



**NORTH WEST  
HOCKEY**

## **NW Junior Clubs Annual Review 10 July – 7.30pm**

While waiting for the meeting to start, please add your name and club in the chat

# Welcome and introductions

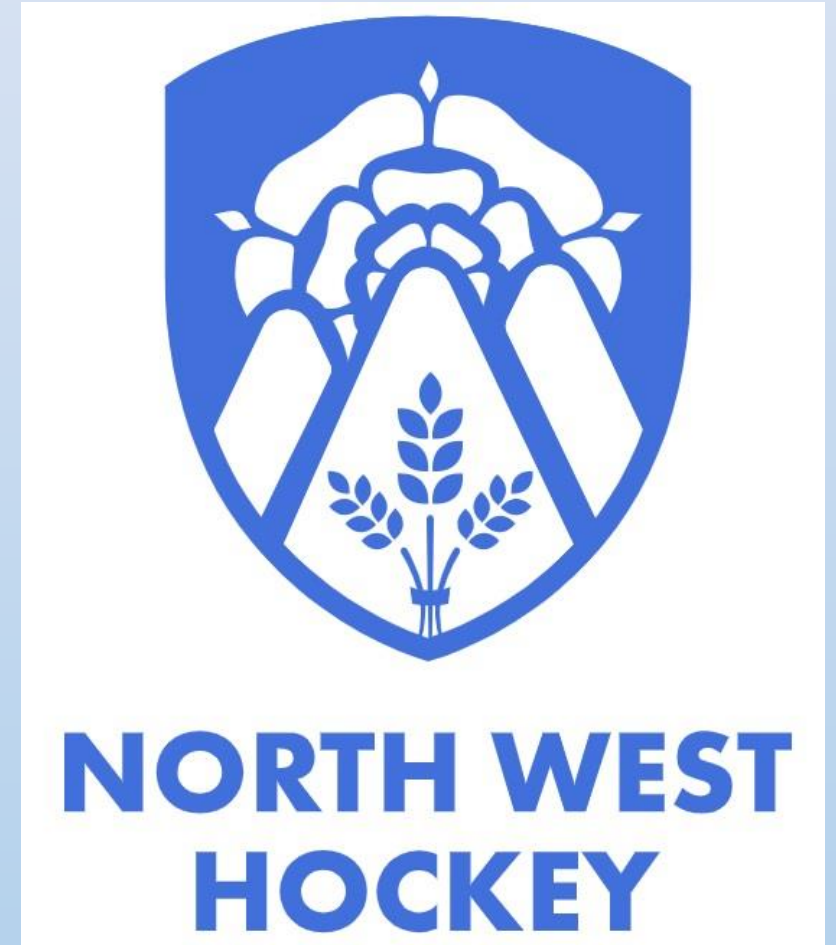
On the call tonight....

**Beth Alvey** – North West Area Junior Chair

**Lou Nash** – North West Junior Comps Co-ordinator

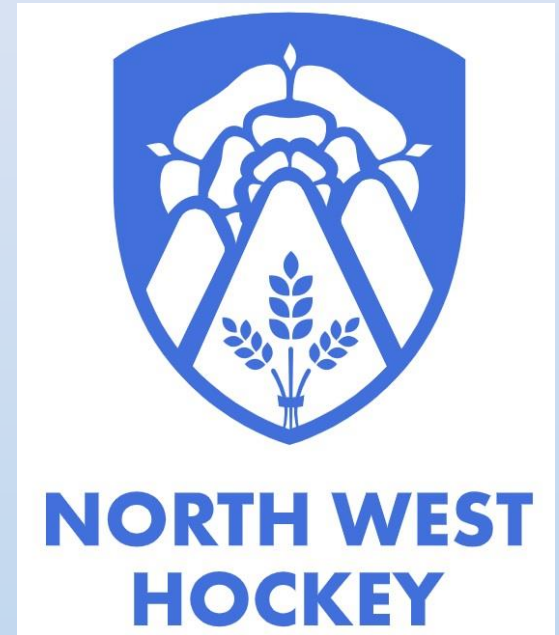
**Chris Reece** – North West Hockey Chair

