London Area AGM REPORT 2024/25



ENGLAND HOCKEY

England Hockey Strategy

Creating a Future for Our Game Together – A Strategy for the Sport to 2028 Mission

Work Together To Make Hockey More Visible, Relevant And Accessible To All

Values

Values uphold and protect our sense of fairness and help define how we behave with each other both on and off the pitch.









The 5 main drivers for the Strategy are;

I ead	Positive	Change
Leau	I OSILIVE	Ollalide

Create and champion positive change within the community.

Meaningful Growth

To make sure that our sport thrives and grows into the future.

□ Drive Visible Impact

To produce and release high-quality, engaging content that shares the love of the game.

□ Responsible Leadership

To provide forward thinking, compassionate and inclusive leadership.

☐ Inspirational International Success

Achieve Inspirational club and national teams delivering podium success in Europe and on the world stage.

New Club Membership Model

Following a successful vote at the 2025 AGM, England Hockey will implement a new club membership model from September 2025. This change marks a significant step forward, replacing a system based on adult team numbers with a fairer, more modern approach that reflects the full breadth of club activity – including the vital contribution of junior players. For the first time, all players will be counted equally, ensuring that the collective strength of every club is recognised in how they contribute to and benefit from the national game.

The new model also provides clearer separation between the benefits offered to clubs and those offered to individual members, making it simpler for committees, players and parents to understand what their membership delivers. From national insurance cover and free coaching courses to increased investment in school programmes and club development, the changes ensure that hockey is better positioned to grow sustainably and inclusively in the years ahead. More information about the model and club and member benefits can be found here.

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Youth Strategy

England Hockey are continuing to develop the Youth Strategy for our sport which will encompass Community, School and Club Hockey activity. The aim is to enable community groups and schools to offer fun, inclusive hockey sessions, where possible linking to the local community hockey club. There is a clear focus of engaging with state schools to increase participation as well as offering free teacher training.

England Hockey are, as a result of the new membership structure working with Youth Sports Trust (YST) to engage with School Games Organisers (SGO) across the country to bring hockey festivals to state primary school aged children. This work will involve linking SGO's with clubs to support the festivals where possible and create a clear pathway for the children into local clubs. Talks are currently on going with SGO's to work with some London based clubs in this pilot.

Club Support

Whatever your plans or ambitions for your club development, England Hockey is committed to help you achieve them through access to a wide range of staff, resources, and advice. Find out more about what support your club can access, specialist staff, resources, and advice to help you meet your development goals by visiting the England Hockey website - <u>Club Support | England Hockey</u>

GROW OUR PARTICIPATION

Membership data

	Junior	Adult	Total
Total 2023/24	8854	8152	17006
Total 2024/25	8684	8145	16829
Difference	-170	-7	-177

The figures indicate a slight decrease in the numbers of players in London. Clearly this is a trend we would like to reverse. If your club has a junior focus and would like to work with me to grow your junior numbers, please get in touch so that we can chat through your club needs and targets.

Flyerz Hockey

This year we have seen an increase in clubs interested in running Flyerz sessions and becoming part of the Flyerz community with Teddington, Ealing and Blackheath & Elthamians all setting up sections. If your club is interested in finding out more please do get in touch. We have a great Flyerz Chat group on WhatsApp which has been instrumental in allaying any fears or worries about Flyerz and has supported new clubs with tips and hints so why not join the fun and find out how Flyerz can benefit your club - https://chat.whatsapp.com/Hlk7uY7258c6HIQvPZdJRZ

DELIVER INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Talent Development

Talent Certification (formally Talent Centre) expression of interest is now open and will remain open until 30th July 2025. This is a key opportunity for clubs to engage in the national talent system and contribute to developing the next generation of hockey players.

All relevant information, including guidance on the process and support materials, is available on the England Hockey website: <u>Talent Certification – Expression of Interest</u>

We strongly encourage all clubs to review the information and consider submitting an expression of interest ahead of the deadline.

INCREASE OUR VISABILITY

Our free-to-air strategy is a key part of England Hockey's broader vision to grow the sport by expanding its reach and increasing its relevance among diverse audiences. By working with a high-profile partner like Channel 4, we are investing in hockey's long-term sustainability and success. Channel 4's nationwide reach and their commitment to storytelling provide an excellent platform to showcase hockey to both core and new audiences. The initiative also aligns with England Hockey's ongoing commitment to providing value to its members by ensuring hockey remains visible, relevant, and accessible to all. Read more about the Free to Air Broadcast Strategy here.

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The England Hockey Awards Dinner was held once again in Leicester on Saturday 7th June 2025. You can find out about all the fantastic achievements and winners on the website here.

Club Networks and Forums

Once again I have hosted local networks and there has been a good number of national forums. The topics included:-

- Working With Whistles May 25
- Club School Links Feb 25
- Meet Your SWO (Sport Welfare Officer) Dec 24 / Jan 25

There are 3 planned national Membership Forums to be held very soon.

If you are interested in attending one of these events (online) please get in touch and I can share the details with you.

- Thursday 17th July 1200-1300
- Thursday 17th July 1700 1800 Monday 21st July 19.30 2030

I am looking to host more local events, and would like to know what topics areas you would like to see covered let me know if you have any suggestions.

