

Hampstead & Westminster Hockey Club

Newsletter September 2023

Keeping Vice Presidents and Friends in the know

Welcome

This is the thirty ninth Newsletter in the current format. It covers the start of the 2023-24 season, including more success at national level for the Club's youth teams and representative honours, as well as news of Club representation in the European Championships in Mönchengladbach, where the Club left a good impression, enjoying a wide ranging involvement. There have been changes in coaching personnel in the top teams and the usual bustle of player movements as the new season opens.

Once more, by popular demand, tabloid highlights (and in no particular order) are:

- Goalkeeper Toby Reynolds Cotterell wins his first Great Britain cap
- Under 16 boys Marco Riley and Lucas Smart represented England in the 4 Nations tournament over Easter, when they played Spain, Scotland and The Netherlands at Nottingham
- In the U16 Girls Tier 3 Final, the Girls Owsley team were runners to Richmond
- At the end of last season, U12 Girls Driver competed at Lee Valley in the In2Hockey Plate Finals after winning their regional round and secured the bronze medal
- The Hampstead & Westminster Talent Academy finishes the Academy Festival in the top six in the country. The Boys team is undefeated in three matches.
- Kate Richardson-Walsh departs as coach to the Women's 1st XI to join the Canadian national team under Danny Kerry
- Mike Irving replaces her and will assume the coaching responsibility for the Talent Academy
- Andrew Wilson takes over full responsibility as coach to the Men's 1st XI, in succession to Simon Letchford
- Former junior club (hockey) player Hollie Smart is runner up in the Under 14 Girls Tennis Championship at Wimbledon
- Andrew Harrington and Stuart Carrick appear for Wales and Scotland, respectively, in the European Over 45 Championship at Nottingham
- Will Packer resigns as Manager of the Men's 1st XI (and similarly with Wales) after a huge contribution to both teams. Travel to and from Swansea was hardly sustainable!
- Great Britain players Grace Balsdon, Jacob Draper and Will Calnan depart the Club for East Grinstead, Pinoke (Netherlands) and Southgate, respectively
- Sofia Martin and Australian international Madi Radcliffe (from Perth) join the Women's 1st XI and Miriam Pritchard rejoins from Holcombe HC
- Irish international Tim Cross, Tom Crowson (from East Grinstead, Loughborough and England U21) and Sam Apoola (from Beeston) join the Men's 1st XI
- The Men's team wins the pre-season Y1 Championship during the Bank Holiday weekend at Southgate HC
- Four so-called Super Saturdays are announced for the first part of the season, when the Women's 1st XI plays at PRG at 4.00pm and is immediately followed by the Men's 1st XI at 6.00pm. The first of these will be 23 September 2023. Others are 14 October, 4 November and 18 November 2023

Youth Successes

Three Hampstead U16 Boys, Lucas Smart, Freddy Pettifer and Marco Riley were selected for the England U16 Boys squad competing in the European Hockey 8 Nations competition in Granada from 7 - 12 July 2023.

The boys had a fantastic club season alongside their international achievements, as part of U16 Boys Shipperley, finishing second in England and representing the Men's 2s and 3s. They are also part of the HWHC Talent Academy.



Congratulations are also due to London Wayfarers players Carys and Isy, part of the HWHC Talent Academy, for their selection in the England U16 Girls 8 Nations squad.

Youth Talent Academy Festival Action

The 24 Talent Academies from the country met in competition at Nottingham from 29-31 July 2023. The Club sent its two Academy teams and came away with startling success.



Boys

29 July 2023

Hampstead & Westminster 2
(Orlando Ridgwell 41
Will Marshall 56)

Oxford Hawks 2 (4-2 shoot out)
(Julian Laird 38
(Jacob Saunderson 60+)

30 July 2023

Hampstead & Westminster 1 Old Loughtonians 0
(Will Marshall 58)



31 July 2023

Hampstead & Westminster 3 Guildford 2
(William Murray 20 (Ollie Gibson 32
Elliott Lowe 36 Alex Jourdan 57)
Toby Whittaker 48)

This placed the Hampstead & Westminster TA in the boys' top three, alongside East Grinstead and Surbiton.

Girls

29 July 2023

Hampstead & Westminster 4 Oxford Hawks 0
(Lauren Dickin 13
Sydney Beale 21, 60+
Chloe Dickin 43)



30 July 2023

Hampstead & Westminster 2 Old Loughtonians 1
(Freya Matthews 14 (Zoe Smithers 53)
Tiger Fellner 38)

31 July 2023

Hampstead & Westminster 0 Guildford 2
(Cara Falconer 19
Gemma Footit 41)

These results placed Hampstead & Westminster TA in the top six of the 24 TAs in the country. The top three were Guildford, Wimbledon and Surbiton, the three other clubs in Hampstead's very competitive region for Talent Academies.

Alex Smart's report

HWHC Talent Academy boys kicked off their festival with an *end to end* match against Oxford Hawks. After Hampstead had gained a 2-1 advantage, Oxford Hawks equalised with a successful penalty corner in the closing minutes, taking the game to penalty shuttles. The outfielders and goalkeepers did an exceptional job and HWHC took a 4-2 win. On the second day, the boys met Old Loughtonians. Despite defending for a substantial chunk of the game, the boys sealed their 1-0 win with a speedy counter attack in the final two minutes. The third day saw them play Guildford. With wins for both sides in their previous meetings this season, it was all to play for. HWHC played their game of the season, going 3-1 up in the final quarter. Guildford inched closer with a late goal but HWHC came out on top, 3-2.

