



Player registrations

The long awaited player registration process has now been tested and approved for use. As a result, South Central Leagues now require ALL teams to register their players with immediate effect, with match sheets and timelines being required to be completed for the 1st league match of January. This link provides guidance on how to proceed: <https://www.englandhockey.co.uk/deliver/gms-club-admin>

To remind you all, Shirt numbers are required, as per rule 10.2.5. The League have the power and will take action against those clubs and players that do not comply.

Teams are reminded that post refreshments are to be offered to opposition and umpires and umpire support, bearing in mind the latest Covid 19 advice from Government.

We would also ask teams to ensure that team administration contact details are updated and to include preference of a contact telephone number, in case of a situation on the day of the fixture, now we are into the part of the season where frost can cause frozen pitches on high ground or pitches sheltered by trees.

We have also got a volunteer to run an Adult Indoor Competition on the 18th December, Women at Marlow and Men at Southampton. Emails have been sent to all clubs within the South Central area inviting them to partake.



Umpire Development

Clubs perennially struggle to find enough umpires, but help is at hand with a Club Umpire Developer Course which is imminent.

It will be online on 6 December 2021 starting at 7.30pm. There are still places. Access is via the England Hockey website - search under 'how do I become a club umpire developer'.

Further umpire training courses are available throughout the season, so do please encourage your club members to join a course. If nothing else it will help player appreciate the rules and how to implement them better.



Area Officiating committee

As I write this we are approaching the end of the first half of the league season for the 2021/22 season. We all know that there have been challenges along the way but we have, as South Central, appointed umpires 1,095 times, using 173 different umpires, across 514 league matches, and that requires a very special vote of thanks to the appointing team lead by Allan Notman, for getting this number of umpiring, coaching and assessing appointments delivered.

Once again Steve Godwin is leading the way, with 15 appointments, but Mike Robson has caught him up also with 15. There are quite a number on 13, including our very own Lead Developer Ginette Tessier, so there is still all to play for as we head towards the second half of the season.

Those numbers do not, of course, include BUCS games and Schools competitions, nor Indoor matches, of which there have been many – but very few of which have managed to make it onto GMS. Also not included thus far are the multiple pre-season appointments, some on GMS and others not, so the real numbers will be rather higher than at first thought.

Congratulations

Our development team has been busy and we can now congratulate a number of people who have moved forwards in their umpiring career from South Central.

Liz Spencer and Donovan Rothman have made the move to NPUA, having successfully completed their Level 3 assessments and are now umpiring National League hockey on the Ladies side.

Angus Porter, Daryl Sudworth and Ruth Busse have been moved to the Ladies A* panel; whilst Hatty Wood, Richard Walsh and Richard Stanley have been moved to the Ladies A2 panel.

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Cont.... Mike Boyne steps up to the Men's A* panel, while Tim R Clay, Paul Godfrey and Kevin O'Linn make it onto the Men's A2 panel.

Simon Watkins has now become a Level 2 Coach and Assessor.

We have also had a good number of Level 1 assessment successes, including Alistair Nichols, Bridget O'Kelly, Colin Burrell, Gary White, Jon Darnell, Karen Hitchings, Matthew Rust and Peter Wright.

Congratulations to all of these people, and even bigger congratulations to our development team, lead by Ginette, who has been managing their progress, and to Ray Hipkin our Level 1 assessments manager and his team of assessors.

If you want to keep developing your umpiring career then please let Ginette know, by registering for her Development group. To register go to umpiredev.co.uk, select "Information for Individual Umpires" and scroll down to find the Development Group button. You should be a Gold member of England Hockey Officiating in order to benefit best from the development opportunities which are available.

If you want help with sourcing an assessor for a Level 1 assessment then please let Ray know, with as much notice as possible (ray@rayhipkin.co.uk). Ray will also be able to help if you wish to discuss how best to prepare for a Level 1 assessment.

England Hockey Officiating

We currently have 175 Gold members, 70 Silver members, and 211 Bronze members.

That number of Bronze members still seems low, as it equates to around 3 Bronze members per club in South Central, and I'm sure that most clubs have many more than 3 umpires.

A reminder that anyone who umpires, or will umpire, any game of hockey needs to register to be a member of EHO, at the Bronze (free) level if you don't wish to undertake appointments. If you are umpiring club games you do need to be a registered member of EHO.

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If you haven't already registered then please go to:

<https://gms.englishockey.co.uk/>

Select Register, Choose Officiating and go from there. Looking forward to seeing the numbers registered for South Central with EHO increasing, especially now that the teething troubles with registration seem to have largely been resolved.

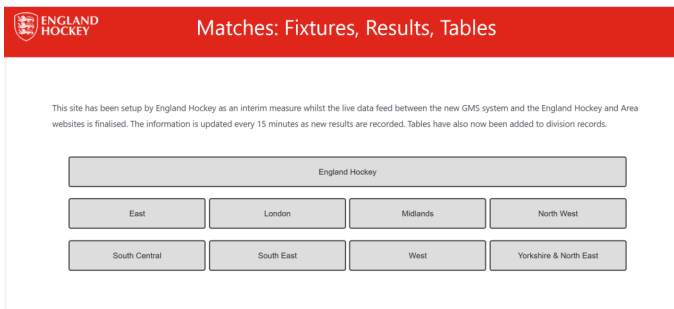
Match Results

Results can be found at:

<https://matches.englishockey.co.uk/>

Select the relevant league and date and the results should appear.

You can also view the tables for each division, as well as future fixtures.



Social Media

The South Central Area Officiating Committee Twitter account (@SCOfficiating) has been in use for a while now, and has a following of 137, whilst we are following 202 accounts.

More umpire pictures and we have also been featuring some pictures of match teas provided, for which many thanks to the host clubs and their catering teams.



