



Welcome to the November 2023 Newsletter

Welcome



Welcome to the South Central Hockey November Newsletter.

In this newsletter you will find:

- Spotlight on Umpire development
- Medical Emergency response
- Adult League Update
- Junior League Update
- Master Update
- Governance Update
- Website and GMS Update

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:

The South Central Hockey invoice for the Annual Fees have been sent to you in October 2023. Unfortunately a high number of clubs have exceeded the 30 day terms of remittance and hence are laying themselves open to a sanction. To avoid this unwanted action please pay this by return or contact the finance team with any issues. Please do not ignore this to avoid problems, we are here to help and advise.

Thank you.

Finance@southcentral.hockey



Congratulations

Congratulations to both Alan Dow and Richard Walsh for gaining their Level 3 award a few weekends ago, after nomination at the end of last season. We wish them both the best of luck at the next level and hope they are still able to help us out now and again!

Congratulations also to Nick Gage for recently gaining his Level 2 award – very well deserved.

Focus on Alan Dow

I did my Level 1 exam and assessment last century, 1999 to be exact, so that I could be a pool umpire for Fleet Hockey Club Ladies 1, occasional umpiring in Hampshire Ladies Division 1 and 2 for a couple of years. Otherwise some club umpiring, but I was mainly playing.

Fast forward 9 years and after a second knee operation, playing hockey was banned so I turned to umpiring and re-joined the Hampshire Hockey Umpires Association. I slowly worked my way up to South 3B ladies and Hants/Surrey 2 for men. Mainly I did umpiring as an activity to get out of the house and enjoy myself. However I must have been doing something right as I did a few Hampshire Day matches, Hampshire Day being the day where all the Hampshire Cup finals were played.

I then started to take it more seriously and at the end of the 2018/19 season was offer the chance to move up to South Region on the Ladies panel, which I took and got my assessment for Level 2 at the start of the 2019/20 season. Started on South Prem 2 level, but was getting the occasional Prem 1 game when pandemic struck and the reorganisation of England Hockey into Areas.

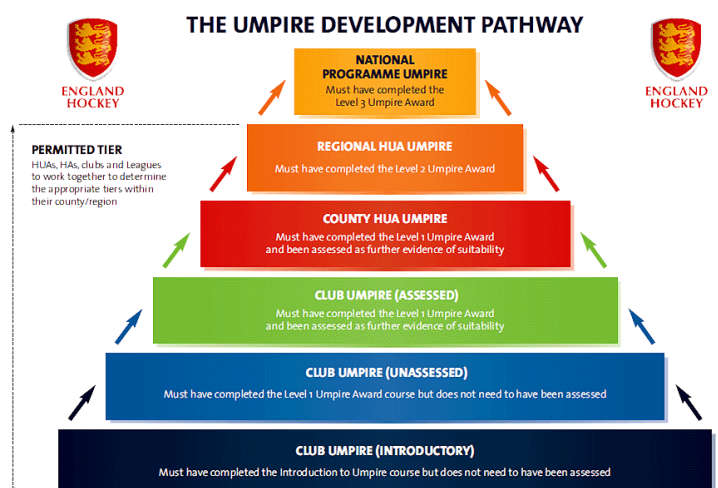
I joined South Central, predominantly doing Ladies Prem 1 matches. I was improving as my assessment scores got better.

In 2022/23 season I was put on the regional reserve panel, so I was doing the occasional Ladies Conference match. At the start of 2023/24 season, I was put forward as a candidate for NPUA and passed my assessment in October 2023.



Highlights – umpiring the last three Ladies Hampshire County Cup finals, travelling to many friendly clubs across Hampshire, South and South Central

Why I got better – produced a Personal Development Plan, paying more attention to my coaches, taking it more seriously and probably the most important reason, umpiring more matches so could put into practise the key skills.



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 set up. 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

Medical emergencies at Hockey Matches



During a hockey match recently in the Midlands an umpire collapsed, and thanks to the quick thinking of the players on the pitch, they immediately initiated CPR, realising the gravity of the situation. Soon after, an on-the-site defibrillator was used to provide life-saving assistance.

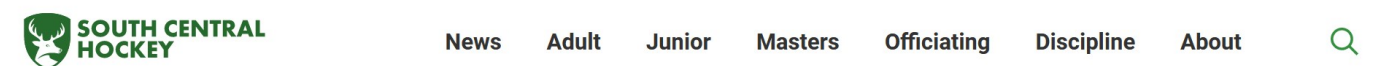
The umpire was swiftly transported by air ambulance to the hospital, where was cared for and as a result, is now on the path to recovery.

The incredible response and teamwork displayed by everybody involved all played a part in saving the umpires' life.

This incident serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of being prepared, having first aid training personnel, and a defibrillator at every pitch.

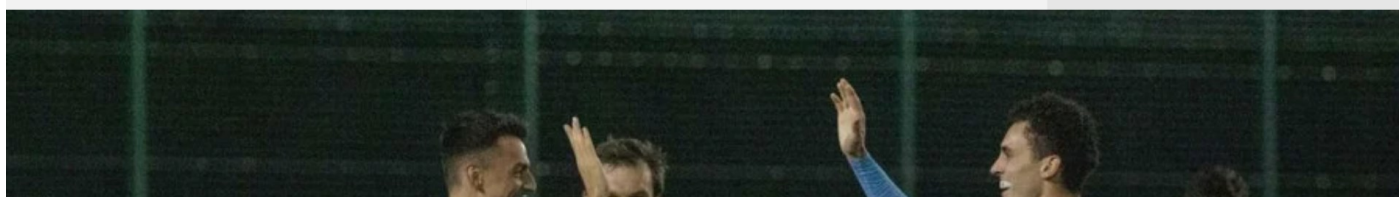
Please check your club preparations for such events and be prepared to act quickly to save lives.

