



HOCKEY WALES
HOCI CYMRU

HOCKEY WALES

ANNUAL

REPORT

2019–2020

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	— 4
CHAIRS MESSAGE	— 6
CEO MESSAGE	— 7
ENGAGEMENT	— 8
ACHIEVING POTENTIAL	— 18
THRIVING ENVIRONMENTS	— 26
PARTICIPATION	— 32
PARTNERSHIPS	— 38
FINANCIALS	— 41



LEAH WILKINSON 158 CAPS

2019 saw Senior Women's Captain, Leah Wilkinson, become Wales' Most Capped Sportsperson reaching a total of 158 caps.



INTRODUCTION

Following two years of consultation, 2019 saw the launch of the Hockey Wales strategic intent.

Our members and citizen journalists were encouraged to create a story to help Hockey Wales understand what motivated and inspired them, who influenced their story, and whether their experiences had encouraged them to continue with their hockey journey.

This consultation exercise enabled us to better engage and understand our members and provide us with an exciting opportunity to change our approach. This has resulted in developing an evolving, person centred, dynamic and learning led strategy.

Our strategic intent has been developed to reflect our priorities and has been designed to encourage our members and those in the wider hockey family to play an active role in ensuring we deliver 'World Class Hockey Experiences'.

We are also aiming to ensure the organisation is continuously striving for improvement and reflecting on our achievements aligned to the strategic intent.

Our outcomes are not an exhaustive list. We will demonstrate our success through operational delivery, evidence and impact. Through learning we want to be adaptable, flexible and amenable to change, actively encouraging our hockey family to collaborate with us in showcasing our learning and successes.

The 5 key areas now form our working structure and provide the foundation for the 2019/20 Annual Report.



MESSAGE FROM CHAIR



Fellow Hockey Lovers

We are at a moment of time that we have not experienced before. Hockey within our nation and beyond stopped, and our lives changed beyond what most thought was unimaginable. We have all been impacted in different ways. My thoughts are with everyone in our Hockey Family.

There are many people in our nation that have given up their own time to help others through the pandemic and many have also helped make hockey happen this year. Our volunteers' dedication and support is well recognised and our thanks go to you all.

The pandemic has revealed a lot about humanity and as a sport we continue to adapt to the new normal as well as shaping how hockey can continue to be enjoyed by so many in a safe way within Wales. The team have done a lot of work since early March to support clubs, members and volunteers, and continue to plan for a return to hockey working with Government, UK Sport and beyond to define a transition into this new normal. We will all get back to hockey someday soon!

Our domestic season did not complete in a way we would have liked but strong performances throughout the year have seen deserved progressions. Of course, the most notable will see Swansea Hockey Ladies team compete in the top National hockey division in the country. Having both Men & Women teams representing Welsh hockey is fantastic. I would welcome everyone to follow these respective journeys in the upcoming season and support in person to see some of the incredible young talent playing at both clubs.

Our Masters community continues to thrive, with more players and teams than ever before. It is amazing to see so many enjoying competitive sport long into their own playing careers; very much a testament to the Masters' community and the many people that contribute to this success.

At an international level we have seen more Welsh players selected for GB Hockey. Sarah Jones has played consistently in Pro League and has been joined by Leah Wilkinson, our captain and Wales' most capped International. There

have been call ups for Jacob Draper & Rupert Shipperley who have also both played Pro League this year. Having Welsh internationals representing GB is fantastic and our athletes' dedication is truly inspiring. Well done and good luck on your journey toward Team GB Olympic selection.

We have seen a number of new joiners to the staff and the board this year with the position of President also soon to be filled. Our strengthened team and our membership will help hockey move into the new normal as we get back to our sport over the coming months.

