

Welcome

This is the thirtieth Newsletter in the current format. It covers the midway point of the interrupted 2020-21 season and with by no means one half of fixtures completed. This will reduce the news that can be provided to you.



Courtesy of The Hockey Museum

Hockey in the time of Covid

Under Tier 5, the tiered arrangements for the mitigation of Coronavirus have currently put an end to club hockey in all its forms.

The Tier 4 arrangements are set out here in the hope there might be a relaxation. Tier 4 limited matches to opponents in a similarly affected area, making difficult, in particular, the fulfilment of National League programmes. England Hockey remains eager to complete the season, even if it means continuing fixtures into the summer months.

The Tier 4 *Stay at Home* restrictions were in addition to Local Restrictions under Tiers 1-3 and took effect from 20 December 2020. Under Tier 4, Hockey is still permitted in all parts of the country but with greater restrictions at the higher tiers. In Tier 4, only one-to-one or household/support bubble activity is permitted for adults.

There is an exemption for Junior (under 18s) activity and disability sport that means activity can continue for these groups. Any activity should be done as locally as possible.

For Junior activity and disability sport in Tier 4, areas leagues and competitions should not take place and any matches should only be between very local teams (the same town or clubs that use the same venue).

While players can travel to play hockey under Tier 4, some restrictions are in place. Travel into or out of a Tier 4 area is not permitted. All travel must be kept to a minimum and as local as possible. Government has defined local as *"if you need to travel you should stay local - meaning avoiding travelling outside of your village, town or the part of a city where you live - and look to reduce the number of journeys you make overall"*

Travel should be limited within a household group or support bubble and follow the government safer travel guidance.

Under 18s teams can play each other in Tier 4 by exemption. Such matches can still be played. However, EH recommends that matches do not take place unless both teams agree. And matches can only be held between very local teams following the guidance around travel restrictions.

EH was recommending that no league activity should take place until mid-February 2021 at the earliest. It will review the situation in the line with future Government reviews of the restrictions and guidance. As the situation is different around the country, league provision will vary according to what is allowed in each area.

Adult and Masters Championships are not permitted in Tier 4. EH recommends that no Junior Championships matches should be played at this stage. Under Tier 4, Junior Championships fixtures were set to resume in late January 2021.

Under Tier 4, clubhouses and hospitality venues must close, other than in providing food and drink for takeaway, click & collect, or delivery. As household mixing is not allowed in Tier 4, players should expect to come for hockey activity only.

Spectators are permitted in Tier 4 but must adhere to legal gathering limits and follow social distancing guidelines. In Tier 4 this means you should only spectate alongside others from your household / support bubble or one other individual whilst socially distanced.

Indoor sports facilities must close under Tier 4, meaning that indoor hockey is not permitted in Tier 4 areas.

An example of the difficulties to be overcome in fulfilling fixtures was the Men's 2nd XI match against Trojans in the South League Premier 1 Division earlier this season when in Tier 3. The team had to travel changed (and with face coverings) by train from Waterloo to Southampton Airport Parkway. Then by taxis, still masked, to the ground at Stoneham Lane, Eastleigh. Straight on to the pitch, play and then immediately back, still in playing kit (and with face masks), by taxis to return to Southampton Airport Parkway station to catch the up train to Waterloo. Fortunately, the day resulted in a handsome win and the chance for a few to divert homewards to Raynes Park that evening to watch the Men's 1st XI win under lights in great style against fancied Wimbledon.

Other teams' difficulties are equally (and perhaps even more) challenging. The past few months have been fraught for university hockey sides. This is particularly true of those teams that compete at elite level. Continuing to train to a high standard and with regularity and travelling long distances to matches has been made very difficult by the impact of virus.

Harry Jones, the Head of Hockey at Exeter University and Head Coach to their Men's 1st XI, reported that "it has been an extremely tough start to the season what with Covid-19 causing all sorts of logistical nightmares. We weren't able to have our usual pre-season start date, as this had to be delayed due to a gradual opening of our sports facilities and grounds. Exeter's geographical location continues to be problematic but even more so now. When it comes to long away journeys, University protocols stipulate we have to travel with reduced numbers in cars, temperature checks, face masks and windows open. All things which must be done but now are adding to the uphill struggle we face for away matches."

The biggest challenge has been the uncertainty and the lack of control over the situation. In addition, any university side faces the annual problem of a mass exodus as students graduate and an influx of new players arrive. This lack of continuity or established players in the team brings its own challenges. It was out of their control not being able to play some league games. Four matches have resulted in four losses and the team currently sits second from bottom in Premier Division, with only fellow university team, Durham, below them.

Annual General Meeting

The Club's AGM was convened by Zoom on 28 October 2020 at 7.00pm and allowed participation by several members distant from Maida Vale who might not otherwise have been able to attend regardless of the Coronavirus restrictions. That included President, Richard Sykes' chairmanship of the meeting from the depths of Exmoor. The meeting provided a useful (and more succinct) review of key matters normally covered by this Newsletter.

Pitches

Delivery of the new playing surface at PRG has been delayed. It was hoped to have it available for December 2020. This has led to searches for additional pitches, including Mill Hill School, where Club coach Kwan Browne is now retained.

Covid 19

Gary Larkin and Lara Rubbia Ferreira have been appointed the Club's Covid Officers. They produced guidance based upon that from England Hockey that is being shared throughout the club. In addition, they are maintaining a central registry of cases. A handful of positive cases have been identified. However, the Club has been relatively fortunate, with no transmissions within the Club. Richard Sykes mentioned that the focus from EH is for all leagues to be completed over the season. Leagues were being encouraged to be flexible to make sure all members can get a full season.

Performance

Club Chairman, Johnny Witt formally reported that both Women's and Men's 1st XIs are playing in the Premier League. He outlined the changes this season to the Premier League structures, particularly at the end of the first half of the season. The Club retains three top class coaches at this level and currently has eight players in the Great Britain squads.

Club teams

The Women's 2nd XI had won a second promotion in as many seasons and secured National League hockey for next season. The Women's 3s, 4s, 5s and 7s all finished mid table and remained in the Middlesex structure. The Women's 6th XI had won Middlesex Division 1 but could not be promoted as there were already two Hampstead teams existing in that league. Several junior players were integrated into the Women's senior squads during the season.

For 2020-21, the number of Women's teams has been reduced to six, owing to insufficient numbers. This decision was made to ensure six strong teams could be fielded each weekend and to allow for any Covid impact on player availability. 13 juniors have been integrated into the seniors squads and are now considered essential players within the teams.

The Women's 2nd XI have had a successful start to their first season in the National League East Conference.

In the Men's section, Jonny Dodds reported that the 2s had shown a strong performance in the new South League Premier 1 Division. The 3s and Zaks XI were maintaining strong positions in the London League Premier Division. The 4s had avoided relegation. The Hammers XI struggled, only managing to retain nine players. The Spaniards XI's re-organisation left them in London League Division 3. The Colts XI had done remarkably well in London League Division 5, with Matt Stupple driving their performance. The Veterans XI had narrowly missed landing the league title. At O50s and O60s levels, the Club was playing more Masters' hockey than any other club. Player pathways from the junior sections were becoming more established.

