

Welcome

This is the twenty sixth Newsletter in the current format. It covers the start of a new season, with the expectation of Premier League hockey for the Women's 1st XI, new recruits for both squads, new arrangements in the South League for the Men's 2nd XI and news of hockey events during the summer months, including EHA Governance proposals, rule changes and Olympic qualification.

Memorial Game

The annual Memorial match, featuring the usual suspects, between the Club's Veterans and/or Superveterans and the Legends team, corralled by Jerry Stanyard, will be played at PRG on Sunday, 8th September 2019 and all are warmly invited to attend.

Guy Mayers

Blazers were worn by Richard Sykes, Hugh Smith, Richard Chapman, Stuart Brown, Chris Somes-Charlton, Chris Elliott, Nigel Fletcher, Roger Brown and Oz Rankin to Guy's funeral on 22 May 2019.



Also in attendance were Mr and Mrs Berry Bermingham, Geoff Wilmott, Avril Shaw, Julian and Jean Sherwood, Anthony Swing, John Chaumeton, Will Saxby and many from LX. Ben Rea of Wimbledon gave hockey reminiscences and was gracious towards HWHC.



The service was very much a family-orientated affair, with several members of the family making formal contributions. If Guy was, it seems, C of E (the local vicar of 30 years admitted to having been a tenant of his!), he had also embraced Liberal Judaism on his marriage to Josie. Apparently, Guy had some sort of historic link to the Jewish Chronicle but no more was mentioned.

In recent years, he had been an active supporter of Room for Refugees. Apparently, he and Josie travelled to Syria in 2010 and were much affected by what happened subsequently.

Guy was clearly very local in his interests and ambition. His was a local business in his local community, his Liberal Democrat activism was seemingly locally focussed and he was active in a string of community projects. The local party group used to meet in his house. A senior local Liberal Democrat and a long-term neighbour also gave formal contributions as long term friends, again reflecting his local commitment.

[Peter Boizot](#)

A few items of Peter's hockey memorabilia were delivered to the Hockey Museum in Woking in August. They might form part of a collection if more items come to light that the Museum is eager to form, given Peter's connections with the sport.

On 28th June 2019, Peterborough Town HC hosted a memorial match with the Club in Peter's name, in which several H&W Veterans took part. This was part of the 8th Peterborough Town Sports Club Beer Festival. The game was to celebrate Peter's life, given he was a President of both clubs. The weekend included Hockey 7's on the Saturday and Sunday, a Tennis Teams Challenge and 1st XI cricket between the City of Peterborough and Blackstones, as well as a squash tournament on the Saturday.



En route to Peterborough



The teams



With Rob Leslie Carter displaying the score in his customary fashion...

This inaugural match finished 3-0 to H&W. The team included: Richard Sykes, Oz Rankin, Will Saxby, Charles Packe, Rob Leslie-Carter, Björn Schwarz, Andrew Harrington, Dom Richardson, Greg Lavery, Jon Mason & Francois, with some Peterborough HC volunteers and Chris Somes-Charlton in support.

Mention of Peterborough Town HC cannot pass without congratulations to former H&W forward, Joe Finding, who has been appointed coach to the Peterborough Women's 2nd XI. He continues to play 1st XI hockey for Peterborough Town. He has also represented Fareham in the West Conference of the National League.

His representative honours include Cambridgeshire & Lincolnshire at all ages groups, East Regional also at all age groups, England U18's and England Mixed seniors.

State of the Nation

The following were the highlights of points arising from the Club's AGM on 13th August 2019. They are in no particular sequence (as will be glaringly obvious).

Juniors

- The juniors section now numbers 620, of which 100 are aged between 5 and 7
- Sunday morning junior sessions will be held at PRG and UCS to manage volume
- Three juniors' teams participated in the South finals
- A junior U18 team will be moving to H&W from Old Loughtonians, given recent success

Teams

- An important guiding principle for the Club will be to offer hockey for every ability
- A new Colts XI is to be formed to compete in the lower levels of the London League to allow junior integration into senior teams and to provide a better player pathway through the club
- The Men's 4th and 5th XI's have merged

Challenges

Significant challenges remain.

- Finances are an ever present challenge. Primary sources remain subscriptions, match fees and generous donations
- Facilities; we can no longer use the TigerTurf pitch and still do not own a clubhouse
- Integration of junior players into the senior teams remains unresolved

Solutions?

- Sponsorship positions are in place in the Club but there is uncertainty over exact roles required actively to seek funding. Such measures need the support of wider Club to provide the leads for those willing to carry it out and pursue opportunities
- Extended opening hours at PRG ought to provide more games on the water-based pitch
- Some teams must expect to play more home games away from PRG
- The new Colts team will need support
- More volunteers are needed. Constantly there are positions or roles that need fulfilling. The Club aims to match the time anyone can commit with the relevant skill offered to find the appropriate role
- The same number of slots on the water surface will be available for each team.
- Until Christmas 2019, the pitch at UCS will be used as the primary second pitch, but with decreased use after that, when the West Hampstead second pitch will be used in its place.

Finances

- The Club will be moving to a proper accountancy software program
- There will be no increase in subscriptions or match fees: at break even, subscriptions and fees manage to cover costs.
- There is an Elite fund provided by donations
- There is a huge opportunity to raise money through matched funding which is currently untapped
- A club event is planned for mid-September that will provide an opportunity for matched fundraising

- There is to be big drive for sponsorship and matched fundraising as a priority for the new season
- The water-based surface is likely to be re-laid in the summer of 2020 or 2021 and will cost approximately £150,000.

The Future

The Club President has spoken to a commercial multi-sport centre in development in North London that could potentially provide two or three pitches. The Club could be the core sporting participant.

This is speculative at this stage. It might take until the end of the year before any indication can be given whether this is an option for the future of the Club. (Consideration is also being given to possible grants that might be available).

A key consideration will be the ability of members to travel to the venue by public transport, considering our central London membership and with few owning cars.

Governance

The EH Governance Review (see below) is continuing. It has made recommendations to change the structure of English Hockey to establish eight areas or regions, one of which is Greater London. This would make matters considerably easier for H&W, for then all teams (bar those in the National League) would be under one administrative body, rather than three or four at present.

Other business

- The Carlton Tavern is nearing completion of the facsimile rebuilding (see page 29 below). The premises are offered for sale, either leasehold or freehold but currently there is no-one with whom to negotiate properly. The feeling is that this venue is unlikely to be viable for the Club
- The inaugural EuroHockey League fixtures for the Men's 1st XI is to take place on the first weekend in October¹. This clashes with club Saturday league fixtures. There are to be discussions whether the Club might approach the relevant leagues to seek re-arranged games to allow or encourage members to travel to Spain instead and support the 1st XI.

Governance

A resolution was passed at the AGM of England Hockey (EH) in 2017 requesting EH to review the structure of the sport. The Board of EH sponsored a working group to oversee the review. The group is led by EH Vice President, Lou Pelling and includes H&W Club President, Richard Sykes.

Following research and consultation, it emerged that clubs and many associations were eager to modernise aspects of hockey to make administration easier and reduce duplication and complexity. Current structures have evolved over time. Organisations have wide-ranging differences in approach to governance, regulation and geography. They are roughly aligned to the existing five regions and 45 counties but there are anomalies and differences that lead to confusion for clubs and players.

