than others in the sense of being answerable to the member clubs. The exercise of discretion in relation to those requirements differs.

We have found, for example, that the Women's South League appears eager to deduct league points for failure to comply strictly with league rules. In the Middlesex League, there is a requirement for officiation by a qualified umpire at a lower level of playing standard that this might objectively require, for example for the Women's 6th XI. The London League for Men is content to have a 4th XI game officiated by club umpires not at the same level of qualification. The latter still works and does not add a burden to us. There is a greater risk to a club where the league in question frequently insists on compliance to the strictest letter.

We also hope that the relative pragmatism we have experienced with the London League over such matters as (but not exclusively) movement of players between squads and the re-introduction of players returning from injury will be reflected in the new rules. This pragmatism is not, in our experience, currently shared by other Leagues.

The level of competition within the current London League generally works well for the Club's Men's teams, other than the Men's 2nd XI. It found that its success led to players leaving for other clubs in search of more competitive hockey, which they found with 1st XIs in the South League. The 2nd XI's promotion to the South League Premier Division 1 this season has led to increased competitiveness. There is a concern that this will need to be replicated under the new arrangements or the departure of good players at sub National League level may well resume.

With a fourth National League Conference reportedly to be formed, our concerns over quality of opponent at that level are less than first thought. This might also assist those who argue that some teams in the current National League Conferences may not be as strong as those in the South League Premier Division 1.

The proposals will depend on EH organising everything and there are some doubts that EH will achieve it (or have the resources to achieve it).

We are concerned that volunteers may not owe the same degree of allegiance to the new arrangements as hitherto. We suspect that we shall have to see how that will go.

We particularly support the proposals for bringing about efficiencies through technology, having been in the vanguard of attempts to persuade the National League to adopt electronic communication back in 1997. This support derives from a strong desire to reduce the administrative burden on the few willing to assist the Club in this way. Having made significant strides in the past decade (in particular in its Junior section), we are, nonetheless, acutely aware of the need to encourage a greater number to help and to reduce our reliance on the few.

London League

David Lloyd Williams issued a forthright opinion on behalf of the London League on 14 February 2020 following meetings with clubs and offered a divergent view to the reaction of the South League, covered in the previous Newsletter.

He wanted to talk about the issues that clubs had been discussing with the League. He reiterated that the League has no position on this topic, as it is a matter for clubs. But at the most recent meeting of clubs, those present indicated overwhelming support for the proposals. What follows reflects that.

What league would my team be playing in from September 2021?

A new Greater London League would be created, for both men's and women's adult teams, from clubs that choose Greater London as their 'home' Area. The new league would have a standard pyramid structure and be a feeder league to the National League. Existing leagues, including this league, would be disbanded.

This is radical but would solve a raft of structural and geographical anomalies. This would deal with the long-standing saga the League has had with the South Men's League (which is still not satisfactorily resolved) and reduce travel time for most teams. What the final pyramid structure would be is currently a matter of debate, with EH proposing models for London for clubs to support.

Some clubs are seeking absolute certainty before taking a view on the whole package of changes, but the majority seem to regard the models as a starting point. Clubs will be able to decide changes in the future where needed, so there is no need to delay.

What about Masters hockey – is the current London League structure going to be broken up?

No. Adult hockey is the initial priority for the proposals, not Masters or juniors. EH recognise the success of the London League Masters competitions, which are unique in England. They would continue as they are but under the umbrella of the new Greater London League. London League clubs have discussed these issues recently and agreed that any change really rests on new Masters' teams being created, in East London and elsewhere, over time, so we can reduce travel, and fit better into Greater London. Change will be slow.

Are league rules going to be standardised across the country?

This is part of the proposed package. It is going to be a tricky exercise, but clubs do not like the inconsistencies, especially between men's and women's leagues. There are 40+ sets of rules across the country, each with essentially the same issues, but with 40+ different outcomes. Standardisation would massively reduce the time and effort spent by clubs and volunteers locally, and better IT can be built to support everyone.

Isn't this a power grab by EH?

No, because the power will rest with clubs should these changes be approved. It certainly would be a power shift: EH are asking clubs if they want to vote to take control away from the scores of county, regional and league organisations and be in control themselves.

