

## Welcome

This is the twenty seventh Newsletter in the current format. It covers the first part of the 2019-20 season. We have news of the Club's first foray into European League hockey, an international coaching appointment and of other international players. The indoor programme is also underway. The dates for the Olympic Games in Japan have been announced. The detail of the rounds of matches in the FIH World Pro League for 2020 has also been published.

## 2020 Olympic Games Qualification

Both Great Britain's Men's and Women's teams qualified for the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

In a two-match series on consecutive days, the Men defeated Malaysia 4-1 and 5-2. Elsewhere, Spain were 6-5 winners on aggregate to France, the Netherlands beat Pakistan 10-5, India overpowered Russia 11-3, New Zealand were 6-2 winners against Russia and Germany overwhelmed Austria 10-3.

The sensational game was the second between Canada and Ireland in Vancouver. It caused a real ruckus. Ireland were convinced that they had won on aggregate as the final whistle was heard. However, there was a referral to the video umpire as a Canadian attacker fell in the circle, some distance to the left of the goal post. Most assumed it was to determine whether there was a case for a short corner. However, the video umpire controversially awarded a penalty stroke, from which Canada scored to bring the score level. The Irish were demoralised. The decision was almost universally condemned as harsh at best and wrong by the rest. Canada went on to win the shoot-out 5-4, to qualify. The grief of the Irish players was palpable. Several went into print immediately afterwards and a few announced their retirement from international hockey.

In the Women's qualifying matches, Great Britain defeated Chile 5-1 after 3-0 and 2-1 wins. Elsewhere, Australia overcame Russia 9-2 and China narrowly beat Belgium 2-1 in a shoot out after a 2-2 aggregate score. Spain defeated South Korea. India were 6-5 winners against the United States. Germany beat Italy 9-0. The Irish women had the better of Canada but that needed a shoot-out, which they won 4-3, after the two matches were goalless.



### **Men's matches**

25.7.20 GB v South Africa  
27.7.20 GB v Canada  
28.7.20 GB v Germany  
30.7.20 GB v Netherlands  
31.7.20 GB v Belgium

2.8.20 Quarter Finals  
4.8.20 Semi Finals  
6.8.20 Bronze Medal and Final

### **Women's matches**

26.7.20 GB v Germany  
27.7.20 GB v South Africa  
28.7.20 GB v India  
30.7.20 GB v Netherlands  
1.8.20 GB v Ireland

3.8.20 Quarter Finals  
5.8.20 Semi Finals  
7.8.20 Bronze Medal and Final

### **A handy Japanese overview of Hockey?**

Hockey players use hook-shaped sticks to advance a hardball towards their opponents' goal. Matches are played over four 15-minute quarters (for a total of 60 minutes), after which the team with the most goals wins.

Each team is made up of attackers, midfielders and defenders plus a goalkeeper, with rolling substitutions permitted. Other than the goalkeepers, players are not allowed to touch the ball with their hands or feet; instead, they control the ball – which is about the size of a baseball but slightly lighter – using the flat side of their sticks.

A hockey pitch is 91.4m long and 55m wide, with goals at each end. Each goal is surrounded by a D-shaped shooting circle. Goals can only be scored from inside their opponents' shooting circle.

Another feature of the game is the absence of offside. Removed from the rules of hockey in 1996, the abolition of the offside rule served to increase the speed of the game and resulted in more goals being scored.

Hockey matches are controlled by two on-field umpires, with additional support coming from a video umpire. The on-field umpires, one in each half of the pitch, are connected with each other via radio in order to aid the decision-making process. For certain fouls, usually in the shooting circle, teams are awarded a penalty corner, where a player pushes the ball out from the backline to team-mates waiting around the shooting circle. They can then take a shot on goal against only five defenders. For more serious fouls a penalty stroke is awarded, where one player takes a shot from the penalty spot, defended only by the goalkeeper. In the knock-out and classification stages, matches that finish with the scores level will be settled by a shoot-out, a one on one attempt by an attacker to score against a goalkeeper within 8 seconds.

