



Welcome to the September 2026 Newsletter

This issue of the South Central Hockey Newsletter contains updates from:

- Contact details
- Masters Hockey
- GMS Updates
- Hockey Makers



When the new season is underway – and the race for the **South Central scoring and clean sheet crowns** will begin!

From September, we'll be regularly updating our **Top Scorers & Clean Sheets** page, tracking the players finding the back of the net and the goalkeepers and teams keeping them out across our Area leagues.

Who will be first to hit double figures? Which goalkeeper will be hardest to beat? And who will still be sitting proudly at the top when the season reaches its final stages?

Every goal counts. Every clean sheet matters.

Keep an eye on the leaderboard throughout the season, celebrate your club's performers and see how your team's stars are stacking up against the competition. [View the Top Scorers & Clean Sheets leaderboard](#)

Club Contacts

Keep Your Club Contacts Up to Date

As we prepare for the **2026/27 season**, we ask all affiliated clubs to take a few minutes to review and update your committee and contact details in the England Hockey Club Portal. This is particularly important if your club has elected **new officers** for the coming season, including:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Fixture Secretary
- Welfare Officer
- Junior Coordinator
- Membership Secretary
- Any other key club contacts

Keeping these details up to date ensures that England Hockey and South Central Hockey can communicate important information to the right people throughout the season. Competition updates, league information, governance guidance, funding opportunities and other key communications all rely on the contact details held within the Club Portal.

(clubportal.englishockey.co.uk)

You should also ensure that email addresses and telephone numbers are accurate, especially where volunteers have changed roles since the end of last season.

The England Hockey Club Portal can be accessed here:

[England Hockey Club Portal](#)

If you experience any issues accessing the portal or updating your club's details, support is available from the England Hockey Clubs Team. ([England Hockey](#))

Taking a few minutes now will help ensure your club receives all the information needed for a successful 2026/27 season.

Masters Hockey

Entries Now Open for the 2026/27 England Hockey Masters Championships

South Central clubs – this is your chance to compete on the national stage!

We are asking all clubs across South Central to consider entering the **2026/27 England Hockey Masters Championships** and, where appropriate, to share this information with your County Hockey Association.

The England Hockey Masters Championships continue to grow year on year, providing fantastic competitive opportunities for players aged 35 and over. Whether your club has an established Masters section or you're thinking of bringing together a team for the first time, now is the perfect opportunity to get involved.

Competitions Available

Entries are now open for:

- **Over 35 Club Knockout Championships**
- **Over 45 Club Knockout Championships**
- **Over 55 Club Knockout Championships**
- **Over 65 County Knockout Championships**

The competitions offer clubs and counties the chance to test themselves against teams from across England while enjoying the camaraderie and spirit that Masters hockey is renowned for. England Hockey's Masters programme starts at Over 35 and provides an excellent pathway for players to continue competing at a high level. ([England Hockey](#))



Don't Miss the Deadline

Entries close on Sunday 13 September 2026.

We encourage clubs to start planning now, speak with potential players and submit their entries well before the closing date.

Enter Your Team

Complete the official entry form here:

[England Hockey Championships – Masters 2026/27 Entry Form](#)

Find Out More

For competition regulations, key dates, eligibility information and everything you need to know before entering, visit the England Hockey Masters Championships page:

[England Hockey Masters Club CEnglandhampionships](#)

Please help us spread the word by sharing this information with your club members, Masters players and County contacts. The more South Central teams we have competing, the stronger our representation will be on the national stage.

If you're sending this to clubs by email, I can also produce a matching email and a social media campaign to drive entries before the 13 September deadline.

GMS Update

GMS Update – New Features and Improvements for the 2026/27 Season

England Hockey continues to develop the **Game Management System (GMS)**, with several new features and enhancements being introduced ahead of and during the 2026/27 season. These improvements are designed to make fixture management, communication and reporting easier for clubs, competition managers and volunteers.

New Features

Fixture Change Audit (Available from 9 August)

A new **Fixture Notes** tab will record every change made to a fixture, including:

- What was changed.
- Who made the change.
- The date and time of the amendment.
- Any venue changes.

The audit trail will be visible to anyone with access to the fixture.

Fixture Change Notifications (Available from 9 August)

Automatic email notifications will now be sent whenever the **date, time or venue** of a fixture changes:

- The opposing team's contacts will be notified whenever a change is made.
- If a Competition Manager or Umpire Manager makes the amendment, both teams will receive an email notification.

