



ENGLAND
HOCKEY

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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We look back on the last 12 months in which hockey came together to make strides forward in tough circumstances. The importance of our sport and the feeling of being part of a team came to the fore once again. We heard so many stories of hockey being the very first pastime that people wanted to undertake when restrictions were lifted, how important it was to be back with friends and team mates, and to enable opportunities for new people of all ages to take part. This just reinforces what hockey means to us all.

At England Hockey, 2021 has been a year where we have been able to prioritise and move forward in a number of areas. First and foremost we were delighted to get the sport back up and running as quickly as possible when restrictions were lifted. It took a collective effort from clubs, players, umpires, volunteers and organisers to get hockey underway in a safe and enjoyable manner. Thank you to everyone who contributes to making hockey the sport that it is.

In the autumn, the sport underwent one of its most significant changes in a generation as hockey's playing pyramid was simplified and rationalised under the **Structure Fit For The Future** strategy. This piece of work has been underway since a resolution was first passed at the England Hockey 2017 AGM, seeking to review the structure of the sport. With clear aims to make administration easier, reduce complexities and ensure hockey's structures are fit for purpose, the project looks to future-proof the sport. Despite the Covid challenges, we have been very pleased with how it has landed in its first season. The eight new Areas across the country have played a hugely important part as has everyone involved in the game.

In September we launched a new **Game Management System** which underpins the pyramid. The benefits of launching at this time - aligned to the new domestic structure - outweighed the considered risks. We know there were some very testing periods to be navigated over the initial weeks of implementation and want to thank all those impacted for your patience and perseverance. Thankfully, with the system now operational we are building a far more robust support network for the game and it will continue to evolve in the coming months and years. The old paper match sheets now seem vastly outdated and we have a GMS much more viable in the digital age. With more than 50,000 matches on the system and the same number of player registrations, this is the biggest hockey system that has ever existed in England. It provides the potential to better understand, connect with and develop the game to the needs of the players.

It was disappointing not to be able to conclude the 2020-21 **England Hockey League** season in the early part of the year, but thankfully from September onwards we saw a full calendar of matches. With a new format to the Premier Divisions, having a League structure that enables clubs to flourish domestically and in Europe - as well as providing the best chance of progression for the international teams - is a key objective for us.

Also in the latter part of the year, we began the roll-out of the future talent system, **Talent Development – A New Way Forward**. We are excited about what the new system can deliver when the first cohort of Talent Centres and Talent Academies begin to bear fruit.

One of the outcomes we are striving for in the new Talent System is to make opportunities available to those from different ethnic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. **Equality, Diversity & Inclusion** is a much wider focus for the entire governing body, and we were pleased with the response to our first ED&I Conference *#ChangeStartsTogether* in November 2021. It is essential that the whole sport comes together to showcase hockey at its most inclusive, and our ED&I Framework and second conference in February 2022 will outline the next steps. We implore anyone involved in the game to read the Framework and take on board the actions outlined in this important document.

It has been pleasing to see very good take-up for the **Planning Safe Hockey** guidance which has been in place for the first time this year. It is crucial to us at England Hockey that we help support clubs as much as possible, and this guidance is one example of the type of work we see as essential.

England Hockey's commitment to supporting clubs is further evident with the first iteration of our new club affiliation process. The majority of clubs signed up for **Membership+** in 2021, which builds in insurance from Bluefin Sport. We are pleased to help clubs have the correct minimum insurances in place while also crucially protecting players, and the board have made this a minimum requirement for clubs across the country.

The financial contribution we receive from hockey clubs in England is a vital part of our income, and even more important as we faced significant financial pressure for a second consecutive year. We were unable to host a single event in the calendar year with paying public in attendance, and we remain immensely grateful to **Sport England** and **UK Sport** for their continued support, as well as our partners such as Vitality, Notts Sport and many others whose backing has enabled us to deliver domestically and internationally. The staff team at England Hockey deserve great credit for continuing to adapt to new ways of working and delivering with passion for the good of the sport.

