

ISSUE 5 | 2016

planet HOCKEY

magazine



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Kia Kaha Media Group

PO Box 37 978, Parnell,
Auckland 1001, New Zealand

+64 21 757 747

info@planethockeymag.com

THE TEAM

PUBLISHER

Neville 'Ned' Dawson

EUROPEAN EDITOR / DEPUTY EDITOR

Sarah Juggins

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

John Whiting

Lawrence West

Diana Dobson

Stephen Findlater

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

James Philip Harris

Iain McAuslan

Greg Thompson

Russell Brown

Grant Treeby

Frank Ujlenbroek

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Carolina De Armas @ Dot Design

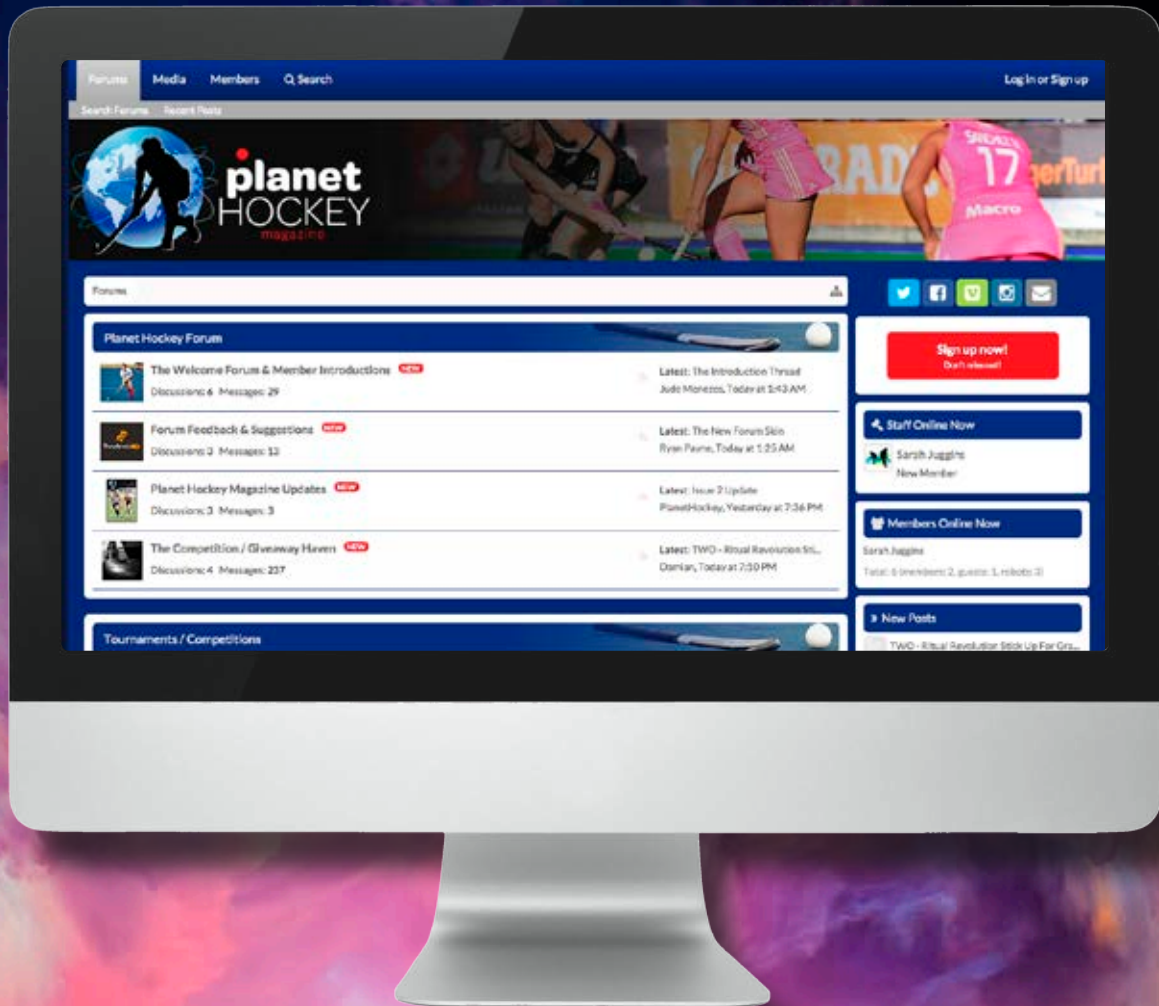




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BY
SARAH JUGGINS

A NEW BEGINNING FOR HOCKEY

As a journalist who covers many major international events around the world, I cannot say how immensely pleased I am that the International Hockey Federation has decided to rationalise the Hockey World League into a home and away league, with a grand final between the top ranked nations, with a two tier competition for those teams with lower rankings.

Giving the public a chance to see their national team in a home stadium will be great for the fans who cannot afford to travel to the far side of the world to watch top international hockey events. Having a third major event, the new grand final to the home and away league – alongside the Olympics and the World Cup – where the qualification process is straight-forward is a bonus. Who really knows how the teams qualify for the Champions Trophy?

But for me, the biggest pleasure, as a journalist, is no longer needing to write “the semi-final of the Semi-Final” and then somehow explain how that works, all within a limited word count.

There will be a period of transition and some inevitable criticism – largely centred around “yet more change”, but ultimately I believe this is a format that will work – particularly if it is given time to settle.

However, some things will need to happen for the new structure, which comes into operation in the next three years, to be a success.

For the new system to work, it must get buy-in from all the teams, the national associations and the hockey spectators. There is no point in national associations putting resources into grand stadium facilities if only a handful of spectators turn up – the national associations must work hard to appeal to the fans by using every means possible to ‘sell’ the game to sports fans. Athletes can play their part by building their own profiles – a busy and engaging social media presence, involvement in charities and events, stopping to sign autographs – its all part of the life of an elite athlete.

The stadium itself needs to be a place that people want to come to. The hockey village at the 2014 World Cup was a wonderful example of this. The village was directly outside the stadium and it was full of food stalls, bars, retail outlets and entertainment. The



players had to walk through it to get to their team coach, so there was plenty of opportunity for players to meet their fans. Extra events such as beach hockey added to the whole carnival atmosphere. As they say in the film "if you build it, they will come."

There must also be a concerted effort to ensure that the two lower tiers of competition are given sufficient support. If the FIH vision of a growing game is to come to reality then the teams with a lower ranking must always believe that a pathway to the top rank exists. If the top level competitions are perceived to be a 'closed shop', then hockey has moved no further along. This is where the FIH has such an important role to play. By sharing its expertise in running events, by developing hockey knowledge and expertise across the less developed nations and by directing some financial support to those countries who are trying to grow the game – often against all the odds – then the FIH will be providing a huge amount of value to its national associations.

Here at Planet Hockey, we are devoted to promoting the game at all levels. We are as moved by a nine-year old kid grinning from ear to ear as he or she scores their first goal as we are by a champion lifting a trophy. Our international federation has provided a blueprint for the future: for hockey's survival we should all get behind it.

Sarah Juggins

Deputy Editor, Planet Hockey

NB: Here at Planet Hockey, we believe in audience participation, so email/write/tweet to me and share your thoughts on all things hockey - twitter: @sjuggs15

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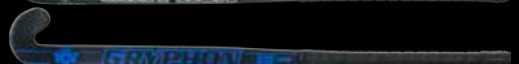
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UK INSIGHT



BY
SALLY MUNDAY

I was delighted when I was asked to write this column as it offers an opportunity to share some of our positive experiences at England and Great Britain Hockey, and give examples of specific work we have undertaken that might be helpful to others.

I have been asked to write about things that are topical either directly to us or more broadly in hockey and I would like to use this issue to highlight the importance of having a good sponsor, and the mutual benefits it can bring if both organisations work together effectively.

The starting point for us has always been about finding partners who have common values and ambitions. Sponsorship isn't all about taking the money – ideally the values of both organisations should align so that you can deliver a common message in the interests of both parties, which positions the sport as you would want, and the brand likewise. Target audiences aligning will also maximise what both parties can get out of the partnership – of course in the majority of cases this is the principle reason for a sponsor finding the proposition attractive in the first place. In my experience the best sponsorships involve establishing common goals where both parties get something out of the partnership, beyond the transfer of money – in some cases there may be no transfer at all!

You may have seen the news recently that Investec has extended its partnership with England and Great Britain's women's hockey through to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. We've enjoyed a fantastic relationship with Investec over the last 5 years, who've done so much to help us push the sport of hockey forward at all levels of the game, and raise the profile of the international team and players. We are much closer to our vision of a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters' than in 2011 when the partnership began.

The partnership with Investec has delivered great success for both parties during a period which has seen women's hockey scale new heights in the UK. Medals at several major championships, including a bronze at London 2012 and a gold at last summer's the Unibet EuroHockey Championships, have been complimented by an upsurge in participation. A 77% increase in junior girls club players,

allied with growth across other age groups, has led to a 39% overall increase in women's club participation since 2011. Investec has enjoyed a direct association with this and aligned with an excellent target demographic for their business objectives.

The four year extension of the partnership will help us as a governing body in continuing to deliver international success, grow the visibility of the game and inspire more people to take part. The agreement maintains Investec's position as Principal Partner of the Great Britain and England Women's teams, Women's Hockey League, Schools Championships for girls, and Investec London Cup.

It was fantastic, but admittedly not a surprise, to hear Investec's Richard Harris say: "Hockey is a sport that reflects our values and witnessing the passion, skill and commitment of the elite players over the last four years has been a great privilege. I am delighted that our support has enabled England Hockey to put on more events, helping to showcase the sport and its athletes, and engage a wider audience with the sport."

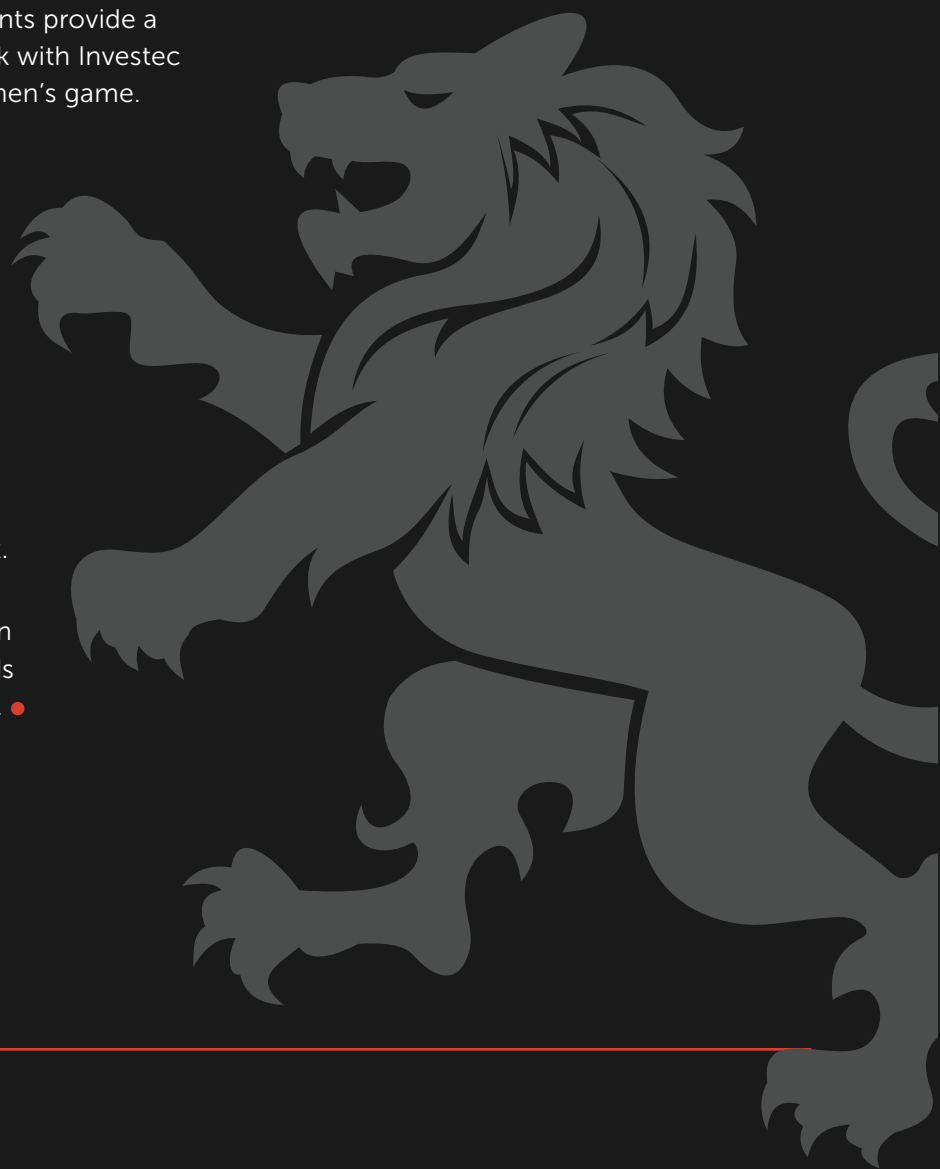
It's a very exciting period for women's hockey with England Hockey hosting world level events such as the women's Hockey Champions Trophy this June and the Women's Hockey World Cup in 2018, all at our new home of hockey – Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. These events provide a fantastic opportunity to continue our work with Investec and engage even more people in the women's game.