Most of the existing organisations are well-run and democratically accountable to clubs, but some are not. I have previously pointed out that the South Men's League's officers are not elected at all, and their accountability to clubs is tenuous, passing through county organisations. Its accounts, as I understand it, have never been made available to the clubs that pay its fees. Elsewhere in the country, a major league has been sitting on reserves of over £300,000 – fines levied over decades but with no thought to using the funds. There are many other examples where change would make a positive difference and make volunteering easier.

Are EH after our money?

No. There will certainly need to be a redistribution of funds from disbanding organisations, but to where depends on those organisations' constitutions. London League clubs will vote at the right time on whether its funds should be passed back to clubs or donated to the new organisations. And yes, we are open with our member clubs as to what funds we have.

Are some organisations opposed to the proposals?

It seems so, but clubs should understand that it is your votes that counts, rather than the views of your county, region or league. As I said at our most recent meeting of clubs, **the London League is perfectly happy to be disbanded and replaced by a better organisation.** I am only able to say that because it accurately reflects the views of our member clubs, with whom we meet three times a year.

International News

As mentioned in connection with the FIH Pro League, both Rupert Shipperley and Jacob Draper were accepted into the Great Britain programme for 2020. Both were also recognised by the Welsh HA.



Jacob Draper at full throttle



Rupert Shipperley takes on the Black Sticks

MALE SENIOR PERFORMANCE PLAYER
CHWARAEWR PERFFORMIAD HŶN
GWRYWAIDD

Jacob Draper
&
Rupert Shipperley



"Both Rupert and Jacob are talented athletes who set incredibly high standards for themselves and the group. Both bring a real energy to their everything they do and are incredibly passionate about representing Wales and the game in general. They are fantastic role models and I am delighted that both have been rewarded for all their hard work, commitment and diligence with full time places in the Great Britain training squad. Their performances and achievements for Wales over the last 12 months have been consistently outstanding and they are thoroughly deserving of the award."

On the Pitch

Women's Section

National League; Investec Premier Division

15 February 2020 Hampstead 1 Buckingham 2
22 February 2020 Holcombe 1 Hampstead 4
29 February 2020 Hampstead 2 Surbiton 3
7 March 2020 Buckingham 0 Hampstead 1
8 March 2020 East Grinstead 2 Hampstead 1
14 March 2020 Hampstead 4 Beeston 0)

Surbiton	18	15	2	1	45	26	46
East Grinstead	18	12	3	3	48	21	39
Hampstead & Westminster	18	12	5	1	53	26	37
Buckingham	18	8	8	3	33	34	26
Clifton Robinsons	18	7	9	2	29	35	23
Holcombe	18	6	10	2	31	41	20

Loughborough Students	18	6	10	2	24	35	20
Beeston	18	6	12	0	19	36	18
University of Birmingham	18	5	11	2	22	32	17
Bowdon	18	4	11	3	19	37	12*

* points deducted

This was a tremendous success for the 1st XI in first season in the Premier Division, qualifying for the Play Offs (had they occurred!). Home advantage in the Play Offs was essentially conceded with the 2-1 defeat by East Grinstead, who found consistent form in the later stage of this year's competition. Sophie Bray's two short corner conversions gained them the points that day. Joanna Leigh continued her goal scoring exploits right to the end of the campaign.

Hampstead scored the highest number of goals in the Division (32 field, 20 short corner and 1 penalty stroke) and had three of the top ten highest scorers in the Division, with Joanna Leigh scoring 11 and Lily Owsley and Joyce Esser each with eight.

Sadly, Bowdon were relegated having been in the Division since its inception.



Women's 1st XI

South League

The success of the Women's 2nd XI in gaining promotion to the National League Conference has already been covered. Meanwhile, another newly promoted team, the Women's 3rd XI ended in fifth place in Division 3A, with seven wins a draw and four losses (and with two points deducted by the League).

1	- Harrow 1s	19	14	4	1	61	26	35	46
2	- Southgate 2s	19	11	7	1	62	32	30	40
3	- Sonning 1s	19	9	5	5	60	41	19	32
4	- Eastcote 1s	18	8	5	5	30	23	7	29
5	- Hampstead and Westminster 3s	19	9	3	7	38	27	11	28*

Middlesex League Premier Division

As the season came to a premature halt, the 4th XI were in fourth place in the Premier Division with 42 points but on goal difference to third placed Ashford. PHC Chiswick 2s was at the top of the table

The 5th XI ended ninth in the same division, with six wins, four draw and 12 defeats.

Middlesex League Division 1

The 6th XI were winning Division 1, with 52 points, one ahead of PHC Chiswick 3rd XI, having maintained that one point difference since Christmas.

