

Welcome

This is the thirty first Newsletter in the current format. It covers what may be the end of the interrupted 2020-21 season for national hockey. Some regional leagues appear eager to try to complete outstanding matches, while others have declared leagues void. Junior camps have re-started and clubs are arranging fixtures for friendly games to bring hockey back into the fold. One problem for regional leagues has been the need to nominate teams for the new fourth Conference of the National League. Two teams need to be provided by each regional league. Some have determined teams by assessment but others want to see some form of competition to determine which team should go forward. Otherwise, there is comparatively little to report and this will be a rather truncated letter.

Hockey in the time of Covid

After Government confirmation of the move to Step 2 of its Roadmap from 12 April 2021, England Hockey confirmed that some small changes were permitted to specific guidance for hockey from 12 April.

Changing rooms can be used but advice is to avoid them or to minimise their as much as possible. Outdoor seated hospitality will be allowed. Takeaway services can continue. Organised indoor hockey will be permitted for Juniors (Under 18s). Adults cannot play indoor hockey, except as a single household or support bubble group at this stage.

Although not encouraged, spectators are permitted on public land such as parks but not private sports clubs. Legal gathering limits and social distancing rules must still be complied with. The exemption for disabled athletes and safeguarding of juniors still stands in all other settings.

Disabled access to sport is considered an exempt reason for car sharing. Other than this or sharing with members of your household or support bubble, car sharing is still not permitted for sport.

The guide for coming months is set out in the table below. It indicates when England Hockey expects guidance may be updated to support further changes. But the dates are not presently confirmed and further guidance will be issued when necessary.

	Gov Step 1b (from 29 March)	Gov Step 2 (from 12 April)	Gov Step 3 (no earlier than 17 May)	Gov Step 4 (no earlier than 21 June)
Indoor hockey	Flyerz permitted	Junior (U18) permitted	Adult permitted	
Changing rooms	Should not be used with the exception of use by disabled participants, for safeguarding purposes or for serious injury requiring emergency treatment	Changing room use not encouraged, but permitted if necessary	Changing room use to be reviewed	
Spectators	Are not permitted with the exception of safeguarding purposes (one parent, guardian or carer per child (under 18) or disabled participant)	Spectators not encouraged, but permitted on public land, previous exemptions remain	Spectator permissions to be reviewed	
Hospitality	May provide takeaway services only	Permitted outdoors	Permitted indoors	
Travel	Travel for sport is permitted, but sport is not an exempt reason for car sharing. Car sharing by individuals outside of household or support bubble groups is not permitted.		Travel permissions to be reviewed	
Clubhouse	Should remain closed to the public, but toilets permitted to be open from 30 minutes before activity, until 30 minutes after activity		Clubhouse use to be reviewed	

Carlton Tavern

The Tavern opened its gardens to customers on 12 April 2021. Its restoration covered in the previous Newsletter became a national story when covered on the PM programme on Radio 4, amongst others and subsequently on News at Ten on ITV1.

MailOnline

The Mail Online provided further coverage on 11 April 2021

100-year-old London pub that was illegally demolished before judge ordered developer to rebuild it 'brick by brick' will open its doors for the first time in six years tomorrow

It interviewed the new leaseholders Tom Rees and Ben Martin, who “have been working tirelessly to get the pub back to serving pints and roast dinners once more”.

Mr Rees, who has worked in managing pubs for his whole career, said he “moved to the area just when the pub was demolished”. He added that “a lot of campaigns lose steam somewhere but this one has just maintained a massive amount of energy and so slowly over the years as I’ve seen it rumble on and build momentum.

'I still thought even when it was being rebuilt, I thought it was not going to be a pub. I thought it would be the shell of a pub that would certainly be used as an estate agents or something. It's definitely a warning shot to developers that will make them think twice, but honestly, I don't know if this would have happened in any other council with any other makeup of people championing the cause and it's hard to know whether this has set a precedent that'll be followed later or whether it's just a unique one-off.



We've already had a very compressed time scale. I think we thought we thought that it was all always going to be May and so we were kind of planning for May and then when it was announced we could do outside of April 12, we said yeah, let's do it. Since it's been announced, it's gone absolutely crazy. We are fully booked for the next two weeks and our website isn't even up yet.

We're going to have to sacrifice a few things like some furniture inside that we were hoping to have ready for the opening which will hopefully be completed when we can get customers indoors. Everyone's trying to get open for the 12th so we're competing for people's time.”

The article added that new pubs are rarely built anymore, so for the two new leaseholders, this presented a unique opportunity. The cellar has been restored and restocked with local London brewers, including the Camden Town Brewery, Five Points from Hackney, the London Brewing Co,

and Anspach & Hobday. Parts of the new bar, fireplace and bannister have been reclaimed from the rubble of the pub, which gives it 'character and charm'.



Mr Rees added, "It's a really good commercial opportunity. We love this romantic idea of bringing this pub back. There are not that many great local pubs here that you want to sit and have a really great Sunday roast.

We were aware that this pub wasn't serving the whole community before, serving quite a small niche, and so we want to broaden it out. Part of what appealed to us was that we're getting this beautiful heritage building with brand new insides. We're also getting the opportunity to completely refit.



'It's completely brand new electrics and a completely brand new kitchen. The hockey club used to change in the kitchen space, as it was a shower cube and changing room so we've completely revamped that and the basement.

It's a sort of blessing and a curse really with this project. I would never want to do another project like this because what we've got was a shell. In the long term, it's going to be brilliant. In the short term, it's been mad trying to get all the work done. We just haven't had a minute to stop in the last five weeks. It's going to be working tirelessly until Monday. We have been doing 15-to-16-hour days for the last five weeks without a break.

'We wouldn't be anywhere without some favours. We keep throwing steak dinners around so it might be a month before we make any money. But I think people are really engaged with the idea of bringing this pub back and everyone feels a part of it and it's not just a faceless corporation.'

A group on behalf of the Club (that included Morley Pecker) was on hand on the opening day to toast the success of the new venture (with a few welcome beers) and to begin consolidating a renewed relationship for Club participation, if that can be achieved. Richard Sykes reported that the Club's good friends, Joe and Tess McEvoy also dropped by. There is still work to be done to the interior before the Carlton can be back to full working order but arrangements in the garden appear to be working well.

