



# SOUTH CENTRAL HOCKEY NEWS

JANUARY 2024

## Welcome to the January 2024 Newsletter

### Welcome

Welcome to the South Central Hockey November Newsletter.



### In this newsletter you will find:

- Masters trials dates
- Umpire development support
- Club projects help
- Hockey on the BBC

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.

**Please note that South Central Newsletters will now be quarterly publications from now on.**

## Save the Date

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)

## Masters Update from your Chair of Master Hockey

### South Central New Year Masters

#### Special, a call to sticks!

It's another new year, we're all a year older, but that's an opportunity to extend hockey longer.

Some came from North (ish) (so South Central makes sense! don't ask me I have no 6th sense!), many from the South, surely our core? but some from the East of our Southern shore.

Some come from more west, such magical places, trust me I know, it's hard to replace it!

Our Hockey world is changing too quickly to measure, but in spite of that. it still gives me pleasure.

I started with County and transitioned to Region, now it's an Area, there was a good reason. Whatever it's called and for whoever you play, for me at least, Hockey makes my day (at least once a week!).

Your Area is calling from old and from new, to come to the fold and play till you're through (done/dead ☐ – delete as appropriate). Skills are still there, fitness is in the mind and if you are willing, we don't mind.

Competition dates and venues are now set, the details are below if my scribbles are set

Women's Area Masters Tournament 2024	Date 2024	Area	Venue
Women's Over 35s	11/12th May	South East	Marden HC
Women's Over 40s	18/19th May	South East	Folkstone Optimist HC
Women's Over 45s	11/12th May	South Central	Bournemouth HC
Women's Over 50s	18/19th May	London	Surbiton HC
Women's Over 55s	11/12th May	South Central	Basingstoke HC
Women's Over 60s	1/2nd June	South East	Guildford HC
Women's Over 65s	18/19th May	West	University of Bristol, Coombe Dingle
Women's Over 70s	9th May	Midlands	Hampton in Arden HC
Men's Area Masters Tournament 2024	Date 2024	Area	Venue
Men's Over 35s	11/12th May	YNE	Wakefield HC
Men's Over 40s	8/9th June	NW	Timperley HC
Men's Over 45s	18/19th May	East	Bedford HC
Men's Over 50s	8/9th June	YNE	Wakefield HC
Men's Over 55s	18/19th May	London	Southgate HC
Men's Over 60s	8/9th June	Midlands	Stourport HC
Men's Over 65s	15/16th June	London	Richmond HC
Men's Over 70s	8/9th June	East	Cambridge City HC
Men's Over 75s	15/16th June	YNE	Sheffield HC

The **Ladies are sorted** with trials on **7<sup>th</sup> of Jan** and thanks to Nigel Dean the men now also have a plan. But (sorry to the English teachers out there, starting a sentence with a but was always not allowed but it makes sense to me!) we need more people to come and support, managers, coaches, umpires and of course players of all sorts.



There is a google form, a link is below, accessible from computer or even from your (smart) phone. I know it's quite modern, but please don't moan, we can't afford to post you tablets of stone.

**So stop what you're doing and make that decision to fill out the form with maximum precision (yes I'm struggling now!). But don't stop there, commit to the date and travel to Basingstoke, the day will be great.**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf\\_59WUIZQvyqbuPaulTS67F891RKBMBNAVcTFZQ18lzfzZA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_59WUIZQvyqbuPaulTS67F891RKBMBNAVcTFZQ18lzfzZA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0)

We still need volunteers to be managers for the following age groups:-

35s, 40s, 60s and 65s.

Any questions please Email:

Nigel Dean at [nigeld496@gmail.com](mailto:nigeld496@gmail.com)

or

John Stuart at [chair.masters@southcentral.hockey](mailto:chair.masters@southcentral.hockey)

The date is set for the **28<sup>th</sup> of Jan for 35s to 65s** so come if you can. **70s and 75s** are graced with a little more time **12<sup>th</sup> of March** will see you just fine.

The location? Basingstoke so make it a plan, to join fellow Masters, and trial if you can.

We have some trialists but need the numbers up if we want to compete and bring home cup(s).

I know you are busy, second half of the season just begun, but for Masters Hockey these Area things are the start of your England Run.





## 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.

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.

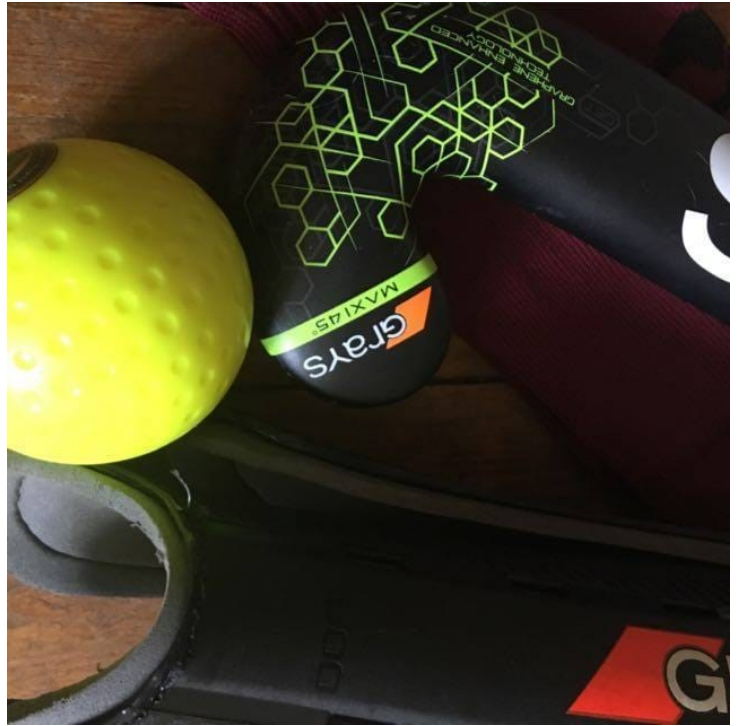
Rowena Shepherd

[LeadClubLiaison.Officiating@SouthCentral.Hockey](mailto:LeadClubLiaison.Officiating@SouthCentral.Hockey)

## Hockey Club Support

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.

Clubs can access the skills knowledge and experience available within the team to support the projects your club have in mind. An example of how South Central Hockey has done this is when Buckingham HC were unexpectedly elevated to the European Super 6's finals as reported last month.



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)

## \*\*\*Breaking News\*\*\*



**FIH** | **BBC SPORT**

5 January 2024

**FIH and BBC sign partnership for FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers**

**Lausanne, Switzerland:** The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is glad to announce that it has signed a media rights agreement with free-to-air broadcaster BBC for the upcoming [FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers](#).

With this agreement, the BBC will broadcast all matches of the British team, women and men.

As the GB men's and women's teams put the final preparations in place for the [Olympic Qualifiers](#), it's been announced that [BBC Sport](#) will broadcast all GB matches on their digital platforms.

The women's team will be in Valencia and have been drawn in Pool B where they will face Canada, Malaysia and Spain while the men's team will be travelling to Oman and will take on China, Malaysia and Pakistan in Pool A.

The teams need to secure a place in the top three of their respective tournaments to qualify their place at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

England and GB Hockey CEO, Nick Pink, said: "We're thrilled that BBC Sport has announced that the GB men's and women's matches will be shown live on their digital platforms.

"We all know the Olympic Qualifiers is a vital competition for the teams and for our community to be able to show their support and watch every moment of their journey is fantastic.

"I would like to encourage everyone to get the matches on and cheer on our teams every step of the way."