### **FIH Pro League**

The 2020 FIH Pro League will provide GB's last competitive games in the UK before the Tokyo Olympics. The Men and Women each play at the same venue and against the same opponent, save as mentioned below.

|         |                   |                      |                                |
|---------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1.2.20  | Australia         | Sydney               |                                |
| 2.2.20  | Australia         | Sydney               |                                |
| 8.2.20  | New Zealand       | Auckland             |                                |
| 9.2.20  | New Zealand       | Auckland             |                                |
| 28.2.20 | Netherlands       | Utrecht (SV Kampong) |                                |
| 29.2.20 | Netherlands       | Utrecht              |                                |
| 2.5.20  | India (Men) 1400h | Lee Valley           | China (Women) Lee Valley 1630h |
| 3.5.20  | India (Men) 1400  | Lee Valley           | China (Women) Lee Valley 1630  |

|                     |            |                                  |
|---------------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| 16.5.20 Argentina   | The Stoop  | [Men at 1630; Women at 1400]     |
| 17.5.20 Argentina   | The Stoop  | [Men at 1530; Women at 1300]     |
| 24.5.20 Spain (Men) | Lee Valley | United States (Women) Lee Valley |
| 25.5.20 Spain (Men) | Lee Valley | United States (Women) Lee Valley |
| 29.5.20 Belgium     | Antwerp    |                                  |
| 31.5.20 Belgium     | Antwerp    |                                  |
| 13.6.20 Germany     | Lee Valley | [Men at 1400; Women at 1630]     |
| 14.6.20 Germany     | Lee Valley | [Men at 1400; Women at 1630]     |

## European Hockey League

This was Hampstead's first exposure to the intensified competition of the EHL rewarded by a tough draw in both matches, not least in comparison with that which faced fellow English entrants, Surbiton.

### HGC 1 Hampstead 2

**4 October 2019**

Hampstead became the first English side to beat Dutch opposition since Reading eliminated Rotterdam in 2013.

Hampstead were playing in very unfamiliar white shorts, owing to EHL requirements, that did not seem right. The game started evenly with both sides finding it hard to make too many chances. HGC earned an early penalty corner that started as a midfield turnover ball dropped to Floris van der Kroon. He found space to get his shot away but Toby Reynolds-Cotterill in the H&W goal got a foot to it before hitting a defender. The HGC shot went wide, to keep the score 0-0 after 11 minutes.

Matt Guise-Brown then dragged a corner hard and low to put H&W 1-0 ahead in the 12th minute. The second quarter was evenly fought as HGC attempted to get past the H&W defence but Kwan Browne was marshalling things well. Van der Kroon found himself some space in the 26th minute as he floated up the middle of the pitch but again the defence held firm.

Hampstead had a chance to go further ahead when they pressed high into the HGC circle but could not get a shot away and it remained 1-0 at the end of the first quarter.

HGC came out with renewed energy to break down the H&W defence. They did everything apart from putting the ball in the back of the net. Seve van Ass's driving run and rebound skimmed across the face of goal.

H&W went 2-0 up when Richard Smith converted a corner after James Oates had won a short corner. His superb strike doubled the lead in the 25th minute.

HGC needed some inspiration. Early in the third quarter they won a corner. However, the shot from Van Ass was wide. Hampstead were down to 10 men as Gotz Mahidi was given a five minute yellow card, adding to the pressure for the final 10 minutes of the game.

Nick Budgeon's ball into the circle ended with the ball being batted high over the bar. HGC did score in the 56th minute, when Van Ass whipped in a reverse-stick shot.

In the final minutes, when Van Ass found himself in space, an interception from Chris Cargo proved critical. A last-minute corner also went incomplete and Hampstead took the win.

### Mannheimer HC 2 Hampstead 1

**6 October 2019**

A high-quality first game of the day set the tone for the all-important K08 games. With four penalty corners apiece, it was a Gonzalo Peillat penalty corner that was the match-winner for Mannheimer.

Mannheimer scored just before the first quarter break after a scramble in front of goal with Luis Knisel getting the final touch. Hampstead had a number of chances in the second quarter, forcing Mannheimer's keeper, Lukas Stumpf into action to keep it 1-0.

Mannheimer could have doubled their lead in the 39th minute as they earned a corner. However, the shot from Peillat was charged down. The re-award was kept out by Hampstead.

Pressing forward for the equaliser, Hampstead's Will Calnan was fouled to earn them a short corner and Matt Guise-Brown slotted home the equaliser. Hampstead had an opportunity to go ahead just before the end of the quarter but Kwan Browne's corner was kept out by Stumpf.

With 13 minutes left on the clock, a bullet strike from a corner from Peillat put Mannheimer back in the driving seat at 2-1. There were several exchanges in the final ten minutes but Mannheimer held on to the lead and it ended 2-1, by which Mannheimer progressed to the Final8 at Easter 2020.

Even in defeat, by common acclaim, this was a very creditable performance by the Hampstead team.