In the Junior section, Alex Smart was thanked for her hard work and dedication. She has had assistance from Sarah Greasley in coordinating the various activities. 28 junior teams require management. The Covid outbreak meant the postponement of summer hockey camps. No Council games took place during the summer. *Ad hoc* training was, however, provided. A Junior programme is being organised by Nicola White at Mill Hill School. Considerable energy being generated by this partnership.

Finance

Christine Shrimpton was thanked for coordinating the Club's finances for three years. Will Seebold has taken on the role since the start of April 2020. Richard Sykes emphasised that the Club is registered as a charity. The board appointed three new trustees, Lou Gelling, Richard James and

Kevin Murphy, in addition to Richard Sykes, Oz Rankin and Jonny Witt. Trustees' functions are in addition to the committee, which manages the day to day running of the Club.

Dealing with the 2019-20 accounts, slides were presented, based on statutory accounts. There are three elements: the core club (funded by subscriptions and match fees), the Junior section and the Elite teams, whose expenditure is dependent upon fundraising and donations.

Last year's income was c £350,000 income and this year is c £420,000. The Club aims to break even from a budgetary point of view. The Club remains liquid and a going concern, despite a loss of income over the summer months. It can draw on reserves in order to keep going until the summer of 2021. A positive cash balance was maintained.

The financial position had improved through subscriptions and match fees. The adult club is self-funded by £95,000 subscriptions and £40,000 match fees. There is no expenditure attributed to the performance teams. Richard Sykes reiterated that there is no subsidy from adult club to Elite section of the Club and for European participation. The Elite section is funded separately. The Club remains reliant on its volunteers but he wondered whether this might be a false economy.

Carlton Tavern

Several Club sources have noticed the reports in the *Ham & High* on 9 January 2021 that the final touches were being put to the much-vaunted rebuilding of the Carlton Tavern.

A storm had earlier blown over parts of the contractor's hoarding on the Carlton Hill frontage that had allowed some to inspect the state of the rebuilding, now made easier by the progress shown in the photographs below.

Five years after developer CLTX unlawfully demolished most of the building and was served with an enforcement notice (demanding the premises be rebuilt *brick-by-brick*) Tom Rees and Ben Martin, who formed Homegrown Pubs LLP on 26 November 2020, are looking to complete negotiations to take over under a Lease in the next few weeks. They then hope to run it again as a pub, as soon as possible.



Credit: @pubsaying Joanne

Applications for a premises license and for planning permission for the installation of an extractor for the pub's kitchen have been lodged with Westminster City Council, which has worked to support the pub's rebuilding and reopening since the enforcement proceedings were taken to remedy the unlawful demolition.



Credit: @pubsaying Joanne

The paper reported that Tom and Ben have begun speaking to the local people who have campaigned for the pub's eventual reopening. It said that their plan is to hold a relaunch party when the pandemic allows.

From the Chief Executive

The Chief Executive of England Hockey, Nick Pink, released a message at the end of 2020. He believes that there is much to be excited about on EH's agenda for the next 12 months.

High on EH's list is delivering significant positive change to the way hockey is set up. The 86% vote in favour of change delivered at EH's virtual AGM in the autumn demonstrated the significant support for the proposal. "Work is well underway to deliver the rationalisation and simplification that the membership has asked for. For all of us who play the sport, this will bring about a positive evolution of our hockey experience and we are planning to introduce the new structures in September 2021".

To help bring about change and broaden access into EH's pathway for the best young people, another priority is a review and change to the [Talent Development System](#) (see below). "Because of the circumstances this year, we held open trials for our National Age Group selections, accessing more talented young people than ever before, and if this is an insight into how we can open up the pathway then it can only be good for the sport".

"2021 is an opportunity for us to collectively think about how we evolve the sport in terms of access for different types of people. Hockey has led the way in being open to those of any gender, age or sexuality. The evolution ahead of us now is to make access to the sport equally as open to those from different ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, particularly children in state schools.

England Hockey needs help to overcome these obstacles and we are determined to do all we can. An updated statement on diversity and inclusion has been issued and clubs have been asked to think about how positive change can be delivered. "The international athletes across England, Scotland and Wales have committed to their own campaign under the Stick It To Racism banner and I believe they have set a great example for the pro-active approach required; taking personal initiative to a positive effect".

EH is aiming to evolve its Board of Directors and has a vacancy for a Membership-Elected Non-Executive Director, as well as a Vice President. Applications are open to anyone wishing to apply. "In order to reach a 50/50 gender balance, we are overtly looking for female candidates for both roles, and with the best possible range of people on the Board we can continue to drive forward the changes" referred to.

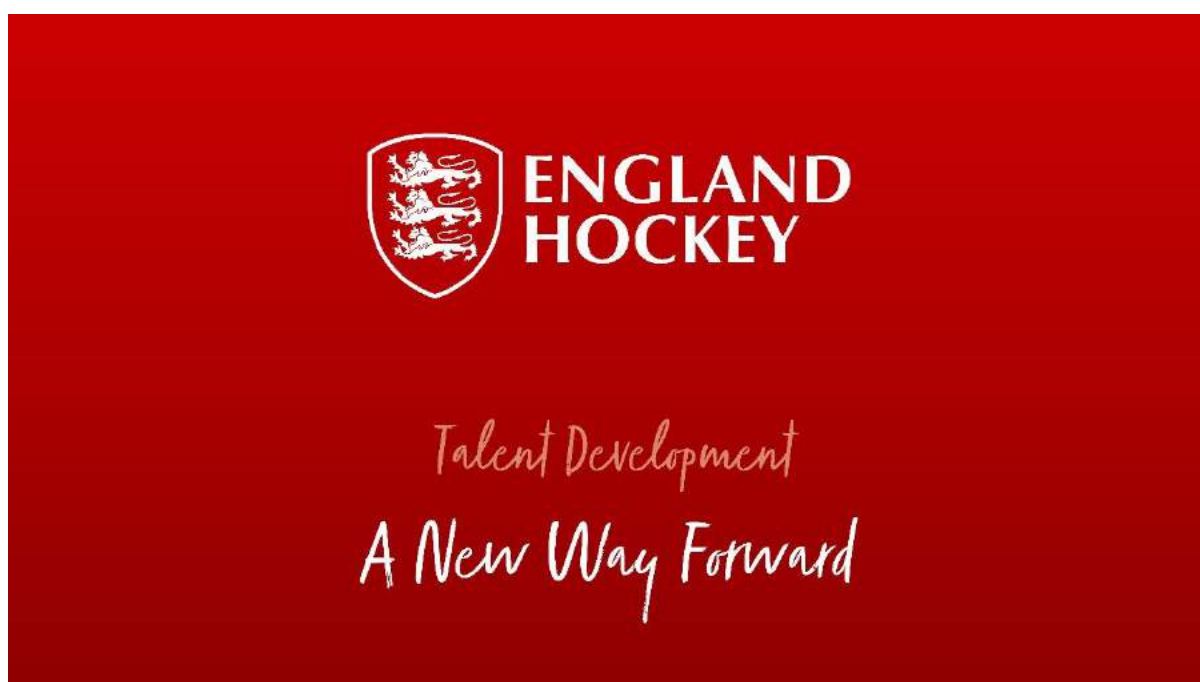
Hockey has been added to the Special Olympics. "England Hockey is supporting the campaign to have our sport included and this is an important moment for all concerned".