Best wishes

C Funnell

Conrad Funnell
Chair

MESSAGE FROM CEO



To our Hockey Family

As I write this message from home during a global pandemic, I have taken a moment to reflect on the major milestones we have achieved in the last 12 months. I hope you enjoy this report, as it allows us to showcase the fantastic achievements, tremendous progress, along with celebrating the commitment and dedication of our International athletes, performance pathway, clubs, players, umpires, coaches, volunteers, staff, officials and fans. I am extremely grateful for our wonderful Hockey Family - without whom, our achievements would not be possible.

Following the launch of our strategic intent in December, we vowed to engage our Hockey Family; create thriving environments; inspire all to achieve their ambition; provide opportunities for all and build on some of the excellent partnerships that help hockey happen. I am extremely grateful to the team at Hockey Wales for their hard work in embedding these commitments into their work and the continued support and contribution from our members as we continue as a learning led organisation.

This year has seen huge success on the international stage, our senior men demonstrated their capability on the world stage, retaining their position in the EuroHockey Championships consequently improving their world ranking position by 7 places to 18th in the world. In addition, we saw the dominance of Welsh players securing their position in the Great Britain set up, with Sarah Jones, Jacob Draper, Leah Wilkinson and Rupert Shipperley performing in the FIH Pro League and Olympic Qualifiers, all in contention for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics which has since been postponed to summer 2021.

As we continue to operate, we remain committed and will continue to work with our clubs and partners, remaining focused on public health, yet preparing for a supportive return to the game. The passion for hockey during lockdown has been overwhelming, I have enjoyed the interaction, level of activity and engagement via social media, inspiring us all for an exciting future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team at Hockey Wales; my colleagues have demonstrated their

professionalism and commitment to our sport adapting to the ever-changing situations we find ourselves in due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our performance support staff have ensured our athletes remain focused and supported in these uncertain times, working hard to ensure a seamless return to hockey activity. I am extremely grateful to work with such passionate and devoted individuals.

With a global emphasis on health, family and exercise. It has been an opportunity to reflect, prioritise and re-evaluate. We will move forward, we will return to our sport energised, invigorated and inspired. My hope is we remain kinder, become more compassionate and even more appreciative of our loved ones and the true meaning of Hockey Family. We must value our sport and each other!

Ria BM

Ria Burrage-Male
Chief Executive Officer

ENGAGEMENT



ENGAGEMENT

HOCKEY WALES MEMBERSHIP 2019-2020



Number of Clubs	80	22	24	20	14
Number of Members	6376*	761	2687	1238	1375
Number of Junior Members (U 13)	1580	229	635	386	330
Number of Senior Members (13+)	4796*	532	2052	852	1045

*includes 315 individual members



1116

JUNIORS FEMALE

464

JUNIORS MALE

3114

SENIORS FEMALE

1682

SENIORS MALE



ACHIEVED INSPORT BRONZE AWARD



3 WALKING HOCKEY SITES

Hockey **YOUNG** AMBASSADORS

Young Ambassador programme has entered its

7TH YEAR

welcoming

98

YOUNG PEOPLE in total



ENGAGED **26 CLUBS** WITH OUR SUMMER PROVISION



Games you can play anytime, anywhere!

ENGAGED

16

DOORSTEP SPORTS CLUBS



111 SCHOOLS in Wales registered

666 HOURS

of Hockey Wales supplied coaching in curriculum time

10559

reported unique participants in **11 LOCAL AUTHORITIES**



8 DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

established nationwide delivering sessions to children from **AGE 7-17**



Flyerz HOCKEY

Following the launch of Flyerz Hockey in 2018, we have been making strides towards our Disability Inclusion as an organisation 'off the pitch'. Working closely with Disability Sport Wales, we have seen success of an 18-month journey towards our Insport Bronze Award, an accreditation that enables us to strive to ensure that inclusion is embedded and by progressing through this accreditation provided with a platform to ensure we were becoming a 'Disability Inclusive' organisation.

