

Welcome

This is the twenty ninth Newsletter in the current format. It covers the start of the 2020-21 season as far as we can take it. The restrictions imposed by the response to the Coronavirus pandemic have been felt across all sports. But from a time lapse perspective, hockey appears to have been treated less favourably, given the closer physical contact playing football and rugby. It has less extensive professional support that those two sports can muster. After all, direct physical contact is meant to be avoided and the ball is rarely collected by hand (and largely need not be). It has meant (amongst many other things) the appointment of new a new position of responsibility for clubs, the Covid Officer and the need for playing members to sign participant agreements.

Resumption of Hockey

To allow hockey to resume, England Hockey has worked with the other major team sports to demonstrate the limited risks of resuming competitive outdoor team sport. This framework looked at the relative risks of transmission via airborne droplets and through fomite transmission (touching surfaces). From this, also using a mixture of player GPS data and video data to assess the amount of close contact between players, it has been possible to prove that the risk of transmission during competitive hockey is low.

Further to the work done collaboratively by the major team sports in England and the subsequent publication of the Recreational Team Sports Framework, England Hockey confirmed on 7 August 2020 that hockey in England could progress to Step 4 of its *Return to Play* plan

This approach allowed Step 3 to be skipped, as the increase in group size meant that it was possible to move to Step 4. The movement to Step 5 will not require permission from government and instead will be determined by England Hockey on the readiness of clubs to resume full competitive hockey.

Training

Step 1. Training - One to one / household group

Step 2. Socially Distanced Training - Small groups but with social distancing in place

Step 3. Small Group Training – Small group training allowed with some closer contact permitted.

Allowing for tackling/marketing etc. (some age groups may be allowed to start this stage earlier)

Playing

Step 4. Local Match Play – Intra club / local matches can happen but restrictions stop leagues / main competitions resuming

Step 5. Full Competitive Match Play – Full leagues / competitions resume

On 7 August 2020, England Hockey said that a large number of clubs could not gain access facilities. Until this situation improved the resumption of full leagues might not be possible. It would continue to assess the situation and provide regular updates.

Step 5 Statement

England Hockey has now set out the plan for Step 5 and the resumption of competitive hockey. It statement reads:-

“With the level of uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 and the differing implications for clubs across the country, any plan to resume league and other competitive hockey is now adjudicated by England Hockey. This decision has been taken using the latest information and knowledge that is available but there is obviously a risk of further changes over coming weeks and months. The overriding objective of England Hockey has been to encourage competitive hockey to be played as safely and as equably as possible in the circumstances for all clubs. The forthcoming season will not be normal but it can still allow hockey on the pitch to be as fulfilling and enjoyable as usual”.

Progress Update & Issues

“All previous updates relating to Step 5 were based upon the need for compliance, capability and confidence for hockey to resume. The work done in the last few weeks indicates that *capability* is still the most significant concern”.

“More than 75% of clubs have appointed a Covid Officer. This is mandatory for a return to hockey, in the past three weeks. We offer our thanks to those club administrators that have undertaken the work required by this role to make sure the game is well set to resume. Almost 100,000 players have signed participation agreements. Registers being provided to give key evidence for the readiness of clubs and players to comply with the expectations of hockey under Covid-19 conditions”.

“Almost 400 pitches are already in use, around half of the normal number during the peak of the season. The pre-season friendlies that have started have helped clubs to understand how to operate in the new normal and iron out issues related to players correctly interpreting the guidance, e.g. the need to socially distance when the ball is out of play and no team huddles or team goal celebrations that break social distancing rules”.

“Local ‘lockdown’ restrictions are obviously a concern, They will continue to be monitored but even the most restrictive currently in place are encouraging the continued provision of organised outdoor sport activity”.

“The most significant remaining concern relates to the ability of clubs to gain access to facilities. The majority of issues relate to education sites: with schools only having returned recently, many clubs are only now able to resolve the position of pitch availability and use. Approximately 100 pitches are currently not available for external use but the picture is becoming more positive on a daily basis”.

“The wider government advice also changed for schools on 28 August 2020. The final guidance for re-opening was issued. The Department for Education’s guidance for schools now refers to the Department for Culture Media and Sport guidance on the opening of community sport facilities. It also advises schools to follow NGB guidance on the provision of sport. England Hockey has issued advice to schools concerning the provision of hockey. It is hoped that this change in guidance will improve the likelihood of clubs gaining access to school facilities, although these decisions will be made on a *school-by-school* basis. This will take some time to work through for clubs and England Hockey is providing tools and advice to help support clubs in making the case for their safe use with schools”.

“Some have concerns over the impact on travel and off-pitch provision – changing rooms and bars for example. However England Hockey’s interpretation of comments and reports is that teams are confident these issues should not be the overriding factor in determining whether to return to play”.

Approach to Step 5

Step 5 was clearly set out in the context of the resumption of league hockey and a full competitive programme of activity. The recommendation for the resumption of league hockey and progressing to Step 5 is as follows:

- Adult League Hockey should start on the weekend of 26 September or 3 October 2020. This will mean a slight delay to a few leagues start date which is solely intended to allow clubs time to secure pitch access arrangements. However, the EHL Premier Division will start on 19 September 2020.
- Junior league and competitive activity can resume from 26 September 2020, assuming the appropriate approach to competitive activity is put in place. This is particularly relevant for junior festivals where large numbers could attend and detailed risk assessments specific to this type of activity at the venue must have been undertaken.
- All other competitive activity within schools or the Player Pathway can resume in line with the specific guidance for those areas of hockey.
- Recommendations for the indoor hockey competitive programme will follow soon.