Middlesex League Division 2

The 7th XI were in ninth place in the Division, after six wins, six draws and ten defeats

Men's Section

England Hockey League; Premier Division

The League restarted in February 2020



Sam French celebrates against University of Exeter

14 February 2020	Hampstead 1	Surbiton 1
22 February 2020	Hampstead 5	Reading 0
23 February 2020	Old Georgians 1	Hampstead 3
29 February 2020	Hampstead 6	University of Exeter 3
8 March 2020	East Grinstead 1	Hampstead 6
15 March 2020	Hampstead 2	Beeston 0

Premier Division

Surbiton	18	15	2	1	93	25	47
Hampstead	18	13	2	3	64	38	41
Wimbledon	18	12	3	3	73	29	39
Old Georgians	18	11	4	3	63	40	37
Holcombe	18	7	5	6	51	53	26
Beeston	18	6	2	10	37	41	20
East Grinstead	18	4	2	12	31	65	14
Brooklands MU	18	4	1	13	28	64	13
Exeter University	18	3	2	13	28	77	11
Reading	18	2	3	13	29	65	9



Matt Guise Brown from a corner at East Grinstead

Goalscorers:

Matt Guise-Brown	23 goals in 17 games,
Rupert Shipperley	9 (16)
Sam French	8 (17)
Chris Cargo	5 (15)
Josh Kelly	3 (10)
Hywel Jones	2 (16)
Kwan Browne	2 (17)
Kei Kaeppler	2 (17)
Richard Smith	2 (18)
Will Calnan	2 (11)
Paul Melkert	1 (10)
Marc Edwards	1 (14)
Jonny Gooch	1 (16)
Harry Martin	1 (10)
Rhodri Furlong	1 (6)
Toby Roche	1 (12)

Toby Roche offers his comments on the second half of the season later in this Newsletter

The second half of the season began with a 1-1 draw against Surbiton, who dropped points for the first time, Johnny Gooch's goal cancelling out one four minutes earlier by Scott Evans. A Matt Guise Brown hat trick led to a 4-0 lead at half time against Reading but there was only a Sam French goal to show in the second half. Perhaps the most satisfying result was that at Weybridge against Old Georgians with a 3-1 win, against the team that had nicked a win at PRG in the early stage of the season. Exeter University's unorthodoxy resulted in an entertaining match in which Hampstead had to work hard to pull away after recovering to 3-3 (and 5-3 at half time). It was very satisfying to defy the

history books and come away with a decisive win at Saint Hill against East Grinstead, despite conceding a goal in the first minute. Again, Matt Guise Brown's corners were decisive. The final match was another tense struggle with Beeston and Rupert Shipperley only made certain of the result with his 69th minute second goal, which followed several near misses. After that match *Hard Core* awards were handed to the departing Richard Smith and David Stevens, in recognition of their wonderful contributions to the team.



A small celebration after the final league match against Beeston

The backdrop, below, will be familiar to many. Mid-week training for the Men's 1s on 27 February 2020 took place at Bisham Abbey, when they took on the Great Britain squad. It was however too cold for a full session and the match had to be called off when the pitch began to freeze..



Bisham line up

Other H&W Men's teams

The 2nd XI had a superb first season in in the South League Premier 1 against the first teams of leading southern based clubs, to finish second to London Wayfarers, who had players with National League experience. Regrettably, calls from the 1st XI for players owing to international calls and injury might well have robbed the team at critical moments.



1	London Wayfarers 1	21	17	3	1	108	32	76	54
2	Hampstead & Westminster 2	21	15	3	3	68	34	34	48
3	Indian Gymkhana 1	21	15	1	5	83	40	43	46
4	Guildford 1	21	13	3	5	72	47	25	42
5	Oxford University 1	21	12	1	8	60	42	18	37
6	Banbury 1	21	7	5	9	48	53	-5	26
7	Trojans 1	21	8	0	13	53	63	-10	24
8	Wycombe 1	21	7	3	11	40	71	-31	24
9	Milton Keynes 1	21	5	3	13	46	79	-33	18
10	Winchester 1	21	5	2	14	38	71	-33	17
11	West Hampstead 1	21	5	1	15	41	83	-42	16
12	Tunbridge Wells 1	21	4	1	16	39	81	-42	13

