



MIDLANDS HOCKEY

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VOICES IN HOCKEY

January 2022

Welcome to 2022 and a Happy New Year to you all.

We will soon be starting the second half of the season and despite all of the problems we have had to encounter - pitch availability, Covid restrictions, and GMS - thank you for managing to get everything played (except when the weather has not allowed). It is very pleasing to see that so much Junior Activity has also taken place.

During the first half of the season I was able, with Laurie Alcock, to finally present his award to three of the recipients in Mary Moss, Stafford HC (top right), Sue Myers, Wolverhampton & Tettenhall HC (middle right) and Barbara Taylor, Phoenix Blues HC (bottom right) - congratulations!

In addition we have also run Junior and Senior indoor competitions, as well as the Schools, and my thanks to those that organised these events. A list of winners can be found on the Midlands Hockey website. If anyone has views on how we can make Indoor more accessible then please let me know via the contacts section on the website.

Attached to this newsletter are the individual committee reports giving details of their structures and / or current issues and successes. There are still opportunities for you to get involved in helping to shape Midlands Hockey so please do get in touch via the website.

Enjoy the second half of the season!

Tim Lorimer

Chair Midlands Hockey Ltd

chair@midlands.hockey



A massive well done to Fran Gamble, junior coach at Stone Hockey Club, for winning the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Unsung Hero award for the Midlands.

Known by members as "Fran-tastic", she impressed judges by increasing junior membership by 200% and helping players through lockdown with a series of fun challenges. Afterwards she said winning the award was "massive", I just want to do what I want to do for the club and for the kids and to make them feel happy and feel like they belong,"

Adult League and Competitions

As we are at the halfway point of the season, it is time to provide an update on things that have been going on, and importantly how we can improve the second half of the season.

Liaison Officer(s)

Regulation 3.1.5 - each participating club **must** appoint a Liaison Officer for each gender of team participating in the League (an individual may cover both roles). The Liaison Officer should be available to the ALMC and other teams as required by the usual channels of communication. The name, e-mail address and telephone number(s) of the Liaison Officer must be advised to the ALM, via or for use in GMS by the date specified. Any change in details of any of the above must be advised via or for use in GMS.

Until we have this Role defined in GMS can all clubs e-mail these details to Nick Haynes adultleagueschair@midlands.hockey for use as club contacts.

Hospitality

Regulation 6.6 Hospitality

6.6.1 Requirement for home teams grade 2-5 - Post-match hospitality to be made available to visiting teams and umpires

6.6.2 Away team must confirm if they do not wish to receive any offered hospitality by 20:00 hrs on the Wednesday prior to the match

Away team is liable for any costs incurred if they fail to notify that they do not require hospitality after this time, or if it is not taken on the day.

It seems to have become common, this year, for teams not to provide hospitality. If due to COVID, restrictions are still being imposed by some facilities, clubs need to find alternate arrangements. Next year, as per the Regulations, we will be expecting ALL Clubs to provide hospitality.

Umpiring

The provision of both umpires for club games has been a challenge for some, but until the AOC are able to supply in excess of 380 umpires each Saturday it will need to continue.

Although we are allowing relaxation of the level of qualification needed, clubs need to be aware of competency of umpires commensurate to the level of game being played. We should also like to remind you that if an away team wishes to provide an umpire, they are entitled to do so as long as they have the correct level of accreditation.

As we roll-out GMS teamsheets all umpires need to be registered with EHO, even as a free Bronze member.

Please contact Nick Haynes adultleagueschair@midlands.hockey for any further league related queries.

COVID

We are aware that once again COVID is on the increase and may be affecting availability. Guidance has been given to your ALDS, but if you believe your availability is affected, please let your ALDS know and include numbers of players who have tested positive and numbers of players that have been told to self-isolate.

GMS—Update on Where We Are

Players - All players should be registering as players, they can then be assigned to a squad and available for selection.

