

# GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

## **Women's Masters Report 2021/22 for GHA AGM – 19 MAY 2022**

### **Gloucestershire Masters**

There has been no specific Masters events for Women in Gloucestershire that has come through the GHA in the last 12 months. However, there is an intention moving forward to look at creating opportunities and new initiatives to play masters hockey within the county, if there is an interest from relevant age group players to take part. If any ladies out there are interested in helping to make this happen please get in contact via the GHA website – thanks.

Also, if there are any masters' activities successfully taking place within the County already that you know about, please let us know.

As the Women's Masters Representative on the GHA Committee I would like to be providing more detailed information to the County regarding Masters' activities in Gloucestershire eg clubs that enter Masters competitions, players who get selected for squads at different levels etc etc. Therefore please can you let me know either via the GHA website or my email above so I am aware and can forward this information on.

### **EH Masters Championships**

I thought it may be helpful for those who are not so familiar with the England Hockey Championships to give a bit of background.

The EHCD (England Hockey Competitions Department) run a Championship programme for clubs' masters teams and this season they added a new age group for the women, ie 055. There are three age groups in each gender now and each have two straight knockout competitions running through the season – a Cup and a Plate. The Women's categories are Over 35s, Over 45s and Over 55s.

All teams enter at Tier 1. The Tier 2 Championships will be a Plate competition for teams that lose in the early rounds of Tier 1. This format means that everyone gets the same opportunity of progressing to the latter stages, providing a minimum of two games and potential for a variety of opponents.

The match scheduling is done by the EHCD and matches are played on Sundays throughout the season. Any club affiliated to England Hockey can enter a team into the competitions. Players must be registered with that club to play Masters' hockey, but may play their league hockey at another club. Players may also play for different clubs at different Masters' age groups.

To date not many Gloucestershire Clubs have entered teams into these competitions. However, hopefully with a greater awareness of their existence and the rules about player eligibility this might encourage more participation.

Bretforton have certainly flown the flag for Gloucestershire over recent years, winning the 045 Trophy/Plate Competition in the 17/18 and 19/20 seasons and were runners up in 18/19. They have entered teams into both the 035 and 045 competitions and I understand they are planning to enter the 055 as well next season.

### **West Masters**

Last summer the only Women's Regional event to take place was the 065 Tournament which was a one day event. All other Regional age group tournaments did not take place due to the impact of the Covid Pandemic and the restrictions that were still in place during the trails and tournament timetable.

In 2021/22 EH changed the existing 5 regions (North, South, East, West, Midlands) and expanded them to become 8, with this impacting the North and South regions mainly. They also changed the name from Regions to Areas.

Almost 250 players put themselves forward for trials in the West this year, with approximately 40 players from Gloucestershire Clubs. Many of the Gloucestershire players have been selected for the squads. Area tournaments started last weekend and roll out over the next 2 months. I hope everyone selected has lots of fun at their weekend tournaments and fingers crossed the West squads are successful.

For further information about West Masters, I am currently the Manager for the Women West 060s, however the person overseeing all the age groups is Debs Gemmell.

Our contact details are as follows:-

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### **International Masters**

The first international tournament to take place following the Covid restrictions was held in August 2021 in Nottingham between England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Squads played in 5 year age groups from O35s to O65s and some Gloucestershire players were selected, but as I was not made aware of the selected squads, I cannot provide names on this occasion.

World Cup competitions which were postponed from 2020 are taking place later this year in Nottingham and Cape Town, South Africa. Again, I understand that there are players from Gloucestershire who are selected, but although I know names of a few I have not seen a list of all selected squads.

**On behalf of the GHA Committee I would like to wish all Gloucestershire Masters Players involved in tournaments over the summer/autumn the very best of luck.**

**Sally Privett  
GHA - Women's Masters Manager**