London League Premier

The 3rd and Zak Hond XI play in this division

1	Bromley and Beckenham 2s	20	15	2	3	81	29	52	47
2	East Grinstead 2s	21	13	1	7	77	50	27	40
3	Hampstead and Westminster 3s	21	8	6	7	53	53	0	30
4	Spencer 3s	20	8	4	8	49	46	3	28
5	Old Loughtonians 2s	20	8	4	8	47	51	-4	28
6	Indian Gymkhana 2s	20	8	4	8	59	69	-10	28
7	Bromley and Beckenham 3s	21	8	4	9	60	79	-19	28
8	Tulse Hill and Dulwich 2s	21	8	3	10	47	55	-8	27
9	Hampstead and Westminster Zak Hond	21	8	3	10	48	59	-11	27
10	Southgate 3s	21	8	1	12	56	69	-13	25
11	Wimbledon s	21	7	2	12	66	67	-1	23
12	Richmond 3s	21	7	2	12	48	64	-16	23

In the London League Division 1, the reconstructed 4th XI were tenth in penultimate position to Teddington in 11th. The leaders were Oxted 3rd XI.

In the London League Division 2, the Hammers were in last place. The Division was won by Surbiton 4.

In the London League Division 3, the Thirsts XI were sixth and the Spaniards XI were ninth of 10

This season, the Club also entered the Colts XI in London League Division 6, in which 16 matches have been played, The Colts managed three wins, four draws and nine losses, scoring 27 and conceding 51. They are one point ahead of Richmond Redoubtables.

In the Masters Over 40 League, the Vets XI are third having reckoned on a chance as winners, only to be pipped in the final matches. The H&W London Grandmasters XI were in sixth place in the Over 60 Division 1 and also had a team in the Over 60 Division 2 that after five games were placed top with three wins and two draws.



The Veterans XI

Interviews

We feature three interviews with key HWHC people

First up is Hannah Cureton, the Club's Performance Analyst

If you have been to PRG on a National League matchday or watched highlights on *Monday Night Hockey*, you will have seen Hannah's achievements for the Club. She stands on a ladder filming matches behind and to the left of the goal. This is in all weathers and having to concentrate fully for the full 70 minutes, Within minutes of the end of the match, she will deliver details to the coaches for immediate analysis and later go on to assist in related areas.

This last season was her second with the Club as Performance Analyst. Her role involves the provision of footage and statistics to both the Men's and Women's 1st teams with the addition of opposition analysis where needed.

Her real taste of analysis came during my undergraduate degree in Sport and Exercise Science, where she worked with the Superleague Netball team Surrey Storm. After her undergraduate degree, she went on to do a Masters in Sport Performance Analysis. She continued to work with Surrey Storm during her masters as a work placement which helped to apply what she was learning to the role.

As she was coming to the end of her masters and her time with Surrey Storm, she started to look at other opportunities outside netball, football and rugby, as she wanted to different challenge. One of those advertised was HWHC. She had never heard of the club before and had not played hockey since secondary school. Her hockey friends said she should not miss the opportunity, with the players



and coaches that were there. Having applied that same week, she received an offer and has been with the Club ever since.

Her usual week starts with the preparation for the game(s) at the weekend. This usually includes statistics from their last game, some opposition analysis and making sure that she have everything charged, that it all works, and she have the right equipment for whatever the weather decides to bring. On the day, she will try to live code and film at the same time. However, as PRG is very open, weather is not always on her side. Consequently, it is then back to notational analysis so that the coaches can get real time statistics, videoing penalty corners on her mobile 'phone to send to the bench and any specific events noted down with the time they happened, to refer to later.

She sees her role as putting into context what has happened in a game. She is there to support the teams in helping them understand why they might have, for instance, won or lost the game. It is very easy following a loss to narrow vision and focus on everything that might have not gone the way you intended in a game, from set-up to how you hit the ball. It is the same following a win. There may be some weaknesses that do not get addressed but, even though you win, they happen every week. "If I can produce information highlighting that, from a performance perspective, it was a close game and it was only a few details that separated the result, then a plan of action can take place and the team can prepare for the next match".

"My role also gives greater insight into the sport they are so passionate about. What if I told you that team A who are second in the league actually only have these percentages for x,y,z whilst we have this? Communicating this information with the coaches in a format they can take forward and report to the players just reinstates that, regardless of the result, they are a strong team and have the capacity to achieve what they want".