**Joy Elliott-Bowman** – Young Umpire Programme



# Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions (CR)
2. NW Junior Strategy (CR)
3. Committee Structure (BA)
4. Area / County led work (BA)
5. Guidance for Tiers (BA)
6. Tiers explained (BA)
7. Review of 24/25 season (LN)
8. Umpiring (JEB)
9. Timeline/future Planning (LN)
10. Centralised Calendar (LN)
11. Points for discussion (BA)



# NW Hockey Junior Strategy: 2024-27

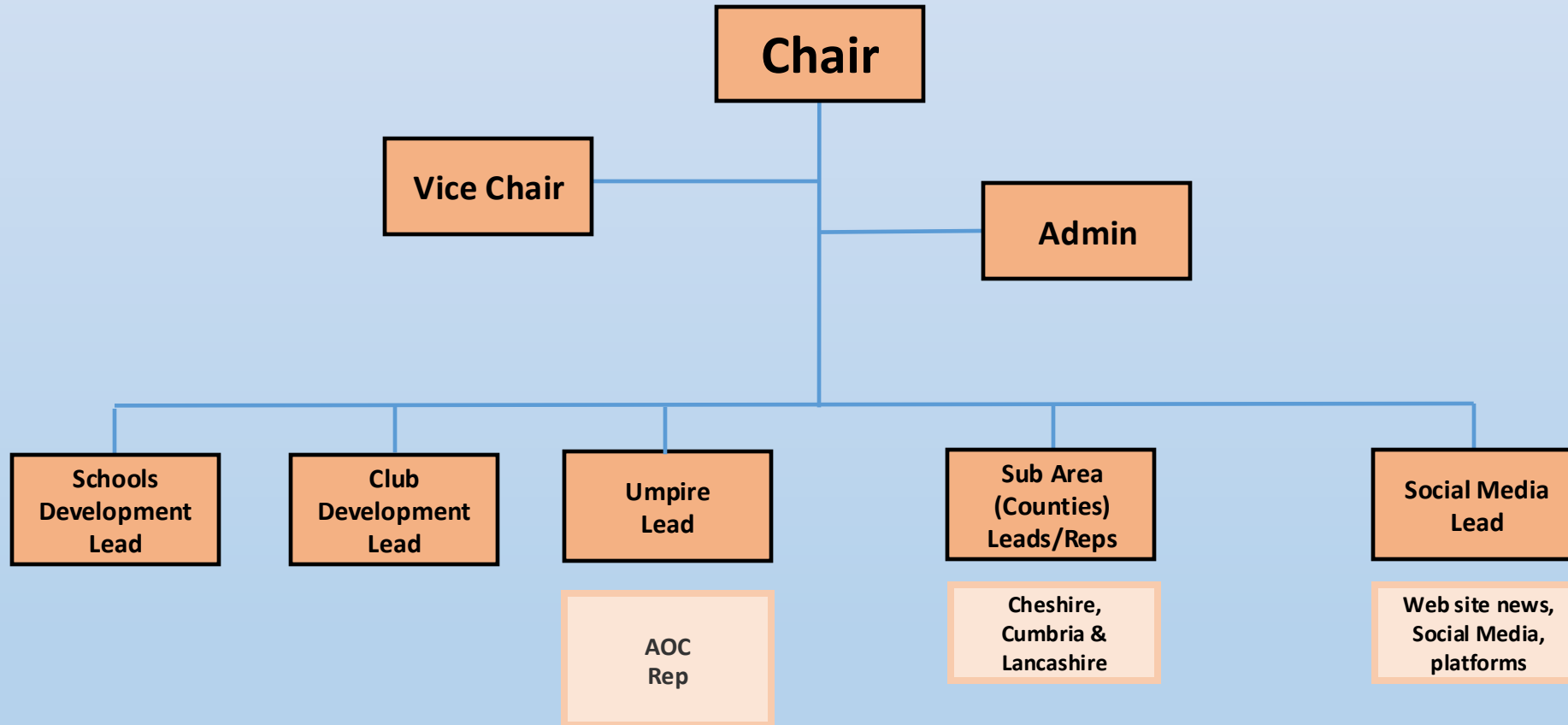
“Increase the range of opportunities to play in a positive environment to foster a life long love of the game”

- Develop and deliver growth in the tiered junior competition structure including supporting clubs to work together to enter joint teams and work with clubs to identify and help remove barriers to participation
- Deliver a state school and festival programme to inspire students to join clubs to play hockey
- Develop a communication and engagement plan to promote junior hockey in the NW and engage young players
- Promote a positive experience for all attending NW Junior Hockey events and use to promote opportunities to get involved in supporting hockey in the NW.



