

Welcome

This is the twenty fifth Newsletter in the current format. It covers the end of a season's enormous success on the playing front that coincided with the 125th anniversary of the formation of the Club.

Highlights

On the day the Club was established in 1894, the Men's 1st XI booked a place in the European Hockey League for the first time, following the 2-1 defeat of Beeston. On the next day, they took the Premier Division Championship after a thrilling 3-1 win against Surbiton.

This was a triumph, too, for skipper Toby Roche, who ended the season as the longest serving 1st XI captain in seven decades. Only Club greats, Stanley Shoveller and Ruari Milsted have served longer in that capacity.

Earlier that day, the Women's 1st XI gained promotion to the Investec Women's League's Premier Division, after just four seasons in the National League Conference and ten years since they finished fifth in the South League 1.

The Club responds to important anniversaries. In the centenary celebrations season 25 years earlier, the Men's 1st XI gained promotion to the National League, a feat considered improbable in 1986 when put forward as an aspiration by the late Peter Boizot, with the team languishing in the lower reaches of the London League.

In 1994, the Women's 1st XI matched the men, ending that season as champions of the Hockey Digest Middlesex Ladies League Division 1. They went on to gain promotion to the South League after a 4-2 win on penalty strokes in the play-offs.

These successes were only matched by the Club in the so-called *Glory Days* in April 1908 when the 1st XI went undefeated by any London club that season, which they were able to repeat in April 1911.

We are indebted to Lee Power of the *Ham & High*, now part of the Archant group of newspapers, for his permission to replicate his excellent coverage of the weekend at Lee Valley, his interviews with GB player Sarah Robertson, Toby Roche and Director of Hockey, Richard Smith and on the FIH World League. Lee's comprehensive coverage of the first teams includes the season's results, final League tables, goalscorers and squad members. It puts the national sporting press to shame. The Club is very grateful to him for his support that has included watching the Men's 1st XI away at Exeter University earlier in the season.

Archant is a privately-owned media company serving geographical and specialist interest communities with over 140 brands and associated websites. Its portfolio of UK-based regional newspapers covers East Anglia, London, Kent and the South West. The Group publishes 1 million copies a week in print. Its collection of more than 50 news brands includes the *Eastern Daily Press* in Norfolk, the *East Anglian Daily Times* in Suffolk and the *Ham & High*.

We also have Rod Gilmour's kind permission to add the coverage from *The Hockey Paper*. The Hockey Paper is printed regularly throughout the year (once or twice per month) and is available as a postal subscription-only offering to UK readers. Newsletter readers are encouraged to subscribe: details are available at www.thehockeypaper.co.uk/subscriptions

Guy Mayers

Celebration of our successes was later tinged with huge sadness at recent news of the unexpected death of Guy Mayers, circulated to newsletter readers earlier.

Guy was elected a member of Hampstead HC on 13 December 1963 and played initially for the 3rd XI. He was appointed vice-captain of the team at the end of his first season at the AGM held on 3 April 1964.

However, his skills as a chartered accountant quickly became more important to the Club and he joined the Committee and was elected Treasurer in March 1965, a post he held for six years.

At the end of his first year in that capacity the AGM recorded a "particular hearty vote of thanks" to Guy for "his imaginative efforts during this most difficult financial year" after he had kept a deficit to £18, despite an increase of £200 in the rent for the pitches and other capital payments that season.

A larger deficit in the following year caused by ground enrichments charged to the hockey club and costs incurred in perimeter drainage of the notoriously wet playing surfaces at Hornsey led to Guy's initiative for a football game to be installed in the clubhouse. He later instituted and then oversaw a *200 Draw* to raise further funds that was immediately successful.

Guy demanded proper fiscal controls and in November 1967 persuaded the Committee to adopt the requirement that the Club's officers should obtain prior clearance before expending more than £10.

The AGM held on 5 April 1968 resolved another vote of "hearty thanks" to Guy "for his exceptional efforts" and (jointly with Richard Shaw) "for the remarkable work on the 200 Draw". This had helped generate an expected surplus of £200.

In early 1971, Guy managed a transfer of the treasurership. Attending his last Committee Meeting in March, he was thanked, on his retirement, "for his several years of stalwart service" as treasurer.

Guy continued as a playing member of the Club. A decade later, he was playing for the Veterans XI, a team that had largely evolved under the stewardship of Peter Boizot. His involvement included the mid-week league in which the Veterans participated in the early 1990's under Chris Elliott. He also played for the Spaniards XI at least until 1998 under Peter Symes.

The recruitment of players was not easy. Guy encouraged Club members to do so in a typically succinct summary in December 1998:-

H&W is an inner city, high turnover and a unique demographically profiled club. While this produces lots of opportunities, it does have its disadvantages and maybe the cost of central/west London property is a reason why the club has fewer older players than other London clubs. H&W only runs one Vets' side compared with two or three elsewhere and of its 15 teams, all are in league except the Spaniards. If you know of any hockey players of mature years (over 35) and who would be interested in taking up hockey again, who is not getting enough hockey with his present club or who has moved into the area, get in touch!

In October 1987, Guy was called up to play for England LX, having taken a lead from Peter Boizot and participated in a tournament at Canterbury against European opposition, later celebrated at the Great Northern Hotel in Peterborough when the squad was entertained by Peter. A year later, Guy was part of the England LX that played in the fourth European Veteran's tournament in Velbert near Dusseldorf, in which the English team won all its matches.

Guy continued his club hockey playing for Hampstead & Westminster, increasingly for the Spaniards XI and the Superveterans XI (for whom he first played in 1994). He went on the very first Veterans tour to Berlin in 1988 when, despite losing 0-4 to the two Berlin sides, the team won its first cup by getting third place, thanks to a magnificent goal by Guy in the 3rd/4th play off.

His captain, Chris Elliott, recalls that on the same tour, Guy asked for "a dry wine" but the German waiter interpreted it as "drei vin" (three in number) and he became worse for wear, such that he needed assistance from room mates to get to bed, true to the spirit of hockey touring.

It was said that it was difficult to persuade Guy to play when the ambient temperature was under 6°, quickly corrected by Chris Elliott to be 8° at least.

In his autobiography, *Mr Pizza and All That Jazz*, Peter Boizot recorded his joy of playing in Hampstead colours for "a truly fantastic side, never far off the top of the table, helped in no small measure by our most talented player, Guy Mayers. Guy was a great friend off the pitch and on it he would regularly win our silly post-match awards for *most disruptive player* or *most bewildering directional play*".

When Peter Boizot confirmed his wish to stand down from close involvement with Hampstead & Westminster in 2001, Guy accepted the invitation to be Club President, which he did for ten years. His approach was low-key but effective when the need required. It was an important decade for the Club, as it needed to maintain a presence at Paddington Recreation Ground, install a new water based playing surface there, overcome difficulties with the acceptability of the surface on the other pitch and deal with Peter Boizot's tenancy of the clubhouse within the Carlton Tavern, given Peter's desire to bring that commitment to an end. Guy was key to raising sufficient funds to bring about a transfer of the Lease and the future of the pub (at least until its unlawful partial demolition by later owners in April 2015).

Guy was very generous in his pastoral care of the Club's more elderly and infirm former players and members, making visits, amongst others, to Peter Boizot and to Cornwall to see former Club Secretary, Colin Greenhalgh. He was always eager to recognise the contributions that such people had made.



Photo: Mark Clews

He spoke at the Club's 125th anniversary dinner in September 2018, the opening of which Peter Boizot was able to attend.



Photo: Mark Clews

Guy explained to the many current members, who did not know, the breadth of Peter's generosity to the Club. This he later repeated to broader effect on the game as a whole, when paying fulsome tribute to Peter at the memorial service to his life at Peterborough Cathedral on 4 February 2019.

Peter Boizot

Peterborough Cathedral was filled as hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the life of Peter Boizot.

The service was attended by several Club members, resplendent in Club blazers that attracted the attention of the *Peterborough Telegraph*



Photo: *Peterborough Telegraph*

The following is their report. Peter was known in Peterborough as the founder of Pizza Express, a former Cathedral Chorister and King's School pupil, and for his work as owner of Peterborough United, The Broadway Theatre and The Great Northern Hotel, and the congregation came from all walks of life – business, sport, charity, politics, faith and education – and from across the country showing the impact Peter had made in so many spheres of society.

Leading the tributes was Peter's sister, Clementine Allen, who described the entrepreneur as 'a good man.' She said she was 'gobsmacked' to see so many people at the Cathedral and added: "Peter certainly didn't do grey. He knew how to blaze a trail. He knew what he wanted and he made sure he got it. He was a fantastic person with the most wonderful smile."

Mrs Allen also told the gathered congregation of Peter's love for books – and how she got the nickname 'Wendy' because of his love of the character in Peter Pan. She said: "He was a modest man. He was a good person."

His friend Mike Gelardi, who worked with Peter at Pizza Express, spoke of Peter's generosity, with his support for causes at home, but also for the money he raised to help Venice. He said: He was known for his support of so many causes. He raised more than £1 million for the Venice in Peril fund, and supported others here in Peterborough and elsewhere, including the upkeep of this beautiful cathedral. He had a wonderful spirit and a passion for life."

Peter's love of music, and his passion for hockey were also celebrated at the service. Pianist Anna Paola giving a special performance in his memory, while Guy Mayers told of his passion for the sport, including the time he set up a match between a Soho restaurateurs team and a 'scratch' team of his friends – and rather than serve oranges at half time, players were given champagne.

Following the service, Mayor of Peterborough, Cllr Chris Ash said Peter was a remarkable man – and said the city should have a lasting tribute to his legacy. He said: "He was one of the great characters of this city. It would be nice idea to have something here to remember him by."

Posh chief Executive Bob Symns added: "He would have loved this (service.) He was one of the original entrepreneurs. What he did for this city was phenomenal – let alone what he did for the club. He believed in the club, our academy and centre of excellence. He saved the club and made it so it could be the club today. He will be greatly missed in the city."

City Lunch



At least 70 supporters of the Club comprising the President, Vice Presidents, members, former players and friends attended a lunch held at Smith & Wollensky off the Strand on 8 March 2019. The prime objective was to meet once again and to raise funds for the Club, largely in support of the replacement of the water-based pitch at PRG.

Club President, Richard Sykes welcomed everyone and, in particular, the Club's guests, Royston Hoggarth, the Chairman of England Hockey and Club coaches, Sara Kelleher and Kwan Browne.

He mentioned the loss of the use of the sand-based pitch at PRG, following the anticipated installation of a new 4G surface to provide for football, now regarded as unsuitable for adult competitive hockey. This will place more pressure on pitch allocation and the facilities used by the Club.