Asked if she has had a specific moment in analysis, as a collective it all happened due to the Club. "The past last year has been a rollercoaster of events, all of which embody so many different memories and emotions, from indoor hockey to working with England Hockey and GB Hockey. But the pinnacle would be at the end of last season during my first season at the finals weekend, the Men's 1st team won the National Championship at Lee Valley and won a place at the Euro Hockey League, while the Women's 1st team were promoted to the Premier Division. For the Club this was a massive achievement as it fell in its 125th anniversary. There are no words that can describe the emotion that day but pride. That weekend has made a mark in the Club's history and to know that I contributed to their successes makes me proud and I know if the hard work continues, this is just start."

"I could not say who was the best player that I have worked with. Every team member in both the Men's and Women's teams are incredibly talented from all over the world, with representatives who have previously or currently play for England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Great Britain itself. Every player brings something different to the game which is invaluable. I would, however, say that the best people I have worked with are the management team at the Club. I am in awe of their dedication and knowledge in hockey that I would love to delve into their minds, especially the coaches Kwan Browne, Sarah Kelleher and Kate Richardson-Walsh".

"At the moment, my goal is to continue developing my analytical skills and the provision of data to the teams at the Club. There is a lot of potential at the Club and with the right items in place they could have a structured analysis procedure in place. I have also tried to improve my knowledge of hockey, even by taking the sport up myself so that I may understand the game and terminology better".

"Ultimately though, I would love to be part of the EIS and the sport science department in the Olympic programme. Personally, I have always wanted to be involved in the Olympics in some capacity and see it as an honour to support talented athletes in achieving their dream"

"In my role I use the video to explain the statistics and support any comments I make. However, I spend a lot more time on the number crunching so that I can produce a sheet of paper highlighting key findings from the game(s). I am more number driven and find it easier to break down and contextualise the events in numerical values. I then go back to the footage and examine the specific events to see what happens better. The more detailed tactical side of video analysis I leave more with the coaches, who have an immense experience in hockey and can pick out every small detail. However, if I do notice something whilst coding, I will make a note of it and communicate it with the coaches".

"A lot of our data is from our own databases sourced from shared footage and coaches. The data produced reflects on and off the ball events such as the number of times teams have scored from an open goal, penalty corners, penalty strokes and formations. Through the data we collect weekly, we can create a database of teams so that predictions can be made in terms of how the team may perform against us and how we can adapt our style to try to get an advantage".

[Second, Club President Richard Sykes' eagle eye frequently spots interviews in the *Trinidad & Tobago Guardian*. Here is a recent report of a meeting with Kwan Browne that appeared on 8 April 2020, covering what was anticipated at the time the quarantine regime came into force](#)

Former T&T international hockey standout, England-based Kwandwane Browne like many professional sportsmen worldwide have been trying their best to keep fit and focus as the world continues to grapple with the coronavirus (COVID-19) virus pandemic.

The 42-year-old Browne is a legend of the sport on two continents, Europe and Pan American and is well known as both a player and coach.

He currently coaches one of the top teams in England, Hampstead and Westminster, and is also part of the England and Great Britain men's Olympic coaching staff having retired from the "Calypso Stickmen" in 2019 after the last Pan American Games, the 18th edition in Lima, Peru, having featured in more than 325 matches for the national, indoor and outdoor.

Before the suspension of the hockey season at the club level in England as well as with their national team, Browne was enjoying a relatively productive and busy season on both levels with the men beating Malaysia 5-2 and 4-1 last November to qualify for Tokyo after disappointing results in recent tournaments.

However, further to the British Government and Public Health England's guidance around major sports events and international travel restrictions, regrettably FIH Hockey Pro League games against China, India, and Argentina as well a planned South Africa training tour was cancelled while remaining matches against USA and Spain May 23/24 and Germany on June 13/14 will be made no later than April 15.

Besides, Great Britain's away matches against the Netherlands on 28 and 29 April have been postponed. He said that things have been at a standstill with regards to hockey and sport in general in Europe as the rest of the world.

"In England, we stopped the season three weeks ago, and our Great Britain senior men's hockey team was supposed to go to South Africa on 15 March for some warm weather training in preparation for the Tokyo Olympic Games. But due to the COVID-19 virus, the training camp had to be cancelled while as we all know now the Tokyo Olympic Games which was to begin in late-July will now occur in 2021. With those developments, the national programmes and England Hockey Leagues were all stopped at that time due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) worldwide pandemic".