From the rubble

One discovery from the demolition of the Carlton Tavern, recovered by the new tenants, was the HA's award to the late Peter Boizot in 1989.



Paddington Recreation Ground

The new pitch, with all the new ingredients, has been completed but access to the pitch has been delayed by the subsequent relaying of the surrounding athletic track. The adjacent 3G surface has been in use by the Junior section for the start of the Easter camps.





FIH Hockey Pro League

After consultation with partners and the Government, Great Britain Hockey decided to hold behind closed doors all remaining men's and women's FIH Hockey Pro League *Presented By Vitality* home matches that are scheduled to be played in May 2021.

Under the Government's roadmap, all fixtures prior to the move to Step 3 spectators cannot be invited into the ground to watch.

After 17 May 2021 (the earliest date from which spectators could return in a limited way to watch) significant restrictions will still be in place. There is a risk of cancellation at very short notice. Spectator experience will be limited, as the entertainment, retail or bar and catering facilities normally on offer at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre will not be available.

The decision was made "as soon as possible" on 25 March 2021 to minimise any inconvenience and travel and accommodation costs for supporters.

In addition, the following games at Lee Valley have been postponed.

- GB Women v China: 8-9 May 2021
- GB Women v Argentina: 15-16 May 2021
- GB Men v Argentina: 15-16 May 2021

The revised schedule for matches in May is currently as follows and includes the planned rescheduling of the matches against Germany that were postponed from November 2020.

- GB Men v India: 8-9 May 2021,
- GB Men v Germany: 12-13 May 2021
- GB Women v Germany: 12-13 May 2021
- GB Women v USA: 22-23 May 2021
- GB Men v Spain: 22-23 May 2021

All matches are to be played behind closed doors but will be televised live on BT Sport.

Olympic Games

This is a reminder of the dates for Great Britain's fixtures at the Olympic Games in Tokyo. The men will begin their campaign against South Africa on Saturday 24 July, with the women beginning the defence of their crown the following day against Germany.

Both teams will play five group games, with the top four in each pool qualifying for the quarter finals. Great Britain's men will also face Canada, Germany and The Netherlands before finishing the group stages with a clash against current world number one Belgium.

The women will also face South Africa and The Netherlands while also coming up against India and Ireland.

Once the group stages come to an end, the men's and women's quarter-finals will be held on 1 and 2 August, respectively. The semi-finals follow on 3-4 August, while the men's medals will be decided on 5 August, with the women's on the next day.

GB Men's Fixtures

24 July 2021 (10:30 BST) - Great Britain v South Africa
26 July 2021 (03:45 BST) - Great Britain v Canada
27 July 2021 (04:15 BST) - Germany v Great Britain
29 July 2021 (04:15 BST) - Netherlands v Great Britain
30 July 2021 (13:15 BST) - Belgium v Great Britain

GB Women's Fixtures

25 July 2021 (01:30 BST) - Great Britain v Germany
26 July 2021 (10:30 BST) - South Africa v Great Britain
28 July 2021 (02:00 BST) - Great Britain v India
29 July 2021 (11:00 BST) - Great Britain v Netherlands
31 July 2021 (12:45 BST) - Ireland v Great Britain

Ashley Jackson

Ashley Jackson has left the Great Britain senior programme in the lead up to the Tokyo Olympics. After reflection and following recent injuries, he has chosen to move on and focus on his wellbeing and interests beyond international hockey.

Having made his international debut in 2006, Ashley went on to become widely recognised as one of hockey's best ever players. He has made 250 appearances for England and Great Britain and won seven medals, including gold with England at the 2009 EuroHockey Championships.

He was also named the 2009 FIH Young Player of The Year, becoming the first British athlete to receive the accolade and was selected in the FIH World All Stars XI in 2009 and 2010. In addition, Ashley is one of 24 players to have represented Great Britain at three Olympic Games.

Jacob Draper

Just over a year ago, Jacob Draper was halfway through his final year of studying at Swansea University. Since then he has inspired Wales to a sixth-placed finish at the 2019 EuroHockey Championships, helped Great Britain qualify for Tokyo 2020 and played against Australia in his first ever FIH Hockey Pro League matches.

In a whirlwind few months, the former Gwent Hockey Club defender has made the transition from student to full-time hockey player. "It's been tough and a bit of a shock in terms of the workload because you've got pitch sessions every day where you're always trying to get better and better," the 21-year-old said.

It's been amazing to play every day and to play hockey as your full time job. The boys have been amazing, getting me involved with everything and making the transition so seamless.

"Now it's just getting used to the expectation of going to these FIH Hockey Pro League games, putting in good performances and expecting to win so it acts as a building block for the end; making sure that as a squad we're all in the best position possible so that we can turn up into that Olympic Games, put in the best performance possible and hopefully win a medal."



Facing Australia in a senior international match was a baptism of fire literally and metaphorically, playing in temperatures reaching 45°C against a team who had reached the world number one ranking for a period not long before.

However, he more than held his own across both games, particularly in the thrilling 4-4 draw that saw Great Britain's men secure their first point of this year's tournament. "It was pretty surreal to be honest" he recalled.

I was massively nervous – they had a big crowd and a pretty good set up there. The result puts a bit of a gloomer on the first game, how we let a two-goal lead slip, but the whole experience was amazing.

The Aussies were physical as I was told – they didn't disappoint in that regard. But it was really nice to be in that position to compete with the very best in the world."



Even though he is still finding his feet in the world of international hockey, Draper is already harbouring big ambitions for the immediate and distant future. From a personal perspective this includes making it into the final 16 who will be selected to go to Tokyo this summer.

Further on, he is also hoping that the recent growth in the number of Welsh players representing Great Britain will prove to future generations that the opportunities for them are there if they work hard enough. "I'd be lying if I said the long term would be anything other than winning an Olympic medal," he said. "Standing on that podium will be one of the best feelings you can ever have and that's for any athlete – it's the pinnacle to be an Olympian and to win a medal.

