



Kent Hockey Association

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WELCOME to the web site of the Kent Hockey Association.
15 March 2005

**Headlines: BURNT ASH HIT THE HIGH SPOTS!!!; EH COMPETITIONS;
MINI HOCKEY; LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS; ADRIAN'S CRYSTAL BALL;
HOSPITALITY; COUNTY HOCKEY;**

BURNT ASH HC – LONDON SPORTS CLUB OF THE YEAR.

Congratulations to Burnt Ash (Bexley) HC, who have received the London Active Sport Partnership's Club of the Year Award. Considering the wide range of sports and the vast number of Clubs in London, this is great for hockey and fantastic for Burnt Ash. The basic requirement is to have reached Clubmark status, which B.A. did some time ago. Beyond that, the Award reflects the quality of the work with their junior section, liaison with local schools and overall involvement in coaching and development in South-east London. Let's see if other Clubs on the County can follow this lead and put hockey a bit more into the limelight!

EH COMPETITIONS

Kent's interest in the main Men's EH Competitions has come to an end for this season with BBHC going down 1-4 to Trojans in the Harrod's Trophy and Old Bordenians 2-5 to South Nottingham in the Vase.

Holcombe lost 1-2 to St. Neots in the Ladies' Vase, but Tunbridge Wells have kept the County flag flying with a good 4-1 win over Battersea Wanderers to go through into the semi-finals of the Ladies' Trophy where they will meet Purley Walcountians. Well done and best of luck!!!

U-11 GIRL'S MINI HOCKEY AND JUNIOR UMPIRES

The Kent U-11 Girl's mini-hockey championship was held at Bromley on Sunday 6 February. A splendid day's hockey culminated in a gripping Final in which Sutton Valence Prep School eventually overcame Junior Kings 3-1

to become Champions for 2005.

The day also gave the young umpires who have come up through the Kent Young Umpires Development Programme a chance to show their skills.

For a full account, see [NEWSLETTER](#).

MEN'S SOUTH LEAGUE PLAY-OFFS

The Men's South League committee has now decided that it would not be practical to try to complete the play-offs in one day if they want to keep to a single venue, and so these will now be spread over the week-end of 9/10 April at Haslemere HC. The timetable is: Saturday 9 April, Semi-finals 1300 and 1500 (two pitches). Sunday 10 April, Finals 1300, 1500.

ADRIAN'S CRYSTAL BALL!!

There is a strong rumour going round the Men's Kent Leagues that Lea-Ray gave Adrian Kearney a crystal ball as a Christmas present. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!** Notification of match cancellations, postponements, rearrangements etc **MUST** be sent to him by ordinary terrestrial means – e-mail, phone, carrier pigeon, smoke signal, whatever.

HOSPITALITY

Hockey has always set great store on hospitality and the social side of the game in general (it is not that long ago that the County Association threatened to disaffiliate a club who tried to charge their visitors for teas!), and this was one of its great attractions. Inevitably, things change; with almost all games now on artificial turf and a dominant league programme, matches are spread out over the day and the 'five o'clock bash' has disappeared. Individual attitudes have undoubtedly changed somewhat as well. However, the situation seems to have gone too far – there are far too many reports of the visiting side disappearing immediately after the game without a word to anyone; this is particularly prevalent when the clubhouse is not adjacent to the pitch. There are times when this is unavoidable, but surely a quick word can be managed to the home skipper before going? Better if the matter can be mentioned when confirming the match arrangements. Overall, though, we should try to spare half an hour to talk over a cup of tea or a glass of beer, get to know the other side a bit better, swap views on EH.... Hockey is heavily dependent on its clubs – more so than most sports – and a club must be something more than just the place where you turn up, play, and go away again. The New Year Resolution is a horrible cliché, but perhaps for once we could make one, to put a bit of sociability back into hockey.

COUNTY HOCKEY

The future of County hockey has been in question for some time, particularly once the National Leagues became firmly established. It was questioned whether players/Clubs saw any particular point in it, it could only be fitted into the programme well after the end of the main season, and it was becoming increasingly expensive. However, replies to the EH questionnaire in the summer were apparently favourable, and they decided to continue with the County Championship. Kent Ladies had pulled out of their CC some years ago, and we have now had to decide whether to continue with the Men. Kent have been quite successful in recent years, and there is no doubt that the players who took part enjoyed themselves. However, there was no time for anything in the way of trial matches or any sort of selection process, and it fell entirely on the Team Manager to get together the best side he could. Costs have gone up sharply in the last few years, even when staging a home round, and one night away could bring a bill approaching £500. A bad year – distant Prelim Round and overnight trip for Finals – and we could be looking at £1500! Clubs were circulated earlier in the season, and there was virtually nil response. The Management Committee has now considered the matter and decided that Kent will not enter the Men's County Championship this year. A knock-on effect of this is that it effectively brings the Kent/Yorkshire weekend to an end, at least as a formal event for the County Senior side. It is likely that the Vets will continue on a more informal basis – they have always been more-or-less self-financing – anyone interested in taking part contact David Browne at Sevenoaks.

It is stressed that this is a decision for this season – if Clubs feel strongly enough, we can change direction next year – come along to the AGM in the Spring and let the Committee know your feelings!

Club and personal news and comments (moderate language, please!!) for inclusion in the website will be welcome. Contact [Eric Ford](mailto:EricFord@SevenoaksHockey.com):
EricBlindmary@aol.com

REEVES ■■■ NEYLAN

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