On the international front there was much to be positive about. In very testing circumstances both Great Britain teams performed admirably at the Tokyo Olympics. For the women's team to win a third consecutive medal is a fantastic achievement, while the men also showed real progress in their performances. Both Mark Hager and Danny Kerry have since moved on from their Head Coach positions, and left with our best wishes. Danny's legacy over 17 years cannot be underestimated. To have led the women's team to an historic Olympic gold in 2016, plus a bronze in 2012, a European Championship and many more medals is an incredible feat, and he also left the men's team on a very solid footing. We wish him and his family every success.

Into 2022, we will also be focusing on a long-term strategic plan, not just for England Hockey but for the sport itself. To ensure this is representative of the sport, we need to involve all those involved in hockey and we look forward to engaging further with you all in the coming weeks and months.

Royston Hoggarth and Nick Pink
Chairman and Chief Executive

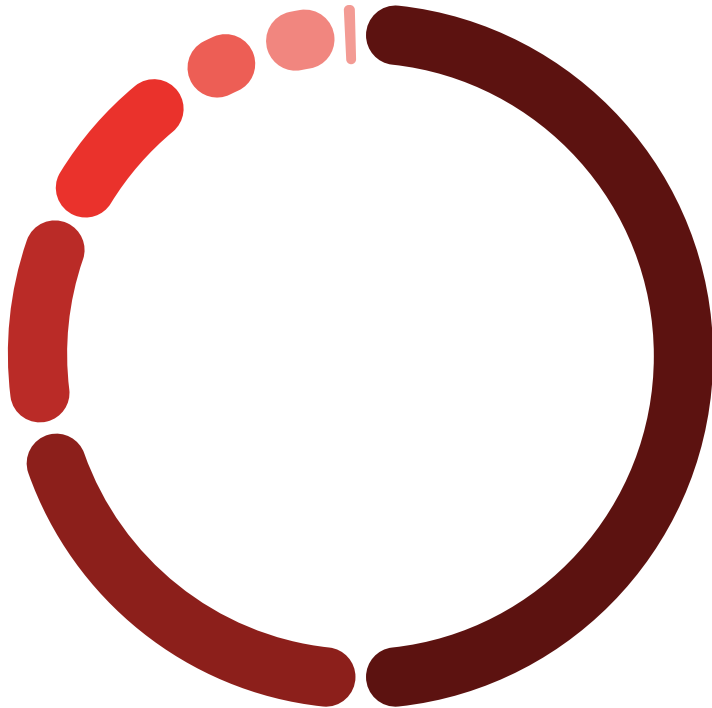


ROYSTON
HOGGARTH
CHAIRMAN



NICK PINK
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

INCOME



	INCOME	£000s	%
UK Sport Grant		4550	50%
Sport England Grant		1922	21%
Other income (competition entries, coaching & umpiring courses etc.)		962	11%
Affiliation		765	8%
Other Grants		432	5%
Sponsorship		342	4%
Other income from the sale of goods		92	1%
Ticket Sales		4	0%
TOTAL		9069	100%

SPENDING



	SPENDING	£000s	%
Performance and International team		3818	42%
Overheads		1632	18%
Development, Clubs and Governance		1376	15%
Coaching and Talent		1026	11%
Commercial and Events		997	11%
Central Costs		120	1%
Marketing & Communications		119	1%
TOTAL		9089	100%

FINANCIAL COMMENTARY

In the financial year to 31 August 2021 England Hockey incurred a deficit of £20k (2020: £382k) and reserves remained stable at £1.17m (2020: £1.19m).

In this financial year the percentage of total income from UK Sport and Sport England (adjusted for non-recurring items) increased from 65% to 68%.

The turnover of the organisation increased by 8% from 2020, due to one-off increases in grant funding. However commercial and events revenues remained significantly affected by Covid-19.