**NORTH WEST  
HOCKEY**

## JLMC Structure 2025-26





# Who leads what at Area & County level

## U8 / U10 / U12

County led activity



- U8, U10 and U12 - County organised festivals.
- U10 In2Hockey – top 2 teams at County finals go to Area Finals (26 April 2026)
- U12 In2Hockey – top 2 teams at County finals go to Area Finals (26 April 2026).  
Winner at Area Finals goes to National Finals (16 May 2026).

## U14 / U16 (currently no U18s)

- Area led activity for Tiers 1 & 2
- County led activity for Tier 3/4

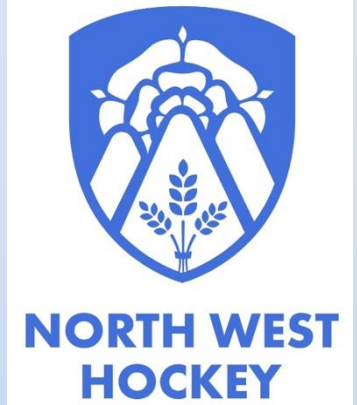
# U14 – U16 - Guidance for Tiers



Tier	Guidelines
Tier 1	A good team with talent players (NAGS/TA/County) this should be where any club that is accredited as a Talent Centre are competing (both genders and multiple age groups). This will involve travel for your team/s across the breadth of the Area.
Tier 2	A competitive side which is looking for good opposition and competitive matches. Division within the age group league will be arranged geographically. A National Age Group player may only play Tier 2 if their junior section does not have a team in Tier 1.
Tier 3	Development leagues to introduce players to competitive games and/or to provide games in a less competitive environment. Match dates are likely to clash with County activity. Tier 2 players should not play in a National Age Group squad or at a Talent Academy.
Tier 4	Festival type activity with a more flexible format.

# Tier 1

## U14



### **ENTRY DEADLINE – 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2025**

- Area League & EH Club Champs tier must match.
- Pre-Christmas - play within Area league.
- Post-Christmas – top 3 teams from Area League go to Supra League.
- Remaining U14 teams join Tier 2 teams or, maybe Tier 1B with top finishing teams from Tier 2. Possibly increased travel post Christmas.



# Tier 1

## U16

**ENTRIES OPEN – 1 AUGUST 2025**

- Central entry via England Hockey
- Direct entry to Supra League – played from September onwards. Geographically based initially, with travel extending as rounds progress.
- Teams play for Cup, Plate or Vase as rounds progress, so losing teams still have something to play for.



# Tiers 2 – 4

**ENTRY DEADLINE – 31 JULY 2025**



## Tier 2 - U14 / U16

- Often 2 or 3 geographical pools

## Tier 2 - U18

- Not currently offered in the North West

## Tier 3 - U14 / U16 /U18

- No T3 league in North West (see development festivals for u14s)

## Tier 4 - U14 / U16

- County led: Julia Harries – Cheshire, Bex Stamper – Cumbria, Charles Jackman – North Lancs, Jez Palmer– South Lancs.

# What we did in the league this season

## Pre-Christmas

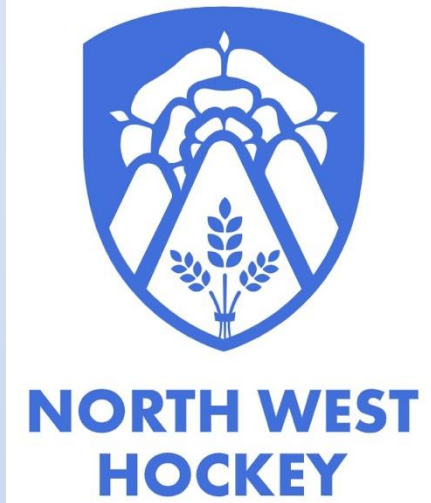


2024-25 - 6 leagues involving 18 different clubs (92 clubs across NW!).

