

# 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 vison '*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* 

<ul> <li>New and key activities delivered in 2024-25</li> <li>North West Hockey Strategy launched and priority areas being embedded in our work</li> <li>Growth of our indoor and outdoor schools and state school festivals and comps</li> <li>Over 4500 adult league matches involving 9500+ players</li> <li>534 Premier Men's and Women's Divisions officiating (<i>Umpire</i>) appointments</li> <li>515 registered NW masters players</li> <li>Provided 60 umpire radio sets to club to support umpire development</li> <li>Facilitated themed member forums for clubs; juniors; officiating and development</li> <li>Engaging with all EH 8 Area functional groups to share best practice, learn, influence and provide a NW voice</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Challenges and opportunities</li> <li>Growing the pool of volunteers supporting NW Hockey activities and development</li> <li>Improving our socials media, communications and engagement</li> <li>Working across the Area to ensure how remains a safe, enjoyable and inclusive sport open to and making match day experiences positive for all</li> <li>Creating capacity to deliver our strategic ambitions and plans</li> <li>Supporting development and growth of junior and club umpiring feeding into the appointed pools</li> <li>Supporting clubs and participants through our new Awards and Bursary/Grants scheme</li> </ul>
Join us online for the 2025 North We	
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 <u>chair@northwesthockey.co.uk</u>. Reminder to all clubs to register to attend and check email for full details and links for the AGM

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# North West Hockey

Strategy 2024-27 We have completed work on developing our NW strategic framework to guide and shape our work over the next 3 years. We've developed, tested and engaged clubs in this process through our popular clubs' forums and thanks to all who have contributed.

We also aligned the work to the <u>England Hockey</u> <u>Strategy - creating a future</u> for our game together

#### North West Hockey Strategic Framework



https://northwest.englandhockey.co.uk/about-north-west-hockey/northwest-hockey-strategy

We are now working to embed the strategy, our key priorities and 10 key objectives in our work and agreeing plans with our new committees.

Adult League and Competitions highlights 2024-25				
2024-25 highlights	Looking forward to 2025-26			
<ul> <li>Committee of 17 volunteers run our North West Men's and Women's Leagues</li> <li>The 14 volunteers covering: <ul> <li>36 Divisions</li> <li>Over 400 Adult Teams entered the 2024-25 season</li> <li>11 Team withdrawals during season (18 in 2023-24)</li> <li>4,000+ players across the NW Men's divisions</li> <li>4,000 players across the NW Women's divisions</li> <li>4,500+ NW matches per season (fewer forfeited than 2022-23)</li> <li>Third season of Development Teams (14 Men's with reduction on previous teams and number withdrawing and 21 Women's).</li> <li>Attempted to created Divisions of 12 where possible.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2024-25 Adult League Presentation Evening to be confirmed. See details of our league champions later in the review.</li> <li>ALMC Chair: John Dixon</li> <li>League Manager: Clare Thompson</li> <li>Support by our team of volunteer Divisional Secretaries</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The EH Centralised Calendar is available on the EH Website</li> <li>A NW Calendar of important dates and events will be available in July 2025. Note all League Reserve dates</li> <li>Adult League season start date: 13 September 2025* (*Subject to division size, Aim is planned 12 team divisions)</li> <li>The 8 Area review of the Adult League Regulations is about to complete. Publication expected end of July 2024</li> <li>The NW league structure review is nearly complete - Adult League entry was 1st May 2025</li> <li>NW fixture generation in draft: Publication expected mid July 2025</li> <li>Volunteers still required</li> <li>Guidance on Extreme Weather protocols to be ready for start of the season</li> <li>EH continuing improvements to GMS.</li> <li>A reminder that all Club and Team Admins must have their email and telephone numbers visible on the GMS</li> </ul>			