Our focus on inclusive hockey and our Insport progression was driven initially from two of our Hockey Young Ambassadors, Harri Evans and Chloe Jordan, who were inspired off the back of their visit to Amsterdam in 2016 where they volunteered for the first time at the European ParaHockey Championships as part of their engagement with the EHF Youth Panel.

Their determination to bring Flyerz to Wales has now helped shape our new strategic intent to ensure that our sport is more inclusive to all, as well as significantly contributing to our success of achieving Insport Bronze.

In order to achieve Insport Bronze, we have had to consider how we become a disability inclusive organisation not just on the pitch.

Head of Development,
Hannah Bevan:

"Not only do we understand the importance of ensuring inclusive hockey opportunities are provided on the pitch, but alternatively the culture and processes that are embedded off the pitch are equally important.

As an organisation we see the learning taken from the journey of Insport to date allowing us to ensure that thriving environments are being created for hockey at school, club, pathway and

initiative level. We will support the development of a disability inclusive environment at all of these levels to ensure that however you choose to enter the sport, as a player, umpire, official, coach or volunteer, you WILL be included."

What does this mean for us as an organisation moving forward?

We will continue our Insport journey and follow the pathway towards achieving Insport Silver, in a timeline which ensures disability inclusion is truly embedded across the organisation and not for the purpose of gaining another award.

Insport Silver encourages us to embed disability inclusion across our coach development education, safeguarding adults and children, club environments and policy development, to name a few.



WALKING

HOCKEY

**WALK YOUR WAY
TO WELLNESS**

Walking Hockey has continued to be a growing initiative for us as we have developed new partnerships as well as engaging new participants along the way. Now we have 3 sustainable Walking Hockey sites across South and West Wales, including Caerwent, RCT and Llandybie.

The last 12 months has not only seen growth in numbers participating, but also a development within partnerships we have worked with to make progress on the initiative. Discussions have been initiated and plans being developed with Aneurin Health Board in Newport, National Exercise Referral Scheme

and Swansea University. The nature of each of these partnerships differ and will look to bring unique developments to our offer including delivery support, signposting opportunities to our local sessions and research that will highlight the physiological and psychological benefits of Walking Hockey.

As we look ahead to the next year for Walking Hockey, we will be looking to broaden the amount of sites across Wales with kit packs and resource cards available for any delivery partners looking to engage with the initiative and provide Walking Hockey as an alternative version of the game to a new audience.

'The last 12 months has not only seen growth in numbers participating, but also a development within partnerships'



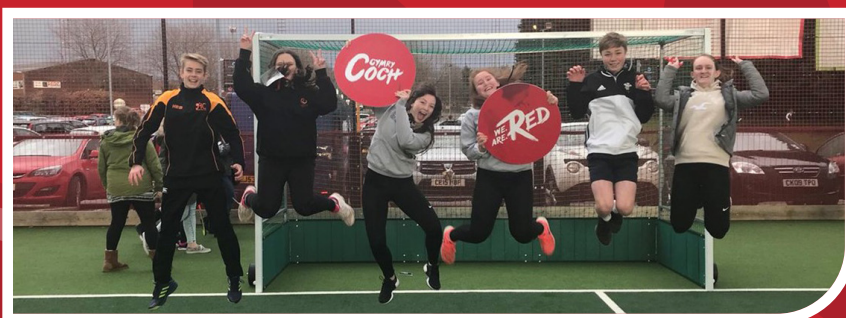
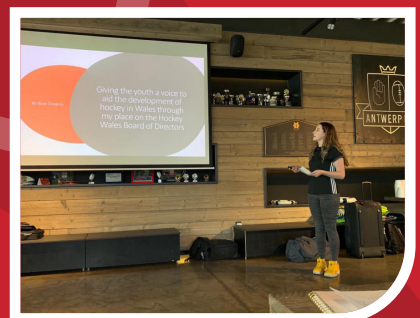
Hockey YOUNG AMBASSADORS

Yet another successful year of providing young people with a voice within hockey as they engage with our Young Ambassador programme that has entered its 7th year, in total welcoming 98 young people, both new and existing.

