



# **NORTH WEST HOCKEY**

**AGM 2025**

**17 July 2025 @ 7:30pm**

# 1. Welcome and Introductions

**Chris Reece – Chair: North West Hockey Ltd**

## **Welcome: 5<sup>th</sup> North West Hockey AGM**

- Member Clubs, County Representatives and Legacy Members
- Non member Clubs who play in the North West Hockey League
- England Hockey Observer & Moderator: Sam Lewis (Area Support Manager)
- North West Hockey Board and Management Committee

# 1. Welcome and Introductions

## Housekeeping



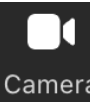
Chat

Please share your Name and Club in the Chat



Mic

Please mute when not speaking, (this helps to reduce any background noise)

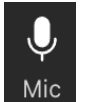


Camera

Please turn on your Camera



We will be recording the AGM, if you choose to turn your camera off, we fully understand

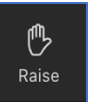


Mic

Remember to unmute yourself when speaking



The Minutes and slides will be shared – Post AGM



Raise

Voting by eligible members will be by a show of hands



Apologies

# Agenda

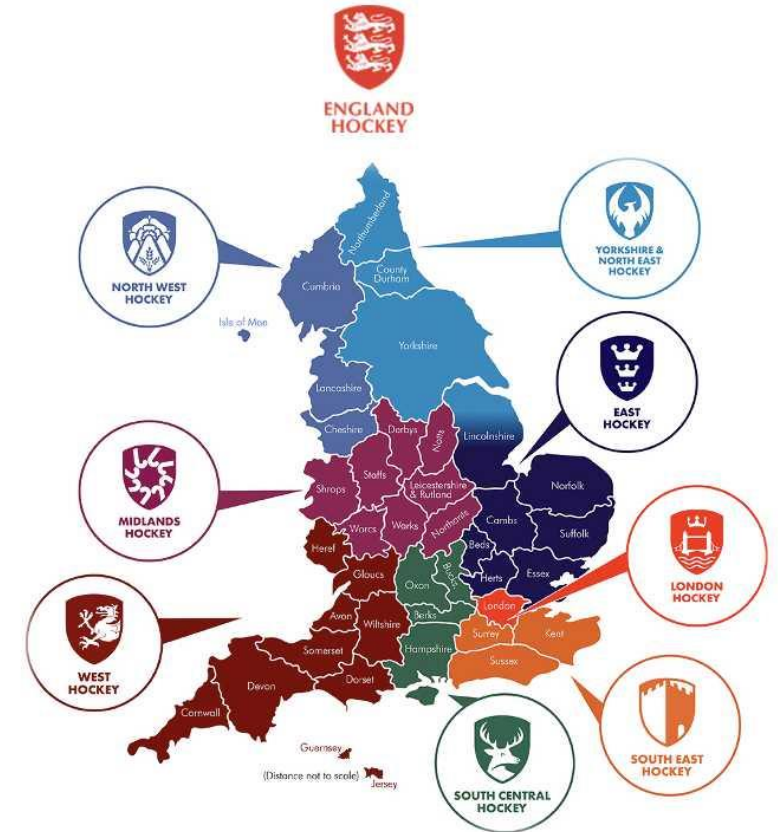
1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Apologies for absence
3. Chair's Remarks
4. Minutes of the last AGM held on 4 July 2024
5. Announcement of Postholder election results
6. Area Structure & Key work of the Board
7. Annual Review of North West Hockey Ltd 2024-25
8. North West Hockey Limited Financial Report
9. Resolutions to be voted on at the meeting
10. Appointed Umpire Fees: (Information) North West
11. Any Other Business

*There will be time for questions and answers after each of the main reports*

***Aim to finish the meeting by 21:00 hours***

# 3. Chair's Remarks

- Year 5 completed since bringing together the North West Hockey Family
- North West Hockey continues to grow with the work of our Clubs and Counties with the support and Guidance from England Hockey
- North West Hockey one of the 8 Area's working closely to ensure consistency of Regulations, Policies and Guidelines
- This Year we launched our North West Hockey Strategy



### 3. Chair's Remarks

**Thank you to all volunteers who have made hockey happen during the 2024-25 season all those who have participated and enjoyed all we offer**

- Adult Competitions – Junior Competitions – Masters Hockey – Officiating
- The Governance of North West Hockey including Discipline
- Our Committees and Volunteers delivering all aspects of Hockey in the North West
- Our Clubs and all their Volunteers
- Our Counties and all their Volunteers
- Our North West and Club Officials and Umpires, our Players and Supporters

# 3. Chairs Remarks

## NW Club and School Successes 2024-2025

### EH National League:

- Division 1(N) Champions – Brooklands M1's, promoted to Premier Division
- North Conference Champions – Timperley M1's promoted to Div 1 (N)