The pandemic disrupted the recently-formed FIH Hockey Pro League which was not able to be run with spectators in England in 2020 or 2021. As a result, revenue was impacted in both years whilst England Hockey have incurred direct costs. This has had a knock-on impact with regards reinvestment into the sport. The forward outlook for the FIH Hockey Pro League games remains impacted by the pandemic and difficulties in southern hemisphere nations' ability to fulfil fixtures.

The significant deliverables above would not have been possible without the enhanced volunteer support and delivery across the game and the continued commitment shown by staff in pressing Covid-19 circumstances. Sincere thank you to every contributor.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION



England Hockey has undertaken a number of steps as part of its continuing commitment to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I):

- Hosting an ED&I conference for the game as a whole, *#ChangeStartsTogether*. Attended by players, club representatives and deliverers, the first conference in November 2021 was an opportunity for England Hockey to update the Membership on activity to date, while also sharing research and an update from principal partners Vitality.
- Appointment of a full-time Change Manager for ED&I; Alison Faiers, who brings a wealth of experience in this area. Alison was most recently in a contracted ED&I role with Sport England, and also undertook roles as Head of Policy Development at ECB and supporting Rowing at Committee and Board level
- Creation of an ED&I Advisory Group. Formed following an open recruitment process, the group bring expertise in ED&I and a range of experience in sport, mainly but not exclusively in hockey. The group will give oversight, check progress on a regular basis, and those progress reports will be published in full on England Hockey channels.
- ED&I training for staff, Board and Executive
- Surveying the sport to better understand the current landscape.
- Finalising the sport's ED&I Framework (to be published Q1 2022). The Framework four outcomes are:
 - = Reflect society and ensure hockey is relevant in the 21st century
 - = Ensure safe, respectful inclusive cultures valuing and welcoming every person
 - = Open up access so that anyone from any background can take part
 - = Ensure the reputation of hockey is regarded as excellent in its commitment to ED&I

The framework will best be delivered through a collaborative approach between England Hockey and clubs, schools and leagues. England Hockey's role is to lead the sport and ensure it is moving forward for the good of its participants. With the help of the wider game we can achieve the change we wish to see.

A STRUCTURE FIT FOR THE FUTURE / GMS

Autumn 2021 saw the dawn of the biggest set of changes to the administrative structures in hockey in a generation. After the membership voted for 'A Structure Fit For The Future' at the 2020 AGM, 8 new areas have been formed, new committee structures put in place and the seasons settling into a more usual stride. The commitment and quality of those that stepped forward to support the changes has been outstanding. We are incredibly grateful to the hundreds of volunteers involved in making the new structures come to life.

The changes have been widespread with new adult league structures agreed and the first ever set of national regulations in place. A junior competition framework was agreed and new structures established across the country. In some Areas this has been the first time that structured local competition has been offered. The 8 new Area Officiating Committees have been established and, together with the NPUA, made thousands of appointments to matches. The new Area Masters structure was agreed and the groundwork started for the first 8 Area tournaments in 2022. Finally the new rationalised discipline structure was established with Area Discipline Administrators meeting regularly nationally to ensure greater consistency than ever before.

At County (Sub Area) level consultations took place with counties and a revised standard constitution developed in consultation with clubs. Advice and guidance on the future role of counties has been started and more work will continue into 2022.

The Game Management System was introduced in September and despite initial problems has become the home for over 50,000 fixtures, comfortably the largest hockey fixtures and result system that has ever existed. There is still a lot of work to do to really make GMS the tool it has the potential to be and a review was commissioned in December that will inform the next phase of development and investment. Improvements will continue to be made.

With the first phase of implementation of the Structure Fit for the Future changes now largely out of the way the focus is shifting to embedding the changes, strengthening the new Area structures and starting to focus on realising the wider benefit of the changes for clubs and players.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

In 2021, England Hockey moved from affiliation to two Club Membership Offers:

- Membership+ is a new offer which includes a range of benefits including a comprehensive insurance offer within the membership package
- Membership: this is the arrangement clubs will be familiar with from previous years.