League organisers are expected to show flexibility, particularly in the early weeks of the new season as clubs resolve facility access issues. The recommended league rule variations issued by England Hockey are designed to aid this being done fairly and consistently. Regional and local leagues are updating clubs on their approach to these in line with the updates from England Hockey.

England Hockey also encourages clubs to support neighbouring teams with facility access issues, providing any spare capacity or support in obtaining access to local facilities so that matches can be played. Some matches might need to be played outside normal Saturday *slots* but in the circumstances, this may be necessary.

England Hockey has provided some further information regarding the implementation of Step 5 by way of Questions and Answers

Q: Does the new Government rule of 6 impact on hockey being played on the pitch?

A: No. Organised team sports with DCMS approval are exempt from the new rule of 6. This means that hockey can continue to take place under England Hockey's Step 4/5 guidance. This is because social distancing rules are only broken whilst playing hockey where the risk of transmission is medically proven to be extremely low.

Q: How does the new Government rule of 6 impact hockey off the pitch?

A: Off the pitch participants must remain in socially distanced (2m) groups of no more than 6 people. Each group must be clearly separate from another and not mix. This includes whilst waiting to access the pitch, after you have finished your session/match and left the pitch or in the clubhouse pre or post the session/match.

Q: Can we have more than 6 people in the clubhouse? How is this managed?

A: Yes, in the same way that other hospitality venues can open with more than 6 people in attendance. Groups of no more than 6 must be clearly different, not mix and all must follow social distancing. Please follow latest Government guidance regarding hospitality settings.

Q: We are in an area that has gone into a local lockdown. Can we still play hockey?

A: Each local lockdown is different and, so far, only the initial national lockdown and the subsequent Leicester lockdown has prevented hockey activity.

The approval from government for organised outdoor sport means that there is strong medical evidence for the safety of hockey as long as social distancing is maintained outside of play. There is now a section about team sport included in each local lockdown guidance issued on the Government website. Unless England Hockey advises otherwise you can assume hockey can continue to be played.

Q: How do NHS Staff declare the following? "I confirm that I am free of COVID-19 symptoms and that I have not been in contact with anyone displaying COVID-19 symptoms"?

A: If health and social care staff are providing direct care to a patient or a resident with COVID-19 and are wearing the correct PPE in accordance with the current IPC guidance, they will not be considered as a contact for the purposes of contact tracing and isolation, and will not be required to self-isolate for 14 days. Therefore, they can now move to Step 4 and complete the participant agreement so long as they are wearing the correct PPE in line with the above.

Q: Someone at my school or workplace has been sent home because they have Covid symptoms. Does this mean I can no longer play hockey?

A: Not necessarily. You would only have to stop if you have been in 'contact' with the symptomatic person. Government guidance suggests that 'contact' is when you are within 2 metres of someone for 15 minutes or longer. If you have been in contact with someone as described above, you should then inform your Covid Officer and complete the required isolation or receive a negative test result.

Q: My club doesn't show on the participation list, how do I register?

A: If you are an affiliated club, this is usually because the club has not registered a Covid Officer on the Club Portal. Clubs without a Covid Officer will not be compliant with NGB guidance and will not be able to play league hockey and may invalidate their insurance. Please ensure you have registered a Covid Officer via the Club Portal in the first instance.

Q: Where can we find other clubs Covid Officers details?

A: We have published a list of the clubs that have a Covid Officer. However, we will not be sharing Covid Officer contact details. Please liaise with your club and/or opposition contact when arranging matches to discuss contacting the Covid Officer if required. Contact should be made through the normal liaison between clubs – usually fixtures secretaries or captains/managers.

Q: How do we know what to expect at other venues and can another club ask to see our risk assessment?

A: We recommend that clubs liaise with each other to share the Covid protocols that have been put in place as well as letting opposition teams know about any hospitality or facility arrangements. This may include specific expectations for the opposition in terms of the processes and measures that need to be adhered to when on site. However, in England Hockey's view there is no requirement to share full risk assessments between clubs.

As for players, during play, the published advice has been:-

- Respect your opposition and umpires.

- Take Penalty Corners and free hits around the dee promptly.
- Touch the ball with your stick/GK equipment and not your hands.
- Use your own protective equipment or disinfect before use (e.g. facemasks).
- Socially distance when play stops.
- Avoid shouting excessively or spitting.
- No handshakes with other players or close contact during goal celebrations.
- Avoid running training exercises that involve overly repetitive close contact between players.
- Do not share drinks/refreshments during breaks in play.
- Avoid regular removal of your gum shield

Governance

The proposals for the restructuring of English hockey were to have been considered at the AGM of England Hockey on 17 March 2020 but were postponed. The meeting was reconvened on 15 September 2020.

The membership of England Hockey took the decision to support the proposed structural changes set out in *A Structure Fit for the Future*. More than 250 delegates attended the AGM electronically and the vote supported the resolution, with 86% of votes received being in favour of the resolution. 53.4% of the membership voted, casting 894 votes in favour and 146 against, with 13 abstentions).