The KO8 games are as follows (and will be played in Amsterdam)

- 9.4.20 HC Bloemndaal v Surbiton
- SV Kampong v Royal Leopold Club
- 10.4.20 HTC Ulenhorst Mulheim v Rot Weiss Koln
- Mannheimer HC v Club Egara

### Indoor

This season's Jaffa Super 6s Men's Premier Division Indoor Championships are taking place at Repton College, Derbyshire on the first two weekends of January. The first four games have been played. These are the results. The newly promoted teams are Bowdon and Reading.



Kwan Browne from Toby Roche's stop against Surbiton

### **Saturday, 4 January 2020**

Bowdon 4 Reading 4  
Hampstead 4 Surbiton 5  
Wimbledon 6 East Grinstead 3  
Canterbury 2 Holcombe 7  
Sevenoaks 7 Bowdon 2  
Reading 4 Hampstead 11  
Surbiton 9 Wimbledon 3  
East Grinstead 7 Canterbury 4  
Holcombe 4 Sevenoaks 3

### **Sunday, 5 January 2020**

Hampstead 2 Wimbledon 3  
Canterbury 2 Sevenoaks 6  
Reading 3 Surbiton 4  
East Grinstead 5 Holcombe 1  
Bowdon 1 Hampstead 9  
Wimbledon 9 Canterbury 2  
Sevenoaks 5 Reading 1  
Surbiton 5 East Grinstead 7  
Holcombe 11 Bowdon 0.

### **League table (at half way):**

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Holcombe         | 9pts     |
| Sevenoaks        | 9        |
| Surbiton         | 9        |
| East Grinstead   | 9        |
| Wimbledon        | 9        |
| <b>Hampstead</b> | <b>6</b> |
| Reading          | 1        |
| Bowdon           | 1        |
| Canterbury       | 0        |

### [The Hockey Paper](#)

Newly relaunched, *The Hockey Paper*, under the guidance of Rod Gilmour, has been leading concerns about player safety in hockey. This came to the fore particularly with the devastating facial injury suffered by Sam Ward when playing for Great Britain that led to drastic surgery and damage to his eyesight.

Recently John Shaw of Southgate HC, who played at the 1992 and 1996 Olympics (and who has coached full-time in hockey since 1991) has added his voice to calls for immediate changes towards safety in the sport at junior level. He fears that the reverse stick hit could lead to a fatality. He believes the game has never been more dangerous at grass roots level.

“I love the involvement but I’m seriously worried that the game is all over the place,” He warned that there could be dire consequences if the rules are not looked into, including the increasing dangers of the reverse stick hit. “It is a coconut shy and we are just waiting for the next death,” he said.

“When it comes to safety, we have to change fast and make some strong decisions. It’s a necessity. We all know the game is dangerous but it’s a darn sight more dangerous now. Awareness levels are wrong and we need different rules for kids playing the game.”

John cited a faster, harder game for the hazardous play currently being seen at grass roots level, mainly due to the rise of the tomahawk or reverse stick. “Our sport is fundamentally responsible. But we are playing a game now which is potentially lethal and there is a risk by putting players in at a low level [for a stick shot]. A lot of people say the reverse stick is exciting – of course it is. I understand why kids are copying it [from elite level], but they don’t have the skill set on the edge of the stick.”

John has now called for a respected hockey collective with knowledgeable insight to discuss the issue with England Hockey. Its spokesperson said: “We ask all clubs and players to report any injuries. From our most recent data we have not seen a change in the number of injuries from use of the reverse stick at junior level. The FIH have not raised this with us either, but we will continue to review the data provided to us and amend our regulations if deemed necessary.”

In its December issue *The Hockey Paper* produced a four-page special following overwhelming feedback from readers concerning injuries and risk. A majority of responses centred on problems at junior level that led to John Shaw's comments. It also published a selection of readers' emails, along with several stories on how safety is viewed in the game from hockey's authorities.

**Safety in Hockey**

## Readers respond to rising issue towards player safety in hockey

**Chiefs to consider calls for a PC ban**




**Key Points:**

- Readers' feedback highlights concerns about player safety, particularly at the junior level.
- There is a call for a ban on plastic chairs (PC) in hockey venues.
- The article discusses the impact of these concerns on the sport's future.

**Special Review**

## Ward says protection is no fashion contest

**'We need to gather statistics at all levels'**





**Key Points:**

- Ward emphasizes that player protection is not just about fashion but about safety.
- There is a strong call for gathering statistics at all levels of the sport.
- The article reviews current safety measures and their effectiveness.