Fortunately for Browne who has won the T&T Hockey Board *Player of the Year* award nine times along with six Pan American Elite Team membership, the England Hockey League Premier Division was able to finish the Premier League regular-season schedule of 18 matches.

He added, "My club Hampstead & Westminster, ended in the second spot with 41 points, six behind Surbiton to qualify for the semi-finals before the tournament was suspended.

Browne said that while the Premier Division has reached the semi-final stage, the same cannot be said for some of the Conference leagues who are yet to complete their regular seasons.

Browne who has several other tasks as a coach with St Lawrence College and Hampstead and Westminster said the clubs are still awaiting the final decision on what will happen with the rest of the season. "We are not sure whether it will continue once the pandemic is brought under control or if it will be cancelled because, on completion of the league format, the playoffs were expected to follow. "But all competitions have been suspended and there are a few things still to be decided in terms of promotion and relegation playoffs, and they haven't made a decision on that as yet."

"The promotion and relegation of teams in England are not that straight forward, especially because the teams in the north has one more round of matches left to play to complete the regular season with the top two clubs Durham and Bowdon, in a virtual top-of-the-table-clash to determine the regular-season winners.

He said, "Also, the league also needs to determine the top two teams to represent England in the European Hockey League (EHL). For me, it's still relatively quite busy. I'm doing a lot of meetings online, and doing a lot more at home and cleaning up my hard-drives which are filled with hockey stuff as you could imagine while club-wise I am also trying to stay in touch with the players as much as I can. Due to the lockdown, we can't do much hockey work, and it's a time for me to make sure that everyone and their families are safe with regards to the coronavirus pandemic."

Third, the Men's 1st XI skipper, Toby Roche passed some time with the *Ham & High*. This too occurred on 8 April 2020, before the Division places had been established by the England Hockey Board.



Rupert Shipperley celebrates against Beeston (pic Mark Clews)

Hampstead & Westminster men's captain Toby Roche says they will be ready for the League Finals should they go ahead later this summer. But he admits he finds it hard to see how they might still be staged as the coronavirus pandemic continues to disrupt sporting events at home and abroad.

England Hockey announced that the suspension of all hockey activity was being extended from 15 April 15 until 30 June and had started a 'thorough process to deliver a fair and balanced outcome for teams.

Hampstead had finished the regular season as runners-up to Surbiton and were due to host Wimbledon in the semi-finals, hoping to defend the title won last year on the 125th anniversary. But Roche said that he could not see it happening. "We would need to train. It's not fair to have a semi-final and final without a month's worth of training. I struggle to see it happening logistically, but we will stay fit and ready. We wanted to win the regular season, but Surbiton ran away with it. We've gone unbeaten since mid-November, with the Surbiton away game our last loss."

Having started with a 4-3 win at Beeston, but lost by the same margin to Old Georgians, Hampstead defeated Holcombe, Brooklands and Reading, while also making their debut in the European Hockey League. After just missing out on a quarter-final spot in Spain, they lost to Wimbledon, won at Exeter University, then suffered an 8-4 defeat at Surbiton.

"We had a few different challenges to deal with this season," added Roche. The EHL was a huge highlight and a bit of a distraction and we had four in the GB set-up, so our training changed a bit, but it was testament to how well the squad has done".

"We also had long-standing injuries, so it was a juggling act at times, but we showed our depth. I broke my hand in the first EHL game and missed six games. Marc Edwards has been the heart of our midfield for the last four years and broke a finger, missing five games, and Paul Melkert, who also plays in central midfield, rolled his ankle. It turns out he ripped the ligament off the bone. He was missing from November and had the operation two weeks ago.

Our goalkeeper, Toby Reynolds-Cotterill was concussed in the Surbiton game and didn't play since, but Lekan Ogunlana stepped in and has been brilliant." Ogunlana did not finish on the losing side. In fact, as Hampstead won seven and drew two of their next nine games, before a final-day home date with Beeston at Paddington Rec, which ended in a 2-0 win thanks to a brace from new GB international Rupert Shipperley.

"We knew we had to beat Beeston to be sure of second. The week before, it looked touch and go," said Roche. Shippo has been brilliant, a standout player for us for the past two or three seasons. He had a good European Championships with Wales, which thrust him into the shop window and it was a great opportunity for him to trial in October. The club was delighted to see him get his first GB cap and throw his hat into the ring for the Olympics. He stopped teaching in October to become a full-time athlete with the Olympics in view.