Angela Durnin and Simon Mantell were elected as membership elected (non-executive) Directors of England Hockey, replacing Katie Roberts and Mike Stoddard, the latter after his election as President in 2019. Ian Wilson also attended his last AGM after 17 years as Finance Director of England Hockey, in advance of being succeeded by Kuldeep Kaur, who will start work on 12 October 2020. England Hockey said that those standing down “will be missed for their significant contributions at board level for England Hockey and in Ian’s case the huge contribution he has made since the establishment of England Hockey returning the governing body to a sound financial footing”.

England Hockey also stated that the approval of the *Structure Fit for the Future* proposals “now means that work can start in earnest on delivering the most significant rationalisation and simplification of governance structures that hockey in England has seen”.

“The aim is for a structure that is easier to understand, more consistent and accountable and ultimately easier for clubs and participants to work with. It will take time to deliver the changes and the proposals will continue to need to evolve and develop. The next steps will focus on establishing the new ‘shadow’ structures in each Area and progressing the priority work areas such as adult leagues”.

Mike Stoddard, President of England Hockey and chair of the AGM said, "It was excellent to have so many members join us to discuss such an important issue as well as a such a strong turnout of votes from members. The strong mandate from the membership to deliver the *Structure Fit for the Future* proposals is a message on the appetite for change. Equally, the board of England Hockey recognise that some volunteers that have given long and loyal service do not agree with all aspects of what is proposed. Given the support from the membership for the proposals, we hope that those will choose to continue to give their knowledge and experience to the change process, equally we recognise that some will choose this opportunity to step away. We thank them for all they have done for hockey over the years”.

"As club hockey is on the verge of leagues resuming the leadership at England Hockey all expressed their gratitude for the effort and energy that is going in to help the game restart. The impact and full implications of Covid-19 for hockey are not yet understood and the board will continue to ensure that these are considered as the proposals develop and the season progresses."

Diversity

Another topical issue of the summer has been diversity. England Hockey stated that “hockey is proud of its outstanding track record of being one of the leading sports who embody the very best values of society. A sport that ranges from ages five to 80+ years, has a truly equal gender membership, is leading a new disability model through *Flyerz* and has championed a number of areas of diversity and inclusion”.

“At England Hockey, in the last 12 months, however, we have increased our focus on diversity and inclusion, with the creation of an internal working group considering and questioning the issues and then seeking to create strategies that will change our sport in a concrete, meaningful and long-term

way. Aside from behaviours, there are real questions around how we drive better representation through our pathways, coaching, umpiring and across our governance”.

“In July this year, we created an external advisory group, made up of a wide range of volunteers from a very diverse set of backgrounds, to help us to understand and ultimately plan our next steps. We held our first meetings on 12-13 August and will be developing actions from these, which we will be sharing with the wider hockey community”.

“The Board of England Hockey is also evolving to ensure it better represents our membership and society. At the time of writing the board consists of eleven people: four women and seven men. As a sport that has more than 50% of hockey club members as women, we are keen to create a better balance and diversity going forward”.

“Organisationally we are working with Inclusive Employers, a leading UK based consultancy, to help guide our plans around diversity and inclusivity. We started working with them earlier this year initially focusing on those employed within England Hockey, but increasingly we wish to expand to include those that work with us in a number of roles, whether as volunteers, consultants or part time coaches and umpire”s.

“On 18 August 2020, Ed Barney, England Hockey’s Performance Director, announced our commitment to provide a more diverse and inclusive experience for those in our talent pathway. This has been developed over the past 18 months and was built on feedback from the talent survey that was sent out earlier this year to many people involved in hockey. England Hockey specifically states that it wants to engender change in genuine partnership. We want to create shared ambitions which will see a sport that is exciting and accessible for all; and, we want to see a sport that is inclusive and diverse, with a talent pipeline that everyone is proud of. To bring this to fruition, we will need your support to develop and refine the detail and bring some of these changes to life in 2021, 2022 and beyond”.

“We are committed to building on the strong foundations in our sport and providing a more diverse and inclusive experience in hockey. We have championed the strengths and will continue to do so but we all need to be aware of where improvements need to be made and work together to listen, learn and start to address them”.

Paddington Recreation Ground

Work has begun on the replacement of the water based pitch at PRG, being managed by the City of Westminster, who are also installing a taller perimeter fence and refurbishing the water cannons, as well as providing infrastructure for an electronic scoreboard and an area behind the northern goal that can be used for smaller range practices, such as the taking of short corners.

This will significantly improve the enjoyment of the pitch. While work is being finalised (having been delayed by the effects of the pandemic) some early season matches are likely to be switched to other grounds.

Recruitment

The usual flurry of activity in the transfer market – if there were such a thing - has recurred in the close season, reflecting the Club’s ability to attract players of top quality.

Nicola White

Nicola White needs very little introduction. The Gold and Bronze Olympic medallist joins the Club as she returns to hockey after two years’ absence following a head injury.

She made her international debut in 2009 and won 186 Great Britain and England caps, picked up a remarkable 14 senior medals including the pair of Olympic medals in 2012 and 2016, European Gold in 2015, Commonwealth Silver and Bronze in 2014 and 2010 and World Cup Bronze 2010. The Club is excited to see Nicola back on a hockey pitch, and even more so with Hampstead.