This coverage is set to continue in a series of articles to be published in 2020, with concerns growing from coaches across the country. The paper will be publishing more advice from leading figures as to how the game can be made safer at junior level, as well as continuing to probe the sporting bodies and to ask whether the game as a whole is safe to play.

**Special Review**

## FIH: Clubs must report head injuries as soon as they happen

**What can be learned from cricket's protection**




**Key Points:**

- FIH clubs are urged to report head injuries immediately.
- The article draws lessons from cricket's protective measures.
- It discusses the importance of proper training and equipment.

**Safety in Hockey**

## Bedford buy face masks with #watchyour1s prize

**'We need to coach a safer technique'**




**Key Points:**

- Bedford has purchased face masks for its players.
- The article discusses the #watchyour1s campaign.
- There is a call for coaching safer techniques to reduce injury risk.

The Hockey Paper encourages you to subscribe to its print or digital editions for the "bigger picture" in 2020. There are discounts with its partners and savings can be made on its digital product for global readers.

## Governance

The proposals for the restructuring of English hockey that were covered in the last edition, were agreed in November 2018. They were issued for consideration and debate that ended on 27 October 2019. A final decision is to be made at the AGM of EH on 17 March 2020. It is expected to be implemented in April 2020, with the new structure intended to be in place for the 2021-22 season.

The proposals have not met with universal acclaim. Some areas are little affected. However, the South League is perhaps the most affected and is unhappy with what has been suggested. It has set out its objections that are repeated below.

"This submission is written after seeing papers submitted by Southern Counties Hockey Association and the South Women's Hockey League. The League agrees with the bulk of their comments and will endeavour not to repeat them, concentrating on the men's league issues only.

It is also written after consultation with its clubs following a full circular from the League to every one of its teams, including the full EH proposals.

The League is the largest in England and indeed the first. It was founded contrary to the wishes and instructions of the governing body of the day, the Hockey Association. Such attitude was necessarily but reluctantly followed by SCHA at the time. Consequently, the League necessarily had an independent constitution and largely retains it.

48 years on, England Hockey wishes effectively to abolish the League and replace it with three separate leagues. There is some logic to the general proposal, based as it is upon a desire for a symmetric number of eight areas.

However, if this general course is taken, why not four areas instead, a large saving in probably non-existent volunteer administrators and also in expense? As far as hockey in the South is concerned, one of the biggest problems would be the need to create three of everything rather than one, i.e. three South Managements, three South Councils, three league administrations etc.

Theoretically a part of this could be reduced by merging men's and women's leagues committees but in our view in practice such committees would soon split into separate administrations. The concomitant consequence of this is alarming, if not impossible, in the required number of administrators and also expense. This appears contrary to the stated intention of the proposals.

On the matter of numbers, it is highly unlikely that more than a few of the present administrators would carry on. There is admittedly already an age problem with retirement looming for many volunteers but the proposed re-organisation provides no traditional area with existing loyalties to produce the required volunteers. Indeed, for leagues, the organisations above needed to recruit and supervise them will not themselves yet exist to organise their birth.

The consequence of this, if it can indeed be achieved at all, will be a need to recruit a large number of paid personnel - with mainly no essential local knowledge. England Hockey has already stated that there will be no funds forthcoming for this and that any increased funds will have to be provided by member clubs.

At present, a dedicated and experienced collection of unpaid volunteers provides the whole scenario needed to maintain league hockey at an annual cost to teams of only £25, a sum that has not increased for over 20 years. Any form of calculation relating to paid employees results in a considerable increase on this. Allied to this, the League has built up over the years an excellent website to serve the needs of its members - to be replaced presumably by some EH system to administer three new leagues. Experience of EH IT systems does not inspire confidence in the proposed future in this respect.

More widely, there is the old question of "if it ain't broken, why fix it?" There is an inference that existing leagues are no longer fit for purpose. This does not appear applicable as far as the South League is concerned,

As a League, we have constantly developed over the years to adapt to the needs of league hockey and of our clubs. This has extended to providing league hockey when required to all senior men's teams throughout the South and indeed beyond. Tolerance and varied rules provide for the differing

needs of lower teams and geographic adjustment is provided to accommodate the varying location and density of clubs.

For instance, we provide league hockey for the bulk of all teams in the whole of one Western county and in various other areas for clubs from four other counties outside South region boundaries. Put another way, we already provide what England Hockey is stated to be aiming for. Ironically, the one change apparently wanted by England Hockey, other than the substantive total break from one into three, is the creation of a London area. Ironic, because as England Hockey knows, the creation of such an area, a symmetric fourth region for us, is something that we were moving rapidly towards when the publication of these proposals put it on hold.