### EH Clubs Championship (Adult and Masters)

- Bowdon M2 – Tier 2 Runners Up
- West Derby Women - Tier 4 Winners
- Sandbach Men – Tier 4 Plate Runners Up
- Timperley Women's O55 – Tier 2 Winners
- Alderley Edge Men's O55 – Shield Winners
- Cheshire Men's O65 – Plate Winners
- Cumbria & NW Revivers O65 – Shield Runners up

### EH Clubs Championships (Junior)

- Neston U14 Boys – Tier 1 Plate Winners
- Bowdon U16 Girls – Tier 1 vase Runners Up
- Timperley U18 Girls – Tier 2 Cup Winners

### EH Schools Championships

- Caldby Grange School – Tier 1 State School Final Runners Up

### 3. Chairs Remarks

## NW Successes & Recognition 2024-25 EH Awards

**Congratulations to those clubs and individuals recognised at the 2025 England Hockey Awards:**

**Winners:** Men's Team of the Year - Neston 1's

Coach of the Year: Kevin Heath (Macclesfield)

**Finalists:** Club of the Year : Bowdon

Men's Team of the Year: Timperley 1's

Area Volunteer of Year: Charles Jackman (Lancs HA)

Unsung Hero: Richard Cook (Warrington)



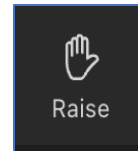
# 4. Minutes of the last AGM – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## Minutes of AGM 2024


### Minutes North West Hockey AGM 2024 circulated with Calling Notice

#### 4.1 Approval as a true and accurate record of the meeting

- Proposed (*Board*) / Seconded - VOTE
  - For
  - Against
  - Abstain



#### 4.2 Matters arising (not covered by the Agenda)

 North West Hockey Ltd		
<b>Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting of North West Hockey Limited held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 by Video Conference</b>		
<b>Attendees:</b>		
Chris Reece	(CR)	Chair
Shelagh Everett	(SE)	Vice-Chair
Niall Riley	(NR)	Finance Director
Leighan Bleasdale	(LB)	Governance Director
Wendy McDowall	(WM)	Operations Director
Keith Carder	(KC)	England Hockey Observer
Annette Badger	(AB)	NW AOC Chair
Peter McNulty	(PM)	NWH ADA
Taff Ahmed	(TA)	NWH Social Media Lead
Tony Taig	(TT)	NWH Masters Chair
<b>Attendance</b>		
Representatives and members attending (see Annex A).		
48 Attendees		
40 Clubs were represented.		
3 Counties were represented (Cheshire HA, Cumbria HA and Lancashire HA)		
<b>1. Welcome and introductions</b>		
CR welcomed everyone to the 4th AGM of North West Hockey Ltd (NWH) and introduced Keith Carder attending as the EH Observer.		
<b>2. Apologies for Absence and confirmation of Quorum</b>		
Apologies were received from: Beth Alvey, NW Junior Chair, Eunice Ellison (Lancashire HA), Tom Heather Preston HC and Mary Bainbridge Wrexham HC.		
CR confirmed that the meeting quorum, of 15 voting members attending, had been met with 48 attendees on line at the start of the meeting. This was an excellent turnout and CR thanked everyone attending from Member Club's, Counties, Legacy Members, North West Hockey, non-member Clubs who play in the NW Leagues and Keith Carder England Hockey Head of Sport and NWH AGM Observer for attending.		
CR reported one club had Registered their proxy / duly authorised representative in advance of the meeting.		
<small>North West Hockey Limited is a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. Company Number 13433627. Registered Office Address England Hockey, Bisham Abbey, Marlow, England, SL7 1RR.</small>		

# 5. Announcement of election results

Following the online Ballot the following are duly elected:

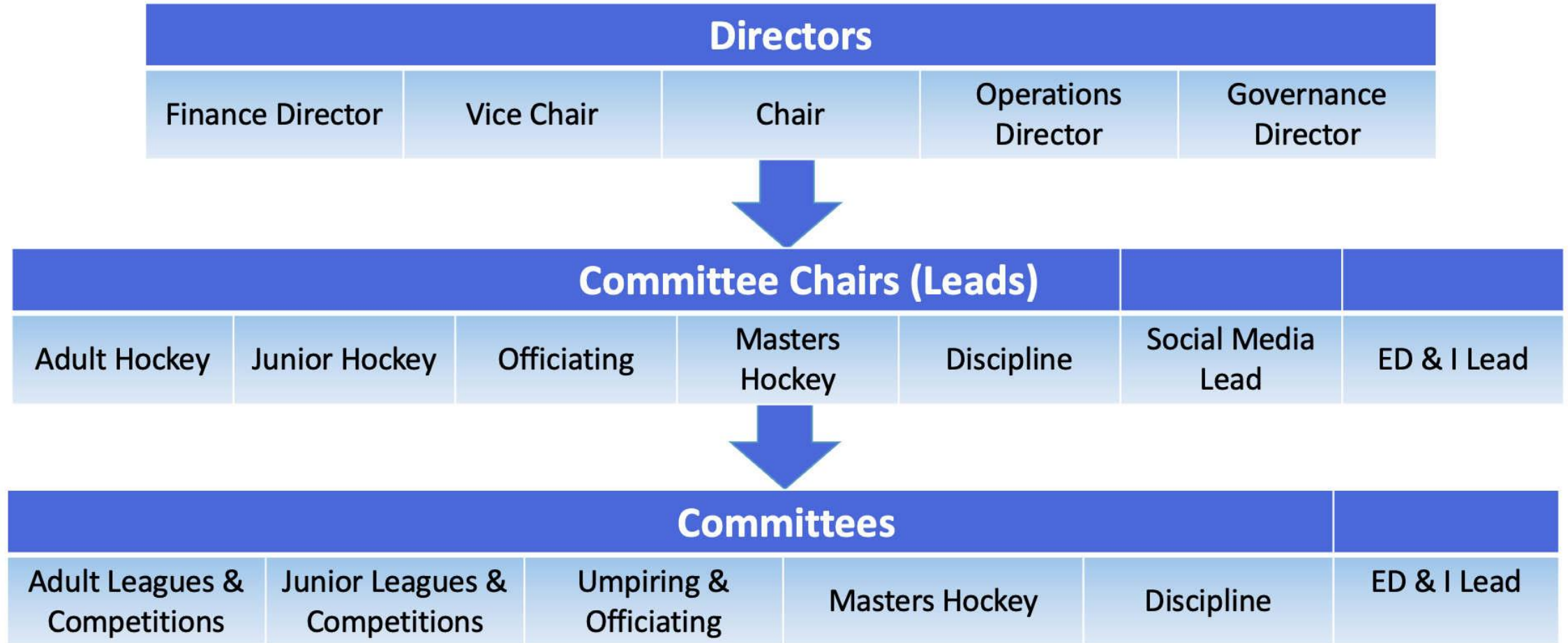
## Board

- Vice Chair: Shelagh Everett
- Operations Director: Wendy McDowall

## Management Committee






- Adult League and Competitions Chair: John Dixon
- Masters Chair: Tony Taig
- Officiating Chair: Tony Shutt
- Junior League and Competitions Chair: Vacancy

# 6. North West Hockey Governance Structure



# 6. 2024-25 North West Hockey Board

## Board: Directors


Chair	Vice Chair	Finance Director	Governance Director	Operations Director
Chris Reece	Shelagh Everett	Niall Riley	Leighan Bleasdale	Wendy McDowall
				

# 6. 2025-26 North West Committee Chairs/Leads

## Committee Chairs/Leads

Adult League & Competitions	Junior League & Competitions	Officiating	Masters	Discipline ADA <i>Appointed Position</i>	ED&I	Social Media
John Dixon	Vacant	Tony Shutt	Tony Taig	Peter <u>McInulty</u>	Charlotte Dunham	Taff Ahmed
						

# 7. Review of North West Hockey 2024-25



June 2025

Annual Review  
2024-25

Welcome to our fourth annual review and report to members of North West Hockey. The 2024-25 season has been one where we have continued to grow the numbers of hockey opportunities for all ages both as North West Hockey but also helped grow the support with the incredible work of our clubs and counties.

I would like to thank all involved in making hockey happen across the North West Hockey community both on and off the pitch and to those volunteers who support the running of our Area through the Board, Management Committees, Adult, Junior, Masters and Officiating Committees and all our NW officials – often in addition to roles with their clubs and counties. Hockey is a team sport, and we are extremely proud of the wider team we have across the North West who are helping us run, grow and develop the hockey for all.

Our annual review gives a snap shot of the activities delivered through the North West Hockey structure and volunteers and touches on key highlights for the season. One of the key areas of progress in 2024-25 was the launch of our NW Hockey Strategy and work is underway to embed this within the work of all of our key functions and activities to support achieving our vision 'To promote, develop and grow hockey opportunities for all in the North West'.