We're also actively seeking a Title Sponsor for the Hockey Champions Trophy as well as our major events in subsequent years, a men's Principal Partner, and a number of other options. Partnerships are incredibly important to us, and there are some exciting opportunities emerging. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact our Commercial Director Jonathan Cockcroft at jonathan.cockcroft@englandhockey.co.uk.

As we continue to move into a more commercial world in hockey, the sport can provide an outstanding platform for brands or organisations to deliver their messages. ●

Sally Munday

Chief Executive, England Hockey





HOCKEY CHAMPIONS TROPHY

A male and a female hockey player are shown in a celebratory pose. The male player is on the left, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and red shorts, with his right arm raised in a fist. The female player is on the right, wearing a red jersey with 'investec' and 'GAMES' logos, and red shorts, with her right arm raised and holding a hockey stick. The background is a vibrant, abstract pattern of purple and pink light trails.

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ASK THE DOC



BY
PETER LANGFORD

Peter Langford is a physiotherapist with more than 20 years of experience in treating injured hockey players. He is a member of Sports Medicine Australia and is also a hockey player and coach with the Red Lion Hockey Club in Toowoomba, Australia.

Here, Peter explains how to recognise, treat and prevent lower limb tendon injuries.

LOWER LIMB TENDON PROBLEMS

Tendon problems have long been an issue for a lot of athletes, regardless of the level they compete at. Recent advances in research have led to a shift in our thinking about what actually happens to tendons when they become painful and how best to manage them.

What is a tendon?

A tendon is the structure that connects muscle to bone. The two big ones in the lower limb are the one at the front of the knee; patella tendon and the one at the back of the ankle; Achilles tendon.

The tendon's job when you move is to store energy and then release it – like a spring.

Terminology

The first shift in thinking is how we refer to tendon pain. Traditionally these problems have been called "tendinitis". When you place "itis" at the end of a word it refers to inflammation of that structure. From current research we know that when you test people with tendon problems there are few inflammatory markers to be found, so this is not an inflammatory condition.

This can be confusing because when people have a tendon problem they often experience localised pain and swelling, which they usually associated with inflammation.

The more correct terminology is "tendinopathy" as this refers to the actual breakdown of the tendon's structure. This causes pain and swelling but not inflammation.

What is tendinopathy?

Tendinopathy is the response of tendon cells to excessive load. Repeated, high load stress leads to disruption of the structure of the tendon and, if the tendon continues to fall into disrepair, can result in a permanent lesion within the tendon.

If you think of the cross section of the tendon like a donut, then the outside ring represents the remaining properly aligned tendon fibres while the hole represents the structural breakdown inside the tendon.

If that area of breakdown or the "hole" in the "donut" is significant enough then the human body will not be able to reverse the changes and repair the damage. But that is not the end of the story. A tendon which has fallen into disrepair and has areas of breakdown can be restored to pain-free function if managed properly.

What tendinopathy is NOT?

Over the years there have been numerous theories around the actual cause of tendon pain.

As it was mentioned earlier, science tells us that tendinopathy is not caused by inflammation. Common theories previously have been that repeated small injuries, or micro-trauma, to a tendon eventually accumulate over time to become a large injury. Again research tells us that this does not happen.

The other shift in our thinking is that tendinopathy is an overuse injury. Experts are now starting to refer to this as "training load error". What this means is that tendinopathy is not necessarily caused by consistent heavy training but more by rapid changes in training load. So if you are returning to training from a lay off and push yourself too hard too soon then you are susceptible to tendon injury.

If I have tendon pain what should I NOT do?

- Do not rest. Complete rest is not helpful as it reduces the tendon's ability to take load.
- Do not keep pushing through your pain. You must be guided by your pain. If you ignore the pain and just keep going you will eventually cause damage to your tendon.
- You should not stretch a painful tendon. Stretching causes compression of the tendon which will irritate it.
- Do not massage the tendon as it will not help. The tendon is already irritated and rubbing it will only irritate it more

What should I do?

- Manage your load. So even with a painful tendon you need to find an activity level which allows you to continue to put load through the tendon without aggravating it.
- Exercise. Commence a gradual program of exercises that put load through the tendon to steadily improve its strength and resilience.
- Offload the tendon if it needs an opportunity for the pain to ease. This may involve knee strapping or a heel wedge for Achilles problems

Which exercises work best?

If we use knee tendon pain (patellar tendinopathy) as an example then the first thing to do is identify those things that add high loads to the tendon. A person who has knee tendon pain will often still be able to jog or cycle but have pain when they squat or jump because this is what heavily loads the tendon.

Here is where we start

The first step in the rehab process is static loading. That means you are putting load through the tendon without movement. This loading will help to reduce the pain and help to restore the tendon's ability to tolerate load. If we continue to use the example of knee tendon pain then the exercise would look like Figure 1.

The training protocol is as follows:

- Hold each squat for 45 seconds. Do 5 repetitions. Rest for 2 minutes between repetitions
- Progress this exercise by switching from a regular squat to a single leg squat
- From there you could progress this further by adding weights across your shoulders while you do the single leg squat



Figure 1.
Squat position
with an angle at
the knees of 120°

How to progress

The first thing to remember is that tendons like to be loaded (after all that is their job) but they are very sensitive to changes in load. So when you progress your exercises it has to be done in small steps.

The second thing is to realise that to properly rehab a tendon takes time. It is not something that can be rushed and can often need several months of commitment to get right.

Once you have done the static loading exercises to improve strength the next progression is to work on power; that is strength plus movement. From there you need to add endurance and, finally, compression. By the time you reach this point you should be incorporating sport specific drills into your training program.

Working out the best exercises to use may need the input of a physiotherapist, other health professional or sports trainer. ●

If you have any injuries specific to hockey or would like advice on injury prevention, email us at Planet Hockey Magazine and we will pass your questions to Peter.

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Dan hopes to **out-fox** the Kookaburras

PHOTOS BY GRANT TREEBY AND FRANK UJLENBROEK/WSP



With the Champions Trophy just two months away, **Planet Hockey** caught up with three players who will be wowing the crowds in London. The players also represent two teams for who every sporting encounter is as highly charged and as fiercely competitive as any match in any sport. **Dan Fox** of Great Britain and **Tim Deavin** and **Jake Whetton** of Hockey Australia talk about their hopes and dreams for London, and what a good performance in the Champions Trophy might mean for their respective teams two months later in Rio.

“Playing at home gives us the benefit of a home crowd, it gives friends, family and supporters the chance to watch us live and it’s a great opportunity to prepare for Rio.”

DAN FOX

“What better preparation for Rio than winning the last major, just before the Olympics take place,” says Tim Deavin – or Deavo – as he is known among his Kookaburra team mates. “We go to every tournament to win and anything less is a failure. We will be giving players the opportunity at Champions Trophy to play for Olympic selection. So, like most tours, it is not necessarily our strongest team at the time; while saying that we still we have a team mix with the purpose of winning.”

It is a point that Whetton agrees with. “We go to every tournament with the intentions of being in the main game at the end of the tournament. It’s our last major hit out before the Rio Olympics and for every athlete it is another opportunity to show the coaches and selection panel what we have and pushing for final selection for Rio.”

While no team selection is set in stone, Whetton’s record of 42 goals from 99 games and a list of medals and wins to his name that includes a World Cup, a Hockey World League winners medal as well as a recent first place finish with the India Hockey League team Jaypee Punjab Warriors, would suggest the 25-year-old would be among the first names on the team sheet.

While Whetton is renowned as a ‘wily forward’, Deavo and Great Britain and England star Dan Fox are both defensive stalwarts at the other end of the pitch. For 33-year-old Fox, the Champions Trophy provides an ideal opportunity to prepare for the Olympics but, as he says, winning the Champions Trophy for the first time, in front of a passionate home crowd would be a real fillip before the team jet off to Rio.

“We’re excited. It’s the first Champions Trophy any of us have played on home soil and it is a tournament that we want to win for the first time. Playing at home gives us the benefit of a home crowd, it gives friends, family and supporters the chance to watch us live and it’s a great opportunity to prepare for Rio.”

Great Britain’s preparations have been going well. Following the Hockey World League Finals – where Great Britain finished sixth – the team went through six tough weeks of physical development. Since then it has all been about focusing on how they play as a team. Some of the squad missed the early training stages as they participated in the Hockey India League, but since then, the intensity of squad training and preparation has been incredibly high. Fox has a steely look in his eye as he



DAN FOX



“We go to every tournament to win and anything less is a failure. We will be giving players the opportunity at Champions Trophy to play for Olympic selection.”

TIM DEAVIN

warns: “This is the fittest ever Great Britain hockey team and we want to make it the best as well.”

Fox has more than 145 combined caps in the England and Great Britain colours, but compared to his Australian counterparts, the medal cupboard is relatively bare – a bronze 2014 Commonwealth Games medal and a silver 2010 Champions Trophy medal payback for all those caps. Fox and his teammates would dearly love 2016 to be the year that changes. “Everything we do this year is part of our Rio preparation,” he says. “That said, the Champions Trophy is a major trophy and we will be trying full out to win it. The tight turn around between games is also great preparation for the tough schedule in Rio, so it will be good practice.”

But while Fox and Great Britain are slogging it out on the training pitch, they know there is a team on the other side of the world who will be putting in equal amounts of effort. Deavin describes a typical training week: “We train six days a week, all year round. In an Olympic prep period we do have more contact hours, we have extra meetings, these include scouting, yoga, Pilates, psyche, game learnings. But our physical time spent on the pitch is essentially the same. Training on pitch for six days can’t really be increased without

negative consequences on player performance. Our schedule consists of four group turf sessions, two individual turf sessions, one set play session, two gym sessions, one psychological meeting, two team development meetings and one yoga session. So it’s a pretty full on week and is definitely draining. We run on average 30kms a week in training.”

And, while they might be World Cup winners and the world number one team, Australia is a team that is constantly evolving. Both Deakin and Whetton struggle to explain the culture and belief within the Kookaburra camp, but both players agree they are a side where small changes are constantly being made to ensure they stay at the top of their game.

“It’s hard to identify from within,” says Deavin, “As with most sports teams the way of playing and the culture is constantly changing and evolving. I’m sure there a bunch of differences but as they are constant small things I cannot give a definitive answer.”

And what about the complacency that often creeps into teams that constantly win? Is there a danger the Kookaburras might take their eye off the ball?

Whetton’s answer is definite: “The past is the past, 2014 was an unbelievable year [Australia won the World Cup and Commonwealth



TIM DEAVIN



“We go to every tournament with the intentions of being in the main game at the end of the tournament. It’s our last major hit out before the Rio Olympics and for every athlete it is another opportunity to show the coaches and selection panel what we have and pushing for final selection for Rio.”

JAKE WHETTON

Gold], but we can’t rely on that anymore. Even last year with our results in Belgium [HWL Semi-Final] and India [HWL Final] we are still playing great hockey to win major hockey tournaments but we don’t go into any game just expecting to win. If we did we wouldn’t see the results we are seeing.”

And his teammate concurs: “We are always ‘expected’ to win. This comes with the territory of being ranked the number one team in the world. It can have a negative impact but not necessarily on motivation, but rather or positive motivation for other countries. For those striving to hunt the leader it is easier to do than to stay ahead.

“There is a lot of pressure on the team to perform and come away from the Olympics, and every other tournament, with the gold. Success has affected us as a group in the past. Is it now? I don’t think so, only time will tell.”

The thing that stands out among all the players competing in the Champions Trophy is the high level of respect each team has for another. This is borne of the players knowing each other from the India Hockey

League, the European Leagues and the numerous international occasions on which they meet. Since the 2014 World Cup, which Australia won after beating England 5-0 in the pool matches, the two teams have met in major competitions on three more occasions. At the 2014 Champions Trophy, England emerged as 3-1 winners; in the semi-finals of the Hockey World League Semi-Final, Australia won 3-1; and in the pool matches of the HWL Final – which Australia went on to win – Great Britain ran out 5-2 victors.

“On their day, Great Britain can compete with anyone,” says Deavin. “The Netherlands are also playing great hockey at the moment and the Germans are our nemesis.”

Fox agrees: “Anyone in the top six can win at the moment. There are some brilliant teams out there.”

For all three players, the next few months may well prove to be the defining moments of their sporting careers. And for Fox, Deavin and Whetton, that run in to the Olympic Games will begin on the 10 June, the opening day of Champions Trophy, when Australia take to the field against Great Britain. ●



JAKE
WHETTON





Sargent
joins **elite**
team of
three



Ireland women have recently returned home after mixing it with the big guns at the Hawkes Bay Cup in New Zealand. The Green Army finished a creditable fifth after beating Korea and India in the closing stages of the tournament.

PHOTOS BY NED DAWSON



The match against India was Sargent's 200th for her country. In reaching this milestone, she becomes only the third Irish female hockey player to do so – along with Nikki Symmons and Shirley McCay.



Ireland suffered early defeats at the hands of Australia, New Zealand and China, all teams ranked considerably higher than the only European representatives at the competition. However, two great battling performances in the final games, both of which went to shoot out, meant Ireland finished the event two places higher than their tournament ranking.