A new set of safety guidelines for delivering hockey sessions was published in December 2020. They came about following the enquiry into sad and tragic death of Luke Hobson, a youth player with Blueharts Hockey Club. The guidelines were formulated with the support of Luke's parents. An Injury Reporting function has also been established alongside the guidance.

“At international level, our athletes have adapted very well to the radically different schedule for 2021, and it promises to be an amazing year with FIH Hockey Pro League, EuroHockey Championships and then the Tokyo Olympics. For all of us who love watching the world's best players in action, the next twelve months are going to be fantastic. I would like to thank UK Sport and the National Lottery for their continued support to our World Class Programme, and under incredibly difficult circumstances, we are confident we will be able to deliver a high level in the next two Olympiads”.

Talent Development System

Ed Barney, Performance Director of England and Great Britain Hockey introduced the scheme for changes planned for the talent pathway in England. They are regarded potentially as some of the most significant changes to the pathway in a decade.



In summary, the following principles or proposals are at the core of the scheme for the immediate future:

- A shift in approach from England Hockey, with a prioritisation of club hockey
- An emphasis on shared ambition and collaboration between clubs, schools and England Hockey
- Exceptional talent development environments, with primarily club-based 'centres of excellence' for the most talented player to replace Performance Centres (likely to be in late 2022)
- A flexible system to ensure the right environments for the right players
- Local Academy Centres sitting alongside clubs and schools in early talent development (11-14yrs)
- Recognition for clubs and schools who excel in talent development
- Open, more evidence-based selection processes
- Action to deliver more inclusive and diverse talent and performance programmes

The aspiration is for a nationwide network of approximately 20-24 Talent Academies that take talent development to a new level. It is hoped they can become the priority environments for the best 500 players aged 15 -18 per gender, with each Talent Academy providing 350-500 hours per year of high-

quality coaching and training with a critical mass of 15 to 25 players (per gender) from September to July.

The England Hockey Talent Academy league and cup competitions will become the most prestigious junior competition, superseding the current under U18 Tier 1 club competition from 2023-4. However Talent Academies will not be a pre-requisite to progress to England Age Group squads, which will operate an open nomination process.

Hosting a Talent Academy will be an opportunity to contribute to a transformational step change in elite domestic hockey and international success for our clubs and national teams. England Hockey will promote Talent Academies as the priority environments for players aged 15-18 with aspirations and potential to progress to international level.

Talent Academies will need to uphold the highest ethical standards and work co-operatively with other local hockey providers, such as club and schools. Academy status will provide a mechanism to generate income through other avenues, such as talent festivals, coaching and services to other local clubs. England Hockey will provide a support package to talent academy hosts. This will include financial support to set up the academy, coach and club development support and brand association.

EH envisages Talent Academies recruiting players from a defined catchment area through an open nomination via clubs, schools and County (Sub-Area) Hockey. They will run a series of festivals each year, which will include teams nominated from Talent Centres and Talent Schools. Each academy will have one squad per gender, with a minimum number of players in each year band, all profiled against the England Hockey player profile.



Talent Academy hosts must be affiliated to EH. Hosts clubs will need to be able to cater for both genders equally and provide a minimum of two dedicated Talent Academy coached session per week which can be supplemented with senior hockey (to give a typical weekly training exposure of 3-4 sessions.)

To help shape the Talent Academy framework, EH is developing seven elements: governance, culture, coaching, talent development environment, athlete development and well-being, stakeholder and community and access and diversity.

Once completed, clubs will be asked to tender against a set of criteria linked to this framework. EH plans to award licences for three years, beginning in September 2022, with a break clause after each year. EH does not expect every club to be able to meet all of the criteria from the start but will want to see a clear and credible plan to achieve them.

Each host will have its own individual Talent Academy development plan, with the target of all hosts meeting the full Talent Academy specification within three years. To safeguard the integrity of the

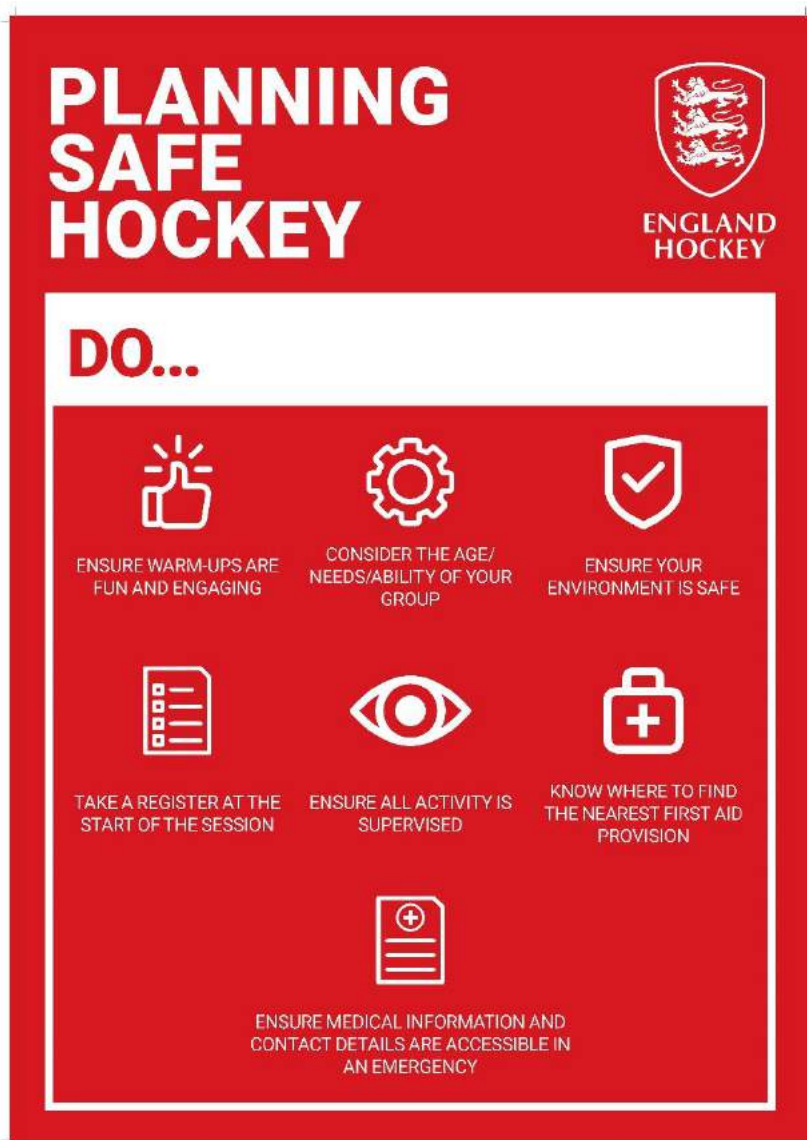
talent system, there will be a contractual relationship between EH and the host to define the services and set out the minimum standards of delivery and expectations from both the host clubs and EH.

Safety

EH has published an important new guide entitled *Planning Safe Hockey*. It is intended to be used as a checklist by anyone delivering or planning hockey activity. EH strongly encourages all clubs or organisations and their members to familiarise themselves with the guide and to deal with any unsafe practices.

The guide was created in memory of Luke Hobson, a 14-year-old junior player who tragically died on 28 March 2019 having sustained a fatal impact head injury. The guide was created with the co-operation of Luke's parents.

To ensure the continued safety of all members, EH require data of injuries sustained across the sport so that trends can be identified and reported to both England Hockey's Board and the FIH. It is imperative for EH that this data is collected in order to influence rules changes and improve the safety of the sport.



