



NORTH HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Presidents' North AGM Address 29/06/2021

Welcome all to this the final AGM of the North Hockey Association.

Going back in history to the 1880's London, Manchester and Liverpool were the major canters of the sport in this country. In 1888 it was decided to form the North Hockey Association. A meeting was arranged by Mr Samuel Thompson President of Timperley HC for 14th December at the Victoria Hotel Salford at which Arthur J Balfour then MP Manchester East who became Prime Minister from 1902 to 1906 was elected President. Lees Knowles (MP Salford West and the famous Yorkshire Cricketer Lord Hawke were elected Vice Presidents. Besides the present counties Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire were founder members. By 1890 Alderley Edge, Bowdon, Brooklands, Didsbury, Liverpool Sefton, Macclesfield, Timperley and West Derby were affiliated. The North Women's Association was formed in 1898, as the All England Women's Association was founded in 1898 with Liverpool Sefton one of the six founding clubs. The North over the years has contributed significantly to the development of our sport.

For most of this information I am indebted to Jim Ormandy of Chester HC who is a hockey historian. He spends a lot of time at the Hockey Museum putting together papers mostly about Hockey in the North and traced a 1897 newspaper match report of my grandfather playing for West Derby. I have sent the links to three papers he has recently produced to Chris Reece to send out for people to look at them if they wish. If you come across anything of interest, please let them have it or tell them about it.

Moving on to more modern times the North should be congratulated for producing the most capped players at international level for this country in Barry Middleton and Kath Richardson- Walsh. Many international players, umpires and coaches have been produced by us. The Olympic Women's winning team in Brazil had at least 4 players who started playing in the North and the Mens squad had a similar number. This I believe was the best from any region based on the percentage of people playing in a region. Martin Grimley from Brooklands was in 1988 Olympic winning team coached by Norman Hughes. This success has come about by the great work put in over many years developing Junior Hockey by Chris Darling, Anne Marshall, Julia Tapley and many others

It would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to people from the North who have made a tremendous contribution to our sport in this country in recent times. Chris Darling stepped up when the HA got into financial difficulty and contributed hugely in his 9 years on the Board to establishing the England Hockey we have today. Andy Tapley MBE (for services to Hockey) with his organization ability ran a very successful 2012 Olympic Tournament in London and in his 9 years on the Board has organised many other successful events. We also have as England Hockey President Mike Stoddard.



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Turning now to the Leagues the Mens and Women's Leagues were started in 1989. I would like to thank especially Peter Cocker, Peter Richardson and Tony Walker for the work they have put in over many years running the Mens league thanks goes to Anne Bryant, Eunice Ellison, Gill Cussons and Anne Bowring for their work for the Women's League Thanks to all divisional co-ordinators who have helped their smooth running. Our thanks also goes to the NHUA and its members for their work and to Chris Darling who has done the fixtures for both leagues since they were formed.

Finally, I would like to thank Chris Reece and Annette Badger who have done superb jobs as Secretary and Chair of the Executive during my time as President. My thanks all so go to the other Council Members for the work they have done for the North. Chris Reece and Bev Deakin have done great work leading the setting up of the New Associations and they and their teams should be congratulated on the work they have done. Our wishes go to the success of the New Associations.

John M Scrinì

President - North Hockey Association

29-06-2021

Links to Historical information – Jim Ormandy

<https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/gender-and-sport/when-hull-got-hooked-on-hockeyeast-yorkshires-edwardian-sporting-boom/>

<https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/gender-and-sport/a-brief-history-of-mixed-hockey-before-wwiithe-mixers-have-hockeys-rulers-all-mixed-up/>

<https://www.playingpasts.co.uk/articles/team-sports/hockeys-religious-foundationspart-1the-anglican-clergy-turn-a-suburban-game-into-a-national-sport/>