

West Masters Mens Reports

West O35s tournament review – 13/14 May 2023



Area Masters Mens Over 35s 2023

	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	P
1	West O35 Men	5	4	1	0	8	13
2	South East O35 Men	5	3	0	2	3	9
3	East O35 Men	5	2	1	2	1	7
4	London O35 Men	5	1	3	1	-1	6
5	North West O35 Men	5	2	0	3	-4	6
6	Yorkshire & North East O35 Men	5	0	1	4	-7	1

The 2023 Mens O35 Area Tournament benefitted from a very good set up at Basingstoke HC with two good astro pitches and a great clubhouse, and was blessed with a warm, sunny May weekend. The late withdrawal of Midlands, and with no subsequent redraw, meant that North West and South East played four matches on Saturday but only one on Sunday, which was far from ideal. West started their tournament tentatively against Yorkshire/North East. With a half-time score of 0-0, the team stepped up a gear to deliver a comfortable 2-0 win. By the start of the second match against South East, the high press was working superbly with the whole squad understanding and executing so precisely the opposition struggled to get out of their half. Despite conceding early, against the run of play, West stayed calm and stuck to the game plan set out by Coach Rich Jenkin. A string of fast, attacking moves produced a 2-1 victory over the eventual silver medallists. The final Saturday game saw another controlled performance with relentless pressure which North West was unable to deal with and West ran out easy 4-0 winners. A great day's hard work in the blazing sun left West in a very strong position for day two as the only side with maximum points.

The first match on the Sunday was against London, who on paper should have been our main challenger for the gold. A totally dominant first half display gave West a 2-0 lead. London were not allowed to perform as a team and individuals trying to do too much regularly coughed up possession – it really did feel like they were going to fall apart in the second half. But, to their credit, they regrouped just as the only blip of the weekend saw West take their foot off the gas. Sitting too deep, we invited London to pull our defence around with fast counters. Conceding a soft, messy penalty corner encouraged the opposition, and a second PC led to a questionable penalty stroke. A lively match with a few cards on both sides, the 2-2 draw was a wake-up call for West who duly responded with an impressive 3-1 victory over East to top the table by 4 clear points.

A well deserved gold medal earned by total commitment from the whole squad of 15 – no show boating and no unnecessary going into contact made all the matches a pleasure to watch with fast and well executed transfers across the back and through the midfield pivot. West wore their opponents down and out, and our fitness was excellent, as exemplified by defender Nick Hill's unexpected penetrating run to the opponent's D in the final match! Special mention must be made of Captain Adam Forsyth's grounded leadership and his own solid performance in midfield. Also, three unstoppable drag flick PCs from Rich Jenkin and tournament top scorer Matt Bell's endless but highly intelligent running.

Martin Jenkins, Manager

West O40 tournament review – 10/11 June 2023

Area Masters Mens Over 40s 2023							
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD
1 Midlands O40 Men	6	5	1	0	17	4	13
2 London O40 Men	6	5	0	1	15	4	11
3 East O40 Men	6	4	1	1	13	6	7
4 South East O40 Men	6	3	0	3	15	9	6
5 Yorkshire & North East O40 Men	6	2	0	4	10	13	-3
6 West O40 Men	6	1	0	5	3	16	-13
7 North West O40 Men	6	0	0	6	6	27	-21

West O45 tournament review – 20/21 May 2023



Area Masters Mens Over 45s 2023

Team	P	W	D	L	GD	P
1 London O45 Men	7	5	2	0	14	0
2 Midlands O45 Men	7	5	2	0	11	0
3 South East O45 Men	7	4	2	1	5	0
4 East O45 Men	7	3	1	3	0	0
5 Yorkshire & North East O45 Men	7	2	1	4	-2	0
6 West O45 Men	7	1	1	5	-3	0
7 South Central O45 Men	7	3	1	3	-4	0
8 North West O45 Men	7	0	0	7	-21	0

West O50s tournament review – 10/11 June 2023



Area Masters Mens Over 50s 2023								
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
1 West O50 Men	7	5	2	0	18	5	13	17
2 Midlands O50 Men	7	5	2	0	15	2	13	17
3 South Central O50 Men	7	3	2	2	13	8	5	11
4 East O50 Men	7	3	1	3	17	10	7	10
5 London O50 Men	7	3	1	3	14	11	3	10
6 South East O50 Men	7	1	3	3	4	9	-5	6
7 Yorkshire & North East O50 Men	7	1	1	5	5	19	-14	4
8 North West O50 Men	7	0	2	5	3	25	-22	2

Go West gold rush at the EH O50s Area Tournament – Marden HC June 10/11

Despite the heat, the West Men's over 50s came away with the gold medal after going through the tournament hosted by Marden HC undefeated.