Umpires - Anyone who is likely to umpire a GMS controlled game should register themselves on GMS, with a minimum of EHO Bronze Membership.

Teamsheets

We are currently asking regional Premier and Division 1 teams to use GMS for all match recording, scores, teamsheets and matchesheets. We have now stabilised the names with teamsheets (the players, coaches) appearing on GMS as 'Team' and matchesheets (scorers and cards) appearing on GMS as 'Timeline.' In the New Year we will continue the roll-out further divisions.

This will remove the need for us to use the current e-mail teamsheet process. In the meantime, we can only apologise for the inconsistency of the e-mails, or in some cases lack of them. At some point we plan to load all we have on to GMS and invite clubs to provide any missing data. Something to look forward to in the New Year!

Result submission Deadline

Please can all clubs remember that the deadline for submitting Scores on GMS is 20:00 **on the day of the fixture.**

| Transfers | Pitch Side Behaviour |
|---|---|
| <p>Until we are fully using GMS for Player Registration and Teamsheets we do not have a Transfer process.</p> <p>If a player wishes to change clubs, they can do so, as long as their existing club has no reason to block.</p> <p>Please just register for the new club on GMS. If already registered, register again as a new player with the new club.</p> | <p>Unfortunately there have been a number of reports of behaviour below an acceptable standard from both players and coaches.</p> <p>Whilst there is little the league can do, we will bring it to the attention of the club to which they are attached, for them to take the necessary disciplinary action.</p> <p>The alternative is for the complaint, with evidence, to be raised as a Disrepute Complaint to England Hockey.</p> |

Indoor

A successful Midlands Indoor qualifier was held on 19th December which, although COVID affected, two women's and thirteen men's teams enjoyed a day of indoor hockey.

Thanks to all those who officiated and umpired, as well as a special thank you to Jo Barnes. Additionally congratulations to the Cannock Women's and Belper Men's teams that qualified to take part in the National Super 6s League in the second half of the season.

Midlands Area Officiating Update

Following on from the changes made by England Hockey to the Governance of Hockey, the Midlands Area Officiating Committee (MAOC) has been created and has taken over the officiating responsibilities of the former Hockey Umpiring Associations in the Midlands.

The MAOC Chair is Laura Seager and the five Core Functions of the committee are as follows:

Independent Umpiring Appointing – Appointments Lead Rob Crosson

We have made approximately 750 appointments in the first half of the season, covering all matches in Tier 2 (Premier and Division 1) and some matches in Tier 3.

For the first time in many years, this has included appointments in the Women's League below Division 1, and appointments have also been made to EH Championship matches, BUCs matches and Indoor competitions.

Umpire Development – Development Lead Colin Jones

We have welcomed a number of new members who are keen to try independent appointments.

Our dedicated Umpire Support team have been busy coaching and assessing umpires at weekends. As a result, ten umpires have been promoted to higher panels, including five umpires progressing from L1 to L2. In addition, four of our members have been promoted to the National Panel.

Congratulations to all.

Club Umpires – Club Liaison Lead Andy Barnes

We also have responsibility for the development of club umpires, something previously undertaken by the County HUAs.

Andy Barnes and his team are working on the strategies for delivery of development opportunities, and clubs will hear more about this in the New Year.

Young Umpires – Young Umpires Lead Ben Garrod

Every Area has a section dedicated to Young Umpires, where young people get a chance to develop their umpiring within Junior Hockey. Much of this junior activity takes place in the second half of the season.

If there are young people in your club who are interested, then please contact Ben Garrod, our Young Umpire lead ben4garrod@gmail.com.

Technical Officiating – Area Technical Officiating Lead Jo Barnes

Last, but not least, under the new structure, Technical Officiating is recognised as an activity within each area.

This section is led by Jo Barnes, and we have recently made our first Area appointments, these being to the various Indoor tournaments held in late November and December.

Laura Seager, MAOC Chair, can be contacted at officiatingchair@midlands.hockey.