The working group formulated a set of principles and requirements to lead the review. They were used for consultation and were agreed in November 2018. A proposal has now been issued for consideration and debate that is to end on 27 October 2019. A more detailed implementation plan will then consider representations received by EH. A final decision will be made at the AGM of EH on 17 March 2020. It will be implemented in April 2020, with the new structure intended to be in place for the 2021-22 season.

So-called *Wednesday University hockey* (governed by BUCS) and schools' hockey were excluded from the review to make the process more manageable. Also excluded was the governance of EH itself, as that subject to the decisions of members at AGMs. Sport England and UK Sport review the governance of all national bodies that receive public funds.

Research for the working party was carried out by an independent consultancy. It found that the governance of hockey was not in crisis. Multiple playing opportunities every week are supported by current governance bodies and many committed volunteers.

¹ More detail is on page 22, below

However, three elements that contribute to good governance were found to be in the greatest need for improvement, namely structure, people and communications. While EH is not able to instruct governing bodies what to do, most respondents agreed there was room for significant improvement. There was also evidence of a willingness to work to make changes with the leadership and support of EH.

The proposal recommends the retention of two tiers of local governance for hockey in England but with clarification and consistency in organisation.

Area responsibility will cover

- Adult league and competitions
- Junior Leagues and competitions
- Performance Centres
- Discipline
- Officiating and appointments
- Masters Representative teams

Sub Area responsibility is to cover representative teams (where there is a demand) for Masters, Adults and Juniors (including Junior Academy Centres and Development Centres).

The intention is to reduce the number of bodies and committees in the sport in order to provide economies of scale and greater consistency. Area geography will be based nationally on the distribution of clubs and players. Local Areas are likely to follow existing county lines but merger or the split of traditional county areas may result.

Rather than a hierarchy model, the structure changes provide an accountable, functional approach, where clubs would have a vote in the bodies that provide services to them. The number of separate bodies and organisations would reduce by half.

Adult league and competitions

Currently these operate at several levels (national, regional, sub-regional and county). The changes would organise these at two levels: national (as currently run by EH) and Area level. They would be run jointly for men and women, with consistency between genders, as most clubs are joint gender clubs.

Junior Leagues and competitions

Under the proposal, the leadership of junior competition would exist at Area level, with elements of local delegation of responsibility where appropriate. Travel for young players needs to be proportionate to playing standards. This is to help create more layers of competition for youngsters of all abilities and cater for growth in junior club hockey.

Masters

Masters' leagues and competitions would be organised at Area Level and Masters' representative teams aligned to these areas for both men and women. Sub Areas might want to continue to run Masters' representative teams as currently exists.

Discipline

This would become an Area function. It would reduce the number of Association Discipline Officers significantly and generate greater consistency.

Player Pathway²

² The Player Pathway provides an environment that helps all junior players realise their potential, whether that means they are the best club player they can be, seek a lifelong commitment to the game through coaching or volunteering or perhaps go on to represent England or Great Britain at junior or senior level.

The Player Pathway is made up of the following tiers:

- **Development Centres** - provide a local entry point to the Player Pathway for U13s-U17s
- **Academy Centres** - delivered in 49 counties, provide a high-quality talent programme for players identified in U13-U17 age groups
- **Performance Centres** - based across the country providing frequent, high quality training with the best coaches for U15 and U17 players

This system was set up in 2005 and is overseen by a joint committee of the regions with EH. The structure would be aligned to the new, with Sub Areas having responsibility for Development Centres and Areas for the Performance Centres.

Umpiring and Officiating

HUAs would also align with the Area structure, pooling the resources of the current Associations and making the umpiring pathway more seamless. The same realignment would apply to Technical Officiation.

Adult Representation Teams

They would continue to exist at Sub Area Level, as a direct entry competition, for so long as there is demand.

Areas

The significant change under the proposed is to introduce eight Areas instead of the existing five Regions of EH. The five regions (East, Midlands, North, South and West) are uneven in size and have developed different internal structures and approaches. This has led to significant inconsistency.

The new Areas are similar in size and aligned to modern travel networks. The working group consulted a leading operational logistics company. Every affiliated club was mapped, along with its playing levels and modelled to create a structure to best advantage. This took account of travel times at weekends and public transport considerations (particularly in London).

The new Areas are:

South Central	71 clubs	12% of adult league teams
East	75 clubs	12%
Greater London	73 clubs	14%
Midlands	130 clubs	17%
North East	98 clubs	11%
North West	85 clubs	10%
South East	66 clubs	11%
South West	120 clubs	<u>13%</u>
		100%

Each Area would be a voting member of EH but with separate constitutions with purposes and objectives aligned with other Areas. All Areas would share a core constitution where clubs would be voting members, potentially following the same structure as EH, with proportionate votes for clubs based upon their size.

The eight Area chairs (or selected representatives) would meet regularly with EH as a group to bring about effective collaboration to the delivery of hockey to players.

Leagues would be realigned to the new eight Area structure. Leagues would have consistent rules and be regulated by their Area. They would meet nationally with EH to agree a common framework of rules and regulations.

The role of local Sub Areas will be streamlined. They will be defined by local geography and density of hockey participation. In many cases (but not all) this will be a county. The smaller counties might want to share or pool resources to form a distinct Sub Area.

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- **Futures Cup** - supports player development within a high intensity and pressurised best-v-best tournament environment
 - **Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE)** - provides additional training and sport-related education for U17 players selected from Performance Centres
 - **National Age Group Squads (NAGS)** - selected at U16 and U18 age groups for girls and boys. Provides the first taste of international competition for our young players
 - **U21/Development Programme** - an elite training environment for players who aim to transition into the senior programme and become world-leading players

Summary

The proposal recommends a structure with

- Clearer purpose and leadership
- Fewer bodies to achieve economies of scale and efficiencies
- Local accountability to members and an aligned national structure
- Consistency in approach and governance expectations; and
- More equal opportunities to progress through competitions and leagues

It will have

- Eight areas more equally based on density of teams and travel times
- Sub Areas with narrower purpose
- A leaner system with approximately 50 fewer organisations and 100 fewer committees; and
- One common framework of league rules

The period for comments expires on 27th October 2019. Any questions can be directed to EH by email via agm.resolution@englandhockey.co.uk

Representatives of 221 organisations attended eight roadshows held around the country to launch the next phase of consultation on the structural review of the sport. In March 2017, the membership overwhelmingly passed a resolution requiring EH to review the structure of hockey in England in the first such review for a generation. The proposals, which have been developed over the last two years through previous phases of consultation, have been outlined in the nationwide roadshows over the last few months and are published on the EH website.

EH says that the proposals set out changes to leagues and associations to create a more equal, fair and simple structure for clubs and the roadshow audiences indicated their overwhelming support for the changes. The EH board will consider the feedback in November 2019. A final version with a detailed implementation plan will be put before the 2020 AGM. If approved the new structure will be in place for the 2021/22 season.

International News

Personnel

H&W's Sarah Robertson, Will Calnan and Harry Martin continued to represent Great Britain in the FIH Pro League and later for Scotland and England in the European Championships. A cadre of H&W Welsh players was also active. Pro League results for Great Britain are on pages 14 and 16, below.

Kei Kaeppler of the Men's 1st XI played for the United States at the Pan American Games in Peru and Kwan Browne played his last games for Trinidad and Tobago in the same tournament, where his side were supported as a coach by Huw Stevens (as at Hampstead).

