

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

GHA Committee Meeting – 23rd November 2023

Women's Masters Report

Masters Activity in Gloucestershire

There are still a large number of masters' age women who are playing regular league hockey. However, it appears that there is an ongoing increase in activity outside of this with more clubs getting involved in social hockey matches, which in some cases are pulling in people who are not regular players. Some clubs continue to play friendly masters matches on an ad hoc basis – eg Lansdown, Stroud, Gloucester, Newent. Outside of this Hockey Fever is also offering Walking hockey and Re-start hockey.

EH Masters Championships

Gloucester, Lansdown, Newent (& Bretforton) have entered teams into the England Hockey Championships this season. The total number of women's club entries this season were:

O35s - 128

O45s - 64

O55s - 32

West Masters

- A West Masters County Festival took place in Taunton on 10th September. Information on this was circulated very late and Gloucestershire did not enter. However, I am aware that a few Gloucestershire players were approached directly and joined another women's squad to form a mixed counties team. Only 2 mens teams and 4 ladies teams entered.
- Trials for the West Squads from O35s up to O70s started last Sunday in Taunton. There will be two more trials at Kings Collage, Taunton, on 28th January and 18th February. I'm pleased to report that there are players from Gloucestershire clubs trialling in all 8 age group squads. Tournaments for the selected squads will take place in May and June 2024.

Since Regional Masters Hockey changed from 5 areas to 8 three years ago, rules have changed regarding eligibility of players. The biggest issue for the West Women is that some clubs don't play their league hockey in the West now eg Salisbury, Bournemouth, Wimborne Wayfarers, and they are being told they have to play for South Central in Area Tournaments and not the West where they have always played. Postcode, county location, length of service to West and player preference appears to make no difference. West Committee Representatives are working hard to challenge the rules and offer some alternative criteria regarding selection so that those who wish to continue playing Masters for the West can do so.

- The West Masters Committee have just introduced "Teamo" to players wishing to attend assessment sessions. The plan is to link all the West social media platforms into this and it is hoped it will help the management team administratively and provide easier and improved communication.
- For the second year the West are running Masters Club Competitions and invitations were sent to all Clubs in August and the closing date for entries was the end of September. More teams have entered this year and the competition categories are:
 - o O35 Mixed - Cup & Plate
 - o O40 Men – Cup & Plate (changed from Festival due to high number of entries)
 - o O40 Women – Cup & Plate (changed from Festival due to high number of entries)

- o O50s Mixed - Festival (changed to Festival due to low number of entries)

The Festival is taking place in April 2024, but all Cup & Plate competitions have rounds in October, November, January, February and March with finals taking place in April.

International Masters

Following the European Cup Tournaments held this summer in Nottingham and Valencia, trials are well under way to select squads for 2024. Several Gloucestershire players are involved in trials for England and Wales.

Next year the World Cup Competitions are being hosted by South Africa and New Zealand in October & November.

Sally Privett
GHA Women's Masters Coordinator
& West Masters County Representative