



## Welcome to the December 2023 Newsletter

### Welcome

Welcome to the South Central Hockey November Newsletter.



### In this newsletter you will find:

- Finance
- League Slip dates
- Fixtures Management
- Officiating update
- Concussion protocols
- Umpire development support
- Buckingham HC in Europe

In order for us to help you we would like to remind you all to please keep all your contact details up-to-date on [GMS](#) and for those who are committee members through the [England Hockey Club portal](#). It is this method that allows us to communicate information to you.

## Finance Update



### Club Treasurers

Thank-you to all the treasurers for payment of the Annual membership. Debtors, please pay asap. The appointed umpire invoice for H1 will be raised at the end of December. As always Club treasurer please can you try and use a generic address e.g. TreasurerHockeyClub@gmail.com or Treasurer@HockeyClub.com

### Umpire's

Please submit your expenses ASAP and if you are not being paid Immediately it is because you have not sent your bank details the South Central Hockey Finance Director. His email address is:

[finance@southcentral.hockey](mailto:finance@southcentral.hockey)



## Adult League Update

Frozen pitches caused problems this last weekend, overall about 50 fixtures were postponed.

Team contacts are requested to add their contact telephone number into GMS, there have been a number of issues where the home team have not been able to contact their opposition on the day (frozen pitch etc etc)

If a fixture is called off for inclement weather team admins MUST inform the relevant Divisional Secretary immediately. The fixture will be moved, by the relevant DS , to the next reserve/slip date and the teams concerned will be informed that:

The fixture of such and such date has been moved to the next slip date which is..... HOWEVER If BOTH TEAMS AGREE the fixture can be played prior to the rearranged date but the relevant Divisional Secretary must be kept informed to enable the date to be changed.

## Fixtures Management

### Regulations State:

5.2.1 Each team shall provide, using the GMS and by the date requested, the proposed time and venue for each of its home matches as below. This is subject to any variation for a later deadline at the discretion of the ALMC.

Grade 2-5 – All fixtures for matches pre-Christmas by 8th September. All fixtures for matches post-Christmas by 1st December



### These are the slip dates for the rest of the season

- Sun 10th December
- Sat 16th December
- Sat 6th January
- Sun 4th February
- Sat 17th February
- Sun 3rd March
- Sun 24th March
- Sun 7th April
- Sun 14th April
- Sun 21st April

Chairman, South Central Leagues

[Chair.Adultleagues@southcentral.hockey](mailto:Chair.Adultleagues@southcentral.hockey)

## Officiating Development Update

The development team are working on lots of new initiatives to help umpires with their skills. In addition to the usual development activities such as match support and the Monday Mixer sessions, there are three exciting new projects underway:

Guidance for pre and post-match chats. Simon Watkins (with the help of Steve Godwin and Ginette Tessier) has been developing a set of 'prompts' for umpires and developers alike to move discussions about umpiring into more of a 'thinking' mode. Early tests on matches at different levels have gone well and we hope to be able to roll out this guidance (along with clarity over assessment criteria) in November. There will be lots of information made available for umpires to understand how the guides can help them.

Short-sided 'training' games. Steve Godwin has been working with Havant HC to provide umpire support for training games, which benefits the umpires by providing opportunities to speed up their decision-making skills. These have been very beneficial and we would love for other clubs (especially in the North of South Central) to see if they are able to provide a similar setup. Rowena Shepherd (Club Liaison Lead) has sent out some communications to clubs about this, so if you're interested, please get in touch!

Talent Academy opportunities. Steve Godwin and Simon Watkins have provided development support for umpires invited to attend the first talent academy games for juniors at HMS Temeraire. We are hoping this collaboration will also provide opportunities for junior players to learn more about umpiring and the important role it plays in our sport.

If you have any suggestions or requests for umpire development support at your club, please get in touch!

[Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey](mailto:Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey)

We still haven't managed to find someone to take on the Lead Young Umpire role, so it is currently being covered by other committee members who are already fully stretched with their existing roles. This means that we will be unable to create opportunities for our young umpires as much as we would like.

We have a team of people who are keen to help with the role, spread across the Area, but we still need a Lead for the



## Concussion

You should all be aware that there is an England Hockey Concussion Policy, which can be found here:

<https://southcentral.englishhockey.co.uk/about-south-central-hockey/documents-policies/agm-documents-policies>



It is well worth you all making yourself familiar with the main points of this policy but, just to be clear, umpires and match officials are not expected to have medical knowledge. If someone has taken a knock to the head, and you suspect that there might be an element of concussion, then the advice is to assume that this is a case of concussion and act accordingly.