One of the key players for Ireland was Clíodhna Sargent, a tough, uncompromising defender. The match against India was Sargent's 200th for her country. In reaching this milestone, she becomes only the third Irish female hockey player to do so – along with Nikki Symmons and Shirley McCay.

McCay missed the Hawkes Bay trip after she sustained an arm injury, but here she pays tribute to her team-mate on the eve of the match against India.

"In January 2007, Clíodhna and I travelled with the Ireland senior women's team to Stellenbosch, South Africa.

As two innocent, inexperienced 18-year-old kids from small villages on opposite





ends of Ireland, we stepped onto the pitch in soaring temperatures to win our first caps for our country. I can't speak for her but I'd be pretty sure we were both hauled off as quickly as we came on. But what a day it was. On that same trip I remember Cliodhna had her iPod stolen and I had money taken too. But we didn't care. We'd have given our right arm to be on that trip. Little did we know what the future had in store.

Fast forward just over nine years and here I am, being asked to write a few thoughts about my team mate and friend. Tomorrow she will step onto the field and represent her country for the 200th time. What an achievement. In doing so she will become only the third female player in Irish hockey history to reach the milestone.

Cli is a fantastic member of the green army. She epitomises what it means to represent this team. Something I admire most about her is her mental toughness. She performs consistently well, and when things aren't going well for the team you can be sure you can depend on her. To have someone you can look in the eye and know what you can expect in a team mate is invaluable and a trait few are blessed with. She is a leader and role model both on and off the pitch.

Of course, no journey in life is without its difficult moments. As part of this team we have experienced many disappointments. It comes with the territory. But as they say what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, most certainly the case for Cli. Despite being one of the toughest, most resilient players on the pitch, I honestly have never seen anyone shed the tears like Cliodhna.

When we failed to qualify for London 2012, she couldn't see for three days afterwards. The airport security man asked her did she have any liquids in her rucksack and off she went again. We can laugh about it now, but back then, it was no laughing matter! In hindsight, her reactions just highlight how much she cares about the team, and how much playing for the green army means to her.

Her 200th cap is just reward for one of the leaders of our team. She is hard working, skilful and determined. When she speaks, people listen. When she leads, people follow. I am proud to have shared the pitch with her on so many occasions and through so many journeys.

Cliodhna, I think I speak on behalf of anyone who has ever played alongside you, or against you, in saying a massive congratulations on this magnificent achievement. It has been an honour and a privilege to play alongside you. Sorry I can't line up with you for your 200th test, these words have been arduously typed with one hand so I hope you appreciate them! I hope there are many more milestones to come, and next time I see you cry, it had better be tears of joy. Well done my friend. Enjoy the moment." ●



Players from across nine age groups converged on the ACT Hockey Centre in Canberra as 53 teams from Ireland, Wales, England, Canada, USA, South Africa, Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia came together to contest the 2016 Masters World Cup.

.....
STORY BY SARAH JUGGINS
PHOTOS BY KEEGAN CARROLL
ENGLAND 655 PHOTOS BY HELEN ROYAN



**'OLD'
MASTERS
ON
DISPLAY**

Anyone who believes that hockey players lose their passion for play and desire to win as they get older, should go along to one of these events, where former internationals, Olympians and top domestic league players compete fiercely for the medals.

The outright winners were the teams from Australia, who came away with five titles to their name. England won three titles and New Zealand won one, but with more than 1,000 players taking to the field, it is surely not too trite to say that hockey was the winner.

Writing on the FIH website, Olympian Simon Mason, who won silver with the o40 England men's team had this to say about the experience: "When the competition is the pinnacle of Masters Hockey, when the chance to represent your country is something that has been strived for, trained for, saved for (most Masters teams are entirely self-funded and two weeks in Australia isn't cheap!). Once you step across the white line onto the field of play, the competition is everything.

"As a social 'snapshot' – the collecting of pins, the swapping of kit, is of a level I have never seen outside the Olympics. Players having a genuine desire to meet fellow athletes from other countries, to exchange a memento at the start of the game, just seconds before an epic encounter where little quarter is granted.







"It provides a brilliant contrast. Never before have I experienced relationships that are described as 'best friends' for 99 per cent of the time and 'fiercest rivals' for 60 or 70 minutes."

And Jenni Goddard, a gold medal winner with the women's o55 team added: "I really enjoyed the whole experience of playing Masters Hockey in Canberra. The venue, with three water based artificial turfs was excellent, and the tournament was very well run by friendly and efficient volunteers.

"The hockey was played with pride and passion as you'd expect from anyone wearing their national shirt, and the atmosphere was always good with so many teams at the Hockey Centre.

Our team reached the finals against New Zealand, and as they had beaten us in the round robin, coming out with the gold medal was all the more satisfying.

"I count myself lucky to be able to play hockey at my age, and even luckier to be given such a fantastic experience of participating in an event like this."

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Results from Canberra

WOMEN'S o40

CHAMPIONS: **AUSTRALIA**

A 4-1 victory to Australia was a fair reflection of the performance of both teams. Both sides had demolished all the other opposition in the pool matches, but England had lost to Australia earlier in the tournament and it would require a huge turn around for this Aussie team to relinquish its supremacy. The goals came from Naomi Spark, a brace for Lizzie Laird – who was the competition top scorer – and Marlie Gulson. The England goal was scored by Linda Webb.

WOMEN'S o45

CHAMPIONS: **AUSTRALIA**

Australia beat New Zealand on shoot-out after the match finished 1-1 after regulation time. It was still all square after the first round of shuttles, but Australia's Sheryl Simpson was able to keep her cool and slip the ball past Deborah Gallagher in the New Zealand goal.

WOMEN'S o50

CHAMPIONS: **AUSTRALIA**

Ireland pushed Australia all the way in this competitive final, after Cathy Walsh opened the scoring for the Irish team in the first minute of the game. The Irish held the lead until Leanne Ferguson popped the ball in to even things up. Sue Henare put Australia ahead, before Dymphna Hill put Ireland back on equal terms. The killer blow was struck by Claire Wright in the dying minutes of the game. Claire Wright and Cathy Walsh shared the top scorer slot.

WOMEN'S o55

CHAMPIONS: **ENGLAND**

Pippa Bull of England led her team to a convincing 2-0 victory and earned herself top scorer award in the process. The women in red and white beat New Zealand in the final after losing to the same team in the earlier round robin matches. Bull and Christina Levitt scored the goals and, on this occasion, the New Zealand team had no answers. Australia took bronze after beating Wales 4-2.

WOMEN'S o60

CHAMPIONS: **NEW ZEALAND**

The grande dames of the Masters World Cup put on a sparkling show in the final between New Zealand and England – a match which New Zealand won courtesy of a sole goal from captain Barbara Northey in the final minute of play. Australia's Jill Sheehan and New Zealand's Katherine Peri shared the goal scoring honours with five apiece.



MEN'S o40

CHAMPIONS: AUSTRALIA

Australia and England battled out a tense 4-3 match in the final of the men's o40s. New Zealand defeated the only Asian representative at the event, Malaysia, in the bronze medal match. The goals came thick and fast in the final as the action flew from end to end. Chris McCarthy opened the scoring in the second minute, his shot flying past Simon Mason in the England goal. England equalised and then took the lead through Sam Bury. Matthew Regan brought Australia back on equal terms, before England moved ahead through George Bretten. The match looked to be heading to shoot-out when McCarthy evened things up with his second goal, but just seconds before the final whistle, Dan Mayfield popped up to scored the winner and break England hearts.

MEN'S o45

CHAMPIONS: AUSTRALIA

Despite Grant Boyde's incredible haul of 12 goals for New Zealand, his team had to settle for third place as Australia and England battled out the final. It was Australia who took the honours; goals from captain Steve Carter, Leon Phillips and Darryn Marjoram were enough to beat the sole goal of England's Dom Maguire. There had been some high scoring matches in the earlier rounds, including a 13-1 win by New Zealand over Ireland and a 7-0 win by Australia against England.

MEN'S o50

CHAMPIONS: ENGLAND

Despite being reduced to nine players for part of the second half, England were able to defend their two goal advantage until Brian Saxby scored in the 50th minute. A tense period of defence by the men in red and white followed but Australia were unable to find the second goal they needed. The damage had been done early in the game when England's Andrew Batchelor scored two goals, taking his personal tally to eight and securing the slot at the top of the scorers' board.

MEN'S o55

CHAMPIONS: ENGLAND

Goals from England's Nisar Chaudry, Philip Brown, Chris Rule and captain Mike Pell were enough to see off the challenge of Australia and take the title. The Australian consolation goal came courtesy of Trevor Johnston. Scotland picked up bronze after a tight battle with near neighbours Wales. ●



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PHOTOS BY SEAN MORRISON



ARGENTINA IN



SEVENTH HEAVEN

The final of the Junior Pan Am Championships, held in Tacarigua, Trinidad and Tobago had a familiar ring to it as old adversaries, USA and Argentina battled it out for the top spot. As on every occasion except 2008, it was the south American side that emerged with the gold medal after a 6-0 win left the USA out of ideas and outclassed. The result means that Argentina finished the tournament conceding no goals and scoring a remarkable 63 goals in six matches. It is also the seventh time Argentina has won the title.

The bronze medal went to the up and coming Chile side, who defeated their higher ranked opponents Canada 3-0. There was small consolation for Canada as their 'keeper, Lauren Logush won Goalkeeper of the Tournament. The Player of the Tournament and Top Goalscorer accolade was won by Argentinian sensation Maria Granatto.

The result means that Argentina and USA both qualify for the Junior World Cup. Chile will also be competing as they are the host nation.

The following report is courtesy of PAHF media officers Candela Bustos-Diaz and Damian Gordon.

Argentina v USA: 6-0 (Gold medal match)

The gold medal match got off to another fast start, with both teams pushing hard for a breakthrough. Gradually however, Argentina took control of the match pushing the Americans all the way into their defensive 25-yard area with a high press. Until this match, USA 'keeper Kelsey Bing had very little to do in the tournament, but early on in this match, she kept her team in the game with a number of spectacular saves. She was unable to keep out Lucia Sanguinetti in the ninth minute as the forward pounced on a loose ball to slam it home.

As the half progressed the USA were able to work their way forward and they earned a few penalty corners that were well defended by Las Leoncitas.





An extra water break was needed as this was the hottest day of competition, but this did little to break the flow of play.

For the remainder of the half, the USA were dominant, but unable to score the all important equaliser. At the whistle Argentina led 1-0.

The second half started with the Americans pushing for an equaliser but again it was Argentina who found the goal, through a field goal from Eugenia Trinchinetti in the 39th minute. A penalty corner from Milagros Fernandez-Ladra put the game effectively beyond the USA, but still the north Americans kept hammering at the door.

A quite simply brilliant eight minute passage of play killed off any lingering comeback hopes with three well taken goals from Agostina Alonso, Ladra and Julieta Jankunas. The final horn sounded with Argentina winning comfortably in the end to spark jubilant celebrations among the team and travelling supporters.

Canada v Chile 0-3 (Bronze medal match)

The bronze medal match got off to a fast start in the Caribbean heat. Chile was the first team to settle and they started dominating possession in the Canadian half of the field.

The Canadian defence remained strong and there were few clear cut opportunities for their opponents except for one penalty corner, which was well stopped by Lauren Logush in the Canadian goal.



Chile finally broke through the well organised Canadians to score three quick goals in a superb nine minute period of play. Sofia Machado Paonessa opened the Chile account and her field goal was followed five minutes later by a classy goal from Kim Jacob. Just three minutes after that, and with the Canadian team in disarray, Paula Valdivia Drayer also got on the score-sheet with a well taken goal.

By half time the Chilean team had won over the local supporters who had joined the small group of Chilean in the bleachers in a very vocal cheer. Canada started the second half very aggressively, pressing high and with a lot of speed. They forced a lot of turnovers and kept the game in the Chilean half of the field. Three consecutive Canadian PCs failed to result in a goal though as Chile held firm. Under intense heat and Canadian pressure Chile continued to defend in a cool and calm manner. The final horn sounded on an impressive win for Chile, who claim 3rd place over their higher ranked rivals.



Uruguay v Trinidad and Tobago 9-1 (5/6th place)

Four goals for Sol Amadeo, interspersed with another five goals from her team mates meant Uruguay broke the hearts of the host nation and the vocal home support.

Uruguay started the match more aggressively and soon took complete control of the play. They took advantage of their domination to score at regular intervals for a 3-0 lead in the first 15 minutes. Austin Domingo, Amadeo and Camila Ingold all finding themselves on the score sheet.

By half-time, Amadeo had scored her second, from a penalty corner, and the score was 4-0.

The second half began with Uruguay pushing the host team back and were rewarded with an early goal – Amadeo’s third. The goals kept coming regularly, from Milagros Algeria, Valerie Agazzi and Amadeo for a 7-0 lead with just 15 minutes left.

Trinidad & Tobago were determined to finish their campaign with a flourish and they were rewarded with a spectacular deflection goal by Brianna Govia. However, Uruguay stayed in control and added two more goals, through Josefina Curci and Lucia Castro before the final horn sounded.