Injury Reporting Policy

This Policy relates to the recording and reporting of injuries sustained during hockey activity by any member of a club or association affiliated to EH.

Injury Monitoring Form

EH requires clubs and associations to complete the EH online Injury Monitoring Form following injuries sustained that require one or more of the following:

- treatment from a first aid specialist (e.g. Team doctor/ first responder)
- hospital treatment
- subsequent visit(s) to a GP

All clubs and associations have a responsibility to record injuries using accident report forms/ accident books. Accident reports need to be stored for a minimum of 10 years or until the individual is 25 years old. All personal information will need to be processed, stored and retained in accordance with the Club's Privacy Notice and GDPR.

It is essential that a young person's parent or guardian is informed of any injury a child sustained whilst participating in hockey activity. Clubs and organisations are to make sure that the persons responsible for the delivery of hockey activity have access to relevant medical information and that parent/guardian contact details are readily available in case of an emergency for all junior players and stored in accordance with all relevant data protection legislation.

EH has made clear that it takes the safety of its members extremely seriously. For this reason, members' commitment to *Safe Hockey* has been included as a condition of affiliation. If a member club or organisation fails to complete the online 'Injury Monitoring Form' for any injury that meets the criteria outlined in Injury Reporting Policy or fails to comply with the terms of affiliation relating to *Safe Hockey*, EH reserves the right to review the affiliation status of the club or organisation in question and/or to consider disciplinary action.

**PLANNING
SAFE
HOCKEY**

**ENGLAND
HOCKEY**

DON'T...

- ALLOW UNSUPERVISED WARM-UP ACTIVITY
- ALLOW UNSUPERVISED ACTIVITY WHICH COMPROMISES SAFETY (I.E. TRICK SHOTS)
- ALLOW HOCKEY BALLS ON THE PITCH UNTIL THE SUPERVISED WARM UP STARTS
- ALLOW UNSUPERVISED STICK AND BALL TIME
- SHOOT AT GOAL IF DOING SO PUTS OTHERS IN DANGER
- LOSE CONTROL OF, OR SWING, YOUR STICK WHEN CLOSE TO OTHERS
- SET UP ACTIVITY IN A WAY THAT COMPROMISES SAFETY (I.E. GOALS BACK TO BACK)



Vitality

Vitality and England and Great Britain Women's Hockey have announced a landmark partnership three-year deal. It will see the company's logo on the shirts of the England and GB women's teams, while there will also be support for the FIH Pro League, including both men's and women's matches, and for the English Women's Hockey League.

England Hockey's grassroots participation programme will also be renamed **Vitality Back to Hockey**, with Vitality working closely with England and GB Hockey to drive visibility of the game and encourage many more people to try out or return to the sport.

On the Pitch

Women's Section

The Club has joined the few that have more than two teams competing in this season's National League divisions, following the promotion secured by the Women's 2nd XI.

National League; Premier Division

Beeston 0	Hampstead 2	Hunt Hyams
Hampstead 2	Loughborough Students 4	Robertson Maguire
Wimbledon 1	Hampstead 3	Mccaw (2) Balsdon
Hampstead 1	East Grinstead 2	L Turner
Holcombe 0	Hampstead 1	White

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
East Grinstead	6	5	1	0	7	16
Wimbledon	6	4	0	2	4	12
Loughborough Students	4	3	1	0	5	10
Hampstead & Westminster	5	3	0	2	2	9
Surbiton	4	2	1	1	5	7
Buckingham	5	2	1	2	-2	7
Clifton Robinsons	4	2	0	2	3	6
Holcombe	5	2	0	3	3	6
Beeston	5	1	1	3	-2	4
University of Birmingham	5	0	1	4	-7	1
Swansea	5	0	0	5	-18	0

National League; East Conference

Hampstead 0	Barnes 1	Court Johnson
Canterbury 2 nd 2	Hampstead 5	Askew Beglin Orrett
Hampstead 8	Horsham 0	Clark (2) Orrett Askew (4) Tew
St Albans 2	Hampstead 3	Davison Orrett Tew
East London 4	Hampstead 1	Penrose
Southgate 1	Hampstead 0	

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Barnes	6	5	1	0	11	16
Southgate	6	5	0	1	6	15
Bedford	6	4	1	1	17	13
Bromley & Beckenham	6	4	0	2	7	12
East London	6	3	1	2	3	10
St Albans	6	3	1	2	3	10
Hampstead & Westminster 2	6	3	0	3	7	9

Horsham	6	1	0	5	-23	3
Chelmsford	6	0	0	6	-13	0
Canterbury 2	6	0	0	6	-18	0

South League

Division 3A

Hampstead 2 Slough 3
 Sonning 2 Hampstead 1
 Hampstead 0 Salisbury 1
 Eastcote 2 Hampstead 0
 Hampstead 4 PHC Chiswick 0
 Barnes 3 Hampstead 0

Eastcote 1	6	5	0	1	7	15
Sonning 1	6	5	0	1	4	15
West Hampstead 1	6	4	1	1	12	13
Southgate 2	6	4	1	1	7	13
Barnes 2	6	3	1	2	9	10
Salisbury 1	6	3	1	2	-1	10
Wycombe 1	6	2	2	2	-1	8
Buckingham 2	6	2	0	4	-1	6
Slough 2	6	1	2	3	-3	5
PHC Chiswick 2	6	1	1	4	-17	4
Hampstead & Westminster 3	6	1	0	5	-4	3
Milton Keynes 1	6	0	1	5	-12	1

Middlesex League

The 4th XI are in fifth place in the Premier Division, having played seven matches, winning three, drawing once and losing three times, for 10 points and a goal difference of -2.

In Division 1, the 6th XI are fifth after seven matches, of which three have been won, two drawn and two lost. They have 11 points and a goal difference of 9.

In Division 2, the 7th XI are ninth, having played six, of which they have won once, drawn twice but lost three times, for five points (and a goal difference of -11).

Men's Section

England Hockey League; Premier Division

University of Exeter 3 Hampstead 5
 Hampstead 1 Old Georgians 1 (played at Reading)
 Wimbledon 1 Hampstead 4
 Hampstead 5 East Grinstead 1 (played at Southgate)
 Holcombe 3 Hampstead 2

	P	W	D	L	GD	PTS
Surbiton	5	4	0	1	19	12
Old Georgians	5	3	1	1	15	10
Hampstead & Westminster	5	3	1	1	8	10
Wimbledon	5	3	1	1	3	10
Holcombe	4	3	0	1	3	9
Beeston	5	2	2	1	1	8
East Grinstead	6	2	2	2	-4	8
Oxted	5	2	0	3	-4	6

Brooklands Manchester University	4	0	1	3	-12	1
University of Exeter	4	0	0	4	-12	0
University of Durham	4	0	0	4	-17	0

Other H&W Men's teams

South League Premier 1



Milton Keynes 1 Hampstead 0
Trojans 1 Hampstead 3
Hampstead 2 Wimbledon 2s 1
Tunbridge Wells 0 Hampstead 4
Hampstead 9 West Hampstead 0
Hampstead 1 Guildford 1

Guildford 1	20pts from	8
Surbiton 2	14	6
Hampstead 2	13	6
Indian Gymkhana 1	10	5
Milton Keynes 1	8	7



London League Premier

Oxted 3	8	6	0	2	18pts
East Grinstead 2	6	6	0	0	18
Southgate 3	8	5	1	2	16
Bromley & Beckenham 2	6	5	0	1	15
Wimbledon 3	7	5	0	2	15
Hampstead 3	7	2	1	4	7
Indian Gymkhana 2	8	2	1	5	7
HAC Gunners	6	2	0	4	6
Tulse Hill & Dulwich 2	7	2	0	5	6
Spencer 3	7	2	0	5	6
Hampstead Zak Hond	6	1	1	4	4
Bromley & Beckenham 3	6	1	0	5	3

The 4th XI is ninth in Division 1, the Spaniards are sixth in Division 3, with the Thirsts XI in the same division.