## Umpire Development run by clubs

South Central Officiating has recently commenced an initiative which seeks to form closer links with clubs and help with umpire development. The project was created through the joint efforts of two highly experienced colleagues : Steve Godwin and Simon Watkins

Initially Godders and Simon worked with Havant Hockey Club on a pilot project where umpires of an appropriate level, together with development support, were sent to attend 1st team training sessions.

The umpires were asked to umpire training games/drills. This included half pitch games, narrow pitch games and 5/6/7 a side games, along with penalty corner and set piece restart situations. This was all done at match intensity. The play was interspersed with breaks for debriefs including team/umpire feedback discussions.

The development support team engaged in the debriefs and also provided post event feedback to the umpires. There were benefits for all participants.

The same concept was then taken to Wallingford Hockey Club where it was anticipated that a more mixed group of umpires - from complete beginners upwards - would have a similar opportunity. Unfortunately, on this occasion, the weather meant the pitch was unplayable and the experience was not as good as hoped. ...Cont

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## Save the Date

South Central would like to extend this programme to any club playing at any level in the South Central region. So far there has been a very encouraging response to this programme. Several clubs have asked if they can join in !!

We also offer to come and visit your club to talk to you about umpire development and to support your club umpire development officer and your umpire development plans.

If you are interested please do not hesitate to get in touch with the South Central Officiating team. At this stage we cannot give firm commitments on dates as we need to collate responses and allocate appropriate resources based on the uptake.

Rowena Shepherd

[Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey](mailto:Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey)

The provisional date for the South Central Hockey Ltd AGM have been set for Thursday 18th July 2024 at 19.30.

Please mark this date in your calendars so you can have your points of view heard and recorded.

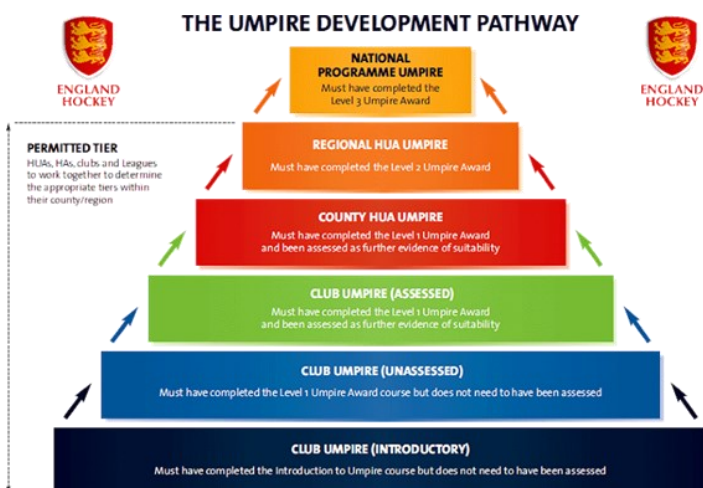


We are always listening and want to help develop hockey in the area along the lines that the majority of clubs want.

We particularly want to hear from grass roots hockey, junior and youth hockey, umpire development youngsters as well as those more experienced.

Contact us:

[operations@southcentral.hockey](mailto:operations@southcentral.hockey)



## Buckingham Hockey Club

South Central Hockey is responsible for local hockey activity in the area at all age groups. Our purpose is to support our membership, to provide the best possible hockey experiences for everyone. You may have read recently that Buckingham HC will be representing England at the European Indoor championships in Turkey. This was an unexpected elevation to the finals due to Repton HC withdrawing but Buckingham were runner-up in the Super 6's. Buckingham are now looking for sponsorship to help them fund their participation as this is an unplanned expense. So with this in mind, we have agreed to make a small contribution to Buckingham's costs to support them taking part in the competition.

Participating in such an elite event will help promote hockey in our area and the experiences and skills gained for players and coaches taking part will benefit associated clubs and schools.

For our wider hockey community, Buckingham have agreed to organise an online event open to all interested parties where the coaches will share their experiences of the indoor game, illustrating coaching points and sharing learnings using video clips taken during the tournament. This is a great opportunity for our membership to learn more about indoor hockey and hopefully pick up some good coaching tips to feed back to clubs. And for those clubs or schools that don't play indoor, this might inspire you to have a go.



So, if you are involved in any small projects or initiatives and you need some support, please get in contact with us. We are here to help hockey in our area so that everybody who wants to can have access to hockey, and to have a brilliant experience. We can help facilitate this either through small donations and/or giving our time to help. Contact us at [operations@southcentral.hockey](mailto:operations@southcentral.hockey).