He also referred to the rebuilding of the Carlton Tavern. This is now reaching a conclusion, at least from the perspective of the external elevations. Completion would lead to a decision whether the Club

should aim to re-establish itself there. Negotiations would be needed with the developer or longer-term owner. Richard commented that it was a time of considerable flux. Potentially, it might bring the Club back to the days 70 years ago when it moved its home three times in a decade.

He also mentioned that in celebration of the 125th anniversary, a new Club paperback book, providing a diary entry for most of the days in the season over those 125 years, entitled *From Day to Day* had been published. Copies were made available on the various tables.

This season's results were exceptional. The Women's 1st XI was atop the East Conference and if sustained, the team aimed for promotion to the Premier Division. The Men's 1st XI had already secured its participation at the Play Offs on 13 and 14 April at Lee Valley. This would be the third consecutive year this had been achieved. The Men's 2nd XI was on course to win a tenth Premiership in 15 years in the London League. With the League being restructured this year, this propelled the 2nd XI to a place in the Premier 1 Division of the South League next season, where they will face the 1st XIs of the leading London and regional clubs not already in the National League.

Royston briefly explained the challenges facing England Hockey but encouraged everyone to follow the newly inaugurated World League in which the GB men had enjoyed recent success abroad. Some home games are scheduled for The Stoop in Twickenham. The main aspiration is to secure sponsorship and television rights, in the hope that the league arrangements might allow hockey to follow the successes achieved by world-based competitions in cricket and rugby union.

The television presenter and charity event specialist, Johnny Gould then took to the floor to conduct events that began with a raffle collection and introductions to the later auctions and quiz.



The *heads and tails* quiz required each diner to pay an entrance fee and featured questions about the Club and hockey generally. But in this case, several questions pointed to the exploits of Peter Boizot.

Those who answered the binary questions correctly continued to stand, whilst those whose answers were incorrect sat down.

After a few rounds, Johnny opted for drastic action to bring closer a winner. He discarded the carefully calibrated questions and, off the cuff, posed one about baseball (given his hosting in the UK of a television programme featuring that sport) and followed it with one about the youth rugby team in which his son played.

This soon reduced number of participants. Club Treasurer, Christine Shrimpton was finally announced the winner, as the last few participants were brought to the front of the room to stand in a line.

Two auctions were held, one silent and the other, the very reverse. Johnny Gould ramped up the pressure and the bids, in direct proportion. Prizes included two seats on Number 1 Court at Wimbledon, a case of 2005 Ch Labergorce-Zede from Bordeaux and a holiday in the Seychelles.

Many members wore their Club blazers to the Lunch. Richard Sykes mentioned that there was only a small amount of the textile remaining from which the garment can be tailored. He urged those wanting to do so to place an order quickly. The prior informal qualification for the wearing of a Club blazer to those who have represented the Club on an overseas tour has been relaxed recently, to allow access to members who show by their commitment in buying this token of their connection to the Club.

Richard had been asked by the tailor for a photograph of those in their blazers to celebrate their success. An assemblage was eventually herded together, and this was the result.



All agreed that the event was a success and thanks are owed to Oz Rankin for having organised it. More than £12,000 is believed to have been raised.

[International News](#)

Sarah Robertson, Will Calnan and Harry Martin have continued to represent Great Britain in the FIH Pro League. Results, other than the weekend of matches on 18 and 19 May (for which, *see below*) are covered in Lee Power's *Ham & High* reports, mentioned earlier.

Men:

Great Britain 2 Argentina 3

Great Britain 0 Belgium 4

Women

Great Britain 1 Argentina 1 (Argentina secured an extra point, winning the shoot-out 2-1)

Great Britain 2 Belgium 0

The final day of GB's FIH Pro League season will take place on Sunday, 23rd June 2019 at Twickenham Stoop, the home of Harlequins RFC, with a ground capacity of 14,800.

These final matches, against New Zealand, will witness ground-breaking technology (no pun intended) whereby an artificial pitch will be laid on top of the existing grass surface. The Men's match will start at 2.00pm, followed by the Women at 4.30pm. Tickets are now on sale. More than twice the number of supporters will be able to see the national teams in action.

The FIH has outlined a refined structure for the FIH Pro League in 2020 and 2021.

Upon recommendation from the competing nations, the format of the match schedule has been tweaked, retaining the core principle of a global league, but halving the amount of travel time.

The league will now see teams play each other home and away in alternate years - for example, in 2020, Great Britain will be away to the Netherlands for a total of four matches (two women's games and two men's), then at home for four games in 2021. The new format is not dissimilar to the Six Nations in rugby union, but nations playing each other twice, instead of once.

India's men will be included in the men's league from 2020 onwards

On the Pitch

Women's Section

National League

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

Beeston
Bowdon Hightown
Buckingham
Clifton Robinsons
East Grinstead
Hampstead & Westminster
Holcombe
Loughborough Students
Surbiton
University of Birmingham

First Tier Cup

The 1st XI battled their way to a second national Cup Final, held at Lee Valley after the Premier Division play-offs. They once again faced Premier Division opposition in Clifton Robinsons of Bristol. The match ended 2-2 at full time after Hampstead had pulled it back to level pegging but Clifton won the shoot-out 3-1.

South League

The 2nd XI finished in third place behind Guildford 1st XI and Marlow 1st XI in Division 2

Middlesex League

The 3rd XI were crowned champions of the Premier Division by ten points, with 17 wins, four draws and single loss and a goal difference of 81, Teddington 3rd XI were in second place.

In the same division, the 4th XI were sixth. In Division 1, the 6th XI ended the season still second to OMT 1st XI, while the 5th XI ended fifth. The 7th XI finished in seventh place in Division 2 that was won by Ealing 1st XI.

Men's Section

Premier Division; England Hockey League

The Men's 1st XI team ended the season in second place in the Division to Surbiton by six points, with Beeston third, ten points adrift and East Grinstead in fourth, with 27 points (following seven losses). The 1's progressed to the play offs that led to their spectacular success.

In the Premier Division promotion Play Offs, Old Georgians advanced to the Premier Division. The University of Exeter retained their place after a scintillating 3-2 win in the final match. Bowdon came into that game without a win in their previous two Play Off matches. However, that did not affect their

confidence. Ben White scored from a penalty corner to give them an 11th minute lead. Seven minutes later and it was 2-0, with James Vallely scoring, to give Exeter a mountain to climb.

Crucially, James Carson pulled one back for the University before half time. Almost straight after the interval, George Carson drew the scores level. Then on 44 minutes, Tom Brooks scored with a super diving finish to secure the victory and make sure the University's appearance in the Division in the 2019-20 season.

[European Hockey League](#)

The championship gives the H&W 1st XI an automatic place in the last 16 of the European Hockey League in 2020. Surbiton will play in the last 32, in a league format.

In this year's EHL, Surbiton suffered a dramatic shootout defeat to Waterloo Ducks on the Wednesday before Easter, having drawn 1-1 at the end of normal time. Goodfield had given Surbiton the lead with a 23rd minute field goal, but just three minutes later Waterloo Ducks hit back to level the match. The game remained at 1-1 and went to a shootout. Surbiton missed their first two efforts (the second in controversial circumstances when the hooter unexpectedly sounded, owing to a fault). Further goals from Goodfield and Forsyth in the shootout were not enough, with Waterloo scoring four of their five attempts. (Waterloo Ducks went on to win the EHL).

On Good Friday Surbiton had a convincing 4-1 win over Three Rock Rovers HC of Ireland. Three Rock Rovers had taken the lead in the first quarter of this ranking match, through Mitch Darling, but Surbiton hit back with Luke Taylor scoring twice in the space of four minutes just before half time, both from penalty corners. David Goodfield's 35th minute goal made it 3-1, before Surbiton wrapped up the win with a 54th minute field goal from Alan Forsyth.

[England Hockey League Structure](#)

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

It had been thought that the reward for Oxford Hawks' third place in the West Conference would be a place in Division One North, rather than South. However, their coach, the former H&W coach Todd Williams believes that the last place in Division One North has since been "awarded" instead to Cardiff & Met., in what appears to be a geographically bizarre decision.

The South Division is likely to consist of

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

And in the North

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

The regional Conferences will have a different look next season when the remaining teams in the current Conferences, namely

Richmond
Old Loughtonians
Cambridge City
Doncaster
Belper
Alderley Edge
University of Bristol
Chichester
Isca

will be joined by the top four of each regional league. Further details, once resolved by England Hockey, will appear in the next Newsletter.

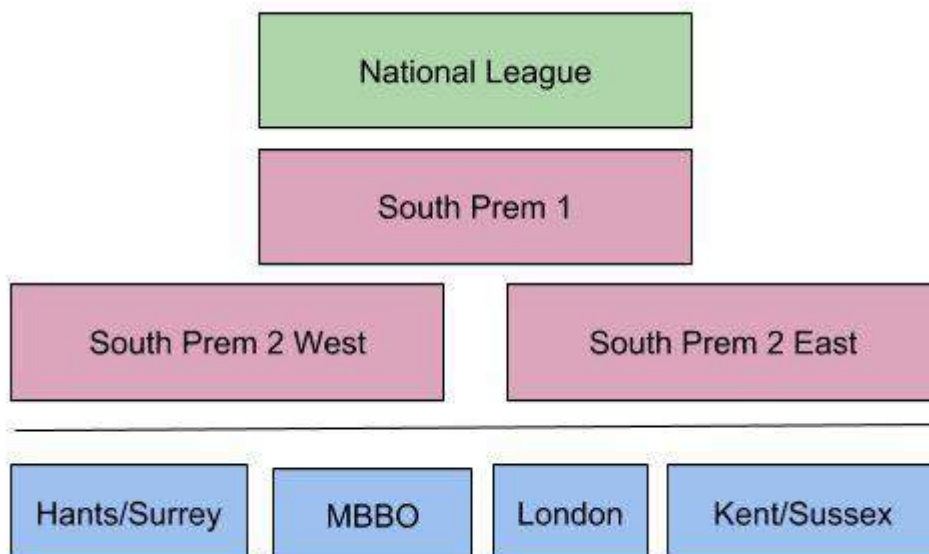
Other Men's teams

The 2nd XI were once again winners of the Premier Division of the London League by 15 points over Wimbledon in second and Surbiton in third. The 2's drew once and lost once and had a goal difference of 89. It is the team's 10th championship in 15 seasons.

In next season's revamped regional leagues, the 2nd XI will now play in the South League Premier 1 against the first teams of leading southern based clubs. It also opens up the prospect of gaining promoting to the National League. However, no 2nd XI will be admitted to a division or conference in the National League in which that club already has a participating team.

For the 2nd XI, it would first require the winning of the South League Premier, which is regarded as a hefty task in its own right. Hopefully the current promotion will help the retention of players who might otherwise have opted for a challenge greater than another season in the London League Premier Division, witnessed last year when four of the Hampstead squad joined Spencer in search of more competitive games.