Because of the virus, the League had already decided to cancel the divisional finals, to extend the season to Sunday, 25 April 2021 and to move the fixtures to the four 'new' Saturdays, to save clubs having to liaise. It decided not to amend times or venues, leaving clubs to review them and change them accordingly. Clubs were free to vary these changes if they wished. It appreciated that some Covid-hit fixtures from the autumn were still to be rearranged but as there were no *slip dates* left, clubs were encouraged to "squeeze these in on Sundays or evenings as best you can".

If clubs could agree 'double header' matches (that is, a single match, with a single result, covering both home and away fixtures) that will be sufficient. The League has no objections but stated that this should be used as a last resort. Presciently, it added, "to state the obvious, we don't know what else may be coming this season. Good luck to everyone and stay healthy!"

With the tiered system in place and EH's related updated guidance, which had serious implications for travel in Tier 2 (at that time covering nearly all of London), the League pointed out that "car sharing is not permitted, meaning that teams must travel individually or in households/bubbles to matches."

It added that it was not then going to suspend the London League because of this (where some other leagues have chosen to) because the density of clubs in London meant that public transport might be a realistic option to get to games, adding that many players do this in normal times.

Clubs were encouraged (with true London League pragmatism) to "make your own judgements within your clubs/teams, and with your opponents, as to whether games can be played. Hopefully, plenty can. This is going to make a serious mess of things, to put it mildly".

In addition to this the League was grappling with planning for the new Greater London Area for hockey following the vote in favour of change at the England Hockey AGM, mentioned earlier.

New Greater London Area

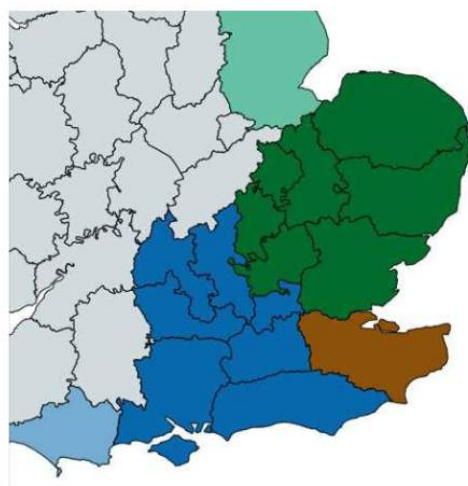
EH has two options under current proposals for consultation:

- Option 1
 - 3 pan London divisions: London Premier, London Division 1 and London Division 2 (12 teams each, 36 in total); and
 - 2 Areas below to provide more local competitive hockey reducing travel. Another split further down the pyramid is possible depending on total number of participating teams.
- Option 2
 - 3 pan London divisions : London Premier, London Division 1 North and Division 1 South (12 teams each, 36 in total)
 - Split into 3 Areas to provide more local competitive hockey, reducing travel time. This all depends on total number of participating teams, as depth is required to accommodate larger clubs.

Level below England Hockey Leagues

Regional Divisions – East and South (Kent different Men/Women)

Current Travel Area



New Travel Area



Current Travel Area

Men



Women



New Travel Area

Example of split within Greater London Area



Paris 2024

UK Sport has announced an award for the Great Britain and England world class hockey programme of £12,376,622 for the Paris Olympic Games in 2024. This is an amount largely similar to that for 2017-2021 for Tokyo. Nick Pink of EH wished to place on record his admiration and respect for UK Sport's approach to its investment decisions. It "will enable our men's and women's programmes to be in a position to plan fully for a number of significant international events in the next four years; including two Olympic games, a home Commonwealth Games, four seasons of the FIH Hockey Pro League, Senior and Junior World Cups and EuroHockey Championships". He was delighted that the "power of world class sport to inspire the nation has been recognised by stakeholders and government alike."

International News

FIH Hockey Pro League

A few matches have been completed in the international League:-

Tuesday 27 October: 15:30 – Netherlands v Great Britain (W)
Tuesday 27 October: 18:00 – Netherlands v Great Britain (M)
Thursday 29 October: 15:30 – Netherlands v Great Britain (W)
Thursday 29 October: 18:00 – Netherlands v Great Britain (M)
Saturday 31 October: 13:00 – Belgium v Great Britain (W)
Saturday 31 October: 15:30 – Belgium v Great Britain (M)
Sunday 1 November: 13:00 – Belgium v Great Britain (W)
Sunday 1 November: 15:30 – Belgium v Great Britain (M)

Women's squad

- 4) Laura Unsworth (C) – England
- 5) Sarah Evans – England
- 6) Anna Toman – England
- 9) Susannah Townsend – England
- 10) **Sarah Robertson – Scotland**
- 13) Ellie Rayer – England
- 14) Tess Howard – England
- 17) Sarah Jones – Wales
- 22) Lizzie Neal – England
- 25) Sabbie Heesh (GK) – England
- 26) **Lily Owsley – England**
- 27) Jo Hunter – England
- 31) **Grace Balsdon – England**
- 32) Amy Costello – Scotland
- 33) Izzy Petter – England
- 36) Emily Dark – Scotland
- 37) Sophie Hamilton – England
- 38) Fiona Crackles – England
- 39) **Holly Hunt – England**
- 40) Miriam Pritchard (GK) - England

Men's squad

- 1) George Pinner (GK) – England
- 3) Luke Taylor – England
- 7) Alan Forsyth – Scotland
- 8) **Rupert Shipperley – Wales**
- 9) **Harry Martin – England**
- 15) Phil Roper – England
- 16) Adam Dixon (C) – England
- 18) Brendan Creed – England
- 19) David Goodfield – England
- 20) Ollie Payne (GK) – England
- 21) Liam Ansell – England
- 22) David Condon – England
- 25) Jack Waller – England
- 26) James Gall – England
- 29) Tom Sorsby – England
- 30) Rhys Smith – England
- 31) **Will Calnan – England**
- 32) Zach Wallace – England
- 33) **Jacob Draper - Wales**

Women

Netherlands 1 Great Britain 1

The Netherlands win shootout 3-1

Jo Hunter scored her first Great Britain goal in an accomplished team performance, as GB recorded a closely fought 1-1 draw against the reigning world number one side. Despite the Dutch taking the bonus point via a penalty shootout, Great Britain could take positives from a spirited showing in their first international match since February. Fiona Crackles and Sophie Hamilton made their international debuts.

Men

Netherlands 1 Great Britain 0

It was a special occasion for the Club's Harry Martin, who won his 100th GB cap. However, Great Britain suffered a narrow 1-0 defeat in a spirited defeat. Despite seeing chances falling to both sides, a solitary strike in the final minute of the first half was enough to hand the three points to the hosts. For GB, goalkeeper Ollie Payne impressed on his international debut, with several crucial saves.