A further loss that would be occasioned is that of the standard of hockey for many of our teams. We would contend that our Premier Division is the strongest outside the National League. Under these proposals it would be split into three with an obvious considerable drop in standard in its new format. And so on, all the way down. England Hockey contend that this could be balanced by a reduction in travelling. We do not believe this is correct but, as England Hockey has not yet published the detail of its proposed new areas, we find it difficult to argue the matter.

For these and other reasons stated elsewhere, let alone the wider picture, we do not believe the proposals justify breaking up an institution which has served hockey in the South well for nearly 50 years.

In any event we believe that it is impossible to achieve what is outlined in the proposed time scales. It is proposed that the scheme should be approved in March 2020 and the new arrangements set up in time to advise clubs/teams of what they are playing for before the start of the season six months later. This cannot be done with all the numerous new bodies to be created and involved (largely out of season) whilst also dealing with the allotment of teams to new areas and with objections and appeals when clubs find out what is happening - whilst also dealing with the new registration of players and new commonality of league rules. The governing body has already tried formally to do the latter three times in the past twenty years and failed early on each occasion.

The contentions above are in general form because so too are the proposals. England Hockey should publish the detail of the proposed implementation, including placings and costings, before any definitive step is taken.

We do not believe that what is proposed is in the interests of hockey in the South or its members or indeed is even practical but in any event we believe that any decision on possible implementation should be delayed at least a year with England Hockey, in the meantime proceeding to publish full details for consideration later.”

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## [International News](#)

### [Personnel](#)

Belated congratulations are owed to Kwan Browne on his appointment as an assistant coach to the Great Britain squad.



*Photo: David Kissman*

Kwan has joined Russell Garcia in assisting the men's team alongside head coach, Danny Kerry. Kwan has also been involved with the GB Elite Development Programmes since inception, working closely with Jon Bleby and overseeing a successful period for the men's programme that saw them win the 2018 Sultan of Johor Cup.

He was also the assistant coach for England's U21 men as they won an impressive European silver in July 2019. In the absence of Danny Kerry, he supported Russell in delivering GB's impressive 5-1 win away over reigning Olympic champions, Argentina in last season FIH Pro League.

And to the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI centre forward, Rupert Shipperley, who has been added to the Great Britain training squad, to bring the Club's representation to four, ahead of the Pro League and Olympic Games.

Chris Cargo, the Men's 1<sup>st</sup> XI utility midfielder for the past four years, announced his retirement from international hockey just before Christmas.



He ended as the eighth most capped Irish men's player with 195 caps and having won a number of medals. His appearance for Ireland included winning a bronze medal at the 2015 European Championships, securing qualification for the Olympic Games in 2016 and the World Cup. He won gold medals in the Celtic Cup and the Champions Challenge II

Learning the game at Bangor Grammar and Bangor Hockey Club, Chris had been a youth international. His move to Bath for university saw him slip off the radar. His college coach, Bobby Crutchley put forward his case for an Irish trial but he could not accept the invitation due to illness.

However, an injury to David Ames on the eve of the 2008 senior inter provincial tournament in Garryduff was a turning point. He was selected for Ulster. He thought that his opportunity for representative hockey was probably lost.

His move to Reading (with whom he would win an English title and an EHL bronze medal) meant that he was playing confidently. The pressure was off and he scored a couple of goals. The newly installed Irish coach Paul Revington, took note and a few months later, selected Chris for his Irish debut at the now famous 2009 Celtic Cup that resulted in an unexpected victory.

It would take another year to become a central figure in the squad. He missed out on selection for the European B division and World Cup qualifiers. Winning the Challenge II in Lille in 2011 was a big moment. Equally so was beating Spain, who were Olympic silver medallists at the time – to fifth place in the European Championships a few months later.

The failure to progress at the 2012 Olympic qualifiers in Dublin led to a remarkable run, reaching an apex in 2015, when Ireland beat Pakistan for the first time and then Malaysia a few days later in

Antwerp, to gain a place at the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games. Soon after that, Ireland stunned Europe with their first bronze medal.

Chris recalls the Rio experience as an example of what things could have been. “I do think back on all the things we won and the big results – we wanted to get out of the group and didn’t quite do it. We weren’t quite at the level we were the summer before but still played pretty well. The game we regret the most is that against India – we could have at least got a draw but the nerves and everything maybe got the better of us”.