- U14 T1 (boys) – 1 pool, 5 teams (2 to supra league, then T1b after Christmas)
- U14 T2 (boys) – 2 pools, 4 teams in each
- U14 T2 (girls) – 3 pools, 4 teams in each (two teams went to Supra League)
- U14 T2 (boys) – 2 pools, 4 teams in each
- U16 T2 (girls) – 2 pools, 3 teams in each (2 withdrew so 1 pool after Christmas)
- U16 T2 (boys) – 2 pools, 2 teams, 3 teams (after 1 team withdrew)

# What we did in the league this season

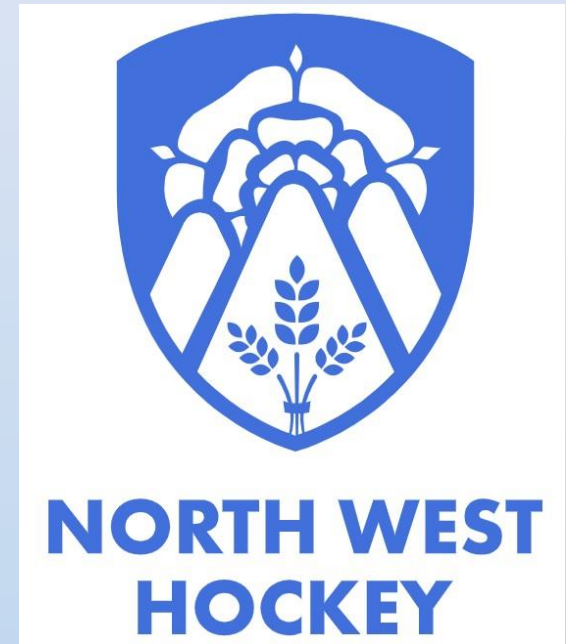
## Post-Christmas



- Focus – minimal travel due to impact on cancelled fixtures. 24-25 format:
  - **U14 boys** – new T1B league (remaining T1 teams + top two T2 pools). No finals as single pool.
  - **U14 girls** - only 2 teams entered T1 this season, so these teams joined the T2 teams for matchplay before Christmas, then went to Supra League. Remaining teams formed 2 pools and had a league final to determine a winner.
  - **U16 boys** – Straight league with 2 pools - home and away matches before and after Christmas. League finals.
  - **U16 girls** – 2 geographic pools (3,3 teams) which merged to one pool due to 2 x withdrawals. No finals.
- \* Next season – we will run league finals in all groups regardless of pools to give teams a finals day to work towards.

# Withdrawals from the league

- U16 Boys – 1 withdrawal
  - U14 Boys – 1 withdrawal
  - U16 Girls – 2 withdrawals
  - U14 Girls – 1 withdrawal
- 
- Fewer withdrawals from the league this season. Clashes with County/TA activity has improved. U16 age groups can struggle post-Christmas due to GCSE pressure.



# Area League Results – 2025



## Results:

- U14 Boys T1b: Timperley
- U14 Boys T2: Alderley Edge
- U14 Girls T2: Brooklands
- U16 Girls T2: Chester
- U16 Boys T2: Preston

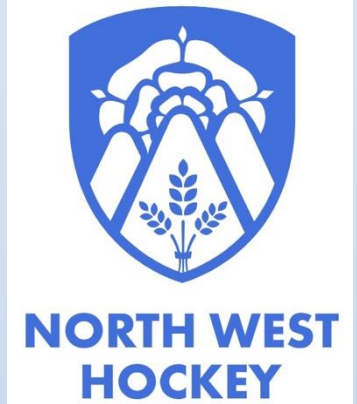
## Winners:

## Runners up:

Deeside Ramblers  
Bolton  
Fylde  
Preston  
Oxton



# Indoor Competitions



## U16 & u18s

- Straight North West Finals in both age groups & genders
- Winners of NW Finals progress to National Finals
- Dates for 25/26:
  - u16 Girls – Sun 7 Dec @ Rossall School
  - u16 Boys – Sun 7 Dec (am) @ King's School, Macclesfield
  - u18 Boys – Sun 7 Dec (pm) @ King's School, Macclesfield
  - u18 Girls – Sun 30 November @ Rossall School
- National finals – u16s – Sat 24 Jan 26
- National finals - u18s – Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Jan

# 2024/25 Indoor entries / winners



U16 Boys	U16 Girls	U18 Boys	U18 Girls
Oxton	Preston (friendly)	Preston	Preston
Preston	Bowdon (1)	DRHC	DRHC
Timperley	Timperley	Timperley	Timperley
Bowdon (1)		Brooklands (1)	Brooklands (1)
		Bowdon	Bowdon
		Oxton	

The u16 girls competition this year was problematic due to being held on a Saturday. Next season the finals will take place on a Sunday, which should enable more clubs to participate. Withdrawals in indoor are still an issue – dates need to be circulated to players/parents early to try and avoid late withdrawals.

# U10 & U12 In2 Hockey this year



**U10 and U12 Area Finals 24/25:**

**A BIG thank you to Nick Davey and Sedbergh School for hosting NW Finals 24/25!**

Age Group/Gender	Finalists	Winners	Runners up	National final placing
U10 girls	Bowdon, Preston, Fylde, Alderley Edge, Wigton, Kirkby Stephen	Bowdon	Fylde	N/A
U10 boys	Bowdon, Neston, Didsbury, Lytham, Kirkby Stephen, Penrith	Bowdon	Neston	N/A
U12 girls	Alderley Edge, Garstang, Neston, Preston, Penrith, Kirkby Stephen, Valkyrs, Castletown	Alderely Edge	Garstang	8th
U12 boys	Chester, Neston, Valkyrs, Preston, Castletown, Garstang, Kirkby Stephen, Wigton	Chester	Neston	4th

# In2 Hockey – County Leads

- Cumbria – Bex Stamper – [choccifudge@Hotmail.com](mailto:choccifudge@Hotmail.com)
- Lancashire – Eunice Ellison – [e.ellison@btinternet.com](mailto:e.ellison@btinternet.com)
- Isle of Man – Debbie Shimmin – [mhasecretary@outlook.com](mailto:mhasecretary@outlook.com)
- Cheshire/GM – Julia Harries – [Julia.harries@btinternet.com](mailto:Julia.harries@btinternet.com)



**NORTH WEST  
HOCKEY**

# State school competitions

- State School tournaments increased from one last season to seven tournaments this season!

The following tournaments were held:

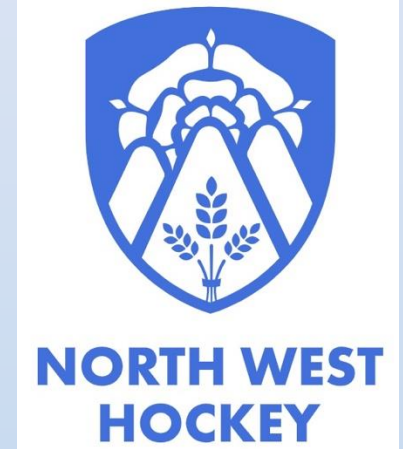
- **Girls:**

- Cheshire 1 (7 teams – Bishop Heber x 2, Fallibroome, Sandbach x2, Tarporley)
- Cheshire 2 (4 teams - AGGS, Loreto, Wellington, Wilmslow)
- Merseyside/Lancs (5 teams - Greenbank, Cowley, Lytham, Archbishop Blanch, Liverpool College)
- Cumbria (4 teams - KSGS, Ullswater, Cockermouth, Caldew)

- **Boys:**

- Cheshire 1 (5 teams – Bishop Heber x2, Madely, Calday Grange, Knutsford)
- Cheshire 2 (4 teams – AGSB, Sale, Wellington, Bramhall)
- Merseyside/Lancs/Cumbria (4 teams – Lytham, Queen Katherine, Cowley, Broughton HS)

- May 2025 – National state school competition in Nottingham.
- Next season – Tournaments to be held in March to enable more schools to participate. Also looking to add NW finals.



