

INTRODUCTION

This report is a brief summary of the 2015/16 in the North region before England Hockey's final reporting period in August 2016.

GROW OUR PARTICIPATION

A Reflection on the 2015/16 Season

The Relationship Managers across the North have been engaging with a huge number of clubs to look at the potential growth of the sport. This has been achieved in a number of ways and some of the examples are by having one-to-one meetings, club forums and linking in with County Sport Partnerships.

The North Relationship Managers have met with a total of 81 clubs and the list of clubs can be found at **Appendix A**. Some of these clubs have been met with once since the trials back in March 2015 but many have been met on several occasions since then.

As highlighted in earlier reports, Yorkshire and Humberside has seen almost an 8% growth in participation since September 2014 and we want to keep encouraging clubs to flourish and become the clubs they want to be. Many areas of support can be offered and possibly more often than not clubs are unaware of the support they can draw upon. The development of Club Forums in both South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire are showing signs of cascading information better to clubs how they can be helped locally by England Hockey and their County Sports Partnerships.

This has allowed clubs to access funding from the County Sports Partnerships to help the clubs better reach out to the community and encourage new players of all ages. External funding through County Sports Partnerships totalling £5,352 and direct funding from England Hockey to clubs totals £2,043 for initiatives like BtH and Club School Links.

It is vital that England Hockey works together with Local Authorities to Protect, Develop and Improve hockey facilities around the region. The Playing Pitch strategies that we are currently involved with in Yorkshire and Humberside are Craven, Barnsley, Wakefield, Leeds, Kirklees, Calderdale, North East Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire. The majority of Playing Pitch Strategies in the North East and Cumbria were done during last year, with Gateshead just about to complete their recent strategy and South Tyneside signed off in January. In the North West the Playing Pitch Strategies currently ongoing in this region are Manchester, Liverpool, Warrington, Wirral, Rochdale, Fylde, Sefton, Blackpool, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan, Cheshire West and Chester and Salford.

In North East and Cumbria there has been almost a 7% growth in participation since September 2014 and 19 clubs have been met with across the region in discussions around facilities and coaching. We are faced with a huge challenge of replacing a number of aging facilities coupled with some new facilities going down in Darlington, and potentially Gateshead, and a recently completed pitch in Middlesbrough, so not all bad news.

External funding has been generated from Satellite clubs in Kirkby Stephen (KS Grammar School and Appleby Grammar School), Ulverston (Ulverston Victoria HS) and Durham City HC (The Hermitage Academy). Marton Furness continues to deliver in secondary schools in Middlesbrough as part of the Premier League for Sport Programme. £1,600 has been secured for coach bursaries in Cumbria and Tees Valley. Barnard Castle will be starting up a new junior hockey club in September and will begin with taster sessions in local primary schools over the summer.

The North West has seen an overall growth of 8.5% since September 2014 with the main growth being seen in juniors. The overall growth in juniors since September 2014 is 14.3%. A total of 36 clubs have been visited to discuss England Hockey's club strategy. This has helped clubs focus on the 7 key themes, what their key aims and objectives are, and where they fit within the strategy. All clubs have different aspirations and are at varying points in their development. The two common themes that have been discussed at most club meetings are facilities and junior development (links to the local community/different ways to play).

Many of the North West clubs are focussing on junior development as reflected in the junior affiliation numbers. Some clubs have well established junior sections; others have just started their junior programmes. A range of programmes and initiatives are successfully running at clubs in the North West, including satellite

clubs, Premier League 4 Sport and primary and secondary programmes. Clubs have obtained external funding via those sources to deliver a number of hockey development programmes.

Back to Hockey (BtH) Spring Campaign 2016

Since the start of the 15/16 season, a number of clubs from across the North have delivered BtH and we are pleased to announce that we are running another spring campaign, which is in full swing at the moment. A total of 47 clubs in the North have signed up and there's already been some great feedback from the sessions. Early participation figures show that we have already had on average 137 participants based on the first session data with 31 clubs still to commence their sessions.

From the start of the autumn campaign (August/September 2015) through to August 2016 we will see a huge uptake in clubs participating in BtH. Please see **Appendix B** for a specific breakdown of the clubs that have run and are continuing to run BtH.