Being very proudly Welsh, historically there's not been very many of us in this team and now that there's two of us in the men's team [Draper and Rupert Shipperley], the age group athletes coming up can see that it can happen and know if they keep going, keep digging in then we can definitely get more numbers in this team.

"Hopefully I can inspire more Welsh people to be in the Great Britain team and create an expectation that there will be more and not as a token but as players who are good enough and impact the team."

GB v India and Belgium

In March 2021, Great Britain's men travelled to Antwerp for four uncapped matches, two against Belgium, once again and two against India, ending with three defeats and a draw. The squad was not at full strength, with Ashley Jackson, Henty Weir, Rhys Smith, Harry Martin (just recovering from three months' injury) Chris Griffiths and Liam Ansell unavailable or injured and Phil Roper was on paternity leave.

India 3 Great Britain 2
Belgium 5 Great Britain 1
Belgium 2 Great Britain 0
India 1 Great Britain 1

GB v Ireland



The Women's Great Britain squad featured four Hampstead players in the three matches played in Belfast in March 2021. No caps were awarded. The four were Lily Owsley, Esme Burge, Sarah Robertson and Grace Balsdon.

13 March 2021

In the opening match of the series, Great Britain were led from the front by Lily Owsley's superb display in a 2-1 win. Returning to the side for the first time since late 2019, Giselle Ansley missed a penalty stroke before carving Ireland's defence apart with a 50-metre pass for Great Britain's winner.

Great Britain had to negotiate a tricky wind and a dogged Ireland side on the Queen's University pitch but were better with each quarter to gain a first international success of the year (albeit in a friendly). A bright Irish start saw the Irish negate GB's attacks with solid defence while holding a high press. It resulted in the opener as Anna O'Flanagan was felled by Maddie Hinch. Roisin Upton slotted home.

After the break, Sarah Jones won a stroke for Great Britain before Liz Murphy deflected Ansley's spot shot. A few minutes later, the equaliser came after fine interchanging between Sarah Evans, Owsley and Sarah Robertson. It was left to Owsley to score and put Great Britain in the ascendancy into the fourth quarter. The winner came when Ansley, on the left, cracked a long pass into the Irish circle, Robertson turned on to her reverse and drove low past the advancing Murphy.

14 March 2021

A fine solo effort from Chloe Watkins and a late penalty stroke from Roisin Upton reversed the result from Saturday after Laura Unsworth had given the visitors the lead before half-time.

Great Britain had the better possession in the opening 30 minutes. Shona McCallin looked in fine fettle and the visitors looked a threat with their direct running at key times. After a piercing run from Lily Owsley from half-way, when Ireland broke upfield, Maddie Hinch responded with a glove save. Captain Hollie Pearne-Webb at the back picked out McCallin to Sarah Evans, whose slap into the D was finished on the reverse deflection by Unsworth.

Then came Ireland's rally, equalising in the third quarter when Watkins' strong run into the circle was finished with a switch on to the reverse. The game took on a disjointed feel, Ireland were even down to nine at one point, while McCallin deflected inches wide from close range.

Ireland continued to create chances. Another direct run from Anna O'Flanagan yielded a penalty stroke after she went down between a stretched Leah Wilkinson and Lizzie Neal. Upton's spot shot from the spot with six minutes remaining found the net, although Hinch did connect with a glove at waist height.

Ireland were all smiles at the end; the Olympic champions had been beaten on Irish soil. The real competition will start when the squads have been whittled down to 16. Perhaps when these sides meet on July 31 in their final Olympic pool match?

16 March 2021

The third and final match of the SoftCo Series took place again at Queen's University in Belfast. Lily Owsley got the game off to a fast start, passing to Rayer in the Irish circle but Ireland defended well and created an opportunity shortly. O'Flanagan had the first real opportunity for Ireland, with Hinch's save rebounding just out of Zara Malseed's reach. Both sides brought plenty of energy to the game, seeming to be evenly matched in the opening quarter. Some good skill from Michelle Carey brought the ball right up the pitch create chance for O'Flanagan but Hinch saved.

There was some strong play seen in the backline from Tice and McCay pushing the ball up the pitch, with McFerran quickly clearing it away some of the Great Britain opportunities that got through the Ireland defence. Strong running by Malseed saw Ireland awarded the first penalty corner of the game but Tice's deflection was defended. A challenge on the Irish circle saw Upton coming through with strong interception, running it up to Carroll winning a penalty corner by pulling it on to a foot. Tice took the shot again, this time resulting in another penalty corner being awarded, with the following penalty corner also being kept out.

Owsley's challenge on the Irish circle provided a penalty corner opportunity for Great Britain, with Pearne-Webb's shot finding Mullan's foot and awarding a second penalty corner opportunity. A similar play saw the ball kept out and the first quarter ended 0 – 0.

An intense second quarter saw both teams challenging each other but neither being able to finish. Megan Frazer gave some strong passes down the line towards the forwards. Matthews managed to pass the ball to the top of the circle, allowing Daly to take it on the reverse but was met by a strong save from Hinch again. Great Britain countered this with a fast-paced play, entering the Irish circle but McFerran slid under the ball and cleared it, while Frazer oversailed her, unable to slow her pace in her commitment to defend the goal.

Ireland used the backline a lot opening up the game, but Great Britain continued to try forcing them out left for most of the play. Michelle Carey received the first green card of the game. Both teams continued to challenge each other throughout, with good approach play, however, strong defence denied the final touches for both sides. The half-time buzzer went and the score remained goalless.

Great Britain put the second half underway with an aerial, seeing the first free hit go to Ireland. After pressure on the Irish defence with Great Britain pressing into the circle, Daly managed to enter the Great Britain circle. Watkins was given another opportunity on goal, but the ball just slipped past the post.

Frazer continued showing a strong front, reading the game well taking a bit of pressure off the defence as Great Britain took a couple of chances at getting into the circle. Torrains slipped the ball up to the GB circle but possession was taken away. An interception by Watkins led to an Ireland free hit taken quickly by Daly who won a penalty corner for Ireland. The ball was tipped off a Great Britain player, leading to another penalty corner and then another but the ball was deflected out wide and back down the pitch.

Great Britain responded with control for a spell, with a few attempts at entering the circle but a strong defence saw Tice clearing the ball up towards Mullan in the circle, who dived to it but slid under the ball, missing it slightly as it went wide of the goal.