The majority of clubs signed up for Membership+ which was hugely encouraging, and we will continue to look to refine our membership offer in 2022 and beyond.

B E N E F I T S	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP +
Membership of England Hockey	✓	✓
Access to EH Championships	✓	✓
Access to run participation programmes e.g Back to Hockey, Hockey Heroes etc.	✓	✓
Free Online Hockey Hub	✓	✓
Free Marketing Portal & Insight Dashboards	✓	✓
Dedicated support for your club	✓	✓
Partner Offers	✓	✓
Insurance		✓
First Access to Tickets & Events		✓

TALENT DEVELOPMENT - A NEW WAY FORWARD



In September, England Hockey began the roll-out of the future talent system, Talent Development – A New Way Forward. Reworking a system that develops talented young players is a significant step for any governing body and is both complex and emotive.

The new system puts clubs at the centre of talent delivery, creating more frequent, high-quality opportunities for young players. We are excited about what the new system can deliver when the first cohort of Talent Centres and Talent Academies begin to bear fruit.

Progress at the Talent Foundations stage of the system has seen the first group of clubs engaged to work towards Talent Centre accreditation. The Talent Team is working directly with thirty-seven clubs to support them through the accreditation process. Accreditation for those that achieve the required standard will be awarded in March/April 2022.

Whilst this is a 'kitemark', it does not suggest that other local clubs, schools and counties are not delivering good junior sessions and we ask that clubs and parents carefully consider the best hockey environment for each young player before choosing a club. It is important to recognise that we are in a transition period, introducing a new system, and that over time the number of Talent Centres being accredited will increase.

At the Talent Development stage of the system, clubs aspiring to host a Talent Academy were invited to submit their application at the turn of the year. The appointed Talent Academies will begin delivery in September 2022.

Following significant stakeholder consultation, we have concluded that it is too soon to push forward with a formal Talent School accreditation. Instead, while we implement Talent Centres and Talent Academies in clubs, we will take a more educational approach around talent development in the school sector alongside the two school membership offers being launched in the new year. This will enable us to connect with more schools in the short term while we continue to engage about a future Talent School accreditation and learn more about where it could have most impact.

SENIOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

After the disruption of 2020, the England and Great Britain international squads had a busy calendar of world-level events in 2021. Considering the amount of fixtures, the restrictions placed upon the squads and their ability to respond to a changing landscape, the squads' performances throughout the year gave reasons for optimism.

After Great Britain matches on home turf in the FIH Hockey Pro League, the England teams took part in the EuroHockey Championships in the Netherlands. England's men won their group, beating World Champions Belgium in the pool stage before eventually finishing fourth; Belgium exacting their revenge in the bronze medal match. For the women, after the disappointment of only finishing third in their pool, they recovered to win their final three games and finish fifth overall.

At the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics, Great Britain's women achieved an historic third consecutive Olympic medal. Having won bronze in London in 2012 and gold in Rio in 2016, their bronze in Tokyo was a notable achievement for Mark Hager's side. Having beaten South Africa, India and Ireland in the pool stage, they then defeated Spain in the knockout phase before losing in the semi-finals to eventual winners the Netherlands. In the bronze medal match they had to dig deep to defeat India 4-3. In helping her team to victory, Laura Unsworth became the first British hockey player to win three Olympic medals.

The Great Britain's men's team won their opening matches against South Africa and Canada, also drawing with the Netherlands and Belgium to ensure safe passage into the knockout phase. Sadly they lost 3-1 to a rejuvenated India side who went on to win bronze. An overall fifth-placed finish for Danny Kerry's side – ahead of the Netherlands and Argentina - was a respectable outcome and showed progress from the previous Olympics in Rio.