Mexico v Barbados 1-1 (4-3 Shoot out) (7/8th place)

The match for 7/8th place between Mexico and Barbados began with both teams making a lot of unforced errors. Barbados took the lead with their first attack of the game when Ayanna Wilson’s shot went in off goalkeeper Montserrat Inguanzo and the upright. Mexico equalised immediately with Fernanda Oviedo getting her team’s first goal of the tournament.

A goal fest seemed on the cards, but instead the match continued to be a midfield battle with a lot of turnovers. Mexico started to enjoy more possession and pushed forward to try and take the lead, but the Barbados defence held firm. The teams went in at halftime with the score 1-1. The second half began and Mexico continued to dominate possession without creating clear chances. Miracle-Ann King earned a five-minute suspension, but still Mexico did not look likely to create against a stronger, more physical Barbados team.

The game went to shoot-out, which was Mexico’s second shootout game in a row [Mexico lost to Uruguay on shoot-out in the 5/8th play-offs]. This extra experience clearly paid off as Mexico held their nerve to win 4-3 in the first sudden-death shootout round.

The results mean Argentina has won this competition seven time, with the USA picking up their fourth silver medal. Chile has now won bronze on three occasions. ●



The background features a complex network of white lines connecting various points, creating a web-like or molecular structure. Interspersed among these lines are several white geometric shapes, including circles, triangles, and plus signs. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and technical.

NEW
PLANS
FOR
HOCKEY

The International Hockey Federation, the governing body for hockey, has announced new structures for international competition, which will replace existing events. One of the events that will make way for the new structure is the Champions Trophy, which sees the best six men's teams and the six best women's teams competing on an annual basis.

The Hockey World League Semi-Final and Hockey World, League Final will also make way – the current, third edition of this competition will be the last.

These structures will come into operation from 2019 onwards and are expected to promote growth across all levels of the sport.

The main change in the new structure is an annual home and away league, which will sit alongside the Olympics and the World Cup as an event of equal importance.

This system will see international teams play against opponents once at home and once away each year in this league. Following several months of competition, the top ranked teams will then qualify for a stand-alone grand finale tournament which will determine the winners of the competition. This will form part of a three-tier system, identical for both the men's and women's game.

Teams participating in this new home and away league will be chosen based on a clearly defined set of qualification criteria designed to maintain the quality of the league and high standard events.

The FIH has developed the new structure with three main objectives in mind: to generate a massive change in TV and media coverage for hockey; create big, bold, packed and loud events and make a step change to increase future revenues.

For those nations who do not reach the qualification criteria for the home and away league, the next tier of competition will remain similar to the current Hockey World League Round 1 and 2 events, played over two year cycles.

This format will still give teams the chance to go all the way to the World Cup or Olympics. Even the smallest hockey-playing nations have the opportunity to write their own chapter in hockey's history books as they progress throughout the rounds of competition into these flagship events.

While Hockey World Cup qualification will remain similar to the current system, Olympic qualification will change, pending approval of the International Olympic Committee's Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games qualification criteria.

The proposals were approved by the FIH Executive Board in Lausanne, Switzerland earlier this month. The decision was made after more than 18 months of consultation, research and development between a number of stakeholders, overseen by a specially formed working group for this project.

This included correspondence with more than 700 individuals, including: athletes; National Associations; Continental Federations; the International Olympic Committee; Association of Summer Olympic International Federations; major broadcasters; individuals at Continental Federation congresses; officials and umpires; FIH Committee and Panel members and FIH staff.

In addition to this international financial advisory company Deloitte provided extensive support in developing the financial modelling for the new portfolio of events.

It is predicted that the increased commercial potential of implementing the new structure will generate considerably more value for the sport, which will filter down into all levels, including new and developing hockey nations, from elite to grassroots level.

Speaking about this, FIH CEO Kelly Fairweather said: "This is a historic decision for the sport of hockey – a game changer! More than a year's worth of work and over 700 people have helped develop this new portfolio of events. Moving from a tournament based format to a home and away league will considerably increase the value of our sport."

He continued: "Fans will be exposed to more international hockey throughout the year, with many more home matches for them to enjoy. With more fans packing out the stands, we expect these events to be bigger, bolder packed and loud, creating electric atmospheres for our athletes to perform in. This, along with tweaks to the tiers below, will have a significant impact on the sport across all levels, safeguarding its future

for many years to come."

FIH President, Leandro Negre added: "When we launched our strategy 18 months ago we knew that drastic measures were required to revolutionise the sport. This is an exciting opportunity for hockey. A lot of hard work has already been undertaken, but this is only the start. We need the hockey family to embrace this change now to ensure we reach our 10-year aim of making hockey a global game that inspires the next generation. This will certainly be a monumental step for the sport as we take it to the next level." ●



Kelly Fairweather



Leandro Negre



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2016

AFFILIATES TOURNAMENT
FURNWARE CUP

2016

AFFILIATES TOURNAMENT IN THE HAWKE'S BAY

STORY BY MICHELLE FRANCIS
PHOTOS BY NED DAWSON







The Affiliates Tournament was for Hockey New Zealand an ideal tournament to be included in the Festival mix and the aim of the competition was to give adults of both genders and ages the opportunity to play in a competitive tournament.



Hawke's Bay Hockey proudly hosted the Affiliates Tournament returning for its 3rd consecutive year with a line-up of 14 teams, the largest number to attend the tournament since its conception in 2014.

The Affiliates Tournament was for Hockey New Zealand an ideal tournament to be included in the Festival mix and the aim of the competition was to give adults of both genders and ages the opportunity to play in a competitive tournament. Specifically the target player group were those in the range of 22-35 years old who enjoy playing at a high level of hockey and the Affiliates has certainly shown it is the vehicle for this.

"What makes the Affiliates tournament so enjoyable for us is the quality and diversity of the hockey itself, the amazing atmosphere around the turf with camaraderie amongst teams not often experienced at tournaments



2

2

2

7

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and HB Hockey's seamless administration and friendly welcoming manner" Sue Gregory Manager – NZ Women 35+.

This year there were 4 teams that had to withdraw from the Tournament which introduced a bye into the mens & womens competition but teams worked around this and made the best of the situation during the week. The draw comprised of Pool play for both the men and women which then progressed to Semi Final pools & finals.

This year Affiliates had an exciting line up of teams with Hawke's Bay Hockey and the New Zealand Maori teams returning to the event for the third year. Topping off the New Zealand teams were the NST X1's, NZ Masters 35+ and the Barbarians





which comprised of Poverty Bay, Hawke's Bay Hockey Midlands & Taranaki and a number of Australia Country players who were originally coming to New Zealand for another tournament but due to this being cancelled they donned the Barbarian colours and played for this side all week. Visiting sides this year included the return of the aforementioned Australia Country who includes the Affiliates into their biennial tour returned and for the first time attending the tournament Australia Masters 35+ squads.

FINALS DAY

Whether you were a NZ side taking to the turf against another NZ side or two Australian teams facing off the competition was fierce and showcased some amazing hockey. The talent was extreme and the games fast paced with a great supportive crowd and a lot of Aussie Aussie chants over the week.

Finals day saw the NZ Maori Mens side playing off for 3rd & 4th position against the Australian 35+ Men. Before the game had started there was a murmur amongst the crowd that the NZM side where to perform the Haka and a sea of yellow jackets were along the fence line among the locals to watch a hair raising performance.

In an ironic twist, the finals featured teams from the same Affiliates pool – Hawke's Bay and Australian Country. Hawke's Bay took the honours in the women's game, pulling out to a 4-0 win thanks to a double from Sarah Shennan. Australia Country fought hard in the 2nd half, but the class of Hawke's Bay shone through to take the honours for the first time.

Australian Country got their revenge in the Men's final with a clinical 7-1 victory. The sharp, short passing game of the Australian's was too much for the local side to handle, with Dean Jeffrey on hand to finish off his side's good work on multiple occasions, ending up with a hattrick. NZ born Matthew Cornwall also got on the scoresheet for the Aussies, with the tireless Joe Hanks





pegging one back for Hawke's Bay.

The Affiliates tournament continues to go from strength to strength – the atmosphere around the turfs in particular on Final's day was something to behold. Interesting to note that the Men's and Women's trophies have had 3 different winners across the 3 years – For the Women in 2014 it was NZ Maori, 2015 National Senior Tournament XI, and 2016 Hawke's Bay, whilst in the Men it was

Hawke's Bay in 2014, NZ Maori in 2015 and Australian Country this year. This highlights the even nature of the competition – one of the attractions which keeps players coming back for more!

THE TEAMS

HAWKE'S BAY

The Hawke's Bay teams are a combination of Representative players ranging from Masters 40+ - Under 18 players. Hawke's Bay also include region of origin players who now reside in various regions of NZ and they like to include a small number of guest players from associations within their regional body of Central.

BARBARIANS

The Barbarians are a mixture of players from Poverty Bay, Hawke's Bay and the Central region who have come into the tournament to replace Hong Kong who were originally intending to attend this tournament. They will wear the colours of Poverty Bay – Red for the Men, and Pink for the Ladies.

NZ 35+ The New Zealand

35+ team are a National team selected from the National Masters tournament of players who are 35 or over as at 31st December 2016. This is the 2nd time the New Zealand 35+ team have attended the National Affiliates tournament.

“NZ Men’s 35+ – the tournament gave us a chance to launch the team and to embed it in the hockey culture going forward. For the team, their view was that it was a great place to hold a tournament that allowed the team to get the most out of their hockey” Nic Pennington –Coach.

NZ SENIOR TOURNAMENT XI

The National Senior Tournament XI is selected from the 2015 National Senior Tournament which was held in Whangarei in September 2015. This tournament targets those players who are the next tier below National Hockey League. This gives them an opportunity to continue to represent their association and at a tournament such as Affiliates. A number of players from this team in the past have moved on to play in the National Hockey League.

NZ MAORI

The NZ Maori sides were picked from the National Maori tournament competed for by various Iwi within New Zealand over Labour weekend in 2015. The side immerse themselves in the Maori culture entirely during the week, including staying on a Marae and the Men’s side performing a haka against any touring side. The NZ Maori were the defending Derek Wilshire trophy champions in 2016.

AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY

Since the inception of annual Australian Country Championships, representative ‘teams’ have been named at the conclusion of the event and in the ‘early years’ completed a tour on a biennial basis. Since 2003 the process has become more formalised with men’s and women’s teams being formally selected, announced and scheduled for a representative tour.

Nominations for these teams are called for prior to the Championships and a rigorous and transparent selection process is undertaken during





the Championships to ensure quality representative teams are selected. The teams are announced as part of the presentation ceremony at the conclusion of the Championships.

Self-funded (assisted by whatever sponsorship we are able to attract) these tours provide Country players with a unique opportunity to represent Australian Country Hockey internationally. Positions within the teams are eagerly sought after and valued by those who earn them. As national Country representatives the players and teams staff attract acknowledgment from their peers and domestic associations who share in their achievements. In addition to players, the country teams also provide a unique opportunity to coaches, managers, medical staff, statisticians and umpires.

AUSTRALIAN MASTERS 35+ MEN

This team was selected from the 2015 Australian National Championships held in Cairns, QLD.

The team consisted of 16 players, Coach, Physiotherapist and Manager. The 35's age division of Australian Masters has been increasing over a number of years. This team was originally entered into the 35's World Cup to be held in Canberra. This competition unfortunately did not go ahead and this resulted in the team having the opportunity to attend the Affiliates Tournament. Players in this team were from Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and South Australia metropolitan areas.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S MASTERS 35+ TEAM

The Australian Women's Masters 35+ Team was selected at the Australian Women's Masters Championships held in Brisbane, Queensland in October 2015.

The team consisted of Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager and 17 players. Team members were from Queensland (7 players + Assistant Coach), New South Wales (6 players), Australian Capital Territory (3 players), South Australia (1 player), Victoria (Coach), and Tasmania (Team Manager).

This team was originally entered into the World Cup to be held in Canberra, but due to low team entries the 35's competition did not go ahead. Hockey Australia accepted an invitation to enter the team in the Affiliates Tournament, thus providing a great opportunity to showcase the high standard of Masters Hockey in Australia and give players and officials the honour of representing their country.