In Yorkshire and Humberside, 6 clubs have already delivered BtH opening the doors to an average of 104 players returning to the game. The spring campaign has just started with 13 clubs currently signed up to run, with 4 of these clubs continuing from the autumn sessions.

In the North West, 9 clubs have delivered BtH opening the doors to an average of 131 players returning to the game. The spring campaign has seen 26 clubs currently signed up to run, 6 of these clubs continuing from the autumn sessions.

In the North East, 3 clubs have delivered BtH opening the doors to an average of 35 players returning to the game. There are 9 clubs signed up to the spring campaign, with 2 clubs continuing from the autumn sessions.

#HockeyFest 2016

The rebranding of "Club Weekend" to #HockeyFest is now in its second season and last year saw a record number of 335 clubs take part in the biggest national campaign of the year and this year we are looking to improve on that. Nationally we already have 304 looking to take part from August 20th to September 11th 2016 which coincides with the Rio Olympics. Below are the statistics from #HockeyFest 2015:

- 335 clubs took part of HockeyFest 2015
- 75% of clubs saw a positive impact on their club
- Nearly 1000 new players took part in HockeyFest 2015
- 26% of clubs involved in HockeyFest have grown from the 2014/15 season
- 10% of these were shrinking in 2014/15
- 25% of clubs involved in HockeyFest have grown in the last 2 seasons
- 16% have maintained their growth from 2014/15
- 11% have maintained their numbers
- 4% have stopped their shrink

The North region currently has 48 clubs signed up and a breakdown of this can be found at **Appendix C**.

Clubs can still sign up for [#HockeyFest 2016](#) and we would encourage them to do so to get involved in showcasing their club. The campaign dates are as follows:

- Weekend 1: 20th and 21st August 2016
- Weekend 2: 27th and 28th August 2016
- Weekend 3: 3rd and 4th September 2016
- Weekend 4: 10th and 11th September 2016

HockeyFest on Tour

This summer, in celebration of the Hockey Champions Trophy and the Olympics in Rio, England Hockey will be encouraging clubs across the country to get involved in small-sided games. Clubs can get together in a fun, sociable and competitive format to play each other or mix everyone up to play games on an informal basis.

A series of small-sided regional festivals will be taking place across the country. Primarily aimed at current players, shorter games (circa 15-20 minute) will see between 6 and 9 pitches running at any one time (three pitches across one Artificial Grass Pitch). We will be using the festivals as an opportunity for players to play small-sided games with a view that more clubs will offer alternative versions of the game alongside 11v11 more regularly in the future. HockeyFest on Tour is a continuation of the success of British Universities &

Colleges Sport's (BUCS) [small-sided hockey](#), which was launched in September 2015, at it has gone from strength to strength with 1,000 players in 120 teams from 14 institutions now having played the sport.

A squad can consist of up to 10 players who can enter into one of ten categories below. The events will have a festival feel to them and is as much about the sociable off-pitch activities as well as playing the game. Whilst the festival will be at a venue for the weekend, each category will run on one day. The venue for the North festival is now currently only Manchester on the 20th and 21st August 2016 as **the Leeds' festival on the 4th and 5th June 2016 has been cancelled.** Further details to be released in the near future.

Clubs can sign up via the [HockeyFest on Tour Link](#) on our website.

Table 1. HockeyFest on Tour categories

Categories				
Men's adult*	Women's adult*	Boys under 12	Boys under 14	Boys under 16
Mixed adult*	Families	Girls under 12	Girls under 14	Girls under 16

*Adult classed at 16+

Affiliation - Every Member Counts

It may seem early but we want to give the clubs as much notice as possible to ensure Every Member Counts. The affiliation process can at times be an onerous task and there is a valid reason that we need to ensure that we collect information accurately. To help clubs complete this we have provided a player definition to ensure that "Every Member Counts". It is important for clubs to report all players as specified in our definition below so we can report favourably to our funders, especially as we are now towards the end of our Whole Sport Plan, as they will be looking at our progress made against our growth targets in preparation for future funding allocations. As a reminder the definition of a player is:

"...someone that plays in activities that your club puts on. This may include league, summer league, Back 2 Hockey, junior clubs, regular satellite clubs, etc. This will be someone that participates in this activity more than a few times but it does not mean that they have to play every week. It should not be defined by membership payment as membership models differ between clubs."