Women

Netherlands 3 Great Britain 0

Great Britain's women could not replicate their impressive point from Tuesday and were beaten by the Dutch in Amstelveen. Caia van Maasakker gave the Dutch an early lead and they never looked back, with Frederique Matla doubling the score just before half-time. Sabbie Heesh pulled off several saves and Sarah Robertson came close to scoring in the third quarter as GB looked to hit back against the world champions. But Eva de Goede swept home in the final quarter to hand the Dutch a comfortable victory.

Men

Netherlands 3 Great Britain 1

Jeroen Hertzberger scored twice in a minute to help the Netherlands to a second consecutive victory. With the score at 1-1 heading into the final quarter, Hertzberger produced two fine finishes to secure the win for the Dutch. Mink van der Weerden had given the hosts an early lead from a penalty corner before George Pinner made several crucial saves. Phil Roper levelled proceedings on the stroke of half-time but Great Britain could not find the target again, coming up against an organised defence. David Goodfield made his 50th combined appearance for England and GB

Women

Belgium 1 Great Britain 1

GB win shootout 3-1

Great Britain picked up two points in their first match of the weekend against Belgium, winning the shootout 3-1. An early Sarah Jones goal put GB in the ascendancy after what was an assertive start. It was to be a short-lived advantage as Tiphaine Duquesne's penalty stroke in the final minute of the first half restored parity. Nothing could separate the sides in regular time with shootout goals from Hampstead duo Lily Owsley and Sarah Robertson, and Tess Howard, alongside three superb saves from Sabbie Heesh, proving decisive.



Men Belgium 3 Great Britain 2

Great Britain fell to a cruel defeat after John-John Dohmen's last minute strike saw Belgium take a 3-2 victory in Brussels. Adam Dixon made his 100th GB appearance in what had been an accomplished performance but it was the world champions who prevailed. Phil Roper had cancelled out Alexander Hendricx's opener before Tom Boon gave the Belgians an early second half lead. Jack Waller (*below*) recorded his first international goal to level the scores once again at 2-2 but Dohmen's 59th minute strike gave the hosts the win.



Women Belgium 1 Great Britain 2

Hampstead's Sarah Robertson scored on her 50th Great Britain appearance to secure victory over Belgium. She swept home a well-executed penalty corner routine at the end of the third quarter, turning Anna Toman's slap into the goal. That came after Lily Owsley had handed Great Britain an early lead as she also deflected a corner into the Belgian net. Barbara Nelen brought the hosts back level moments into the second quarter but Great Britain came out on top, moving to fourth in the table.

Men

Belgium 2 Great Britain 1

Great Britain suffered a second narrow defeat. Having won 3-2 the previous day, the hosts came out on top at the end of another closely fought game in Brussels. John-John Dohmen and Alexander Hendrickx bagged the goals for the Belgians after David Condon had given Great Britain an early lead. GB had several good chances, with Hampstead's Rupert Shipperley almost levelling proceedings late on but could not make the best of them.

In 2021, training for the international elite has been recommenced following permission, in preparation for future FIH World League fixtures.



A hirsute Will Calnan



Jacob Draper

Youth hockey

Club Junior players Sophie Griffith, Rosie Perry, Aidan Hincks, Marco Riley and Lucas Smart were selected for England Hockey Performance Centre following trials in the autumn. Sophie Griffith has also received a National Age Group nomination - the first for a HWHC Junior player.

Congratulations were also due to George Davison and Oscar Sharland, who re-trialled for the Performance Centre, having been selected last season.

Women's 1s Coach, Kate Richardson-Walsh, added a few words of congratulations on these announcements. "I'm really excited to hear of the fantastic achievements across our junior section. Alex Smart and her extensive coaching team put in an enormous amount of work and care into the

development of our young players and it's lovely to see how this is progressing. Our juniors are an important part of our club. Providing opportunities for all of our youngsters to achieve their hockey aspirations to whatever level that might be is hugely important to everyone involved. I'm looking forward to continue to see our juniors flourish in our wonderful club environment."



[In memoriam](#)

There is sad news of two deaths of men well-known to the more senior members of the Club and who made large contributions to the sport.

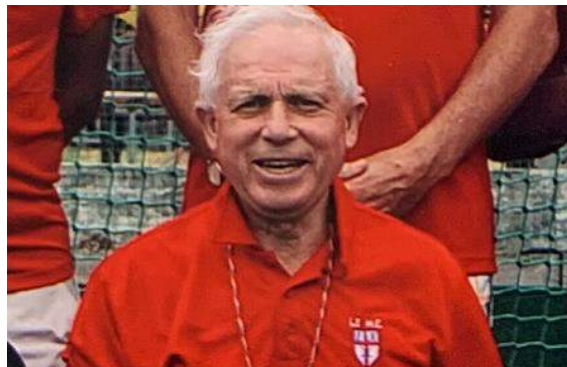
[Maurice Kittrell](#)



News arrived in December 2020 that Maurice Kittrell had died at the age of 90. He joined Hounslow HC at the age of 16 in 1946 and featured in their 1st XI across three decades. He played in the first London League fixture ever to take place, between Hampstead and Hounslow in 1969.

He was also club captain, honorary secretary and chairman of Hounslow HC. In addition, he represented Middlesex and England as a player before also becoming chairman of the Middlesex Hockey Association. He was also a member of the Hockey Writers' Club and regularly attended many of their events.

[John Land](#)



John Land has died aged 82, following an illness. His son, Nigel played at the top level of the Club for at least a decade before moving to Australia. Nigel's brother, Keith was a regular with National League Doncaster HC.

The North Hockey Association described John as "one of life's gentlemen, a gifted player with a keen will to win and will be missed by all who knew him." Known as an exceptional athlete and with great pace, John played for England and GB in the 1960s. He also rediscovered hockey later in life and played for England at Masters level, winning gold medals at O60, O65 and O70 levels. He also played in the first ever team international O75 against Holland in 2015.

John did a lot of work for hockey over many years. He was instrumental in creating the opportunity and promoting O60s hockey in the North. His work means the North now run sides at O60, O65 and O70 level in the regional tournaments. He was the first north regional representative for the England LX club, bringing many North players into international grand masters hockey.

He was President of the North Hockey Association in 2006 and helped develop the organisation for all levels of hockey in the North.

Interview 1



Sarah Kelleher coaches the Club's Women's 1st XI alongside Kate Richardson-Walsh. England Hockey provided a profile of her life in hockey coaching in the autumn.

She has made a name for herself with her innovative coaching practices. Whether at club level, national junior team level or within a business sphere, she is not afraid to push the boundaries of her own work, or her group's physical and mental resilience.

Among the notable transgressions from cones and commands, the former Irish international has tapped into players' creativity with song writing exercises and she regularly pushes individuals well beyond their comfort zones to reach personal heights of performance or achievement that they didn't know were possible.

As any coach will know, to introduce ideas that fall well outside the conventional box of training tools takes a huge element of trust on the part of those being coached. From reactions and interactions, trust is something the engaging Irish woman instils in her charges with abundance. When she describes the sense of togetherness that exists among the team at Hampstead & Westminster, where Kelleher is co-coach with Kate Richardson-Walsh, much of the credit for the atmosphere must lie with the environment that the co-coaches have worked hard to create.

