

Welcome

This is a brief dispatch following the recent Newsletter. There is news about the FIH Pro League and H&W's Great Britain representatives. The story of the Premier Division Indoor tournament at Repton College can be completed. And this is further to encourage you to attend the Club's City Lunch on 6 March 2020.

International News

Great Britain's opening 2020 FIH Pro League squads have been selected, with 22 members in each team set to travel to play Australia (1-2 February 2020) and New Zealand (8-9 February 2020).

H&W's Rupert Shipperley is in line to make his GB debut. He has been called up for the first time, having impressed while training with the squad before and after Christmas. He joins fellow H&W Welsh international Jacob Draper, who was recently handed a full-time place in the men's programme, in the squad. Shippo will wear the number 8 shirt.

Rupert is no stranger to international hockey, having played 70 times for Wales since his debut in 2014. He also captained them to an impressive sixth-placed finish during the 2019 EuroHockey Championships. He said, "I was absolutely buzzing when I found out. It's been something I've been working towards for a long time, so to finally get an opportunity to play is really exciting. I'm really looking forward to it. Obviously, it's a really big moment. It will be nice to play with some of these players instead of against them in an international game".

The Welsh pair join Harry Martin and Will Calnan of H&W. Ashley Jackson, Mark Gleghorne, Liam Ansell, Luke Taylor and Chris Griffiths also return to the squad, not having featured in the Olympic Qualifier against Malaysia in November.



H&W Men's GB squad members here seen at Brooklands, supporting the host's ball control
[L to R: Will Calnan, Jacob Draper, Harry Martin, Rupert Shipperley]

Mark Hager has selected all 18 players who saw GB's women book their place at Tokyo 2020 by overcoming Chile at the end of last year, while also welcoming back Sarah Jones after a period of illness.

H&W's Grace Balsdon also returns, along with Sarah Evans and Emily Defroand. Amy Tennant misses out through injury. The other two H&W squad members will be Sarah Robertson and Lily Owsley.

This will be the first time both teams will experience the new format of the FIH Pro League. They will play two double headers away from home this season, before hosting Australia and New Zealand in London during the 2021 campaign.

Friday, 6 March 2020

The next fund-raising Lunch is to be held at Smith & Wollensky, 1-11 John Adam Street, Covent Garden, London WC2N 6HT. John Adam Street is a short walk from Charing Cross Station. Please let Richard Sykes know whether you will be able to attend.

If you will not be able to join the assembled good folk, the organisers hope that you might instead be willing to offer a prize for the raffle or make some other contribution that would be greatly appreciated. Again, please make contact with Richard Sykes if this is a possibility.

Coaching Chain Awards 2019

The coaches who helped Scotland and Great Britain hockey heroine Sarah Robertson reach the top of her sport have been recognised with the **sportscotland** Coaching Chain Award 2019. Irene Logan, Janet Jack, Sam Judge, Jen Wilson, Sarah Kelleher, Kate Richardson Walsh and Danny Kerry picked up their award at the **sportscotland** Coaching, Officiating and Volunteering Awards 2019 at Glasgow City Chambers on Thursday, 21 November 2019

That night inspirational coaches, officials and volunteers from all over Scotland were celebrated across 15 categories for their significant contribution to sport over the past 12 months.

Sarah started her hockey career at Selkirk High School and has gone on to play in two Commonwealth Games and earn 99 Scotland caps and 42 for Great Britain.

Irene Logan was Sarah's coach from her first year at Selkirk High. Janet Jack was Sarah's first coach outside school hockey. A former GB player, Janet has been committed to developing hockey in the Borders for years. Sarah first joined Borders Fjordhus Hockey Club when aged 15.

Sam Judge has been a great influence on Sarah's career since taking up a coaching role at Edinburgh University. During Sarah's university years the team progressed from the relegation play-offs to a team that have now won the national title five years in a row.

Scotland's head coach since 2018, Jen Wilson managed Sarah's transition back from the GB programme. Sarah Kelleher and Kate Richardson Walsh have been Sarah's club coaches for the past two seasons at H&W. Danny Kerry was Sarah's first GB coach, inviting Sarah to a GB trial after the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. He identified Sarah's potential and gave her an opportunity in the GB team

Indoors

Jaffa Super 6s Championships Premier Division

Results

Saturday 11 January 2020

Sevenoaks 3 Surbiton 7

Holcombe 4 Hampstead & Westminster 4
 Canterbury 4 Reading 6
 East Grinstead 7 Bowdon 3
 Wimbledon 2 Sevenoaks 5
 Surbiton 5 Holcombe 4
 Hampstead & Westminster 8 Canterbury 1
 Reading 3 East Grinstead 4
 Bowdon 2 Wimbledon 13