Esme Burge

England and Great Britain’s midfielder Esme Burge joins this season from the University of Nottingham. She made her debut for Great Britain during the 2019 FIH Pro League, one of many members of the squad who graduated from the Great Britain Elite Development Programme. She first caught attention by being selected for the 2016 Under 21 World Cup when aged just 17. She scored

two goals during that tournament before scoring the winner to secure a bronze medal at the 2017 Under 21 European Championships a year later.

She will link up again with Sarah Kelleher, who coached her at England U18s level. Her grandfather used to do the scoring for Hampstead Cricket Club when he was a schoolboy in the 1930s, a pleasant link to the history of the Club

Livy Paige

Livy Paige joins after three hugely successful years at the University of Birmingham, where she won three BUCS gold medals. She is well known to coach Kate Richardson-Walsh, impressing at a young age when she made her Premier League debut at Reading before moving to Birmingham.

Livy has eight England caps to her name. She won a European Bronze medal at Under 21 level and competed at the Junior World Cup in 2016 before being added to the senior programme shortly afterwards. In November 2017 she was selected for her first senior tournament at the World League finals in New Zealand.

Pippa Lewis

Pippa Lewis spent three years at Holcombe, where she finished top of the league and won the European B division. She was part of the Great Britain Development Programme and England U21 setup. She has also played in the US at the University of Connecticut and in Australia. In addition, she won a BUCS gold medal with Durham University.

Issy Davison

Issy also moves from Holcombe. She was also part of the Great Britain EDP. She played for six years at Beeston, while studying at the University of Nottingham. After completing her master's in management psychology, she moved to London and now works at Deloitte.

Phoebe Willars

Phoebe Willars has moved from Leicester this season to link up with her former University of Nottingham and Great Britain EDP team mate, Esme Burge. Phoebe was an Indoor Super Sixes finalist with Leicester in 2018.

Amber Walton

Goalkeeper Amber Walton has joined from Loughborough University this season. She started her hockey life at Surbiton before moving north for a couple of seasons with Loughborough Students.

Amber has played internationally since the age of 17 and is part of the Great Britain EDP/ Under 21 squad and has won 15 England and Great Britain caps. She is another to have been coached by Sarah Kelleher during her time with England Under 18s.

And in the Men's section:-

Mohan Gandhi

Mo Gandhi has returned to the English Premier League after two seasons in the German Bundesliga with Club an der Alster, including winning the Indoor Bundesliga in 2018-19. Before his move to Germany Mo played at Beeston for five seasons, including winning two titles with them.

He is the Vice Captain of the USA and has won over 100 caps. He won a bronze medal in the 2019 Pan American Games, adding to a bronze at the 2017 Pan American Cup.

Joe Sharp

Joe Sharp has moved to London after playing over 100 Premier League Games for Beeston, joining former Beeston team mates Harry Martin and Mo Gandhi. Joe won the Premier League twice with the Nottingham side and most recently, won the Cup with them in 2016. He was voted the Higgins' National Youth Player of the Year in 2012 and has represented England and Great Britain at up to Under 21 level.

Adam Miller

US defender Adam Miller has joined this season after three years with Reading. He has been in the USA senior side since 2014. He has won more than 70 caps, competed in two Pan American games, (winning a bronze medal in 2019) and numerous world league competitions. Before playing for the US, Adam played for England up to Under 21 level.

James Sutcliffe

James Sutcliffe has joined from Brooklands after four years' Premier League experience, that includes his time with Beeston in the Premier Division Finals in 2019.

James represented England at under 16 and under 18 levels and was a member of the England Under-21 squad that missed out on a place in the semi-finals of the European Junior Championships held in Valencia in 2017, knocked out of the tournament at the end of the group stages on goal difference, following up an opening 8-0 win against Portugal with 2-2 draws against the Netherlands and hosts Spain. This was his first international event in more than a year after overcoming a potentially career-threatening hip injury, requiring complex surgery.

"It was a pretty incredible experience, It was great to get in there playing for the U21s again after spending such a long time out through injury. I had been out for the past 14 months and spent many long hours in the gym, so I was pretty emotional after we just failed to make it into the semi-finals. It felt like we were the best team in the tournament. The defence was solid and going forward we always posed a threat. We had the player of the tournament in Rhys Smith and the joint top goal scorer in Will Calnan. But when it came down to it we maybe just lacked an out-an-out goal scorer. Will had scored most of his goals from short corners and we just needed someone who could finish off chances from open play."

He later won a silver medal with Great Britain Under 21 at the Sultan of Johur Cup in October 2017, playing alongside, among others, Jacob Draper. In the tournament there was a 1-0 win against Malaysia, 11-0 against the USA, 4-2 against Australia, 3-1 against Japan and 2-1 against India. But in the final, contested with Australia on 29 October 2017, the latter won 2-0.

"Unrecruited"

Of those who departed at the end of the season, Richard Smith has carried on from where he left and represented Klein Zwitserland (based near his new home in Den Haag) in the opening round of matches in the Hoofdklasse against Kampong on 12 September 2020.