Midlands Junior Competition Committee

With clubs having more junior hockey than ever the pressure on coaches and facilities has been huge, however on the positive side the players and parents have enjoyed regular games almost on a weekly basis.

There are currently well over 200 teams and 50 clubs participating at Under 8s, 10s, 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s. The committee would like to thank Jane Jelley for all her hard work, and Elaina Leathead for getting fixtures onto GMS.

The schools competition has progressed well with more schools than ever taking part in the girls competition before Christmas, and boys are now all set for after Christmas. Thanks for this must go Jeanne Freeman and Mindy Dhanda for all of their support.

Indoor competitions have now been completed for both schools and club juniors, which were dominated by Repton. Thank you to Jackie Sharp, Jeanne Freeman and Jo Barnes for all their hard work and dedication for these competitions.

The committee has also been organising the Player Pathway programme for Under 13s, 14s, 15s, 16s and 17s boys and girls from the relevant sub areas (counties). This work has been tirelessly completed by Sarah Abel, thank you, and we look forward to a full programme after Christmas involving all 8 counties.

All in all a very busy and exciting period for junior hockey in the Area!

Please contact Dave Willenbruch if you require any further details david.willenbruch@ntlworld.com

Area Discipline Panel (ADP)

The ADP is established, and sadly has also been busy this season so far.

The Area Discipline Administrator (ADA) is Andy Barnes, the deputy ADA is Tom Roberts, and we have 6 Assistant ADA's (AADA's) that constitute membership of the panel - Chris Ashton, Nick Fielden, Martin Hives, Charlotte May, Gemma Taylor-Robinson and Neil Ward.

Andy Barnes is our Area representative of the National Discipline Panel (NDP), and he regularly meets with England Hockey and the other 7 ADA's.

This season so far the ADP have dealt with 10 red cards, 2 matchday misconducts, 4 disrepute complaints (3 of which were dismissed after investigation) and 2 of our EHL clubs have also received red cards.

These statistics indicate work needs to continue to improve the behaviour all participants, to respect the officials we appoint and respect those appointed by others to service our game, and finally respect those players and clubs we play against.

The ADP are available to offer advice and work proactively with member clubs with any aspect of the EH discipline codes and code of Ethics and Behaviour.

You can contact the ADP by email discipline@midlands.hockey if you require guidance or support at any time.

Masters

The number of players involved in Masters competitions already this season shows an increasing appetite from our all our age groups. The aim is to feed this desire by producing more opportunities at both representative and friendly levels, and on that theme I am happy to announce the inaugural Over 60s Men's County Cup in March (a round robin inter-regional for five counties).

England Hockey's reorganisation of the country into eight areas has highlighted the differences that previously existed across the old regions. We are assessing those and what else you may want in terms of Masters Leagues and events/competitions across our five year age groups (Mens from Over 35 to 75 and Womens from Over 35 to 70). As we introduce new additions to the hockey calendar we will continue to update you and invite your ongoing input.

The call to action for Women's and Men's Masters is as follows - if you are not already involved in Masters and would like to be (whether as a player, coach or official) but not quite sure how, then please contact me. If you are interested in taking on an organisational or supporting role, please also let me know (we welcome additional administrative help, and there are vacant roles). Finally if you have any development or participation ideas again please contact me to put these forward.

Tim Ollerinshaw masterschair@midlands.hockey

Contacts - a Reminder for ALL

Making contact this season has been a major challenge to all of us.

This e-mail is targeted, via GMS, to all Club Admins and Team Contacts that have an e-mail address. But we need to ensure the correct details are available and shared. Please can all clubs check their details on GMS, if it is not blue, it does not have a corresponding contact record.

As previously requested by Nick Haynes please review and, if required, update this detail in GMS as a matter of urgency. If amendments are made then please also email your divisional secretary with the updated detail. As there are so many divisions, please can you include the Division Name and Full Team Name in all communications.