Grand Masters

A month after the Celtic Cup meeting mentioned in the last Newsletter, the Four Nations Grand Masters Tournament of 2019 was held on the weekend of 24th to 26th May in Aberdeen. It featured England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. In the 65+ years competition, H&W were represented once again by Richard Chapman for Wales and Dave Dixon for England.

The event was considered serious preparation for the European Championships to be held at the KHC Dragons club in Brasschaat, Belgium from 19 – 26 June 2019 (see further, below).

In the 60+ competition

Scotland 0 Ireland 1

Wales 1 England 2

Wales 0 Scotland 1

England 3 Ireland 0

Scotland 1 England 1 (three yellow cards against England; two of them awarded to Mark Precious)

Ireland 1 Wales 1

In the 65+ competition

Wales 1 Scotland 2

Ireland 1 England 3

England 3 Scotland 1
Wales 5 Ireland 0
Scotland 0 Ireland 0
Wales 0 England 3



In the 70+ competition
Scotland 0 England 4
Ireland 0 Wales 2
Scotland 0 Wales 1
Ireland 0 England 11
Ireland 1 Scotland 3
England 4 Wales 0

In the inaugural tournament Trophy (for non-international teams)
Thistles 5 Wales Dragons 1
Ireland B 0 England LX 2
Ireland B 1 Thistles 1
Wales Dragons 0 England LX 1
Wales Dragons 3 Ireland B 3
England LX 3 Thistles 0

Swansea was the venue for the similar competition for the 40+ and 50+ teams, at King George V Playing Fields in Sketty held earlier (between 17th -19th May 2019).

In the 40+ competition
Wales 2 England 4
Ireland 0 Scotland 2
Wales 0 Scotland 1
England 6 Ireland 1
England 5 Scotland 0
Wales 1 Ireland 3

In the 50+ competition
Wales 0 England 2
Ireland 1 Scotland 1
Wales 2 Scotland 2
England 7 Ireland 0
Wales 1 Ireland 1
England 4 Scotland 3

[*European Championships*](#)

The 7th Grand Masters Hockey European Cup took place in Brasschaat between 19th -29th June 2019 at the Koninklijke Hockey Club Dragons, also known as KHC Dragons, or simply Dragons,



KHC Dragons Clubhouse

In the Men's 60+ competition, the top three ranked teams were England the Netherlands and Scotland. In the final, England defeated the Netherlands 3-2 and in the 3rd v 4th places match, Scotland beat Germany 4-3.



England Men's O65 - 2019

Back (l to r): Andy Barnes (coach), Graham Skinner (captain), Peter Wright, Bill Deayton, Roy Hilton, Tim Smith, David Dixon, Ken Wooding, David Ward, Richard Slator, Imtiaz Sheikh (Manager)
 Front (l to r): Max Jason, Sarosh Talebi, Steve Seymour, Graham Ramsden, Mike Rudd, Peter McCollum, Richard Boucher, Jon Marshall, Nick King, Conrad Ray (vice-captain), Geoff Furneaux

The Men's 65+ competition held the most interest for H&W, with Dave Dixon playing for England and Richard Chapman once again captaining Wales. Former Hampstead player and indoor specialist, Nicky Giercke was playing for Germany. England did not have their strongest side out and the Netherlands won the competition, beating England 2-1 in the final. In the match for 3rd and 4th places, Germany beat Wales 4-3. It was close run thing for Wales. Richard Chapman said that he would gladly have swapped his man of the match award for a bronze medal.

In the Men's 70+ competition, England beat the Netherlands 1-0 in a shoot-out after a 1-1 draw and Germany defeated Wales 3-1 in the match for 3rd and 4th places.

In the Men's 75+ competition, on a round robin basis, the Netherlands were top, with maximum points after four games, England were second with a win, a draw and two losses, with Germany third, with a draw and three defeats.

In the Women' 60+ competition, England defeated Wales 5-0 to win and in the bronze medal match, Scotland overcame the Netherlands 2-1.

In the Tournament Trophy competitions, the Netherlands were placed first, ahead of England LX and South Cross, the final going to the tenth shoot-out and won by the Netherlands 5-4. In the 65+ contest Southern Cross Blue came out on top, with England LX in second place and the Netherlands in third. In the men's 70+ competition, England LX White were placed first, Southern Cross second and England LX Red in third. The Men's 75+ was won by England LX after a 4-2 win in the shoot-out following a 2-2 draw at full time, St Cross were second and the Netherlands third.

In the Women's 60+ competition the winners were the US, with an Alliance XI in second and with England LX in third place. England LX won the brief 65+ competition, winning a shoot-out 2-1 after a goalless draw against the Alliance XI.

Junior European Championships

The competition was held in Valencia between 13th and 21st July 2019.

James Oates of H&W was selected for England, who were coached by Jon Bleby, with H&W's Kwan Browne as assistant coach.



James Oates in action

England 6 Poland 2
Belgium 1 England 1
Spain 1 England 1

SF 1; England 4 Netherlands 3
SF 2; Germany 3 Spain 0

3/4th Spain 1 Netherlands 3

Final 21 July 2019
Germany 5 England 3

England found themselves 4-1 down after three quarters and then 5-1 in the fourth. But they stormed back with a cracking goal from James Oates that was followed by a short corner. However, it was all rather too late and the effective Germans took the gold medal. For England there is the consolation of an automatic place at the 2022 Junior World Cup.



Women

England 1 Belgium 1
 Germany 3 England 1
 England 2 Belarus 2

7/8th play off Ireland 5 France 1
 5/6th play off England 2 Russia 2 (2-3 after shoot- out)
 3/4th Belgium 1 Germany 1 (2-3 after shoot- out)
 Final: Netherlands 1 Spain 1 (3-4 after shoot- out)³

IMHA European Cup 2019

This was convened in Rotterdam and Krefeld, Germany, between 8th and 17th August 2019.

Men 35+

England 3 Germany 1 (in the final)
 Ireland 2 Scotland 1 (3rd v 4th)
 Spain 3 Wales 0 (5th v 6th)

Men 40+

Former Hampstead players for England were Dan Pech and Will Nurse.
 England 2 Wales 0
 Germany 1 England 3
 France 2 England 2
 England 1 Spain 2

Of nine teams, the winners were Spain, followed by France, England, the Netherlands and Wales.

Men 45+

England 6 Italy 1
 Ireland 2 England 4
 Germany 4 England 5
 England 1 Scotland 2

The top three ranked were Scotland, Germany and England.

³ The Netherlands having defeated Spain 4-1 in the earlier Pool game.

In Krefeld, Men 50+

The final was won by the Netherlands by 3-2 in a shoot-out after a 2-2 draw with Germany. In the 3rd v 4th game, England defeated Ireland 6-0. H&W's Ian Hammond played for England.

Men 55+

The England team under David Knott won the final 4-2 after a shoot-out following a 2-2 draw. In the bronze medal match, the Netherlands beat Scotland 2-1. Spain beat Italy 3-2 in the 5th placed match and for 7th, France beat Wales 3-0.

Women 50+

In the final, England were beaten by the Netherlands 2-0 and Ireland beat Scotland 1-0 to take third.

Women 55+

England beat Scotland 2-0 in the final and the Netherlands defeated Wales 3-1 to be placed third.

2020 Olympic Games Qualification

The Olympic Tournament is to be a 12-team event for both Men and Women.

