



SOUTH CENTRAL HOCKEY NEWS

APRIL 2024

Welcome to the April 2024 Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to the South Central Hockey March Newsletter.

In this newsletter you will find:

- Adult Leagues restructure
- Maidenhead Easter Tournament
- Banbury HC Success
- Malow Ladies
- In2Hockey
- State Schools Hockey
- Masters Hockey
- Celebrating 'Tex' Lane
- England Hockey awards shortlist
- South Central EHO AGM
- Governance

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.



Save the Date

The date for the South Central Hockey Ltd AGM have been set for **Thursday 18th July 2024 at 19.30.**

Please mark this date in your calendars so you can have your points of view heard and recorded.

We are always listening and want to help develop hockey in the area along the lines that the majority of clubs want.



We particularly want to hear from grass roots hockey, junior and youth hockey, umpire development youngsters as well as those more experienced.

Contact us:

operations@southcentral.hockey

Adult Leagues

Promotions & Relegations

Unfortunately for South Central THREE teams have been confirmed as coming down from the Women's Conference Leagues which is resulting in a restructuring of the Womens leagues for the next season.

The Adult League Management Committee have considered a number of options on how to address this. Unfortunately this cannot be achieved without some disruption to clubs. The ALMC have tried to find a route that minimises this as far as is possible.

An email will be sent out to clubs by the Chair of the ALMC soon to inform how this will work in practice.



39th Maidenhead HC & Krimpen Easter Tour

This Easter Weekend, Maidenhead HC hosted the 39th International Easter Tournament.

After a four-year hiatus due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, we were extremely proud and thankful to host this international tournament once again, welcoming back our friends from MHC Krimpen and welcoming Basingstoke as they joined us for the first time.

The tournament saw a very high level of hockey being played by all of the teams - even the Alumni squads! and showed the long term friendship between the clubs. We are sure all our players have enjoyed the experience both on and off the pitch.

Winners this year after a very tight competition.

Boys Team Winners

MHC Krimpen having beaten Maidenhead HC in the last match 1-0 to win by goal difference.

Girls Team Winners

MHC Krimpen having scored a last minute goal to go equal with Maidenhead in the last match to win the trophy on goal difference.

The Mike Pearce Team Award for Fair Play

This trophy was awarded to Basingstoke HC.

The Jeremy Hylton-Smith Individual Fair Play and Spirit of the Tour

Awarded to Michael Fikkert MHC Krimpen

Boys Winner - Dylan Brockbank
Basingstoke HC

Girls Winner - Lone Pietersma MHC
Krimpen

T
here are just so many thank you's but we would like to especially thank our Coaches Issy and Marcus for supporting the MHC squads, Sue Cheale for giving out the awards, EG for Chairing the organising committee and our Director of Hockey DJ. Thanks also to our tour sponsors Bellway Homes, Stubbings Property Marketing and the Handmade Cake Company for their kind donation of cakes.

Banbury HC Men's through to the Tier 1 Final



Banbury Men's First team qualified for the National Tier One Cup Final by beating one of the nations top sides, Old Georgians, at their ground in the semi finals on Sunday 7th April by a score of 5-3.

Spectators were treated to a great game with entertaining end to end hockey by both teams. Banbury now go on to the final to play Beeston at the Lea Valley Stadium on 5th May.



History making Marlow Ladies

For the first time in the club's history, Marlow women gained promotion to National League after securing the South Central Premier Division title. Marlow scored 80 goals and conceded 18 on their way to South Central success, with young Starlet and ex-Henley player Lauren Hilditch bagging 19 goals in 19 games.

A key part of their success has been the link between Marlow based schools Sir William Borlase's Grammar School (SWBGS) and Great Marlow School (GMS) with the hockey club.



The Marlow first team squad boasts an average age of 21.8, with little over half the squad made up of school players. A mix of experience and youth has been crucial to Marlow's success and, aside from three players, all are homegrown including captain Rachael Goodwin.

Current GMS sixth form student, Rachel Clarke, has won the "glue" award – an award given to someone who holds the team together, works hard, a good teammate and someone who might go under the radar for player of the match – on several occasions.

Kate Porter, Marlow's first team coach, said: "The positivity from the leadership team has been amazing.

Elsewhere in the club, after missing out on National League promotion to Banbury HC last year the men's first team have lost a significant number of players to injury, relocation for work and to university. This includes Ex-England U18 international Imre Gerrits, who joined Richmond in January and helped gain a spot in the England Hockey Premier Division.