"We did our best, finishing second. Surbiton are guaranteed an EHL qualification spot as the league winners, but the second spot usually goes to the play-off winners. It has been a bit of an anti-climax. England Hockey haven't decided what will happen yet, so we're waiting with bated breath."

Hampstead, who finished two points above Wimbledon in the final table, would dearly love to get another chance at Europe, but must now wait to hear how England Hockey will determine the season's outcome. We've got a training programme from (player-coach) Kwan (Browne) and Sarah (Hart) out physio to keep us fit and ticking over," said Roche.

"We're staying in decent shape if the play-offs get on. We've got to be ready for two monumental games. The EHL was brilliant, completely different to anything I've experienced. It put the club in the spotlight and we beat a Dutch side (HGC) full of professionals. We were good enough to beat Mannheim, but it didn't happen on the day" (Hampstead lost 2-1).

"If we had made it into the last eight it would've been extraordinary. We went with the mentality of not just making up the numbers. If we do go again, we want to make sure we get ourselves to the last eight over the Easter weekend."

Website

For those not already re-directed, the Club's website has moved and is now supported by Pitchero.
<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/hampsteadwestminsterhockeyclub/>

City Lunch

Another successful Lunch was held at Smith & Wollensky on Friday 6 March 2020. Royston Hoggarth, the non-executive Chairman of EH, was the Club's principal guest once again and Kwan Browne of the Men's 1st XI and Sarah Robertson of the Women's 1st XI and Great Britain also attended.

Richard Sykes gave a brief report on the Club's current position to the assembled Vice Presidents, former players, parents and friends of the Club, including Dan Fox, who was finishing his first season with successes as Director of Hockey at Guildford. Richard was able to confirm that the water based surface at PRG was to be replaced at the end of the season, with improved watering facilities and an area at the north west side behind the fence, where short corner and other practice could take place. This was expected to be funded fully by the City of Westminster, using money raised through Planning Agreements in the borough.

Richard also presented a Sam Taylor Award to Richard Chapman for his immense contributions (both on and off the pitch) in so many different guises in over 45 years' loyalty to the Club, which was warmly welcomed by all the guests.

Yesteryear

Arthur Leighton

A chance encounter with a Bulletin issued by Rosemary Warne MBE on 19 October 1997 caught the eye when it mentioned a hockey International who "occasionally played for Hampstead...".

This was Arthur Leighton, who came close to emulating Stanley Shoveller, having just missed out on selection for the Olympic Games team in 1908. He went on to play on the left wing for Great Britain in both their matches at Antwerp 12 years later and winning a gold medal at the 1920 Olympics.

Arthur Francis Leighton was born on 6 March 1889 in West Moreton, Queensland. He was educated at Bishop's Stortford College and played cricket for the town. He then attended Cambridge University, where he went to Caius College. He won hockey blues in 1908, 1909 and in 1910, when he was captain.

In 1908, he was one of the reserves for the England squad at the London Olympics but did not play. He made the first of his 29 international appearances in England's 6-0 win over Wales at Swansea in 1909. He played for his country for 12 years.

After University he taught at the at St Andrew's Prep. School, Meads, Eastbourne before joining the Army in 1915 when he served with the 147th Army, Royal Field Artillery during the War, seeing service in France that saw him win several decorations including, in 1919, the Military Cross. He rose to the rank of Captain before the end of his military service in 1920.