Men

Four nations have already booked their places for Tokyo as Continental Champions:-

Japan (18th Asian Games 2018)

Argentina (18th Pan American Games 2019)

South Africa (Africa Mens's Olympic Qualification Tournament 2019)

Belgium (17th European Nations Championships 2019)

To this list will be added the winner of the 11th Oceania Cup 2019 to be played over three matches between Australia and New Zealand on 5th, 7th and 8th September 2019, at Rockhampton in Queensland.

Olympic Qualification Events

The remaining seven places are to be competed for by

- Australia⁴, Netherlands and Great Britain, as the highest placed teams in the 2019 Hockey Pro League (after Belgium's qualification through the 2019 European nations Championships)
- Two highest placed teams in each of the three Hockey Series Finals, namely, Canada, Malaysia, India, France and Ireland (after South Africa's qualification at the Africa Mens's Olympic Qualification Tournament 2019)
- Six⁵ highest places teams in the FIH World Rankings in September 2019 (following the conclusion of the Oceania Cup competition) not already allocated a place

Continental Champions

Area	Qualifying Tournament
Asia	2018 Asian Games
Africa	2019 African Olympic Qualifier
America	2019 Pan American Games
Europe	2019 European Championships
Oceania	2019 Oceania Cup

The **2018 Asian Games** were held in Jakarta between 20 August 2018 and 1 September 2018 in which the following teams participated, Japan, Malaysia, India, Pakistan. South Korea, Bangladesh, Oman, Sri Lanka, Thailand. Kazakhstan and Hong Kong.

In the semi-finals, India drew 2-2 with Malaysia (who then won 7-6 after a shoot-out). In the other semi-final, Japan defeated Pakistan 1-0. In the final, the score was 6-6 between Japan and Malaysia but Japan won the shoot-out 3-1, to take the title.

The **2019 African Olympic Qualifying Tournament** was held in Stellenbosch between 12th and 18th

⁴ Unless already victorious in Queensland

⁵ Seven if Australia wins the Oceania Cup 2019 – see further, below

August 2019. South Africa finished undefeated to top the group, with Egypt second and Ghana third. The other participants were Zimbabwe, Kenya and Namibia.

Eight teams competed in the **2019 European Championships**, in Antwerp between 16th and 25th August 2019. Belgium were winners of the Men's contest and the Netherlands were the Women's winners (see further, below)

The **2019 Pan American Games** were held in Lima between 30th July 2019 and 10th August 2019. Argentina were winners and, again, more detailed comment follows

The **2019 Oceania Cup** competition features the three matches between Australia and New Zealand on 5th, 7th and 8th September 2019

FIH Pro League 2019

Scores in the FIH Pro League featuring Great Britain were:

20.1.19	Valencia	Spain 5 Great Britain 6
8.2.19	Christchurch	New Zealand 2 Great Britain 6
16.2.19	Perth	Australia 2 Great Britain 0
6.4.19	Rosario	Argentina 1 Great Britain 5
28.4.19	Mönchengladbach	Germany 0 Great Britain 1
4.5.19	Lee Valley, London	Great Britain 1 Spain 1 (2-3 after shoot out)*
18.5.19	Lee Valley, London	Great Britain 2 Argentina 3
19.5.19	Lee Valley, London	Great Britain 0 Belgium 4
30.5.19	Antwerp	Belgium 4 Great Britain 2
2.6.19	Eindhoven	Netherlands 1 Great Britain 3
6.6.19	Lee Valley, London	Great Britain 3 Germany 4
9.6.19	Lee Valley London	Great Britain 2 Australia 2 (4-3 after shoot out)*
14.6.19	Lee Valley, London	Great Britain 2 Netherlands 2 (3-4 after shoot out)*
23.6.19	The Stoop, London	Great Britain 2 New Zealand 0

[* = one point added for a winning draw]

Table

Australia

Belgium

Netherlands

Great Britain

Argentina

Germany

Spain

New Zealand

The top four qualified for the Olympic Games Qualifying Tournament.

Hockey Series Finals

Kuala Lumpur

Canada

Malaysia

In Kuala Lumpur, between 26 April and 4 May 2019, the four teams in Pool A were Austria, Canada, Wales and Belarus. In Pool B, it was Italy, Malaysia, China and Brazil. In the second round on 1 May 2019, Malaysia beat Wales 2-1 and Canada drew 3-3 with China (but won the shoot-out 3-1). On 3 May 2019, Malaysia beat Austria 3-1 and Canada defeated Italy 3-1. The final was contested between Malaysia and Canada and won by the latter 3-2. In the third place play off, Italy defeated Austria 2-1.

Rupert Shipperley, Rhodri Furlong, Steve Kelly and Johnny Gooch of H&W represented Wales.

Bhubaneswar

India

South Africa

In Bhubaneswar, between 6th and 15th June 2019, India, Russia, Poland and Uzbekistan were in Pool A and the United States, Japan, South Africa and Mexico in Pool B. South Africa beat the US in the first semi-final 2-1 and India defeated Japan 7-2. Japan took third place with a 4-2 defeat of the United States and the final was won by India with a 5-1 score against South Africa.

Le Touquet

France
Ireland

In Le Touquet, between 15th and 23rd June 2019, Ireland, Scotland, Egypt and Singapore were in Pool A. France, South Korea, Chile and Ukraine made up Pool B. In the semi-finals, Ireland defeated South Korea 4-2 and France won 3-0 against Scotland. South Korea took third, with a 5-0 win over Scotland and the final was contested between Ireland and France. The latter prevailed with a 3-1 win.

Other places

The remaining seven places for the Olympic Games will be nominated by the FIH, based upon world rankings at the end of the Oceania Cup 2019, when they are to be revised.

Originally, 12 teams were to take part in the Olympic qualifying events. These teams were to be drawn into six pairs; each pair playing a two-match, aggregate score series, and the winner of each series qualifying for the Olympics.

However, as Japan won the 2018 Asian Games (thereby qualifying twice, once as host and once as Asian champions), there will instead be 14 teams, seven of which will qualify. The seven Olympic qualifiers will each feature two nations playing two back-to-back matches, with nations drawn to play each other based on their revised FIH rankings (at the end of the Oceania Cup 2019). Matches will be hosted by the higher ranked of the two competing nations.

The teams will be drawn to play each other as follows:

- The three highest ranked teams in the September 2019 FIH World Rankings (that is, at the end of the Oceania Cup) will be drawn at random to play at home against one of the 12th, 13th or 14th ranked teams as at the end of the 2019 Continental Championships.
- The 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th ranked teams in the September 2019 FIH Rankings will be drawn at random to play at home against one of the 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th ranked teams on the same date

In summary, the qualifiers are (or will be):

Hosts	Japan
Pan American Games	Argentina
African Games	South Africa
EuroHockey Championships	Belgium
Oceania Games	Australia or New Zealand
FIH Olympic Qualifiers	<u>7</u>
	12

Current FIH Rankings

The rankings are currently set to June 2019. Points are awarded for results in the FIH Pro League 2018-19, The Hockey Series 2018-19, the World Cup 2018, the Champions Trophy and Champions Challenge 2018, World League 2017-18, Olympic Games 2018, Continental Championships 2017 and Continental Cups 2014-17 (with a discount applied for the increasing years since the event in question). The rankings were introduced to overcome criticism of fixing when it came to drawing pools for tournaments. They came to be used in the Olympic Games and other major tournaments.