These sessions are for the clubs and I would like to increase the number of London clubs represented. Please make sure your club is represented and reports back to your committees, it doesn't have to be the same person that attends all the time.

Network events work best when the clubs are the experts and share their good practice. Big thank you to those clubs who have already shared their words of wisdom it really is great. Sharing is Caring!

Club Strategy - What Makes a Great Club

What Makes a Great Club has been refreshed. Running through the heart of every great club are seven strands. They support your club to be the best it can be, help you provide the best experience to all involved and in the right combination will help your club become sustainable and succeed. I would really like to work with clubs who are able to set tangible targets for their club. I am happy to work with small working groups on any project that is going to support your club so get in touch!

England Hockey ClubMark

There are currently 113 clubs national accredited with ClubMark that is 15.8% of clubs. The following Clubs in London are currently accredited or working towards accreditation. Well done all of you something to be proud of!

Accredited Clubs					
Southgate HC	Ealing HC	Richmond HC			
Havering HC	West Hampstead HC	Ashford (Middlesex) HC			
London Academicals HC	London Wayfarers HC				
Re Accrediting	In progress				
Surbiton HC	Indian Gymkhana HC				
Hamstead & Westminster HC	Harrow HC				
Spencer HC	Waltham Forrest HC				
Wimbledon HC					

If any clubs are interested in working towards the accreditation in the coming season get in touch. Everything is done on the Club Portal, it is much more streamlined, with only 16 pieces of evidence required to meet this minimum operating standard. Happy to have an online meeting to talk clubs through the process.

BE A STRONG AND RESPECTED GOVERNING BODY

In July 2023, we announced that England Hockey is reviewing the transgender policy for participation in the sport and today we are launching the new policy and guidance that will come into effect from 1st September 2025. You can find more information including the revised policy here.

Safeguard

There is a clear distinction between Safeguarding and Health & Safety.

- Safeguard covers safeguarding and policies
- Safe Hockey covers Health & Safety, Concession, Injuries etc.

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Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and our updated website is designed to show what information is relevant to what audience by splitting it down to key audiences, making it easier to find. As part of the new membership structure Basic online Safeguarding Awareness course will be free on the Hockey Hub. Find out more here

To support Welfare officers, we are now working very closely with London Sports, Sport Welfare Officers who are able to provide <u>free training</u> and support for clubs. This support does not replace the reporting process for concerns which should still come to EH and the Safeguarding Team. We have a dedicated London Safeguard WhatsApp chat group if you club Welfare Officer would like to be part of this support network, please join the group and be first to find out about the FREE training and resources that are available to all London clubs. https://chat.whatsapp.com/KXNV47lzdD7HVJxP2zaUuh

Safe Hockey - Safe Hockey | England Hockey

Regardless of the activity taking place, whether in a game or training, creating a safe environment for everyone involved in hockey is essential. England Hockey strongly recommends that all clubs, organisations and their members take the time to read and digest the policies and guidance. It is the responsibility of everyone within the sport to create a safe environment for all who participate. Luke's Poster – We have seen a good number of clubs that have invested in posters for their club to remind members about their responsibility surrounding Safety. Click here for more information about Luke and the posters which can be branded with Club Logo's all for £40 +VAT

Injury Monitoring

The reporting of injuries sustained whilst training or during matches is still a mandatory requirement for all clubs and associations who are members of England Hockey. As part of England Hockey's Injury Reporting Policy, England Hockey require clubs and associations to complete the England Hockey online 'Injury Reporting | England Hockey' following injuries sustained that require one or more of the following:

- Treatment from a first aid specialist (e.g., team doctor/ first responder)
- Hospital treatment
- Subsequent visit(s) to a GP

Between the start of the season and Christmas there are some forum/workshops planned which will be run nationally and by the Governance Team. Keep an eye on the Club Support page on the website for more information and will endeavor to share the dates and links on the WhatsApp groups when I have more details.

Free Online Health & Safety Module

The module aims to provide guidance and ideas on how to deliver fun, safe and engaging sessions, and how we can put the best practice, policies and procedures in place to make sure that our sport is as safe as it can be. We would recommend all people involved in the delivery of Hockey activity complete this and refresh their knowledge every three years. It's also a good way to get parent

Finally, thank you for your support and hard work over the last 12 months. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Here are all the London WhatsApp groups links. It would be great to get all clubs on these groups as they seem to work really well with some really good questions and experience sharing on there.

WhatsApp groups London -

- London Club Chair https://chat.whatsapp.com/DNgh8vOenSQ95CrBkczqSm
- London Club Secretary https://chat.whatsapp.com/GiiH2YZZsaV7DoHWJCKtDL
- London Club Development Officer https://chat.whatsapp.com/l31ycSdpFmzlSUXthcUalx
- London Junior Clubs https://chat.whatsapp.com/BDe2UMuGIHwKABNsgvxOsM
- London CWO Chat https://chat.whatsapp.com/KXNV47lzdD7HVJxP2zaUuh
- Flyerz Chat https://chat.whatsapp.com/Hlk7uY7258c6HlQvPZdJRZ

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