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Social media sites for the South Central Area are:

<https://twitter.com/SouthCentralHo2>

<https://www.facebook.com/South-Central-Hockey-109636851265443>

<https://www.instagram.com/southcentralhockey/>

Developing your umpiring

The series of "Monday mixers", run by our Lead Developer, are proving a great success. They are set up so that umpires can drop in, from 19:30 onwards, on a Monday evening to ask questions about umpiring. Did you have a difficult decision to make on Saturday? Was there a questions about the rules or regulations that you need help with? Join in the chat and we'll see if we can help:

<https://zoom.umpiredev.co.uk/MondayMixer>



Club Liaison

Rowena and her team are doing sterling work to build a better hockey community throughout South Central, but are still struggling to compile a complete list of Club Umpire Liaison Officers and a list of Club Umpire Developers. Please make sure that Rowena knows the details of these important post holders for your club.

Indoor Hockey

As the weather worsens our thoughts naturally turn towards indoor (shed...) hockey with indoor fixtures being run throughout the Area. Umpires should update their availability with notes to confirm whether they wish to be considered or indoor umpiring as well as outdoor.

Thanks to Howard Chaplin-White who has volunteered to be South Central Officiating's Lead on all matters indoor. Howard can be contacted at:

adultindoorordinator@southcentral.hockey
Or: chappers16@outlook.com

Not to worry if you don't have any indoor umpiring experience – we'll be planning how to coach and develop indoor umpires too.

We have already supported several Indoor sessions, mostly school or junior age groups, but also the England Masters (O50 and O55s) World Cup trials.



Crowd Control

We have had several occasions when umpires have had to stop the game because of comments from the crowd being directed towards players, sometimes unpleasant, other times exceptionally offensive. The home captains and/or coaches have been able to resolve these issues – but they shouldn't have happened in the first place.

Home teams are responsible for the management of spectators so please do your best to ensure that players can play without fear of insult or abuse.

Area Discipline

Halfway through the season and a worrying trend has been observed with the Red Cards (RC) and Matchday Misconduct Offences (MMO) that have been reported, most have been for umpire abuse.



This is not acceptable, umpires should expect to be treated in a respectful manner, even if players don't agree with their decisions. The National Disciplinary Panel has agreed a 30-day minimum suspension for umpire abuse.

If you are umpiring, abuse is never acceptable and should be dealt with by a Red Card, during the match, or an Matchday Misconduct Offence, before or after a match. The paperwork is minimal, the same form is used for both – and help can be provided by the discipline team if required. A RC or MMO cannot be rescinded by an umpire and should always be reported to the Discipline Team and anyone requesting that it should be rescinded or not reported should be ignored. Continual requests should be reported to the Discipline team who will deal with the issue.

Officiating Committee

Just as a reminder your South Central Area Officiating Committee is:

Role	Name	E-mail contact
Chair	Simon Milford	Chair.officiating@southcentral.hockey
Vice Chair	Alan Dow	ViceChair.officiating@southcentral.hockey
TAP Lead	David Rigby	LeadTAP.officiating@southcentral.hockey
Lead Appointer	Allan Notman	LeadAppointer.officiating@southcentral.hockey
Lead Developer	Ginette Tessier	Leaddeveloper.officiating@southcentral.hockey
Club Liaison	Rowena Shepherd	Leadclubliaison.officiating@southcentral.hockey
Young Umpires	Chris O'Hagan	LeadYoung.officiating@southcentral.hockey

Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions and we'll see what we can do to help.

Juniors and Minis

The T1 junior leagues are reaching a point of completing. The GU14 finished in November with Marlow and Reading and Bournemouth going through to the next stage. U16 boys will be completed weekend 4th and 5th December and the GU16s the weekend after.

In a recent minis meeting which was attended by 12 South Central clubs. Thanks you to those who gave up their time to attend it is much appreciated. The consensus of the meeting was that there should be 2 levels of competition, one for the clubs who want a more formal 7 aside experience for their players and then a festival format in which they play very local clubs with U8 and U10 following on from each other. The likely format for the U12 festivals will be 5 a side on 1/4 pitches.



We are looking for help forming a South Central Minis Committee which will meet online. Chair of the Junior section Kate Porter is keen that it is the clubs that drive the development of mini hockey with in our area. Please let her know if you would like to give the South Central area some of your time. Kate can be contacted by email at: kateporter1@googlemail.com

Results of the indoor so far are:

GU18 - SC qualifier for the nationals will be Great Marlow School, Marlow.

BU16 - SC qualifier for the nationals will be KES, Southampton

Operations

You may well have seen from the banner of this newsletter and on our social media sites that we now have a logo for South Central Hockey Ltd.

It has been developed under consultation with the Board of Directors and Chairs of each area. The challenge was to draw on a subject that crossed the counties in the South Central Area, and not limit it to a particular part of the area. Therefore Spires were discounted as were towers and shields. Rivers and fields were considered and discounted before settling on a stag. Various versions were reviewed before settling on this.



Our new website is close to being ready to launch. The URL will be www.southcentral.hockey

Below are a couple of screen grabs of the site under development.

Adult Leagues & Competitions
The adult league structure for the whole of England will change from 2021/22, with consistent league regulations across all eight areas.
[FIND OUT MORE >](#)

South Central Hockey
Adult Leagues & Competitions
[GO TO THE MATCH CENTRE FOR FIXTURES & RESULTS >](#)

England Hockey
Game Management System (GMS)
[WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW >](#)

LATEST NEWS [>](#)

- [southcentral.englandhockey.co.uk/news/south-central-october-newsletter](#)
COMPETITIONS & EVENTS
- ENGLAND HOCKEY LEAGUES**