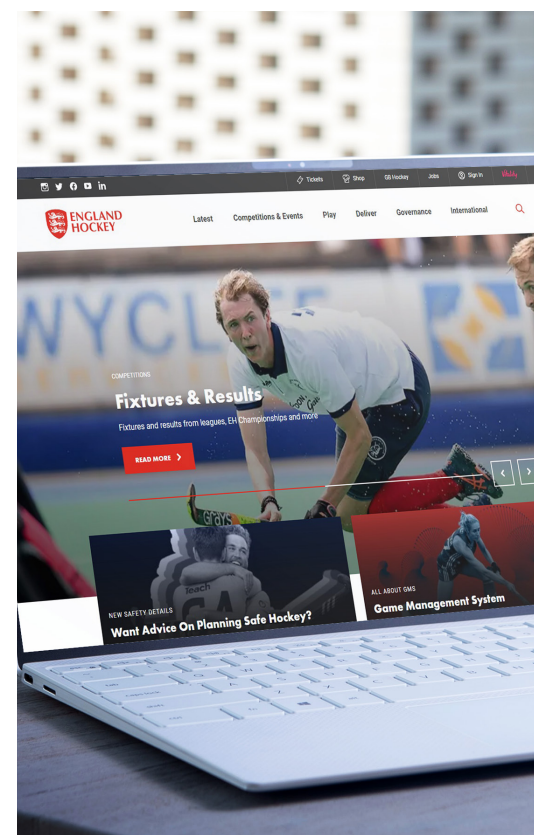




VITALITY ON BOARD

In January, Vitality and England & Great Britain Women's Hockey announced one of the most significant partnerships in the sport's history, as part of a landmark three-year deal. The new partnership saw Vitality become Principal Partner of England & Great Britain Women's Hockey teams, Presenting Partner of FIH Hockey Pro League in Great Britain – which includes both men's and women's matches - and Title Partner of the Vitality Women's Hockey League. England Hockey's grassroots participation programme was also renamed Vitality Back to Hockey.

Nick Read, Managing Director for Vitality, said: "As one of the only sports played equally by men and women, hockey holds a unique position meaning it is well placed to drive engagement in physical activity with women in particular, supporting them to try out or return to the game. There has never been a more important time to be involved in women's sport at all levels, inspiring many more people to become more active and live healthier lifestyles – which is all in-line with our core purpose, to make people healthier and to enhance and protect their lives."



NEW WEBSITES LAUNCHED

New websites for both England Hockey and Great Britain Hockey were launched. The England Hockey site's focus is on hockey across the country, providing the best possible information, news and stories relevant to hockey players, clubs and officials. The site benefits from much-improved navigation and design. The new Great Britain Hockey site concentrates on news, photos and videos from the international teams and athletes, presented in a much more engaging manner than ever before. The project to launch new sites had funding support from Sport England. Since launch, the sites have delivered significantly increased traffic, with readers staying on the site for much longer and looking at more pages than previously.

2021-22 EHL NULL AND VOID

After a year of considerable disruption, delay and frustration, England Hockey, in consultation with participating clubs, took the decision to curtail the Vitality Women's and Men's England Hockey Leagues for the 2020-21 season. Despite the government announcements allowing a Return to Play, the restrictions on car sharing, amount of preparation time and number of matches to be played were all considered when this decision was reached. The season was declared null and void and there were no promotions or relegations.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2021 AGM was again held virtually. Ahead of the meeting a postal vote was held to elect a Member Elected Non-Executive Director and a female Vice President. Shelagh Everett was appointed as our new Member Elected Non-Executive Director, and Dawn Bonner as our new Vice President.

APRIL - JUNE



DAWN BONNER
ENGLAND HOCKEY VICE PRESIDENT / MEMBER
OF ED&I ADVISORY GROUP

ED&I ADVISORY GROUP TAKES SHAPE

The application process for England Hockey's Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Group took place in the second quarter of 2021. The group's purpose is to help formulate England Hockey's ED&I Framework, to be published in Q1 of 2022.