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

The following fixtures have been announced:

19.09.20	Beeston v Hampstead
26.09.20	bye
03.10.20	Hampstead v Loughborough Students
10.10.20	Wimbledon v Hampstead
17.10.20	Hampstead v East Grinstead
24.10.20	Holcombe v Hampstead
07.11.20	Hampstead v Clifton Robinsons
21.10.20	Buckingham v Hampstead
28.10.20	Hampstead v Swansea
05.12.20	Hampstead v Surbiton
12.12.20	University of Birmingham v Hampstead

Taking into account the decisions made at the end of 2019-20 to manage the outcome of the curtailed season, there are some significant changes to the Premier Divisions for 2020-21. These changes follow a discussion and consultation with the Premier Division clubs over the summer months.

In 2020-21, the Premier Division (with 11 teams) will see every team play each other once before Christmas in Phase 1, before splitting into two pools, made up of the top six and lower five teams.

After Christmas, Phase 2 will see teams in the lower five play each other twice, while teams in the top six face the other teams in the group once. England Hockey hopes this will support more *best vs best hockey*; provide a structure where 'every game matters'; optimise Euro Hockey League/European Club Championships preparation and support international players' immersion in the England Hockey League.

The following clubs are competing in the other divisions of the National League:-

Division One North

Belper
Ben Rhydding
Bowdon Hightown
Brooklands Poynton
Gloucester City
Leicester
Olton & West Warwicks
Stourport
University of Durham
University of Nottingham

Division One South

Cambridge City
Canterbury
Harleston Magpies
Isca
Reading
Sevenoaks
Surbiton 2s
Slough
Trojans
Wimbledon 2s

Conference East

Barnes
Bedford
Bromley & Beckenham
Canterbury 2s
Chelmsford
East London
Hampstead & Westminster 2s
Horsham
St Albans
Southgate

Conference North

Alderley Edge
Cannock
Didsbury Northern
Doncaster
Fylde
Loughborough Students 2
Leeds
Pendle Forest
Timperley
Wakefield

Conference West

Basingstoke
Bristol Firebrands
Cheltenham
Clifton Robinsons 2s
Exe
Oxford Hawks
Oxford University
Sutton Coldfield
Team Bath Buccs
University of Birmingham 2s

National League; East Conference

For the 2nd XI after its promotion, the Conference provides a full league programme, facing each opponent at home and away:

26.09.20	Hampstead v Barnes
03.10.20	Canterbury 2 v Hampstead
10.10.20	Hampstead v Horsham
17.10.20	St Albans v Hampstead
25.10.20	Hampstead v East London
31.10.20	Hampstead v Southgate
07.11.20	Bromley & Beckenham v Hampstead
14.11.20	Hampstead v Bedford
21.11.20	Chelmsford v Hampstead
29.11.20	Barnes v Hampstead
06.02.21	Hampstead v Canterbury 2
13.02.21	Horsham v Hampstead
20.02.21	Hampstead v St Albans
27.02.21	East London v Hampstead
06.03.21	Southgate v Hampstead
13.03.21	Hampstead v Bromley & Beckenham
20.03.21	Bedford v Hampstead
27.03.21	Hampstead v Chelmsford

South League

The 3rd XI will compete in Division 3A

Middlesex League Premier Division

The 4th and 5th XI will play in the Premier Division

Middlesex League Division 1

The 6th XI will be part of Division 1

Middlesex League Division 2

The 7th XI will compete in Division 2

Men's Section

England Hockey League; Premier Division

Under the same arrangements that apply to the Women's Premier Division tournament, the following fixtures to Christmas have been set down.

20.09.20	University of Exeter v Hampstead
27.09.20	bye
04.10.20	Hampstead v Old Georgians
11.10.20	Wimbledon v Hampstead
18.10.20	Hampstead v East Grinstead
24.10.20	Holcombe v Hampstead
08.11.20	Hampstead v University of Durham
22.11.20	Beeston v Hampstead
29.11.20	Hampstead v Brooklands
06.12.20	Hampstead v Surbiton
13.10.20	Oxted v Hampstead

During the summer, Toby Roche decided to relinquish the captaincy of the 1st XI after an unprecedented stint in the modern era, only succeeded in duration by Ruari Milsted and equal in years to Stanley Shoveller. Toby has endured a roller coaster ride of hockey emotions with the Club, frequently struggling for league position and to avoid relegation (or the threat of it) but ended on a high with the lifting of the England Hockey Championship in 2019 and leading the Club in its first stint in European league hockey in Barcelona.



Toby Roche in action against Holcombe at Lee Valley

Photo: Mark Clews

He has been succeeded in the post by Chris Cargo, who only recently retired from international hockey with Ireland (and whose hockey exploits have been covered in earlier Newsletters). We wish Chris the best of fortune the post.



Chris Cargo with the armband in Barcelona

Photo: Mark Clews

Another change has occurred on the team administration side with the recruitment of Will Packer to be team manager in succession to David Stevens. Will is the Welsh team manager and was involved for Wales in the European Indoor III Championships in Santander on 17-19 January 2020. He has had his early work for the Club cut out in locating pitches for training and pre-season games not only in the middle of the pandemic but also the unavailability of PRG, owing the installation of a new playing surface and other improvements.

Preparation for the new season has involved matches with other leading clubs, including Southgate and Old Georgians but little is to be gained by an analysis of the results as several squad members have been away at differing times. The University of Exeter, our opponents in the opening match of the new season have had a similar preparation, with games against Ashmoor, University of Bristol, Cardiff Met (an 8-1 win) and a *double header* last weekend with visiting Sevenoaks.