Alongside Surbiton and East Grinstead (who were also unbeaten after three matches) HWHC rank in the top three TAs in the country. They were presented their Plate by GB International, Jacob Draper.



European Youth Action

The Club travelled to Germany for the Euro Hockey Championships in Monchengladbach. In an action packed four days, they played 16 matches in U13-U16 age groups against leading German clubs Deutscher Sportclub Düsseldorf, Düsseldorfer SC, Düsseldorfer HC, Gladbacher HTC, Schwarz-Weiß Köln and Rot-Weiss Köln.

50 juniors from the club were flag bearers and ball patrol for six international matches at the championships, including England Men's semi-final win. The juniors met many hockey heroes at the stadium, including the Club's own James Oates (England), Holly Hunt, Lily Owsley & Olivia Hamilton (England), Rupert Shipperley, Toby Reynolds-Cotterill, Steve Kelly, Hywel Jones, Dale Hutchinson (Wales) and recent leavers Grace Balsdon, Jacob Draper and Will Calnan.

Men's 1s Coach, Andrew Wilson, was also present with the Spanish teams, as were former HWHC coaches Kwan Browne and Sarah Kelleher with England and Ireland, respectively.



Several parent coaches and chaperones also joined the HWHC Veterans for a friendly match against Düsseldorf HC on Saturday evening, followed by generous hospitality on the terrace of their club house. The trip was an ideal pre-season adventure for the club's junior teams to play some extremely strong German sides, challenging themselves ahead of Tier 1 leagues this season. New friendships were made and several re-matches were offered for future tours.



Coaching Appointments

Andrew Wilson has been part of the Club's coaching team for two years. He joined as head coach for the Men's 2nd XI and performance director for the Juniors. Last year he became the Men's 1st XI Assistant Coach and the Lead Coach for the Talent Academy. Andrew has a broad range of

experience in this country and abroad. He has previously been the head coach of the Canadian Women's Team and has for some time be part of the coaching team for the National Spanish Team. He will continue as the Head of Scouting and Analysis for the Spanish Federation. He is also a Coach Developer for the FIH. He will bring continuity to the 1st XI but will want to do things in the way he wants that will bring a fresh approach to the team.

Mike Irving has been appointed the new Women's 1st XI Head Coach and Head of Performance for the Club's Talent Academy. He has a wide hockey experience, having been head coach at Marlow HC, KHC Brugge in Belgium and Reading HC. He has also been an assistant coach for the women's performance programme at Loughborough University and for the men's at Old Georgians HC. He has also been involved in England and GB Hockey across a range of juniors squads, as a coach and in analytical roles. He is an FIH Coach Educator and the Director and founder of Sport 101 Limited, a sports consultancy business.

The Club's spokesman said "it is very exciting to have two excellent, young, but very experienced, top class coaches leading our performance teams into next season and beyond. They know each other well and are excited to work together to help develop a coaching centre of excellence here at HWHC. They and we as a club cannot wait for them to get started and look forward to a fantastic season ahead".

Kate Richardson-Walsh announced her resignation as coach to the Women's 1st XI as last season ended. She joined the Club when the Women's 1st XI were in the National League's East Conference and with Sarah Kelleher (now a coach with the Irish national team) instilled a belief in the group that they could compete at the highest club level in the country and in Europe. Promotion to the Premier Division was followed by a runners-up spot in the Division and a place in Europe competition. It was fitting that the team, with Kate and her wife Helen at the helm, secured a historic bronze medal at the Euro club hockey championships in their last run out.

Simon Letchford also announced that he was standing aside from the coaching role with the Men's 1st XI, as reported in the previous Newsletter. Simon's role with the Women's GB Elite Development Programme (EDP) meant that he was continually on the move all over the land, attending centres of excellence (notably at the major sporting universities), watching players and liaising with local coaches to identify up and coming talent. Motorways became his second home. Combining this with club hockey at Premier Division level became increasingly unsustainable. His tenure was well received by the players who enjoyed a greater feeling of attack and his success was marred only by the series of injuries to key players and national calls for players at the start of the second leg of the season. Simon's family are now in the course of setting up a new home in Suffolk, as his wife Lisa has been appointed Head of Hockey at Framlingham College. Lisa is currently the Lead Talent Development Coach for England Hockey and Head Coach of the England U18 Girls' squad. (She was capped 97 times for England and Great Britain, playing at the World Cup in 2006 and the Beijing Olympics in 2008).

Simon recently announced the names of the 32 players selected for the 2023 EDP squad, which includes players from England, Wales and Scotland and six who are currently studying outside the United Kingdom, named as reserves. The group includes several players already capped at senior international level and 14 of the England U21 team who won bronze at the Junior World Cup in South Africa last year, the first medal ever achieved by an England side in the competition. The aim is to secure a place in the team for the next women's Junior World Cup in Chile in December.

European Championships 2023



The Men's Over 45 competition at the Nottingham Hockey Centre, held between 30 June and 9 July 2023, featured the Club's Andrew Harrington for Wales and Stuart Carrick for Scotland.