The group members are: Angela Durnin (Chair and England Hockey Board Member); Dawn Bonner, Dominic Conricode, Sarah Evans, Alison Faiers, Kuldeep Kaur, Nigel Sellars, Jeevan Singh Chagger, Ella Slade, Graham Smith, Sam Strange and James Swanson.



DiSE PROGRAMME COMPLETED

England Hockey's DiSE (Diploma in Sporting Excellence) annual programme was completed, with great credit going to both players and coaches for their efforts in very trying circumstances. Players traditionally attend four national camps that provide a blend of on-pitch technical and tactical sessions, presentations, 1-2-1s and elements of portfolio work. Even with a reduced amount of face-to-face activity in 2021, a 99% completion rate was achieved and players still managed to compete at the School Games and undertake a valuable summer camp.

DiSE requirements were recently changed so that players need to attend a state-funded school to be eligible. Crucially, without this programme, these young players may not be able to continue their hockey journey in this manner. England Hockey recognises that programmes of this nature are hugely important with regard to making the sport accessible to those from different socio-economic backgrounds



SHERWANI SHARES DIAGNOSIS

Seoul 1988 men's gold medalist Imran Sherwani bravely shared that he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's back in 2019. In support, his teammate Steve Bachelor ran the London Marathon later in the year, raising more than £13,000 for Alzheimer's Research UK.



WARD & FAULKNER RECOGNISED

Former Great Britain and England international David Faulkner was awarded an MBE for services to sport. Current forward Sam Ward was the recipient of the FIH's Super Fair Play Trophy René G Frank, announced at the 47th FIH Congress. It was in recognition of his perseverance, dedication, and energy not only in his own recovery from a career-threatening eye injury but also his work off the pitch.

125 YEARS OF WOMEN'S HOCKEY MARKED

May saw the 125th anniversary of the first ever England women's international hockey match. The game took place in front of 2,000 fans as England took on Ireland at Alexandra College, Dublin. The hosts earned a 2-0 win, having also won the first men's fixture the year before.



EH CHAMPS MAKE WELCOME RETURN

Even though no spectators were allowed, the England Hockey Championships made a very welcome return in July, with 16 trophies distributed to Adult and Masters sides at Nottingham Hockey Centre.

ATHLETE EDUCATION FOR CLEAN SPORT

Ahead of the summer Olympics, education about anti-doping was delivered to all senior athletes and support staff. Also in 2021, UK Anti-Doping launched an Assurance Framework that all Governing Bodies are required to meet. England Hockey have submitted evidence against the criteria, including an Education & Training Strategy and additional evidence in relation to Governance.

JULY - SEPTEMBER



NEW-LOOK ENGLAND HOCKEY LEAGUES UNDERWAY

With a newly-structured Premier Division, the England Hockey Leagues began in earnest. Nearly 11 months since the last fixtures were contested, the England Hockey League (EHL) Premier Divisions got underway in September. On day one, East Grinstead's women won big at home to Loughborough Students, while Surbiton's men won a 6-4 thriller at home to Holcombe. In the second half of the season, the Premier Divisions split for the first time, with the idea of producing even more high-quality games at the business end of the campaign.



SEND US TO THE STOOP

England Hockey announced its intention to return to the Twickenham Stoop for the FIH Hockey Pro League in June 2022, with both England's men and women taking on the Netherlands at the home of Harlequins Rugby Club.



FLYERZ FESTIVAL

More than 200 players, family members, coaches, and volunteers attended the Flyerz Festival South hosted by Falcon Flyerz HC & Tunbridge Wells HC, with over 100 actively involved in playing and coaching. The festival provided the Flyerz Family community with the opportunity to come together to play with and against other clubs, for players and their families to meet other Flyerz or to catch up with old friends, and for coaches, volunteers, and prospective clubs to share and learn from each other and celebrate their successes together. A number of clubs were represented and involved in the organisation of the day, including London Wayfarers HC, St Albans HC, Guildford HC, and Harborne HC, and they were joined by England and Great Britain International Tess Howard.



