



What a Year!

2019/21 was a strange old season and an up and down ride on the coronavirus train for all of us, but as usual we cracked on and our commitment to the club, determination, humour and love for hockey helped us through. Reflecting on the year that has past we have achieved a lot together!

We hosted an amazing festival day in August 2020 for our under 19's led by GB player and elite coach Mikey Hoare.

We developed and committed to following Covid guidelines for training, fixtures and events which we are delighted to say helped us to keep safe and keep going.

During lock down times we got creative with virtual pumpkin carving competitions, a Christmas bake off, quizzes, zoom fitness and living room hockey as well as our March challenge that led to us collectively covering much further than our plan of the perimeter of Wales as we actually achieved a grand total of 3,325 miles through walking, running and cycling.

We launched 'Hockey Heroes' for 4-8 year olds which over 30 children and families have enjoyed and we're made up this has led to growing our hockey family even further. Launching this programme included training 11 of our coaches and young leaders to run the programme who we've learnt not only have super powers, but have endless enthusiasm to make sure our kids have fun and are happy which is always our number one aim. Our third programme starts 14th September [Hockey Heroes / Home \(englandhockey.co.uk\)](http://HockeyHeroes/Home(englandhockey.co.uk))

We got a new set of goals! For years we've nurtured our one set of goals back to life which are still going strong but now we have our much needed second set due to our successful fundraising last year.

Our junior section has continued to go from strength to strength with new 8-13 year olds joining our sessions and enjoying hockey every week, taking our numbers to around 40-50 regular attenders. Our coaching team has also continued to grow and develop. With this energy, commitment and the expertise of our coaches we are seeing this is paying off in us having an increasing number of our youngsters getting selected to play within the England Hockey development pathway sessions and fixtures. Our lead coach Craig has also been selected to coach at these regional sessions which we are massively proud of.

We ran our first summer holiday hockey camp for juniors in August 2021 which was a great success.

We've partnered with a local family run sports wear company 'Malooka sports wear' so we can provide our juniors with a full kit as part of their registering for hockey this year. They'll definitely be looking the bees knees at training and competitions in their new clobber!

We continue to see new people of all ages and abilities joining the hockey section which is helping us to strengthen our squads, games, training and social opportunities. One bit of consistent feedback we get is how welcoming and friendly the club is which is really important to us.





Our goals for 2021/22

Settling in to the changes

We're really excited by the whole England Hockey governance restructure that has recently taken place. This has led to big changes in how things are organised, administered and also the teams we will play in our competitions. This year will be about our senior teams settling in to this and hopefully having a season that is not so interrupted by Covid. We'll be work with England Hockey to shape the development of local competitions and development structures for our juniors this year too which is the next stage of the plans for England Hockey. [A Structure Fit For The Future | England Hockey](#)

Equipment investment through sponsorship and fundraising

We're already pretty gifted when it comes to our facilities set up (achieved through blood, sweat and tears over the years) but there are a few things on our wish list to make it even better including:

Two further sets of hockey goals. This will allow us to have 4 matches/sessions taking place on our fabulous pitch at a time and would take us to being the lead hockey facility in the area. It will also help us to attract more competition opportunities (particularly for our juniors and summer league events) as well the hosting of England Hockey pathway development centre sessions. Fundraising target of £7,000;

Pitch-side dug outs. These would really add some jazz to our pitch as well as keep us snug when its rainy and our kit dry. Fundraising target.... £6.5k

We've already got our finger on the pulse with grant applications and we've got a community fundraising box in the Waterloo and Crosby Tesco's currently so we encourage you to please post your blue tokens in to these when you shop (ask behind the counter for them and get as many as you can!) If we get the most tokens we'll have a chance of being selected as the project they will fund. Other ways in which you can support us are to promote our pitch side sponsorship board opportunities. (Contact Tom Pfeiffer for more details on 07480739117 or tompfeiffer@hotmail.co.uk). If you have any rainy day funds and love the club then donations are of course welcome all year round too

Coaching and volunteer development

The biggest magic ingredient for us is our amazing volunteers, their commitment, enthusiasm and the skills they bring. We are really lucky to have such a strong committee and coaching team and this year we want to recognise this through celebrating their contributions and investing in their development. Some of the areas we want to invest in are:

more in-house coaching development opportunities as well as England Hockey coaching accreditations which we will fund;

offer more basic first aid training to our players and volunteers;

celebrate what our volunteers do for us through 'thankyou' events;

develop and share role descriptions for each of our volunteer positions so we can encourage others to think about if they can get involved and to help us with succession planning in the future. This will include developing an information page about who's who so you can get to know your committee and our volunteers a bit better;

we'd love to see more parents getting involved in helping us to run more regular hockey festivals and matches for our youngsters so we're on a recruitment drive to get parents involved more.

Making things easier to manage and keep in touch with you through technology

Spond: we've pretty much all got to grips with using Spond now (the app we use to for you to confirm your attendance at training sessions's, matches, events etc) and we really want you to continue committing to using this with us. This is working great and has been really helpful for Covid track and trace purposes too.

Payment systems: we are going to be working on our systems for taking payments when we need to (starting with junior sessions) to make administration of this easier for both you and the volunteers in the background overseeing this.