Junior League and Compe	titions highlights 2024-25				
Thanks to the incredible dedication of the committee members and wider hockey community, this					
season saw more junior hockey, more opportunities, and more players involved than ever before.					
From weekend leagues to vibrant school festivals, junior hockey across the North West is going from strength to strength - with new additions featuring in School Indoor, In2Hockey, and an exciting expansion in State Schools engagement.					
exciting expansion in State Schools engagement. CLUB COMPETITIONS	County Festivals – Pure Hockey Fun!				
NW Junior Area Leagues (U14 & U16)	County Festivais – Pure Hockey Fun!				
NW Julior Area Leagues (014 & 010)	From U8s to U14s, counties have once again				
<ul> <li>5 leagues</li> <li>38 teams (5 withdrawals) from 18 clubs</li> <li>U16 Boys (6), U16 Girls (7)</li> <li>U14 Boys (13), Girls (12)</li> <li>Finals took place in two of the leagues, with other winners being determined on points in a single pool.</li> </ul>	delivered a full schedule of festival-style tournaments. On this note, special thanks and congratulations go to Charles Jackman - nominated for England Hockey's 'Area/County Volunteer of the Year' award. Charles works tirelessly to offer the best hockey opportunities for so many young players in Lancashire and thoroughly deserves this recognition.				
Finals will return in all leagues next year, regardless of the number of pools in each league.	<ul> <li>SCHOOLS HOCKEY</li> <li>Area qualifiers produced finalists for EH National School Championships in -</li> </ul>				
In2Hockey - NW Finals Day	In2Hockey (U13), outdoor (U14 T2, U16 & U18 T3), and indoor (U16 & U18)				
Hosted for the first time in Cumbria at Sedbergh School, with two full size pitches, food trucks and fantastic facilities, it proved to be a great venue.	• In addition: U12 and U14 Indoor finals were also held - a great development to nurture early engagement with indoor hockey and prepare players for the upper age groups				
<ul> <li>U10 and U12s (u10 winners - Bowdon HC, u12 winners - Chester &amp; Alderley Edge - boys &amp; girls respectively)</li> <li>England U18s star Martha Bainbridge presented medals, inspiring the next</li> </ul>	Tier 2 competitions were offered across all age groups (In2 Hockey & Indoor), making sure every school, no matter what level they were at, had the chance to play competitive hockey.				
generation	STATE SCHOOLS				
<ul> <li>Young Umpires took centre stage too, with awards recognising future officiating stars - thanks to the leadership of Joy Elliot- Bowman</li> </ul>	Last year saw delivery of a single State School festival. This season – no less than seven State School Festivals ran across the North West for U14 boys and girls:				
	• Cheshire x 4, Cumbria x 1, Lancashire x 2				

#### Junior Indoor Competitions

Now in their third successful year, the U16 and U18 indoor events were very competitive:

- Bowdon HC dominated U16s (boys and girls), heading to Nationals
- Brooklands swept up both U18 titles

Beth Alvey, outgoing Junior Chair



 34 teams, 28 schools, and rapidly growing interest for 2025

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.

#### Lou Nash, Junior Administrator



### Masters highlights 2024-25

e Most Promising Young Umpire: & The Most Promising Newcomer.

Masters hockey continues to grow in the North West, with nearly 100 more players registered via Pitchero than at the start of the season. Current registrations (at 26/6/25) are shown below.

The dominance of Cheshire players of both sexes is perhaps related to the fact that the 2-pitch venues we use for the majority of our get-togethers are all in Cheshire/Manchester. As regards age distribution, the ladies have been significantly more successful than the men in engaging younger players.

A major focus of Masters during the season is the preparation for and participation in the annual England Hockey 8-Area Tournaments, all of which (apart from the Womens' 0-50's to be held on 28/29 June) have now been completed. Full results are shown in the table below.

The outstanding achievement was that of the O65 men who dominated their tournament, conceding only 2 goals over 7 games, and ending up worthy winners with a 3-point margin over their nearest rivals.

The ladies performed well across the board, ending mid-table on average, with special mention going to the O40 and O60 squad who secured bronze medals. We were unable to put a team into the O65 competition but those O65's we do have got a game – we needed them to make up our O60's squad!