Ireland 1 England 7
Wales 2 Germany 2
Netherlands 4 France 2
Wales 2 Scotland 2
England 8 France 0
Germany 0 Ireland 3
Scotland 1 Ireland 1
Germany 3 France 1

England 2 Netherlands 0
Germany 2 Netherlands 4
France 4 Scotland 2
Ireland 2 Wales 2
Scotland 0 England 5
Netherlands 8 Wales 1
France 2 Ireland 1
Scotland 3 Germany 4
Wales 0 England 8
Ireland 2 Netherlands 7
Netherlands 4 Scotland 1
England 4 Germany 1
France 2 Wales 2

Fifth/Sixth

Ireland 6 Wales 2

Third/Fourth

Germany 2 France 2 (3-3 shoot-out)

Final

England 1 Netherlands 1 (0-2 shoot-out)

Other competitions

Men's Over 35 standings

@ Nottingham

England, Spain, Germany, Scotland, France, Wales

Third/Fourth

Scotland 4 Germany 5

Final

England 3 Spain 0

(The top scorer with ten goals was England's Joe Finding, once a well-regarded youth player with Hampstead)

Men Over 40 standings

@ Nottingham

England, Germany, France, Wales, Scotland, England Spirit of Masters

Third/Fourth

France 7 Wales 1

Final

England 4 Germany 1

Men's Over 55 standings¹

@ Velencia

Netherlands, Spain, England, Wales, Germany, Italy, Ireland, France, Scotland

Third/Fourth

Wales 0 England 1

Spain 0 Netherlands 3

¹ No Men's Over 50 competition

Men's Over 60 standings

@ Valencia

England, Netherlands, France, Scotland, Germany, Italy Spain, Wales, Belgium, Ireland

Fifth/Sixth

Germany 3 Italy 0

Third/Fourth

France 2 Scotland 0

Final

England 5 Netherlands 0

(England included David Knapp, Richard Organ and Manjeet Degun)

Men Over 70 standings

@ Valencia

England, Netherlands, Spain, Scotland, Germany, Wales, Ireland, France, Belgium

Under **Richard Chapman**, the Welsh team defeated Belgium 4-0, drew 1-1 with Spain, lost 1-4 to England, beat France 2-0 and Ireland 7-0, followed by a 0-2 defeat by Germany. The team were second top scorers after England. Richard commented that the team was "beset by injuries and lost out to Spain on a semi-final place by one goal difference. It didn't help that on the crunch day we played at midday in sweltering heat and Spain played at 4.00pm knowing what they had to do. But that's the benefit of home advantage!"

Men Over 70 Spirit of Masters (SoM) standings

@ Valencia

England LX, Netherlands SoM, Southern Cross, Alliance, Germany SoM

Men Over 75 standings

@ Valencia

England, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Wales

Men Over 75 Spirit of Masters (SoM) standings

@ Valencia

Netherlands SoM, Alliance, Southern Cross, England LX

Women's Over 35 standings

@ Nottingham

Ireland, England, Germany Netherlands Wales

Third/Fourth

Netherlands 1 Germany 2

Final

England 2 Ireland 2 (2-3 shoot-out)

Women's Over 40 standings

@ Nottingham

England, Ireland, Scotland, Spain

Third/Fourth

Spain 1 Scotland 1 (2-3 shoot-out)

Final
England 4 Ireland 0

Women's Over 45 standings
@ Nottingham
England, Spain, Germany, Ireland Scotland, Wales

Third/Fourth
Germany 3 Ireland 1
Final
England 4 Spain 0

Women's Over 50 standings
@ Nottingham
England, Netherlands, Germany, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Spain

Third/Fourth
Germany 1 Scotland 1 (2-1 shoot-out)
Final
England 2 Scotland 0

Women's Over 55 standings
@ Valencia
England, Scotland, Ireland, Netherlands, Germany, Wales, France, Spain, Alliance

Third/Fourth
Ireland 2 Netherlands 0
Final
England 2 Scotland 0

Women's Over 60 standings
@ Valencia
Scotland, England, Netherlands, Ireland, Wales, Germany, Belgium, Spain. LX England, Alliance

Third/Fourth
Netherlands 3 Ireland 1
Final
England 1 Scotland 1 (2-3 shoot-out)

Women's Over 65 standings
@ Valencia
England, Scotland, Wales, Netherlands

Third/Fourth
Netherlands 1 Wales 1 (1-2 shoot-out)
Final
Scotland 0 England 7

EuroHockey Under 18 Girls
8-16 July 2023 @ Krefeld
Standings

Germany, Belgium, Spain, England, Netherlands, France, Scotland, Ireland, Austria

Third/Fourth

England 0 Spain 1

Final

Belgium 0 Germany 0 (2-3 shoot-out)

EuroHockey Under 18 Boys

8-16 July 2023 @ Krefeld

Standings

Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain, England, Scotland, Ireland, Austria, Poland

Fifth/Sixth

Scotland 2 England 2 (1-2 shoot-out)

Third/Fourth

Netherlands 4 Spain 3

Final

Belgium 2 Germany 3

Nations Invitational Tournament, Barcelona

England sent a men's and women's team to take part in the invitational tournament in Spain held between 25-30 July 2023.