The West started with a narrow 3-2 win against London with a hatrick from England O50 forward, Jonty Lawton. Despite dominating the next game against the East, the men of the West could not put

away their chances. A goal from Mark Pullin gave the West a deserved lead but they were pegged back by a late equaliser and the game finished 1-1.

In the next game and after some excellent coaching input from Trev Done, two goals from Nick Clooke and one from Ed Breton got the West back on track with a 3 -1 win over South Central. In the final game of the day, Jonty Lawford was on target again with two goals and one from Rogers Edwards as they swept aside the team representing the South East.

It was clear that by the end of day one, the tournament would be decided between the West and Midlands.

Day 2 started with blue skies and more heat as organisers took the decision to move to 10-minute quarters again. The West picked up where they left off on day one with a thumping 4 – 0 win over Yorkshire and North East with goals from Mak Pullin (MVP); Ed Breton, Andy Cook and Jonty Lawton. Up next were the Northwest who were dispatched 4 -1 with goals from Russ McQuinlan, Ed Breton, Matt Clark and another for Jonty Lawton.

This set up a winner takes all clash with the Midlands as after 6 games both teams were on the same number of points with 5 wins, and 1 draw and same goal difference. However, the West sat top on goals scored.

In a tense game, chances created by both teams but both keepers stood strong and when the final whistle blew it remained 0-0 giving the West the title.

Jonty Lawton also took the goaled stick for most goals scored.

West O55s tournament review – 20/21 May 2023



Area Masters Mens Over 55s 2023

	Team	P	W	D	L	GD	P
1	London O55 Men	6	3	2	1	2	0
2	South East O55 Men	6	3	0	3	1	0
3	Midlands O55 Men	6	3	1	2	1	0
4	East O55 Men	6	3	2	1	1	0
5	West O55 Men	6	3	1	2	1	0
6	Yorkshire & North East O55 Men	6	1	1	4	-2	0
7	North West O55 Men	6	1	1	4	-4	0

West O60s tournament review – 10/11 June 2023

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
1 Midlands O60 Men	7	5	2	0	17	2	15	17
2 South East O60 Men	7	5	1	1	9	3	6	16
3 West O60 Men	7	4	3	0	9	3	6	15
4 South Central O60 Men	7	3	1	3	6	6	0	10
5 London O60 Men	7	1	3	3	3	10	-7	6
6 East O60 Men	7	1	2	4	2	9	-7	5
7 Yorkshire & North East O60 Men	7	1	2	4	3	11	-8	5
8 North West O60 Men	7	0	2	5	3	8	-5	2

Results

Played 7 Won 4 Drawn 3 Lost 0 Points 15 - Position 3rd

Squad: Rob Austen, Jon Bland, Nigel Bower (Capt), Rob Brown (GK), Brian Edwards, Graham Farrant, Shane Lovett, Gary Nash, Gordon Opie, Ron Ousby John Partridge, Richard Purchase, Pete Sammon, Gray Vinnicombe, Roger White, Mike Wingent

Manager – Andy Batchelor

The West O60s Men finished 3rd overall, unbeaten and only just behind the Midlands in 1st place with 17 points and the South East with 16 points. This was an extremely good tournament performance following a well organised and managed selection process, over the last 4 months. We were fortunate to have such an experienced management team to guide us through; Richard Purchase as Manager, Nigel Bower as Captain and Gordon Opie as coach. This team was supplemented by Andy Batchelor who, despite being frustratingly unavailable after his knee operation stood up to skilfully manage the squad over the tournament weekend. A typically positive atmosphere existed from the start and culminated in an extremely well bonded group of players who gave their best in every respect, on and off the pitch.

The round robin format of seven, half hour matches in sweltering conditions was always going to be a tough ask but the first game against London proved to be the only significant frustration of the tournament. We started well and created many chances in the first half; however, the finishing touch just wasn't quite there, which may have been due to getting used to a challengingly sticky playing surface. Comfortably the better side, dropping 2 points proved to be the difference between 2nd and 3rd position. However, reaction to a setback is the measure of any team and a 1-1 draw against the Midlands, tournament favourites and eventual winners, was a marker for the true resolve of the group. Purchy scoring the first of his 7 goals confidently from a penalty flick. The third match against the South East, who ended in 2nd position, was another scoreless draw. This was another excellent contest with both teams creating chances and both the keepers holding out. Rob Brown in goal for the West had a fantastic weekend overall, being beaten only 3 times. Our backline was fundamental to the measly number of goals conceded. Nigel Bower, playing every minute of every match guiding our resolute defence of Rob Austin, Gray Vinnicombe and Bryan Edwards, brilliantly.