THE FINAL



MENS FINALS

NZ Barbarians 10 vs NZ 35+ 3

Kohere Tupara 1/Jarrod Carter 1/
Wade Manson 1/Mitchell Cronin 6/
Dylan Thomas 1 vs Dean Bellis 1/Robbie
Burgess 1/Andrew Hilton 1

Australia 35+ 2 vs NZ Maori 1

Todd Blackstock 1/Drew Harold 1 vs
Tutarangi Rahraruhi 1

NST X1 5 vs NZ Barbarians 1

Oscar Stewart 1/ Lloyd McLoughlin 1,
Jonathan Simmonds 3 vs Matt King 1

AUSC 7 vs Hawke's Bay 1

Matthew Cornwall 1/Ewan Wallin 1,
Alexander Mackay 2, Dean Jeffrey 3 vs
Joe Hanks 1





THE FINAL



WOMENS FINAL

NZ 35+ 2 vs NZ Barbarians 1
 Joanne Rhodes 1/Tara Pickering 1 vs
 Hope Ralph 1

NZM 3 vs Aust 35+ 2
 Shannon Sheppard 1/Marieke Thomas
 1/Parekura Rangitauira 1 vs Rebecca
 Anderson 1/Fiona Cameron 1

NST X1 3 vs NZ 35+ 2
 Kiriana Brown 1/Georgia Morton 1/Anne
 Mackechnie 1 vs Daina Ratana 1/Trish
 Ross 1

Hawke's Bay 4 vs AUC 0
 Tori Lua 1/Pippa Norman 1/Sarah
 Shennan 2





FINAL'S SCORES

TROPHY WINNERS

Marg Hiha Trophy

Winners of the Womens competition Hawke's Bay Hockey

Dave Craven Trophy

Winners of the Mens competition – Australia Country

Derek Whilshere Trophy

Overall best performance teams Australia Country

MEN

AUSC	Hawke's Bay	7-1
NST	NZB	5-1
AUS 35+	NZM	2-1
NZB	NZ 35+	10-3

WOMEN

HB	AUSC	4-0
NST	NZ 35 +	
NZM	AUS 35+	3-2
NZ35+	NZB	2-1

2016 PRESIDENT'S X1 TEAMS NAMED

Following on from the Affiliates Tournament is the naming of the Presidents X1 which is now a tradition at the close of this event.

NZ PRESIDENT'S X1 2016 WOMEN TEAM

Rachael Lecky	National Senior Tournament XI
Teegan Murah	Hawke's Bay
Katherine Van Woerkom	Hawke's Bay
Parekura Rangitauira	New Zealand Maori
Anne McKechnie	National Senior Tournament XI
Tara Drysdale	New Zealand 35+ Masters
Lynda Coldicutt	Hawke's Bay
Claudia Hanham	New Zealand Maori
Aniwaka Roberts	New Zealand Maori
Pippa Norman	Hawke's Bay
Trish Ross	New Zealand 35+ Masters
Holly Pearson	PB Barbarians
Aimee Heaps	National Senior Tournament XI
Erin Smyth	National Senior Tournament XI
Amy Rowlands	Hawke's Bay
Marieke Thomas	New Zealand Maori
Kayla Wilson	New Zealand Maori
Kendyll Peters	National Senior Tournament XI

NZ PRESIDENT'S X1 2016 MEN TEAM

Aaron Ball	Hawke's Bay
Gareth Stewart	National Senior Tournament XI
Josh Wray	PB Barbarians
Hugh Gilmer	National Senior Tournament XI
Vaughan England	New Zealand Maori
Hoete Mita-Ngatai	New Zealand Maori
Mitchell Cronin	PB Barbarians
Joe Hanks	Hawke's Bay
Brennan Alexander-Parker	Hawke's Bay
Tenga Rangitauira	New Zealand Maori
Jimmy Linehan	Hawke's Bay
Mac Wilcox	PB Barbarians
Josh Rainey	National Senior Tournament XI
Oscar Stewart	National Senior Tournament XI
Tutarangi Raharuhi	New Zealand Maori
Luther Cronin	National Senior Tournament XI
Te Huatahi Edmonds	New Zealand Maori
Tom Sykes	Hawke's Bay



STORY BY **DAVID NANCARROW**
PHOTOS BY **NED DAWSON**

FURNWA



ARE CUP

2016

Iona put an end to Napier's domination in Furnware Cup



As the internationals graced the stage at the 2016 Hawkes Bay Festival of Hockey in New Zealand, so too the stars of the future were out in force. Just hours before the New Zealand Black Sticks beat Japan by a 3-2 scoreline, one local girl's high school showed similar levels of skill and determination to lift the trophy for the third time of asking.

The Furnware Cup Invitational schoolgirl tournament is in its third year and the standard is getting higher and higher. Reigning champions Napier Girls High School came to the event hoping to make it a treble victory – they have won the previous two editions of the cup – but there were several other teams with equally high hopes of success.

In the end, it was Iona College, the local team that had taken runners-up spot in the previous two editions of the competition, who picked up the trophy, winning in thoroughly convincing fashion as they put six goals away in the final against the challengers from Hamilton.

The local area was well represented in the competition, with Napier and Iona joined by local schools Woodford House and Havelock North High School. Other invited schools were Hamilton Girls High School, Otumoetai College from Tauranga, Gisborne Girls High School and St Peters College, Cambridge.

Results from the pool play saw Iona College top pool A, with Hamilton Girls High School in the runner-up spot. Pool B winners were the all conquering Napier





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Girls School, followed by Gisborne Girls High School.

In the first of the crossover semi-finals, Iona shot to a 5-0 lead in the first half. Iona have finished in second place in this tournament for the past two years, so this direct, attacking style was a warning of their intent to go one better this year. Gisborne fought back in the second half and scored two goals, but Iona had put the game out of reach with that first half onslaught.

The second semi-final was a mouth-watering affair between Hamilton and Napier. The game was fiercely contested across the pitch but Hamilton had come with a purpose and they established a 2-0 lead with just 15 minutes to go. The reigning champions were reluctant to let go of their grip on the trophy and managed to score from a penalty corner with just 10 minutes to play. This signalled an all-out assault on the Hamilton goal by the Napier strikers, but Hamilton held on and Napier's hopes for securing a treble were dashed.

The final was a repeat of the 2015 Chica Gilmer National School's Final between Iona and Hamilton Girls High School. On that occasion Iona won 2-0, courtesy of goals from Bella Grieg and Millie Long. The two teams had also met in the pool games earlier in the week, with Iona running out 2-1 winners in a highly competitive game.

There was to be no fairytale ending for Hamilton – the team who had come to the tournament ranked sixth. The first half was a tight contest, with neither team giving an inch. With just a few minutes until half-time the score stood at 1-1, but then disaster struck for the team from Hamilton. The goalkeeper was injured diving to save a penalty stroke and from that moment there was little doubt that the trophy would be going to Iona. They struck early in the second half and by the time the final whistle blew, the local side had put six goals past the stand-in 'keeper.

Iona Coach Karen Holder said it was a fabulous start to the season. "The festival is a superb event, and a wonderful opportunity for player and team culture development," she said. "The chance to mingle with top class international players, many of whom will be representing their countries in Rio, is just not something that comes along every day."

In the battle for third place between Napier Girls High School and Gisborne Girls High School, the spectators were treated to a humdinger of a game. Earlier in the pool round Gisborne had suffered a 6-0 rout at the hands of Napier, but they came out fighting and nothing could separate the teams as they played out a 3-3 draw to share third spot.

Tournament organisers expect this competition to



FINAL PLACINGS

grow year on year as it is such a great early season event. The fact that these young stars are sharing the same stage as the international players during the course of the Festival of Hockey adds to its appeal.

The calibre of young players appearing at the Furnware Cup is already high, five of the eight competing teams will play in the top tier Federation Cup – Marie Fry Trophy later in the year, underlining the standard of the teams competing at Hawkes Bay. ●

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | Iona College |
| 2. | Hamilton Girls High School |
| 3. | Napier Girls High School & Gisborne Girls High School |
| 5. | Havelock North High School |
| 6. | Otumoetai College |
| 7. | Woodford House |
| 8. | St Peters, Cambridge |





FURNWARE CUP

2016

THE FINAL









China & Thailand

ARE FIRST
HWL WINNERS





STORY
&
PHOTOS
COURTESY
SINGAPORE
HOCKEY



CHINA MEN AND THE WOMEN FROM THAILAND WERE THE FIRST WINNERS IN THE THIRD SERIES OF THE HOCKEY WORLD LEAGUE, WHICH WAS PLAYED IN THE SENGKANG STADIUM IN SINGAPORE. BOTH TEAMS WERE EMPHATIC IN THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY WON, WITH CHINA DEFEATING SRI LANKA IN AN EXCITING FINAL, WHILE THAILAND FINISHED THE WOMEN'S EVENT – A ROUND ROBIN FORMAT – WITH SIX WINS AND NO LOSSES.





With China ranked far higher than most of the teams at this event (19th in the FIH world rankings), the men's result was to be expected. China's class, particularly at set pieces shone through and it was only in the final that they were put under any form of scrutiny – Sri Lanka took the match to a 3-3 draw in regulation time and then lost 4-2 in the shoot-out.

In the women's event, top-seeded team for the tournament, Kazakhstan, finished second, after they lost to Thailand and Hong Kong, while the host nation, Singapore, finished third.

The top goalscorer in the men's event was Huang Jingcheng of China with 12 goals to his name, all from penalty corners. Team mate Zhang Taozhu scored 11, also all from penalty corners, while Thailand's Surasak Thammueangkun also scored 11 goals, of which eight were from field play.

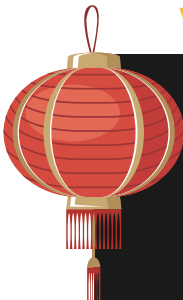
The results mean China and Sri Lanka men and Thailand, Kazakhstan and Singapore women all qualify for HWL Round Two.

THE FINAL FINISHING PLACES WERE:



MEN'S EVENT

Gold - China
Silver - Sri Lanka
Bronze - Thailand



WOMEN'S EVENT

Gold - Thailand
Silver - Kazakhstan
Bronze - Singapore





MEN'S EVENT

There were high scoring games throughout this event, and the opening match set the scene as Thailand rattled seven goals past Brunei. Thailand's Suphawong Adisuan opened the scoring when he drilled home the ball in the second minute of the game.

The tournament came alight when the home team opened their account with a 6-0 win over Kazakhstan, but it soon became clear to the spectators and players alike that it would take something special to stop China. The team ranked 19th in the world put 11 goals past Vietnam and followed that up with a 11-1 win over Thailand. It was the 16-0 result over Hong Kong that sealed China's reputation as a team that was both innovative in its build-up play and also clinical in its finishing, particularly from penalty corners.

The bronze medal match between Singapore and Thailand was a tightly contested match, with both teams working hard to create scoring opportunities. Singapore were roared on by their home crowd, but it was Thailand who took the lead when Thanakrit Boon-Art scored in the 30th minute from open play. This lead was cancelled out almost instantly as Kendy Lee struck back with a fierce shot from the edge of the circle.

In the second half, Thailand took a firmer grip on the game and Surasak Thammueangkhun scored his eleventh goal of the tournament to make it 2-1. With just five minutes remaining, Thailand put the game beyond Singapore's reach when Boon-Art scored his second to make it 3-1.

If the bronze medal match was close, the final was even more so. For the first time in the competition, China found themselves under pressure as Sri Lanka came back from a 2-0 deficit to take a 3-2 lead with just minutes to go.

Goals in the first half from Meng Lei – a penalty stroke – and tournament top scorer Huang Jing Cheng seemed to be sending the medal China's way. However, a 10 minute spell of creativity and energy from Sri Lanka saw Sandaruwan Sudusingha, Damith Mahara and Lakshan Nanayakkara bring the score to 3-2.

A penalty corner from Meng Dihao in the 61st minute ensured the game would go to shoot-out and here China's greater experience paid off. China's Guo Zixiang scored the winner as he slotted the ball past Thusith Chandrasekara in the Sri Lankan goal.





WOMEN'S EVENT

In the women's competition, the matches were played on a round robin format, with every team facing each other. Again, there were some big scores, with Cambodia on the receiving end of two 14-0 defeats, at the hands of Kazakhstan and Thailand, as well as two 13-0 defeats to Hong Kong and Sri Lanka.

Top ranked team Kazakhstan had been surprised by Hong Kong earlier in the competition when they had only managed a 1-1 draw in regulation time and then lost to their lower ranked rivals in the shoot-out. This meant the crunch game was the encounter between Thailand and Kazakhstan, as this was the one chance Kazakhstan had to catch their rivals for the title.

Kazakhstan started well, with Natalya Sazontova opening the scoring in the 16th minute. Her goal was a well-worked move that left Alisa Narueangram in the Thai goal stranded.

However, Thailand fought back immediately and just 60 seconds later Kanyanut Nakpolkrung popped up to equal the scores. The game was then a back and forth encounter that saw both teams attacking hard and defending frenetically. The deadlock was not broken until the 67th minute, when Kornkanok Sanpoung scored from a penalty corner to give Thailand the lead. It was Sanpoung again two minutes later who sealed the victory as she scored from open play.

Singapore women gave the home crowds something to cheer about as they picked up the bronze medal and qualified for round two of the HWL. Over the course of the tournament, they beat Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Cambodia, and Brunei and to add to the Singapore team's delight, rising star Ong Yan Ting was crowned Young Player of the Tournament.

The next HWL Round One events takes place in Prague, Czech Republic, with the women's event in August and the men's in September. This will be followed shortly after by the third women's event in Douai, France, also in September. We will be carrying a full report of all HWL events. ●





AUSTRALIAN U21 CHAMPIONSHIP

QUEENSLAND'S U21 WOMEN
AND VICTORIA'S U21 MEN WERE
CROWNED CHAMPIONS AFTER
SEVEN DAYS OF INTENSE COMPETITION
TO DECIDE THE
2016 AUSTRALIAN
CHAMPIONSHIP TITLES



BOTH COMPETITIONS WERE PLAYED IN THE SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK AND THE STANDARD OF PLAY CERTAINLY DID JUSTICE TO THE SURROUNDINGS.