The London League has said that nearly everything has been agreed between the leagues which would slot the London League into the South League and resolve this long-standing issue. The South are content to have a structure where 'London' can slot in below South League Premier level, alongside Hants/Surrey, MBBO and Kent/Sussex.



London teams promoted to SL Premier 2 would play under the same rules as the teams promoted from MBBO etc. to ensure fairness.

There would be a review of the four geographical areas covered – plus east London – with the aim of rationalising things over time. Some South League first teams are expected to opt to move to the London area initially to reduce travel time, while retaining their pathway to the top of the domestic structure, and equally strengthening 'London' following the planned movement, next season, of most teams from the current London League Premier.

Details have yet to be worked out, but naturally, all want to be clear about where teams would go when relegated from the South League Premier 2 level, so that clubs could not *game the system*. A meeting of the London League clubs on 7 February 2019 drew many positives with this geographical change, which, it was recognised, would affect some clubs more than others. A fair amount of change is expected over the next couple of seasons.

The only sticking point in discussions is the question of whether the new 'London' area would be administered by the London League or by the South. If administered by the South, there would be full consistency of rules across the South League. However, given that relevant teams would be playing under the same 'playing rules' to gain promotion, the London League sees no need for the South to take over much of London League for all other purposes. London League clubs voted clearly in favour of the London League continuing to manage things for the time being.

England Hockey's governance review is expected to lead to bigger structural change within a few years. The key aspect is that the South League is not directly accountable to its clubs via the annual elections of officers and the like. The London League clubs want to keep its governance as it is – where clubs set policy, and league officers implement it.

Other Divisions

In Division 1, the 3rd XI ended in fifth place and Zak Hond XI in eighth. The Division was won by East Grinstead 2nd XI. In Division 2, things did not go so well for the 4th and 5th XIs who ended in 11th and 12th places, that is, at the foot of the table.

The Hammers XI ended their inaugural season in Division 4 with fifth place and in Division 5, the Thirsts XI stayed in second place to PHC Chiswick, who won the Division by ten points. The Spaniards XI finished in fifth position.

In the Veterans League Division 1, the Vets XI ended second to East Grinstead by just three points. In the Supervets Division 2, Hampstead finished second to Reading again by three points when both won their last league games. However, Reading's goal difference was 72, compared with Hampstead's 21.

In the Trophy competition, Hampstead were fourth. The Grandmasters XI were fourth (of five) in the Grandmasters League and eighth (of 12) in Division A.

Indoor Hockey

The 1st XI Men's squad ended the second weekend on 5 and 6 January 2019 in Bromsgrove with a 100% record and won the Premier Division title. The final game against East Grinstead was a taut affair, with the narrow win only confirmed after an appeal. This followed the timed end of the game but without the corresponding sounding of the hooter. EG scored an equalising goal after time had elapsed but just before the delayed hooter did sound. That "goal" was awarded. Fortunately, this decision was then overturned and the match awarded to Hampstead.

The squad went on to play in the televised finals at the Copper Box arena in the Olympic Park three weeks later. Sadly, in the semi-final game, against EG, they left their form in Bromsgrove and could not generate any rhythm, losing 7-5. EG went on to win the Cup again.

PRG

As Richard Sykes mentioned in at the City Lunch, mentioned earlier, the *Tiger Turf* surface at Paddington Recreation Ground is being replaced. The Football Foundation invested approximately £1m in 2007 to install the surface and gained contractual rights to its retention.

Supported by England Hockey and Sport England, the Club has been in negotiation with the City of Westminster to try to get a replacement surface suitable for the playing of hockey. However, it has not been possible to persuade the Football Association to relinquish its contractual rights or to

compromise on the new surface. A new 'Tiger Turf' surface is therefore being installed during the summer.



England Hockey has issued revised rules regarding the hockey that can be played on these surfaces. They include a limitation on use for competitive adult league hockey. This will obviously have an impact on the Club next season.

Plans are in place for the short-term to make sure that the Club has enough pitch space for use as a Club. Club officers have also been looking at longer term solutions that offer improved pitch opportunities to enable the Club to continue to grow and provide hockey to all ages and abilities.

As and when there are further details, we shall report.

In Other News

Awards

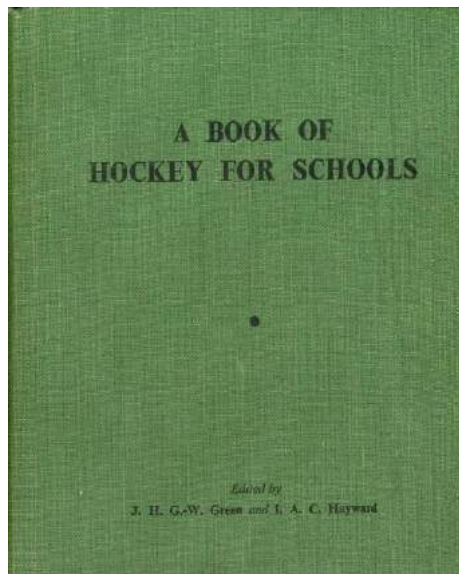
At the Club's Annual Dinner held on 27 April 2019, a long list of awards were presented that included MVPs and the following:

Barnard Cup - Women's 1st XI
Oli Thomas Award - Clementine Gray
ABN AMRO Best Women's Player - Lucy Hyams
ABN AMRO Best Men's Player - Marc Edwards
Women's Most Improved Player - Mel Wilkinson
Men's Most Improved Player - Toby Reynolds-Cotterill
Men's Golden Stick - Dom Richardson
Women's Golden Stick -Ellie Micklewright
Morley Pecker Goalkeeping Award - Kreya Harichandra
Best Women's Captain - Sharon Konfederak
Best Men's Captain - Mike Newman
Third Half Jug (most social side) - Women's 3rd XI

Publications

A recent discovery has been a book written by a past player, hockey international and H&W Vice President, Ian Hayward, with J H G-W Green, entitled *A Book of Hockey for Schools*, published in 1955. It includes a chapter on Umpiring written by another former Vice President of the Club, Cyril Wilkinson CBE.

The book gives guidance on goalkeeping, backs, halves and forwards, as well as coaching. There are brief notes on sticks and captaincy. The bulk of the book is taken up with brief summaries of the progress of hockey at the major public schools and ends with a detailed list of Oxbridge hockey blues to 1955.



Welsh Hockey

We offer congratulations to Welsh hockey in two areas with HWHC influence. First, the senior Welsh team out-gunned nations with higher world rankings in the FIH Series Finals in Kuala Lumpur at the end of April, where they were fifth. Canada and Malaysia gained qualification to the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo at the tournament. Wales had beaten Canada 3-1 and narrowly lost 2-1 to Malaysia. Hampstead's Steve Kelly won his 50th Welsh cap during the tournament and Rupert Shipperley (in his 64th game for Wales) was *man of the match* in the 5/6th play-off match, where Wales (ranked 24th) defeated China (ranked 14th) by 3-2.



Steve Kelly

Secondly, in Swansea during the weekend of 26-28 April, Richard Chapman captained the Welsh Over 65 team to success, retaining in the Celtic Cup after wins of 6-0 against France, 6-1 against Scotland and 7-0 against Ireland.



Carlton Tavern

It might come as surprise to Newsletter readers but, as reported earlier, the exterior (at least) of the Carlton Tavern has been rebuilt and to facsimile...





Mr Pizza and All That Jazz

A new edition of Peter Boizot's autobiography has been published by Large Things Ltd and includes a foreword from Luke Johnson, describing Peter as one of the more remarkable entrepreneurs and philanthropists of our age.

[Yesteryear](#)

[95 years ago](#)

Hockey World reported that B G Lampard Vachell, who captained the Welsh Hockey XI for two years, and of the Hampstead HC, stood as Conservative candidate for the Wednesbury Division (Staffs). He was not successful, but he polled 17,832 votes, reducing the Labour majority from 1,109 to 338.

[45 years ago](#)

At the Committee Meeting on 5 June 1974, it was agreed that no further members would be co-opted on to the Committee. However, officials of the Club who were not *ex officio* members of the Committee would be invited to attend meeting to report on relevant items. Captains of all XIs would receive copies of the minutes of each meeting but it was not expected that they, other than the 1st XI captain, would attend unless specifically invited or there was a particular item on the agenda in which they had a specific interest. It was felt by the Committee that there should be sufficient communication between the General Committee and the Playing Committee since the General Secretary and the 1st XI captain attended both.

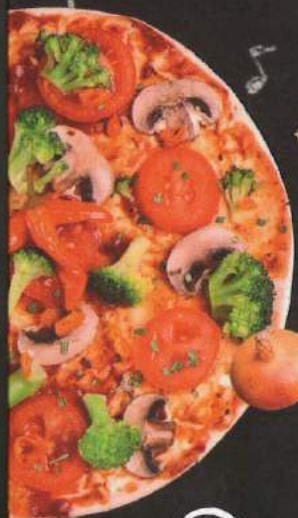
The election of outstanding officials of the Club had proved difficult. N Coleman agreed to approach G Phillips or R Chapman for the position of Match Secretary. The Playing Committee would attempt to fill the vacancy of 5th XI captain. Roger Rookes was suggested. Similarly, the position of Team Secretary was left with the Playing Committee until they had decided their method of selection. R Hale and A Mills agreed to accept the responsibility of arranging social events, with the assistance of M Ryan.

[Next edition](#)

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

MR PIZZA AND ALL THAT JAZZ

THE
FOUNDER OF
PIZZAEXPRESS



Peter Boizot

NEW FOREWORD BY LUKE JOHNSON

HAMPSTEAD & WESTMINSTER HOCKEY CLUB



ARCHIVE WEBSITE

An online Registry containing an extensive collection of Club material and memories has been launched to celebrate the Club's 125th anniversary.

This site is available at <https://www.hwhockey.co.uk/>

It contains three main sections, HISTORY, PEOPLE and RECORD

HISTORY is divided into six sections

1894-1914	The First 20 years
1919-1939	Between the Wars
1951-1969	Re-formation and Hornsey
1970-1983	League Hockey
1984-1993	The Paddington Effect
1994-2019	The National League Era

There is also a section *Of General Interest* for items or aspects that do not readily fit into these time segments.

PEOPLE provides lists of:

- Club Officers
- Team Captains
- Prize Winners
- Influential Members
- Internationals

RECORD is aimed at preserving details of the Club's

- Publications
- Minutes
- Bulletins
- Results/Tables
- Newsletters
- Photography

The Registry is not a comprehensive record and is intended as a work in progress, to which material can be added from time to time.

Anything of potential interest that you may have kept will be warmly welcomed for inclusion. Please contact Richard Chapman or Ian Smith. Once scanned we shall be happy to return the original to you.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE CLUB IS RARE IN HAVING RECORDS THAT DATE BACK 125 YEARS.
WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL ENJOY READING AND REVIEWING WHAT HAS BEEN PRESERVED.