Men

25 July 2023	Netherlands 1 England 1	Ward 58 (PC)
	Spain 2 India 1	
26 July 2023	India 1 Netherlands 1	
	Spain 1 England 3	Bandurak 39, 41 (PC) Ward 40 (PC)
28 July 2023	India 1 England 1	Ward 5
	Spain 3 Netherlands 3	

England	3	1	2	0	2	5pts
Spain	3	1	1	1	-1	4
Netherlands	3	0	3	0	0	3
India	3	0	2	1	-1	2

Finals

30 July 2023	Netherlands 1 India 2	
	England 1 Spain 1 (2-3 shoot out)	Wallace 44

Women

25 July 2023	Spain 0 England 1	Howard 59
26 July 2023	India 1 England 1	Holly Hunt 7
27 July 2023	Spain 2 India 2	
28 July 2023	Spain 2 England 0	
29 July 2023	England 0 India 3	
30 July 2023	Spain 0 India 3	

India	4	2	2	0	6	8pts
Spain	4	1	1	2	-2	4
England	4	1	1	2	-4	4

EuroHockey Championships 2023



The 2023 Men's EuroHockey Championship, the 19th biennial international men's championship was held alongside the women's tournament from 19 to 27 August 2023 at the Warsteiner HockeyPark in Monchengladbach. The prospect for the winners was qualification for the 2024 Olympic Games. The other teams, aside from Wales, had a prospective *second chance* in the 2024 Men's FIH Olympic Qualifiers, from which the six best teams will qualify directly for the European Championships in 2025 and the seventh and eighth placed teams will play in the European 2024 qualifiers.

Women

England 3 Ireland 0
Belgium 6 Italy 0
Netherlands 5 Spain 0
Ireland 5 Scotland 0
Belgium 0 Netherlands 2
Germany 5 England 0
Spain 2 Italy 0
England 5 Scotland 0
Netherlands 5 Italy 0
Ireland 0 Germany 5
Italy 1 Scotland 1
Spain 2 Ireland 2
Netherlands 7 England 0
Germany 0 Belgium 1
Spain 1 Scotland 2
Ireland 1 Italy 1

Third/Fourth

England 0 Germany 3

Final

Netherlands 3 Belgium 1

Men

Germany 3 Wales 3	Pritchard (FG, FG) Furlong (PC)
Netherlands 6 France 0	
Spain 5 Austria 0	
England 3 Belgium 5	Bandurak (FG, PS) Ward (PC)
France 2 Wales 0	
England 3 Austria 0	Oates (FG) Albery (PC) Bandurak (FG)
Germany 3 Netherlands 0	

Belgium 5 Spain 1
 Netherlands 8 Wales 1 Kelly
 Spain 3 England 4 Bandurak (PS) Gall (PC) Ward (FG) Sorsby (PC)
 France 1 Germany 4
 Belgium 3 Austria 1
 Austria 4 Wales 1 Furlong (PC)
 Spain 1 France 2

Seventh/Eighth
 Spain 4 Wales 3 Furlong (PC, PC) Hutchinson (FG)

Fifth/Sixth
 France 4 Austria 3

Semi Finals
 England 0 Germany 0 (5-4 shoot out) Ames, Roper, Williamson, Wallace, Albery
 Belgium 2 Netherlands 2

Third/Fourth
 Belgium 2 Germany 0

Final
 Netherlands 2 England 1 Ward (FG)

From a Welsh perspective

With the Club's significant contribution (added by two recent leavers) revealed by a quick glance at the Welsh squad, it is important to record their outlook on the Championship.



In the first match, Wales produced a remarkable comeback to draw with world champions Germany in front of a sold out crowd. Jack Pritchard was the hero of the match. The last time these two teams faced each other, the result was very different, with Germany taking an 8-1 victory.

Wales were 2-0 down going into the third quarter but Ben Francis picked the ball and delivered it strongly for a waiting Jack Pritchard who slotted the ball away. Germany quickly took back the lead to 3-1 but Gareth Furlong answered that quickly with a drag flick from a penalty corner. Momentum was building and Wales were looking so strong on the ball and then former Club player Dan Kyriakides pulled out a shot across goal to Jack Pritchard, who was again in the right place at the right time and slotted it into the goal with two minutes left of the game. Hampstead's Toby Reynolds-Cotterill held his own and kept Germany from taking the lead and saw Wales through to full-time.

Against Spain, in the placement play-offs, Wales started well straight away and had some good spells of forward play within the first quarter. Excellent defensive efforts and goal keeping from Reynolds-Cotterill kept Wales in the mix. With the *end to end* action continuing throughout the first half neither side was able to break the deadlock. Immediately after the start of the second half, Wales took the lead from a well-earned penalty corner converted quickly and clinically by Gareth Furlong. Within minutes however the Spanish had equalised from a powerful crash ball and touch in front of goal.



Photo from World Sport Pics

This shift in momentum opened the floodgates for Spain. Wales conceded two other goals within the third quarter. Wales proved to be persistently resilient and made a thrilling comeback from 3-1 down to draw level in the fourth quarter through two goals in quick succession. The first came from a "silky reserve shot" by Hampstead's Dale Hutchinson with three and a half minutes to go. The second a perfectly placed drag flick by Gareth Furlong in the final two minutes. Unfortunately, it was not meant to be, however and Wales conceded a fourth to Spain in the dying seconds of the game that ended 4-3 in favour of Spain.

Will Packer



The Club's Men's 1st XI has been fortunate in having had the benefit of Will Packer's leadership as the Manager of the team, which he was remarkably able to sustain at the same time as undertaking similar duties for the men's Welsh senior squad – and latterly living in Swansea.