After an intense penultimate quarter, both sides were searching for a goal. The first penalty corner of the final quarter went to Ireland, saved again by Hinch. Frazer received a green card. With Ireland down to ten players, Ansley continued to put the pressure on. At another penalty corner, the ball was stopped on the line under Hinch's body after a scramble at the mouth of the goal and a penalty stroke was awarded to Ireland. Upton stepped up to secure the lead for Ireland, putting her third shot past Hinch in three games.

Great Britain brought a renewed energy to the final few minutes to gain an equaliser. Robertson received a green card in the last five minutes but despite being a player down, Townsend pressed on the circle, McCay took back possession for Ireland in the home circle before being intercepted by Petters, who stepped up on the reverse, beating McFerran, into the corner for the equaliser.

A yellow card for Watkins led to immense pressure on Ireland in the last few minutes. Great Britain stretched the defence, rolling the ball around the back attempting one or two shots but were denied another goal. Upton kept calm and controlled the ball to prevent entry to the circle. A chance for Costello was shot across the circle and went out wide. Great Britain forced the ball back and into the circle in the last few seconds but Ireland defended well and the match ended 1 – 1.

Malaysia

While the Men's Great Britain squad has travelled to Malaysia to acclimatise, with non-capped matches to be played against Malaysia and Japan in advance of the Olympic Games, the Women's trip has been cancelled. The Women were due to fly out to Kuala Lumpur on 2 April 2021 to prepare in advance of the Tokyo Games. They were set to quarantine separately on arrival for up to seven days. What was described as a last-minute decision was taken not to travel after changes to their match play opportunities were affected.

The Ireland squad were also due to join them but that has been cancelled too. Great Britain and Ireland were to meet for four matches in the National Hockey Stadium in Malaysia and to play against Malaysia and Japan.

EHL Final 4

The EHL competition this year was much reduced. In the Men's competition, Royal Leopold drew 1-1 with Bloemendaal in normal time and it went to a penalty shoot out, which ended 4-4. In sudden death, Bloemendaal scored to take the tie 5-4. In the other game, Atlètic Terrassa came from behind to defeat Uhlenhorst Mülheim 3-2, scoring twice in the last three minutes.

The final was played at the deserted Wagener Stadium in Amstelveen, with the Spanish side making a first appearance in the final. Bloemendaal won 5-1 to take their fourth title.



In the Women's competition, AH & BC Amsterdam faced H C Hertogenbosch and Club de Campo de Madrid met Der Club an der Alster for places in the final. In the final, Den Bosch won the inaugural title with a 5-0 win against Club de Campo.



[EuroHockey Championships](#)

Following their performance in 2019, Wales' men will kick off this year's EuroHockey Championships when they play Germany in the opening game on Friday 4 June.

Rupert Shipperley and Jacob Draper will hope to be in action for the Welsh, who also take on France (6 June) and hosts, The Netherlands, (8 June) as they aim to build on their sixth-placed finish from last time.

After winning gold on home soil at the 2019 EuroHockey Championships II, Scotland's women celebrate their promotion to the top tier by playing the first game of that tournament against Spain on Saturday 5 June.

They will then face World Cup silver medallists, Ireland, in their second game (7 June) before also closing off the pool stages by taking The Netherlands in their own backyard (9 June).

England's men begin their campaign against Russia on Saturday 5 June and will be hoping to emulate the 10-1 victory they recorded over the same opponents in 2015. An eagerly awaited clash against current world champions Belgium follows the next day before they take on Spain in what could be a crucial final game on Tuesday 8 June.

The women will be aiming to come home with a medal after finishing fourth last time out. They have to wait until Sunday 6 June to take to the pitch for the first time against Italy. They follow that up with an enticing clash against Germany (7 June) before going head-to-head with Belgium in their final pool game on 9 June).

The top two teams from each pool will qualify for the semi-finals (10/11 June) while the bottom two teams from each will enter a third group stage to determine who will remain in the top tier for 2023.

The men's medal matches will then be contested on 13 June with the women's following the next day. In addition to the fight for medals, there will also be qualification spots for the upcoming World Cups on offer to add to the intensity of nine days of action.

Three women's teams could book their spot to the 2022 tournament (in The Netherlands and Spain), while five men's nations can secure a place for India for their event in 2023.

- Friday 4 June: Germany v **Wales** (Men) - 16:00
- Saturday 5 June: **England** v Russia (Men) – 11:30
- Saturday 5 June: Spain v **Scotland** (Women) – 16:00
- Sunday 6 June: France v **Wales** (Men) – 08:00
- Sunday 6 June: **England** v Italy (Women) – 10:00
- Sunday 6 June: **England** v Belgium (Men) – 16:45
- Monday 7 June: Ireland v **Scotland** (Women) – 11:30
- Monday 7 June: **England** v Germany (Women) – 16:00
- Tuesday 8 June: Spain v **England** (Men) – 16:00
- Tuesday 8 June: Netherlands v **Wales** (Men) – 19:00
- Wednesday 9 June: Belgium v **England** (Women) – 16:00
- Wednesday 9 June: Netherlands v **Scotland** (Women) – 19:00
- Thursday 10 June: Men's semi-finals - 16:00/19:00)
- Friday 11 June: Women's semi-finals - 17:00/19:30)
- Saturday 12 June: Men's bronze medal match - 09:30)
- Saturday 12 June: Men's final - 12:00)
- Sunday 13 June: Women's bronze medal match - 09:30)
- Sunday 13 June: Women's final - 12:00)

[On the Pitch](#) [National League](#)

After a year of considerable disruption, delay and frustration, in consultation with participating clubs, England Hockey has decided to curtail the Vitality Women's and Men's England Hockey Leagues for this season.

Despite the government announcements allowing a Return to Play the likely continuing restrictions on car sharing, as well as the amount of preparation time and number of matches to be played has been a significant consideration in the decision.

Over the course of the season clubs have been consulted on options for continuing the season when the circumstances have allowed. In the early New Year, the vast majority of clubs were in favour of concluding a shorter season, where teams play each other once. However more recent consultation indicated otherwise. The view was not unanimous but fewer than 40% of teams were in favour of continuing the season. On this basis it was not considered viable to continue.

Accordingly, the 2020-21 season has been declared void. There will be no promotions or relegations within the England Hockey Leagues this year. With the changes in the adult hockey structure nationally, an extra England Hockey League Conference Division will be formed. The Regional Leagues are currently considering and communicating their approaches to finding the candidates for joining the division in line with EH guidance.

Y1 Championship

A short early summer tournament for April and May has recently been announced, named the Y1 Championship, involving the National League teams of Hampstead, Southgate, Reading, Holcombe and Wimbledon. The first game for Hampstead is against Reading at 8.30pm (sic) on 15 April 2021.

Men's Premier Division

To recap results:

24 October 2020	Holcombe 3 Hampstead 2
18 October 2020	Hampstead 5 East Grinstead 1
10 October 2020	Wimbledon 1 Hampstead 4
4 October 2020	Hampstead 1 Old Georgians 1
20 September 2020	Exeter University 3 Hampstead 5

The Division table therefore remains as it was:

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1 Surbiton	5	4	0	1	26	7	19	12
2 Old Georgians	5	3	1	1	26	11	15	10
3 Hampstead & Westminster	5	3	1	1	17	9	8	10
4 Wimbledon	5	3	1	1	16	13	3	10
5 Holcombe	4	3	0	1	10	7	3	9
6 Beeston	5	2	2	1	14	13	1	8
7 East Grinstead	6	2	2	2	16	20	-4	8
8 Oxted	5	2	0	3	11	15	-4	6
9 Brooklands Manchester University	4	0	1	3	5	17	-12	1
10 University of Exeter	4	0	0	4	6	18	-12	0
11 University of Durham	4	0	0	4	6	23	-17	0

Women's Premier Division

24 October 2020	Holcombe 0 Hampstead 1
18 October 2020	Hampstead 1 East Grinstead 2
10 October 2020	Wimbledon 1 Hampstead 3
3 October 2020	Hampstead 2 Loughborough Students 4
19 September 2020	Beeston 0 Hampstead 2

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1 East Grinstead	6	5	1	0	12	5	7	16
2 Wimbledon	6	4	0	2	11	7	4	12
3 Loughborough Students	4	3	1	0	7	2	5	10
4 Hampstead & Westminster	5	3	0	2	9	7	2	9
5 Surbiton	4	2	1	1	6	1	5	7
6 Buckingham	5	2	1	2	7	9	-2	7
7 Clifton Robinsons	4	2	0	2	9	6	3	6
8 Holcombe	5	2	0	3	9	6	3	6
9 Beeston	5	1	1	3	4	6	-2	4
10 University of Birmingham	5	0	1	4	4	11	-7	1
11 Swansea	5	0	0	5	1	19	-18	0

Women's East Conference

31 October 2020	Southgate 1 Hampstead 0
25 October 2020	Hampstead 1 East London 4
17 October 2020	St Albans 2 Hampstead 3
10 October 2020	Horsham 0 Hampstead 8
3 October 2020	Canterbury 2 Hampstead 5
26 September 2020	Barnes 1 Hampstead 0

	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>GA</i>	<i>GD</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1 Barnes	6	5	1	0	12	1	11	16
2 Southgate	6	5	0	1	13	7	6	15
3 Bedford	6	4	1	1	24	7	17	13
4 Bromley & Beckenham	6	4	0	2	14	7	7	12
5 East London	6	3	1	2	14	11	3	10
6 St Albans	6	3	1	2	12	9	3	10
7 Hampstead & Westminster 2	6	3	0	3	17	10	7	9
8 Horsham	6	1	0	5	8	31	-23	3
9 Chelmsford	6	0	0	6	3	16	-13	0
10 Canterbury	6	0	0	6	9	27	-18	0

As mentioned, regional leagues are facing decisions on which clubs should be nominated for the National League's fourth Conference for the start of the new season in September 2021.

In the South West, the Verde Recreo League has nominated Exeter University A and Clifton Robinsons for the Men and Bristol University and Penarth for the Women, having put an end to the playing season. This decision allows the two university sides to re-join the National League following relegation in the past season.

The Midlands League has opted for more matches to determine its nominations, adopting a *weighting system* based upon average points for games played in 2020-21. Games are scheduled to start again in May 2021, involving ten teams. With the Women's clubs, 50% of fixtures are proposed to be played, after a majority of clubs agreed to re-start on 24 April 2021 and conclude on 16 May 2021.



LONDON HOCKEY LEAGUE

Founded 1969

The London League has also declared the season void for both adult and masters competitions. It had been awaiting advice that might allow the completion of half a season. But in the absence of advice on car-sharing, in particular, and in the light of the National League “and pretty much every other league” having closed down, it was felt time “to throw the towel in”.

While it might have been possible for the masters’ divisions to resume at some point, the League concluded that it was simpler for clubs to make their own arrangements this summer, notably because travel needs to be minimised.

For the summer months, the League commented:

Adult hockey: clubs are already arranging intra-club games; can perhaps arrange block fixtures against local clubs, and can also enter summer leagues. We have seen great interest in local summer leagues, including matches on Saturdays.

Masters hockey: the new London Area Masters League has taken the initiative to establish three focal points for the summer: Teddington (SW), Southgate (N) and Bromley/Beckenham (SE), where clubs have agreed to set up masters’ activity, including for women. Again, the intention is to use Saturdays as well as midweek. Plans are being worked up for these three places; nothing of course prevents any other club from doing likewise.

Players moving on

Following what have been described as the “customary post Olympics” arrangements, several players in the National League have announced moves to play in Europe. Hampstead is not immune in this regard.

Lily Owsley was the first to report a proposed move to play in the Netherlands for HDM. Hannah Martin of Surbiton (sister of Hampstead’s Harry Martin) is to join THC Hurley in the Netherlands.

On the men’s side, three are to join HGC in Zach Wallace, Alan Forsyth (both of Surbiton) and Ollie Willars of Beeston (who also announced his retirement from the Great Britain squad). Phil Roper of Wimbledon has agreed to play for Oranje Root for two years. Brendan Creed of Surbiton and Jacob Draper of Hampstead have signed for Royal Beershot of Antwerp.



World Masters Hockey

WMH has announced its programme of matches for the WHM World Cup 2022, following the cancellation of the 2020 competition. They are subject to pandemic restrictions. There will be an indoor tournament to be held in Virginia Beach in the US between 15 and 20 February 2022 for Over 45 and Over 50 Men and Women, followed by outdoor events on three continents:-

12-21 August 2022 in Nottingham
Over 35 (Men & Women)
Over 40 (Men & Women)

1-10 October 2022 in Cape Town
Over 45 to Over 55 Men
Over 45 to Over 65 Women
Over 55 Men *Spirit of Masters*
Over 55 to Over 65 Women *Spirit of Masters*

19-29 October 2022 in Tokyo
Over 60 to Over 80 Men
Over 60 to Over 80 *Spirit of Masters*

The *Spirit of Masters* competition is for any B international team from a member country or a team from a recognised entity or a team of players from more than one country, in the same age category, who are unable to form a complete team from within their own country. Eligibility for the various age groups in 2022 will be assessed according to a player's age on 31 December 2022.

[Wales Over 75](#)

Wales has announced, with enthusiasm, the formation of an Over 75 team to be launched in September 2021, under the captaincy of Glyn Evans and Manager Eric Evans intent on obtaining fixture before September 2021. Richard Chapman's international career might require an extension.



Wales Hockey Masters says it now has almost fifty Over-70s players on its books, with approximately twenty at Over-75 level, ahead of 2022. An Over-75s Four Nations is proposed for the autumn, which could feature Wales, Scotland, England and Holland, with Cardiff as a potential venue.

[3G is not all sports pitch...](#)

Rod Gilmour, the editor at large of *The Hockey Paper* has continued to report on the adverse consequences for hockey clubs of decisions made, in the main, by local authorities to replace worn all-weather surfaces with 3G, predominantly under pressure (and assurances) from the Football Association and its substantial funding capacity.

The Club has suffered these consequences at Paddington Recreation Ground, as reported in previous Newsletters. Other clubs to have met the consequences have been Thetford HC in December 2019, in Fyfe (February 2020), Blackpool in March 2020 (that threatens an end to the Blackpool Festival), Louth HC in April 2020, Horley HC in February 2021 and now Newquay in March 2021.

Two 3G pitches were to be installed at a school in St Andrews, Fyfe. Some 12 teams would be affected with Madras College Former Pupils HC looking to play at the new £50 million school. A petition was launched to support plans for a 2G pitch to be installed and grew to more than 1,000 signatures.

Horley HC, based near Gatwick Airport could lose both school pitches it currently relies on to play hockey – one of which has been their home for the last decade.

Hockey festival supporters fear that Blackpool could lose its last pitch unless funding can be found to stop a second 3G surface being installed for football use. Stanley Park, voted the best park in England in 2019, is reduced to its last hockey all-weather surface after a grant was given to the Football Foundation to replace an adjacent pitch as a 3G last year. The venue hosts the historic Blackpool Easter Hockey Festival, which has been run since 1952. The highly popular festival was to go ahead as planned in 2020, with any pitch uprooting mooted for after the next Easter, if at all. But in line with government advice over the coronavirus outbreak, organisers were sadly forced to cancel the 2020 event.

Members of Newquay HC have produced a video *An ode to the FA, RFU and UK government* to highlight the threat of 3G surfaces.

*'This Girl Can' The Government said
But hockey girls everywhere shake their head
For 'hockey friendly' astroturfs far and wide
Are being replaced for a different kind.*

The video has struck a chord in the hockey community, with Newquay HC believing that the more funding given to the likes of football and rugby will be to the detriment of hockey. The Chair of the Club, Lora Millward, was adamant over the reasons why the video was made. "It is to show the FA and RFU up, for what they are and how their selfish behaviour in choice of astro surface is gradually killing off a smaller less well government-supported sport," she said.

3G is widely regarded as a death knell to grass roots hockey. Horley's expected loss of the two school pitches as a result of refurbishment appears commonplace, where the new surface was adopted without consultation. Netball and Tennis are other sports that cannot be properly played on 3G.

What England Hockey says

England Hockey has a strategy for facilities which aims to ensure that every hockey club in England has access to appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players. This is obviously a huge, long-term ambition given the challenges we face in terms of the rise of 3G surfaces, the relatively few asset owning hockey clubs (10%) and the limited resources EH has available in comparison to football. To deliver against the strategy the facilities team at England Hockey works in partnership with Sport England, the Football Association (and other NGBs) and local authorities. The main mechanic for doing this is local Playing Pitch Strategies. EH contributes to these with two thirds of local authorities with up to date strategies and most of the

remainder expected to be renewed soon. These identify current and future pitch needs for sports and guide local strategy. These have been instrumental in protecting hockey provision and supporting the development or replacement of pitches. In almost all circumstances pitches need to be justified by enough hockey use and the dynamics in and around Blackpool have changed significantly in recent years. The rise of other clubs close by with recently improved facilities such as Fylde and Garstang and with Lytham St Annes in the local vicinity, there is significant competition. With the demise of Blackpool HC it has been very hard for EH to be able to justify the continued provision of Stanley Park, with the Blackpool Festival the only significant remaining hockey activity for one weekend a year.

Hockey Festivals

Not that many years ago Easter festivals were the much-anticipated climax to the hockey season. Many hundreds of teams, certainly well into four figures, would travel to play in one of over fifty festivals that took place around Britain. The most popular venues were at the seaside, from Bournemouth to Bridlington and Lowestoft to Llandudno.

Sadly, festival hockey has declined considerably in the last 20 years as other competitions and Club's overseas tours have taken preference. The Hockey Museum has therefore begun an exercise to record the history of the festivals and is encouraging hockey people to record their memories and reminiscences and to search for festival related material, such as photographs, festival programmes and other material.

The Club is involved in the project, with personnel support. If you have anything that would be of interest, please send details to festivals@hockeymuseum.org

Yesteryear

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110 Years ago

Jack Bennett represented England in a 1-1 draw against Ireland in Dublin on 8 April 1911.

IRELAND v. ENGLAND. A DRAWN GAME.