Feature

It is lucky number 13 for Browne as Europe looms

FEATURE

The Hockey Paper was at Lee Valley to see double history made on a weekend to remember for London club

Hampstead & Westminster are going to the Euro Hockey League and for a dewy-eyed Kwan Browne it finally represented a chance to play a continental tournament.

The wily 41-year-old player-coach, still supremely fit with a turn of pace to match any young buck, put in another stellar shift to take the player-of-the-match award as H&W held off Surbiton and lift the Championship title at Lee Valley.

A tear then started to emerge from Browne as it finally dawned on the Trinidadian that he was to play European hockey - at the 13th time of asking.

"I think this is the 11th or 12th time I have played in a game to qualify for a European tournament in indoor or outdoor and I have lost every single one. This is the 13th time," he admitted gleefully to The Hockey Paper.

Browne had qualified for Europe as a player for Dutch side HC Den Bosch a few years ago, but he had to leave to go back to Trinidad. Now he is likely to line up next season in Europe after taking the club to these giddy heights in just his third year in charge.

"We are really excited about what the club has done. For the last three years, the club has got better and better," he said.

"The boys were a little bit more confident after being in last year's finals and relaxed and how to deal with the occasion.

"The biggest thing about the game was that we had already qualified for Europe and that took some pressure off and it gave us freedom to play."

It was far from plain sailing of course. But this was the club's 125th anniversary weekend and the chance to atone for last year's heartbreaking finals' defeat to Surbiton.

Matt Guise-Brown's lethal stick gave H&W the lead. It came as Surbiton went down a man for their PC defence - much to Surbiton's chagrin on the sidelines and James Gall's flailing arms - and Guise-Brown didn't waste the space.

A second from Guise-Brown left Surbiton with an uphill battle, with Tom Salisbury setting up a nervy finale to



Hampstead & Westminster celebrate during their victory over Surbiton in the Championship finals, with player/coach Kwan Browne inset.

PICTURE: SIMON PARKER

half the deficit. Toby Reynolds-Cotterill made a couple of key stick saves and with Surbiton opting for a kicking back, it was left to Sam French who found an empty net late on. For French, it was extra special after missing in the shoot-out last year.

"We never ever thought this would happen," added Browne, "especially as we lost the league and had a good opportunity to win it and a good opportunity to win the indoor."

"We messed that up and we thought 'oh, come on' and would it be a third opportunity missed? But we held it together."

Ably assisted by Huw and David Stephens, assistant coach and manager, Browne added: "I believe my approach as a coach is that if we work harder than everybody else we will be alright."

From video to GPS vests, we treat ourselves as a senior international side while having a good balance about being re-

ally sociable and going out as a club."

Browne's own international career with Trinidad and Tobago, coupled with his years of domestic experience in the UK has seen to that. But, one wonders, how long can he go on playing?

Browne, 42 in December, did say that his international career will finish at the Pan American Games in August.

"Club wise I will wait and see, but physically I am absolutely fine," added Browne, who only days earlier had returned from Argentina where he was travelling as a GB assistant coach for their Pro League match. "The only thing that will stop me playing is if I have a bigger impact on the sideline than on the pitch."

"It's nothing to do physically and it all depends on what the players we will have."

What is certain is that Browne finally has his European wish. Lucky number 13 and all that.



Feature

Premier success brings Richardson-Walsh joy

Women's Hockey League
Rod Gilmour chats to Rio Olympics gold medal winner Kate Richardson-Walsh after H&W's Ladies' promotion

Kate Richardson-Walsh, the Hampstead & Westminster Ladies coach, said her side had "clear aspirations" at the start of the season as they set about their promotion tilt.

"They had drive and commitment and wanting to grow," she said.

"They are an experienced side and have been a pleasure to coach."

With promotion assured on Lee Valley Sunday, Richardson-Walsh knows the hard work has only just begun ahead of the 2019/20 season.

She added: "It's where this group wants to be."

"You've seen the likes of Slough being in the play-off's because it's tough up there. It's hard to keep the momentum in a packed hockey calendar."

An exceptional club and international career has now been replaced by a successful first season on the sidelines.

And the Rio gold medallist said this latest achievement was "on a par" with her playing accolades.

"You know what has gone into it and however we do in-

ternationally as players, you know what has gone on as players. It's the same in this instance, almost regardless of the outcome ... what has happened on the way to getting there.

"It's a really special moment."

"I'm used to it having played domestic hockey my whole life and been a part of it as assistant coach at Reading. These young women are incredible."

H&W managed to retain a nucleus with only the loss of Scotland an GB international Sarah Robertson.

"Holcombe have done well transitioning with a lot of internationals leaving," she said.

"You have to have so much strength in depth in the junior system like Surbiton or you have to keep a nucleus with some internationals sprinkled through it."

Promotion, she added, had been weighing on her and Kelleher's players' shoulders the whole season.

"To win the Conference East is hard. Wimbledon, Cambridge and Sevenoaks, to win that is one thing."

"It kept on coming the whole season and we are so proud of them."

An Emily Maguire and Melanie Wilkinson double each in a 7-1 win over Stourport left H&W celebrating, knowing that they had to win by five goals to be sure of their status.

But holidays will have to wait a little longer. H&W have one more Lee Valley date left, the EH Women's Cup Final against Clifton Robinsons on May 5.



Rio Olympics gold medallist Kate Richardson-Walsh said H&W's promotion is on par with her playing accolades
 PICTURE: SIMON PARKER



JOB DONE: The Hampstead and Westminster players raise their arms in celebration after beating Stourport 7-1, left, as Kate Richardson-Walsh hugs her colleagues after masterminding the team's promotion, right.

PICTURE: SIMON PARKER

Men's Championship Finals

'We beg, borrow and steal' - H&W president on how club competes

INTERVIEW

H&W president Richard Sykes recalls an "amazing" day for the club at Lee Valley

Q: How special was League finals day for you?

A: We saw it there when the women ran on to join the men, it sums up the club's values coming together and supporting everyone else.

To see the women win so convincingly, which means so much, and the men to perform like they did... to think where we were five years ago and you look at what Kwan Browne has done with the men and Kate and Sarah with the women, it is just great.

Q: How far has the club come in recent years?

A: We don't have any facilities and we don't actually own anything and it meant we had to commit quite seriously five years ago and say to ourselves what could we achieve as a club and how could we make it sustainable.

Originally, we aimed for the four years leading up to the 2016 Olympics and now realistically the 2020 Olympics. But this showed we are going further and quicker, by investing in youth and coaches and see where it would take us.

Q: Having both sides in the Premier Division must make this all the more satisfying?

A: When I talked with Kate last summer she didn't want to over commit. So doing it with Sarah who is also a very high quality coach, it was just a win-win for us.

Now we have to build on that and attract one or two more players to make sure we are able to sustain a Premier Division place for the women. And we are confident of being able to do that.

Q: How can the Premier Division gain more traction?

A: Our support for the club is fantastic - and we are absolutely a club not a series of teams. We know that trying to make a success of the FIH Pro League on television is the fulcrum of being able to invest more in the sport from an England Hockey point of view.

From a club point of view it is really difficult; if you look across the Premier men's and women's teams, a lot of it is dependent on a few people funding clubs which isn't sustainable. So it's how we get the ability into the clubs to make it a better proposition.

Q: What problems exist with your current set up?

A: We are certainly different. We are the only central London club, we don't have a local community, we



BLAZING A TRAIL: Hampstead and Westminster fans resplendent in their touring club jackets show their appreciation to the squad

don't own any facilities or a clubhouse.

We beg, steal and borrow. To do it in that environment is very difficult. When you are away from London, you ought to be able to get the local communities supporting the teams.

Clubs like Beeston are

making a success of it. The ability is there to do it, but facilities are a huge challenge for the sport.

Paddington Rec works really well for us in lot of ways, but in terms of a long term vision I would love to have a facility which is a Hampstead facility, as

central as possible, but it is difficult to do.

Our asset is ourselves, not our pitches. We have to rely on the club's historical values and it's a very strong core.

Q: After watching the last two League finals, is

the Premier Division in a healthy state?

A: At times, people undersell the strength of the Premier Division. Games like the final, as well as last year, was fantastic.

At the top, the quality isn't recognised; it's a very high quality game.

European Dream

Lee Valley success puts 1991 near miss firmly in the past for H&W

No longer do those Hampstead & Westminster supporters resplendent in their old touring jackets need cast their minds back to 1991.

On a March day 28 years ago, H&W played old rivals Surbiton in the London League at Reed's School. For the winners, there was automatic promotion to the National League up for grabs.

H&W hit the post when a goal to the good in that match and Surbiton subsequently scored. It was the point they wanted to go up, with H&W needing to win. Surbiton have got the better of H&W ever since when it mattered most, but the north London-

ers' title success finally cast aside these narrow misses.

Between 2001 and 2016 in the top flight, H&W finished between fifth and ninth, where they once staved off relegation in 2008.

But the club has revelled being the third longest participant in the Premier Division after Reading and Surbiton.

And the Lee Valley triumph would no doubt have been doubly emotional for Toby Roche, the club's longest-serving captain post-War, who has prevailed through the lean years, as well as serving under five coaches.

As H&W president, the late Peter Boizot often spoke of a

European League in the early 1980s and how the club ought to aim to participate.

For many at the club, this seemed a fanciful idea with their London League status. That is until the appointment of New South Wales' Greg Carr as coach.

It was a decision prompted by Boizot and the 1990s saw a steady climb.

Promotion to the top flight began in haste at the turn of the century - including the club's first play-offs in 2004 under Hockey Paper columnist Todd Williams. And now, 15 years on, they can finally make plans for Europe, where once it was just the dream of Boizot.



PICTURE: SIMON PARKER

sport

Introduction

Welcome to our latest pullout celebrating Summer Hockey Days as Great Britain's men and women embark on a busy spell of matches in the FIH Pro League.

The new competition has captured the imagination of hockey enthusiasts with some of the fixtures at the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre already sold out.

Tickets remain on sale for others and anyone interested should visit the England Hockey website for latest information.

I've been fortunate enough to see Olympic and World Cup hockey played in our corner of London over the past seven years and there is always a great family atmosphere.

And with the Tokyo 2020 Olympics now on the horizon – and GB's women the defending champions – the excitement will start to build.

We also look back on a great 125th anniversary season for Hampstead & Westminster in the middle of this 12-page supplement. Enjoy!