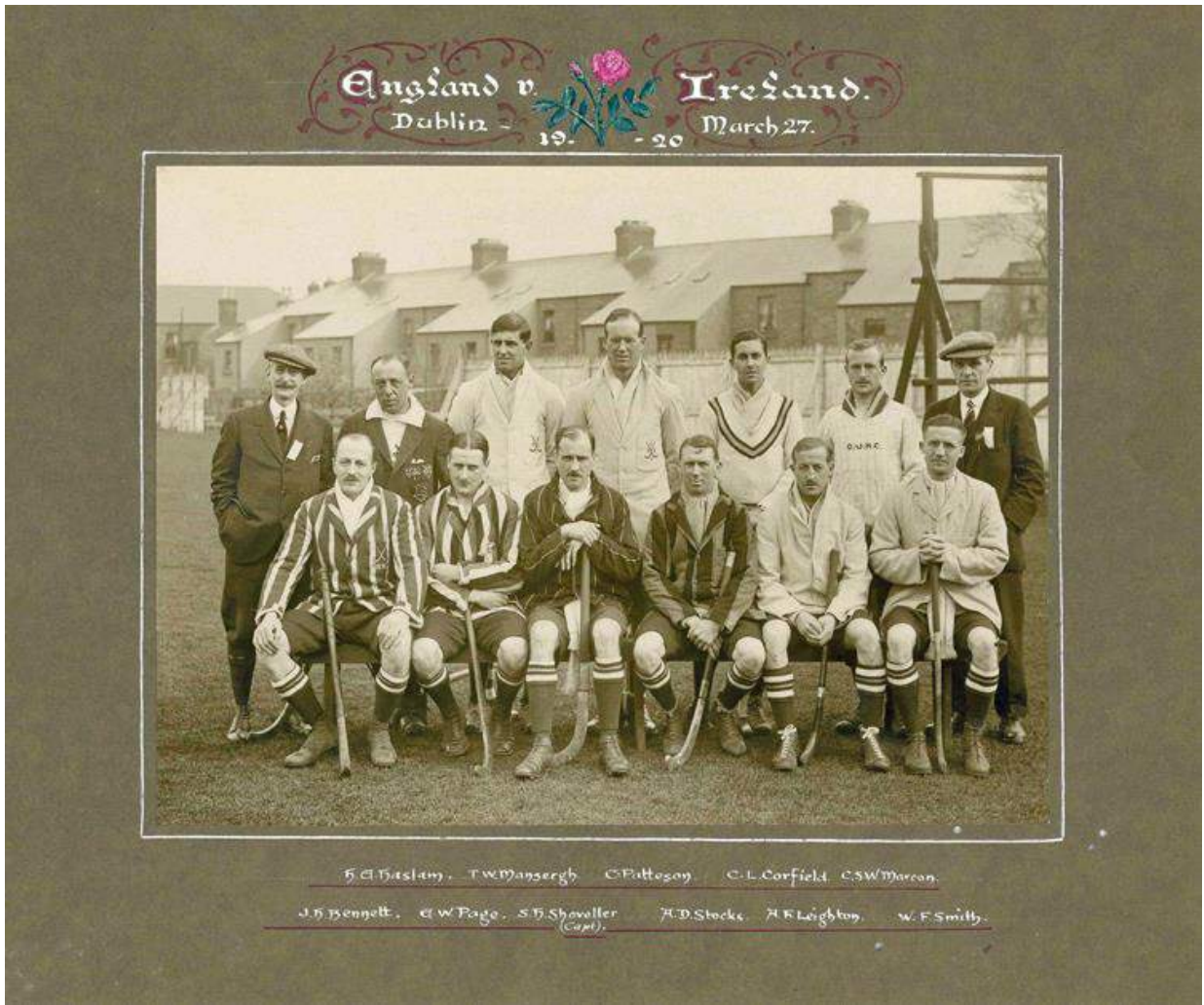
Despite being severely gassed, he continued to play top class sport after the war. Although playing occasionally for Hampstead, he was the regular centre-forward for Walsall and the East Midlands

He won his final England cap in 1921. He was equally at home playing on either wing or, in his latter years, at centre-forward for Walsall, for whom he played his last match in 1927. He was then elected on to the selection committee of the Hockey Association.

After his war service, Arthur Leighton took up a post with AS Smith & Sons, a firm of hardware manufacturers in Walsall, of which he later became a director. He died at his Walsall home in 1939 at the age of 50. His body is buried in Bishop's Stortford and his funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Church Stortford, where his father was once the curate.

1920 England v Ireland

On the front row, below, are Messrs Shoveller and Bennett. Sholto Marcon, who was still to join Hampstead (and wearing his Oxford University sweater) is on the back row and Arthur Leighton is two to the left of Stanley Shoveller. Thank you for The Hockey Museum for this photograph.




The Hockey Circle managed to find a rare photo of Shove in action in 1921 against Ireland



[100 years ago](#)

Mention of these Hampstead greats brings a reminiscence of the Annual Dinner at the Café Royal on 24 March 1920, chaired by Jack Bennett, with toasts to the His Majesty the King and then the Club, proposed by Jack, with Reverend J G Walker replying. Stanley Shoveller proposed the health of the guests and Cyril Wilkinson that of the Chairman

[A new stick anyone?](#)

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[Next edition](#)

All being well and we are back to a semblance of normal, the next Newsletter will cover the start of the 2020-21 season. If you have any news or comment, please direct it to mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk.