

EALING

END OF SEASON MAGAZINE
AUGUST 2026



MEET TOBY!

*M1'S PLAYER &
LONDON'S OVERALL
TOP GOAL SCORER 2025/2026*



AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR CHAIRMAN JEFF

WE ASKED JEFF ABOUT HIS HOCKEY CAREER...

When did you start playing hockey?

Around 1970. When I started secondary school, I was forced to play rugby and promptly received a clip across the ear with the instruction that "only girls play hockey!"

Did you try other sports before settling on hockey?

I was a jack-of-all-trades: I swam at the national level (including one international appearance), won a county triathlon title (despite hating the pain), earned a national title in a martial art, and spent my 20s skydiving. I returned to hockey only when my daughter picked up a stick, which led me to volunteer. Eventually, I started playing over-50s hockey, which explains my constant hobbling and regular repairs.

The toughest opponents you've ever faced?

H&W. Despite being in my 50s, I was tasked with marking a former Belgium International. I was named man of the match - I didn't touch the ball once, but he couldn't gain control of it!



Proudest moment in your hockey career?

Coaching, without a doubt. First, seeing the player I properly coached earn an England Cap was a highlight. More recently, coaching the Ealing Women's 1s: they went two-and-a-half seasons undefeated, secured three promotions in three years, and scored over 100 goals in a single season. Their success was a team effort, with four squad members finishing in the top ten goal scorers in Middlesex, including Dr. Amrita, who became the top league scorer.

Biggest influence on your hockey journey?

Soma Singh. He guided me through my Level 2 coaching badge. He captained England and GB 189 times and represented Great Britain at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta. He also coached at my former club and took us to the National League.

If you aren't playing hockey, you are....

Hitting a small, dimpled ball while taking a leisurely stroll for a few hours, chatting about nothing. Or, I'm building the club's associated charity (supporting those socially and economically deprived, including those with SEND), or planning the club's next four years.

Favourite match tea?

Ours. (We host our Match Teas at the Haven Arms in Ealing and the players enjoy Thai curry!)

When you were playing in a team, how did you prepare before a match?

In my heyday, I was focused from the moment I woke up. I prioritised a proper breakfast, mentally rehearsed my performance, and arrived early to get "in the zone." Then, I'd focus on psyching out the opposition. After the match, I was the first to praise the opponent if they beat me, even though I loathed losing



Did you have any pre-match superstitions or routines?

None. It all comes down to preparation; the harder you work, the more "luck" you find.

3 words to describe your playing style?

Stubborn! And then two more synonyms for stubborn.

Do you have any advice for younger players starting out?

Dream the dream and enjoy the journey. Remember that when things get difficult and nothing seems to be working, that is exactly when you must grab onto that dream and push through the doubt. Life is tough, so own the battle.

Do you have a favourite age to coach? Why?

It's not about the age; it's about the group. If they are free-spirited yet willing to listen, trust the process, and train hard, they are a joy to coach.

How did you choose orange and blue for the Ealing colours?

No other club was wearing orange at the time, and it stood out. There were no excuses for not passing early to the "tangerine dream team."

What do you see as the biggest challenges for hockey over the next few years?

Pitches, specifically, the lack of facilities and the lack of funding from the DCMS and Sport England.

Can you give us an update on 'Project Pitch'?

I must thank Brad Harvey for his relentless support during our meetings with the council's Planning and Leisure teams. We are working with the council's Landscape Architect to ensure our planning application aligns with the overall plan for Perivale and Peartree Park. The council has completed the topographical survey, and we hope to secure the land deal before we begin investing in detailed surveys. We are pressing ahead to meet our seasonal deadlines for the ecological survey.

Jeff

ADULT TEAMS



2025/2026 - WHAT AN EXCITING SEASON FOR OUR ADULT TEAMS!

The newly-formed Men's 2 team took our Adult teams to four, resulting in 84 fixtures on Saturdays across the season! All four adult teams enjoyed varied seasons with highs and lows. Women's 1s, having been promoted to Div 2 after the 2024/2025 season, had to travel far and wide for fixtures across London. Women's 2s suffered from injuries and fluctuating availability, having too many players one week and none the next! Men's 2s were formed from social hockey players and under 16 and 18 boys. The dynamic worked well with the fast young legs of the boys supporting the older less-experienced players on the pitch. Men's 1s had a very successful year, earning a promotion to Div 4 for the coming season, not least due to M1 player Toby who scored so many goals that he became the Top Goalscorer across all London Hockey leagues. As we move into the next season, M1 will play in Div 4 NW, M2 continue in Div 6 but with geographical changes to the league areas, they now face new opponents from East London as well as more local. W2 remain in Div 4 NW, while W1 move to Div 3 N and play against a fresh set of opponents.



DURING SUMMER SEASON, THE ADULT TEAMS PLAYED SOCIAL GAMES WITH THE STUDENTS OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE HOCKEY CLUB!

WOMEN'S 1







WOMEN'S 2





MEN'S 1



PROMOTION!

LONDON NW DIV 5 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 2025/26





MEET TOBY

FOR THE FIRST TIME, LONDON HOCKEY TRACKED THE NUMBER OF GOALS SCORED BY INDIVIDUAL PLAYERS ACROSS ALL THE LONDON LEAGUES AND TEAMS IN 2025/2026. UPDATED WEEKLY, THE TOP GOALSCORERS' CHART SOON BECAME A HIGHLIGHT OF THE SEASON.

MEN'S PLAYERS ZAC AND ANTOSH AND WOMEN'S PLAYER MADDY APPEARED ON THE CHART DURING THE SEASON. ONE EALING PLAYER TOPPED THE CHART WEEK AFTER WEEK AND FINISHED THE SEASON AS LONDON'S TOP OVERALL GOALSCORER WITH AN ASTONISHING 46 GOALS OVER THE SEASON: MEN'S 1S PLAYER TOBY!

When did you start playing hockey & why?

Around under 10s - I started because I wanted to do a team sport as I have been playing tennis all my life.

Standout moment of 2025/2026 season?

Winning the league in the last game from 2:0 down.

Toughest opponents you've ever faced?

West Herts last season!

Proudest moment in your hockey career so far?

Winning the London Youth Games.

Biggest influence on your hockey journey?

The feeling of knowing there is more to get better at and bigger goals for my team to achieve.

What advice would you give young players?

Practise skills in your own free time - that is the only way to master your talents in the game. Always try your best in training; that's where you need to be focussed so you can perform under pressure in a game situation.

Do you have any pre-match superstitions or routines?

I like to wear the same pair of socks no matter the condition!

If you aren't playing hockey you are...?

Playing tennis!

Favourite match tea?

Spicy chicken wings at the Haven Arms

Three words to describe your playing style?

Agressive, direct, manipulative



MEN'S 2





2026 has thrown some interesting
weather at us!

From frozen pitches and extreme
rain to....



WEATHER



**a heat wave during the May
half term camps!**

GETTING SOCIAL



2026 WAS FUN ON AND OFF THE PITCH!

From meals out to match teas to pub nights to quiz nights to Club Days out to watch the FIH matches, 2026 brought good vibes and fun times to our hockey community! Looking forward to another season already!



SEASON'S OVERVIEW

A BUSY SEASON WITH MANY STANDOUT MOMENTS!

2025/2026 was a successful competition season with squads across all age groups: MU07, MU08, GU09, GU10, BU10, GU11/12 (Performance and Festival Squads), BU12, three teams of GU13/14, BU14, two teams of GU16, BU16 and GU18, two Women's teams and two Men's teams. Our BU18 play with the Men's teams. Our younger teams play in festivals and competitions on half or smaller pitches in teams of 7 or less, while from U13/14 age, the teams play on the full pitch in a full team of 11 a side.

Let's take a look at some stats from the season:

19 Team Managers supported the junior teams across 92 fixtures and 13 festivals! 22 Young Leaders supported and led training sessions, accompanied junior teams to fixtures and umpired festivals and matches. Four Young Leaders completed their Umpire Level 1 Unassessed course.

The younger juniors coped well against stiff competition in the In2Hockey Competitions and GU12 showed admirable determination and resilience in their Performance League.

Our junior teams progressed well during the season's fixtures with BU16 reaching top of their league and going forward to the finals of the knock-out cup competition at Lee Valley. BU14 suffered from lower squad numbers than previous years, but were bolstered by a formidable force of BU12 players, who we will be watching eagerly this coming season as they move on to play in the BU14 squad on the full pitch in 11 a-side games. The GU13/14 had varying successes across the season with GU14 A Buzzards progressing well in the plate competition and enjoying a fun game of speedy 5's hockey at Marlow during the Summer term. GU16/18 squads competed well in their leagues with all teams enjoying the knockout plate rounds.

We trained and fielded the Ealing girls' and boys' London Youth Games' teams at Lee Valley in July. Both teams enjoyed playing on the Olympic Pitch against opponents from across London. Our boys' team consisted of many younger players, who showed grit and determination against teams much older and taller than them! The girls should be proud of their performance; reaching 5th place overall.

STICKS FOR LITTLE



'Might oaks from little acorns grow'

The Mixed U07/08 teams have had an enjoyable season of Sunday morning training and have dipped their toes into competitive hockey during some fun home and away festivals against other local hockey clubs. Their training is varied with an emphasis on enjoyment and hockey fundamentals: getting the basics right from the outset.





GIRLS' TEAMS







BOYS' TEAMS









SUMMER HOCKEY





CAMPS

2025/2026 saw Ealing Hockey Club host camps for juniors during school holidays. We trialled goal setting and sports' nutrition sessions as an addition at the Easter camps, which proved to be very popular with the attendees. As ever, the weather posed a challenge with February half term camps being extremely cold, while May camps were the hottest days on record! Most importantly, the 'campers' learnt hockey fundamentals, focussed on game play and developed technical skills while meeting new people.





YOUNG LEADERS



EALING HC YOUNG LEADERS RECEIVE JACK PETCHEY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS!

The Jack Petchey Achievement Award scheme recognises outstanding young people. Over the years, several of our young leaders have won an award. In February 2026, Molly, Sophie, Ella, Zeya, Sam, Izzy, Rebecca and Esha went to the Greenford Halls for an exciting award ceremony featuring music, lighting and an awesome compere. Our Young Leaders were handed their medals by Mr Richard Kornicki CBE DL, Representative Deputy Leader for Ealing.

This season the Young Leaders at Ealing HC have delivered fun, progressive hockey sessions to younger players, while developing their own confidence and leadership skills. They are committed to learning new skills such as first aid and working towards umpiring and coaching badges. It has been fantastic to see many young leaders umpiring and managing the junior teams at various festivals and tournaments.

SO SOCIAL HOCKEY



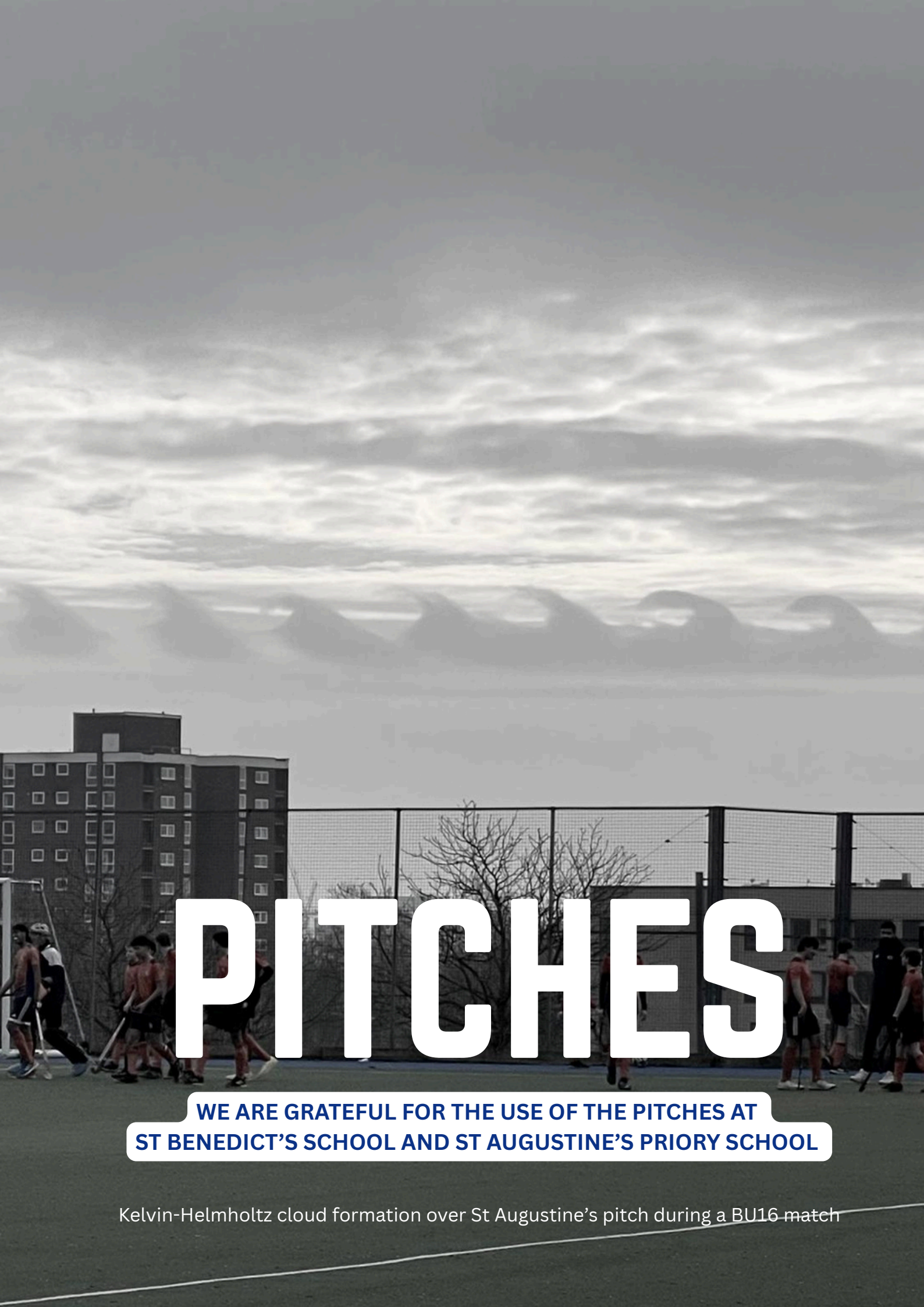
BACK TO HOCKEY AT EALING HOCKEY CLUB!

Continuing throughout the year, Ealing HC has fun, non-competitive social hockey for adults across West London: aimed at returning players, beginners and anyone wanting to enjoy hockey in an informal environment. Sign up, pay and play weekly - no membership fee is required. The players pop down to the Ealing Hockey's spiritual home; The Haven Arms pub for a chat afterwards.

Our Annual Social Hockey Festival is popular with social hockey players, alumni and our adult teams. Teams named after some of Ealing's finest celebrities take part in a festival style hockey afternoon followed by recovery time in a local pub. Social hockey rules including the interesting sounding 'Power Play' and 'Road Runner Rule' make for an exciting event, which we look forward to every year.

**Thursday evenings 8pm - 9pm
at St Augustine's Priory School**

All adults welcome - beginners to rusty players!
ealinghockey.com/socialHockey

A photograph of a football pitch during a match. In the background, a tall brick school building is visible. The sky is filled with a dramatic pattern of Kelvin-Helmholtz clouds, which appear as a series of repeating, wave-like ridges. In the foreground, several players in red and black kits are visible on the pitch. The word "PITCHES" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the middle of the image.

PITCHES

**WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE USE OF THE PITCHES AT
ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL AND ST AUGUSTINE'S PRIORY SCHOOL**

Kelvin-Helmholtz cloud formation over St Augustine's pitch during a BU16 match