Lee Power
Group Sports Editor

Fixtures

Saturday April 27 (Lee Valley)
GB Women v USA, 2pm

Friday May 3 (Lee Valley)
GB Women v China, 7.30pm

Saturday May 4 (Lee Valley)
GB Men v Spain, 12pm

Saturday May 18 (Lee Valley)
GB v Argentina (Women & Men), 1pm

Sunday May 19 (Lee Valley)
GB v Belgium (Women & Men), 1pm

Thursday June 6 (Lee Valley)
GB Men v Germany, 7.30pm

Friday June 7 (Lee Valley)
GB Women v Germany, 7.30pm

Sunday June 9 (Lee Valley)
GB v Australia (Women & Men), 2pm

Friday June 14 (Lee Valley)
GB Men v Netherlands, 7.30pm

Saturday June 15 (Lee Valley)
GB Women v Netherlands, 4pm

Sunday June 23
(Twickenham Stoop)
GB v New Zealand (Women & Men), 2pm.



The Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre played host to the Women's World Cup last summer and is now gearing up for a busy spell of FIH Pro League action involving Great Britain's men and women.

Picture: PA

Great Britain head coach Kerry cannot get enough of FIH Pro League contests

Hockey

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Great Britain men's coach Danny Kerry has readily admitted he cannot get enough of the FIH Pro League.

Kerry led the GB women to an historic Olympic gold at the 2016 Rio Games, before moving across to the men's programme and is now watching more hockey than ever.

With 15 teams from across the planet competing in a total of 128 games in the FIH Pro League, there is plenty of hockey to watch on *BT Sport*.

And Kerry told England Hockey: "I've watched all of the matches and I've been following our women's team as well, so I've been watching even more hockey to the dismay of my wife!

"It's fascinating being the head coach of a programme. You know all of the decisions that have to be made about how much you'll be developing your side, versus fielding what may be perceived as your out-and-out team.



Great Britain men's head coach Danny Kerry with Eddie Jones, head coach of the England men's rugby team.

Picture: PA

"With the FIH Pro League linked to world ranking points, then Olympic qualification, teams have got to strike an important balance of getting the points they need, while continuing to grow and develop.

"If they don't they will slowly

but surely be overtaken. Getting the balance right is a big challenge."

Kerry has blooded some new young players into his squad already in 2019, with GB winning three of their first four matches in the competition.

They visit Germany on April 28, before the first of many home fixtures this summer against Spain on May 4, and Kerry has many variables to consider when picking his match-day squad.

He added: "You look at athletes who have performed in the training block and matches prior.

"You're trying to look around meritocracy of level of performance and training level of performance previously. There's a factor about exploring your style of play and which players may allow you to grow that well.

"Equally, exploring players that may bring a different direction of growth to your team and also half an eye on Olympic qualification and the Euros in the summer.

"Another is combinations of players and how they work together under the pressure of a live international match. There's also consideration for the opposition themselves and what type of opportunity that may present.

"We've travelled long haul so far, so some of our younger athletes may not have had that experience. Lets expose them while having enough core athletes who are going to keep the ship steady and solid. There are a lot of variables."

SPORT

sport

Story so far

MEN

Jan 25: Spain 5 GB 6

The new FIH Pro League got off to a stunning start in Valencia as GB rallied from 4-1 down after 11 minutes to win an 11-goal thriller.

Adam Dixon cancelled out Spain's opener, but the hosts then took charge before Zach Wallace hit back.

Mark Gleghorne and Adam Dixon netted from corners a minute apart to level it up and Phil Roper and David Condon struck to put GB 6-4 up before a late Spain reply.

Feb 8: New Zealand 2 GB 6

GB produced another six-hit to make it back-to-back wins in Christchurch.

After a goalless first quarter, Sam Ward, Phil Roper and Adam Dixon put them 3-0 up at half time.

Ward and Roper struck again in the third quarter, before the hosts replied with a double.

And Ward completed his hat-trick at the start of the final period to cap a fine display by Danny Kerry's men.

Feb 16: Australia 2 GB 0

The Kookaburras burst GB's bubble in red-hot Perth as first-half goals from Trent Mitton and Jacob Anderson earned them the points.

GB enjoyed the majority of possession but failed to break through a stubborn Aussie defence, with Alan Forsyth twice going close in the second half.

April 6: Argentina 1 GB 5

Five-star GB shocked the Olympic champions in Rosario.

Alan Forsyth opened the scoring from the spot, a day after his 27th birthday, and Sam Ward doubled the lead with a superb drag flick.

Phil Roper made it 3-0 after Ward's shot was blocked, but the hosts hit back and only some determined defending denied them further reward.

Forsyth and Roper added empty-net goals late on after Argentina removed keeper Juan Vivaldi.

How they stand

Men

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	%
Belgium	5	3	2	0	23	12	12	80.00
Australia	7	5	1	1	22	15	16	76.19
GB	4	3	0	1	17	10	9	75.00
Argentina	8	4	1	3	18	21	13	54.17
Germany	5	2	2	1	10	9	8	53.33
Netherlands	6	2	2	2	19	16	9	50.00
Spain	9	0	4	5	23	34	8	29.63
New Zealand	8	0	2	6	18	31	2	8.33

Women

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	%
Netherlands	7	6	0	1	23	4	18	85.71
Argentina	10	7	2	1	20	9	25	83.33
Belgium	6	4	1	1	10	6	13	72.22
Australia	8	4	1	3	14	12	14	58.33
Germany	4	1	2	1	8	7	5	41.67
New Zealand	10	4	0	6	18	19	12	40.00
GB	15	1	1	3	8	15	5	33.33
China	10	2	1	7	14	26	7	23.33
USA	8	0	2	6	8	25	3	12.50



Harry Martin celebrates scoring for Great Britain at the Rio Olympics. Picture: PA

Hampstead & Westminster's Martin hoping to help GB men keep Pro League form

Hockey

After winning the League Finals with Hampstead & Westminster, Harry Martin and Will Calnan will hope to help Great Britain's men to FIH Pro League success over the course of this summer.

Having won three of their first four matches, Danny Kerry's squad face 10 fixtures in less than two months, including seven in London, and take on Germany in Moenchengladbach for the first of those assignments this weekend.

Their first home match is the following weekend against Spain, who they beat in an 11-goal thriller to kickstart the competition back in late January.

And although Martin has yet to play in the FIH Pro League, the 26-year-old already has 201 international caps (120 England, 81 GB) and 17 goals (12 England, 5 GB) to his name, the second highest number of appearances in the current squad behind Beeston defender Adam Dixon (243).

He said: "I had a foot injury from the World Cup, then broke my thumb in training when I was coming back, but I've been back playing for three or four weeks and I'm really enjoying it.

"I hope to be involved. We've only played four games which is a lot less than the others, but the feedback has been really positive.

"The games have been exciting, high scoring, and from the outside looking it and what I've heard it has been a success so far.



Will Calnan celebrates his semi-final goal for Hampstead & Westminster against Beeston. Picture: MARK CLEWS

"I've got to stay fit now and try and enjoy any opportunity I get. I'm confident, if I'm feeling good, I can play well and keep my spot. The games in London will be great with big crowds."

Hampstead clubmate Calnan, who celebrated his 23rd birthday last week, made his GB debut last June and played in the 2-0 defeat against Australia in Perth in February. He has 14 caps (9 England, 5 GB) to date and two goals on England duty.

But competition for places is fierce and GB head into their busy schedule on the back of a stunning 5-1 win over defending Olympic champions Argentina in their own back yard this month.

Martin added: "Will is one of those players who does things a lot aren't able to do. He's a huge talent and was massive for Hampstead at Lee Valley.

"I'm really excited to see what

he can do. He's probably the quickest with a ball I've ever played with. He's electric.

"He's a funny guy too. He's always got something to say! I enjoy spending time with him and we've become good friends.

"I hope I can help him out from time to time and give him advice. But he's doing really well and the trajectory he is on is impressive."

Coach Danny Kerry certainly has a job on his hand with regards to selection, with so many good players at his disposal.

And Martin hopes that shows in GB's results this summer, adding: "There were times in the past when the team picked itself but we've not got 30 who can step in and all do a job and more.

"I wouldn't want to be in Danny's position. It's probably the most talented squad in terms of depth and I hope that shows in our results."

sport

WOMEN

Feb 8: New Zealand 5 GB 1
The Black Sticks proved too strong for GB's women in their opening fixture.

Olivia Merry put the hosts ahead, but Giselle Ansley levelled from the penalty spot.

Ella Gunson converted a corner in the second quarter and Merry made it 3-1 early in the second half, before completing her hat-trick with nine minutes left.

Amy Robinson added a late fifth, as a young GB had 60 per cent possession.

Feb 16: Australia 3 GB 0

The Hockeyroos produced some clinical finishing to send GB to a second successive loss.

GB began well, with Sarah Robertson, Sarah Evans and Giselle Ansley going close but Kalindi Commerford opened the scoring late in the quarter.

Mariah Williams made it 2-0 before half time and although GB looked good on the ball and created chances they could not respond. Savannah Fitzpatrick fired a third for Australia in the final quarter.

Feb 23: China 2 GB 2 (GB win 3-2 pens)

GB opened their account after a shootout in Changzhou.

Meiyu Liang put the hosts ahead, but GB levelled with Lizzie Neal's excellent finish and Giselle Ansley's superb drag flick put them 2-1 up.

Amy Tennant's key save denied the Chinese after the restart but Bingfeng Gu's late corner forced shuffles.

Erica Sanders and Hollie Pearne-Webb scored, Hannah Martin and Sarah Robertson missed, but Tennant kept GB in the hunt and Anna Toman netted the winner on her 50th international appearance.

March 31: USA 1 GB 3

Three goals in 14 minutes helped GB to their first Pro League win at Spooky Nook.

Mackenzie Allesie's corner put the Americans ahead in the second quarter, but GB levelled through Lily Owsley.

And Emily Defroand's first international goal put them ahead early in the second half, before Owsley - winning her 50th cap - converted a corner to seal the points.

April 6: Argentina 4 GB 2

Dominant Argentina defeated a dogged GB side in Rosario to move to the top of the table.

Julieta Jankusas opened the scoring, but Grace Balsdon's superb drag flick levelled it.

Jankusas restored the home side's lead early in the second half and Victoria Zuolaga made it 3-1 from a corner a minute later.

Mario Grannatto added a fourth with four minutes left, but Sarah Jones produced a neat finish for a consolation.

Culture and atmosphere are key to Hampstead & Westminster success for director of hockey Smith

Hockey

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Hampstead & Westminster's director of hockey Richard Smith claims the secret of the club's success during its 125th anniversary season has been its 'culture'.

Smith helped the men to their League Finals triumph at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre, soon after the women had secured promotion to the Premier League, on a memorable weekend for all.

And the 31-year-old, who played for Great Britain at the London 2012 Olympics, was delighted to see everything come together for the club.

"The secret is the culture and atmosphere of the groups," he said. "The coaches lead by example. It's about good people first and then playing the best hockey we can play."

"Being on top of the detail gives us the confidence to play to the plans."

Smith has been instrumental in putting together the pieces of the Hampstead jigsaw over the past six years, as he looks to replicate a model experienced on the European mainland.