"Kate and I have always agreed that we have to create an environment where people can flourish and be their best selves," says Kelleher. "You are at your best when you can express yourself as a person and as a player and that comes from having the trust and the confidence to be open.

“At the heart of being confident is action, and to take action and try new stuff out you have to be confident – that is a positive loop. If you can get that loop going and not worry if something doesn’t work then you have a great recipe for unlocking peoples’ potential.”

Although determined to unleash the creative beings, Kelleher also talks about the importance of helping their players attain balance between risk and reward.

“We help them understand risk and reward, to recognise when they can try things and when they may have to play it more safe. You have to pendulum swing people into creativity because there is a tendency to play it safe too often. You have to give them bandwidth to try things out.”



It is concepts such as these that have made Kelleher such a success in both the sports coaching and business consultancy world. Alongside her role at Hampstead & Westminster, which included guiding the team into the top division of the EHL, she was also coach to the England U18 side – a role that saw her really explore how much creativity and trust you could release through coaching.

Her most recent coaching appointment sees Kelleher join the European Hockey Federation’s Top Coaches Programme as one of the team’s coach educators. The principles and ideas that form the bedrock of her still-developing coaching philosophy extend into the world of business, where, as she says, there are so many intersections with sport.

“Whether it is a business or sports team, you are trying to create an environment where you, as leaders or coaches don’t need to push values; instead the players step up and lead. That is where you get great leaders emerging. In fact, if we look at women in business as an example, successful businesswomen often come through a sports team because sport gives us that high performance, team-leading attitude.”

It is an approach that is certainly working at Hampstead & Westminster where Kelleher says she and Richardson-Walsh get plenty of feedback from their players.

“It is,” she assures with a laugh, “a good thing.”

While the Covid situation has made this a difficult year in particular, when it comes to getting together after matches or to have those informal conversations where so much team-building happens, Kelleher says the environment at Hampstead & Westminster is approaching the way she and her co-coach would like it.

“You have to be clear about your purpose and why you are all here. It is important to get to know people beyond the pitch. For example, Kate and I are having a meeting with the players to really dig down about what do we really want during Covid times. Together, we are co-creating our purpose and who we want to be. This provides the anchor that you can keep coming back to.”

Besides creativity, Kelleher is also a firm believer in resilience and its essential role in personal growth.

She says: “Resilience is part and parcel of club life. There are players whose journey is towards playing in the Olympics, other players are juggling working or returning from injury. To cope with those issues, we are creating an environment where vulnerability is okay and actually, we want people to have personal connections and feel they can have difficult conversations with myself and Kate.”

As Kelleher says, she is not yet the finished article as a coach and, at Hampstead & Westminster, they have not yet created the perfect environment. And the current pandemic is not helping in that particular quest.

“This is a difficult time but we are navigating it together and we are always open to listening to our players and becoming an even better high performance team. We have so much potential to go further and I am excited about that.”

Interview 2

Also in the autumn, England Hockey spoke to Matt Guise Brown, Hampstead’s leading scorer in the National League in a feature investigating players adapting to hockey abroad.



Matt in action during the 2019 League Finals

Photo: England Hockey

For Matt, a move abroad was always on the cards. What the South African did not realise was how totally he would fall in love with everything the UK had to offer.

“I love South Africa,” he said. “Initially the decision was to just come over to England for hockey, but I have found a nice balance. “I love my job [teaching in a junior school in Hampstead], I have made some great hockey friends and the club is super social. I have also made friends who have nothing to do with hockey. A few years down the line and it has become more than a hockey decision, it is now a lifestyle choice too.”

Matt was first enticed to the UK by fellow South African, Jonty Richards, who was player-coach at Southgate at the time. Matt spent two seasons with them before moving to Hampstead under Kwan Browne in 2016.

He says: “There is no national league as such in South Africa because the country is so big and the funding isn’t available. There is a provincial league that is played over a week but there is no league involving the best 10 teams in the country. The idea was to come overseas and improve personally but also to take that learning back for the good of the national team.” For Matt, the whole experience of moving overseas and living in a different culture has been incredibly important to his development as a person as well as a player.

“The hockey aspect is important but you also put yourself in challenging situations which helps you grow as a human being and learn about yourself. Broadening your horizons is something that shouldn’t be overlooked. It is also great to have some new experiences, bonding with different people – that is super important.

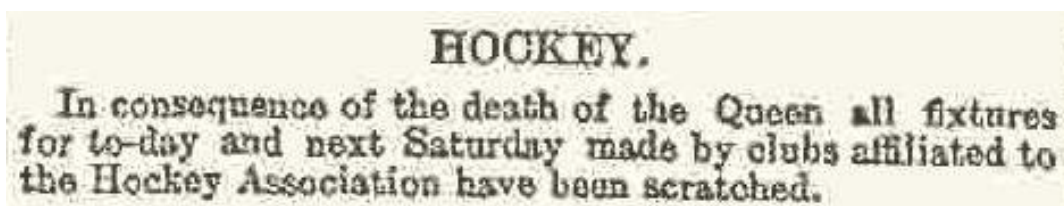
While he pointed out that there were many positives to moving abroad, he also stressed that it is not always an easy path to follow. "It is difficult to come from a place where you have lots of mates and family and you feel comfortable, to a place where you don't really know anyone. I genuinely didn't have any mates when I first arrived and it takes time to build relationships that have serious meaning in them. There can be some lonely times. I got very homesick to start with."

And in a sentence that will resonate with many of the visitors from overseas, he added: "I am from a place where winter doesn't exist – the weather is really challenging."

Yesteryear

120 Years Ago

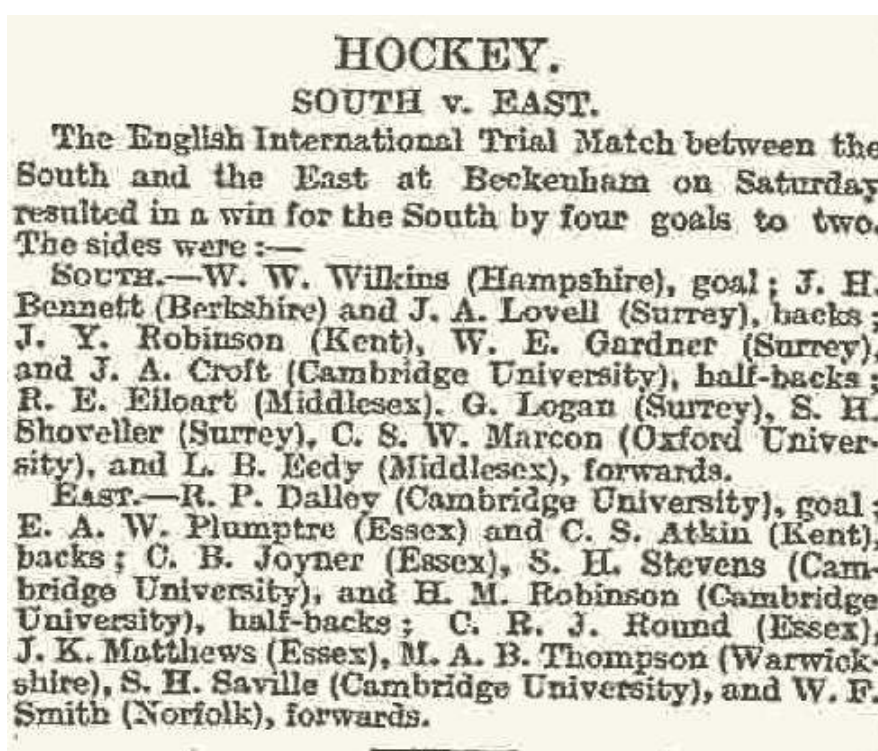
Matches on 26 January and 2 February 1901 were cancelled by the HA.