Thank you again for your support and to our 92 clubs and volunteers delivering hockey in the NW.  
*Chris Reece, Chair, North West Hockey*

**New and key activities delivered in 2024-25**

- North West Hockey Strategy launched and priority areas being embedded in our work
- Growth of our indoor and outdoor schools and state school festivals and comps
- Over 4500 adult league matches involving 9500+ players
- 534 Premier Men's and Women's Divisions officiating (*Umpire*) appointments
- 515 registered NW masters players
- Provided 60 umpire radio sets to club to support umpire development
- Facilitated themed member forums for clubs; juniors; officiating and development
- Engaging with all EH 8 Area functional groups to share best practice, learn, influence and provide a NW voice

**Challenges and opportunities**

- Growing the pool of volunteers supporting NW Hockey activities and development
- Improving our socials media, communications and engagement
- Working across the Area to ensure how remains a safe, enjoyable and inclusive sport open to and making match day experiences positive for all
- Creating capacity to deliver our strategic ambitions and plans
- Supporting development and growth of junior and club umpiring feeding into the appointed pools
- Supporting clubs and participants through our new Awards and Bursary/Grants scheme

Join us online for the 2025 North West Hockey Annual General Meeting  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7.30pm

We welcome questions in advance to help manage the Q and A time on the Annual Review or any aspect of our work. Please email [chair@northwesthockey.co.uk](mailto:chair@northwesthockey.co.uk).  
Reminder to all clubs to register to attend and check email for full details and links for the AGM

NORTH WEST HOCKEY LTD

1

ANNUAL REVIEW 2024-25

Annual Report circulated with Calling Notice

Key Highlights and Summary

Followed by any Questions

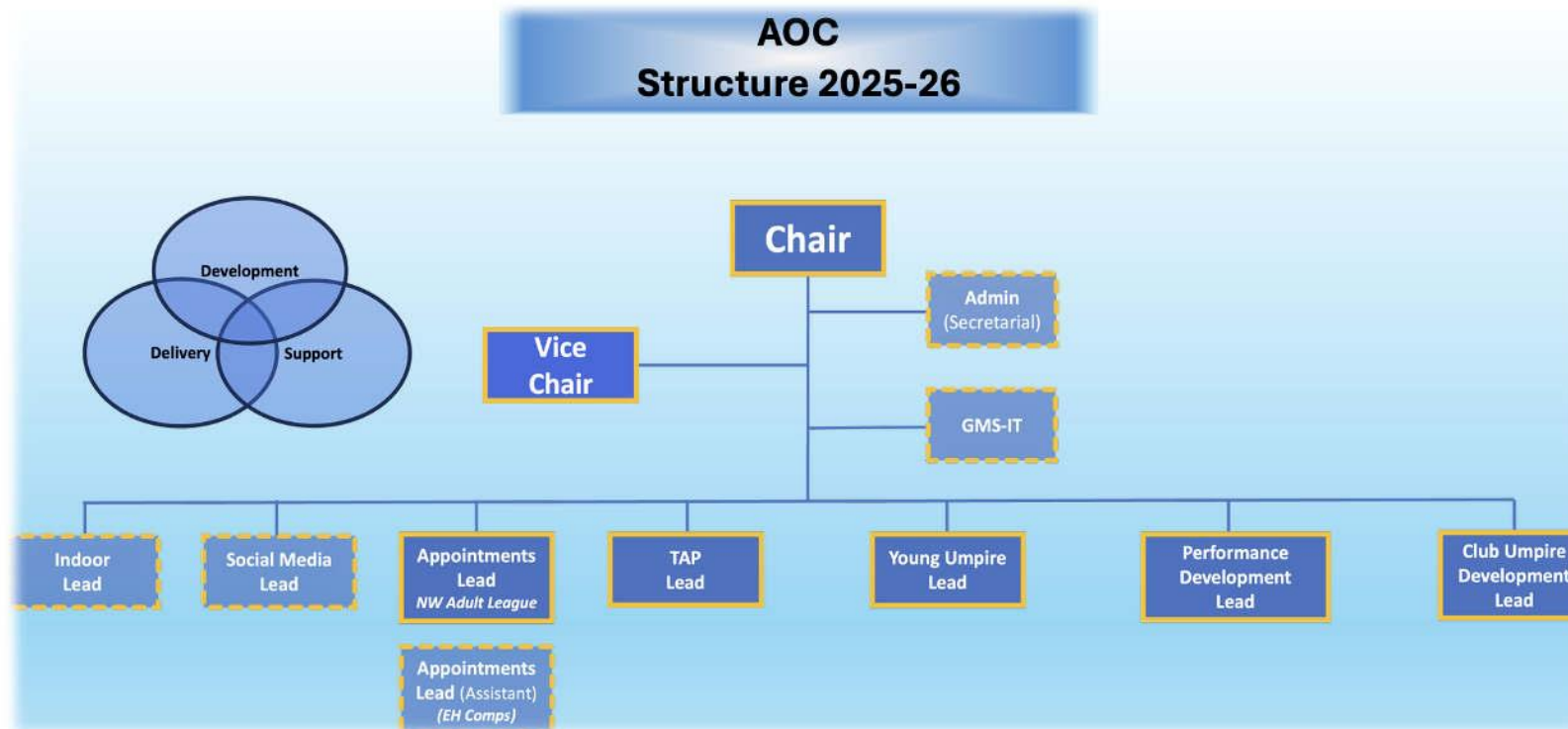
The Annual Review is to NOTE

Use the chat  
function

# 7. Review of North West Hockey - Looking forward

## OFFICIATING

We have restructured the Officiating Committee and roles to align with the EH and North West Officiating Strategies, and to focus on Club Engagement and Support.