This International match was played at Sandymount Dublin, on Saturday, and ended in a draw, each side having scored two goals. The Lord Lieutenant was present, accompanied by members of his staff, and Mr. Mills and Mr. Kirk, vice-presidents of the Irish Hockey Union, and Mr. Philip Collins, honorary secretary of the Hockey Association, were invited to watch the game from his Excellency's tent. Before the game began the band of the Royal Hibernian Military School played a selection of music. The ground was beautifully level and in perfect condition, and the weather fine, although rather cold.

Ireland attacked immediately, and the English backs soon found that they had as much as they could do to hold the opposing forwards in check. Good movements on both sides were spoilt by the outside forwards being offside. The game was very fast for the first half-hour, but neither side scored. Then a short passing run by the Irish inside forwards resulted in a goal being scored by W. Devenish, the only score by either side in the first half. During the interval the Lord Lieutenant sent for the two captains and walked out on to the ground with them, discussing the game.

100 Years Ago

On 12 March 1921, Stanley Shoveller played his last international match for England against Ireland in the presence of King George V, to whom he was introduced as the teams were presented before the start at Beckenham.



This is from *The Times* of 14 March 1921:-

The King was present at Beckenham on Saturday to watch the most important of the international hockey matches this season. Ireland took the field with all the confidence and prestige of a side who had recently beaten Scotland by eight goals to nothing, and they certainly succeeded in extending the severely veteran England eleven to the utmost.

Rain fell just before the start but it had little effect upon the turf of the Foxgrove Road ground. Most of the hockey played was considerably below the expected standard for such a match, but, after Ireland had changed ends holding a lead of one goal to none, there was plenty of excitement, and it was, in fact, only the brilliant individual play of S H Saville that enabled England to draw level. The final score was 1-1.

The W G of Hockey

The Irish players looked very young and workmanlike as they marched on to the field in their green shirts and white knickers, but it was only natural that, apart from the enthusiastic welcome given to the King, the loudest cheers should have been reserved for the one and only Shoveller, who was reputed to be playing his final game for England.

S H Shoveller, of course, is the W G Grace of hockey, and without wishing any harm to Ireland, one rather hoped that he would excel himself on this occasion and, by scoring, say, half a dozen goals, bring up his score to 100 in international matches of all kinds. It was not to be, however. Shoveller's easy stick work and electrifying breaks though still worth going miles to see - and most of a " record " crowd of nearly 5,000 people had done so - but the old dash and pace were not quite there and an exceptionally capable. centre half-back, P Murdock, whose tackling was one of the features of the game, very nearly reduced Shoveller to the level of an ordinary international player.

Most of the English team, in fact, carried the burden of years, and soon one was quite prepared to believe the alarming statement that the average age of the Irishmen was 25 to the Englishmen's 35. This, at any rate, was what the actual play suggested. After the King had shaken hands with the members of both teams - his Majesty chatted for some moments with Shoveller - and finally taken his seat in an open tent, that was reminiscent of the Kent cricket weeks, the speed and enterprise of the whole Irish team quickly removed any likelihood of an easy English victory.

The inertia of the English defence, taken as, a whole, was, indeed, quite alarming during the early stages of the game. Apart from J H Bennett, who improved as the game went on and H L Price, the Oxford Blue, whose invaluable vigour at the start almost atoned for some of his mis-hits later on, the

English backs and half-backs looked anything but international during the first half. E B Crockford at centre half-back was entirely out of form - so much so that Shoveller must have felt as though there was no such person behind him. Nor were the forwards-again taken as a whole-particularly convincing. The inter-passing of Shoveller and Saville occasionally was brilliant enough but the Irish half-back line were wonderfully quick on the ball, and, as a result, the English wings did almost poorly.

The failures of A F Leighton, at left inside, of course, must have affected the play of his partner, G Coles, one of the four representatives of the excellent Beckenham team. W F Smith, on the right, had no similar excuse, for his partner, S H Saville, was the finest forward on the field and as neat in passing as he was brilliant and commendably forceful in individual efforts. Some of Saville's stick work was a delight to watch, and he alone of the English team seemed able to worry his way past players like Murdock, Rowlands, and Bridge.

As for the Irish team, they showed such a fine and well-balanced defence that better and more vigorous players than England had at their disposal on Saturday would have found considerable difficulty in beating it very often. And behind two fine backs was a very level-headed goalkeeper in R O'D Gillinan. In the first half he turned away several awkward shots. On one occasion, Leighton made up for an early mishit by shooting hard from a centre that came from the right wing but the ball was anticipated wonderfully well. Again, Leighton tried a shot and Gillinan turned it away and Smith's subsequent shot ricocheted over the cross bar.

Ireland's Goal

This last incident occurred during a burst of activity shown by England after Ireland had scored their goal. The Irish forwards meanwhile had been playing keenly and with an excellent idea of combination. M H Cork, perhaps, was the best of them and it was a fine run by him that led up to the goal. Cork, who is a player of the Mansergh type, was tackled by Bennett, but a moment later he again found an opening and, after Parslow and Carson had assisted in tying up the defence, Cork sent home a shot that gave Haslam no chance of saving.

Ireland nearly scored again before half-time, but after Haslam had only half cleared a shot from Carson, Coles rushed in and got the ball away to the wing. The second half contained a good many more incidents of note. Shoveller, in spite of the ruthless attentions of Murdock, came more into the picture, and the spectators cheered their loudest when, once or twice, the famous player broke through in the old manner.

But it was left to Saville to score the equalising goal, and it was one of his finest individual efforts that produced it. For once, the Irish defence muffed their tackle and Saville followed up some clever stick work by over-running two players and shooting into the net at close range. Meanwhile, the English goal had had several narrow escapes, but Bennett and Haslam were very safe and A D Stocks, whose cuts across field to help a sorely tried right back, perhaps deserve more than a casual reference, did what most of the other defenders failed to do - cleared by means of good hard hits up field. Three of the chief incidents after England's goal had been scored, occurred when Cork and Carslow played fine aggressive hockey in the England circle; when Shoveller hit an offside goal; and, again, when Leighton's shot from a corner hit, struck the Irish goal post, and, so, quite late in the game, deprived England of a winning goal.