INCREASE OUR VISIBILITY

Hockey Champions Trophy – Men and Women – 10th – 26th June 2016

This world class event is coming to the home of hockey; the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, hockey's Olympic legacy venue at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park from 10th to 26th June 2016.

This is your chance to join Great Britain's Olympic stars on their journey to Rio in the last tournament before the highlight of the 2016 hockey calendar, the summer Olympic Games. Don't miss out. Tickets to all the days of the Hockey Champions Trophy 2016 are [on sale here!](#)

England Hockey Awards 2016

On the evening of the 21st May 2016, the great and the good of English hockey came from all corners of the country and all levels of the game to celebrate another successful year and to find out who takes home one of the 17 coveted prizes up for grabs at the England Hockey Awards.

Each and every person or team nominated has achieved something special in this last year. The awards are a great chance to find out about the talent and dedication on display throughout the hockey family and to celebrate everyone's achievements. You can find a [list of all winners](#) but huge congratulations to those from the North that were shortlisted or picked up an award below:

Club or HUA Umpire of the Year Winner: Nick Burnett, Timperley HC

Investec Women's Team of the Year Winner: Leeds Adel HC

Shortlisted Nominees for Investec Women's Team of the Year: Leyland and Chorley HC and Timperley HC's 1st team

Shortlisted Nominee for Notts Sport Club of the Season: Timperley HC

Shortlisted Nominee for the Perkin Slade Lifetime Achievement Award: Jean Deacon Arnold, Liverpool Juniors' HC

ENHANCE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

England Hockey Workshops and Courses

We continue to make available workshops and courses and they are always advertised extensively to all clubs in and around the North. Clubs now have the opportunity to book their own workshops through England Hockey in a similar way to booking an umpire workshop. The UKCC England Hockey Sessional Coach course and the UKCC England Hockey Coach course will continue to run centrally and courses are scheduled for delivery this summer, with dates to be confirmed.

We have organised 25 umpiring workshops, 10 coaching workshops and 3 courses between 1st September 2015 and 31st May 2016. For a breakdown of all courses and workshops that ran please see [Appendix D](#).

For more information or to book onto an umpiring course, please click on [find a course](#) or to book onto a workshop please click on [find a workshop](#).

Hockey Hub

Great Britain (GB) Hockey is delighted to announce the launch of a new bespoke resource site for coaches, teachers and umpires.

Coaching is the cornerstone of talent development, and coaches play an invaluable role in inspiring and developing more, better, happier players. To help support coaches, England Hockey in partnership with Great Britain Hockey, have developed an online resource site. Alongside the extensive coaching resources, there are also other areas on the [Hockey Hub](#) containing content specific to umpires, teachers and individuals who require support with safeguarding.

The Hockey Hub is a one-stop shop, packed full of useful resources. Whether you coach beginners or work with young, talented players, there is relevant content available to suit your needs. The Hockey Hub is a free resource and once registered, you will be able to gain insight from senior coaches and players, while learning how you can apply [The Golden Thread](#) to your coaching sessions. You can also engage with other coaches on our interactive forum as well as much more. Every fortnight, new content will be uploaded to the Hockey Hub, relating to four key areas:

End in Mind: Here you'll find a library of skill and game-based footage, designed to provide an insight into what 'really good' looks like at the top level.

The Golden Thread: This consists of five key principles that should be at the core of every coaching session. In this section of the website, you can learn more about how to apply The Golden Thread to your practices. The resources are designed to stretch and challenge you as well as support you in your application of The Golden Thread.

You're the Coach: You can actively engage with other coaches by sharing your ideas about effective session design and be able to critique real life game-based problems through the videos that are regularly uploaded on the forum.

Talent Development: It's vital that exceptional experiences and environments are provided for all young hockey players. In this section, senior internationals and staff at GB Hockey share their thoughts on the importance of talent development and how coaches play a pivotal role.

Danny Kerry commented, "I'm delighted that England Hockey and GB Hockey have developed such an informative resource for coaches working throughout the sport. Continuing to seek ways of improving the quality of delivery across the sport is fundamental to the enjoyment and development of players. My hope is that the resource will prove helpful to coaches in how they think about, develop and be creative in their coaching."