HOCKEY HEROES

After being significantly impacted in 2020, autumn saw a sustained return of Hockey Heroes, a fun, welcoming programme aimed at children aged 5-8. The programme has been successfully delivered by clubs across the country and England Hockey will continue to invest in its development.



ENGLAND HOCKEY OFFICIATING CLUB

The new EHO went live in September; a single membership body designed for anyone involved in Officiating. The aim is to provide a unified approach to support and develop all members across the game via a Nationally Led, Locally Delivered organisation, with more than 6000 members already in place.



MASTERS BACK IN ACTION

With the World Masters Hockey World Cup put back until 2022, the summer saw two International Invitational weekends in Nottingham, with teams ranging from O35s to O75s. Sides representing England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and also English universities and regions

took part, with a whopping 218 goals in the first weekend, then 155 goals seven days later. Later in the year, the O70s squad raised more than £1000 for a local hospital with an event in Dawlish, with £7000 worth of kit also distributed to local schools and clubs. In autumn, Masters trials were held nationally, with the O35s and O40s teams having one eye on the 2022 World Cup in Nottingham.



POST-TOKYO REFRESH

After the conclusion of the Tokyo Olympics, a number of famous faces called time on their involvement with international hockey. Women's double Olympic medallists Susannah Townsend and Nicola White retired after great years of service, as did Commonwealth and European medallist Sarah Evans. Earlier in the year, the equally-decorated Emily Defroand sadly retired through injury. For the men, captain Adam Dixon and goalkeepers George Pinner & Harry Gibson stepped away after a huge contribution to the sport.

In addition, some players chose to step away from the sport for a period. Ashley Jackson, Ollie Willars and later Luke Taylor made their intentions to take a break known, while another selection of stepped away, preferring not to make

formal announcements as yet. David Ralph was appointed Head Coach of the women's team after the departure of Mark Hager back to his native Australia following the bronze in Tokyo. Some months later Danny Kerry stepped down from the men's team, leaving behind a fantastic legacy for the sport, most notably the women's Olympic gold in 2016. He departed as the most successful coach in British hockey history and left with the very best wishes of all at the governing body.



PODIUM ANALYTICS PARTNERSHIP

England Hockey announced a partnership with Podium Analytics, a new registered charity that aims to address the issues of sports-related injury in young people.

The charity was founded by Ron Dennis CBE and officially launched at 10 Downing Street, with international hockey player Sam Ward representing England Hockey

alongside Chairman Royston Hoggarth and Chief Executive Nick Pink.

Also in attendance as guests of England Hockey were the parents of Luke Hobson, a 14-year-old hockey player who tragically lost his life in 2019. England Hockey was one of the first governing bodies to partner with Podium Analytics – alongside the likes of the RFU – and will offer its platform to clubs across the country and also schools that play the sport.



THE HOCKEY MUSEUM'S CAPS PROJECT BEARS FRUIT

Over a painstaking five years' worth of research, The Hockey Museum's Great Britain caps project identified all 581 players to have played in an official Great Britain fixture. With the best

part of 1,000 matches to research, the Museum deserve huge credit for this important piece of work. Prior to the Tokyo Olympics, both current men's and women's squads received their caps in a special ceremony. Throughout 2021 The Hockey Museum continued to provide a valuable service to the game, and England Hockey very much respects and values the partnership that we have.

OCTOBER - DECEMBER



EUROPEAN ADVENTURE FOR ENGLISH CLUBS

A number of English sides competed in EuroHockey events in the autumn, with Hampstead & Westminster winning their final match against Ireland's Three Rock Rovers. Surbiton's men also took part, as did their female counterparts. East Grinstead's women also flew the flag for the nation, finishing fourth overall in their EuroHockey Club Trophy.