Men (top 20, in ranking order)

Australia, Belgium, Netherlands, Argentina, India, England, Germany, New Zealand, Spain, Canada, Ireland, Malaysia France, South Africa, South Korea, Japan, Pakistan, China, Austria and Egypt

Women (top 20, in ranking order)

Netherlands, Australia, Argentina, England, Germany, New Zealand, Spain, Ireland, Belgium, India, China, South Korea, USA, Japan Chile, South Africa, Italy, Canada, Scotland and Malaysia.

Women

These same principles broadly apply to qualification for the Women.

Four of the 14 nations to compete in Tokyo are already determined, as Continental Champions namely,

Japan
Argentina
Netherlands
South Africa

As with the Men's qualification, a further place will be awarded to the winner of the Oceania Games in Queensland between Australia and New Zealand between 5th and 8th September 2019

Of the other roads to qualification:

FIH Pro League 2019

The results where Great Britain was involved were:-

New Zealand 6 Great Britain 1
Australia 3 Great Britain 0
China 2 Great Britain 2 (2-3 after a shoot-out)
United States 1 Great Britain 2
Argentina 4 Great Britain 2
Germany 2 Great Britain 0
Great Britain 1 United States 1 (2-1 after a shoot-out)
Great Britain 1 China 2
Great Britain 1 Argentina 1 (1-2 after shoot=out)
Great Britain 2 Belgium 0
Belgium 4 Great Britain 1
Netherlands 2 Great Britain 0
Great Britain 3 Germany 4
Great Britain 2 Australia 4
Great Britain 0 Netherlands 1
Great Britain 3 New Zealand 1

Great Britain was therefore placed eighth, on goal difference from China. The Netherlands won the League comprehensively, only losing once. Australia and Germany were second and third, with Argentina in fourth place, 19 points ahead of Belgium in fifth.

The Netherlands won the Grand Final in a shoot-out with Australia, after a 2-2 draw. Germany took third place, again after a shoot-out, following a 1-1 draw with Argentina.

Hockey Series Finals

Banbridge

South Korea and Ireland

The matches were held between 8th and 16th June 2019. In the semi-finals, Ireland defeated the Czech Republic 4-0 and Korea were 3-0 winners against Malaysia, who were third with a 3-0 defeat of the Czech Republic. Scotland were fifth after a 6-0 win against France. In the final, Korea beat Ireland 3-1.

Hiroshima

India

(Japan were already assured of a place by hosting the Games)

These matches were played between 15th and 23rd June 2019. In the semi-finals, India beat Chile 4-2. Japan overcame Russia in a shoot-out by 3-1 after it was 1-1 at full time. In the final, India defeated Japan 3-1. Chile came third after a 3-1 win in a shoot-out with Russia after the scores were level at 3-3 after 60 minutes.

Valencia

Canada and Spain

These matches took place between 19th and 27th June 2019. In the semi-finals, Canada beat Italy 7-0 while South Africa lost to Spain 1-0, after heading their group in the pool stages. Italy took third after a 3-1 win against South Africa and in the final Spain defeated Canada 4-2. Wales were sixth after a narrow 1-0 loss to Spain in the first cross-over match.

Other places

As with the Men, the remaining seven places for the Qualifying event will be nominated by the FIH, based upon world rankings at the end of the Oceania Cup 2019, when they are to be revised. As Japan also won the Asian Games 2019, with a 2-1 win in the final against India, one further place is to be allocated by the FIH.

Originally, 12 teams were to take part in the Olympic qualifying events. These teams were to be drawn into six pairs; each pair playing a two-match, aggregate score series, and the winner of each series qualifying for the Olympics. Now there will be 14 and the same arrangements mentioned earlier will apply for the matches that are to be played, based upon FIH rankings, between 26th October and 3rd November 2019.

H&W's new season

Women's Section

National League; Investec Premier Division

The Women's 1st XI will take their place among the elite in the Premier Division next season, along with Loughborough Students, whom they defeated on the way to success at Lee Valley in April. The Premier Division fixtures will be as follows:-:

14 September 2019	Beeston (a)
21 September 2019	University of Birmingham (h)
28 September 2019	Clifton Robinsons (h)
5 October 2019	Bowdon Hightown (a)
12 October 2019	East Grinstead (h)
19 October 2019	Loughborough Students (a)
27 October 2019	Clifton Robinsons (a)
9 November 2019	Bowdon Hightown (h)
16 November 2019	Surbiton (a)
23 November 2019	Holcombe (h)
30 November 2019	Loughborough Students (h)
7 December 2019	University of Birmingham (a)
15 February 2020	Buckingham (h)
22 February 2020	Holcombe (a)
29 February 2020	Surbiton (h)
7 March 2020	Buckingham (a)
8 March 2020	East Grinstead (a)
14 March 2020	Beeston (h)

The 1st XI squad has attracted new players of distinction during the summer.

Lily Owsley

Lily demonstrated early sporting prowess in hockey, football and athletics – finishing second over 800m at the 2012 English Schools' Championships. She was introduced to hockey when aged 13 at Clifton College. She made her international debut in 2013 and helped England claim silver at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and gold at the 2015 European Championships in London, scoring in the finals of both. In January 2016, she was named FIH Rising Star of 2015, before being selected to make her Olympic debut in Rio de Janeiro later that year.

There, she scored the first goal of the tournament, before scoring again in the final against the Netherlands, helping the team to win Team GB's first hockey gold since 1988.

In 2017, she helped England to win bronze at the European Championships in Amstelveen. She has more than 100 caps for England and scored 36 international goals

Grace Balsdon

Grace made her international debut when aged 20 when Great Britain faced the USA in San Diego. She had studied for a year at Maryland University. That came shortly after she was part of the GB U18 team that won European bronze in 2012 before winning the same colour medal with England at the 2014 U21 Europeans.

She waited another three years to make her England debut but since then has become a mainstay in both defences, featuring at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup later that year. She is a defender and considered a genuine threat from penalty corners in addition to providing a strong presence across the pitch.

Holly Hunt

Holly is 22 and played at Stockport Grammar School. She won bronze medals at European level at Under 18 and Under 21 age groups. She was selected in the Great Britain Hockey women's squad to face New Zealand, Australia and China in the FIH Pro League. Last season, she played for the University of Birmingham

Holly also took part a three-match series in Alicante with Great Britain's Elite Development Programme, She made her international debut in the FIH Pro League match away to China.

Joie Leigh

Joie is 26 years old and one of several players who gained her first GB cap against Germany at a series of training matches before gaining her first England cap against South Africa, She played club hockey for Clifton, before spending last season in the Netherlands with Hurley in Amstelveen, some 20 Km south of Amsterdam.

She has won 15 caps for England and 33 for Great Britain, having score once for England and twice for GB. Her international hockey experience includes the 2014 Champions Trophy and 2014 Indoor EuroHockey.

South League

The 2nd XI opens its account in Division 1, at home to Surbiton 3rd XI on 21 September 2019. After their promotion from the Middlesex League, the 3rd XI starts in Division 3A with a home game against Southgate 2nd XI on the same day.

Middlesex League

The 4th XI starts the season in the Premier Division with a short trip to meet West Hampstead 2nd XI on 21 September 2019. The 5th XI are in the same division and play Winchmore Hill and Enfield 1st XI at home on the same day.

The 6th XI is in Division 1 and will face newly promoted Ealing 1st XI at St Augustine Priory.

The 7th XI retained its place in Division 2 and will start the new season with a home game against OMT 2nd XI, also on 21 September 2019.