England Hockey Regional Administrator – North

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know that Maria Finelli has tendered her resignation and her last day in the North Office will be Thursday 9th June 2016. Maria has accepted a role at Sport England, an excellent opportunity for her to progress in Sports Development. We wish her all the best and thank her for her contributions to the North Office.

Committee Member Updates

It is now around that time of year when AGMs are held and committee members change. We encourage all Hockey Associations and clubs to send an email to the North Office if any of their committee members have changed and to make sure all details are updated on your websites and/or other social media outlets. This ensures that the correct communication can go to the correct role, rather than one individual, or the incorrect individual, being inundated with information.

6th June 2016

Heather Douglas

England Hockey's Relationship Manager for Yorkshire and Humberside

Julie Longden

England Hockey's Relationship Manager for North West and Isle of Man

Lynne Dobison

England Hockey's Relationship Manager for North East and Cumbria

APPENDIX A

North East and Cumbria Clubs	Number of Times Met
Carlisle HC	1
Darlington HC	1
Durham City HC	5
Hartlepool Caledonians and Billingham HC	1
Jesmond Parish Church HC	1
Kendal Ladies HC	1
Keswick HC	1
Kirkby Stephen HC	1
Marston Furness HC	1
Newcastle HC	1
North Shields HC	1
Redcar HC	1
Stokesley HC	1
Sunderland Broom HC	2
Tynedale HC	1
Western Lakes HC	1
Whitley Bay and Tynemouth HC	3
Wigton HC	1
Windermere HC	1
Total	26

North West and Isle of Man Clubs	Number of Times Met
Alderley Edge HC	1
Bebington HC	1
Blackpool HC	1
Bowdon HC	1
Brooklands HC	3
Bury HC	1
City of Manchester HC	1
Crewe Vagrants HC	1
Deeside Ramblers HC	3
Didsbury Northern HC	2
Formby HC	2
Garstang HC	1
Lancaster and Morecambe HC	3
Lancaster Ladies HC	1
Leyland and Chorley HC	1
Liverpool Sefton HC	3
Lymm HC	1
Macclesfield HC	1
Mossley Hill HC	1
Northern HC	3
Oxton HC	1
Prescot HC	1
Preston HC	1
Runcorn HC	1
Sale HC	2
Sandbach HC	1
Southport HC	1
Springfields HC	1
Stockport Bramhall HC	1
Timperley HC	1
Triton HC	1
Urmston HC	4
Warrington HC	1
West Derby HC	1
Wigan HC	1
Wilmslow HC	1
Total	52

APPENDIX A (cont.)

Yorkshire and Humberside Clubs	Number of Times Met
Airedale HC	1
Appleby-Frodingham HC	1
Barnsley HC	4
Barton Town HC	1
Boston Spa HC	1
Bradford HC	3
Brigg HC	2
Chapelton HC	1
City of York HC	2
Doncaster HC	10
Epworth HC	1
Grimsby HC	1
Halifax HC	5
Harrogate HC	2
Huddersfield Dragons HC	3
Kingston-upon-Hull HC	1
Leeds Adel HC	3
Leeds HC	1
Leopold HC	1
Phoenix (Sheffield) Ladies HC	1
Rotherham HC	3
Selby HC	1
Sheffield Hallam HC	6
Sheffield University Bankers HC	4
Slazenger HC	1
Thirsk HC	2
Wakefield HC	2
Total	64

APPENDIX B

Yorkshire and Humberside BtH Clubs

<u>Autumn Campaign</u>
Barnsley (Men's) HC
Doncaster HC
Halifax HC
Harrogate HC
Sheffield Hallam
Thirsk HC

<u>Spring Campaign</u>
Chapelton HC
City of York HC
Grimsby HC
Huddersfield Dragons HC
Kingston-upon-Hull HC
Leeds Adel HC
Leeds HC
Selby HC
Slazenger HC

North West and Isle of Man BtH Clubs

<u>Autumn Campaign</u>
Alderley Edge HC
Bowdon HC
Deeside Ramblers HC
Formby HC
Garstang HC
Macclesfield HC
Oxton HC
Prescot HC
Warrington HC