“Against Holland, we had one of our best games statistically but they were super clinical. We played Argentina: a win would have knocked them out. It was 2-2 with eight minutes to go and they went on to win the Olympic Games. Fine margins and we weren’t that far from knocking them out.”

The 2018 World Cup followed a similar theme; a fine performance against Australia did not yield a result to match and the cutting edge deserted them against China and England.

By this stage, amongst other things, an increased work focus saw Chris take a break for the early part of 2019. He had hoped to return earlier in the year but made his comeback for the ill-fated Tokyo 2020 qualifiers in Vancouver, where the team were beaten by Canada after the shoot-out mentioned earlier that was a crushing blow. It was the moment to call time on his unlikely international career.

Chris will continue to play club hockey with H&W. The defeat of HGC in October earned him a unique statistic in EHL history. On the rare occasions that English clubs have beaten Dutch sides in the elite competition, Chris has always been on the pitch – twice with Reading, once now with H&W.



*Photograph: Adrian Boehm*

## **On the Pitch Women’s Section**

### *National League; Investec Premier Division*

Beeston 1 Hampstead 4  
Hampstead 3 University of Birmingham 0  
Hampstead 3 Clifton Robinsons 2  
Bowdon 1 Hampstead 5  
Hampstead 4 East Grinstead 4  
Loughborough Students 0 Hampstead 1

Balsdon Robertson (2) Esser  
Owsley Byas H Turner  
Wilkinson Balsdon Leigh  
Leigh (2) Wilkinson (2) Clark  
Owsley (2) Leigh Byas  
Esser

Clifton Robinsons 5 Hampstead 4  
 Hampstead 2 Bowdon 0  
 Surbiton 3 Hampstead 1  
 Hampstead 7 Holcombe 1  
 Hampstead 3 Loughborough Students 0  
 University of Birmingham 1 Hampstead 3

Balsdon (2) Leigh Askew  
 Leigh (2)  
 Owsley  
 Esser (4) Tew Owsley (2)  
 L Turner Owsley Leigh  
 L Turner Tew Leigh

This has been an impressive start to life in the Premier Division for the Women. The defeat to Clifton Robesonian was down to a penalty stroke awarded in the last minute that was converted. Surbiton have led the way, only dropping two points. Joyce Esser has made an impact on her return. Jo Leigh has been the leading scorer, with Lily Owsley ever reliable. It is curious that with virtually two thirds of the league season over, the team finally meets Buckingham on 15 February.

#### Future fixtures

|                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 15 February 2020 | Buckingham (h)     |
| 22 February 2020 | Holcombe (a)       |
| 29 February 2020 | Surbiton (h)       |
| 7 March 2020     | Buckingham (a)     |
| 8 March 2020     | East Grinstead (a) |
| 14 March 2020    | Beeston (h)        |

#### Table

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Surbiton           | 34pts                    |
| <b>Hampstead</b>   | <b>28</b>                |
| East Grinstead     | 27 (but played two more) |
| Buckingham         | 17                       |
| Clifton Robinsons  | 16                       |
| Loughborough Stds  | 14                       |
| Holcombe           | 13                       |
| Beeston            | 9                        |
| Univ of Birmingham | 8                        |
| Bowdon             | 6                        |

#### *South League*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI is in first place in Division 1, with one loss XI only in 12 games and sits seven points ahead of Witney 1<sup>st</sup> XI in second place (and has a far superior goal difference of 27 against 7). Newly promoted, the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI is in fourth place in Division 3A, with seven wins a draw and four losses (and with two points deducted by the League).

#### *Middlesex League*

The 4<sup>th</sup> XI leads the Premier Division with 28 points, from PHC Chiswick in second place, one point adrift. The 5<sup>th</sup> XI are seventh in the same division, with five wins, a draw and five defeats.

The 6<sup>th</sup> XI sits in top place in Division 1, following only one loss, with eight wins and draw. PHC Chiswick 3<sup>rd</sup> XI is second, a point behind.