Victoria men set out their stall from the start. The reigning champions put nine goals past Northern Territories in the opening match, including a hat-trick for Andrew Scanlon – the eventual top scorer in the competition. The team then made their way through the tournament unbeaten, although both Queensland and New South Wales were able to hold them to drawn results in the pool rounds.

It was New South Wales that challenged Victoria for the gold medal after finishing top of their pool. The NSW squad beat Western Australia and South Australia and drew with Australian Capital Territory to set up a final with last year's champs.

Queensland women were the only team not to drop points in the pool stages as they swept past New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia, scoring 14 goals and only conceding three. This included an 8-0 demolition job on Tasmania.

The competition then moved into the classification stages, where Queensland







continued their winning ways as they beat New South Wales and Victoria, before tripping up in a 2-1 loss to Western Australia. Despite the loss, Queensland still topped the pool and so the stage was set for a showdown final – again against Western Australia, who had suffered no losses throughout the competition but had been held to three drawn results.

Top scorer in the women's competition was Victoria's Aisling Utri, with seven goals.

AND SO TO AN ACCOUNT OF THE ACTION...

Queensland women had already suffered a loss at the hands of Western Australia, so this was always going to be a tight match. Hockeyroo Renee Taylor gave Queensland the lead after half time, and the 2015 bronze medallists pulled further ahead when Ambrosia Malone scored in the 54th minute. Brooke Capewell pulled one back shortly after for Western Australia but the girls in gold were unable to find an equaliser, despite some frantic goal mouth action in the



closing minutes of the game.

Alice Arnott was the heroine in the battle for bronze that went to the wire with NSW emerging victorious on a shoot-out, 4-3, after an incredible 3-3 draw. In stunning style, the hosts battled back from 3-0 down after Sophie Thomson, Kristina Bates and Sarah Down had put Victoria three up at the break. Arnott's hat-trick, the last of which was an overtime penalty corner, earned the shoot-out with NSW scoring four of their five attempts.







South Australia had a more straight forward encounter to earn fifth place with a 5-1 win over Tasmania. Linzi Appleyard scored a brace of goals, sandwiching strikes by teammates Annie Gibbs, Euleena MacLachlan and Rachel Divall. Tasmanian captain Madeleine Murphy scored their consolation goal.

The East Coast Venom composite team, comprising players from New South Wales and Queensland – with Northern Territories not fielding a team in the Championships – finished seventh after winning their 5-4 clash with Australia Capital Territory. In dramatic circumstances, Katie Wollstein's last minute winner sealed the result; it was her second of the game.

Teammate Veronica Martin also bagged a double with Georgie Radcliffe also on target for ECV. For ACT, who led 4-3 at one point early in the third quarter, Ashleigh Deacon scored two goals in as many minutes, supplementing strikes from Aleisha Price and Laura Gray.

In the men's competition, Victoria's men retained the U21 Australian Championship title

with a 2-0 win over rivals New South Wales. An early goal from Nathan Ephraumus and another from Allan Oscar after half time were enough to see off the hosts at Sydney Olympic Park.

There were celebrations, too, for Queensland who scooped the bronze medal after a thrilling 4-3 win over Western Australia. After falling behind to Liam Flynn's early goal, Queensland responded to lead through Oliver Crane and Joel Rintana but strikes by WA's U21 internationals Simon Benetti and Alex Rasmussen looked to have secured victory for Western Australia.

That was until Crane struck his second, an equaliser, 60 seconds later and Mackenzie Warne bagged a tension-busting winner in the 57th minute.

Goals from Lewis McLennan and Jeremy Hopkins helped ACT finish two places higher than in 2015 as they took out a 2-1 win over Tasmania to earn fifth place. Jai Walker-Kidd scored Tasmania's goal.

In the playoff for seventh and eighth, South Australia overcame NT 3-1. Simon Brown, captain Kurtis Willson and Cooper Powardy all found the net for SA, with Reagan Martin on target for NT. ●





FINAL PLACINGS

U21 MEN'S AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

1. Victoria
2. New South Wales
3. Queensland
4. Western Australia
5. Australian Capital Territory
6. Tasmania
7. South Australia
8. Northern Territory

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT:

Tom Howard (QLD)

PLAY THE WHISTLE:

Tasmania

.....

U21 WOMEN'S AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

1. Queensland
2. Western Australia
3. New South Wales
4. Victoria
5. South Australia
6. Tasmania
7. East Coast Venom
8. Australian Capital Territory

PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT:

Renee Taylor (QLD)

PLAY THE WHISTLE:

East Coast Venom

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EHL KO16

STORY BY STEPHEN FINDLATER & EHF | PHOTOS BY FRANK UJLENBROEK/WSP







More than one million viewers and many thousands of spectators enjoyed the four day EHL KO16 competition, which took place over 25-28 March at the Wagener Stadium in Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands. It was a smorgasbord of hockey action as 16 teams, representing eight countries, scored 64 goals over the course of 12 games. The prize? A place in the FINAL4, which will take place at the Pau Negre Stadium in Barcelona, Spain. Three countries, from Spain, Germany and two teams from the Netherlands will be contesting the title.

The four protagonists, who will be seeking to reign supreme in Spain, will be Spanish team Atlètic Terrassa taking on SV Kampong of the Netherlands, while fellow Dutch side Amsterdam H&BC will go head-to-head with Germany's Harvestehuder THC, EHL champions of 2014, and the only former champions still in the competition.

For Atlètic Terrassa and SV Kampong, this is their first time in the finals, while Amsterdam H&BC have finished third on two occasions (2010 and 2013) and second in 2012.

HERE'S HOW THE ACTION UNFOLDED...

The opening game of the KO16 saw KHC Leuven go on a goal spree in the final quarter to overcome WKS Grunwald Poznan 6-1. The Belgium side were 2-1 down until the final 15 minutes but a goal from Tom Genestet opened the flood gates and the Polish team were swept away by Leuven's goal-scoring power.

It was an all-German affair when Rot-Weiss Koln took on UHC Hamburg, but it was the guile of Christopher Ruhr – who set up team mate Marco Miltkau before scoring a goal of his own – that was one of the deciding factors in this intriguing encounter. Rot-Weiss Koln won 5-3, eliminating the three time champions in the process.





ROHOF

21

VERMEULEN

4

ABN

EN-AMBO

11



Goalkeeper Marc Calzada made three superb shoot-out saves to send Atlètic Terrassa through to a KO8 date with KHC Leuven, after the Spanish team held KHC Dragons to 1-1 in regulation time. Calzada saved shots from Belgium international trio Felix Denayer, Arthur van Doren and Jeffrey Thys to see his side win 3-2.

SV Kampong cruised into the KO8 with a 6-0 over KO16 debutantes Racing Club de France.

Early goals from Bjorn Kellerman and Quirijn Caspers meant Kampong were in a comfortable position and they were never truly troubled.

It was also an easy ride through for 2014 champions Harvestehuder THC who proved too good for Dinamo Kazan, scoring four goals in the first 17 minutes and eventually winning 6-1.

It was an all-Spanish affair when Real Club de Polo met Club Egara. Egara's 'keeper Quico Cortes kept his side in the competition, but in time the quality of Club de Polo shone through and they won 3-0.

Amsterdam H&BC suffered an early scare at the hands of English club Wimbledon, but after going 1-0 down, the Netherlands team turned up the heat and Mirco Pruyser did the damage as he scored a hat-trick.

In the final KO16 match, Rob van der Horst scored a stunning individual goal with only a couple of minutes



remaining to earn Oranje Zwart a KO8 date with Harvestehuder THC. OZ's opponents, Royal Leopold, will be disappointed that they let down their defences in what was a tightly contested and high octane game.

AND SO TO THE KO8 ROUND...

The first match saw Atlètic Terrassa beat KHC Leuven in a tight 3-2 encounter. It took a moment of sublime skill from Jan Malgosa in the final five minutes of the game to earn Atlètic Terrassa their first ticket to the FINAL4 of the Euro Hockey League. The game had remained goal-less in the first half, but it ripped into life when Marc Salles opened the scoring for Terrassa. This lead was scotched when Hugo Genestet's reverse-shot whistled home.

Roc Oliva gave Terrassa the lead again, only for Pau Quemada to make it 2-2. With Oliva yellow carded, Leuven looked to have all the aces in the final minutes of the game, but it was 10-man Atlètic Terrassa who took the honours and will be competing in Barcelona. With Terrassa being less than 30 kilometres from host city Barcelona, Atlètic are certain to have a big fan presence at FINAL4

Speaking to EHL journalist Stephen Findlater after the match, a delighted Malgoza said: "It's unbelievable. To be honest, to score the decisive goal like this, I cannot put it into words. It's the first time we've reached the FINAL4. Doing it this way – first against Dragons and then Leuven – is the best way to do it."

In the second match SV Kampong produced one of the performances of the tournament to see off the challenge of Germany's Rot-Weiss Köln. Two goals from Martijn Havenga, and one apiece for Robert Kemperman, Philip Meulenbroek and Pepijn Luijkx were enough to quell the challenge of Rot-Weiss.

Dutch international Sander De Wijn, who was named man of the match said: "The score didn't look like it was that hard but our opponent was the German champion, a great team. It was a complete team effort which showed how fully focused we were."

With UHC Hamburg and Rot-Weiss Köln eliminated, Germany's last remaining hope of success in this year's EHL suddenly rested on the shoulders of 2014 EHL champions Harvestehuder THC. And standing between HTHC and a place in the FINAL4 was the formidable force of Oranje Zwart.

It was an extraordinary game, which HTHC won 6-5 in shoot-out, but not before OZ had taken a 4-1 lead in normal time after a goal rush led by Jelle Galema. For most teams, this would be curtains, but HTHC has incredible resilience and a hat-trick from Michael Korper and a goal from Jan Heuer was enough to send the game to shoot-out. With the shoot-out all square after the first round, it was Korper who held his nerve to score the winning goal in sudden death.

Speaking afterwards, goal-scoring hero Körper said his team always have belief in everything that they do.



"The team spirit we have, this whole club is like a family. On the pitch, off the pitch, it is the same. We fight for each other until the end."

The FINAL4 line-up was completed by KO16 host club Amsterdam H&BC, who were given a scare by Real Club de Polo. Early efforts from Robbert Tigges and Valentin Verga put the Dutch side in control before a goal from Argentina international Matias Rey completely changed the balance of the match. However, cheered on by a packed stadium, Amsterdam survived the test and kept alive hopes of winning their first EHL title.

"We defended really well in a tough game with lots of nice one-on-one battles", said Amsterdam's Tigges. "It was pretty physical from both sides. It was quite tight and I think, in the end, our goalie [Laurens Goedegebuure] saved us a little bit." ●

HOCKEY SHOWCASES ITS POWER TO DO GOOD

As we prepare for a summer of high class hockey, starting in London as some of the best teams in the world contest the men's and women's Champions Trophies and then in Rio, where the Olympic hockey medallists will be crowned, it is easy to overlook the other end of the hockey spectrum – the grassroots game. But there is so much going on in this area of hockey and it is important that we recognise the work of some of the unsung heroes who are using the sport as a tool for social improvement.







Hockey is a sport that prides itself on transcending gender, age and, increasingly, social class. It is a game that can be enjoyed on a sandy, rubble-strewn pitch as much as it can on a smooth artificial pitch. It is also a sport that, alongside so many other sports, is a tool used to promote healthy lifestyles and well-being within communities. The work going on around the international community is living proof that hockey can bring people together, overcome social problems and help educate people to live better, healthier lives.

Let's take a quick look at some of the good work being carried out by the hockey community across the continents.

One Thousand Hockey Legs is a project based in **India** that introduces hockey to school kids. It's a programme that was started by the K Arumugam, the founder of the non-governmental organisation Hockey Citizen Group, with the aim of providing children with an opportunity to understand, play and enjoy hockey. The programme structure includes forming one or two teams per school, conducting friendly matches between schools, forming a team in each city, participating in state and national level competitions, holding exhibition matches, organising an annual hockey run and mentoring talent for the national team

The sub-plot of One Thousand Hockey Legs is to help lift disadvantaged children out of poverty and give them an opportunity for a better life. It's mission statement

says "Our vision is to provide a career for underprivileged kids (11-15), an opportunity to play sport in their school thereby ensuring they attend school regularly and take an interest in sport and academics."

The idea behind the project can be traced back to 2008 when India failed to qualify for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Arumugam founded the Hockey Citizen Group, and One Thousand Legs was the first project under that umbrella. The passionate hockey fan's aim was to start raising the level of hockey in the country from the grassroots upwards.

Explaining in greater depth just what One Thousand Legs hopes to achieve, Arumugam says: "The chief target of the NGO is to bring 500 new kids into hockey in each city in India. The idea is to start and then run hockey teams in at least 25 schools in each city." Currently, OTHLs is working with teachers in 80 schools across five cities.

This target has already been reached in Delhi, and an additional target was met when three young players from Delhi were selected to play in the 2015 Junior National Championships.

"It is an uphill task, but so far, we have introduced about 2,400 children to the sport," said Arumugam, who received the Hockey India Outstanding Achievement of the Year award in 2014.