The younger and older mens' teams did poorly, reflecting the lower pool of players available as the table of registrations above shows. In the case of the O-70 and O-75 teams this is because the total pool available is very small (for example 5 of the O-70 registered players only play walking hockey), and given that the tournaments were in the South of England we did well to get out a team at all, albeit with only 13 players available to travel. For the younger mens' teams we are sure there are many more potential players (and some very good ones) out there who are not yet involved in Masters.

The popular NW500 summer mixed tournament is now in full swing, with 16 clubs playing in 2 divisions (broadly speaking North and South of the Manchester Ship Canal). Our priorities for next season will 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.

Tony Taig, Masters Chair

Nomen											G	oals			
Age grp Ch	eshire Lancashire	Cumbria	Other	Not known	TOTAL	Squad	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	Points	Position	
0-35	14 10	3	2	16	45	· · ·					-				
	21 11	3	3	12	50	L35	7	3	1	3	7	8	10	4	
	26 8	4	2	9	49	L40	7	4	1	2	8	6	13	3	
O-50	27 9	5	0	4	45	L45	7	1	1	5	5	13	4	7	
	22 6	1	0	4	33		,	-	-	5	5	15	4	1	
O-60	17 5	0	0	0	22	L50	to be playe	ed 28/29 Ju	une						
0-65	6 0	0	2	2	10	L55	7	3	1	3	6	8	19	4	
0-70	1 0	0	0	0	1						-	-		-	
0-75	1 0	0	0	0	1	L60	7	2	4	1	8	6	10	3	
0-80	0 0	0	0	0	0	M35	6	0	1	5	4	16	1	7	
	135 49	16	9	47	256	M40	7	0	2	5	4	20	2	8	
Men			-			M45	7	0	1	6	4	15	1	8	
	12 5	2	0	6	25			-	_	-		-		-	
	15 7 15 7	0	0	8	30	M50	7	0	1	6	5	22	1	7	
O-45 O-50		1	0	6 10	29 40	M55	7	2	3	2	6	8	9	4	
	19 6 18 8	0	3	6	35	M60	6	2	2	2	9	6	8	4	
0-55 0-60	12 8	1	1	13	35	IVIOU	-			2	9	-	-	4	
0-65	10 1	6	0	15	32	M65	7	5	2	0	11	2	17	1	
0-00	9 3	2	1	8	23	M70	7	0	3	4	3	12	3	8	
0-75	2 0	2	0	4	8			-	-		-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{1}$
0-80	1 0	0	0 0	1	2	M75*	4	0	1	3	1	9	1	5	
	113 45	15	9	77	259		* joint with	h Y&NE							
	2025 National Ch North West o					- N/Q	CKEY				P		Train 6th Oct 10th N 24th N 8th De Train 12th L	ning Dates t - Armitage Ce ov - Kings (Mar ov - Northern H c - Timperley H ning Dates n - Location TB	5 -16 10

# Officiating highlights 2024-25

Once again, another challenging season, we managed to appoint to all the Premier Men's and Women's League matches with the support of Club umpires

- 6 umpires gained their level 2, and undertook occasional premier division appointments, North West Umpires took 12 NPUA appointments in 2024-25.
- 2 umpires gained there L3 and joined the NPUA.
- We have continued to focus on development and using tournaments to support umpires through to assessment and progression through our excellent coach development and mentor team.
- Development events for club umpires:
  - Cheshire Cup Finals (August 2024) umpires focused on level 2/3 development.
  - Manchester Tournament (Sept 2024) umpires received coaching, and Level 1 assessments. The Tournament was also used to develop umpire support.
  - Indoor Umpires building on the success of the previous year. Appointments to the Schools' Tier 1 programme at U16 and U18 age groups were re-established appointing to all 4 events, and we covered all the Junior clubs super 6 events (4), plus the adult super 6 qualifier.

#### Technical Officiating (Match Officials)

 The NW is the only Area which requires Premier and Div 1 matches to have a Match Official and as a result we have a clear pathway for MOs to progress to the National League. John Dixon has responded to the challenge of raising the standard of Club MOs with a Training Pack and a Starter Pack for those attending Tournaments. Tournaments and competitions provide excellent opportunities to recruit and train MOs.

