

Welcome

This is the thirty fifth Newsletter in the current format. It covers the start of the 2022-23 season, with the customary enthusiasm and optimism, with hopes for more success on many fronts. After the summary of the main points of the Annual General Meeting in the summer, readers will be better informed about the present position of the Club and the current concentration on safeguarding and fund raising via the 1894 Club. Hopefully there are further aspects to cover.

In continuing descent to the tabloid, the highlights (in no particular order) are:

- The Club's achievement of Talent Centre Accreditation with England Hockey
- Four U16 Club players selected for trials with the England U16 Boys National Age Group squad at Lilleshall Sports Centre on 17-18 September 2022
- Under 16 Boys' preparations for Tier 1 League Hockey in September in the Y1 pre-season tournament featuring Surbiton, Old Georgians, Knole Park and Wessex (a combined team from the South West).



- 13 Club players involvement in matches at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, including the Women's gold medal team and the bronze medal winning Men's team.
- The appointments of Simon Letchford as Men's 1st XI coach, alongside Andrew Wilson and for the Men's 2nd XI that of Ali Bray
- The return to the Club of internationals Jacob Draper and Lily Owsley after a season with European clubs
- Joe Hillyer of the Club adding to his international caps with Poland in the 2023 EuroHockey Qualifying tournament in Ourense, Spain in August 2022
- First team confirmed retirements of Chris Cargo, Toby Roche and Paul Melkert
- The appointment of Sam French as the 49th captain of the Men's 1st XI
- The recruitment of Anna O'Flanagan, an Irish international with 220 caps and of England U21 players Olivia Hamilton and Lauren Hunt to the Women's 1st XI for the new season
- The impending start of the Men's 21st consecutive season in the Premier Division
- The setting of dates for the Women's 1st XI participation in the Euro Hockey Club Trophy in Switzerland in April 2023
- The presentation to Dan Fox of a GB cap at Lee Valley as part of the project run by England Hockey with research undertaken by The Hockey Museum

- Successful fund raising and charity Dinner held at Brown's on 9 September 2022
- The ending of *FixturesLive*, the popular online results and management website devised and in large part maintained by David Lloyd Williams, following its acquisition in 2019 by Pitchero
- Club President Richard Sykes' interview on BBC Radio London after the England Women's success at the Commonwealth Games, extolling the virtues of every aspect of the Club in a bravado performance

Talent Centre

The Club has been successful in its application to achieve Talent Centre accreditation. This recognises the high-quality environment that the Club provides for young players at early talent development level (Talent Foundations).



The aim of Talent Centre accreditation is to recognise and develop clubs that provide safe, enjoyable and exciting environments for youngsters and to challenge and provide support for talented players. It is to prioritise its junior system to optimise the opportunities for further development.

All clubs awarded Talent Centre status have undertaken an in-depth talent development programme over the last 12 months and met criteria across a wide range of aspects, including coaching, talent development provision, athlete well-being and governance.

The 20 accredited clubs are Alderley Edge, Alton, Beeston, Bowdon, Clifton Robinsons, Deeside Ramblers, East Grinstead, Guildford, H&W, Holcombe, Isca, Kingston upon Hull, Marlow, Repton, Sevenoaks, Sheffield, Spencer, Stourport, Trojans and Wimbledon.

Fund Raising Dinner

The Dinner was held on 9 September 2022 at Brown's in St Martins Lane. It was superbly organised by Arnie Weeda and Alexandra Smart and was well attended. The customary *heads and tails* quiz began proceedings, with discerning questions about the length of the queue to join the Juniors and the price of beer at the Carlton Tavern, as well as other hockey related aspects. Apologies are renewed to Jimmy Marson, who correctly identified a typographical error where 2002 was answered instead of 2001 as the true year in which the Men's 1st XI opened its run in the Premier Division.

An inscribed tankard was presented by the Club President to Toby Roche, in recognition of his 14 years of first team hockey at Hampstead, several of them as captain at a time when results were harder to come by. Kate Richardson-Walsh spoke warmly of her deep affection for the Club and her team as they try their hand in Europe this season. She recounted an anecdote about a visit with Helen to Buckingham Palace and catching the eye of the late Queen. She also mentioned her joy at witnessing so many out playing sport at PRG before the hockey starts.

In the Auction, masterfully handled by Andy Brookes, several excellent bids were made for a range of items, including an evening's Italian wine tasting hosted by Nigel Fletcher and two seats on No 1

Court at Wimbledon kindly donated by Richard Chapman. The total raised by the evening was £11,000, which will be applied towards supporting youth hockey at the Club and our first teams in their performance activities.

Game Management System



The prospects of following the fixtures and progress of the Club's teams have been markedly improved with the modified Game Management System (GMS) now in operation. This follows the separation into eight regional Areas introduced last season by England Hockey. They are each accessible via <https://www.englishockey.co.uk/governance/about-england-hockey/8-areas>, From there are links to the separate Areas. For London this is <https://london.englishockey.co.uk/adult-hockey-in-london>, where there is a sub-division for the Men's and Women's game.

There is a separate section for the Club's four teams in the National League. <https://www.englishockey.co.uk/competitions-and-events/england-hockey-league>

(There is also a link to The Hockey Museum <https://www.englishockey.co.uk/governance/the-hockey-museum> the front page of which includes a photograph of the England team that played Ireland on 27 March 1920 featuring, amongst others, Stanley Shoveller and Jack Bennett).

In the summer England Hockey has concentrated on making significant improvements to the GMS. There are new and improved features that can be seen on the GMS itself and on the England Hockey and Area websites.