The following clubs are competing in the other divisions of the National League:-

Men's Division One North

Bowdon
Cambridge City
Cardiff & Met
City of Peterborough
Deeside Ramblers
Loughborough Students
Olton & West Warwicks
Sheffield Hallam
University of Birmingham
University of Nottingham

Men's Division One South

Brighton & Hove
Canterbury
Havant
Old Cranleighans
Oxford Hawks
Reading
Sevenoaks
Southgate
Team Bath Buccaneers
Teddington

Conference East

Bromley & Beckenham
Harleston Magpies
London Edwardians
London Wayfarers
Old Loughtonians
Richmond
Spencer

Conference North

Barford Tigers
Belper
Didsbury Northern
Doncaster
Leeds
Lichfield
Preston

Conference West

Ashmoor
Cardiff University
Cheltenham
Chichester
Fareham
Harborne
Isca

St Albans
Wapping
West Herts

Timperley
University of Birmingham 2s
University of Durham 2s

Khalsa Leamington
Plymouth Marjon
University of Bristol

Other H&W Men's teams

South League Premier 1

The 2nd XI will play their second season in the South League Premier Division 1 after a second place finish last season. Joining them will be the 2nd XIs of Surbiton and Wimbledon in what may be the final season for the South League, in light of the Governance approval passed on 15 September 2020.



South League Premier 1 teams

Banbury
Guildford
H&W 2
Indian Gymkhana
Oxford University
Surbiton 2
Trojans
Tunbridge Wells
West Hampstead
Wimbledon 2
Winchester

Premier Division 2 West

Division 2 is divided geographically each season by the League Committee and for the 2020-21 season the West Division comprises:

Bournemouth
Hanley
Maidenhead
Oxford OBU
PHC Chiswick
Reading 2
Slough
Southgate 2
Staines 1
Surbiton 3
Tulse Hill & Dulwich
Woking

Premier Division 2 East

The teams in the East Division are:

Blackheath & Elthamians
Canterbury 2
Eastbourne
Epson
Lewes
London Academicals
Old Bordenians
Old Georgians 2
Old Williamsons
Purley Walcountians
Sevenoaks 2

Ranking next are three regional leagues of two sequential divisions each from:

- Hampshire/Surrey

- Kent/Sussex
- Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire

There are then five separate County areas:

- Hampshire (four divisions),
- Kent (two divisions),
- Sussex (one division),
- Surrey (three divisions); and
- Middlesex, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire (MBBO) (five divisions).



London League

The 3rd and Zak Hond XI will play in the Premier Division and the 4th XI the London League Division 1. The Hammers are competing in Division 2 and the Spaniards and Thirsts XIs in Division 3. In its second season, the Colts XI is to play in Division 6.

The Veterans XI will play in the O40 Division 1. The Supervets are fielding teams in the O50 Division 1 (ten teams) and the O50 Conference (seven teams), while the Grand Masters are included in the O60 Division 1 (ten teams) and the O60 Conference (eight teams).

Finishing last season's business

Under Stage 4, on the first two weekends of September 2020, England Hockey successfully concluded the several Cup competitions that were outstanding in March 2020. There are now four tiers of Cup competition, open to application. Only a few Premier Division teams tend to apply in the Tier 1 category. Age group competitions are also held and, again, in tiers where demand requires.

Women's T1 – Beeston 3-2 Clifton Robinsons

Clifton Robinsons narrowly reached the final as a 70th minute goal sealed a 1-0 victory over Bowdon Hightown in the semi-finals. Having only conceding once on their way to the final, Clifton proved to be a strong side and look well prepared to defend their crown.

H&W conceded to Beeston at the semi-final stage. Beeston had battled past the University of Nottingham in the quarter-finals where a penalty shootout decided the game. The side are no strangers to a penalty shootout though, having twice advanced through that method.

Clifton dominated the early stages of the match, as the team shot narrowly wide before Jenny Rizzo in the Beeston goal came out on top in a *one on one*

Women's T2 - Guildford 2-4 Loughborough Students 2s

Loughborough Students 2s retained their Women's T2 crown by beating Guildford for a second successive year.

Women's T3 - Oxted 2-2 Nottingham Trent (1-2 shootout)

In one of the games of the weekend, Nottingham Trent prevailed as Women's T3 winners after a nail-biting shootout.

Women's T4 - University of Nottingham 4s 2-2 City of Birmingham (3-2 shootout)

University of Nottingham's 4th XI emulated their 3rd XI's efforts of last year by claiming the Women's T4 title.

Women's O35s T1 – Olton & West Warwickshire 11-2 Clifton Robinsons

Olton & West Warwickshire looked unstoppable in the Women's Over 35s T1 Final as they crushed Clifton Robinsons 11-2.

Women's O35s T2 - Bedford 3-1 Timperley

In the first game on Pitch 2, Bedford claimed the Women's O35s T2 title with an impressive performance.

Women's O35s T3 - Yate 2-8 Barnes

Barnes produced the most dominant performance of the day on their way to winning the Women's O35 T3 championship.

Women's O45s T1 - St Albans 4-0 Redland

St Albans snuck into the lead in early into the first half and extended their lead with a single touch before the half time whistle blew.

Women's O45s T2 - Bowdon 2-3 Bretforton

Last year's runners-up Bretforton¹ went one further this year as they claimed the Women's O45s T2 trophy.