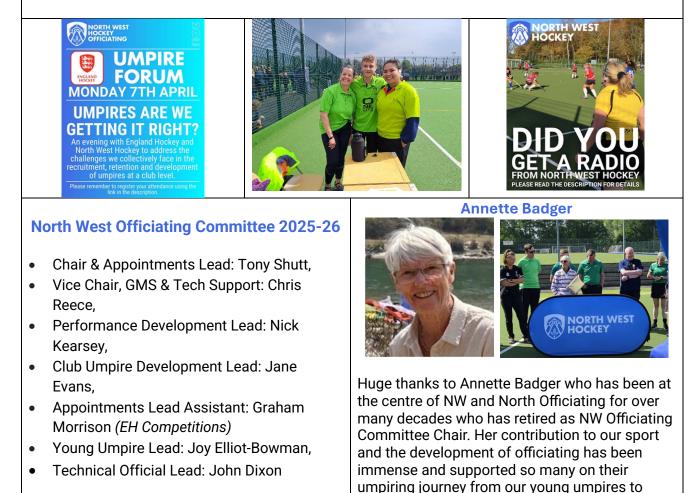
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- At the start of the season two successful 'Rules Evenings' were held by Gemma Jones and David Ellcock at Timperley and Preston.
- We also hosted an Officiating Forum in April with Natasha Wilson: England Hockey Officiating Manager.

#### Looking forward:

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.

#### Tony Shutt, Chair, NW Area Officiating Committee



Discipline summary 2024-25				
2024-25 highlights	2024-25 v 2023-24 Stats			
This season saw the introduction of an updated set of discipline regulations, I am grateful to David Ellcock who assisted North West Officiating in helping to cascade the information during pre-season events to umpires and clubs. We have seen an increase in the number of red cards for incidents after the final whistle	<ul> <li>Red Cards:</li> <li>32 (2024/25) <ul> <li>2 of which were Misconduct complaints that led to suspensions)</li> </ul> </li> <li>38 (2023 - 24)</li> <li>Gender Split: <ul> <li>27 Men : 5 women (2024-25)</li> <li>32 Men : 6 Women (2023-24)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Match type break down: <ul> <li>25 - North West League</li> <li>3 - BUCS</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			

influencing at a national level.

compared to the previously way of dealing with o 2 - EH championship these through MMOs. o 2 - Isle of Man Comp Category breakdown: suspension range • • 1 - Minor match day only As well as the incidents that led to ○ 23 - Non Violent offence 16 – 45 days suspensions, the NW panel also dealt with a number of Misconduct Complaints that had • 8 - Violence to participant 30 - 60 been referred back to the area from EH. Some days of these led to no suspension due to the panel deciding that the evidence wasn't enough to say that the alleged behaviour had occurred or SPIRIT OF HOCKEY CODE OF CONDUCT ENGLAND that if it had then it failed to make the threshold that the panel felt should lead to a suspension. 'Winning gracefully, accepting losses with dignity, respecting officials and their decisions are fundamental values we want to continue to be upheld All misconduct complaints were dealt with by a panel of at least 3 members of the committee. **Spirit of Hockey** The panels also took advice from the National Discipline Panel to see if other areas had dealt with similar cases. Area Discipline Administrator: Peter McInulty David Ellcock, Robert Cobourne, Jon Whiting, Darran Illidge and Taff Ahmed NORTH WEST HOCKEY **NORTH WEST** HOCKEY CLUB COACHING LUB FORUM **OPPORTUNITY** SENIOR

Clubs who play hockey in the North West are invited to join our clubs forum. The forum will cover a wide range of topics. Clubs are velocome to bring more than 1 representative to the evening. unty Association Representatives are also welcome to attend.

MONDAY 20th JAN @7:30 HOSTED AT: TIMPERLEY HC, WA15 7LU MONDAY 27th JAN @7:30 HOSTED AT: VALE OF LUNE RUGBY CLUB, LA1 2TT TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE

# North West Hockey Finance Report 2024-25

u have a vacancy for a

hat your club or school?

MMENTS BELOW

Please feel free to share a link to your advert and/or share a short brief with contact information so that potential coaches can apply.