Website and GMS Development



Today's Fixtures & Results FILTER

South Central Girls U16 Tier 2 North Pool 1			South Central Girls U14 Tier 3 South Pool B		
Wycombe Girls U16 A	15:00	Wallingford Girls U16	Andover Girls U14	00:00	Portsmouth Girls U14



Visitors to our website cannot have missed the new feature which shows pre match games and times as a roller bar on the home page. When the games are complete and the results are uploaded to the GMS, the roller bar then populates the days results.

This is a short cut so clubs don't need to search for the days results on their league pages, though you will still need to do that for the tables and league positions.

This feature includes all matches and Cup games for Juniors, Seniors and Masters that are linked from GMS. There is also the Head-to-Head featuring previous games between teams.

GMS Guidance

The team responsible for the GMS development have shared that some new videos to help with some of the GMS processes that volunteers follow. These links are below:-

- Making Contact Details Visible – <https://youtu.be/2R02SBVclgs>
- Finding Contact Details – <https://youtu.be/hbR6osq5GU>
- Amending Team Contacts (Admins) – <https://youtu.be/wB5q02yza6c>
- Editing Match Details – https://youtu.be/DWa_XCHjLIq
- Adding Match Results – <https://youtu.be/lK3giEReAAs>
- Adding Match Details (Scorers and Cards) – https://youtu.be/m_J0AAukpeE
- View Members and Manage Panels - <https://youtu.be/Td2ZGnUnmG0>

Governance Update

As this is my first newsletter update since I was voted into the role of South Central Governance Director, I thought a brief introduction would be appropriate:

My name is Steve Hills and I am married with two hockey mad teenage girls playing at Maidenhead HC. I spend most of my 'free' time involved



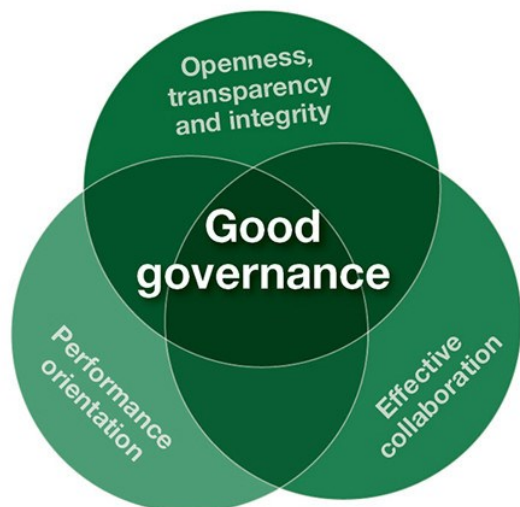
with sport associated activities, predominately 'dads taxi' but also involved with Maidenhead Hockey Club, Berkshire Hockey, Hurst Cricket Club and of course South Central Hockey. My sport was Rugby Union but with two girls (and an aging body) that wasn't going to continue and as an enthusiastic parent, I am now a qualified hockey coach and umpire, albeit to quite a low level. I am passionate about combining business practices to facilitate sport for all, particularly at the grass roots level. I am thoroughly looking forward to working with the South Central team to ensure we have the governance in place to do this and increase the diversity and inclusivity within hockey.

I am very conscious that the role of 'Governance Director' is not always fully understood. For clarity, I am not the South Central 'Police'. Whilst some of my role will inevitably be helping resolve regulation issues, I am determined that my role is here to help clubs meet their governance requirements. The South Central board are committed to helping you understand the requirements and helping you close the gaps that your club may have. Our initial shortlist of topics are:

- Safeguarding - do clubs have appropriate trained leads with a safeguarding agenda?
- D&I - do clubs have appropriate trained leads with a D&I agenda?
- Safety (Inc First Aid) - do clubs have appropriate trained leads with a safety agenda?
- GDPR - do clubs have appropriate trained leads with a GDPR agenda?
- Umpires - are clubs using appropriately training umpires and have an active umpire development program?
- How do we achieve a zero tolerance attitude to umpire abuse?

This is clearly too large to take on in one go and to this end, I will be contacting all clubs shortly to request your feedback on the priorities and to gain an understanding of where you need the most help. Watch this space.

In the meantime, I can be contacted on governance@southcentral.hockey and would love to hear from anyone willing to support this agenda.



Junior Leagues Update



We are still looking for an U10 and U12 South Central Area finals organiser for 21st April 2024.

As previously mentioned no volunteers no finals. This is a paid role paying £500 for the responsibility.

League games and cup game are continuing . We urge teams to let us know well in advance if they are reorganising a fixture so that we can change it on GMS.

There has been some confusion over league and England Hockey Cup matches. England Hockey have used the same dates this year because of the lack of dates in the calendar. This means if clubs have entered both league and cup they may well have a fixture clash on certain dates. 19th Nov is the next date. England Hockey Cup dates take priority so league matches will need to be rearranged.

U14 T1 clubs will hear about their play off matches after 5th Nov fixtures.

chair.juniorleagues@southcentral.hockey



Adult Leagues Update

The Adult League Management Committee met in person recently which has been the first time many of the committee have have the opportunity. The team are pleased to note that clubs are completing team and match sheets in timely fashion, timelines are causing an issue but we are trying to get the procedure easier. The video tutorial earlier in the newsletter will help guide administrators on the process.



Masters Hockey

For the first time we are joining with England Hockey and the other 8 areas to survey Masters Hockey and would like to get individual views on International hockey, Areas hockey and England Hockey Masters Championships. We will then be able to break the responses down per Area to give us a better understanding and that account on any comments received.



So, do you play Masters Hockey? If so, let us know your thoughts by completing this [Masters Hockey Survey](#) - your views are really important to us. The deadline for completion is 30th November 2023