Men's T1 - Beeston 9-1 Fareham

Beeston completed an EH Championship double, as their men claimed the T1 title that their women also won in the previous week.

Men's T2 - Repton 3-2 Surbiton

Repton exacted revenge on Surbiton for beating them in last year's final by overcoming them this time around in an exciting game.

Men's T3 - Atherstone Adders 2-1 Southport

The last trophy of the day was secured by Atherstone Adders in another closely fought encounter.

Men's T4 - University of Nottingham 5s 4-0 Tower Hamlets

A fine first half display helped the University of Nottingham claim the Men's T4 trophy for a second successive year.

Men's O40s T1 – Rugby & East Warwickshire 2-0 Epsom

The final match of the day saw Rugby & East Warwickshire grind out a closely fought 2-0 victory over Epsom in the Men's O40s T1 Final.

Men's O40s T2 - Old Cranleighans 3-3 Blueharts (2-3 shootout)

Blueharts claimed the Men's O40s T2 title in dramatic circumstances on the final game on Pitch 2 at the Nottingham Hockey Centre.

Men's O40s T3 - Harborne 3-3 Taunton Vale (0-2 shootout)

Captain Martin Lawrence proved to be Taunton Vale's hero as he produced two fine saves in the shootout to hand his side victory.

Men's O50s T1 – Indian Gymkhana 2-2 Stourport (Stourport win penalty shootout 3-2)

The opening match of the weekend saw Stourport take victory in the Men's Over 50s T1 Final as they defeated Indian Gymkhana in a penalty shootout following a 2-2 draw.

Men's O50s T2 - Broxbourne 4-3 Stockton

A game with two teams who had scored goals for fun in the qualifying rounds did not disappoint as Broxbourne came out narrowly on top of a seven goal thriller.

Men's O50s T3 – Old Cranleighans 1-2 Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury claimed the first trophy of the day with a hard-fought victory over Old Cranleighans.

Men's O60s T1 – Reading 5-0 Icenix Rex Essex

Reading stormed their way to the title in the Men's Over 60s T1 Final with a 5-0 victory over Icenix Rex Essex.

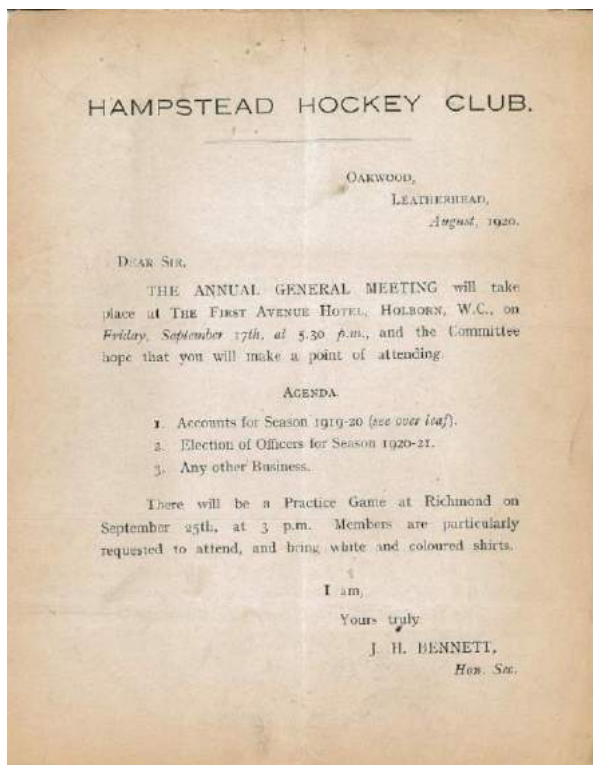
Men's O60s T2 – Cheshire 1-0 Indian Gymkhana

In a hotly contested battle, Cheshire were able to narrowly edge past Indian Gymkhana to take the Over 60s T2 title.

¹ Bretforton Ladies Hockey Club is a well-established village team, currently fielding two squads competing in the Women's West League and based in Evesham, Worcestershire in the Midlands.

Yesteryear

In this section covering the past, this edition concentrates almost exclusively on the centenary of the Olympic Games tournament in Antwerp. But first to Club business in the preceding month (and with apologies to those who may have read it in the Hockey Museum's *Hockey Shorts* distributed on 18 September 2020. It was sent to the Museum during the summer in response to requests for interesting material of days gone by).



HAMPSTEAD HOCKEY CLUB, SEASON 1919-20.			
Hon. Treasurer's Statement of Account.			
RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance at June, 1919, paid to Hon. Treasurer by cheque from outgoing Hon. Treasurer, R. P. Tatbain, Esq.		9 11 1	
SUBSCRIPTIONS, &c.			
1919-20—			
37 Full Members at £1 11s. 6d. ...	58 5 6		
13 " " after December 31st, at £1 18s. 6d. ...	13 13 0		
10 Hon. Members at 10s. 6d. ...	5 5 0		
Donations in lieu of Subscriptions as non-playing Members—			
R. E. Eiloart ...	1 0 0		
C. Eastman ...	1 1 0		
	79 4 6		
By Sale of 33 Dinner Tickets, at 11s 6d. ...		18 19 6	
		<u>£107 15 1</u>	
ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
	£ s. d.	Nil.	
Balance at Barclay's Bank, Ltd., 4, Vere Street, W. ...	10 15 6		
Unused Cheques—10 ...	0 7 8		
One unpaid subscription (full member) ...	1 11 6		
	<u>£12 8 8</u>		
Audited and found correct.			
June 25th, 1920		J. E. DEXTER, A. COLIN EILOART, } Hon. Auditors.	