# 7. Review of North West Hockey - Looking forward

## OFFICIATING

- Annette Badger – Retired from AOC
- Development events for club umpires:
- New online L1 Course (*Free*), Register via the Hockey Hub
- Club Radios distributed 60 plus radios 7.5K investment
- Officiating Club Survey – August
- Any Questions



**Umpire Level 1 Course (Online)**  
Online

# 7. Review of North West Hockey - Looking forward

## JUNIOR LEAGUE & COMPETITIONS

### CLUB COMPETITIONS

NW Junior Area Leagues (U14 & U16):

Finals will return in all leagues next year, regardless of the number of pools in each league

### STATE SCHOOLS

Last year saw delivery of a single State School festival. This season – no less than seven State Plans are already underway for the addition of a NW State School Final in 2026, which will offer yet another exciting opportunity for young hockey players in the region

**NEW STRUCTURE:** to recognise the growth in North West Hockey Junior – EOI's will go out shortly  
Schools Dev Lead, Club Dev Lead

**ENTRY FORMS:** these are all on the North West Hockey Juniors Website Section



#### Schools Competitions

Information on Schools Competitions in the North West Area

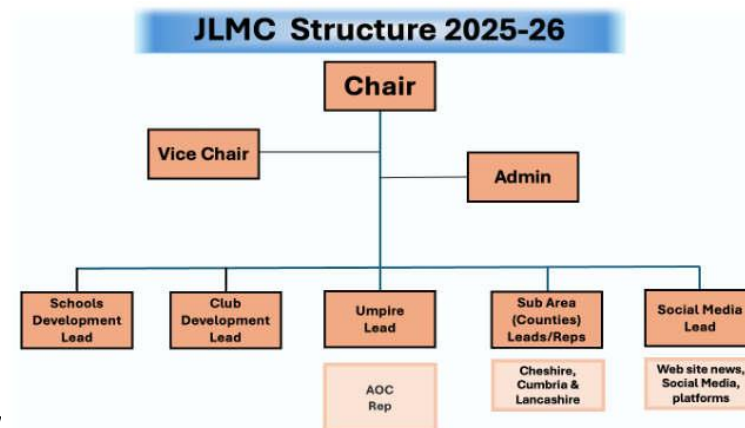
[FIND OUT MORE](#)



#### Junior Leagues & Competitions

Information on Junior Leagues & Competitions

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



# 7. Review of North West Hockey - Looking forward

## ADULT LEAGUE & COMPETITIONS

- The NW league structure review is complete and has been shared with clubs
- The fixtures have been generated and shared with clubs and will be loaded onto GMS by 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025
- Volunteers still required to join Committee as Divisional Secretaries
- Guidance on Extreme Weather protocols to be ready for start of the season
- EH continuing improvements to GMS.
- **A reminder that all Club and Team Admins must have their email and telephone numbers visible on the GMS**

# 7. Review of North West Hockey - Looking forward

## ADULT LEAGUE & COMPETITIONS

- **NW Adult League season start date:** **Sat 13 September 2025** (*one week earlier than previous seasons and subject to division size*)
- The [EH Centralised Calendar](#) is available on the EH Website
- A NW Calendar of important dates and events, including league reserve dates, will be available in July 2025.
- The 8 Area review of the Adult League Regulations is about to complete. Publication expected end of July 2025
- Updated trans and non-binary participation policy implemented from 1st September 2025 and renaming of leagues / competitions to Open / Men's and Women's

# 7. Review of North West Hockey - Looking forward

## MASTERS

- **515 registered NW masters' players**, increased by 100, training and playing across **15 age groups** from O35 to O60 (women) and O35 to O75(men)
- 8 Areas tournaments for all ages remain the key competitive focus and this year NW won **Bronze (WO40 and WO60's)** and **Gold (MO65)** a major milestone
- Our popular **NW500 summer mixed league tournament** had 16 clubs enter playing in 2 divisions (South and Nouth) with finals day 27th July
- Our **priorities for next season** include:
  - holding more of our informal get-togethers further North to engage more Lancashire and Cumbria players
  - and rethinking our approach to mens' sessions with the aim of getting more younger men involved in Masters (O35-o45s)





**NORTH WEST  
HOCKEY**

**North West Hockey Strategy**

**Shelagh Everett**

**Vice Chair**

# 7. Review of NW Hockey - Our Strategic Framework

## Vision

To promote, develop and grow hockey opportunities for all in the North West

## Mission

Working together to make hockey more visible, relevant and accessible to all across the North West