Haiti was struck by a devastating earthquake six years ago, with 160,000 people losing their lives and a further 1.5 million people displaced. The Caribbean island has been rebuilding communities ever since. While repairing



buildings, re-installing water supplies and getting the infrastructure of the country up and running again has been the main priority, the health and welfare of the population remains a concern to both the government and aid agencies. Providing sporting activities is one way that this rebuilding process helps to teach young people how to live a healthy and social lives, and it is why the hockey tournaments organised by the **Sports Centre for Hope** are playing such an important aspect of the country's healing process.

Boney Georges, programme planning officer at the Sports Centre for Hope, explained that physical education does not appear on the curriculum of most schools on the island, only pupils at the very largest schools have access to sporting facilities and opportunities. The Hope Sports Centre helps communities regain some control over their lives as well as showing them how to live a healthy lifestyle through sport.

When the International Hockey Federation (FIH) **Targeted Assisted Programme (TAP)** was launched in **West Africa** in 2014, it had six aims, including: raising the standard of umpiring and coaching throughout Ghana and neighbouring countries; for the Ghana women's national team to qualify for a world level event by 2022; and to deliver more equipment and resources to the West African region.

The TAP project is part of FIH's global initiative to drive forwards sustainable projects by working in partnership with continental and national associations. In the case of West Africa, this involved a joint venture between England

Hockey, UK Sport, the African Hockey Federation and the Ghana Hockey Association

By June 2015, 39 Level One and Level Two coaches from **Ghana, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Togo, Cote D'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Nigeria** had all been accredited. In the same time scale, 21 umpires had also received their training.

In addition, at the 2015 EuroHockey Championships, 1,200 sticks were collected and sent to the TAP organisers.

Ghana women will be competing in this year's Hockey World League Round One and, if all plans come into place – will be hosting the event in September on a new artificial surface.

Over in Asia, 250 children are benefiting from the work of Andrea Thumshirn and her ongoing project with children in deprived, rural areas.

Hockey Village India was founded by Andrea in 2010, with the first hockey village, Garh Himmat Singh, opening in Rajasthan. Since then, four more Hockey Villages have opened across India.

Andrea, who was a German national junior player and coach in her home country, outlines what life is like for the children in these areas. "Most of our kids are from poor farmer families. We provide them with everything from shoes, socks, shorts, shirts, sticks, shin pads, track suits. We provide transport, accommodation and food when we go out for matches and tournaments. We even bought three cows to provide milk so the little ones get some proteins. These kids are smaller in size and more



skinny than the same age group kids in the cities.”

Through the Hockey Villages, the pupils are given a basic, modern education, including English, mathematics and computing as well as drawing and arts. Then the pupils get sport – hockey - every day. Andrea explains: “Besides education, we believe in sports, as sports is important for a healthy body, for so many important skills in life like team spirit, motivation, going to our limits and achieving something.”

Providing sporting opportunities is vital for the health and social well-being of a nation, and no-where has an opportunity been seized more eagerly than in the Oceania region, where both the **Solomon Islands** and **Vanuatu** have used hockey to great effect in the process of building communities.

Vanuatu suffered devastating damage after cyclone Pam wreaked havoc on the Oceania island in March 2015. With 16 people losing their lives and many thousands affected by one of the worse storms to hit the area this century, the people of Vanuatu have been rebuilding their lives in the months since the cyclone struck.

Following the disaster, the hockey family pulled together to support the small Pacific island which is home to just over 260,000 people.

The Vanuatu Hockey Federation received assistance from the Oceania Hockey Federation and the Vanuatu National Olympic Committee which enabled them to send their teams to the competition, while from further afield, the European Hockey Federation provided funding to source a team coach.

The support paid off as the Vanuatu hockey teams picked up a silver medal in the men’s event, losing to Fiji in the final; while the women won bronze after they defeated Ton

When asked what the experience had been like for the players, captain of the women’s team, Belinda Nampas, said: “As a team we tried our very best. We

had to overcome many personal, physical and financial challenges to be able to participate in these Games but the sacrifices were worth it. We not only got to play the sport we love but we got to experience the wonderful culture of Papua New Guinea and form new friendships with other athletes from other countries and sports disciplines.”

Just 14 months ago, the Solomon Islands had no hockey structure to speak of. But in just a few short months, there has been a complete turn around and, in 2015, the Solomon Islands were crowned the “Oceania TAP Star”, after they embraced the ideals and aims of the FIH and Oceania Hockey Federation TAP project.

Solomon Islands has a history of hockey but in recent years, a lack of leadership, government instability and natural disasters meant hockey had disappeared.

To reintroduce the sport, Oceania Hockey Federation and the newly formed Solomon Island Hockey Federation (SIHF) got together to promote and the idea of a smaller game – Hockey5s.

This was the catalyst needed to kickstart hockey in the region, and by the time the 2015 Pacific Games was held in July in Papua New Guinea, they had a men’s team that was not only ready for entry, but returned with a bronze medal.

In addition, SIHF recently held its first Secondary Schools Championships with six boys and six girls teams competing and four clubs have started up. In a country where sporting opportunities, particularly for girls and women, are sparse, this has really addressed a serious need.

Turkey is a country with more than its fair share of issues, but in the sphere of hockey it is making great progress. A seminar on indoor hockey was held last year and was attended by more than 250 coaches, umpires, club managers and players. a similar seminar is planned for the outdoor game in the coming months.

The indoor hockey seminar received Olympic



Solidarity funding and was organised and run by the Turkish Hockey Federation. As in West Africa and Oceania, this development work in Turkey is part of the FIH Targeted Assistance Programme (TAP). FIH is working with the Turkish Hockey Federation, the European Hockey Federation (EHF) and Netherlands National Association – KNHB – on developing a long-term strategy to build a good participation base for hockey, both indoors and outdoors in the southern European country.

Speaking of this seminar, the Turkish Hockey Federation President, Kivanç Hudogan, said: "I would like to thank FIH and the EHF for their continued support for us, as exemplified by their support for this seminar. From all that we have seen and feedback received, the Education and Development seminar had a great attendance and was really beneficial. Without doubt it has accelerated the progress of hockey development in Turkey. Thanks to this progress we believe that we will succeed in Round One of the Hockey World League for men and also do well at the U18 European Championships for girls and boys."

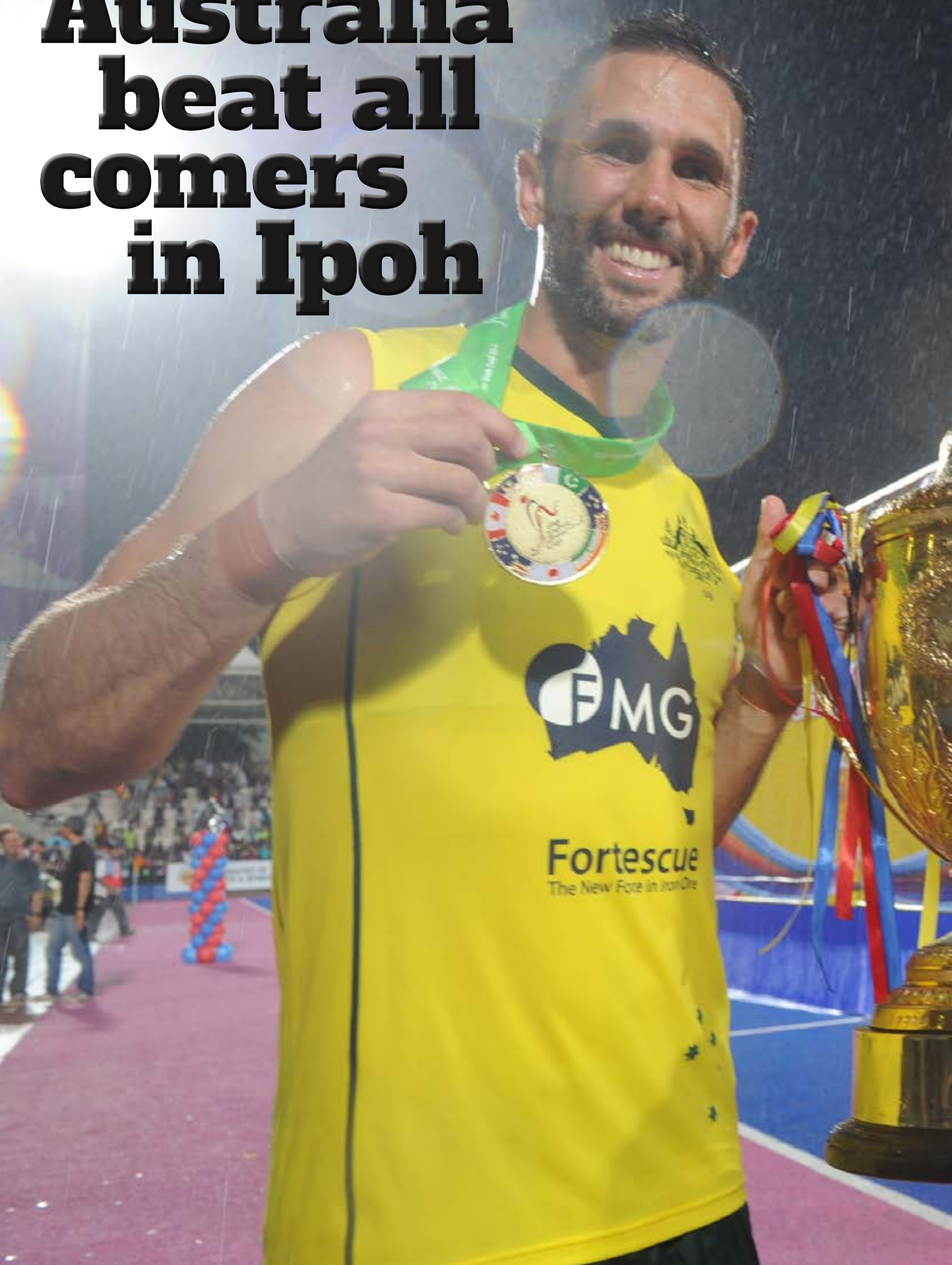
The men are currently ranked 51st in the FIH World Rankings, while the women are ranked at 36.

Both the men's and women's teams competed in the 2014 Hockey World League Round One competitions, the women finished fourth in their event in the Czech Republic, while the men finished fifth in Croatia.

These are just a few examples from around the world that demonstrate just how powerful sport can be in bringing communities together, despite the difficulties every day life may be throwing at them. As Nelson Mandela said: "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair."

If you know of some great work going on in an underprivileged community get in touch via the Planethockeymag forum or email me on sarah@planethockeymag.com ●

Australia beat all comers in Ipoh





It was the Kookaburra Show at the 25th Sultan Azlan Cup in Ipoh, Malaysia as the world number one team stormed to a 4-0 victory over India. It was the Australian team's ninth victory in the competition and their fourth gold medal in the past six years.

Two goals apiece from Tom Craig and Matt Gohdes – who celebrated 150 caps – was enough to see off the challenge from the team ranked eighth in the world.

Australia came into the tournament determined to get revenge for their defeat in the final at the hands of New Zealand last year and they didn't drop a point in their seamless road to victory.

Kookaburras Head Coach, Graham Reid said: "It was a really first class performance for the boys today. Good to see some of the things we've worked on a lot this tour being put into action.

"It was a really good defensive effort, one particularly in the third quarter and one towards the end of the game. The boys really worked hard throughout the game. It was great to see a couple of nice goals in there from Tom as well.

"There's a long way to go to Rio, so it's important to celebrate these milestones, but we'll be back into training next week."

As the most recent addition to the Kookaburra's squad, Craig has got his senior career off to a glittering start with 19 goals from 23 games.

The final itself got off to a quiet start as both sides tested each other in the opening quarter and, in fact, it was India who looked the sharper as they used the flanks well to make in-roads behind the Kookaburra defence.

However, it was Australia who opened scoring in the 25th minute as Craig was the recipient of a precision pass from Flynn Ogilvie. Despite two penalty corners, Australia were unable to build on this score before half-time.

India were awarded a penalty corner in the 33rd minute but the attempt by Hermanpreet Singh was well saved by Kookaburra 'keeper Andrew Charter.

Australia doubled their lead just two minutes later when Craig bagged his second as he deflected a cross from Mathew Dawson. And India's chances of winning their first gold medal at the event since 2010 all but disappeared when Matt Ghodes made it 3-0 in the 43rd.

It was Ghodes who scored the fourth goal in the 57th minute, and Australia continue to look ominously unbeatable in this Olympic year.

In the bronze medal match, New Zealand beat Malaysia 5-4 in shoot-out after the match was drawn at 3-3. For Malaysia, it was heartbreak at the last



hurdle as they were leading 3-2 with just seconds left on the clock. Black Stick's Kane Russell fired home the last-gasp equaliser to make it 3-3 and take the game into a shootout, which New Zealand won 5-4.

Malaysia got their goals in regulation time through Mohd Ramadan Rosli and two for Fitri Saari while New Zealand's goal scorers were Phillip Hayden and two for Russell.

In the shootout, Mohd Firhan Ashaari, Mohd Faiz Helmi, Mohd Shahril Saabah and Haziq Shamsul found the target while Fitri missed the fifth flick.

For the Kiwis, the scorers were Hugo Inglis, Nick Wilson, Shay Neal, James Coughlan and George Muir.