England Hockey also cited Marlow as a talent hotspot last year as the club were among 20 of the elite to achieve Talent Centre (TC) reaccreditation.

South Central Schools In2Hockey Finals

The South Central Schools Boys and Girls Under 13, Under 12, and Under In2Hockey Finals took place at Reading and Sonning Hockey Clubs on 14th, 19th and 21st March.

The Under 13 In2Hockey Tournament attracted the winners and runners up from each of the four County (Berkshire, Bucks, Hampshire and Oxfordshire) In2hockey Tournaments. The winning Boys Under 13 team was Hall Grove (Berkshire). The Runners up were Portsmouth G.S. In the Girls Section, Kings Winchester (Hampshire) were the winners with Cheam (Berkshire) as Runners up. Hall Grove and Kings qualify to represent South Central in the E.H. National Finals in Nottingham on 10th May 2024

There is no National Final for Under 12 or Under 11s. The winning South Central boys' Under 12 team was Dr Challoner's (Bucks) runners up Churchers (Hants). The winning South Central Girls Under 12 team was King Edward V1 (K.E.S.) with Headington (Oxfordshire) as Runners up.

Unfortunately, Bucks did not run an Under 11 Schools In2hockey Tournament and an Oxfordshire team withdrew from the Girls Section. Berkshire 3rd placed teams were delighted to be invited to participate in the South Central Schols U 11 Tournaments.

The winning Boys team was St Neot's (Berkshire) Runners up Durlston Court (Hampshire) The winning Girls team was St Piran's (Berkshire) with Holme Grange (Berkshire) as runners up.

Under 13 Boys		Under 13 Girls		Under 12 Boys		Under 12 Girls		Under 11 Boys		Under 11 Girls	
1	Hall Grove Berks	1	Kings Hants	1	Dr Challoners Bucks	1	K.E.S. Hants	1	St Neot's Berks	1	St Piran's Berks
2	Portsmouth Hants	2	Cheam Berks	2	Churchers Hants	2	Headington Oxon	2	Durlston Court Hants	2	Holme Grange Berks
3	K.E.S. Whitley Hants	3	Farleigh Hants	3	S.W.Borlase Bucks	3	Farleigh Hants	3	Hall Grove Berks	3	Lambrook Berks
4	Borlase Bucks	4	Borlase Bucks	4	Holme Grange Berks	4	Holme Grange Berks	4	Magdalen Oxon	4	Westhill Park Hants
5	Elstree Berks	5	Thorngrove Berks	5	Abingdon Oxon	5	S.W. Borlase Bucks	5	New College Oxon	5	Stroud K.E.S Hants
6	John Hampden Bucks	6	Pipers Corner Bucks	6	Ballard Hants	6	Oxford High Oxon	6	Stroud K.E.S. Hants	6	Cokethorpe Oxon
7	Magdalen Oxon	7	Headington Oxon	7	Bloxham Oxon	7	Pipers Corner Bucks	7	St Piran's Berks		
8	Abingdon Oxon	8	Cokethorpe Oxon			8	The Marist Berks				

A shield was presented to each winning team. Teams placed 1st,2nd and 3rd received medals and certificates

State Schools Hockey

South Central Hockey ran our first State School Competition on Tuesday 26th March at Reading Hockey Club.

We had 17 schools involved from the South Central Area with a total of 23 teams. Fortunately the weather held fair for most of the day and it only rained during the final.

We received a huge amount of positive feedback and will of course be reviewing what we did this year to improve on it for next year. Our biggest hurdle this year was getting the information out to the correct people in the schools. Now we have a contact base we hope that we can devote more time to making the tournament work for every school.

Ideally, we would like to link schools with local clubs so that the clubs can help with equipment and potentially run some coaching in the school prior to the event, some funding will be available for this.

We would like to thank Maidenhead HC and Marlow HC for their help on the day with manpower, coaching and provision on GK kits for schools who didn't have their own. The schools were also lucky to be supported by a brilliant team of hugely experienced umpires including a National Premier League umpire! They all gave their time to help the players and teachers develop our sport in their schools. My overriding feeling of the day is that it what sport is all about, players having fun in a supportive environment. Thank you to all those involved, participants, teachers and volunteers.

(Photos Courtesy of: Evelyn Hargraves Photography)



Masters Hockey



Masters hockey trail have been taking place over the past few month and continue as the clock ticks down to the tournaments in May and June 2024.

There is still time to join in to represent South Central Hockey in these tournaments as a player or official.