## Goals

PROMOTE



DEVELOP



GROW



## Priority Themes

Hockey Experience



Ways to Play



Support Structures



People & Engagement



## Key Objectives

10 Key Objectives to be delivered alongside our core operational activities



## EH Objectives



Lead Positive Change



Inspirational Int. Success



Drive Visible Impact



Responsible Leadership



Meaningful Growth

## Values



Collaborate Inclusively



Care for People & Places



Play with spirit  
Win with grace



Resilient in  
everything we do



**NORTH WEST  
HOCKEY**

# 7. Review of NW Hockey - Our Strategic Framework



# 7. Review of NW Hockey - Our Strategic Framework

Priority theme	Key development activity: 2024 - 2027	EH Align
<b>Hockey Experience</b> <i>- work with together across to NW to offer a great hockey experience for all</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an action with clubs to promote a 'great match day experience' for all</li> <li>Introduce NW Awards to celebrate the best practice and work of volunteers and clubs</li> <li>Raise awareness and provide support and education to promote the EH spirit of hockey code</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drive visible impact</li> <li>Meaningful growth</li> </ul>
<b>Ways to Plays</b> <i>- Extend our hockey programmes to connect with wider audiences to support growing the game for all by attracting new players, returners and retain those already involved with the game</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop new ways to play to reach a wider audience outside of the adult league structures</li> <li>Support the opportunities for state schools to play through festivals / tournaments</li> <li>Engage with local University's to encourage and support student to continue to play and join clubs</li> <li>Support development of Walking and Flyers hockey in the North West with festivals / tournaments</li> <li>Support opportunities for master's hockey outside of 8 Area competitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead positive change</li> <li>Meaningful Growth</li> </ul>
<b>Support Frameworks</b> <i>- Develop a range of support frameworks to support those involved in running, growing and development the game</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce grant / bursary schemes to support the development and growth of NW hockey</li> <li>Implement Officiating strategy to support growth and capability of officials at all levels of the game</li> <li>Develop channels to support sharing of best practice, learning and problem solving across NW</li> <li>Develop training, support and mentoring to support NW volunteers in their roles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resp. Leadership</li> <li>Lead positive change</li> </ul>
<b>People and Engagement</b> <i>- Nurture a mutually supportive and connected hockey community to run, develop and grow the game through people, clubs, counties &amp; Uni's</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer an annual programme of forums to support sharing best practice, education, growth and development for clubs, volunteers and officials</li> <li>Develop a communication and engagement strategy to develop effectiveness of all key channels and people / role holders</li> <li>Develop a plan to increase the number of volunteers supporting NW hockey including succession planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead positive change</li> <li>Meaningful growth</li> </ul>

Supported by work of core functions: Adult and Junior Comps & Leagues, Masters, Officiating and Discipline  
and key enabler activity: Area Leadership & Governance, Finance, Communication & Engagements; ED and I and People

# 7. Review of NW Hockey - New for 2025-26

## NW Hockey Growth Fund

As part of our **Area Strategy**, we are delighted to officially announce the establishment of the new **North West Hockey Growth Fund** – *to support our NW clubs to grow all aspects of the sport*

- As a pilot the fund has already invested £6k in providing umpire radios to clubs in 2024/25
- We are finalising the details to offer a Grant and Bursary scheme as part of the fund for 2025/26 season to support specific projects and initiatives that will support delivering our NW Hockey Strategy

## NW Hockey Awards

- People and Engagement is a priority theme in our Area Strategy. The new NW Hockey Awards will provide a platform to recognise and share best practice and the celebrate and recognise the work of the people who make hockey happen at all levels of the sport.
- The Awards will be **launched in Autumn 2025**. Categories are being finalised and will align to our four strategic priority themes:

Hockey  
Experience



Ways to  
Play



Support  
Structures



People &  
Engagement



**NORTH WEST  
HOCKEY**

# 7. Review of North West Hockey 2024-25

June 2025



## Annual Review 2024-25

Welcome to our fourth annual review and report to members of North West Hockey. The 2024-25 season has been one where we have continued to grow the numbers of hockey opportunities for all ages both as North West Hockey but also helped grow the support with the incredible work of our clubs and counties.

I would like to thank all involved in making hockey happen across the North West Hockey community both on and off the pitch and to those volunteers who support the running of our Area through the Board, Management Committees, Adult, Junior, Masters and Officiating Committees and all our NW officials – often in addition to roles with their clubs and counties. Hockey is a team sport, and we are extremely proud of the wider team we have across the North West who are helping us run, grow and develop the hockey for all.