Malaysian national coach Stephen van Huizen was disappointed for the boys as "they had given their best in front of the home crowd.

"After a hard game against India, we actually showed character against New Zealand. I'm actually very disappointed for the boys, we deserved the third spot," he said.

In the match for fifth place, Pakistan defeated Canada 3-1, with goals from Fareed Ahmed, Ajaz Ahmad and Mohamed Arshad. Canada responded through Iain Smythe's 51st-minute goal, but it was too little, too late.

While the Green Shirts were pleased to end on a win, they were disappointed to have won only two of their games at the event. Former captain Mohammad Imran, who was a part of the team that played the Azlan Shah final in 2011 when they lost 3-2 to Australia, believes it was playing individually rather than as a unit which cost the Greenshirts a chance to contest the trophy.





Speaking to The Express Tribune, Imran said: "It wasn't a good performance. I can say that Pakistan could've been in the final if they played as a team. It was individual play and individual mistakes that affected the performance."

However, Imran was full of praise for the winners: "Australia were the best side in the tournament and deserved to win but we could've defeated India, New Zealand and Malaysia," he added. "We really need to improve on our defending as we gave the opposition a lot of opportunities in our half of the field. The goalkeeping must improve as well."

For India, who have been making marked progress in recent months, the result provided a chance to take stock of where they are among their top ranking competitors. Captain Sardar Singh said: "This was a good experience for youngsters, who were playing with the senior team for the first time. In particular, Harmanpreet, Surender and Harjeet showed that they are capable of playing at the higher level and fit into the team perfectly."

Coach Roelant Oltmans also added, "It is a good preparation for Rio. We have identified some of our weaknesses, which a tournament like this highlights, and can now work on them extensively to make sure we can have a strong showing at the Olympics." ●



Thanks to Sam Harrison, Tiffany Horton, Anna Bannatyne, Lucy Bannatyne and Rachel McKee.

2016 STICKS

What's Out There



WE DECIDED TO
SHOWCASE A FEW OF
THE 2016 STICKS THAT
ARE OUT THERE.

SOME NEW STICKS,
SOME NEW DESIGNS,
SOME NEW SHAPES,
SOME NEW GRAPHICS.

HERE ARE THE
FIRST NINE (IN NO
PARTICULAR ORDER).



KOOKABURRA IGNITE

*"Using the latest in stick technology,
this is the ultimate players stick"*

PROFILE: i-Bow with KVR = 24mm at 275mm

CONSTRUCTION: Tri-Core engineering with Fabricated Carbon and Nano technology - 95% CARBON & 5% FIBREGLASS

FEATURES:

- Tri-Core
- Nano Composite
- Fabricated Carbon
- Skill Zone
- KCF
- CVT
- SFR

HEAD SHAPE: Kookaburra Euro Maxi

WEIGHT: Light & Medium

LENGTH: 36.5", 37.5"

Straighter than a lot of the newest sticks out there and has a very different balance in the hand. Gives good ball control on the dribble and a consistently solid hit...



GRYPHON TOUR SAMURAI

"A super dynamic and specialist shaped stick #theyjustflickfaster"

PROFILE: SAM = 23mm bow at 205mm with concave face

CONSTRUCTION: High processed carbon, high chemical resistance Kevlar and rearranged fibreglass

FEATURES:

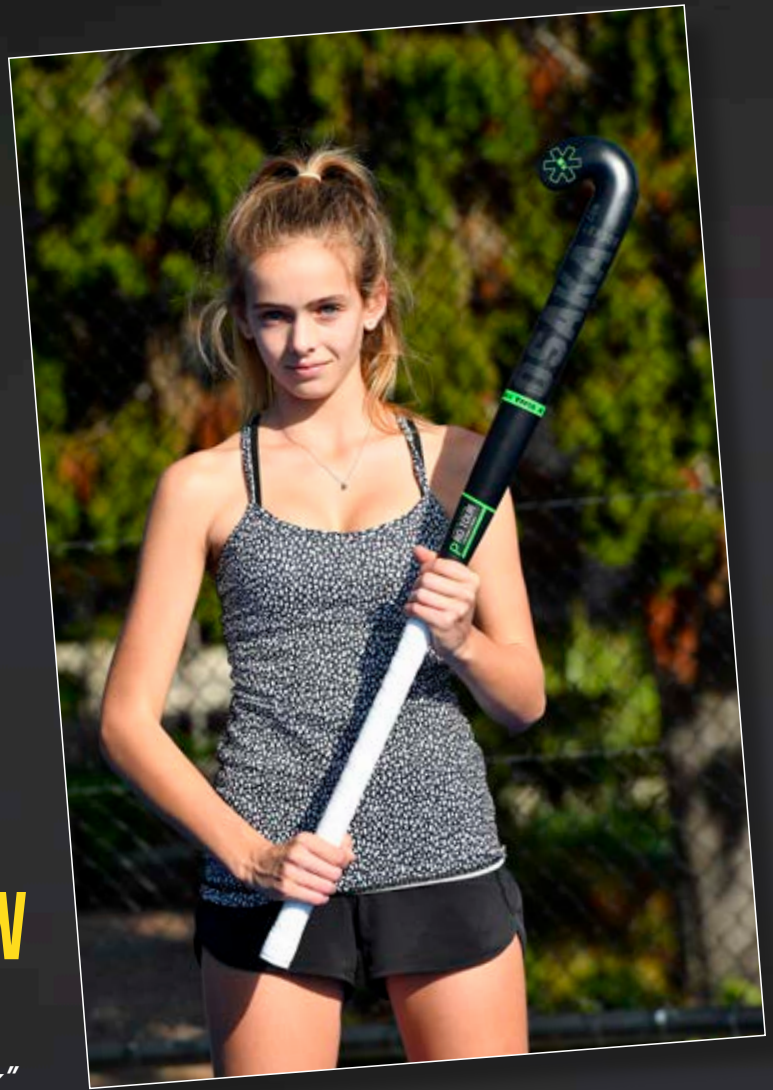
- Silicon Sleeve Technology
- Resin matrix
- Combined lightweight, high stiffness for power

HEAD SHAPE: Maxi Head with 2mm forward angle to the toe (for extra control on the reverse)

WEIGHT: Light / Medium

LENGTH: 36.5", 37.5", 38.5"

This is the mould flickers dream of, great feel on the ball even for a top end stick but still with the expected power...



OSAKA PRO TOUR LIMITED LOW BOW

"The definition of party in the front and business in the back"

PROFILE: LowBow 24mm

CONSTRUCTION: 100% Premium Japanese Carbon Fibre

FEATURES:

- Constructed with the finest grade of Japanese Carbon Fibre, reinforced in essential impact zones with Kevlar fibre.
- Pro SoftTouch Grip
- Original Osaka Hologram

HEAD SHAPE: Maxi

WEIGHT: 540g - 590g

LENGTH: 36.5", 37.5", 38.5"

Feels a little strange at first but is great on the ball and hits very well..



JDH X79TT

"The power to weight ratio helps hitting, slapping, pushing and aerial power - it's special"

PROFILE: Low Bow

CONSTRUCTION: Estimated at 90% carbon with Kevlar & Aramid reinforcing in the head

FEATURES:

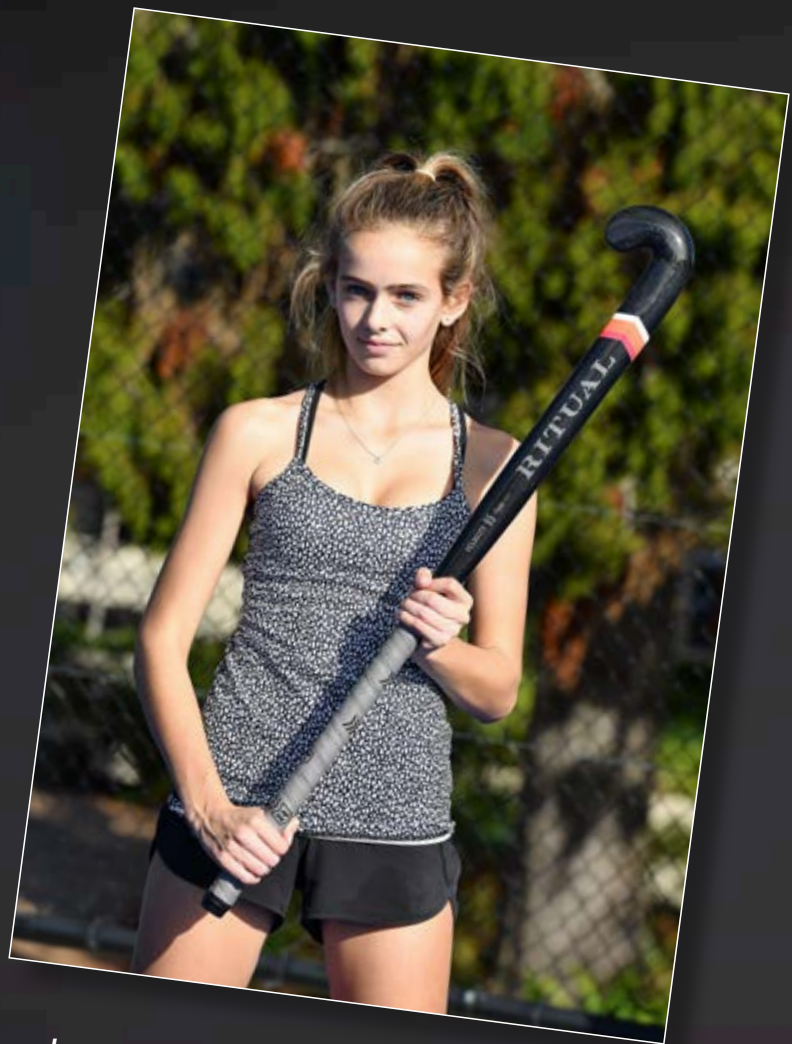
- Extra carbon added to impact areas on the stick for more durability
- Tapered Toe for better control & precision
- A new lay up which still allows a great feel to the stick when dribbling the ball and trapping
- Nano Tech Resign System

HEAD SHAPE: Maxi with tapered toe

WEIGHT: Light

LENGTH: 36.5", 37.5", 38.5"

Using a head shape like this actually feels like cheating. Great balance on the dribble and a solid hit...



RITUAL VELOCITY 95

"The perfect stick for dynamic players seeking a state-of-the-art edge to their game."

PROFILE: 24mm at 250mm

CONSTRUCTION: 95% Carbon / 5% Kevlar

FEATURES:

- Innovative late curve design
- Curve profile and optimum face angle assist precision skills, out wide and on both sides of the body
- Aggressive shaft curve allows easy lifting and flicking on the run
- Anti-Shock Foam
- Dutch Chamois
- Silica face coating

HEAD SHAPE: 45 degree Maxi Centre Weighted Head

WEIGHT: 540g

LENGTH: 36.5", 37.5", 38.5"

Feels like nothing in your hands so easy on the dribble, but still hits balls like a bullet being fired...



ATLAS BLACK JET J CURVE

"Yielding maximum power and exceptional feel & ball control", the flagship model"

PROFILE: J Curve / 24mm Mid Bow

CONSTRUCTION: Estimated at 90-95% carbon

FEATURES:

- A rigid, powerful composition with a Medium bow and a high balance point providing a light feel.

HEAD SHAPE: Maxi Head

WEIGHT: 565g

LENGTH: 36.5", 37.5"

A fantastically balanced stick with a great hit...



TK P1 PLUS DELUXE

"Carbon rich specification for excellent power potential and the ultimate flick performance"

PROFILE: 25mm Late Bow Extreme

CONSTRUCTION: 100% Carbon

FEATURES:

- Hyper carbon configuration
- Integrated dampening system

HEAD SHAPE: Maxi Head

WEIGHT: Light / Medium

LENGTH: 37.5"

Nice feel on the ball and a great bow for flicking...



GRAYS GR11000 JUMBOW PRO MAXI

*"A stick for the modern day player,
boasting one of the lowest bows available"*

PROFILE: 25mm Jumbow

CONSTRUCTION: Graphene Carbon: 90%, Aramid: 10%

FEATURES:

- Octagrip handle for additional fingertip control
- Graphene fibre matrix construction formula with fully integrated carbon, aramid and graphene resin system for increased energy transfer and power when hitting.
- Energy absorbing basalt and IFA on the surface of the head to enhance control.
- Energy Reduction Handle sleeve construction reduces vibration.
- AR Durazone heel protection increases durability.
- PP Enhanced Low Backhand Zone provides stronger protection.

HEAD SHAPE: Maxi

WEIGHT: Light

LENGTH: 36.5", 37.5"

The big bow makes aerials and 3d play a dream, good feel on the ball...



ADIDAS CARBONBRAID

"This could actually be the ultimate stick"

PROFILE: 25mm at 250mm

CONSTRUCTION: 100% carbon engineered

FEATURES:

- Fully braided for exceptional feel and ultimate power while striking.
- Inner soft core for maximum cushioning and minimised vibrations.
- Touch compound on the face for increased grip, control, accuracy and ball contact.

HEAD SHAPE: MIDI HEAD

WEIGHT: Light

LENGTH: 36.5"

Amazingly light weight but more power than most people can handle, has a different yet still good feel on the ball...



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Vorsprung durch Technik