Men's Section

England Hockey League; Premier Division;

14 September 2019	Beeston (a)
21 September 2019	Old Georgians (h)
29 September 2019	Holcombe (a)
4-6 October 2019	Euro Hockey League, Barcelona – <i>see below</i>
13 October 2019	Brooklands (h)
20 October 2019	Reading (a)
26 October 2019	Wimbledon (h)
8 November 2019	University of Exeter (a)
16 November 2019	Surbiton (a)
17 November 2019	East Grinstead (h)

24 November 2019	Holcombe (h)
1 December 2019	Wimbledon (a)
8 December 2019	Brooklands (a)
14 February 2020	Surbiton (h)
22 February 2020	Reading (h)
23 February 2020	Old Georgians (a)
29 February 2020	University of Exeter (h)
8 March 2020	East Grinstead (a)
15 March 2020	Beeston (h)

Recruiting

The Men's 1st XI squad has been augmented by four new arrivals.

Gaston Golstein joins from Royal Leopold for whom he played in the KO8 round of the EHL (European Hockey League) in 2016. In England he formerly played for Lewes when a student in Brighton in the South League in 2012-4.

Gotz Mahdi joins from Nürnberger HTC (Nuremberg, in Bavaria). Last season he made 17 appearances in the Bundesliga and scored seven goals, three from open play and four penalty stroke conversions.

Jacob Draper has over 40 caps for Wales and was a member of the Great Britain Under 21 squad for the Sultan of Johor Cup that won the gold medal in 2018 with a win against India. He moves from Cardiff & Met after a stellar set of performances for Wales in the European Championships, highlighted by former 1st XI coach, Todd Williams, who was commentating and summarising for the BBC.

Hywel Jones brings to six the Welsh international contingent at H&W. He represented Wales at the Commonwealth Games in 2018 and joins us from the University of Birmingham. In January 2018 he made his senior debut for Wales in Antibes in a three-match series against Spain as preparation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast in Queensland.

National League Developments

The England Hockey Elite Domestic Game Panel (EDG Panel) has been discussing improvements that can be made to the leagues. The Panel is a group of club representatives that were selected by clubs participating in the league, chaired by Andy Tapley, a member-elected England Hockey Board member.

The EDG Panel was chosen by a vote of England Hockey League clubs in September 2018. It includes representatives from Brooklands MU, Bowdon, Canterbury, Clifton Robinsons, East Grinstead, Hampstead and Westminster, Holcombe, Loughborough University, Reading and Team Bath Buccaneers. The Club's Director of Hockey, Richard Smith, sits as the H&W representative.

The panel was set up to make sure that clubs and England Hockey work closely to promote the success of elite clubs. This requires working on mutual aims to provide an alignment to create long-term systemic success for both England Hockey and English clubs. This group is the primary consultative body that England Hockey uses to engage effectively with the clubs playing at the highest levels domestically.

Along with discussing a long-term vision for domestic hockey, the group has identified some immediate changes for next season. England Hockey has therefore announced key changes to the England Hockey Men's League and Investec Women's Hockey League.

They are as follows:

- For the 2019-20 season the Premier Division will play 12 games before Christmas and six after that, to allow more club availability for international players.
- League semi-finals will be held at home club venues and the Finals Day at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.
- The number of non-EU players a club can register will increase from two to three.

- Relegation and promotion arrangements will be simplified for the end of 2019-20. For consistency in all divisions the ninth placed team will have a chance to stay in their league.

A number of other smaller changes have also been made relating to the minimum player age and second team regulations.

League Finals

The league finals will retain their existing format, that is, semi-finals of 1st v 4th and 2nd v 3rd, followed by a final. However, the semi-finals will be played at the home venues of the first named team scheduled for 29th March 2020, with the final scheduled a week later, namely, Sunday 5th April 2020, at a neutral venue. If, owing to international commitments, players are not available for the league semi-final and final, the tournament will be rescheduled to slip dates of 18th-19th April 2020 played over one weekend at one venue.

Minimum Age of Players

For the new season (2019-20) the minimum age for participation in the EHL will be 13 in Conferences and Division One but remains 15 for the Premier Division.

Non-EU Players

As agreed in the league structure paper of March 2018, the maximum number of players who can be registered is increased from two to three. It is a club's responsibility to make sure that any player who is registered and who plays in the EHL does so in line with the terms of any visa used for entry into UK.

An EHL team is not allowed to register more than three players who do not:

- hold a European Union or UK Passport, or
- have a permanent right of abode, or indefinite leave to remain, or
- hold a current valid Ancestry Visa or Family of a Settled Person Visa, for a right to remain in the United Kingdom.

Player Registrations

There will be no limit to player registration numbers. But clubs will be required to register a minimum of 25 players (and clubs with a 2nd XI in the EHL⁶ will be required to register 50 players).

The regulations relating to player eligibility for clubs with two teams in the EHL will be based on published principles that are rather arcane for this Newsletter and unlikely to affect H&W in the shorter term (unless the Men's 2nd XI takes the South Premier Division 1 by storm this season).

England Hockey League Structure

Next season will see a new format to the National League, with the introduction of a Division One, lying between the Premier Division and the three regional Conferences. Division One will also be regionally based, split between the North and the South (but with one unusual component – at least at the present time).

For the Men, it had been thought that the reward for Oxford Hawks' third place in the West Conference would be a place in Division One North, rather than South. However, the last place in Division One North was since "awarded" instead to Cardiff & Met, in what appears to be a geographically bizarre decision.

The South Division consists of

Oxted
 Canterbury
 Oxford Hawks
 Southgate
 Teddington
 Brighton & Hove
 Havant
 Team Bath Buccaneers
 Fareham

⁶ Presently this is limited to the University of Exeter

Sevenoaks

And in the North
Peterborough
Olton & West Warwick
Bowdon
University of Birmingham
University of Durham
University of Nottingham
Loughborough Students
Sheffield Hallam
Leeds; and.....
Cardiff & Met

The regional Conferences will have a different look next season when the remaining teams in the current Conferences are joined by the top four of last season's regional leagues, namely

South

Ashmoor (Devon)
Cheltenham
Cardiff University
University of Exeter 2
Richmond
Old Cranleighans
University of Bristol
Isca
Khalsa (Leamington)
Harborne

East

Old Loughtonians
Cambridge City
Chichester
Wapping
Harleston Magpies
St Albans
Bedford
Bromley & Beckenham
Spencer
London Edwardians

North

Doncaster
Belper
Alderley Edge
Barford Tigers
Lichfield
Deeside Ramblers
Didsbury Northern
Preston
Timperley
Wakefield

Other H&W Men's teams

The 2nd XI will now play in the South League Premier 1 against the first teams of leading southern based clubs, playing 22 games in the season.

London Wayfarers
Banbury
Indian Gymkhana
Tunbridge Wells

Oxford University
Winchester
Milton Keynes
Guildford
Trojans
Wycombe
West Hampstead
Hampstead

Other Divisions

The 3rd XI and Zak Hond XI are in the new styled London League Premier Division. The former starts the league campaign on 28th September against Tule Hill & Dulwich 2 and the latter against Spencer 3 on 5th October 2019.

The merged 4th & 5th XI's, now the 4th XI, will start its campaign in London League Division 1 against Richmond Lions on 28th September 2019.

The Hammers and Thirsts XI's are in London League Division 2 and open against Tulse Hill & Dulwich 3 and Indian Gymkhana, respectively, on 5th October 2019.

