

# Hampstead handed an early taste of premier

## HOCKEY

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HAMPSTEAD get an early preview of life in the English League premier division over the weekend when several top flight clubs take part in the annual Hampstead & Westminster Challenge Tournament at Paddington Rec.

Hampstead, who were promoted to the premier as division one champions last season, will face established senior clubs like Cannock, Southgate and Old Loughtonians over the two days.

"The Challenge is regarded as the United Kingdom's leading pre-season tournament and is now in its 12th year," said Hampstead's John McCabe.

"This is our first season in the premier and the tournament gives us a taste of things to come.

"The format consists of two pools of four teams competing on Saturday with cross-over and place games on Sunday."

Hampstead, whose opening match tomorrow is against Southgate, will be skipped this season by defender Andrew von Mayer.

However, Hampstead will be without last season's top scorer Craig Carolan – he is still abroad.



● Leading by example... Hampstead's Andrew von Mayer on the charge.

Picture by Max Flego

The other clubs taking part are Barford Tigers from division one, Hounslow and Havant from division two and Bowden from the northern premier League.

The Challenge trophy will be presented by Peter Boizot, who is

president of Hampstead and chairman of Peterborough FC.

In the women's event Hampstead will face Maidenhead, Bluehearts and Dulwich.

Hampstead open their premier campaign with a tough home

game against Cannock on Sunday, September 16 at Paddington Rec. They then travel to Guildford (September 23) before entertaining Surbiton on (September 30).

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