Centenary of Olympic Gold



The 1920 Olympic Games hockey tournament was run concurrently with the Games held in Antwerp. Four nations took part. It was a league competition, with each nation playing three matches.

England represented Great Britain. Three Hampstead players took part, Stanley Shoveller, Jack Bennett and Cyril Wilkinson. Sholto Marcon also played but he was only admitted as a member of the Club after the Games. His application to join had been rejected because he could not guarantee to be available to play regularly. Another, Arthur Leighton, was a member of Walsall HC but had also played occasionally for Hampstead.

None of the Hampstead contingent was in the flush of youth. Stanley Shoveller was one day short of 39 years of age. Jack Bennett was aged 34 and Cyril Wilkinson 35. Sholto Marcon was aged 30.

On 1 September 1920, England defeated Denmark 5-1 and Belgium defeated France 3-2. On 3 September 1920, Denmark beat France 9-1 but England improved on that with a 12-1 win over Belgium, in which Stanley Shoveller scored eight.

England were scheduled to play France on 4 September 1920. It was reported that the French invited their opponents to a Champagne Dinner the night before. They plied their guests with vintage wines and rich food for a memorable occasion. Some say this was with the intent of gaining an advantage over England, who would be worse for wear. However, so the story goes, on the next day when the England team appeared to play, they were told that the French team were indisposed and unable to field a side. The match was awarded to England.

On 5 September 1920, Denmark faced Belgium and won 5-2. Great Britain, represented by England, took the championship (and gold medals), with six points (two for a win) from Denmark in second with four points and Belgium third with two points. The hapless French were placed fourth having lost all three matches.

England 5 -1 Denmark
 Belgium 3 – 2 France
 Denmark 9 – 1 France
 England 12 – 1 Belgium [*Shoveller (8)*]
 England w/o France
 Denmark 5 -2 Belgium

England	3	0	0	17	2	6 pts
Denmark	2	0	1	15	8	4
Belgium	1	0	2	6	19	2
France	0	0	3	3	12	0

This is a less well-known photograph of the team, with Jack Bennett second from the left, Cyril Wilkinson fourth and Stanley Shoveller seventh from the left.



Below is the more official photograph, with the three Hampstead players, Cyril Wilkinson, Stanley Shoveller and Jack Bennett, fifth, sixth and seventh from the left on the back row.



Gold Medal

The Hockey Museum in Woking celebrated the centenary by the display of the gold medal won by goalkeeper Harry Haslam, whose family has lent the medal for this purpose. The Museum has been tracing all players who represented Great Britain since the Antwerp Games to establish a sequential numbering of cap winners, much as occurs in cricket, from the date of that player's first international. This was to be on the basis that for Great Britain, Harry Haslam would be awarded number 1.



[Arthur Leighton](#)

Arthur Leighton's name appeared in the previous newsletter having played occasionally for Hampstead. However, in the main he was a member of Walsall HC and another winner of a gold medal at the 1920 Olympics. A photograph of him has been unearthed.



Cambridge University

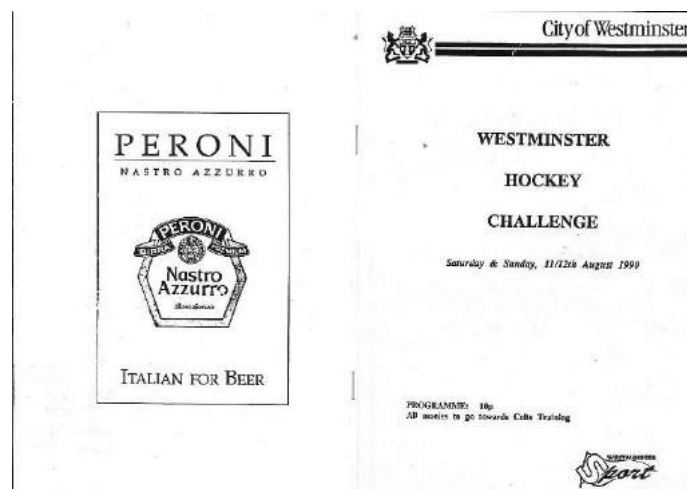


1st XI for the match against Cambridge University on 6 November 1920, including the three Hampstead gold medal winners, fifth, sixth and seventh from the left

30 Years Ago

In August 1990, the Club agreed to host the Westminster Challenge at PRG. It was to coincide with the refurbishment of PRG and had been discussed by the City of Westminster with Club representatives in 1989 to be part of the Sports Events initiative to increase sporting awareness within London, one of 30 events throughout the year.

It was intended as a high-profile trophy tournament, open to clubs within London boroughs and to promote the high quality of hockey played in London. Initial invitations were submitted to National League and London League clubs within London and for teams of 1st and 2nd XI level standard. It was hoped this would provide a welcome pre-season commitment to top level teams. Another objective was to provide access for the Club's 1st XI to higher level National League opposition in furtherance of the goal of eventual promotion to that League.



Next edition

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