Our annual review gives a snap shot of the activities delivered through the North West Hockey structure and volunteers and touches on key highlights for the season. One of the key areas of progress in 2024-25 was the launch of our NW Hockey Strategy and work is underway to embed this within the work of all of our key functions and activities to support achieving our vision 'To promote, develop and grow hockey opportunities for all in the North West'.

Thank you again for your support and to our 92 clubs and volunteers delivering hockey in the NW.  
*Chris Reece, Chair, North West Hockey*

### New and key activities delivered in 2024-25

- North West Hockey Strategy launched and priority areas being embedded in our work
- Growth of our indoor and outdoor schools and state school festivals and comps
- Over 4500 adult league matches involving 9500+ players
- 534 Premier Men's and Women's Divisions officiating (*Umpire*) appointments
- 515 registered NW masters players
- Provided 60 umpire radio sets to club to support umpire development
- Facilitated themed member forums for clubs; juniors; officiating and development
- Engaging with all EH 8 Area functional groups to share best practice, learn, influence and provide a NW voice

### Challenges and opportunities

- Growing the pool of volunteers supporting NW Hockey activities and development
- Improving our socials media, communications and engagement
- Working across the Area to ensure how remains a safe, enjoyable and inclusive sport open to and making match day experiences positive for all
- Creating capacity to deliver our strategic ambitions and plans
- Supporting development and growth of junior and club umpiring feeding into the appointed pools
- Supporting clubs and participants through our new Awards and Bursary/Grants scheme

Join us online for the 2025 North West Hockey Annual General Meeting  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7.30pm

We welcome questions in advance to help manage the Q and A time on the Annual Review or any aspect of our work. Please email [chair@northwesthockey.co.uk](mailto:chair@northwesthockey.co.uk).  
Reminder to all clubs to register to attend and check email for full details and links for the AGM

## Annual Report circulated with Calling Notice

## Key Highlights and Summary

## Followed by any Questions

## The Annual Review is to NOTE

Use the chat  
function





**NORTH WEST  
HOCKEY**

**Finance Report**

**Niall Riley**

**Finance Director**

# 8. North West Hockey Ltd Financial Report

Annual Accounts circulated with Calling Notice

Niall Riley, Finance Director to share key highlights and overview

Followed by Questions

Use the chat  
function

Registered Number: 13433627  
England and Wales

**North West Hockey Limited**

**Report of the Directors and Unaudited  
Financial Statements for the Year Ending  
30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Marshall Accountancy Ltd  
St Mary's House  
Crewe Road  
Alsager  
Stoke-On-Trent  
ST7 2EW

# 8. North West Hockey Ltd Annual Accounts

The Company's Annual Accounts were included with the information pack and have been independently scrutinised.

- For 2025-26, the highlights are: -
  - **Total Income -** **£56,563**  
(Includes £1,479 Interest on Reserves)
  - **Total Costs -** **£62,544**
  - **Deficit on the year -** **£ -5,981**
- Ring-fenced Reserves as of 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2025 - **£105,118**
- The accounts have been approved by the Board and submitted to Companies House and HMRC
- We are exempt from Corporation Tax; however, tax is payable on Interest received from the Reserves

# 8. North West Hockey Ltd Annual Accounts

## Comment on 2024-25

- Our total income is down on 2023-24, primarily due to a welcome reduction in League Fines.
  - ***All income from League Fines is used to support the North West Hockey Growth Fund***
- The Area has, for the first time, made a loss for 2024-25, this is mainly due to the £7,500 investment in 60 umpire radio sets which were distributed free of charge to NWH affiliated clubs.
  - ***This initiative is part of the North West Hockey Area Strategy and was financed from League Fines***
- We also invested in a paid administrator for Junior Competitions. This has proved a great success, and we are looking to extend this initiative with paid administrators in other disciplines.
- The need for paid administrators stems from the lack of volunteers to carry out all the Area functions. However, they will ease the workload on the current volunteers and help streamline Area activities.

# 8. North West Hockey Ltd Annual Accounts

## Membership Subscriptions and Fees for 2025-26

- Increasing the number of paid Administrators unfortunately comes at a cost, however we are asking the clubs to part fund this with small increases in Area Membership and League Entry with the majority of the cost coming from our Reserves.
- Therefore for 2025-26: -

Annual Fee	2025-26	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
Area Membership	<b>£22.50</b>	£20.50	£17.50	£22.00	£20.00
Adult League Entry	<b>£8.50</b>	£7.50	£10.50	£15.00	£25.00
Total Cost Per Team	<b>£31.00</b>	<b>£28.00</b>	<b>£28.00</b>	<b>£37.00</b>	<b>£45.00</b>

- These Subscription and Entry Fees require approval at this AGM by the members present.