# NORTH WEST YOUNG UMPIRES



**NORTH WEST  
HOCKEY  
OFFICIATING**

## Three levels



- Candidate for National Young Umpire List
- Confident umpire at NW U14+



- Confident umpire at NW U10/12
- First steps at NW U14+



- Confident umpire at county U10/12
- First steps at NW U10/12

## Take part:

- County U10/12
- County In2
- NW In2
- Expanding opportunities

## Join the list:

<https://forms.gle/1MomLmHt83fLSwsD6>



# HOW CAN YOU HELP?



## SUPPORT

The best place for young umpires to start is their club.

When they're ready to step up, connect them to NW Young Umpires.



## NEW FIXTURES

We are always looking for mini tournaments, events or opportunities to get Young Umpires together with umpire coaches and get umpiring. If you're hosting a mini tournament or event let us know.



## WORKSHOPS/EVENTS

We are working on some exciting workshop ideas, and opportunities to learn by watching NUPA umpires.

We have a workshop you can run, to get young people started in your club.

[youngumpireslead@northwesthockey.co.uk](mailto:youngumpireslead@northwesthockey.co.uk)

# 25/26 Season – Timeline (U14 – U16)



## U14 Tier 1 & 2 / U16 T2 (Area League)

Entry Deadline – **31 July 2025**

U14 Tier 1 fixture planning – **August 2025**

U14 T1 & T2/u16 T2 fixtures released – **30 August 2025**

Fixtures start – **September 2025**

## U16 Tier 1 (Supra League/EH Champs)

Direct entry via England Hockey – **Entries open – 1 August 2025**

# Centralised Calendar

The calendar gives details of what activity has priority on dates throughout the year. It is of course important that organisers use the relevant dates for activity and do not cause clashes for players by arranging this on other dates.

A link to the calendar for 25-26 is available here - [25/26 Central Calendar](#)

[illegible]

# Topics for Discussion



- **Entry numbers** – consider ways to build numbers. Encourage new clubs to enter / smaller clubs to combine to form joint teams. 18/92 Clubs in NW participating.
- **Communication** – improve communication with County organisers & build participation through schools & smaller clubs (Can clubs reach out to local state schools to offer help?)
- **Withdrawals** – what problems do clubs face? How can we help?
- **Format** – largely dictated by numbers, but which format do clubs prefer? Happy with how leagues worked this year?
- **Fees** – will increase/be introduced this year. (League – £40, Indoor - £75, u14 Festivals - £25, In2 Hockey Finals - £40)
- **NEW!** – England Hockey have updated their Trans/Non-binary policies. New Regs will apply, which mean for juniors age 12+ there will be a girls and an open/boys category. To read the full update – see the EH website [England Hockey Transgender and Non-Binary Participation Policy](#)
- **NEW! Clubs who don't enter T1 or T2** – 2 x u14 mini festivals for smaller clubs – Sun 2 November (South) & Sun 1 March (North) – NORTH DATE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# Contact Details



## North West Hockey

Beth Alvey – [juniorleaguechair@northwesthockey.co.uk](mailto:juniorleaguechair@northwesthockey.co.uk)

Lou Nash - [juniorcomps@northwesthockey.co.uk](mailto:juniorcomps@northwesthockey.co.uk)

## England Hockey

Elaina Leithead (Sport team co-ordinator) – [elaina.leithead@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:elaina.leithead@englandhockey.co.uk)

## Counties:

Julia Harries (Cheshire) – [Julia.harries@btinternet.com](mailto:Julia.harries@btinternet.com)

Bex Stamper (Cumbria) – [choccifudge@Hotmail.com](mailto:choccifudge@Hotmail.com)

Charles Jackman (North Lancs) – [Charles.jackman432@gmail.com](mailto:Charles.jackman432@gmail.com)

Jean Arnold (South Lancs) – [jean.darnold@free-internet.co.uk](mailto:jean.darnold@free-internet.co.uk)





**NORTH WEST  
HOCKEY**

Thank you for  
attending