The Spanish defeat of Wales proved to be a bittersweet end to Will's role as manager of the Wales team. It was a farewell match, with Will having confirmed that he would be leaving his role. Will had begun with the squad in 2018 after stepping up from the same role with the NAGs boys.

Kevin Johnson, the Performance Director said, "Will has been an integral part of the support staff in a period of sustained growth and success for our men's team and we owe him a debt of gratitude for his commitment and contribution." Will also decided to bring his role with the Club's 1st XI to an end at the same time.

James Oates

During the EuroHockey Championships, *The Hockey Paper* featured a discussion with the Club's James Oates of the England squad. It followed his pivot and shot from the top of the circle that opened the scoring for England in the 3-0 defeat of Austria – and his immediate reaction, photographed below.



It followed a comment made in January by England's Sam Ward that England had "gone down the 'Bazball' mentality" with their fearless brand of hockey. *The Hockey Paper* commented that although England have yet to win a tournament outright, unlike their men's cricket counterparts, it seems logical to term it as *Revsball*, after coach Paul Revington.

"We don't have a term for it yet but we know we are quick going forwards," said James. "We do feel like when we win the ball and go forward we are unstoppable at times. We perhaps showed [against Austria] that we didn't put the finish on them but the intent was there. We haven't played our best game yet and put a full game together." James added that he hoped England could employ their full 60-minute philosophy (one without surrendering more than one goal leads) in the semi-finals and final.

The Hockey Paper commented that "The Hampstead & Westminster player, who captained England under-18s and led GB to two successive Sultan of Johor Cup titles, says that England Hockey's S&C

coach, Murray Barratt, has continued Bisham Abbey’s penchant for the nation being regarded as the fittest in world hockey”. James had been with Murray during his EDP days with both now in the elite set-up. “No team wants to play us when we are playing like that,” added James, referring to Revington’s philosophy, “and that’s what we relish as a team.”

James started at Canterbury HC as a young junior, where he was coached by his father, Gus. He broke into the men’s 1s when Kwan Browne was also at Polo Farm, England’s assistant being a key mentor in James’s rise.

He says: “Having been coached by Kwan for so long and because of the way he is, he breaks you out of those bad habits early which, when you’re playing club hockey at a young age, you can find yourself in. He’s been fantastic for my journey and challenging me in training and matches as a junior and not getting away with the things you might elsewhere”. It seemed a natural move when Browne moved to H&W that James would do so too. “It’s something quite special going on the same journey he has.”



James with father Gus after the defeat of Germany at Lee Valley in the FIH Pro League in June

FIH Pro League 2022-23

The final standings were as follows:

Women

				<i>Bonus</i>					
				<i>Shoot Out</i>					
Netherlands	16	15	1	0	0	62	15	47	46pts
Argentina	16	10	2	0	4	30	17	13	32
Australia	16	7	6	4	3	28	23	5	31
Belgium	16	8	4	2	4	35	20	15	30

Mixed Championship Finals

17 June 2023

Tier 1 Spencer 1 Olton & West Warwickshire 0

Tier 2 University of Bristol 2 Lichfield 1

Pre-Season

New Joiners and players from the Men' 3s 4s and Zak Hond XIs attended Trials at PRG in early September, the *kick-off* in the diary of the new 2023-24 season. The Men's and Women's trials were to aid selection for third teams. Alongside, the National League Men's 1st XI and 2nd XIs had further pre-season friendlies. The Men's 1st XI hosted Durham University at home in a tightly fought 3-3 draw after some strong PC conversions to bring the scores level.



The Y1 Winners

Photo: Debbie Christopher

Both men's and women's squads competed at the Y1 Championship at Southgate HC during the Bank Holiday weekend. Both were missing key players at the EuroHockey Championships. The men's

team included five current juniors and two University graduates who had returned to the Club since leaving the U18s three years ago. Playing four matches in two days, Hampstead won the Men's trophy for the second time with the following results:

Southgate 0 Hampstead 1

Hampstead 4 Cardiff & Met 0

Reading 0 Hampstead 1

Final

East Grinstead 1 Hampstead 1 (0-1 *shoot out*)

National League

The participating teams for the 2023-24 season are:

Women

Premier

Hampstead, Bowdon Hightown, Beeston, University of Nottingham, Loughborough University, Birmingham University, Clifton Robinsons, Isca & Exeter University, Reading, Surbiton, Wimbledon, East Grinstead

Division One North

Durham University, Ben Rhydding, Wakefield, Sutton Coldfield, Stourport, Leicester City, Olton and West Warwick, Gloucester City, Buckingham, Swansea

Division One South

Harleston, Southgate, Barnes, Slough, Surbiton 2, Wimbledon 2, Sevenoaks, Canterbury, Holcombe, Bath Buccaneers

Conference North

Newcastle University, Durham University 2, Pendle Forest, Fylde, Didsbury Northern, Bowdon 2, Brooklands Poynton, Timperley, Leeds, Harrogate

Midlands Conference

Belper, Beeston 2, Repton, Cannock, Birmingham University 2, Bedford, Oxford University, Cambridge City, Doncaster, St Albans

Conference East

Ipswich, Hampstead 2, Old Loughtonians, East London, London Wayfarers, Spencer, Teddington, Horsham, Guildford, Old Georgians