**We therefore have the following two resolutions: -**

# 9. Resolutions

## 9.1 Area Membership Subscription for 2025-26

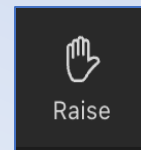
### North West Hockey Ltd propose that:

- For full voting Member Clubs that the annual Subscription for 2025-26 for membership of North West Hockey Ltd shall be **£22.50 per senior team**

For Counties and other Organisations, Subscriptions for 2025-26 shall be set at zero, (no change to 2024-25)

**Proposed (*Board*) / Seconded - VOTE**

For  
Against  
Abstain



# 9. Resolutions

## 9.2 Entry Fees for North West Adult Leagues for 2025-26

### North West Hockey Ltd propose that:

- For Clubs entering teams in North West Hockey Adult Competitions and Leagues, the annual entry fee shall be **£8.50 per Senior Team**
- That entry fees for all other competitions (including Juniors and Masters) shall be set by the Directors on the recommendation of the relevant Committee and, if required, following informal consultation with member clubs

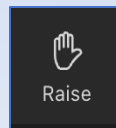
**Proposed (*Board*) / Seconded -**

**VOTE**

For

Against

Abstain



# 10. Other Fees & Subscriptions for 2025-26

## For Information Only:

As approved by the Directors and Management Committee of North West Hockey Ltd

- **Appointed Umpire Fee - £28.50 per umpire per appointment**  
*(Adult League and EH Cup games where umpires are appointed by North West Officiating)*
- **North West Masters Membership - £10.00 per player per annum**
- **Junior Fees**
  - **Junior Outdoor League Entry - £40 per team**
  - **Junior Indoor Entry - £75 per Team**
  - **In2Hockey Finalists - £40 per Team**
  - **NW Development Festivals - £25 per Team**

# 11. Any Other Business

**Two Any Other Business items were raised in line with the calling notice from:**

- **Phil Meachin – Chair, Bolton HC**
- **Holly Noble – Didsbury Greys HC**

Any further questions or feel free to contact any of the Board or Management Committee by email after the meeting. Contacts details on the website

# 11.1 AOB Any Other Business

## AOB raised by Phil Meachin – Chair, Bolton HC. (Umpiring and conduct)

*"While the new directives around respect for umpires from players and coaches are welcome and necessary, can the committee also clarify what expectations and accountability measures are in place for umpire conduct? Umpires conduct, as for players, coaches and spectators is set out in the EH 'Spirit of Hockey' Code of Conduct, and supporting regulations and processes, that apply to all involved in the sport.*

*In particular, the 'two home umpire' rule increasingly appears to present an advantage for some clubs, with limited checks or oversight. We are now seeing fixtures break down — including teams walking off the pitch — which undermines the integrity of the competition. Last season with c.4500 NW league games the instances of breakdown of games is still exceptionally rare. Clubs can bring their own umpire to away games. C 95% of games have club appointed umpires and we believe the spirit of fairness is being upheld in the overwhelming majority of games. We are committed to working with clubs to improve both the standard of club umpiring and helping clubs better develop their umpires and how they are appointed to the right level of match for their competence. Club umpires are also encouraged to attend umpire forums.*

*Can the league commit to reviewing GMS discipline data more closely to identify discrepancies and take steps to assess and improve the standards of specific umpires where needed? This could go a long way toward restoring trust, fairness, and mutual respect on all sides."* Overall data is monitored and reported at an Area and National Level by our ADA and ALMC team (see Annual Review for stats). The ALMC and the NW AOC will be working together to in 25/26 as part of the overall officiating strategy to identify improvements and development needs. Central to this working with club to both grow and develop to club umpires.

# 11.2 AOB – Question on NW Pitches

**AOB raised by Holly Noble – Didsbury Greys HC (Pitches)**

**We have been working with Holly and EH**

**Data capture as part EH Affiliation on pitches key to provide**

**Key for all clubs is to input to their local authority playing pitch strategy to ensure that this statutory document setting out the state of pitches, demand and supply.**

**Holly Noble**

Would it be possible to add AOB coming up with a north west pitch strategy?

Understanding how many pitches we have in the short to medium term in the north west and identifying the most important areas to ensure pitches are maintained or new funding applications etc are made and so the wider community can see where issues are.

Looking at how we can lobby EH for early intervention with clubs to help prevent schools etc making the decision to remove pitches.

For instance I reckon if the wider hockey community had known about Prescotts plight earlier both EH and the wider community could've worked together to come up with the funds to help protect their pitch.

# Thank you

**Thank you to everyone for attending and for your role in Hockey**

- Our Clubs and all their Volunteers
- Our North West and Club Officials and Umpires
- All our North West Committees, Chairs and Leads
- Our Counties and all their Volunteers

**Here's to an even more successful 2025 – 26 season**

**Formally closed the meeting at: 8:53**