The Spaniards XI is in London League Division 3 and will start on 5th October 2019 against London Edwardians 4.

The newly constituted Colts XI will play in the new London League Division 6 and is to meet PHC Chiswick 6 on 5th October 2019.

In the Veterans League Division 1, the Vets XI begin with a fixture against Reading Rustlers on 5th October 2019. The Supervets XI starts on 28th September 2019 with a game against Chelmsford Supevets.

The Grandmasters London XI will compete in the GM A Division and the B Division over the course of the season, starting, respectively, against Southgate Magnums and on 12th October 2019 against St Albans Senators.

[European Hockey League](#)

The Euro League has changed its structure for this season.

- The nations ranked 1-3 (Germany, Belgium and Netherlands) are rewarded with three teams in the EHL
- The nations ranked 4-6 (Spain, England and France) are rewarded with two teams in the EHL
- The nations ranked 7-11 (Russian, Scotland, Ireland, Belarus and Austria) are rewarded with one team in the EHL.

The championship therefore gives the H&W 1st XI a place in the last 16 of the European Hockey League (KO16) in Barcelona. Each winner progresses to KO8. (There is no longer a league structure at the previous KO32 stage: it is straight knock out).

Mannheimer v CA Montrouge (Fra)
HGC v Hampstead & Westminster

Dinamo Kazan v Saint German (Fra)
Surbiton v Real Club de Polo

S V Kampong v H C Minsk
Herakles (Bel) v SV Arminen

Grange (Sco) v Three Rock Rovers (Ire)
Rot-Weiss Koln v Royal Beerschot (Bel)

The top four seeded teams join the competition at the next stage. They are the champions from Germany (Uhlenhorst Mulheim), Netherlands (HC Bloemendaal), Belgium (Royal Leopold) and Spain

(Club Egara)..

The Final stages (KO8) will take place over the Easter weekend in 2020.

The Euro League for Women will make its debut over the course of the Easter weekend, too, at the same venue. The line-up for this competition is already complete. Dutch sides AH&BC Amsterdam – winners of the 2019 EuroHockey Club Cup – and Den Bosch, Germany's Club an der Alster and UHC Hamburg, Spain's Club de Campo, England's Surbiton, Ireland's Pegasus and Belarus's HC Minsk.

What is known of HGC?

By common consent, H&W has a tough draw in its inaugural fixture.

H.O.C. Gazellen-Combinatie, also known as HGC, is based in Wassenaar, near Den Haag. It was founded in September 1906. The first teams (both men and women) have competed for many years in the *Hoofdklasse*, the highest-ranking league in the Netherlands. In 1995-96, both the men's and the women's first teams won the national championship. HGC has produced a number of internationals for the Dutch national teams, as well as attracting a number of internationals from other countries.

HGC are past winners of the EHL in 2010-11 and were runners up in 2007-08. They also won the European Cup in 1997 and the Cup Winners Cup in 1992-93 (and were runners up in 1994)

HGC were winners of the *Hoofdklasse*, in 1989-90 and 1995-96. They were runners up in 1977-78, 1978-79, 1980-81, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1990-91, 1992-93, 2006-07 and 2009-10.

Amongst past players, England and GB's Liam Ansell, Simon Egerton, Iain Lewers, Simon Mantell and Barry Middleton have played for HGC in the past. Last season, Ashley Jackson represented them but his season has joined Old Georgians. Last season's squad was predominantly comprised of Dutch nationals. Their team has at least five new recruits this season, including two from India.

Playing arrangements

The H&W squad will be departing from Gatwick at 9.05am and arriving Barcelona at 12.15pm on Thursday, 3rd October 2019. On Thursday the team will train at the ground from 4.00pm until 5.00pm.

On Friday, 4th October, we play HGC at 1.30pm. The loser of the Friday game plays Mannheimer or Montrouge on Saturday, 5th October at 11.45am. The winner of the Friday game plays Mannheimer or Montrouge on Sunday 6th October at 9.45am.

The flight back to Gatwick will depart Barcelona on the Sunday at 5.25pm and arrive at Gatwick at 6.45pm.

The EHL has reserved three hotels for teams and officials. They are all close together in Castelldefels, a short distance to the west of the airport. The stadium is east of the airport, about 20km or 20 minutes by car from Castelldefels. The EHL provides shuttle transport for teams and officials.

The squad will be staying in the Hotel Best Western Mediterraneo. The other hotels reserved by the EHL are Gran Hotel Rey Don Jaime and Hotel Ciutat de Castelldefels.

Pre-season

Training is now in full swing for the 1st XI's as some players return from summer competitions.

In addition, the Club has arranged a playing weekend in Belgium on Saturday, 31st August and Sunday, 1st September for the Men's and Women's 1st XI's and for the Junior Section of the Club. The Veterans are eager not to miss out and have been organising a complimentary tour of their own.

The broad outline of the schedule is:-

Saturday, 31st August:

- Men's 1st XI and Women's 1st and Vets XI travel to Brussels on Eurostar, to be based at Racing HC.
- There is to be a Junior tournament at Racing on Saturday.
- 6.00pm Men's 1st XI and Women's 1st XI play Racing

- 7.30pm (hopefully!) Vets XI v Racing Vets (If not, attempts are being made to arrange a game with Louven HC in the afternoon).
- 9.00pm Teas/beers/party in Racing Club.

Stay overnight in Brussels.

Sunday, 1st September:

- Junior Tournament continues
- 10.30am Vets XI v Oree HC
- 1.00pm Men's 1st XI v Oree HC
- Women's 1st XI fixture to be confirmed

On Sunday afternoon, the party returns to London by Eurostar..

Chris Somes-Charlton has used the opportunity of European hockey to remind all of the recent epic semi-final between Germany and Belgium <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/live/hockey/49322851>

"It's breath-taking, mind-boggling stuff, with commentary from our friend and former 1st XI coach Todd Williams".

Pitch developments

The rapid laying of a pitch for hockey at The Stoop, the home of Harlequins RFC took the eye in the early summer, for use in the last two games of the FIH Pro League, involving the Great Britain's Men's and Women's teams.



England Hockey has confirmed its desire continually to push boundaries. In 2018, it held the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup, the biggest women's-only sporting event the UK has ever seen. It wants bigger audiences. The pitch technology adopted at The Stoop was ground-breaking. England Hockey and its partners retain the intellectual property rights and, all being well, it can be used by other nations, stadia and events in the future.

England Hockey added, "We and our partners recognise the long-term opportunity with this technology. We have had considerable support from Sport England, and in addition there are savings

to be made by playing at a venue such as The Stoop which does not require investment in extra seating”.



Working with Polypipe, EH installed Permavoid that allowed a hockey pitch to be laid over the existing rugby pitch. It provided a strong base, enabling the grass to keep growing and supporting drainage. EH also used the new hockey turf developed by Polytan for the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020, which requires up to 65% less water than other pitches. The pitch used at The Stoop has now been installed at Bisham Abbey for the men's and women's teams to prepare for Tokyo, and the Bisham pitch will then move to Lilleshall for young players in the country's National Age Groups.

EH built a test site at Bisham Abbey and asked the players to play on it. Working with the FIH, EH used player feedback to refine the design ahead of the matches at The Stoop.



This solution is innovative because it is temporary, removable and repeatable. EH regard it as *cutting edge* technology: a patent application has been filed to allow EH to continue to develop this work. It is more flexible than the semi-permanent solution used in the Netherlands for the 2014 Hockey World Cups.