The websites are *mobile first* and will form the longer-term home for all hockey fixtures and results. This includes all tables, clubs, teams and matches to allow navigation between them. This is aimed at easy movement between the England Hockey and Area websites to obtain a view of all leagues and results.

"The new features on the websites allow you to see results from leagues or competitions and to dive into your team's upcoming fixtures. You will also be able to add your team fixtures to your calendar ensuring they're always synced and up to date. Within GMS itself the results entry process has been improved to be mobile friendly, with match sheets similarly improved to make the experience of entering results better".

More features and enhanced upgrades will be released over the coming weeks and months to bring further improvements throughout the season. There is also an archive project, with support from key volunteers, to transfer match records from *Fixtures Live* and other league systems to the websites through GMS. Almost one million historical fixtures and results have already been obtained, to make GMS the most complete single source for club matches in England. These details will be added to the websites in due course.

Opening Day

The League season starts for all Club teams (bar the Men's 2nd XI) on 24 September 2022. For all but the National League sides, as mentioned, this is under the London Area's administration. The fixtures are:-

Women 1 st XI v Buckingham	National Premier Division	(a)	1400h
Women 2 nd XI v Ipswich	National East Conference	(a)	1400h
Women 3 rd XI v West Hampstead	London Division 1	(a)	1200h
Women 4 th XI v Wapping 3	London Division 2 North	(h)	1000h [UCS]
Women 5 th XI v Southgate 4	London Division 3 North	(a)	1330h
Women 6 th XI v Southgate 5	London Division 4 North West	(h)	1445h [UCS]
Women 7 th XI v West Herts	London Division 5 North West	(a)	1230h
Men 1 st XI v Wimbledon	National Premier Division	(h)	1730h [PRG]
Men 2 nd XI v Wapping 1 (25.9.22)	National Conference East	(a)	1430h
Men Zak Hond XI v Surbiton 3	London Division 1	(a)	1140h
Men 3 rd XI v West Hampstead 2	London Division 2 North	(h)	1200h [PRG]
Men 4 th XI v Wapping 4	London Division 2 North	(a)	1000h
Men Thirsts XI v Osterley 1	London 4 North West	(h)	1015h [PRG]
Men Spaniards XI v Richmond D'stlks	London Division 5 North West	(a)	1630h
Men Colts XI v PHC Chiswick	London Division 5 North West	(h)	1615h
Men Masters XI (O40) v Wimbledon	South Masters Premier Division	(h)	1530h
Men Supervets XI v Southgate Titans	London Masters Premier Div.	(a)	1200h
Men Grand Masters v Chelmsford	London Over 60 Premier Div.	(a)	1545h

Women

The Club is pleased to welcome four new players to the 1st XI squad and Lily Owsley returning after a season away, playing for HDM in Holland. Lily has 190 international caps, Olympic gold and bronze medals and recently won Commonwealth Gold in Birmingham with England. Her aggressive and exciting style of play will be a boon. Lily said "I love the balance between good off pitch culture yet competitiveness on the pitch. A huge driver to re-join Hampstead is to help achieve a league title and to be successful in Europe. I'm looking forward to the challenge".

Anna O'Flanagan is an Irish international with 220 caps and winner of a World Cup silver medal. She will add experience to the forward line and is expected to bring her ruthlessness in front of the goal. Anna said she joined Hampstead to "have lots of good *craic* while playing high quality hockey and win a few medals along the way!"

Olivia Hamilton impressed in her recent debut games for England during the Pro League. She recently captained the England U21s at the European Junior Championship. She said, "I'm excited to be joining a high-quality team challenging at the top of the league, with a great environment to develop and enjoy playing hockey".

Lauren Hunt is aged 23. She has played Premier Division hockey with Bowdon Hightown HC and University of Birmingham. She is a former England U21 and GB EDP¹ international.

Iona Campbell is a defender, who recently played a season for HGC in Holland, having been a member of the Loughborough University squad that secured promotion to the Premier Division. Iona said, "I am looking forward to enjoying some great hockey and socials at HWHC this year, with eyes on a spot at Europeans!"

Premier Division Schedule

(All starting times are subject to later change)

24.09.22 Buckingham (a) 1400h

¹ Elite Development Programme

01.10.22	Holcombe (a)	1600h
08.10.22	Wimbledon (h)	1400h
15.10.22	East Grinstead (a)	1600h
22.10.22	Loughborough Students (h)	1400h
29.10.22	Nottingham University (h)	1430h
05.11.22	Birmingham University (a)	1430h
12.11.22	Surbiton (h)	1600h
19.11.22	Reading (a)	1700h
26.11.22	Clifton Robinsons (h)	1400h

For 2023, the Division separates into two, based on performance, eventually leading to Play Offs

East Conference

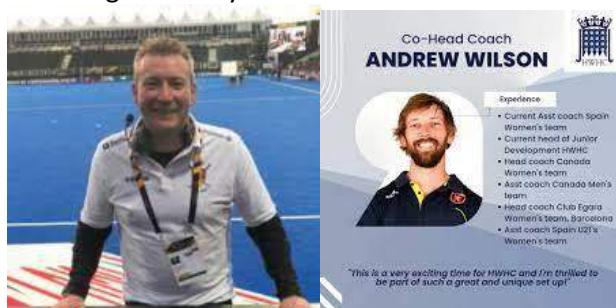
24.09.22	Ipswich 1 (a)	1400h
01.10.22	London Wayfarers 1 (a)	1230h
08.10.22	Horsham 1 (a)	1330h
15.10.22	Spencer 1 (h)	1230h
29.10.22	East London 1 (h)	1230h
05.11.22	Guildford 1 (a)	1500h
12.11.22	Bishops Stortford 1 (a)	1200h
19.11.22	Southgate 1 (h)	1400h
26.11.22	Chelmsford 1 (a)	1500h

04.02.23	Ipswich 1 (h)	1200h
11.02.23	London Wayfarers 1 (h)	1200h
18.02.23	Horsham 1 (h)	1200h
25.02.23	Spencer 1 (a)	-
04.03.23	East London 1 (a)	1800h
11.03.23	Guildford 1 (h)	1200h
18.03.23	Bishops Stortford 1 (h)	1200h
25.03.23	Southgate 1 (a)	1530h
01.04.23	Chelmsford 1 (h)	1200h

Men

There are several changes at the top end of the Men's section, including the appointments of new coaches, following the departures of Kwan Browne and Huw Stevens to Southgate. They depart along with players Matt Ramshaw and Teague Marcano.