<u>Spring Campaign</u>
Bebington HC
Blackpool HC
Brooklands HC
Chester HC
Crewe Vagrants HC
Didsbury Northern HC
Golborne HC
Lancaster HC
Leyland and Chorley HC
Liverpool Sefton HC
Lytham St. Annes
Manchester Moss Park Ladies HC
Manx HA
Northern HC
Oldham HC
Sale HC
Stockport Bramhall HC
Timperley HC
Wigan HC

North East and Cumbria BtH Clubs

<u>Autumn Campaign</u>
Alnwick HC
Kirkby Stephen HC
Tynedale HC

<u>Spring Campaign</u>
Darlington HC
Norton HC
Redcar HC
South Lakes HC
South Shields HC
Stokesley HC
Whitley Bay and Tynemouth HC

Continuing from autumn sessions into spring

APPENDIX C

Yorkshire and Humberside #HockeyFest Club Sign Ups

Bradford HC
City of York HC
Grimsby HC
Harrogate HC
Hull Hawks HC
Kingston-upon-Hull Hc
Leeds Adel HC
Rotherham HC
Sheffield Hallam HC
Sheffield University Bankers HC
Thirsk HC
Wakefield HC

North West and Isle of Man #HockeyFest Club Sign Ups

Alderley Edge HC
Bebington HC
Bolton HC
Bowdon HC
Brooklands HC
Bury HC
Chester HC
City of Liverpool Junior HC
Clitheroe and Blackburn Northern HC
Crewe Vagrants HC
Cronkbourne Bacchanalians HC
Didsbury Northern HC
Formby HC
Garstang HC
Knutsford HC
Lancaster Ladies HC
Liverpool Sefton HC
Lymm HC
Manchester Moss Park HC
Prescot HC
Sale HC
Stockport Bramhall HC
Timperley HC
Urmston HC
Vikings HC
Warrington HC
Wilmslow HC
Winnington Park Ladies HC

North East and Cumbria #HockeyFest Club Sign Ups

Ambleside HC
Kendal (Men's) HC
Kirkby Lonsdale HC
Kirkby Stephen HC
Morpeth HC
Norton HC
South Lakes HC
Western Lakes HC

APPENDIX D

September 2015

Level 1 Umpire	Wilmslow HC
Level 1 Umpire	City of York HC
Level 1 Umpire	Durham University HC

October 2015

Level 1 Umpire	Egglescliffe School
UKCC EH Sessional Coach	Casterton Sedbergh School
Introduction to Hockey	Royal Grammar School, Newcastle (CANCELLED)

November 2015

Level 1 Umpire	Durham University HC
Level 1 Umpire	Sheffield Hallam HC
Level 1 Umpire	Newcastle HC
Level 1 Umpire	Cumbria HUA
Engaging Games for Children	Selby HC

December 2015

Level 1 Umpire	University of Liverpool
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January 2016

Umpire Developer Course	Neston South Wirral
Level 1 Umpire	Bowdon HC
Level 1 Umpire	Lancaster University HC
Engaging Games for Children	Doncaster HC (CANCELLED)

February 2016

Level 1 Umpire	Doncaster HC
Level 1 Umpire	Durham HA
Level 1 Umpire	Isle of Man HUA
Level 1 Umpire	Harrogate HC
Level 1 Umpire	Southport HC

March 2016

Level 1 Umpire	University of Central Lancashire
Level 1 Umpire	Durham University
Level 1 Umpire	Whitley Bay and Tynemouth HC (CANCELLED)
Coaching for Club Players	Manchester University (CANCELLED)

April 2016

Level 1 Umpire	Pickering HC
Introduction to Umpiring	Thirsk HC
Level 1 Umpire	Bradford HC
Introduction to Hockey	Wigan HC (CANCELLED)
Engaging Games for Children	Wigan HC (MERGED WITH MANCHESTER UNI)
Engaging Games for Children	Manchester University
Coaching for Talent	Leeds Grammar School
Introduction to Hockey	Wigton HC

May 2016

Level 1 Umpire	Sheffield University Bankers HC
Level 1 Umpire	Hull University HC
UKCC EH Sessional Coach	Liverpool University (Wyndcote)
UKCC EH Sessional Coach	Macmillan Academy
Coaching for Talent	Kings School, Macclesfield (CANCELLED)