Working for Lane 4, a human performance management consultancy set up by Adrian Moorhouse, Smith knows all about culture and leadership, after his own Olympic experience.

But he knows there are still plenty of hurdles ahead for Hampstead, adding: "I've been at the club for six seasons, but was out for the first three with a knee injury."

"I'd played at the London Olympics and then in Belgium and decided I wanted to join Hampstead while I worked through my rehab for a chance at Rio."

"I've led on the sourcing of coaches and recruitment of players as director of hockey. I saw the potential Hampstead had to become a great community and the aspirations of the club."

"We've tried to improve and get the best coaches and gradually we've got them when we wanted."

"How Kwan (Browne) sets us up, he's a phenomenal coach who has been contributing in the Premier for a long time, at Canterbury before, and he very much deserves this win."

It was a first outdoor title for Smith, who has been able to play for the past three seasons with his knee 'back to where I can play'.

But he had to overcome another injury at the very start of the campaign, breaking his finger in



Hampstead & Westminster's men celebrate being crowned champions of England, while the women toast their title and promotion. Pictures: MARK CLEWS; HWHC



the first match at Reading and missing the next five fixtures.

Thankfully he was able to contribute against Beeston and Surbiton, adding: "It's nice to be able to play on my terms, it's been a really good, enjoyable journey."

"We were relatively calm before, getting on with things as we normally do. The group had the balance and perspective it always had. Hampstead prides itself on that. We've tried to be professional the last few years, putting more into hockey, but it has always been fun."

"European qualification was the first target and there was an element of confidence. We knew how well we'd played and how

Kwan has us set up. It's more of a challenge if things are not going our way and how people react."

"When we played Beeston in the league, we didn't stick to the plan and the atmosphere turned a bit. It's about keeping calm when it's tight and not panicking."

"We were ecstatic to qualify for Europe and the women were brilliant cheering us on, so we showered and went to support them."

"We still had a beer in the room after. It's how we've done things all season, getting the balance of celebrating, then getting the protein shakes and starting recovery."

"We stuck to the process, got on

with it. We knew it would be tight and it went in our favour this year which we felt was just and deserved for all the work we've put in."

Current GB internationals Harry Martin and Will Calnan were able to play their part, ahead of a host of home fixtures in the FIH Pro League this summer.

And Smith had praise for two other Hampstead youngsters, while also revealing how he is trying to help clubs and country.

"James Oates is in the GB Development squad and Toby Reynolds-Cotterill has come in and been brilliant," he added.

"Will and Harry are great when they're around. The club game is

so important to these guys. They love being involved in the club stuff. I'm on the Elite Domestic Game Panel and we're looking at the relationship between domestic and international hockey."

"They've got the responsibility to represent the club each week and they get involved."

With Welsh internationals Rupert Shipperley, Jonny Gooch and Stephen Kelly also in the Hampstead squad, along with Irish international Chris Cargo and South African Matt Guise Brown, there is no shortage of experienced talent available.

Yet there is one missing ingredient for Hampstead – somewhere to call their own.

They remain a tenant at Paddington Rec, but the old Carlton Tavern which used to double up as their clubhouse, is out of action.

"We're getting more professional off the pitch as well, but it's such a challenge, with no clubhouse," added Smith.

"We need to link more with the community and get sponsorship, we need dedicated staff, it's still volunteers. The coaches are the only professionals."

"In Europe, they are little businesses with six or seven staff to get things done. The conversation is about what is the direction for hockey now? What do we want to be?"

"We've got relationships with companies so people can further their careers too. We're happy how we go about things, but we want to keep our identity as a central London club."

Not only that, but England's champion club.

SPORT



Captain Roche happy to see Hampstead rewarded as champions of England

Hampstead & Westminster captain Toby Roche shows off the silverware to club supporters at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre.

Picture: MARK CLEWS

Hockey

LEE POWER

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Hampstead & Westminster captain Toby Roche had the proud honour of lifting the trophy after his side were crowned champions at Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre.

And he admitted their League Finals weekend successes against semi-final opponents Beeston and defending champions Surbiton in the decider felt pretty sweet, after the agony of a penalty shoot-out defeat 12 months earlier:

Roche, the club's longest-serving captain since the Second World War, said: "We had a few tough games during the season. It was mainly a two-horse race, but Surbiton at home in the penultimate game of the season was crucial and we lost 2-0.

"It was frustrating as we had a lot of the play. They scored a good goal and caught us with a sucker punch.

"We had a good defence all season and conceded very few goals and always felt we were in the hunt for the title and play-offs.

"We had our highest points tally ever as a club and against

Surbiton were the only points we dropped at home. We built a stellar defence and had a good away record."

Hampstead conceded just 21 goals in 18 league matches on their way to finishing as runners-up and were breached just twice at the League Finals.

And Roche paid tribute to young goalie Toby Reynolds-Cotterill, who joined the club last summer, and the team's disciplined displays under the guidance of influential player-coach Kwan Browne, adding: "You can't win anything without a stellar goalie.

"Toby did very well. Jamie Legg was superb for us last year, but Toby made two or three crucial saves in the final. I think Alan Forsyth, the league's player of the year, thought he'd scored. It was an outstanding stick save and so crucial.

"Beeston and Surbiton are the only teams to play a zonal defence which is different to play against. It's usually man on man defence, so it's a different mindset to keep disciplined with the tactics Kwan gives us.

"It asks different questions of you and I think it was a good thing we played both of them towards the end of the season. It was pleasing to get over the line in our fashion, being aggressive and on the front foot, not playing on the counter-attack."

Coming out on top in the last match of the campaign – the club's 125th anniversary season, no less – was particularly special after falling just short of their other targets.

And Roche is already thinking about next steps and leading Hampstead into the unknown at the European Club Championships for the first time.

"We set a few targets this season. Indoors, we got to the semi-finals but didn't get over the line, we fell in the penultimate game in the league, but this was the top of the list and we're pretty happy with it," he added.

"Now the planning starts for next season. We will have a target on our back as the number one team and we've got Europe, where we want to give a good account of ourselves.

"It's the premier club competition in the world. It gets the most media coverage, is on proper TV, and it's a huge boost for the club.

"A few have gone there in the past elsewhere, but it's a real incentive for us to play in it and prepare for it. Kwan always gets people wanting to play for him and there will be even more now."

Special praise was reserved for the 41-year-old Browne, who has led Hampstead to the League Finals for three successive years and was named man of the match

in their memorable final win over Surbiton. Roche was certainly very clear about the impact the GB assistant coach has had on Hampstead.

He added: "It's frightening. He devotes every hour to it. Every session is meticulously planned.

"He watches video of us and our opposition. It's difficult to put into words what he has done, in terms of coaching and the club mindset and expectations of how and what players need to put in to get us to the top.

"When we were trying to fight off relegation, the mindset was not there. He has revolutionised expectations."

But Hampstead's 2018/19 success story is not only about the men, with the women winning the East Conference title and gaining promotion to the Premier League via the play-offs under the watchful eyes of Olympic gold medallist Kate Richardson-Walsh and Irish international Sarah Kelleher.

Roche concluded: "It's phenomenal that the women are at the top table now as well. I'm sure they will kick on as well.

"They're in a cup final and have already beaten two or three Premier sides. They're not just a good Conference team, they will do well in the Premier anyway.

"I think we would've taken this at the start of the season."

sport

Results & statistics

Premier Division – Sep 22: Reading 1
Hampstead 2 (Gooch 14, Pohling 36)
Sep 30: Hampstead 1 Wimbledon 0 (Guise-Brown 4)
Oct 7: Hampstead 2 Beeston 1 (Shipperley 5, Guise-Brown 31)
Oct 14: Sevenoaks 0 Hampstead 2 (Kelly 6, 26)
Oct 20: Exeter University 0 Hampstead 5 (Roche 8, Guise-Brown 34, 65, Cargo 37, Shipperley 46)
Oct 27: Hampstead 0 Holcombe 0
Nov 3: Surbiton 2 Hampstead 2 (Melkert 11, Shipperley 48)
Nov 11: Hampstead 5 Brooklands MU 4 (Shipperley 7, Guise-Brown 17, 50, Kelly 33, French 57)
Nov 18: East Grinstead 5 Hampstead 3 (Shipperley 3, French 41, Roche 44)
Nov 25: Hampstead 2 Exeter University 0 (Smith 10, French 64)
Feb 10: Wimbledon 0 Hampstead 1 (Guise-Brown 49)
Feb 17: Hampstead 3 Reading 0 (Guise-Brown 5, Smith 19, S Kelly 65)
Feb 24: Hampstead 8 Sevenoaks 1 (Guise-Brown 6, 48, 56, 65, Gooch 25, Cargo 27, 43, Furlong 50)
March 2: Holcombe 2 Hampstead 7 (French 3, Shipperley 5, 59, Guise-Brown 20, Oates 22, Chaffey 25, Cargo 66)
March 10: Beeston 1 Hampstead 0
March 17: Hampstead 0 Surbiton 2
March 24: Hampstead 2 East Grinstead (Smith 3, Shipperley 70)
March 31: Brooklands MU 1 Hampstead 2 (Kaeppler 9, Calnan 57)

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Surbiton	18	15	1	2	76	24	47
Hampstead	18	13	3	2	47	21	41
Beeston	18	9	5	4	43	33	31
East Grinstead	18	8	7	3	35	35	27
Reading	18	8	7	3	37	44	27
Holcombe	18	7	8	3	32	36	24
Wimbledon	18	7	10	1	36	29	22
Brooklands MU	18	6	8	4	42	50	22
Exeter Uni	18	3	12	3	25	53	12
Sevenoaks	18	0	15	3	23	71	3

League Finals

April 13, semi-final: Hampstead 2 Beeston 1 (Shipperley 40, Calnan 53)
April 14, final: Hampstead 3 Surbiton 1 (Guise-Brown 15, 35, French 60)

Goalscorers: Matt Guise-Brown 15, Rupert Shipperley 9, Sam French 5, Chris Cargo 4, Josh Kelly 3, Richard Smith 3, Toby Roche 2, Jonny Gooch 2, Will Calnan 2, James Chaffey 1, Rhodri Furlong 1, Stephen Kelly 1, Kei Kaeppler 1, Paul Melkert 1, James Oates, 1, Anton Pohling 1.

Hampstead & Westminster squad: 1 Toby Reynolds-Cotterill, 2 Stephen Kelly, 3 Jonny Gooch, 4 Richard Smith, 5 James Oates, 6 Marc Edwards, 7 Toby Roche, 8 Chris Cargo, 9 Rupert Shipperley, 10 Anton Pohling, 11 Paul Melkert, 12 Sam French, 13 Matt Guise-Brown, 14 Stephen Cant, 15 Harry Martin, 17 Kwan Browne, 18 Josh Kelly, 19 Will Calnan, 20 Felix Mathes, 22 Peter Makin, 23 Joe Crame, 24 Kyle White, 25 Kei Kaeppler, 26 James Chaffey, 27 Rhodri Furlong.