😆 SHARE IN THE O

- Report to the Directors and Unaudited Finance Statement for the period 1st May 2024 to 30th • April 2025 has been approved by the Board and will be shared at the AGM. This forms part of our statutory reporting to Companies House.
- Operating income for 2024-25 was generated through: Area Membership Fees, League and • Competition Entry Fees, League fines and Appointed Umpire fees.
- Our total income and expenditure are down, primarily due to a welcome reduction in League ٠ Fines. However, the level of fines is still high, and we would urge clubs to work with ALMC to follow the regulations and further reduce the number of infringements this coming season.
- A sum of approximately £30,000 has been set aside to support the North West Hockey Growth • Fund initiative, details of which are still being finalised.

INIOR CLUB

YOU STILL HA TIME TO ENTER

TEAM

- The Area has made a loss for 2024-25, this is due to the £7,500 investment in 60 umpire radio sets which were distributed free of charge to NWH affiliated clubs on a first come first served basis. This was financed from League Fines and the NW Hockey Growth Fund.
- We are pleased to report that our investment in a paid Junior Administrator has been a great success, and we are looking to invest in the coming season in further paid administrators to reduce the load on volunteers in a number of areas.
- I am pleased to report that our finances are in a healthy state and that our reserves are in just excess of £100,000. It is our intention to use this reserve to support the NWH Growth Fund and administration initiatives aligned to the delivery of our new North West Strategy.

#### **Headline Financials**

	2024-25	2023-24
Total Income	£55,084	£57,230
Interest on Reserves	£1,479	£1,567
Total Costs	£62,544	£51,871
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	(£5,981)	£6,926

#### Niall Riley, Finance Director



And all our committee members and volunteers who help deliver the annual NW Hockey programme including umpires, technical officials and umpires' coaches, master coaches and managers, schools teaching staff and all the volunteers in our clubs. THANK YOU.

Join us to help promote, grow and develop hockey in the North West – we've a wide range of volunteer roles – get in touch to find out more. chair@northwesthockey.co.uk

#### North West Hockey Strategy 2024- 2027

Since our formation in 2021 much of our focus has been on establishing the new area, delivering in our 4 core areas: Adults; Juniors; Masters and Officiating and in our wider roles for governance, discipline and development of hockey in the North West. Through our forums we have worked with clubs and volunteers to create a strategy to guide our work over the next 3 years to develop hockey in the North West. Thanks to all who have contributed to the process.

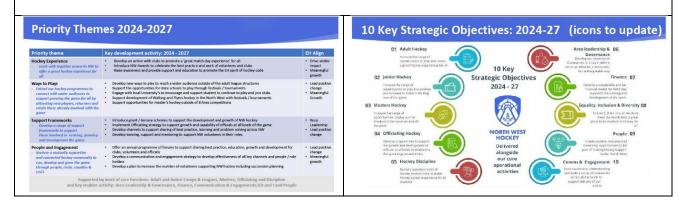
Our Strategic Framework is our overarching guide to ensuring we align our core delivery activities and future development to support delivering our vision and mission. We have set out four key priority areas and 10 Strategic Objectives and will be working with our volunteer committees to agree achievable annual action plans. We would love to do more and with more volunteers we can - and we are identifying ways to involve more people in our work from supporting one off events, to leading initiatives through to joining our committee.

Two of our key new strategic initiatives for 2025-26 will be:



• The launch of a new NW Awards to recognise and celebrate the work of clubs and volunteers

https://northwest.englandhockey.co.uk/about-north-west-hockey/north-west-hockey-strategy



#### Congratulations to our North West 2025 England Hockey Awards Finalists



**Finalists** Club of the Year : Bowdon Men's Team of the Year: Timperley 1's Area Volunteer of Year: Charles Jackman Unsung Hero: Richard Cook (Warrington) Fantastic to see NW Clubs and volunteers gaining national recognition at the 2025 EH Awards. We encourage clubs to enter the EH Awards and new for 2026 our own NW Hockey Awards to – as a brilliant way to recognise and celebrate all those involved in promoting, growing and developing hockey in the North West

Winners

Men's Team of the Year: Neston 1's Coach of the Year: Kevin Heath (Macclesfield)

#### Congratulations to our 2024 – 25 Adult League Champions

#### 36 Divisions Over 400 Adult Teams 9,500+ players 4,000+ NW matches

2024-25 Adult League Presentation Evening date to be confirmed.