Conference West

Witney, Cheltenham, Oxford Hawks, Reading 2, Basingstoke, Exe, Trojans, Bristol Firebrands, Clifton Robinsons 2, Fareham

Men

Premier

Hampstead, Old Georgians, Surbiton, Wimbledon, Holcombe, East Grinstead, Reading, Oxted, Beeston, Cardiff & Met, Southgate, University of Nottingham

Division One North

Durham University, Leeds, Brooklands, Deeside Ramblers, Harborne, Birmingham University, Olton and West Warwick, Loughborough Students, Cambridge City, Bowdon

Division One South

Exeter University, Bath Buccaneers, Richmond, Teddington, Old Cranleighans, Havant, Brighton and Hove, Sevenoaks, Canterbury, Old Loughtonians

Conference East

Hampstead 2, Old Georgians 2, Indian Gymkhana, Guildford, Surbiton 2, Wimbledon 2, Bromley & Beckenham, London Wayfarers, Ipswich, Spencer

Conference Midlands

St. Albans, Bedford, Banbury, Birmingham University 2, Stourport, Barford Tigers, Nottingham University 2, Peterborough, Harleston Magpies, Norwich City

Conference West

Oxford Hawks, Cheltenham, Bristol University, Clifton Robinsons, Exeter University 2, Plymouth Marjon, Ashmoor, Fareham, Chichester, Isca

Conference North

Ben Rhydding, Brooklands MU 2, Oxtou, Timperley, Sheffield Hallam, Belper, Beeston 2, Lindum, Wakefield, Doncaster.

National League Fixtures

In the Premier Division, matches for the second part of the season will be determined by league position at the end of the first part, in early December 2023.

Women

Premier

16.9.23	Birmingham University (a)
23.9.23	Nottingham University (h)
30.9.23	Reading (a)
7.10.23	Surbiton (a)
14.10.23	Isca & University of Exeter (h)
21.10.23	Wimbledon (a)
22.10.23	East Grinstead (h)
28.10.23	Loughborough Students (a)
4.11.23	Clifton Robinsons (h)
11.11.23	Beeston (a)
18.11.23	Bowdon Hightown (h)

Conference East

23.9.23	Guildford (a)
30.9.23	Horsham (h)
7.10.23	East London (a)
14.10.23	Ipswich (a)
21.10.23	Teddington (h)
4.11.23	Old Georgians (a)
11.11.23	London Wayfarers (h)
18.11.23	Spencer (a)
25.11.23	Old Loughtonians (h)
2.12.23	Guildford (h)
3.2.24	Horsham (a)
10.2.24	East London (h)
17.2.24	Ipswich (h)
24.2.24	Teddington (a)
2.3.24	Old Georgians (h)
9.3.24	London Wayfarers (a)
16.3.24	Spencer (h)

23.3.24 Old Loughtonians (h)

Men

Premier

16.9.23 Surbiton (a)
23.9.23 Nottingham University (h)
30.9.23 Reading (a)
7.10.23 Oxted (a)
14.10.23 Southgate (h)
21.10.23 Wimbledon (a)
22.10.23 East Grinstead (h)
28.10.23 Old Georgians (a)
4.11.23 Cardiff & Met (h)
11.11.23 Beeston (a)
18.11.23 Holcombe (h)

Conference East

24.9.23 Indian Gymkhana (a)
1.10.23 Wimbledon 2 (h)
8.10.23 Surbiton 2 (a)
15.10.23 Ipswich (a)
22.10.23 Bromley & Beckenham (h)
5.11.23 Old Georgians 2 (a)
12.11.23 London Wayfarers (h)
19.11.23 Spencer (a)
26.11.23 Guildford (h)
2.12.23 Indian Gymkhana (h)

4.2.24 Wimbledon 2 (a)
10.2.24 Surbiton 2 (h)
18.2.24 Ipswich (a)
25.2.24 Bromley & Beckenham (a)
3.3.24 Old Georgians 2 (h)
10.3.24 London Wayfarers (a)
17.3.24 Spencer (a)
24.3.24 Guildford (a)

England Hockey: London Area

Women

3rd XI play in the Premier Division
4th XI in Division 1
5th XI in Division 2 North
6th XI and 7th XI in Division 4 North West

Men

3rd XI play in the Division 1
Zak Hond and 4th XI in Division 2 North
Thirsts XI in Division 4 North West
Spaniards and Colts XIs in Division 5 North West
Masters XI in the O40 Premier Division
Superveterans XI in O50 Premier Division

Grand Masters XI in O60 Premier Division

Euro Hockey League KO16 2023-24

With no Hampstead involvement this season, the two English men's clubs who will be competing in Barcelona will be Old Georgians who will face Mannheimer, a foe familiar to Hampstead, at 1330h and Holcombe will play against Racing Club de France at 1545h, both on 6 October 2023. Later matches that weekend will depend on success.

North London Hockey Teams

With Hampstead playing (allegedly only on a temporary basis) at Richmond Athletic Ground shortly after formation in 1894, who filled the gap for hockey at that time in North London, west of Southgate? There is mention in an edition of *Hockey World* in 1922 of two clubs, sometimes mistakenly assumed to have a Hampstead HC connection. It is interesting to note that one had to use pitches in Osterley.

Crouch End

Crouch End will be running four teams regularly each week and a strong fixture list has been arranged. R Wheaton is again captaining the club and in addition to all their old members there is a considerable number of new ones whom Crouch End hope will strengthen the sides. The ground at Osterley Park has been levelled and the playing surface considerably improved so Crouch End will not be faced with a rough pitch. Crouch End open with practice matches tomorrow 7 October. W H Markham, Edgcombe, Tangier Road, Guildford will be pleased to have the names of any players who want to join the club in the Hounslow district.

Hornsey

Hornsey have overcome their difficulties of a new ground and expect a successful season. Interesting games for four teams have been arranged by Mr Secretary A A Deakin. Much time and trouble have been expended on the ground at Old Southgate, which, it is claimed, is one of the best in North London and easily accessible. New members will be welcomed by the Hon. Secretary, A A Deakin Salcombe Avenue Road, Southgate, N14

Yesteryear

A few snippets from *The Times*...

25 September 1923

The ladies' hockey season will be begun (*sic*) next week, when most of the clubs will engage in practice and trial games, preparing for the first club matches, which are to be played in the week following. The season promises to be very interesting, owing to the largely increased popularity of the game, the return to something like the standard of play before the war, the revival of the game in Wales, the second visit of an American team to this country and the international tournament which is to be played in March.

The American team, which is to visit this country after the New Year, will come with big hopes of victory. Three years ago an American team visited us, more as an experiment than anything else, as the game was yet young in that country. The following year an English team visited the United States. On both occasions the English teams won by long scores. But since then the game has developed rapidly, particularly in the Eastern States and each season a considerable number of experienced players and coaches have gone out from this country to instruct the new clubs and the schools and colleges in America. The American ladies have by now reached a degree of proficiency in the game, and they hope to give a much better account of themselves during their coming visit. The team will arrive here in January, and their first match is against the team which visited America in 1921, to be played in London on January 26.

21 September 1933

The hockey season opens at the end of this month and it is to be hoped there will be plenty of rain before then, so that grounds can be conditioned, which is impossible at the present time. The outlook for the season is good, as nearly all clubs report increased membership. During the close season the international Board met and made one or two minor alterations in the rules, those affected being the rules relating to Sticks and Offside. The addition to the sticks rule is "nor may a ball above the height of a player's shoulder be stopped in the air by any part of the stick; nor may a player, in the act of approaching the ball, raise any part of his stick above his shoulder." In the offside rule, a fresh paragraph reads:- "Subject to clauses (c) and (d) a player in an offside position shall be put onside as soon as the ball has been definitely played by an opponent."

Clause (c) states that a player in an offside position should not be penalised unless he is gaining an advantage or influencing the play of an opponent. Clause (d) states that a ball glancing off the person or stick of an opponent does not put an attacker who is in an offside position onside. It is probable that controversy will arise as to what construction is to be put on "definitely played", especially in the case of a goalkeeper, as it may be contended that a fast drive rebounding from the goalkeeper's pads has not been "definitely played" by him. However, it will be well to see how it works in practice before making any further criticism.

Hampstead showed a welcome return last year to their form of old and this season will be further strengthened by the inclusion of the Welsh player, J W S Hardie and his brother, A G Hardie. J F Alston. another old Cambridge Blue and R M Milsted were two of the mainstays of the side last year and, with the exception of J E Slade, the South outside-right, all last season's side are available. Slade will be missed at outside-right, but will prove of great assistance to Bromley, which club he is joining.

27 September 1963

On the road to Tokyo for next year's Olympic Games, the British hockey side pitch camp today at Lyons for a tournament arranged by France on behalf of the International Hockey Federation. In nine days 12 countries will each play seven matches, and no doubt the results will be taken into consideration when the time comes to extend the invitations for Tokyo. Only Japan, as the host country and Pakistan, India, Spain and Great Britain, as the first four to finish at Rome in 1960, may take their place for granted in the next Olympiad. Never before have the British Hockey Board tackled so thoroughly their Olympic preparations. They have been at work through the summer and besides this dress rehearsal at Lyons, they are to make a 17-day tour of India in the New Year. This will give them a great chance to develop their game against the strongest opposition and in Oriental conditions. Expensive though it will be, the visit to India is a splendid idea if our Olympic side are to arrive in Tokyo with the right ideas how best to play there.

25 September 1973

The showpiece of the English hockey season is more than likely to be the four nations tournament at Lord's on March 23 and 24 next year. This event, the seventh of its kind, is sponsored by Guinness and has been approved by the Federation Internationale de Hockey (FIH). The fixtures are: Ireland v Spain; England v West Germany on the first day and Ireland v West Germany; England v Spain on the second. Most of the interest will revolve around the game between England and the Olympic champions, West Germany, who are also European champions. The result could lead to an interesting reappraisal of values by both sides whose main interest lies in the European Cup starting in Madrid on 2 May 1974.

24 September 1983

Wimbledon club, founded in 1883, celebrate their hundredth year of service to the game with a tournament which should test the quality of eight clubs from various leagues throughout the country. The teams taking part in a first eleven tournament today and tomorrow are: Barnes, Blackheath, Ben Rhydding and Wimbledon in pool A; Canterbury, Northern, Surbiton and Teddington in pool B. It was the initiative of the Wimbledon Club that led to the foundation of the Hockey Association in 1885. The rules of the game formulated by the association were in fact based on those of the Wimbledon Club when they first started playing. The club came to the forefront in 1891 because of the efforts of two able organizers, Harry Blake and Stanley Christopherson. In the season 1913-14 the first XI won 14 out of 25 matches and the club began to flourish by running four other sides. In more recent years their fortunes have dwindled in the London League. They finished 19th out of 26 teams last season and with reinforcements hope to do better this time.

Hounslow and Southgate have some unfinished business to complete at noon today at Hounslow. They are playing for second place on last season's Premier Division London League table. For Southgate a draw will be enough.

Club Stuff

110 years ago (*give or take...*)

From the periodical *Hockey* of 30 October 1913:

Hampstead 9 Blackheath 1

Hampstead took nine goals from Blackheath who were beaten 9-1. Shoveller was an absentee from the Hampstead ranks and Logan deputised in his place at centre. At half time, Hampstead led 3-1. Farmiloe, who played well, shot four and Logan hit three, while R E Eiloart obtained one and Ridley one. W F Smith scored for the Heathens. The Blackheath forwards were never together but the defence worked hard and well, Ackland and Foster doing good service among the halves, while Steedman's display at back was magnificent and time and again he thrust back the dashing Hampstead forwards by his skilful tackling. D D Stiven, too, was remarkably clever with some of his saves. Hampstead always competed cleverly: in fact they played right at the top of their form. No official umpires were present and Mr Foley, who has played for Durham County, officiated and did well.

100 years ago

At a Committee Meeting held immediately after the General Meeting [held on Friday 16 September 1923] the following were elected members of the Club

C A Norton	proposed by E E Trotman	seconded by the Hon Secretary
G A Nicholls	proposed by J H Sly	seconded by the Hon Secretary
Major L L Pargiter	proposed by H C Allen	seconded by A C Eiolart
J C Masterman	proposed by the Hon Secretary	seconded by J H Sly
N H B Thompson	proposed by the Hon Secretary	seconded by E E Trotman
W P Phillips	proposed by the Hon Secretary	seconded by H G Coles
Dr S H Young	proposed by J Falche	seconded by A C Eiolart

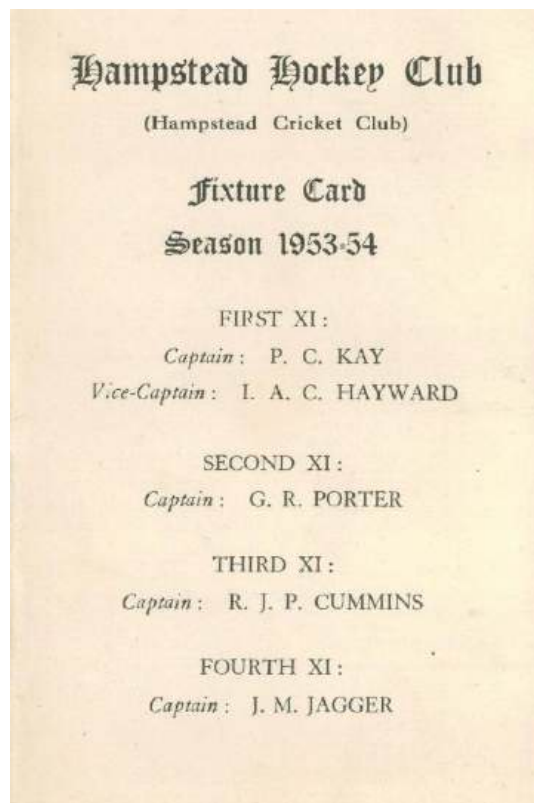
Both the highlighted members went on to be notable players. John Masterman was highly competent across at least six sports, gaining four international caps for England in hockey, representing England in tennis (and playing in the Wimbledon Championship at the All England Club). He was virtually a scratch golfer and equally skilled at squash. He won a blue at Oxford in Athletics, where he competed in the High Jump. His greatest passion was, however, for cricket, in which he played four first class matches, as well as minor counties cricket for Oxfordshire and he

toured frequently overseas. He became a Vice President of Hampstead HC after the club was re-formed in 1950 after World War Two and is remembered particularly for the players he introduced to Hampstead in those reformative years, when such referrals were vital to the growth in playing numbers and in forming a viable basis for the Club's survival.

W P Philips was a goalkeeper who joined the Club from Oxford University, where he captained the team against Cambridge University at Beckenham in 1922. He also played for the South against the North and Midlands in 1921, the West in 1922 and also against the Midlands in 1925. Educated at the Oxford High School, he was awarded hockey blues in 1920, 1921 and 1922. The narrow 3-2 loss to the highly successful Cambridge that year " was due to the brilliant goalkeeping shown by the old Oxonian himself, and he gave a display which he has probably never surpassed in a 'Varsity annual, and put the hallmark of success upon his reputation as a first-class goalkeeper" according to a profile in *Hockey World* on 8 September 1927. He later taught at Mill Hill School.

Hockey World commented that in the 1925-26 season he gave up goalkeeping "to get a little more active exercise in the field. But, once again, the lure of the position was too much for him. He resumed his former occupation.... and has been showing consistent ability quite compatible with his earlier Oxford form. There is one noticeable feature about his "keeping" which captivates attention – that is his strong and accurate kicking out. Mr. Phillips has a keen eye and sound judgment and essays the kick out rather than the hit out".

70 years ago



Next edition

All being well, the next Newsletter will report on the midway point in the 2023-24 season

If you have any news or comment, please direct it to disvelwell@gmail.com