Matt Guise-Brown celebrates one of two goals in the final (above) as Kwan Browne receives his man of the match award (below).





Hampstead & Westminster celebrate a goal against Stourport. Picture: MARK CLEWS

League title, promotion, tick; Hampstead & Westminster's women chasing triple crown!

Hampstead & Westminster's women have already ticked two boxes and had a fairytale ending to the club's 125th anniversary season.

But it's not over yet and they want more, according to captain Kat Baker.

Having won the East Conference title, finishing two points clear of Wimbledon, they topped their promotion play-off group to move up to the Premier League, before cheering the Hampstead men to success.

And they return to the scene of that success to play Clifton Robinsons on May 5 looking for more silverware.

Baker said: "We've still got the cup final and we're pumped to have more training. We want the triple now!"

"We've got a lot to celebrate and an opportunity to play Clifton, who are a solid club, will be a good test for us, then it's about building

Hockey

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in the summer. We're delighted. It's a tough league and we didn't seal the title until the end and then we've had the fairytale ending at finals weekend.

"In the 125th year for the club, after going so close last year, when we were both commiserating, to celebrate together this year, was a lot of fun."

Sunday celebrations continued into the working week, with the squad making the most of the occasion. And Baker says that camaraderie has been a key ingredient, adding: "We're such a strong group and we always joke how much we like each other. We spent Monday together as well!"

"We trust each other and stick

together. Kate (Richardson-Walsh) and Sarah (Kelleher) have been great, the perfect addition, and we're so thankful."

Although one more fixture remains on the list for this unforgettable 2018/19 season, Baker says Hampstead are already thinking of the next step.

And she says the players are so grateful for the backing they have received, adding: "The support from the club was unbelievable. The sidelines were full and it was great to have both teams there. It shows what the club is about."

"We've had a lot of support and felt ready for the last two years, so it's great to go up."

"Jonny Witt and Richard Sykes were set on building the women up and it's a mega club to be part of. It's good fun, we're excited by the challenge of stepping up. There's a lot of work to do in pre-season, but we feel we can play at that level and we've got to get out there and prove that."

Hockey

Great Britain international Sarah Robertson admitted securing promotion to the Investec Women's League Premier Division with Hampstead & Westminster had been stressful.

After a last-minute defeat against Slough in Nottingham in the first of three games in the four-team play-off, Hampstead headed to the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre knowing exactly what they had to do to achieve their objective.

And the East Conference champions dug deep to accomplish their mission, but Robertson said: "It was stressful! We'd lost the first game in the play-offs and knew we had to win both by quite a few goals."

"Loughborough were our main rivals and it wasn't until the 66th minute that we scored. That was tight."

Lucy Hyams produced the vital winner against the Students to leave three teams tied on three points.

Loughborough then faced Slough in their last match the next day, while Hampstead took on Stourport, who had lost their first two matches.

Mel Atkinson and former GB Olympian Emily Maguire netted twice each, with Jasmine Clark, Hayley Turner and Kate McCaw also on target to seal a 7-1 win and top spot ahead of Loughborough.

Robertson added: "Sunday we knew we had to score a lot of goals and it meant so much to the players and the club."

"It was a fantastic weekend for the club. The supporters were brilliant and the women and men were supporting each other. We got promoted and then we ended up running on the pitch at the end of the men's match!"

Claiming a place in the top division of the women's league, where they will come up

against the likes of six-time champions Surbiton, as well as other established clubs such as Holcombe, East Grinstead and Clifton Robinsons, felt especially sweet after going so close a year earlier.

And Robertson paid tribute to joint coaches Kate Richardson-Walsh, an Olympic gold medallist at the 2016 Rio Games, and Irish international Sarah Kelleher.

"It was such an amazing season last year, when it wasn't expected of us," she said.

"All of a sudden we were in a good place and won the league and it was so gutting not getting promoted, knowing we had to go and do it all again."

"The pressure was on us to do it again but the league was harder. We had such a good feel about the group. Kate and Sarah really helped us put expectations on ourselves, which helped massively in the play-offs."

And while the guidance of their experienced coaches was vital, the togetherness of the squad also played a big part.

And 25-year-old Robertson, who has a combined 118 caps for GB and Scotland, feels that will stand them in good stead as they venture into the unknown in 2019/20.

"It's how close we are off the pitch. We like the people we're playing with. The club is big on the social side and it's a bonus that we're a good hockey team," she said.

"We're so excited to play in the Prem and we're more than capable. We've played Prem teams and competed against them and beaten some of them. We knew we could compete, but the hardest bit was getting promoted."

Hampstead & Westminster squad: 1 Rochelle Gianfrancesco, 3 Jessica Orrett, 4 Annabel Driver, 5 Fleur Homer, 6 Brodie Fairchild, 7 Hayley Turner, 9 Jasmine Clark, 10 Katherine Baker, 11 Sarah Robertson, 14 Kate McCaw, 17 Lauren Turner, 18 Meg Byas, 20 Melanie Wilkinson, 23 Emily Maguire, 25 Lucy Hyams, 26 Fran Tew.



Sarah Robertson (right) joins in the celebrations as Hampstead & Westminster score against Stourport. Picture: MARK CLEWS

sport

East Conference - Sept 29: Hampstead 3 Wimbledon 0 (Clark 4, Maguire 29, H Turner 65)
Oct 6: St Albans 0 Hampstead 2 (Robertson 35, Clark 62)
Oct 13: Sevenoaks 1 Hampstead 1 (Askew 7)
Oct 21: Hampstead 4 Horsham 0 (Homer 20, 60, Radford 49, Askew 59)
Oct 27: Cambridge City 3 Hampstead 2 (Wilkinson 37, Hyams 68)
Nov 3: Hampstead 3 Bedford 0 (Clark 25, McCaw 27, Robertson 42)
Nov 10: Hampstead 5 Southgate 1 (L Turner 4, Hyams 37, 69, Clark 47, 65)
Nov 17: Ipswich 0 Hampstead 5 (Clark 6, 52, H Turner 19, 50, Hyams 37)
Nov 24: Harleston Magpies 1 Hampstead 3 (L Turner 25, Driver 69, H Turner 70)
Feb 9: Wimbledon 1 Hampstead 1 (L Turner 54)
Feb 16: Hampstead & Westminster 4 Cambridge City 1 (Clark 9, Askew 12, 18, L Turner 65)
Feb 17: Hampstead 2 Harleston Magpies 0 (L Turner 5, Wilkinson 59)

Feb 23: Hampstead 1 Sevenoaks 0 (Hyams 67)
March 2: Horsham 0 Hampstead 6 (Radford 22, L Turner 26, 60, Wilkinson 52, Clark 64, Maguire 70)
March 9: Bedford 0 Hampstead 3 (L Turner 28, Hyams 39, Wilkinson 42)
March 16: Hampstead 1 St Albans 0 (L Turner 40)
March 23: Southgate 0 Hampstead 5 (Wilkinson 23, 40, L Turner 37, Askew 43, Byas 60)
March 30: Hampstead 4 Ipswich 0 (Turner 7, Hyams 17, Clark 18, Askew 27)

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Hampstead & West	18	15	1	2	55	8	47
Wimbledon	18	14	1	3	71	15	45
Cambridge City	18	10	3	5	48	23	35
Sevenoaks	18	9	5	4	39	22	31
Harleston	18	9	7	2	37	33	29
St Albans	18	7	8	3	25	32	24
Horsham	18	6	9	3	28	40	21
Bedford	18	5	12	1	16	52	16
Southgate	18	2	14	2	18	54	8
Ipswich	18	0	17	1	5	63	1

Promotion Play-offs - April 7: Hampstead 1 Slough 2 (Askew 38); April 13: Loughborough Students 0 Hampstead 1 (Hyams 67); April 14: Hampstead 7 Stourport 1 (Wilkinson 9, 20, Clark 26, Maguire 38, 49, L Turner 60, McCaw 70)

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Hampstead	3	2	1	0	9	3	6
Loughborough	3	2	1	0	8	2	6
Slough	3	2	1	0	7	5	6
Stourport	3	0	3	0	3	17	0

Goalscorers: Lauren Turner 11, Jasmine Clark 11, Lucy Hyams 8, Melanie Wilkinson 8, Amy Askew 7, Hayley Turner 5, Emily Maguire 4, Louise Radford 2, Sarah Robertson 2, Fleur Homer 2, Kate McCaw 1, Meg Byas 1, Annabel Driver 1, Kate McCaw 1.

Tier 1 Championships - Dec 2: Surbiton 0 Hampstead 5; **Feb 24:** Hampstead w/o East Grinstead scr; **March 3:** Sevenoaks 1 Hampstead 2; **March 31:** Ben Rhydding 1 Hampstead 4; **May 5:** Hampstead v Clifton Robinsons.



Emily Defroand in action for GB women against Australia at the start of the year. Picture: GORDON PETTIGREW/GB HOCKEY

Defroand delighted to be on international duty in front of home crowd in busy summer

Havering's Emily Defroand is relishing a busy summer of hockey with Great Britain's women in the FIH Pro League.

The former Coopers Coborn pupil, having helped Surbiton to their sixth successive title at the League Finals weekend earlier this month, returns to Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre for international duty this weekend.

GB face the USA in the first of eight home matches in nine weeks in the new competition, with Defroand having claimed her first international goal in a 3-1 win over the Americans in Philadelphia only last month.

And the 24-year-old cannot wait, saying: "We've got three games coming up against Germany, the USA and China and we're already highlighted them as must-win games."

"We've had good training weeks with Mark and we're in a good place. There will be an extra edge to our game for those matches."

"The USA, as our first home game, we're really excited for and hope to use home advantage going forward."

Having helped England win bronze at the Commonwealth Games last April, Defroand missed out on the World Cup on home soil.

But she forced her way back into the GB reckoning for the start

Hockey

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of the Pro League early in the new year, for the long-haul trip to New Zealand, Australia and China and is really enjoying the new competition.

"Travelling further away a week before games and training as normal for just one game heightens the importance of



Anna Toman and Emily Defroand.

making the most of your prep time. Home or away you have to knuckle down," she added.

"The games are coming thick and fast, being played frequently now and you can watch them on BT and check on the opposition and see their results."

"You can't call it. Teams are taking points off each other which is what the FIH wanted when they were putting it all together. It's good for the spectators."

With the leading nations now meeting more regularly inbetween the big tournaments, hockey can be kept in the public consciousness more frequently, rather than only be noticed by casual observers during an Olympic Games for instance.

And Defroand loves the challenge of being in a position to test herself against GB's main rivals, adding: "They've announced a slight change in format for the next two years, but it's only a good thing for hockey being commercially out there."