Division	Winner
North West Men's Premier Division	2024-2025 Neston 1
North West Men's Division 1	2024-2025 Maccles field 1
North West Men's Division 2	2024-2025 Chester 2
North West Men's Division 3 North	2024-2025 Wigton 1
North West Men's Division 3 South	2024-2025 Stockport Bramhall 1
North West Men's Division 4 East	2024-2025 Crewe Vagrants 2
North West Men's Division 4 North	2024-2025 South Lakes 1
North West Men's Division 4 West	2024-2025 Mossley Hill 1
North West Men's Division 5 East	2024-2025 Bowdon 5
North West Men's Division 5 North	2024-2025

North West Men's Division 5 West (North)	2024-2025 Liverpool Sefton 3
North West Men's Division 5 West (South)	2024-2025 Bangor City 1
North West Men's Digiston 6 East	92024-2025 Timperley & REVIEW 2024-25
North West Men's Division 6 South (Central)	2024-2025 Maccles field 3
North West Men's Division 6 West (South)	2024-2025 Oxton 4
North West Men's Division 7 East	2024-2025 Didsbury Northern 7
North West Men's Division 7 East	2024-2025 Didsbury Northern 7

North West Men's Division 5 East

2024-2025 Bowdon 5

North West Men's Division 5 South (Central)	2024-2025 Whitchurch 1
North West Men's Division 5 West (North)	2024-2025 Liverpool Sefton 3
North West Men's Division 5 West (South)	2024-2025 Bangor City 1
North West Men's Division 6 East	2024-2025 Timperley 6
North West Men's Division 6 South (Central)	2024-2025 Maccles field 3
North West Men's Division 6 West (South)	2024-2025 Oxton 4
North West Men's Division 7 East	2024-2025 Didsbury Northern 7
North West Men's Division 7 South (Central)	2024-2025 Sandbach 2

Division	Winner
North West Women's Premier Division	2024-2025 Kirkby Stephen 1
North West Women's Division 1	2024-2025 Lymm 1
North West Women's Division 2 North	2024-2025 Clitheroe Blackburn Northern 1
North West Women's Division 2 South	2024-2025 Maccles field 1
North West Women's Division 3 East	2024-2025 Manchester Moss Park 1
North West Women's Division 3 North	2024-2025 Kendal 1
North West Women's Division 3 North (Central)	2024-2025 Lancaster Nomads 1
North West Women's Division 3 West	2024-2025 Eirias 1
North West Women's Division 4 East	2024-2025 Horwich 1
North West Women's Division 4 North (Central)	2024-2025 Pendle Forest 3
North West Women's Division 4 South (Central)	2024-2025 Triton 1
North West Women's Division 4 West	2024-2025 Bangor City
North West Women's Division 5 East	2024-2025 Didsbury Greys 3
North West Women's Division 5 North (Central)	2024-2025 Leyland & Chorley 2
North West Women's Division 5 South (Central)	2024-2025 Lymm 3
North West Women's Division 5 West (North)	2024-2025 Mossley Hill 2
North West Women's Division 5 West (South)	2024-2025 Neston 3
North West Women's Division 6 East	2024-2025 Bowdon 7
North West Women's Division 6 South (Central)	2024-2025 Deeside Ramblers 5
North West Women's Division 7 East (Central)	2024-2025

2025-25 Adult League season start date: 13 September 2025\* (\*Subject to division size, Aim is planned 12 team divisions)

Join us online for the 2025 North West Hockey Annual General Meeting

## Thursday 17th 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 <u>chair@northwesthockey.co.uk</u>.

Reminder to all clubs to register to attend and check email for full details and links for the AGM

NORTH WEST HOCKEY LTD

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