Sunday, 12 January 2020

Canterbury 2 Surbiton 13
 Holcombe 5 Wimbledon 3
 Sevenoaks 1 East Grinstead 4
 Bowdon 5 Canterbury 0
 Reading 4 Holcombe 6
 Hampstead & Westminster 5 Sevenoaks 6
 Surbiton 14 Bowdon 4
 Wimbledon 3 Reading 2
 East Grinstead 3 Hampstead & Westminster 5

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



Our two wise men of the indoor game

This was a disappointing weekend for the team. It illustrated the fine margins that come into play. Of general observation: -

- H&W's goal difference was the second greatest, yet we ended in sixth position
- The three defeats were by the odd goal. Against Surbiton we were 4-3 up with five minutes to play but Alan Forsyth (who ended up scoring 50% of his team's goals) nicked two goals in a minute for their win.
- Holcombe snatched a draw after we were 4-2 up with eight minutes to play.
- The only occasion on which we had to chase the game was against Sevenoaks, where substituting the goalkeeper for the second half almost succeeded, as we scored in the 31st, 35th 39th and 40th minutes but ran out of time for an equaliser.
- In most other games we were far from slow out of the blocks this season. We scored against Reading, Wimbledon and Canterbury in the second minute and against Holcombe, Sevenoaks and East Grinstead in the first minute of the games.
- Kyle White returned as a guest player and was our highest scorer, one goal more than Richard Smith's ten corner conversions...

Men's South League Premier Division 1

Last weekend was good for the Men's 2nd XI, who had two fixtures to make up for a postponed game before Christmas. Both games ended with a win and six valuable points. On Saturday, they defeated Guildford 4-0, who had led the Division for several weeks at the start of the season. On Sunday, they held on to beat Tunbridge Wells 3-2. There was a scurrilous rumour that this followed a few celebratory beers the previous night. This puts the 2's into third place, on goal difference, having lost only one (and that was in the first match).

1	Indian Gymkhana 1	12	10	0	2	50	20	30	30
2	London Wayfarers 1	12	9	2	1	62	20	42	29
3	Hampstead 2	12	9	2	1	39	19	20	29
4	Guildford 1	12	8	1	3	39	25	14	25

English Hockey Reorganisation

The last newsletter covered the reaction of the South League to EH's proposals. The AGM is to be held on 17 March 2020, at which the proposals will be put to a vote. EH has provided more detail of how things will work out and are in discussions with the South League in an attempt to allay concerns. EH has said:-

"It is recognised that the changes will mean that the top competitions in some of the new eight 'Areas' could be slightly weaker initially than in the current five Regions. However, opportunities to progress will be fairer and more equal than previously between different parts of the country and the best teams will still rise to the play each other. The current regions that are proposed to split will also become comparable to the other areas that are not changing by much and this will create a more equal level for competition and entry to the England Hockey League.

Also, the expansion in the England Hockey Leagues over the past few years from 40 teams in 2018-19, to 60 in 2019-20 and then 70 in 2021-22 means that the equivalent to playing at the top regional level in 2018-19 would be playing in the England Hockey League Conferences by 2021-22.

The make-up of the two EHL Division Ones and four EHL Conference Divisions will be allocated

annually based on the teams who are promoted/relegated to that level i.e. this will not automatically be determined by a team's Area.

The 'top' (Tier 1) of the club game is overseen by the Elite Domestic Game and is outside the scope of the AGM Resolution. The Elite Domestic Game Panel of top club representatives has been consulted as part of the process and kept informed.

Whilst the Conferences will be broadly based on the pairs of feeder league that feed them - North West/North East, Midlands/East, Greater London/South East/South Central, and South West, it will be the exact geographical spread of qualifying teams at the end of the 2020-21 season that will determine how they are split into conferences.

Once the new structure is in place the eight Area winners will be promoted and bottom two teams in each Conference relegated. The number of teams relegated from the Conferences to an Area will of course impact relegation from an Area top division.

Clubs have been strongly recommended to consider the timeline from implementation (Season 2021-22) and the fact that there will be two sets of promotions and relegations before the proposed structure will come into place. Focusing on the exact position of one club team or your specific circumstances at this point is unlikely to be the same when the changes occur."

School success

The final competition of the Schools Super 6's 2020 weekend saw St Lawrence College claim the U16 Boys' title after a narrow victory over Ipswich in the final. SLC are coached by, amongst others, H&W's Kwan Browne and Huw Stevens. They headed into the final, with confidence having beaten reigning champions Whitgift 3-2 in their semi-final. Ipswich had overcome Dean Close on a shoot-out after a 0-0 draw. In a game of few chances, Tassilo Sura scored the winner in the final minute and his school were crowned this year's champions.



Huw Stevens holding the trophy