Match Sheet Changes

From **1 September**, every field on the electronic match sheet will become mandatory. This means team administrators must complete every field before submitting the match sheet, including entering **'0'** where:

- No goals have been scored.
- No cards have been issued.

The functionality will be available for testing during August fixtures, helping clubs become familiar with the new process before it becomes mandatory.

2026/27 Fixtures

Fixtures are being uploaded to GMS as they are received from each Area:

- Four of the eight Area fixture lists have already been uploaded.
- Fixtures will appear on competition websites in stages as each Area is published.

Please be aware that some competitions may appear before others while the rollout is completed.

GMS update cont...

Development Updates

England Hockey is continuing work on a number of additional improvements, including:

- Notifications when players complete a dual registration.
- Improved synchronisation when disciplinary cards are amended after a match.
- Young Umpire (U18) access to appointing functionality.
- Improvements to junior competition management, including triangle fixtures and bulk fixture removal.
- Behaviour and Hospitality reporting.
- Umpiring workflow enhancements requested by England Hockey and the NPUA.
- Improvements to transfer management for England Hockey Super Users.

Improved Data Access

From the start of the season, England Hockey will have enhanced reporting from GMS, including:

- Contacts, players and consents.
- Fixtures and appointments.
- Full audit trails.
- Team sheets and player statistics.
- Match reports, assessments and feedback forms.

This will help improve data quality and provide better support for clubs, Areas and competition managers.

Recently Completed Improvements

A number of requested fixes have already been delivered, including:

- Improved player record merging while retaining historic team sheet data.
- Mobile navigation fixes.
- Consent form improvements.
- Enhanced Super Admin permissions.
- Walkover fixtures removed from outstanding action lists.
- Simplified fixture generation for straightforward league structures.
- Improved disciplinary reporting.
- Correct display of Match Officials and Doctors on competition websites.

For the latest information, guidance and support resources, visit the **South Central GMS Update** page: <https://southcentral.englishhockey.co.uk/gms-update>

Become a Hockey Maker

Be Part of EuroHockey Championships 2027 – Become a Hockey Maker

The **EuroHockey Championships 2027** are coming to London from **28 July to 8 August 2027**, bringing Europe's best international hockey players together for one of the biggest events in the hockey calendar.

An event of this scale cannot happen without the support of an incredible team of volunteers – known as **Hockey Makers**. These volunteers are at the heart of the tournament, creating a welcoming atmosphere for players, officials and thousands of fans from across Europe.

Whether you're passionate about hockey, enjoy meeting new people, or simply want to experience a major international sporting event from behind the scenes, becoming a Hockey Maker is a fantastic opportunity.

Volunteer roles will cover a wide range of areas, including:

- Spectator and fan engagement
- Team and athlete services
- Field of play support
- Accreditation
- Media and communications
- Event operations
- Transport and logistics

No previous volunteering experience is necessary – just enthusiasm, a positive attitude and a willingness to be part of something special.

We encourage all South Central clubs to share this opportunity with your members, players, parents, officials and volunteers. It's a unique chance to contribute to a world-class event while making lasting memories and new friendships.

Event Dates: 28 July – 8 August 2027

Location: London

Volunteer applications are expected to open later this year. Keep an eye on England Hockey and EuroHockey communications for further details on how to register your interest and apply. Let's help make **EuroHockey Championships 2027** an unforgettable event by ensuring the South Central hockey community is well represented among the Hockey Makers!

[Apply here](#)



Adult Leagues

South Central ALMC Briefing Evening – Tuesday 1 September

Club officials and team captains – this one is for you!

As we prepare for the 2026/27 season, South Central Hockey is inviting clubs to join us for a dedicated **ALMC Briefing Evening** on **Tuesday 1 September at 19:00**.

The evening is an opportunity for **Club Officials and Team Captains** to get up to speed the key information they need for the new season and to ensure clubs are ready for the challenges ahead:

- **Tuesday 1 September 2026**
- **19:00**
- **Online briefing**

The session is particularly relevant to anyone involved in the administration and management South Central Area League hockey.

Who should attend?

- Club Officials
- Team Captains

Anyone with responsibility for managing teams and understanding Area League requirements

Register to attend

Please complete the registration form and provide the email address where you would like the online login details sent.

- **Register for the South Central ALMC Briefing Evening:**
[Registration Form](#)

Make sure your club is ready for the new season – register today and join us on 1 September.



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