The 7<sup>th</sup> XI is tenth in Division 2, after three wins, a draw and seven defeats

#### **Men's Section**

##### *England Hockey League; Premier Division;*

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Beeston 3 Hampstead 4       | Guise Brown (3) Jones                         |
| Hampstead 3 Old Georgians 4 | Roche Shipperley French                       |
| Holcombe 1 Hampstead 6      | Guise Brown (2) Kaeppler Jones French Edwards |

#### **Euro Hockey League**

|                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>HGC 1 Hampstead 2</i>        | <i>Guise Brown R Smith</i> |
| <i>Mannheimer 2 Hampstead 1</i> | <i>Guise Brown</i>         |

|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hampstead 2 Brooklands 1           | R Smith Guise Brown               |
| Reading 3 Hampstead 4              | Kelly J Browne Shipperley Melkert |
| Hampstead 1 Wimbledon 3            | Guise Brown                       |
| University of Exeter 1 Hampstead 4 | Cargo Guise Brown (2) Martin      |

|                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Surbiton 8 Hampstead 4       | Shipperley Guise Brown (2) Cargo  |
| Hampstead 3 East Grinstead 0 | Guise Brown Cargo Shipperley      |
| Hampstead 4 Holcombe 4       | Shipperley Guise Brown (2) Browne |
| Wimbledon 1 Hampstead 2      | Shipperley Guise Brown            |
| Brooklands 3 Hampstead 4     | French Cargo Furlong Shipperley   |

#### Future Matches

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 14 February 2020 | Surbiton (h)             |
| 22 February 2020 | Reading (h)              |
| 23 February 2020 | Old Georgians (a)        |
| 29 February 2020 | University of Exeter (h) |
| 8 March 2020     | East Grinstead (a)       |
| 15 March 2020    | Beeston (h)              |

At the mid-season break, the 1st XI is third in the Division, behind Surbiton and Wimbledon. (In this EHL table, below, the second column lists wins, the third losses and the fourth draws)

|                                    |           |          |          |          |           |           |          |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Surbiton                           | 12        | 12       | 0        | 0        | 69        | 17        | 52       | 36        |
| Wimbledon                          | 13        | 8        | 2        | 3        | 52        | 21        | 31       | 27        |
| <b>Hampstead &amp; Westminster</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>8</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>41</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>25</b> |
| Old Georgians                      | 12        | 7        | 2        | 3        | 42        | 29        | 13       | 24        |
| Beeston                            | 12        | 4        | 6        | 2        | 27        | 23        | 4        | 14        |
| East Grinstead                     | 13        | 4        | 7        | 2        | 27        | 40        | -13      | 14        |
| Holcombe                           | 12        | 3        | 5        | 4        | 33        | 38        | -5       | 13        |
| Brooklands Manchester University   | 12        | 3        | 9        | 0        | 21        | 46        | -25      | 9         |
| Reading                            | 12        | 1        | 8        | 3        | 19        | 42        | -23      | 6         |
| University of Exeter               | 12        | 1        | 9        | 2        | 14        | 57        | -43      | 5         |

Evidently a 4-3 score has been rather too familiar so far. Where this led to a win usually the team was in the clear ascendancy and then let slip goals in the later stages to add to the tension. This was certainly the case against Beeston, Reading and away at Brooklands. Against newly promoted Old Georgians, a late opportunist goals from James Tindall brought about their win. The final score against Surbiton was a little misleading, as Kwan elected to withdraw the goalkeeper with a few minutes left, in the hope of equalising and three late goals were conceded. Things were not clicking as they promised in several games and, in particular, the hard-fought draw with Holcombe at home and the home win against Brooklands. The win away against Wimbledon, who had come into good form at the end of this run, was especially precious.

#### *Other H&W Men's teams*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI has had an excellent start in the South League Premier 1 against the first teams of leading southern based clubs.

|    |                                      |           |          |          |          |           |           |           |           |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1  | London Wayfarers 1                   | 11        | 8        | 2        | 1        | 53        | 16        | 37        | 26        |
| 2  | Guildford 1                          | 11        | 8        | 1        | 2        | 39        | 21        | 18        | 25        |
| 3  | Indian Gymkhana 1                    | 10        | 8        | 0        | 2        | 43        | 18        | 25        | 24        |
| 4  | <b>Hampstead &amp; Westminster 2</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>7</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>32</b> | <b>17</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>23</b> |
| 5  | Oxford University 1                  | 11        | 5        | 1        | 5        | 31        | 23        | 8         | 16        |
| 6  | Banbury 1                            | 11        | 5        | 1        | 5        | 34        | 30        | 4         | 16        |
| 7  | Wycombe 1                            | 11        | 5        | 1        | 5        | 25        | 39        | -14       | 16        |
| 8  | Trojans 1                            | 11        | 3        | 0        | 8        | 22        | 33        | -11       | 9         |
| 9  | Milton Keynes 1                      | 10        | 3        | 0        | 7        | 19        | 42        | -23       | 9         |
| 10 | Tunbridge Wells 1                    | 10        | 3        | 0        | 7        | 18        | 41        | -23       | 9         |
| 11 | West Hampstead 1                     | 11        | 2        | 1        | 8        | 20        | 35        | -15       | 7         |
| 12 | Winchester 1                         | 11        | 2        | 1        | 8        | 22        | 43        | -21       | 7         |

The 3<sup>rd</sup> XI and Zak Hond XI are in the London League Premier Division and in third and ninth places respectively. Bromley & Beckenham 2<sup>nd</sup> XI leads the Division with 25 points, followed by East Grinstead 2<sup>nd</sup> XI with 22 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> XI with 20 points.