England hockey system: we'll be learning how to use the new England Hockey system for fixtures and player registration. Captains will share more details about this soon with players so you are all set up and ready to play in league games.

Website: we hope to more regularly review our webpage content on the Northern club website [Hockey - The Northern Club](#)

Social media: this is something we are already on board with. Please follow us on Face book (The Northern Hockey Club), Twitter (@NorthernHockeyC), Instagram (the_northern_hockey_club)



Key dates and information

Annual general meeting (AGM)

We haven't had a full hockey sections AGM meeting this year due to Covid disruptions but your committee has continued to meet in the background regularly via zoom and we hope this update has got you up to speed with all the activity that has been going on. We're delighted that all of our committee members have agreed to continue with their roles into this season and we will review election of roles the usual way at the end of this season (April 2022)

Thankyou

to our Lancashire ladies legends Wendy and Cec - with the recent restructuring of hockey governance that has been led by England Hockey, the Lancashire Ladies hockey committee had its last meeting a few months ago which two of our long standing members (Wendy McDowall and Cecilia Jaques) have been an important part of for years. Their contribution has been outstanding and we are grateful of the wisdom and support they have brought to the both hockey locally, our club and what they continue to bring now as playing members. Thanks and cheers ladies!

Date for postponed senior's end of season dinner

is Saturday 9th October 2021 - a bit random we know, but we also know we all love a good party and a lot of you have already paid for your ticket over a year ago. We'll be celebrating our last full season (2019/20) on this date and we have all our shiny trophies engraved and ready to give out for those of you that remembered what happened that season. We hope to see lots of you there for a good old knees up.

Junior parties

we hope to work together with some of our parents and juniors to get some dates in the diary for junior socials soon and will start to chat about this when we get back in September

League start date (seniors)

is Saturday 25th September - fixtures and the new team structures can be found here [Information & Downloads \(northwesthl.org\)](http://Information & Downloads (northwesthl.org))

Hockey Heroes and junior sessions

start back Tuesday 14th September - see Spond for updates or contact Simone on 07939864592 simone.mccaskill@hotmail.com

Junior Fixtures

South Lancashire have plans for fixtures from U8s to U16s enabling all ages to play development hockey in a friendly but competitive environment. We do need our junior players and parents to commit to attending these fixtures. The dates will be published within weeks. Jude would like to take this opportunity to thank that small but reliable number of parents who do make their children available for competition regularly. It makes the effort to organise fixtures worthwhile when you get the children on the pitch playing and representing Northern.

Congratulations and good luck

to all our players going on to university soon. We have had a number of fabulous players who have come through our juniors and seniors who are now flying the nest to enjoy university life. We hope you'll come back for a game when you can and that Northern will always be your home. Best of luck and we hope you enjoy the fun and banter of university hockey.

Your club membership:

Northern club membership subscription invoices will be coming out to you in September if you are an existing member. We ask you to please put your subscription payments in place as soon as possible and before the deadline. We are a not-for-profit club and depend on your subscription fees to stay afloat and make it the great club that it is. Membership for under 13's is free but we ask everyone (including under 13's) to please complete a membership form so we can monitor membership and also keep you updated on all the great things that go on at the club outside of hockey. If you have just joined us or have not completed a membership form or signed up to the club email bulletins you can do this here [Online Membership Form - The Northern Club](#)

Enjoy the season everyone and thanks for helping to make the Northern club hockey section a great one.



This update has been brought to you by your Committee including...



Charlotte Dunham

ladies 1's vice-captain, development squad captain, club coach, welfare officer, club umpire, co-social secretary & *Binx the dogs number 1 fan*



Craig Moran

lead coach, safeguarding/welfare co-lead & *the loudest person you've ever met on a pitch with the biggest smile to match the volume*



Tom Collins

men's 1s captain, club coach, club umpire, safeguarding/welfare officer & *closet karaoke king*



Tom Pfeiffer

men's chair and committee co-chair, kit coordinator, co-treasurer, co-social secretary & *longest standing club player, striker and only supporter of Germany in the hockey section during this years EUAF world cup*



Simone McCaskill

ladies chair and committee co-chair, safeguarding/welfare co-lead, DBS, committee and hockey heroes administrator, club umpire & *most active member on the Northern hockey face book page, as well as being our top Northern club enthusiast over the last decade*



Paul Lewis-Freeman

men's 2's captain, committee IT lead & *son of our very own Dave Lewis Northern hockey legend who walked this committee path over years gone by too (keeping it in the family and we love it)*

Dom Batty

co-treasurer, hockey facilitates maintenance lead, committee advisor & *chief astro gate lock replacer as well as crisis manager of any crisis*



Nicola Finn

ladies 1's captain & *the person most excited about this season of hockey with winning on her mind!*



Grant Rolland

men's 1's vice-captain, club coach, umpire & *our resident Scottish legend who promises he's sorting us a tour in 2022*



Jude Williams

junior development lead, safeguarding/welfare officer & *if you can't get hold of her she'll be golfing or sorting out the junior kits*



Gary Smythe

club coach, club umpire & *you always need to be ready for his South African humour!*

Jo Henderson

fundraising, first aid lead & *our in house direct link to the army should we need them to come to our rescue!*

Riaz Siddiky

parent representative & *super hero Dad to Austin*



Cecilia Jaques -

committee advisor & *words of wisdom wonder woman*