



A Structure Fit for the Future **Club Update - April 2021**

All Transition Groups are now finalising their structure that will be in place for next season. West Hockey would like to continue to receive expressions of interest for the new governance structure. This new governance structure will create a new way of working in hockey. West Hockey will be able to use new technology effectively to ensure the best use of time and help to attract and retain the best calibre of volunteers. Applicants for the key Director and Committee Chair roles will be put before the West Hockey members at the AGM. Other Committee roles will be approved by the West Board of Directors.

More information will be available on the West Hockey website in due course, together with role descriptions for directors and committee chairs. Also available here - [A Structure Fit For The Future | England Hockey](#) If you are interested, please complete this short form by 31 May

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NvkYmuiQxU--asEa8eSc6kVyM-rHXTVFs8MrouOvpdBUMzRMWUIHTUINRjNUNDZBNVY4SVIzMDRQQi4u>

If you have any queries please email them to hockeywestuksecretary@gmail.com and you can view the questions and replies when available by following this link: [FAQs - A Structure Fit for the Future](#).

Governance

- We will be called 'West Hockey' under the new structure, maintaining our maroon colours. However, West Hockey are looking for a new shield-based logo, if you have any thoughts on an image that could represent the entire West area then please send them through.
- Area Articles and Transition Paper have been finalised. West Hockey will hold a Special General Meeting in accordance with the current Articles and Companies Act 2006 to adopt the new Articles on **Tuesday 1 June 2021 at 7.30pm**.
- A forum will be held on **Tuesday 18 May 2021 at 7.30pm**, prior to the Special General Meeting to discuss the new Articles and take questions. This will be followed by a FAQ document capturing any queries. Following that the AGM will be set in accordance with the new Articles and Transition Regulations to permit Director and Committee Chairs to be elected in preparation for next season. Area Regulations are being drafted to support the new Articles.

IT

- New Area websites are being developed, giving a consistent brand and structure across all eight Areas.



- The new Competition Management System is progressing well, under a tight timeline. Look out for communication from England Hockey requesting Club information in preparation for Competition & Affiliation next season.

Counties

- There are two County representatives from the West sitting on the national County Standing Committee.
- Many counties will need to revise their Constitutions and are waiting for the template from EH which will ensure they will meet the new governance criteria necessary to be part of the new structure.
- In due course, each County will need to confirm their membership to West Hockey.
- West in partnership with ACWHA will be holding a Club Forum on 10 May to engage with the clubs on the new County structure and transition plans under the new governance. Anyone within an Avon based club willingly to help with this transition please contact - hockeywestuksecretary@gmail.com

Adult Competitions & Leagues

- Firstly, thank you to everyone who attended the West Adult League Club Engagement Evening, with an attendance of 139 people representing 79 clubs, where the new structure and team placings were shared.
- 44 clubs (32% of our clubs and 46% of teams) responded to the follow up feedback survey. With the majority of Clubs responding agreeing with the proposed Structure.
- The Adult Competition transition group are reviewing the responses and will post an FAQ sheet to the West Hockey website.
- Updates on the new 'West Hockey League' will from now be posted to the West Hockey website, so please keep an eye out for updates and use this as your "go to" for all League Information - <http://www.hockeywest.co.uk>
- April 30th is the final date to submit any changes to the number of teams that your club wish to play next season. There are several new teams across the West, which is great news. England Hockey will shortly be circulating competition entry forms to all clubs and we would kindly request these are completed and returned by your clubs as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- The transition group has been refining the 2021/22 West League structures and have been involved in discussing and reviewing the new league regulations with the other 7 areas nationally. The regulations, presently on version 5 will hopefully be finalised by the end of June 2021, after which time they will be circulated to all.

- The new regulations aim to provide a clear and consistent set of rules nationwide, with league hockey at higher levels being subject to more stringent rules, whereas at the lowest levels of the game, the regulations are focused on encouraging participation and the growth of both clubs and the sport in general.
- The transition group are in regular communication with Hockey Wales and its representatives to ensure that clubs in Wales are fully considered and informed of the structures, any implications for their clubs and to ensure Welsh clubs have parity and a voice within the new Area League management Committee.
- The transition group will be in contact with all clubs as soon as possible after national agreement has been reached with all other areas. We are sure you will appreciate that combining approximately 50 sets of league regulations into one single document to cover the new 8 area leagues requires a considerable amount of work, negotiation and discussion, which will benefit hockey enormously in the long term, however frustrating the delays at this stage may appear.
- Historical archives from both existing West Leagues will be sent through to the National Hockey Museum.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Adult Competition transition group on WestAdultLeague@gmail.com
- Finally, if any of you, or members in your Club, would like to volunteer to help organise hockey in the West please click the link above to express your interest.

Officiating

- Engagement evening took place on Wednesday 7th April. 150 officials turned out in force, which was the largest response for any Area (at the time). The presentation outlined what has happened so far at the National Officiating Working Group, the passing of the England Hockey AGM, work in at Area level starts taking off now, the sections that the transition group are looking at working on in the coming months, and an importance request to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Important to note that everyone that is involved in the game as an umpire, technical official, umpire manager, assessor etc., EH are now referring to them all as one collective name: Officials.

Junior Competitions

- Club Junior Competition Survey – 63 clubs responded and thanks to the County reps for promoting the survey and encouraging responses (Wiltshire 100% response rate!)



- Expressions of interest of clubs show that the West will be able to organize all the new Area leagues and KO's at U14, U16 and U18 levels for boys and girls.
- Junior Competition Framework had been updated – Tier 1 Area league the top 3 teams will qualify for the National Supra League post-Christmas.
- West Transition viewed the draft Club Junior Competition Presentation at their last meeting to feedback to Rich on content, format and clarity.
- Next steps – mapping club expressions of interest at all competitions, share with County reps the expressions of interest for their County and complete the FAQ sheet to be posted on West website.
- Awaiting the following documents from EH before progressing – Centralised Calendar, Junior Competition Regulations and role description for Junior Competition Coordinator.
- Information required from West – budget, Junior Coordinator role (advert, pay, contract), Expenses Policy and details on committee appointments.
- Expressions of Interest currently been taken for West Junior Competition Chair role, Junior Competition Organiser role & committee roles, please click the link above if you or anyone in your club is interested.

Discipline

- England Hockey have appointed Jason Wiltshire as Head of Legal & Governance. His role includes the management of the England Hockey discipline process.
- Jo Pennycook, the England Hockey Disciplinary Lead, will manage disrepute cases and procedures around hearings and appeals, as well as assisting with AGM Resolution tasks.

Masters

- Planning to move forward with Masters Transition following the EH Masters meeting April 26th with Martin Jenkins attending from the West.

Keith Dingle
West HA President