ENGLAND.—H. E. Haslam (Uford and East), goal ; C. S. Atkin (Beckenham and East) and J. H. Bennett (Hampstead and South), backs ; H. L. Price (Oxford University and South), E. B. Crockford (Sutton Coldfield and Midlands), and A. D. Stocks (Beckenham and South), half-backs ; W. F. Smith (Beckenham and East), S. H. Saville (Southgate and East), S. H. Shoveller (Hampstead and South) (captain), A. F. Leighton (Walsall and East), and G. R. Coles (Beckenham and South), forwards.

IRELAND.—R. O'D. Gillinan (Clonakilty and Munster) goal ; M. F. Bridge (Dublin University and Leinster) and H. J. Brown (Three Rock Rovers and Leinster) (captain), backs ; S. B. Malcolmson (Queen's University and Ulster), P. Murdock (Monkstown and Leinster), and D. Rowlands (Monkstown and Leinster), half-backs ; R. A. Swales (Royal Hibernians and Leinster), T. Parslow (Royal Hibernians and Leinster), A. E. Carson (Queen's University and Leinster), M. H. Cork (Royal Hibernians and Leinster), and N. Coburn (Bambridge and Ulster), forwards.

St. Dunstan's Hostel

Stanley Shoveller was back in a representational capacity three weeks later in a London team that took on the Rest of England in a match at Bromley promoted by the Hockey Association on behalf of St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers, on 2 April 1921.

Four players of note to Hampstead participated. Jack Bennett and Shoveller were selected for London and Sholto Marcon and W P Phillips for the Rest. Sholto Marcon was still to be admitted as a member of Hampstead (despite being an international) and goalkeeper Phillips was at Oxford University and joined the Club after graduating. He, too, was later to play for England.

The Times of 4 April 1921 reported that London beat the Rest of England by four goals to two. There were about 1,500 spectators present at the match. The turf was hard and the ball ran a little too fast for the forwards, although the conditions suited the backs, each of whom played a sound game. If it had not been for Mann's sound defence in the London goal, the Rest of England might have led at half time. The Beckenham goalkeeper showed fine judgment in his kicking out. The first goal was hit by Marcon, who ran through the defence and scored easily, but before half time Saville had equalised with a hard drive.

Play was fast and strenuous in the second half, when both Mann and Phillips were called upon to clear drives. London went in front with a good goal by Shoveller but from the bully Mansergh¹ raced away and the scores were again even. Later, Mansergh had an open goal but shot wide.

The London forwards then attacked strongly, and Shoveller finished up a clever movement with a brilliant goal. Towards the end, the Rest's forwards tried hard, and first Mansergh, and then McGrath forced Mann to save. Quite the best goal of the match was the result of a pretty piece of passing by four of London's forwards. Smith got away and passed on to Saville, who being tackled, flicked the ball to Shoveller. Shoveller was intercepted by Harbottle and gave the ball to Pemberton, who scored easily.

23 years ago

From the Ham & High of 3 April 1998...

Seconds outclassed in county final

Hampstead 2nds 2 Eastcote 4 - HAMPSTEAD men's seconds were massive underdogs for the final of the Middlesex Cup on Sunday at Hounslow.

The favourites, Eastcote, had recently won the South League and have reached the National League play-offs.

Hampstead's first side have just finished a successful season, fifth, in the National League (First Division), but the seconds have been inconsistent in the Pizza Express London Premier League.

In view of the discrepancies, Hampstead did well to make a

game of it. They were 2-0 down, both after short corner successes from Eastcote, before Mark Crowley pulled one back for Hampstead.

Eastcote scored another two goals after the break before Hampstead replied - Brian Tenner netting from a penalty corner.

Hampstead reached the final after beating Ashford away 3-1 last month with goals from Paul Varnish, Rob Crichtlow and Ben Bott.

Hampstead: Forte, Kershaw, Mandair, Stone, D. Crowley, Tenner, Saggi, Pierce, Varnish, M. Crowley, Bott, Wakefield.

Lose and Hampstead could drop

Winchmore Hill women 3 Hampstead 1 IF Hampstead want to make certain of playing in the South League for a fourth successive year they must not lose to visitors Horsham tomorrow in the last game of the season.

Losing at bottom side Winchmore Hill on Saturday leaves Hampstead just a point ahead of them, and level with Tulse Hill, who have a better goal difference than Hampstead.

Skipper Kandy Mitchell said: "Obviously we are disappointed, we must have had 26 corners and lots of pressure and chances to score. They [Winchmore Hill] had five or six and managed to score three times.

"We need to win tomorrow to make sure we are not relegated," said Mitchell.

Hampstead attacked from the start, domi-

HOCKEY

nating the Winchmore Hill half. However, it was soon clear that luck once again was not with them. Shots went astray, although the Winchmore Hill goalkeeper had an excellent game.

The short corner tally grew, but the score remained 0-0. Winchmore Hill scored their first goal from one of the many breaks against the run of play.

Hampstead then pulled one back from a short corner, Jane Thompson scoring.

Just as it looked like half-time would end Hampstead's misery, Winchmore Hill scored from another short corner, the ball coming off the stick of a Hampstead defender.

So 2-1 and into the second half. The game continued much as the first half had ended with Hampstead dominating as their short corner tally ran into double figures, shots rebounded off the post and the home goalkeeper made several good saves.

In an effort to push forward, Hampstead left a player free at the back, and Winchmore Hill scored another goal.

Hampstead were disappointed that after such domination they lost. Unfortunately time is running out, and it is goals that are needed and so to the final chance, at Horsham.

Hampstead: Hale, Brook, Robinson, Mitchell, Steele, Tegner, Surman, Moores, L. Williams, A. Williams, Thompson, Stubbs, Davies.

¹ T W Mansergh played for Cambridge University and tended to deputise for Shoveller as centre forward for England when the latter was unavailable.

20 years ago

Soma Singh and Rob Thompson in action (with thanks to Max Flego and his lens)....



Next edition

All being well the next Newsletter will cover the start of the 2021-22 season.

If you have any news or comment, please direct it to disvelwell@gmail.com (the new address for these purposes).

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