The new coaches are Simon Letchford and Andrew Wilson. Simon has considerable coaching experience in Europe with Harvesterhuder, Royal Wellington and Royal Racing de Bruxelles as well as Daring of Belgium in the Honour League there. He is currently head of the Great Britain EDP and was latterly coaching the senior and U21 Belgians. Andrew Wilson coached the Men's 2nd XI last season in a successful start to National League hockey in the East Conference.



Ali Bray has been retained as coach for the Men's 2nd XI. He played at St Albans, Old Loughtonians and Canterbury but latterly was a captain at Holcombe. He was expected to be appointed as a supporting coach to Barry Middleton at Holcombe but they acquired David Ames of Great Britain and within two weeks appointed him as a coach instead. Ali then decided to join Hampstead.

On the playing front, three respected elder practitioners have announced their retirement from first team hockey at the Club, namely Chris Cargo, Toby Roche and Paul Melkert. Rhodri Furlong has moved to play at Holcombe and fellow Welsh international Dan Kyriakides has joined Club an Der Alster. A third Welsh international, Hywel Jones has moved temporarily (it is reported) to Harvesterhuder in Germany.

Jacob Draper returns to the Club from a season at Beerschot HC. Those joining, including Ali Bray from Holcombe, are Toby Vaughan (Canterbury HC), Josh Pilling (Loughborough Students), Jolyon Morgan (Cardiff & Met) and Noah Jones (ESM, Edinburgh),

Jolyon Morgan has 23 senior international caps for Wales and has scored five goals for the side. He was recently enlisted for the Men's Euro Hockey Qualifiers at Uddingston in August 2022 where Wales met Switzerland, Scotland and Gibraltar and secured their qualification.

Premier Division Schedule

(Again, all starting times are subject to later change)

Clubs have been given greater lee to make their own arrangements for the day and starting times this season, given many clubs desire to play on Saturdays under lights when other teams have already played that day and can swell attendances. The majority are therefore to be found on Saturday evenings.

24.09.22	Wimbledon (h)	1730h
01.10.22	Holcombe (a)	1800h
09.10.22	Beeston (h)	1430h
15.10.22	East Grinstead (a)	1800h
22.10.22	Brooklands MU (h)	1600h
29.10.22	Old Georgians (a)	1800h
06.11.22	Exeter University (a)	1400h
12.11.22	Surbiton (h)	1800h
19.11.22	Nottingham University (a)	1700h
26.11.22	Oxted (h)	1800h
04.12.22	Reading (a)	1400h

For 2023, the Men's Premier Division also separates into two, based on performance, eventually leading to Play Offs

East Conference

25.09.22	Wapping 1 (a)	1430h
01.10.22	London Wayfarers 1 (a)	1430h
09.10.22	Indian Gymkhana 1 (a)	-
16.10.22	Spencer 1 (h)	1430h
30.10.22	Richmond 1 (h)	1430h
05.11.22	Guildford 1 (a)	1700h
13.11.22	Bromley & Beckenham 1 (h)	1400h
19.11.22	Surbiton 2 (a)	1700h
27.11.22	Oxford University 1 (h)	-

05.02.23	Wapping 1 (h)	-
11.02.23	London Wayfarers 1 (h)	-
19.02.23	Indian Gymkhana 1 (h)	-
26.02.23	Spencer 1 (a)	1330h
05.03.23	Richmond 1 (a)	1330h
12.03.23	Guildford 1 (h)	-
19.03.23	Bromley & Beckenham 1 (a)	-
26.03.23	Surbiton 2 (h)	-
02.04.23	Oxford University 1 (a)	1400h

With the other Club teams this season, the main difference is that the Zak Hond XI will play in the London Division 1 and the 3rd XI and 4th XI in Division 2 North.

EuroHockey Club Trophy

Mannheimer once more...

The competition is to be held at the Wettinen Club, Switzerland between 7 and 10 April 2023. There are two pools. Pool A comprises KHC Dragons (Belgium) HP Lorenzoni (Italy) MSC Sumchanka (Ukraine) and HC 1972 Rakovnik (Czech Republic). In Pool B, the teams are Mannheimer HC (Germany) H&W Women's 1st XI, IH Lambersart (France) and the hosts, HC Rotweiss Wettingen (Switzerland).

World Masters Hockey



World Masters Hockey (WMH) Ltd. is the exclusive Masters Hockey organisation, recognised by the FIH with the sole responsibility for organising and managing official Masters Hockey tournaments globally. It was created following a request from FIH for the IMHA and WGMA to unify into a single Masters Hockey entity in 2012.

Nottingham was the recent venue for the Men's and Women's 2022 World Cup event for the O35 and O40 groups.



Over 35 Men

Pool: England, South Africa, Spain, Ghana and Sri Lanka

Pool B; Germany, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France and Argentina

England defeated South Africa in the final 1-0

Final standings: England, South Africa, Ireland, Argentina, Spain, Germany Scotland, Ghana, Wales and Sri Lanka

Over 35 Women

Pool A: England, India, Argentina, Wales, France and Scotland

Pool B: USA, Netherlands, Germany, South Africa, Ireland and Italy

England beat Ireland 2-1 in the final and Wales were third, after beating the Netherland 1-0
Final Standings: England, Ireland, Wales, Netherlands, USA, Scotland, Argentina, Germany, France, South Africa, Italy and India

O40 Men

Pool A: England, France, Germany, South Africa, Ireland, Sri Lanka and Wales

Pool B: Spain, Argentina, USA, Australia, Scotland, Italy and Malaysia

England overcame Australia with a 3-1 shoot out win after a 2-2 draw in regulation time.
Ireland beat Spain 1-0 to take third place.

Final Standings: England, Australia, Ireland, Spain, Germany, Malaysia, France, USA, South Africa, Argentina, Wales, Scotland, Sri Lanka and Italy



O40 Women

Pool A: Argentina, Ireland, Spain, Wales, France, Czech Republic and Chile

Pool B: England, Germany, USA, Scotland, Ghana and Sri Lanka

England defeated Argentina 2-0 and the Czech Republic took third after a 3-1 win against Germany
Final Standings: England, Argentina, Czech Republic, Germany, Chile, Scotland, USA, Wales, Ireland, Ghana, Spain, Sri Lanka and France

Cape Town follows between 1 and 10 October 2022. It is for the O45, O50, and O55 age groups, as well as the *Spirit of Hockey* tournaments. By way of background, in 2006 the World Cup and Trophy Tournament (TT), like the European Cup, was split into two categories – one for national teams, including, for the first time, national O65 teams and the second TT category for national B teams and other non-national teams, including Alliance International and LX Club sides.

In Hong Kong in 2008, Australia became the first winners of the Over 70 World Cup – by default as they were eventually the only nation to enter a team in that category. However, in 2010 at Cape Town, England competed in all three age groups (60, 65, & 70) and won all three, with the LX Club teams winning both the O60 and O65 Tournament Trophy age groups.

In 2012, the World Cup was hosted by the LX Club, in partnership with England Hockey, at Oxford Hawks HC and 41 teams participated. At this tournament England retained their GGM title but Netherlands became GM champions and Australia won the SGM title. LX Club teams again won the TT O60 and O65 competitions with Australia's Southern Cross winning the TT O70 group.

At the last World Cup tournament, played in 2018 at the Royal Polo Club in Barcelona, England GGM and SGM won their finals and the LX teams at O65 and O70 won their finals in the TT competition. Owing to the pandemic, the WMH Grand Masters World Cup, scheduled for November 2020 that was to be hosted in Tokyo, was cancelled.

Like the European Cup, the World Cup TT competition has been rebranded *Spirit of Masters* following the succession of WGMA by World Masters Hockey.

Tokyo follows for the O60, O65, O70 and O75 competitions, between 19 and 29 October 2022, involving 27 teams from 12 countries. These will be held at Oi Hockey Stadium in Oi Central Seaside Park next to Tokyo Bay. This was the venue for the Olympic hockey in 2021 at the postponed Games. The opening ceremony is on 18 October 2022. The Tournament Dinner is to be held on 28 October 2022 at 5.30pm.

O60 teams: Australia, Canada, England, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, USA Japan, SoM and Southern Cross

O65 teams: Australia, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, South Africa, USA and Southern Cross

O70 teams: Australia, Japan, South Africa, Wales, Japan SoM, Alliance SoM, and Southern Cross

O75 teams: Japan is the only current applicant

All being well, Richard Chapman will be representing Wales in the O70 tournament, conscious that there is no team from England with which to compete this time around. It provides a rest for Dave Dixon.

Regional Masters in London

Over the summer, a number of Hampstead Masters players represented the London area in the Masters Area Tournaments, the championships for regional teams. This was the inaugural season, with London being represented for the first time. Club players were selected in a number of age groups for tournaments across England.

Men O40: Antoine-Junien Richard and Ben Brind, winning gold

Women O50: Anna Herrey

Men O50: Gulshan Mandair and Ian Hammond, winning silver

Men O55: Will Saxby

Commonwealth Games Hockey

Men

Pool A

Australia	12pts	SF
South Africa	7	SF
New Zealand	4	5 th place

Pakistan	4	7 th place
Scotland	1	9 th place

Pool B

India	10pts	SF
England	10	SF
Wales	6	5 th place
Canada	1	7 th place
Ghana	1	9 th place

9th

Scotland 7 Ghana 2

7th

Pakistan 4 Canada 3

5th

New Zealand 2 Wales 1

SF

England 2 Australia 3

India 3 South Africa 2

Bronze

England 6 South Africa 3

Final

Australia 7 India 0

Congratulations to bronze medal winner, Will Calnan.

Women

Pool A

England	12pts	SF
India	9	SF
Canada	6	5 th place
Wales	3	7 th place
Ghana	0	9 th place

Pool B

Australia	12pts	SF
New Zealand	9	SF
Scotland	6	5 th place
South Africa	3	7 th place
Kenya	0	9 th place

9th

Kenya 2 Ghana 2 (3-2 shoot out)

7th

South Africa 1 India 0

5th

Canada 3 Scotland 1

SF

England 0 New Zealand 0 (2-0 shoot out)

Australia 1 India 1 (3-0 shoot out)

Bronze

India 1 New Zealand 1 (2-1 shoot out)

Final

England 2 Australia 1



Congratulations to gold medal winners, Lily Owsley, Grace Balsdon and Holly Hunt.

2023 Men's EuroHockey Championship Qualifiers

There were four host nations for the Qualifiers held from 17 to 27 August 2022. They were Spain, France, Austria and Scotland. The top team from each tournament qualified for the EuroHockey championships. The second and third ranked teams from each group advanced to the EuroHockey championship II with remaining teams playing in the EuroHockey championships III.

Qualifier A

Ourense, Spain

Poland 2 Portugal 3

Spain 7 Czech Republic 0

Czech Republic 5 Portugal 1

Poland 0 Spain 2

Czech Republic 3 Poland 1

Spain 11 Portugal 0

Rankings: Spain, Czech Republic, Portugal, Poland

Qualifier B

Calais

Ireland 19 Lithuania 0

France 14 Turkey 2

Turkey 3 Lithuania 1

Ireland 1 France 4

Turkey 0 Ireland 9

France 19 Lithuania 0

Rankings: France, Ireland, Turkey, Lithuania

Qualifier C

Vienna

Italy 5 Croatia 3
Austria 5 Ukraine 3
Ukraine 8 Croatia 3
Italy 0 Austria 3
Ukraine 3 Italy 4
Austria 7 Croatia 0

Rankings: Austria, Italy, Ukraine, Croatia

Qualifier D

Glasgow

Wales 8 Switzerland 0
Scotland 9 Gibraltar 0
Switzerland 7 Gibraltar 2
Scotland 0 Wales 1
Wales 7 Gibraltar 0
Switzerland 0 Scotland 8

Rankings: Wales, Scotland, Switzerland, Gibraltar

Qualifiers for the EuroHockey championships: Wales, France, Austria and Spain

2023 Men's World Cup

The Pools for the 2023 Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar and Rourkela could then be announced. The competition is to take place from 13 to 29 January 2023. Australia, Belgium and the Netherlands were seeded through their FIH World Rankings.

Pool A: Australia, Argentina, France and South Africa

Pool B: Belgium, Germany, Korea and Japan

Pool C: Netherlands, New Zealand, Malaysia and Chile

Pool D: India, England, Spain and Wales

Sultan of Johor Cup

This tournament in Malaysia will start on 22 October 2022, with Australia v Japan, Great Britain v South Africa and India v Malaysia.

23 October 2022: Japan v Great Britain, India v South Africa and Australia v Malaysia

25 October 2022: Great Britain v Australia, Japan v India and South Africa v Malaysia

26 October 2022: South Africa v Australia, Malaysia v Great Britain and South Africa v Japan

28 October 2022: Great Britain v India, Malaysia v Japan and Australia v South Africa

29 October 2022: 5th v 6th, 3rd v 4th and the Final



Matt Guise Brown

Hampstead's leading scorer in at least the last three seasons caught the eye again in the Commonwealth Games, given the impressive performance by the South Africa team that won a semi final place and ran England close before losing proverbial steam. *The Hockey Paper* was eager to speak to him.

Hampstead & Westminster star Matt Guise-Brown is cherishing his second coming with South Africa. Next year, starting with the 2023 men's World Cup, will mark a decade as an international player. A four-year hiatus from the national side has also meant he is enjoying it better than ever.

Surprisingly, Guise-Brown, 30, marked his first major tournament at last summer's Olympics. He was nervous, he admitted, heading into the competition. The Hockey Paper spoke to him this week and he is now relishing what the future holds for a sport which has been held back by politics and funding.

"It's been a long process to build what we are trying to build," said Guise-Brown, pointing to when Gareth 'Springs' Ewing took over in 2019 as the catalyst. "We have identified what we are good at, and keep things solid at the back. We have seen the tip of the iceberg when it comes to how exciting our strikers and attacking midfielders can be. We have seen as much over the last 12 months – South Africa's memorable win over Germany in Tokyo for good measure – and how the team can lead off each other and play into space with plenty of flair. When we get it right we can be a pretty decent side," said Guise-Brown, recognisable for his well-groomed moustache.

"Individually they have wheels but they have started linking and running off each other. "Don't ask me how it is they do it as when we do training – all I'm doing is chasing and trying to stop them from scoring, and unsuccessfully. But it's fun to stand at the back and go 'Christ, that's really good.'"



Matt Guise-Brown unleashes for H&W PIC: WORLD SPORT PICS

Guise-Brown has been training his PC skills since he was a young boy growing up on the grounds of the school where his father taught in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, with the hockey pitch as his back garden. As a teenager and at university he used to flick for an hour a day most days. His international wilderness started when he moved to England. He is starting a new role in September at Belmont Mill Hill School in north London, working with special needs children in the morning and overseeing games in the afternoon.

He has been given leave to play hockey, both here and the World Cup next January. South Africa qualified for the World Cup at the qualifying event in Accra earlier this year. "It was tight," he admitted, "We get together so sporadically that South African hockey has to be a long-term project. It's not going to happen immediately and hopefully we can produce something special. We are dotted all over the world. It's certainly difficult when we meet up [and then disperse] as it feels like we have taken one step back but that's the nature of the beast playing hockey for South Africa, where we don't see each other for several months."

Guise-Brown was probably in line for a call-up to a first Olympics in 2016 before the South African Olympic Committee pulled out the teams from the Rio Games over a lack of medal opportunity. His hat-trick of drag flicks in the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations final secured South Africa a place in the Games.

"It's an honour and probably something I didn't appreciate back in my younger days. Now I've got a second crack at it, I just love it," he said.

Brothers Mustapha and Dayaan Cassiem are one such storyline within the team, but Guise-Brown says it is the whole collective which is the exciting factor. "Our attackers have serious flair and serious gas," he added. "They are young, most of them. The more we play, the better we'll get. To see the connections, after not seeing them for a while, is very enjoyable and difficult to mark against at the same time."

Farewell, FixturesLive

FixturesLive was created over 15 years ago as one of the first websites in the UK to offer team and competition management tools.



In the early years, it supported all sports from hockey to rowing, netball to shinty. The founders were big hockey fans. The website quickly gained a substantial following in UK Hockey. England Hockey used the service for National League fixtures, results and league tables. And all regional hockey boards then made use of the service too. FixturesLive was famous for its 'plugin widget', a small plugin that league and club websites could use.

Within one widget, it showed the fixtures, results, league tables and form guide for different sports. This became essential viewing for anyone involved in hockey. *Pitchero* acquired FixturesLive in 2019 and since then, hundreds of hockey clubs are reported to have moved from the FixturesLive service to them. *Pitchero* claims that it is now used by 40% of hockey clubs in the UK.

With *Pitchero*, its Manager App allows coaches and team managers to ask for availability from squads, select sides and send messages to each player, a group or the full squad. It syncs with the

Club App, which is for players and parents to follow club news, manage their schedule and pay match fees.

Hockey owes a real debt to David Lloyd Williams for the establishment of FixturesLive and his work in the development of the GMS for England Hockey, referred to previously.

Hockey 5s: Hockey at the Cross Road?

On the same weekend when the FIH Pro League began another round of games in the 11-a-side version, the FIH launched its new Hockey 5s format in Switzerland, as another of its flagship competitions. The FIH Hockey5s World Cup was initially created in 2019 to further boost the development of hockey globally through Hockey5s. The inaugural edition is planned in 2024 in Oman. A future Hockey5s World Tour is also on the cards.

The FIH is set to play an expansive *long game* with its shorter version. In Lausanne, the FIH chief Thierry Weil offered what some called *eye watering* comments. Speaking to *Associated Press*, he noted that Hockey 5s could be ripe for the Olympic programme with the continued push by the IOC hierarchy and Games' organisers to reduce or cap the number of competitors.

He said that while the traditional form of the game was an athletic sport with good rules, it was an elite sport. "The investment you need makes it impossible to do (for many nations)." He suggested that the traditional 11-a-side format could still play a part, with a shorter Olympic competition rather than the current two-week long event, which would leave room for Hockey 5s to co-exist on the Games programmes and bring about more medals.

When it became evident that hockey was in danger of losing its Olympic status for the Tokyo Olympics, the FIH was in a quandary. The make-up of the Los Angeles programme has yet to be determined and will be rubber-stamped in 2023 by local organisers. Judging by the waves made by Weil, uncertainty remains over the future of 11 v 11.

As commentators say, the FIH Pro League "continues to chug along, without being a friend in need for the 11-a-side game". For them, the introduction of the Nations Cup, which will usher in promotion and relegation for the first time in 2023-24, cannot come soon enough. In the third season of the Pro League, there have been evident mismatches, with star players rested after long club seasons – the Dutch women called up five juniors against England. Teams have also kept tactics at bay with a World Cup looming. There is a sense that the Pro League is more a series of "glorified friendlies".

England's Women's coach David Ralph has said that "It's had an inconsistent element to it when it was launched so it's hard to know what it is, but hopefully when we move to 2022-23 it will hopefully be a more esteemed tournament where teams are pushing it a little bit harder in terms of trying to win games more frequently." He admitted that teams had their eye on the Women's World Cup, which he felt was understandable.

The clear message is with a short format designed to help and grow undeveloped nations (with the Hockey 5s World Cup in early 2024) teams may need to study the 5s rulebook if the "unthinkable" happens sooner than expected.

What is Hockey 5s?

For those unaware, unlike the traditional game players are allowed to shoot from anywhere to score a goal in Hockey5s, In Hockey5s, a team can have no more than five players on the pitch at any one time, including a goalkeeper. Teams are allowed up to four substitutions at any time in the match.

A Hockey 5s court is roughly one half the size of a regular hockey pitch: actual size can differ slightly from competition to competition.

A bully takes place to re-start a match when time or play has been stopped for an injury or for any other reason and no penalty has been awarded. Players are permitted to raise the ball with a flick or scoop, provided it is not dangerous. A flick or scoop towards an opponent within four metres is considered dangerous.

Players are allowed to shoot from anywhere to score a goal in Hockey5s. A goal is scored when the ball is played by an attacker from within their attacking half of the pitch and passes completely over the goal-line and under the cross-bar. A goal may only be scored when the ball has been touched by an attacker within their attacking half of the pitch.

As in indoor hockey, one of the biggest difference with Hockey5s is the presence of boundary (or rebound) boards that enclose the entire court, other than the two goal lines.

The penalty corner does not exist in Hockey 5s. Instead, there is a *challenge*. This is awarded if a defender commits a foul in their own half of the court that denies the opposition team a clear goal-scoring opportunity. An intentional offence by a defender against an opponent who has possession of the ball inside their own half of the court can also result in a challenge being awarded.

A challenge is similar to the “shoot out” in traditional hockey but with a few differences. Once the attacker touches the ball after the start of a challenge, they need to move at least 4m with the ball before taking a shot at goal. The opposition goalkeeper can also start moving after the attacker has touched the ball. The other players from both teams standing in the opposition half can rejoin play once the attacker has touched the ball, initiating a challenge.

A penalty stroke can also be awarded in Hockey5s as in ordinary hockey for a defensive action preventing a certain goal.

In Hockey 5s, a green card will result in suspension for a minute, a yellow card for two minutes. A red card, issued for the harshest of challenges, leads to suspension for the remainder of the match.

A Hockey5s match lasts for 20 minutes divided into two halves of 10 minutes each. There is a two-minute break at half time.

If both teams are level at the end of the regulation time, the match either ends in a draw or is decided by a challenge shootout, where both teams alternate taking challenges in a best of five system, according to the rules of the specific tournament.

Lausanne June 2022

The FIH held its first international Hockey5s tournament in Lausanne on 4 and 5 June 2022. This was the first time such a tournament had taken place and with separate competitions for men and women.

In the Men’s tournament:-

Malaysia 4 Switzerland 4

Pakistan 4 Poland 2

India 4 Switzerland 3

Malaysia 0 Poland 5

Pakistan 2 India 2

Poland 3 Switzerland 2
Malaysia 3 India 7
Switzerland 7 Pakistan 5
India 6 Poland 2
Pakistan 5 Malaysia 5

India	10pts
Poland	6
Pakistan	5
Switzerland	4
Malaysia	2

Final

India 6 Poland 4

The Short Corner

Another looming controversy is the future of the penalty corner. The FIH has commenced its consultation on the penalty corner to collect views on the future of the routine.

It aims for a balance between safety and the spectacle of the penalty corner. Previous reviews have led to the introduction of strikes having to hit the backboard and to leave the D before a shot is taken. The current plan looks at changing, if felt necessary, rules to stem potential dangers at hitting at the top of the circle and to protect line runners.

The FIH has said that it will take all suggestions into account as well as safety and scoring statistical analysis, with the potential for experimental trials. Any new rules will not be brought into effect at all levels until after the 2024 Olympic Games.

Why the FIH is trialling potential changes to the penalty corner ruling?

The FIH has identified that the power and strength of athletes, combined with advances in stick and turf technology, have all led to faster drag flicks that increase the danger and potential seriousness of injuries to defenders. This has been combated by allowing defenders to wear additional protective equipment (masks, gloves, knee pads etc) but this is said to have given the image of hockey being a dangerous sport, detracting from parents wanting their children to start playing. In addition, after a penalty corner, large amounts of protective equipment get discarded in an untidy manner, with equipment being thrown in the air and often left lying around the circle causing danger (as well, some will argue, as an unsightly appearance for the sport).

There is the claim that protective equipment gives players an unnatural sense of safety, meaning that some players are putting themselves into more dangerous positions. At the domestic level, where the protective equipment is not always of the highest quality, they are more likely to be injured.

The FIH has said that fewer goals are now being scored from penalty corners as protected players run directly at drag flickers, reducing the penalty of conceding a short corner. "We must consider making changes to the penalty corner rules before serious or fatal incidents occur and not wait to react until afterwards".

Naturally this has given rise to many comments. Writing for the *Hockey Paper*, the renowned Ireland goalkeeper David Harte offered a recent perspective from his position. "I, for one, am a huge fan of the penalty corner. Why? Plenty of reasons. The attacking routine, the defensive set-up, the clash

between goalkeeper and drag flicker/hitter, the execution of specialist skills, the attention focused on that moment within a game, the mental battles, the video analysis of opposition teams, the training of variations.” He suggests that he could go on...

The Future?

“Hearing that the PC could be completely removed or a watered-down version of it introduced due to safety concerns has me worried. One could argue that the sport itself of hockey is littered with health and safety concerns but the one area (depending on available protection and the level of play), in my opinion, that allows players to be more guarded with facemasks, ice hockey style gloves, protective cups, knee and foot protectors, is at penalty corner time.

Please don't see this as blatant ignorance towards the dangers that come with the set piece, but those dangers are also present throughout the 60 minutes of a match. So many important, match-saving, medal-winning moments have come from penalty corners and I think things should stay as they are. Our game is already being changed constantly and most of the time for the good, with the introduction of rules such as the self-pass and the movement of the ball 5m before being played into the circle. These are definitely rule changes I am completely in favour of.”

The Drag Flick

“From a goalkeeper's perspective I would hate to see the drag flick being taken out of hockey. The hours alone spent training with your teammates, goalkeeper coaches with a ball machine or lacrosse net would all be in vain. The specialist skills of the injectors, stoppers and flickers would be lost. The game of inches encountered with each set piece routine both attackingly and defensively make it the spectacle that it is. Without doubt it adds to the entertainment of spectators.

Top corner rippers, diving stick saves and brave defensive running are what the game needs. You get these from the penalty corner and in particular from the performance of a drag flick. Renowned legends of the game such as Sohail Abbas who is the world record holder for international goals scored in the men's game, 280 in 258 test matches, and Pietie Coetzee the international women's top scorer with over 260 goals were both drag flickers. What they did was also much more than score goals – they became idols of millions of hockey players all over the globe who to this day want to be just like them!

Believe me there are many players I would prefer not to see to get the opportunity to drag flick on me but that is what makes the game so competitive and exciting – the 1 v 1 battles between flicker and keeper. I love them!

Hopefully the FIH will make the right decision to keep the beloved penalty corner an integral part of our game and find the right balance between safety and entertainment”.

Yesteryear

A few snippets from *The Times*...

1912

26 August 1912

As soon as the British representatives on the International Olympic Committee informed the Hockey Association that they had been unsuccessful in their endeavours to obtain the inclusion of hockey in the [Olympic] games at Stockholm, the latter body immediately entered into an arrangement with the German Hockey Association by which an International Hockey Tournament will be held at Hamburg in October next. It is understood that England, France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Austria are supporting the Tournament and will enter teams.

The President of the Committee of Management is the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin and the German Olympic Association has assumed responsibility for the Tournament and is materially assisting in arranging it. The Hockey Association has collected privately a sufficient sum to pay the greater part of the English team's travelling expenses and invitations have been issued to 14 players.

Amongst those who have accepted are A G Powell, **J H Bennett**, L M Crockett, D B Crockford, **J S Youle**², W F Smith, **S H Shoveller**, J K Matthews and R G Pridmore, all of whom have already played for England. The team will leave London on 9 October 1912 and will be away about six days.

1922

26 September 1922

An ancient Greek sculptured relief recently discovered during digging operations in Athens has a special interest in that it contains the first evidence that the ancient Greeks ever played ball games except with the hand. It will be seen from the photograph that six naked youths are taking part in a game bearing every resemblance to modern hockey.



1932

29 September 1932

During the past summer the International Hockey Board have redrafted the rules of the game in an endeavour to make them more clear and concise to players and umpires alike. In addition, they have made one or two important alterations to the rules.

Perhaps the most important one to which players and umpires alike will find it difficult to accustom themselves at first is the rule relating to hooking sticks. It was almost universally hoped that the Board would abolish the hooking of sticks in any shape or form, as the All England Women's Hockey Association did some years ago. Unfortunately, they have not seen their way to do this, but have compromised, by adding to the paragraph permitting the hooking of sticks, the following sentence: "and this may only be done by placing the stick between the ground and the opponent's stick."

In the past some players have been in the habit of striking at, an opponent's stick from behind, and making the so-called hook over his stick, but now in every case it must be done from below. When a forward is about to take a shot at goal and a defender endeavours to hook his stick before it reaches

² J S Youle played for Hampstead and then England before it was discovered that he was born in Brazil and by contemporary rules ineligible to play for England

the ball, the stroke almost invariably knocks up his stick as it descends, and this is literally striking at a stick.

It would have been better to have made the rule read "A player may fence an opponent's stick from underneath, while he is within striking distance of the ball," for this is what really happens in every case. Anyhow, as the rule now stands, players have to remember that hooking may only be done from underneath a stick and will be penalised if attempted from above.

1952

18 September 1952

Alterations this season in the rules of women's hockey include an attempt to bring the markings of the playing field nearer into line with the men's rule, which says: "The front of the goal posts shall touch the outer edge of the goal line." At present the women have a five-yard line for rolls-in compared with seven yards in the men's game, and a circle of 15 yards compared with 16, so there is still some leeway to be made up before parity is reached.

The biggest change in the women's rules, and it will take some time to filter down to all clubs, concerns the taking of comers. For some time now it has been felt that the side awarded a corner (especially a penalty corner) has not been able to score sufficiently often from what should be an advantage.

The men increased their circle from 15 yards to 16 yards, with the idea that more room for the attackers would be to their advantage. The new women's rule is much more drastic.

In the past, as in men's matches, the entire defending team at a corner has had to stand behind the goal-line until, the ball had been struck by the player taking a corner. This meant that a whole team could rush out upon a forward line of five ranged round the edge of the circle. The resultant congestion made shooting awkward and at times highly dangerous.

Now the rule says that only six players of the defending team (usually the goalkeeper, backs, and half-backs) shall stand behind the goal-line. The remaining five (forwards) "of the defending team shall stand beyond the nearer 25-yards line until the ball has been touched by a player other than the one taking the corner hit, or until it has gone outside the circle."

This goes some way towards lessening the congestion in the circle and should afford better opportunities for scoring goals. But it also pampers the defending forwards, who are not now compelled to travel long distances to get behind the goal-line. This innovation has been in the American rules of hockey for some time, and if it makes for an uncluttered circle, speeds up the play, and eliminates danger, it will serve a useful purpose.

Club Stuff

120 years ago

At the AGM on 13 September 1902, the officers for the 1902-3 season were elected as follows, *viz*

President: Mr Sidney S Pawling

Vice President and Hon. Treasurer: Mr J G Q Besch

Captains: 1st XI Mr H B Hayman

2nd XI Mr E L Marsden, or failing him, Mr W G Ravenor

3rd XI Mr James Greig

Committee Messrs Herbert Greig, C D D McMillin, R Leigh Ibbs, J C Toller, H R Hebert, H H Evans, R A Hill and E L Marsden

Hon. Secretary Mr F C Wheeler

A hearty vote of thanks was voted to Mr Leigh Ibbs for his invaluable services as captain of the 3rd team since its commencement.

The proposed fixture card was read and approved. The negotiations for the taking of a second ground were reported. It was decided not to arrange more 4th XI matches until the new members had been elected.

The matter of the Easter Tour was referred to the Committee for consideration.

60 years ago

On 6 October 1962, Jim Deegan captains the 1st XI in its opening game of the season at home to Old Kingstonians, which it narrowly loses by the odd goal in three.

50 years ago

On 7 October 1972, the 1st XI is defeated 0-4 by Old Kingstonians in the first game of the season in the London League.

40 years ago

At an EGM on 14 September 1982, the Club formally declines the invitation of Hampstead Cricket Club to join them [at Lymington Road] largely on the basis of (a) the anticipated appointment of a new groundsman at Hornsey (b) the anticipated sale of surplus land at Hornsey (and the likelihood that training could take place on the resulting tennis courts) (c) the standard of pitches likely to be provided by Hampstead Cricket Club; and (d) the proposed improvements to the Hornsey ground, including a new cut-off drain and further sand-slitting that would improve pitch quality.

30 years ago

The third Hampstead & Westminster Challenge tournament begins on 19 September 1992 at PRG, with 14 teams in two groups.



20 years ago

Missing new player coach, Eddie O'Brien, the Men's 1st XI starts its second season in the Premier Division with a 5-0 loss at home, to Canterbury.