"It's so far, so good. It's quick and fast, you can't rest on your laurels. It's very exciting."

"The top four go to the grand final in Holland at the end of the Pro League schedule. In July there is a Tokyo trip and then the Euros in Belgium, which is a big important tournament."

"It's all go-go-go, but we wouldn't have it any other way."

Hockey



Sarah Robertson in action against New Zealand. Picture: GORDON PETTIGREW/GB HOCKEY

Hampstead & Westminster's Sarah Robertson is relishing a busy summer of hockey as Great Britain prepare for a run of home fixtures in the FIH Pro League.

The women began their schedule in the new competition 12,000 miles away from home in January with losses to New Zealand and Australia.

They bounced back to claim a penalty shoot-out win in China, then got the better of the USA last month, before a battling defeat against Argentina in Rosario.

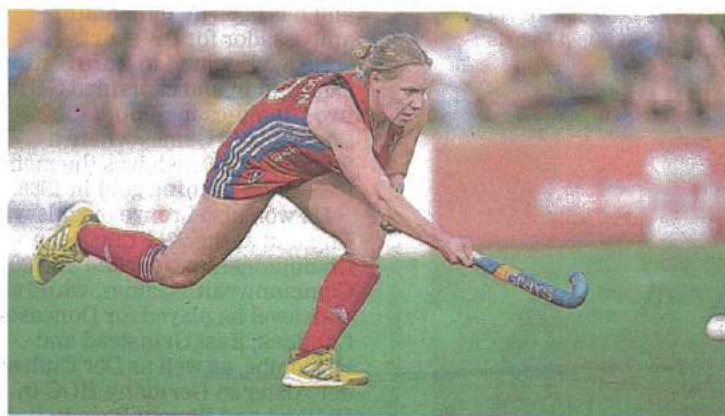
And Robertson, with a combined 118 caps for GB and Scotland to her name already at the age of 25, admits it has taken a little bit of adjusting to for players more used to intense weeks of international tournament play.

"It's changed the way we work. For the big away fixtures, we're arriving a week before and training the whole week, spending it preparing for one game," she said.

"The level of scouting on the opposition is way more. But then you can give your absolute maximum effort in the game and have the week off."

"I like it. It has been a hard start to the year, with all five of the furthest away matches."

"But now we're picking up more frequently and having eight home games will be



Sarah Robertson in GB action. Picture: GORDON PETTIGREW/GB HOCKEY

amazing. It will be exciting to see how it's perceived."

GB take on Germany this week, before making their first appearance in the competition at the Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre against the USA on Saturday, followed by a visit from China.

And Robertson feels the squad are developing well under new head coach Mark Hager, since Danny Kerry's move to the men's programme.

"We're picking up momentum and feel good as a squad," she added.

"We've got Germany away, then the USA and China at home for our first three games and we're targeting nine points."

"It's exciting times. When we play the double-headers with the men it will be brilliant and then we've got the last game against New Zealand at the Stoop."

"Our first game was against them and didn't go too well, but we hope to end it better. But you're still trying to stay fit for tournament hockey. We've got the Europeans later this summer and then hopefully the Olympics next year."

The Tokyo 2020 Games might well be starting to creep into the consciousness of players and coaches, but first things first as GB look to enjoy some home comforts in front of their own fans in their quest for a top-four finish in the Pro League.

SPORT

sport

GB Women

Giselle Ansley (Surbiton):

Defender, 134 caps (85+49), 17 goals (12+5)

Grace Balsdon (Canterbury):

Defender, 46 caps (31+15), 4 goals (3+1)

Amy Costello (Uni of Birmingham, Scotland):

Defender, 58 caps (46+12), 6 goals (5+1)

Emily Defroand (Surbiton):

Midfielder, 40 caps (31+9), 1 goal (0+1)

Sarah Evans (Surbiton):

Midfielder, 93 caps (63+30), 5 goals (4+1)

Sabbie Heesh (Surbiton):

Goalkeeper, 10 caps (2+8)

Tess Howard (Durham Uni):

Midfielder, 11 caps (0+11)

Jo Hunter (Surbiton):

Forward, 42 caps (33+9), 3 goals (3+0)

Sarah Jones (Holcombe, Wales):

Midfielder, 102 caps (91+11), 9 goals (8+1)

Hannah Martin (Surbiton):

Midfielder, 50 caps (35+15), 9 goals (7+2)

Lily Owsley (Uni of Birmingham):

Forward, 129 caps (78+51), 27 goals (15+12)

Hollie Pearne-Webb (Surbiton):

Defender, 156 caps (93+63), 7 goals (5+2)

Suzzy Petty (Wimbledon):

Defender, 33 caps (18+15)

Ellie Rayer (East Grinstead):

Midfielder, 35 caps (25+10), 1 goal (0+1)

Sarah Robertson (Hampstead & Westminster, Scotland):

Midfielder, 118 caps (94+24), 6 goals (6+0)

Amy Tennant (Reading):

Goalkeeper, 17 caps (10+7)

Anna Toman (Wimbledon):

Defender, 52 caps (36+16)

Laura Unsworth (East Grinstead):

Defender, 236 caps (140+96), 9 goals (6+3)

Others - Nicki Cochrane (Beeston, Scotland):

Goalkeeper, 73 caps (65+8)

Alex Danson (Clifton Robinson):

Forward, 306 caps (203+103), 115 goals (62+53)

Holly Hunt (Uni of Birmingham):

Midfielder, 1 cap (0+1)

Alex Malzer (Uni of Nottingham):

Forward

Shona McCallin (Holcombe):

Midfielder, 73 caps (34+39), 2 goals (2+0)

Lizzie Neal (Loughborough Students):

Forward, 4 caps (0+4), 1 goal (0+1)

Erica Sanders (Surbiton):

Forward, 19 caps (10+9), 1 goal (1+0)

Susannah Townsend (Canterbury):

Midfielder, 147 caps (88+59), 11 goals (9+2)

Nicola White (Holcombe):

Forward, 186 caps (106+80), 17 goals (11+6)



Hollie Pearne-Webb.



David Goodfield, Adam Dixon, Barry Middleton, Brendan Creed and Liam Sanford sing the national anthem.

Picture: PA

Great Britain hockey reaches end of an era as 'King' Barry calls time on stunning career

Hockey

As Great Britain's men return to home soil for a bulk of FIH Pro League fixtures this summer they will be without the greatest player in their history.

Barry Middleton announced his retirement from international hockey earlier this month, after the small matter of 432 caps and 119 goals for Great Britain and England.

The most-capped player in the history of GB and England Hockey played in four Olympic Games, four World Cups, eight European Championships and four Commonwealth Games and was named in the world team of the year three times.

Middleton, 35, was also nominated for the FIH world player of the year award in 2018 and has been an outstanding ambassador for the sport.

He led England to Euro Nations Cup gold in and captained GB at two Olympics including the London 2012 Games where a fourth-place finish was the men's best since winning gold in 1988.

He won also bronze medals with England at the 2017 European Championships and 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games, while at club level he played for Doncaster, Cannock; East Grinstead and Holcombe, as well as Der Club an der Alster in Germany, HGC in Holland and Ranchi Rays in India.

And he said: "I've been thinking about this decision since Rio. I feel



Barry Middleton at the 2016 Olympics. Picture: PA

I have given everything I possibly could to get the best out of myself in the last 15 years.

"It has been an honour to represent my country for so many years and a dream job for me. I hope people could see just how much I enjoy playing the game.

"I look forward to sitting back and watching Great Britain and England knowing they are in a good place to challenge the best in the world."

Former men's coach Bobby Crutchley claimed Middleton could have gone on to make history, but was not surprised by his decision.

He said: "There is no doubt in my mind that Barry could have been selected for his fifth Olympic Games and become the most-

capped international hockey player of all time.

"Individual accolades were never a motivation for him. He was the ultimate team man. Throughout his whole career he trained harder than anyone else, made sure new members were integrated and listened to everyone's opinion, no matter how much experience they had.

"Barry retired while on the other side of the world travelling with his wife Becky. I've no doubt he did it so no one could make a fuss of him. His contribution will not be allowed to slip away quietly and his significance on the GB and England teams will last for a long time yet.

"He is 'The King' although he'd probably hate me saying so."

sport

GB Men

George Pinner (Holcombe):

Goalkeeper, 172 caps (125+47)

Harry Gibson (Surbiton):

Goalkeeper, 57 caps (32+25)

Ian Sloan (Wimbledon):

Midfielder, 79 caps (46+33), 5 goals (3+2)

Phil Roper (Wimbledon):

Midfielder, 116 caps (80+36), 27 goals (15+12)

Luke Taylor (Surbiton):

Defender, 29 goals (19+10), 8 goals (3+5)

Ollie Willars (Beeston):

Defender, 118 caps (90+28), 3 goals (2+1)

David Ames (Holcombe):

Midfielder, 66 caps (37+29), 4 goals (3+1)

Henry Weir (Wimbledon):

Defender, 166 caps (109+57), 5 goals (3+2)

Alan Forsyth (Surbiton, Scotland):

Forward, 156 caps (130+26), 92 goals (82+10)

Harry Martin (Hampstead & Westminster):

Midfielder, 201 caps (120+81), 17 goals (12+5)

Christopher Griffiths (East Grinstead):

Forward, 81 caps (54+27), 17 goals (10+7)

Michael Hoare (Wimbledon):

Defender, 147 caps (102+45), 2 goals (2+0)

Sam Ward (Old Georgians):

Forward, 104 caps (52+52), 57 goals (37+20)

Mark Gleghorne (Beeston):

Defender, 158 caps (109+49), 45 goals (34+11)

Adam Dixon (Beeston):

Defender, 243 caps (167+76), 19 goals (12+7)

Brendan Creed (Surbiton):

Defender, 57 caps (41+16)

David Goodfield (Surbiton):

Midfielder, 48 caps (40+8), 10 goals (7+3)

Liam Ansell (East Grinstead):

Forward, 36 caps (28+8), 10 goals (6+4)

David Condon (East Grinstead):

Midfielder, 162 caps (113+49), 26 goals (17+9)

Jack Waller (Wimbledon):

Defender, 19 caps (14+5)

James Gall (Surbiton):

Midfielder, 52 caps (38+14), 2 goals (2+0)

Liam Sanford (Reading):

Defender, 53 caps (43+10)

Rhys Smith (East Grinstead):

Midfielder, 8 caps (5+3)

Will Calnan (Hampstead & Westminster):

Forward, 14 caps (9+5), 2 goals (2+0)

Zach Wallace (Surbiton):

Midfielder, 18 caps (13+5), 2 goals (1+1)

Lee Morton (Reading, Scotland):

Forward, 48 caps (43+5)

Josh Pavis (Nottingham Uni):

Forward

Peter Scott (Reading):

Forward, 3 caps (3+0)



George Pinner.