From then onwards the results were all positive. A 3-2 win against the North West in the final game of the day should have been more comfortable if we had managed the later parts of the game. Instead, it turned into a nervy ending, but we just hung on. Purchy scored again twice, from well worked penalty corners whilst newbie, Graham Farrant opened his West account with a neat finish, from short range.

And so, to Sunday. A good 1 – 0 win against South Central (Purchy from the penalty spot again) was followed by 2- 0 win against the East both goals by Purchy coming from open play after incisive passes into the D from Bower and Jon Bland. Our final game against the North East was notable for the “worldy” finish, after about a minute, from Jon Partridge, who intercepted the ball on halfway, received possession again on the right-hand side of the D, drove in and smashed the ball into the far left corner. Purchy followed this up with another trademark finish from a Penalty corner to make it 2- 0 and we saw out the rest of the game comfortably enough, camped in the opposition’s half. A fitting performance to finish off the campaign!

Other mentions should go to Ron Ousby, Pete Sammon and Graham Farrant, all new to divisional hockey and to Mike Wingent who worked tirelessly and unselfishly for the cause, up front. Also, to Roger White, Gordon Opie, Jon Bland, Shane Lovett and Gary Nash for the 10s of kilometres covered in midfield.

As normal, the social element was entered into with typical enthusiasm and helped make the weekend the success that it was. It was the archetypal West performance – a tight group of lads working very unselfishly for each other, and playing hard both on and off the pitch. Go West !!

Over 65s tournament review – 15/16 July 2023



Area Masters Mens Over 65s 2023									
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points	
1 Midlands O65 Men	6	5	1	0	10	2	8	16	
2 East O65 Men	6	4	1	1	9	4	5	13	
3 South East O65 Men	6	4	0	2	10	3	7	12	
4 West O65 Men	6	3	0	3	6	4	2	9	
5 North West O65 Men	6	1	2	3	2	7	-5	5	
6 Yorkshire & North East O65 Men	6	1	1	4	1	10	-9	4	
7 London O65 Men	6	0	1	5	1	9	-8	1	

The West Masters Men's Over 65s team finished 4th in a highly competitive tournament played in Woking on 15th and 16th July 2023, playing 6 games, winning 3 and losing 3. In a very close opening game against a strong East team, West conceded 2 goals in a five minute period having dominated much of the game up to that point. But in games lasting only 15 minutes each way, it was always going to be a big ask to come back from 2-0 and it is to the team's credit that we did in fact get one goal back late on to finish 2-1 losers. The next two games were relatively comfortable 2-0 wins against Yorkshire & North East and the newly formed London Region respectively, with a final game on Day One against the eventual tournament winners, Midlands. This was always going to be a close physical encounter and it was settled by a single goal scored just before halftime by the Midlands. Day Two started with what should have been a relatively comfortable game against the North West without a goal to their name up to this point. But a mixture of complacency and Sunday morning lethargy combined to give the North West their first goal and their first win of the tournament. Which left a somewhat deflated team to take on the formidable might of the South East - looking remarkably similar in make up to the former South Region- in the final game of the competition. The result was all the more remarkable in the circumstances and thoroughly well deserved as the West men dug deep and gave everything to come away with a 1-0 win! So a great end to a good tournament. It is always difficult to pick out individuals for special mention - for fear of offending

anyone - but it would be completely unforgivable not to make special mention of Graham Skinner, Captain and Coach of the team for the last 5 years, who now moves up to the Over 70s age group. To say that Graham has been an inspiration would be an understatement - he has been that and so much more and he will be sadly missed as a player - but hopefully not as a Coach! Thanks Graham!

Over 70s tournament review – 10/11 June 2023

Area Masters Mens Over 70s 2023									
Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points	
1 South Central - East O70 Men	5	4	1	0	8	0	8	0	
2 London O70 Men	5	3	1	1	9	5	4	0	
3 Midlands O70 Men	5	3	1	1	7	5	2	0	
4 East O70 Men	5	0	3	2	1	3	-2	0	
5 West O70 Men	5	1	1	3	5	9	-4	0	
6 North O70 Men	5	0	1	4	1	9	-8	0	

Over 75s tournament review – 15/16 July 2023



MEN'S OVER 75s AREA MASTERS
West Team - July 2023



Area Masters Mens Over 75s 2023

Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	For	Against	GD	Points
1 London - SC - SE O75 Men	4	4	0	0	12	3	9	12
2 Midlands O75 Men	4	3	0	1	5	2	3	9
3 West O75 Men	4	2	0	2	4	5	-1	6
4 North O75 Men	4	0	1	3	4	7	-3	1
5 East O75 Men	4	0	1	3	2	10	-8	1