



Welcome to the hockey season

Welcome back to hockey for 2022/23 season. Let's hope it is a back to normal season. Firstly thank-you to all hockey volunteers across the region. Without your hardwork captaining, umpiring, managing, coaching, tea making, bar tending, administering, diving, supporting etc we would not have such an amazing vibrant hockey community in the South East as we do. Thank-you.

Finance Update

The summer has been quiet on the finance side of the organisation. We still have a few umpires who have not been paid their expenses as they have not sent in their bank details. Please contact the Finance Director if you wish to be paid for last years expense forms you submitted. Please send them to finance@southcentral.hockey

England Hockey are still gathering club data so the invoices for club membership and league fees will not be sent out until probably November.

Junior Section

The junior fixtures are almost complete we have spent most of the summer dealing with entries, changes to entries, working out whether we have enough dates to run certain competitions and much more. It has been an uphill struggle at times and we are still being asked to amend teams for clubs. We are still looking for help with running the junior leagues because this is a lot of work. We need volunteers to manage each competition so that we can keep on top of results and postponements because this is simply too much work for one person. Please get in touch with Kate Porter if you or someone at your club can help out. The more helpers we get the easier it is for everyone. Please don't assume someone else will volunteer because they won't!!



We will be considering the best approach to use next season regarding junior leagues because the work load this year has far too much for one person alone.

Please think very carefully about your entries and any changes that you require often mean an awful lot of work. One fixture currently takes 30 seconds to load and when we have 100's of fixtures this means a huge amount of time.

As the start of the season is now upon us we will be unable to make any more changes to league structure and we ask that clubs do their best to play all their games and try not to withdraw or forfeit matches.

If you wish to change the date of a match please make sure that you are in agreement with your opposition. Once that is done please let Allan know although he doesn't have the permissions on the GMS to alter the date of the fixture you will have to add the fixture result on the original date (this cannot be added before the date of the fixture!)

Some changes have been made to GMS and it can now link to some club website systems.

Please make sure that you have read the regulations and that your club coaches and admin team are aware of what is required.

Standard league regulations can be found here –

<https://southcentral.englandhockey.co.uk/junior-hockey-in-the-south-central-area/junior-leagues-competitions>

Please note that if you are a T1 club and your match ends in a draw you are required to have a shoot out (shuffle) after the game. The winning team will be awarded an additional point.

Key Junior contacts this season

Allan Donaldson – League results and questions - sc.juniorleagues@southcentral.hockey
Judith Barton – Thames Valley Minis - judith.barton@readinghockeyclub.org.uk
Oxfordshire Minis – bicesterfoxcubs@aol.com
Hampshire Minis – Heather Windust - secretary@hampshireha.co.uk

Adult Leagues Update

Welcome to season 22/23, please find the list of Divisional Secretaries on the next page. Can you all please use the 'work' email address and not personal emails if you need to contact any of the Divisional Secretaries', this enables an audit trail of any correspondence between Club and the League. You will have seen that we have a couple of 13 team leagues this year, which will make fixtures difficult, especially if we have inclement weather, but we wanted clubs to have a variety of matches rather than playing each other 3 times if we had leagues of under 10. The League will be happy for teams to move the 17th December fixtures to the half term weekends if BOTH teams agree - you will need to contact your Divisional Secretaries so that they can change the date.

It is very important to get your venue and start time onto GMS, you have until 8th September to complete for the first half of the season. Please do not hesitate to contact your divisional secretary or Richard Wood if you have any questions.



Key Adult League contacts this season

chair.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Richard Wood
Menspremier.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Dave Hughes
Womenspremier.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Caroline Hitchcock
Mensnorth.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Mike Robson
Menssouth.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Ian Southgate
Womensnorth.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Emma Oneill
Womenssouth.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Nicki Smith
Menscherwell.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Mike Robson
Womenscherwell.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Jo Copsey
Mensthames.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Mike Robson
Womenshames.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Jo Copsey
Menssolent.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Ian Southgate
Womenssolent.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Nicki Smith
Mensforest.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Ian Southgate
Womensforest.adultleagues@southcentral.hockey	Nicki Smith
PR@southcentral.hockey	Dani Sweeney
Adultindoorcordinator@southcentral.hockey	Howard Chaplin White



Operations Update

The month of September always heralds in the new season of hockey. Fixtures have been published on GMS since August and clubs have been busy booking pitches as a result and arranging pre-season friendlies to prepare old and new players for the leagues season ahead, which this year starts on 24th September. The league tables can also now be found on the and the South Central Website . <https://southcentral.englishhockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions>



Clubs and officials all need to be aware to the rules changes that have come into effect for the coming season after England Hockey adopted the FIH rule change.

The main changes to the previous rules are as follows:

Rule 4.2 now allows defending players in a penalty corner to continue wearing protective equipment and play the ball outside the circle after an interception during the taking of a penalty corner. They must however remove that equipment immediately after, at the first opportunity, inside the 23m area.

No player using PC protective equipment can play the ball outside the 23 m area at any time. The amendment came to protect athlete safety and ensure players can focus on the play rather than the removal of protective equipment during a pressurised defensive situation.



Rule 9.10 now allows players to safely intercept a falling ball which will be a positive step forward for the game. Aerial Balls will continue to be closely monitored by all stakeholders so that player safety can be maintained.

AGM Update

South Central Hockey held its AGM on 14th July which was attended by 61 people representing most of the clubs in the Area. The minutes of this will be published this month, however we can report that all Directors were re-elected and budget proposals made were agreed and voted for in favour.

A plea was made to all clubs to ensure that your correct treasurer email address is in GMS and also the details also communicated to finance@southcentral.hockey

So do please ensure that all your old and new club representatives have up to date records on GMS for the upcoming season to ensure the correct people receive timely communications.

Those of you that follow our social media pages will be aware that the Regulations have been updated, these can be downloaded from our website on the Adults leagues section: <https://southcentral.englishhockey.co.uk/adult-leagues-competitions/regulations-supporting-documents>

A copy of this will be seen in the email that is attached to this newsletter.

Masters Update

I hope you all have had a restful summer and now ready for the forthcoming season.

Of course, some of you played well into the early summer representing South Central or combined South Teams in the Regional Competitions.

In spite of a very short notice we managed to field teams at many of the age groups and came away with some very creditable results.

Thank you to all of you who committed to representing the region but a very special thank you to the few that stepped forward under a challenging set of circumstances to organise and manage those teams.

As we start the new season we've seen a few changes to the structure of Masters leagues across the South.

Following England Hockey's change in structure to the Adult leagues, Masters was due to follow on. During the Summer, our Wessex Masters League organiser, Paul Marks and I (mainly Paul ☐) have been discussing a new structure for Masters hockey in the South with England Hockey and the London and South East area Masters leads.



For the coming season for Women there will be a South Masters Structure for Over 35 and Over 45 known as the South Masters League.



The Men's South Masters League will start with just the Over 40s this year but this will be a new three way cross area league. What was the London Premier will become the South Premier, the old London Division 1 will become the South League North Division and Wessex Masters will be named the South League South Division.



The Wessex Supervets Fixtures Alliance league will continue in its current format.

Enjoy your season.

John Stuart

Chair Masters Hockey