ENGLAND ARE DURHAM-BOUND

England's women will travel to Durham after announcing the venue for their EuroHockey qualifiers on 22-27 August 2022. It is hugely exciting to take hockey around the nation and competing at the event will be England, Wales, Russia, Croatia and Slovenia.

ENGLAND JOINS GB TALENT FRAMEWORK

England, along with the other home nations, has committed to the new Great Britain Hockey Talent System Framework. It provides a common language and a clear understanding for all stakeholders as we all work together to deliver a phenomenal talent pool of players through exceptional talent development experiences and a talent identification and development system which attracts and excites young people irrespective of their background.



SAFEGUARDING POLICY, PROCEDURE & GOOD PRACTICE REVIEW & UPDATE

Following England Hockey's review of its Safeguarding Young People policy, an updated version will be published in the early part of 2022. Across the year, the team processed more than 4000 Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks, 225 people undertook Welfare Officer training and over 1200 completed online basic safeguarding training. England Hockey were pleased to have met the NSPCC Child Protection standards in 2021 and have submitted comprehensive plans for 2022.



INDOOR UNDERWAY

The England Hockey indoor season began in earnest for clubs and schools. Ipswich School eventually came through in the boys' U18s tournament; with Whitgift crowned U16s boys champions. Repton won the U18s girls while Framlingham College took the U16s crown. At the Junior Club Super 6s, Knole Park HC won both U18 and U16s girls titles. Repton's U16 boys' team defended their title while Old Loughtonians emerged victorious in the U18 boys event.

The adult Super 6s tournament winners in Jan 2022 were East Grinstead's women and Wimbledon's men, the latter earning their very first indoor crown.

ENGLAND AGE GROUPS OPEN TRIALS

Hosting open trials for the most talented young English players proved very successful and will continue to be evolved moving forward. More broadly, the age group programmes fared very well despite extreme disruption and challenges in providing face-to-face experiences. Thankfully the Home Nations came together for a series of fixtures, and alongside remote learning, real credit must go to the players, coaches and management teams involved.



ENGLISH UMPIRE FOR JUNIOR WORLD CUP FINAL

While the England men's team was unfortunately unable to take part in the 2021 Junior World Cup, Dan Barstow did represent the country by officiating the final of the men's event in India in December. A number of English umpires also shone on the world stage throughout the year, with Paul Walker also joining Dan in India for this event. Steve Catton was named Technical Official for the Tokyo Olympics among a number of roles in 2021. Both Dan and Steve were also present at the EuroHockey Championships, along with Sean Edwards. Also flying the flag in a busy 12 months were Margaret Hunnaball, Dawn Bonner, Richard Chere, Louise Knipe, Hannah Harrison, Bruce Bale, Paul Earnshaw, Paul Box-Grainger, Nick Bennett, Paul Walker and Barry Anderson.

Across 2021, more than 1200 people took their England Hockey level 1 umpiring course, with more than 1000 participating in workshops, development or introductory courses.

THANK YOU



We at England Hockey are continually grateful to the wider hockey community for making the sport what it is today.

The community as a whole showed admirable resilience during the pandemic, and then great flexibility to run hockey in a new fashion as restrictions were lifted.

We have also seen widespread acceptance of the positive changes the sport is trying to make, particularly with regards to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion. There is an opportunity for all of us within the sport to move forward together.

Looking ahead to 2022, it is imperative for us at England Hockey that we keep listening to the sport, and make informed decisions based on what the hockey community tells us. Please do make sure you give us your opinion on matters that are important to you.

With a new strategy for the sport in the works, evolution in how the game operates, international hockey in Birmingham, London & Durham, and much more besides, England Hockey are excited about what lies ahead for all of us in 2022. Thank you for all you do.