Contact details and dates can be seen on the South Central Hockey website:

<https://bit.ly/3QW7enM>



England Hockey Awards

2024 shortlist

Two of South Central Hockey Clubs feature in the upcoming England Hockey awards.

South Berks has been shortlisted for Club of the Year.

The shortlist in this category is:

- Durham City Hockey Club
- Harborne Flyers Hockey Club
- Sittingbourne Hockey Club
- South Berkshire Hockey Club
- Surbiton Hockey Club

Marlow ladies 7th Team has been shortlisted for Women's team of the year.

The shortlist in this category is:

- Duchy Hockey Club Ladies' 1st Team
- Kirkby Lonsdale Hockey Club Ladies' Team
- Marlow Hockey Club Women's 7th Team
- Norton Hockey Club Ladies 1st Team
- Pendle Forest Hockey 1st Team

The England Hockey Awards presented by Notts Sport will be on **Saturday 18**



May 2024 at the Athena in Leicester where the winners of this years awards will be announced.

A celebration of the life of 'Tex' Lane

Recently we lost a key figure from our hockey family, David 'Tex' Lane. As a player, umpire, umpire coach, and designer of the legendary Tex Solutions umpiring websites, Tex has made an invaluable contribution to hockey.

Diagnosed with a brain tumour and cancer only six months ago, his life ended all too abruptly, and many people never had the chance to pay their respects and say their goodbyes.

The hockey community is, however, very determined not to let him go without a huge celebration of both Tex, the man, and Tex, the architect of so much good over many years.



We hope to bring the hockey family together that he served so well for a day filled with laughter and happy memories of a wonderful man.

On **Saturday 18th May 2024** in celebration of Tex we are holding a hockey game at Reading Hockey Club comprised of past and present Reading players as well as anyone else who would like to play or umpire. The match will be played on a 'rolling subs' basis for both players and umpires, with appropriately the first two umpires being Lia Harper and Rob Jenkins.

The celebration match will start at 16.00.

After the match, there will be food, drink and happy memories to share together. No formalities, no speeches as such, but impromptu reminiscences and anecdotes encouraged!

Please see below a link to a survey for you to register your interest in attending the event, so we can gauge numbers for catering. It also includes information on how to express your interest if you would like to play or umpire for part of the match.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/11JzasUhsuQzDfXNhYqjyhCRev7gbsDtLOtVQRdI9vk/viewform?edit_requested=true

South Central branch of EHO AGM

The AGM of the South Central branch of EHO will take place on Wednesday 15th May, 2024, starting at 19.30. The AGM will be a virtual AGM, over Zoom.

The agenda for the AGM will include:

- a. minutes of the previous AGM
- b. Reports from the Chair and committee leads (reports will be published on-line prior to the AGM)
- c. nominations for committee posts (all existing committee members are willing to stand again), and elections if necessary
- d. selection of our nomination for Area Officiating Committee Chair, to be sent forward to the South Central Area AGM for ratification.
- e. AOB, to be notified to the Chair, by 1st May 2024

Lead Young Umpires

We have not had a Lead for Young Umpires this season and we would like to fill that role - so please think whether you might wish to take on this and help with the development of younger umpires with South Central. If you want to discuss what is involved then please get in touch.

Please register your intention to attend here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/zLLawdSzKC>

If you wish to nominate someone to stand on the committee please complete the form here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/CfT4jg4vvv>

If there are multiple nominations for posts then voting will be held on-line, details of which will be sent out in due course.

Minutes of last year's AGM, and other 2023/24 AGM material when available, will be found here shortly:

<https://umpiredev.co.uk/agm/>

Looking forward to seeing you on 15th May 2024.

Governance

Umpire Registration - Hockey Hub

Calling all umpires to register on EH Hockey Hub

(<https://hockeyhub.englishhockey.co.uk/>).



We recognise that umpires you have to be registered on GMS but can we ask you to also register on Hockey Hub as the two systems are not linked. This is for two reasons. Firstly, for your benefit, this gives you access to a huge amount of resources regarding your development and that of others that you may be coaching. Secondly, it gives South Central access to club level umpire data which will in turn allow us to create data based plans to help this critical area of the game.

Team Sheets

We would like to remind all South Central Hockey players and club official to pass this on to their selection committees that they need to give consent on team sheets on GMS. This allows records of Goal scorers for end of season awards etc

Full details are on our website: <https://bit.ly/3STdMpL>

Thank you in advance for your support in this area.