HOCKEY.
In consequence of the death of the Queen all fixtures for to-day and next Saturday made by clubs affiliated to the Hockey Association have been scratched.

110 Years Ago

There was good Hampstead representation in the regional match (an international trial) when the South defeated the East at Beckenham, reported in *The Times* on 23 January 1911. Stanley Shoveller and Gerald Logan (who had both played in Kingston) affiliated to Surrey, with whom the Club was also affiliated in its early days, when based in Richmond. R E Eiloart opted for Middlesex, probably because of residence. It took until 1924 for Sholto Marcon to join the Club, despite winning a gold medal at the 1920 Olympic Games. The background to Jack Bennett's connection to Berkshire is not known but he did play Minor Counties cricket for them.



HOCKEY.
SOUTH v. EAST.
The English International Trial Match between the South and the East at Beckenham on Saturday resulted in a win for the South by four goals to two. The sides were:—
SOUTH.—W. W. Wilkins (Hampshire), goal; J. H. Bennett (Berkshire) and J. A. Lovell (Surrey), backs; J. Y. Robinson (Kent), W. E. Gardner (Surrey), and J. A. Croft (Cambridge University), half-backs; R. E. Eiloart (Middlesex), G. Logan (Surrey), S. H. Shoveller (Surrey), C. S. W. Marcon (Oxford University), and L. B. Eedy (Middlesex), forwards.
EAST.—R. P. Dalley (Cambridge University), goal; E. A. W. Plumptre (Essex) and C. S. Atkin (Kent), backs; C. B. Joyner (Essex), S. H. Stevens (Cambridge University), and H. M. Robinson (Cambridge University), half-backs; C. R. J. Round (Essex), J. K. Matthews (Essex), M. A. B. Thompson (Warwickshire), S. H. Saville (Cambridge University), and W. F. Smith (Norfolk), forwards.

20 years later...

Sholto Marcon was still representing Surrey, in a county match against Essex, reported in *The Times* on 15 January 1931.

HOCKEY

DEFEAT OF SURREY

In beating Surrey by two goals to one yesterday, at Cheam, Essex showed a return to their form of two seasons ago, when they beat all the Metropolitan counties. Their win was thoroughly deserved yesterday, and it was Surrey's first defeat of the season.

The teams were:—

SURREY.—K. B. Boss (Surrey), goal; A. Southern (Teddington) and W. H. Gwynn (Teddington), backs; G. S. Goodman (Reigate), W. D. Chambers (Old Kingstonians), and C. P. Scott (St. Thomas's Hospital), half-backs; D. A. Taylor (Old Kingstonians), W. K. Harbinson (Beckenham), P. E. Edgeley (Spencer), C. S. W. Maroon (Hampstead), and A. D. Ogilvy (Spencer), forwards.

ESSEX.—P. A. Newman (Old Felstedians), goal; F. J. Bosworth (Old Loughtonians) and H. Clements (Gulldhall), backs; B. Currie (Chelmsford), V. C. Britton (Chelmsford), and E. S. Evans (Old Felstedians), half-backs; R. C. Franklin (Chelmsford), A. Shurpley (Old Kingstonians), L. H. Shelley (Old Loughtonians), H. Parker (Old Felstedians), and M. Scott (Brentwood), forwards.

[60 years ago](#)

The Treasurer reported on 31 January 1961 that the Club had taken out public liability insurance, considered worthwhile as pitches had been booked at Victoria Park, Hackney while Hornsey was out of commission.

[50 years ago](#)

On 2 January 1971, the players of the unbeaten 3rd XI removed their boots at half-time against Wimbledon, being 2-0 down on a frozen pitch and gained traction to recover to draw 2-2.

[40 years ago](#)

On 18 January 1981, Hampstead faced Southport, Edgbaston, and RAF Strike Command in the qualifying round of the Rank Xerox National Indoor Championship at the Castle Leisure Centre in Bury.

[Next edition](#)

All being well and we are back to a semblance of normal, the next Newsletter will cover the first part of 2021 – whenever that ends for hockey in England. If you have any news or comment, please direct it to disvelwell@gmail.com (a new address for these purposes).

How the game has changed!



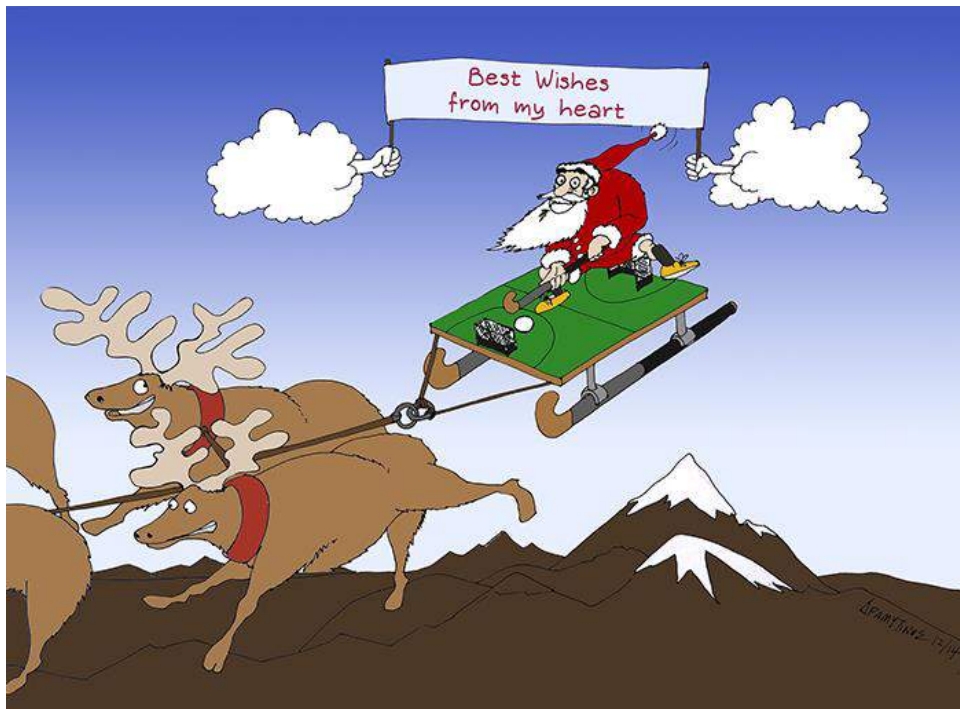
Plates 51 & 52

OBSTRUCTION

Upper: The player on the right is dribbling wrongly with the ball on his left or wrong side so putting his body between the ball and the tackler

Lower: The player on the left is dribbling the ball past his opponent and putting his body between him and the ball. Arrow shows direction of attack

And finally..



With thanks to Morley Pecker for this festive card.

Probably the first Club member to have been fully inoculated against Covid 19 (and likely to be the first person in Belgium to be so qualified but following English treatment). Safe travels, Morley!



Photo: England Hockey