Work began roughly six weeks before the games were to take place, to prepare and create a level surface. The hockey pitch remained at The Stoop for a week beyond 23rd June for community and other use, sharing the opportunity to play on a new international pitch. Future plans would mean that the technology can be brought in and out more quickly (in say, 10-14 days).

EH is working with several partners: FIH, Polytan, Polypipe, STRI Group, Harlequins and Sport England. EH is eager to continue working with them (and expressed its gratitude for their assistance).



England Hockey & FIH Rule Changes

The FIH published new Rules of Outdoor Hockey in December 2018. They took effect internationally from 1 January 2019, but National Associations have discretion to decide the date of implementation at national level. England Hockey chose not to implement the changes during the 2018-19 season.

England Hockey has since confirmed its support for the implementation of all the rule changes with the exception of one. Therefore, the following changes will be implemented at all levels of the sport in England from the start of the 2019-20 season:

- Removal of Player with Goalkeeper Privileges
- Amendments to attacking Free Hits within the 23m

- Defensive Free Hits awarded within the defensive circle
- Amendment to ruling around attackers entering the circle early at a Penalty Corner

England Hockey has, in recent years, striven to apply a consistent set of rules throughout all levels of the sport. But the proposed change to 15-minute quarters caused considerable concern. Since December 2018, England Hockey has been considering the full implications of the rule change including research on the impact on game length, consultation with officiating bodies and discussions with other hockey governing bodies around the world.

England Hockey has also been liaising with the FIH to understand whether they were reconsidering the proposals in light of the number of countries opting to continue to play halves or opting to move to 17½ minute quarters (without the clock stopping at Penalty Corners).

The Board of England Hockey met on 16th July 2019 and agreed the following changes:

- To apply 17½ minute quarters (without the clock stopping at Penalty Corners) to the elite domestic club game specifically, all divisions of the England Hockey Leagues (the Investec Women's Hockey League and Men's England Hockey League) and Tier 1 of the Adult Club Championships.
- For the 2019-20 season, to leave the rest of the club game played as halves, usually of 2x35 minutes (or shorter formats in the junior game, as appropriate).
- The implementation of quarters at lower levels will be considered over the course of the 2019-20 season, in light of the experience at the higher levels.

There are a number of changes to the Outdoor Rules. They include the following but players, coaches, umpires and officials are encouraged to read the full text of the new rules

- Mandatory Experiment: a team no longer has the option to play with a player with goalkeeping privileges. This means that teams either play with a Goalkeeper, or 11 outfield players
- Changes concerning the start and re-start of the match reflect the change to quarters in the rule book.
- Clarification has been added to the awarding of a Penalty Stroke. If the ball hits a piece of equipment lying in the circle and a probable goal is prevented, a penalty stroke may be awarded.
- A free hit awarded to the defence within the defensive circle can be taken anywhere in their circle OR taken up to 15 metres from the back-line in line with the location of the offence, parallel to the side-line.
- Clarification on a defending team's responsibilities when defending a Penalty Corner when playing with no Goalkeeper.
- If an attacker enters the circle at a Penalty Corner before permitted, the player taking the push or hit from the backline is required to go beyond the centre-line and the Penalty Corner is taken again.
- If a team has chosen to play with eleven outfield players and no goalkeeper and concedes a Penalty Stroke, the new rule explains what protective equipment is permitted for the defender.

Silverware!

The Summer Masters Finals were held at the ground of Oxford Hawks in July 2019. The competition comprised three age groups in two tiers. It featured the H&W Vets in Tier 2 in the Over 40's level. The Vets won the Tier 1 competition last year but this year were beaten in the first round by West Herts.

As a result, we dropped down to play the second round of Tier 2 and beat East London 12-0. This was followed by a 7-2 win against Poole in the semi-final and the prospect of a final against Huddersfield Dragons.

The location assisted a return appearance in Hampstead colours of Mark Crowley, from the Men's 1st XI squad at the time of promotion to the National League and re-admittance in 1997.

This is the official EH report of the final:

Huddersfield Dragons 2-5 Hampstead & Westminster

It has been a very successful year for Hampstead & Westminster as they added another piece of silverware to their collection with a fine win over Huddersfield Dragons. They exerted pressure from the first moment of the game and took an early two-goal lead, only for the Dragons to reduce the arrears late in the first-half. The game was then level as Huddersfield scored again but two corner strikes and a penalty stroke saw Hampstead ease to victory.



And the unofficial...

It may only be the Tier 2 over 40s Summer Championships but it is always nice to win silverware and it has been an enjoyable journey.

As ever, it has taken a big squad to make it happen. Faces not featured in the final, but who made a contribution to us getting there were Andrew Harrington (GK), George Bretten, Paul Dickson, Matt W-W, John Baxter, Jay Daluchand, Jimmy Marsom, Chris Freeman, Patrick Stutz and Will Hayes

As to the game, we started well. It has been a long time since Mark Crowley was seen speeding down the wing in a Hampstead shirt but he still has pace (relatively speaking) and thought he had gained us a flick early on - however, after conferring, the umpire downgraded it to a penalty corner.

Unfortunately, the PCs were not really clicking, and, to be honest, neither was the rest of our game. A lot of passes were going astray. Maybe it was the opposition's luminous green shirts and it was Huddersfield who struck first, catching us on the break.

Ian Hammond scored an equaliser and then a well struck ball from Edmund into the D, deflected by Dom put us ahead going into half time. But it was not comfortable and Huddersfield equalised 10 minutes into the second half.

Huddersfield had some decent players and perhaps after last year's drubbing of Norton we were guilty of complacency. We did though start to get on top, piling on serious pressure and Ian Hammond put us ahead. When we resorted to the direct shot at PCs, we won a flick (converted by Jamie Perkins) and Chris Hovington put the nail in the coffin with a well struck short corner five minutes from the end. (Chris's post-match reference to this being *Bovelanderesque* amused for its datedness and hubris!)

MoM, by the way, was Edmund Papworth, who had a superb game.



*Back L-R: Mark Crowley, James Jackson, Rob Cooper (GK), Ian Hammond, Jon Mason, Simon Daws, Chris Hovington, Jamie Perkins, Dom Richardson, Bjorn Schwarz.
Front: Greg Lavery, Jules Cogdell, Will Saxby (cap't) Edmund Papworth, Matt Stupple.*

Awards

At the Annual Dinner the following awards were presented

Goalkeeping Award - Kreya Harichandra

Oli Thomas Award - Clementine Gray

Men's Golden Stick - Dom Richardson

Women's Golden Stick -Ellie Micklewright

Women's Most Improved Player - Mel Wilkinson

Men's Most Improved Player - Toby Reynolds-Cotterill

Best Women's Captain - Sharon Konfederak

Best Men's Captain - Mike Newman

ABN AMRO Best Women's Player - Lucy Hyams

ABN AMRO Best Men's Player - Marc Edwards

Most Social – Women's 3rd XI

Barnard Cup Team of the Year – Women's 1st XI

Carlton Tavern

The rebuilding of the Carlton Tavern has continued, rather to the surprise of the sceptics when a start on site was delayed. Work to the exterior appears all but concluded. With thanks to photographer Chris Somes-Charlton, here is the evidence. There are reports that the internal areas are also being replicated.



Next edition

All being well, this will cover the mid-way point in the 2019-20 season. If you have any news or comment, please direct it to mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk.