County Newsletter – January 2026

Happy New Year!

Structure Fit For The Future Review

Thank you to all County Officials who have been involved in the governance review that has taken place over the past 3 months, looking at the changes and implantation of the new Area and County structures since 2021. A presentation of the review is taking place by Governance United and EH staff on the 26th February at 5:30pm.

If you would like to attend this, please use the central County Support Session form below and select the relevant option.

County Sessions Session Sign Up - 25/26 – Fill out form

The information will be published on the EH website and this link will be sent to counties.

County Forum – Talent – 11th February @ 7pm

A County Forum is taking place on the 11th February by the Talent Department of England Hockey. If you would like to attend this forum, please use the County Support Session registration form below – more detail on the Forum will be sent to registrants prior to session.
County Sessions Session Sign Up - 25/26 – Fill out form

County Support Sessions Coming Up

Thank you to all counties and sub-areas who have completed the registration form for 25/26. Each county/sub-area should have received communication from our Membership Team regarding insurance and costs for the season – if you are yet to receive this, we can follow this up for you.
The EH Counties webpage has been updated with more information on the county support calendar for the year.

Counties Standing Committee – 24th February 2026

On 24th February, there is a Counties Standing Committee taking place. The Counites Standing Committee consists of 9 county officials from across the country to support ideas around county support and development. Minutes of this meeting will be available on the county portal.

County Meetings

To aid the flexibility of meeting times for County representatives, we are trialling a booking system has been developed which syncs with Sam Lewis's (Area Support Manager) calendar and allows counties to book meetings. The diary is predominantly for 10-5 during the day, however, evening meetings can also be scheduled by emailing county@englandhockey.co.uk

To book in time for a meeting, please use the link below (use the notes section to confirm topic of meeting):
Book time with Sam Lewis: Counties

England Hockey Awards 2026

The England Hockey Awards for 2026 are now open. More information on the awards can be found here. This year, there will be Area winners that will make up the National Finalists for the awards evening that is taking place on the 6th June. We want to encourage all Counties to put forward nominations, particularly for that of 'Area/County Volunteer of the Year' award, recognising county volunteers for their hard work and dedication in supporting county hockey.

Competition Registration – Under 12, 10 and 8s

With the Junior Hockey Framework having been released in the last few weeks, an aspect of this is getting a greater understanding of the recreational/informal competition that is being delivered (namely any competition that has no progression in the competition structure). If your county delivers recreational competition, it would be great if you could fill out the registration form to help build a picture of this level of the game.

Junior Competition Registration - Under 8/10/12 – Fill out form

Pro League Tickets

We are delighted to be able to invite you to attend the Community Day at FIH Pro League in 2026. Please see below further details:-

FIH Pro League
Will be held on Wednesday 24 June 2026 at Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre. The games on the day will be:-

11:00 – England v Spain (Women)
13:30 – England v Pakistan (Men)

Cost for the Counties will be £37.50 per person.

Please feel free to share the invite with anyone on your County Committee as well as other volunteers that have a role within your county. If anyone would like to attend, please ask them to complete this MS Form – https://forms.office.com/e/SQ7dMjGACf

We will keep you updated on who from your County has completed the form.

Recent England Hockey Communications:

Club Together – 29th January 2026

Euro Hockey Launch – 28th January 2026

Hockey Makers



Join our family of volunteers and help make England Hockey's events the best they can possibly be. Hockey Makers support the delivery of our events, including, but not limited to: car parking; wayfinding; liaising with teams and officials; field of play; and logistical support during bump-in and bump-out. All opportunities to volunteer at our domestic events for 2025/2026 and FIH Pro League 2026 are now live on our website, please follow the link here for all available opportunities and how to sign up.
New Hockey Makers are always welcome! Any questions, please feel get in touch with us at hockeymakers@englandhockey.co.uk or click here for our FAQs.

Ball Patrol team volunteers



England Hockey have opened applications for 15–18-year-olds to be part of the Ball Patrol team for home England matches at next summer's FIH Hockey Pro League in June 2026 in London. With hockey being a fast-paced game, ball patrollers require quick reactions to the action to help them play an exciting game.
Find out more here and apply here.
Please do share these 2 opportunities with your County via websites, social media etc.

Pitch Together Fund

We are delighted to announce the launch of The Pitch Together Fund, a groundbreaking new loan scheme that represents England Hockey's new approach to facility investment.

This initiative is designed to remove financial barriers, enabling clubs to access affordable loans to refurbish or develop their facilities. Crucially, this funding is combined with expert support and a capacity-building programme to ensure long-term success and sustainability for every project. More information on the Pitch Together Fund can be found here

ENGLAND HOCKEY

State School Festivals 2026

Below is a list of State School Festivals taking place in 2026 – if these details need updating, please email county@englandhockey.co.uk.

Area	County	Gender	Date	Venue
East	Cambridgeshire	Both	TBC	Cambridge City HC
East	Hertfordshire	Girls	Fri 20 March 2026	Herts & Essex HS
East	Hertfordshire	Open/Boys	Tues 3 March 2026	Watford Grammar School for Boys
London		Both	Fri 6 March 2026	Southgate HC
Midlands		Both	TBC	TBC
North West	Cheshire	Girls	Wed 22 April 2026	Deeside Ramblers HC
North West	Cheshire	Girls	Thurs 26 March 2026	Altrincham Grammar School for Girls
North West	Cheshire	Open/Boys	Wed 6 May 2026	Deeside Ramblers HC
North West	Cheshire	Open/Boys	Tues 28 April 2026	Altrincham Grammar School for Boys
North West	Lancs / Merseyside	Girls	Thurs 19 March 2026	Greenbank High
North West	Cumbria	Girls	TBC	Kirkby Stephen Grammar School
North West	Lancs / Merseyside / Cumbria	Open/Boys	Fri 24 April 2026	Lytham St Anne's HS
South Central		Both	Tues 17 March 2026	Reading HC
South Central		Both	Tues 24 March 2026	Stowe School
South East	Kent	Both	Fri 13 March 2026	Marden Russets HC
South East	Surrey	Both	Fri 6 March 2026	Broadwater School
South East	Sussex	Both	Wed 11 March 2026	Christs Hospital School
West	Avon	Girls	Fri 6 March 2026	Clifton College Sports Ground
West	Avon	Open/Boys	Fri 13 March 2026	Clifton College Sports Ground
West	Cornwall	Open/Boys	Thurs 29 January 2026	Penair School
West	Cornwall	Girls	Tues 11 November 2025	Truro School
West	Devon	Both	TBC	TBC
West	Dorset	Both	TBC - w/c 23/2 or 2/3	TBC - Queen Elizabeth School, Wimborne
West	Gloucestershire	Both (U14)	Wed 11 March 2026	Cheltenham College
West	Gloucestershire	Both (U11)	Wed 18 March 2026	Cheltenham College
West	Somerset	Both	Mon 2 February 2026	Chilton Trinity School
West	Wiltshire	Both	Tues 12 February 2026	Marlborough College
Yorkshire & NE	North East	Both	Thurs 12 February 2026	Northumberland University
Yorkshire & NE	Yorkshire	Both	Wed 11 March 2026	Ripon Grammar School
England Hockey	National	Both	Thurs 26 March 2026	Nottingham Hockey Centre
England Hockey	National	Both	Fri 27 March 2026	Nottingham Hockey Centre