The merged 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> XI's, now the 4<sup>th</sup> XI, are in tenth place (of 11) in London League Division 1, having won 2, drawn 2 and lost six 6.

The Hammers are in London League Division 2 and are tenth (of 10) but on goal difference, after two wins and six losses. Sixth placed Southgate 4<sup>th</sup> XI has only three points more.

The Thirsts and Spaniards XIs are in London League Division 3. The former are sixth and the latter ninth (of 10).

The newly constituted Colts XI is competing in the inaugural London League Division 6 and is presently at the foot of the table, led by Knole Park 1<sup>st</sup> XI.

In the Masters Over 40 League, the Vets XI is fifth, with five wins a draw and three defeats. In the Over 50 League, Division 1, the Supervets XI is fourth place. There are four teams with them equal on 10 points.

The H&W London Grandmasters XI is currently fifth in Division 1 that comprises 12 teams and the H&W Grandmasters are top of Division 2 after three matches. There are six teams in this division.

### Junior Hockey

To give a flavour of the current extent of the Club's involvement at junior level, here is a table of events due to take place on 12 January 2020.

|       |   |      |                |                                  |
|-------|---|------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 09:15 | A | QHMS | U10G Whites    | Richmond U10GEagles              |
| 09:45 | H | MSC° | U10G Blues     | Ealing U10 Girls                 |
| 09:45 | H | MSC  | U10G Blues     | PHC Chiswick U10 Girls festivals |
| 09:45 | H | MSC  | U10G Blues     | Spencer Girls U10                |
| 10:15 | A | KCS2 | U9G Blues      | Wimbledon GU9 Sapphires          |
| 11:15 | H | MSC  | U16G Blues     | Tulse Hill and Dulwich Girls U16 |
| 11:30 | A | SCHS | U14G Blues     | London Wayfarers Girls U14B      |
| 11:45 | A | BoE  | U14G Martin    | Spencer GU14 Fireflies           |
| 12:00 | H | UCS° | U12B Blues     | Surbiton BU12 Stingray           |
| 12:00 | H | UCS  | U12B Blues     | Indian Gymkhana Boys U12         |
| 12:00 | H | UCS  | U12B Blues     | Wallingford Wildcats U12 Boys    |
| 12:15 | A | LVSG | Girls U12      | PHC Chiswick u12 Girls minis     |
| 12:45 | H | MSC  | Boys U12       | London Wayfarers Boys U12B 7s    |
| 12:45 | H | MSC  | Boys U12       | Chertsey Thames Valley Boys U12  |
| 12:45 | H | MSC  | Boys U12       | Ashford (Middlesex) U12 Boys     |
| 13:30 | H | UCS  | U14B Blues     | Saffron Walden Boys U14          |
| 13:45 | A | SHCW | U18 Boys       | Southgate Boys U18               |
| 13:45 | A | BHC  | U12G Blues (7) | Blueharts Girls U12              |
| 14:00 | H | PRW  | U18G Blues     | Surbiton GU18 Jays               |
| 14:30 | A | DM   | U14B Whites    | Barnes Boys U14 Dev              |
| 14:45 | A | JAGS | U9G Whites     | Spencer Girls U9                 |
| 15:30 | H | PRW  | U16B Blues     | Ashford (Middlesex) Boys U16     |

°Home pitches are at the Mallinson Sports Centre Bishopswood Road Highgate and at the UCS Playing Fields in Hocroft Road Cricklewood.

### Website

For those not already re-directed, the Club's website has moved and is now supported by Pitchero. <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/hampsteadwestminsterhockeyclub/>

### Yesteryear

Assistance please if you can name any of the Hampstead HC players in this photograph, recently unearthed?



30 years ago

This was rescued from the small collection of items held by the late Peter Boizot



Next edition

All being well, the next Newsletter will cover the end the 2019-20 season. If you have any news or comment, please direct it to [mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:mail@velwell.eclipse.co.uk).