We kicked the programme off with Regional Leadership Festivals, providing workshop learning opportunities for the young leaders to explore Leadership, Networking, Social Enterprise and Social Media. Taking a change in format from previous years where we have hosted National conferences, the Regional Leadership Festivals

provided a more intimate learning environment, allowing for a higher level of engagement from the Young Ambassadors and both festivals in Lake Vyrnwy and University of South Wales provided positive feedback as well as new ideas to implement on to next year's programme.

Due to the season being cut short because of Covid-19, the Young Ambassadors didn't have the chance to engage with our National Events at Youth Finals and Cup Finals, but the level of engagement with Young Ambassadors during that time has been maintained by the Steering Group.





Summer 7's

During the summer of 2019 we expanded our Summer 7's provision to operate in more venues than ever before. By expanding across all 4 regions, and to 7 venues nationwide we managed to engage 26 clubs with our summer provision in what is only the third year of the initiative being in place.

The Summer 7's are designed to provide additional competitive opportunities for Hockey Wales

members during the summer months and frequently act as a method of introducing new players to the sport. Listening to members feedback and learning from our summer provision is what has made it so popular, and we endeavour to continue to grow the brand with Summer 7's 'Festival Kits' being launched to help us take the next step in providing a year-round Hockey Wales member experience.

Headline statistics for summer 2019:

- 7 Venues
- 26 Teams
- 18 Events
- Participants ranging from 11-65 years old
- Engaging Members and Non-Members
- 198 unique participants





SMASH Hockey

Games you can play anytime, anywhere!

SMASH Hockey continues to provide opportunities for children and young people living in areas of deprivation to play hockey.

It has now become an established, standalone initiative which in partnership with Street Games has managed to engage 16 Doorstep Sports Clubs throughout Wales.

We continue to learn, grow and develop our SMASH provision which after our SMASH Week in May 2019 gathered real engagement and momentum. The alignment of our Young

Ambassador programme with SMASH provides some valuable development opportunities within the wider Hockey Family for all participants. Check out our videos with our partners Street Games to find out more information about SMASH Hockey:

https://www.instagram.com/p/BxsafMChZCB/?utm_source=ig_web_button_share_sheet

https://www.instagram.com/p/Bxu9rPrnJ6f/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

'We continue to learn, grow and develop our SMASH provision'



HOOKED ON Hoci



As our flagship school hockey programme, the success of Hooked on Hoci has allowed us to bring positive first experiences of hockey to more schools than ever before in Wales.

Our offer not only provides partner schools with expert coaching provision, but we also upskill staff members within every partner school and enrol them on an ongoing mentor programme so they continue to develop and have the confidence to deliver structured, engaging and beneficial sessions once our curriculum-time provision comes to a close.

On top of this, every partner school gains automatic access to a local primary school Hooked on Hoci festival, which is curated to provide the best possible blend of activities, games and competition. We recognise that the early years matter the most and believe that quality provision at age 7-11 will create hockey-literate children that transition to our member clubs.

This work continues to be an area of focus for us, as we build our network of primary school teachers that can confidently deliver engaging hockey sessions.

Our programme of targeted club CPD opportunities means we now have more youth coaches than ever before capable of providing excellent experiences within club sessions, so the participant has a World Class Experience wherever and whenever they pick up a stick.

2019/20 – 111 schools in Wales registered to HOH programme, 666 hours of Hockey Wales supplied coaching in curriculum time, 10559 reported unique participants in 11 Local Authorities, in catchment areas for 25 Hockey Clubs with 60 teachers having been upskilled on our Leadership Award in Hockey Coaching course and receiving ongoing mentoring from our Coach Development programme.

Our workforce has increased drastically to facilitate the delivery of Hooked on Hoci, for the 2019/20 academic year we had 23 coaches working actively within Welsh communities to deliver the programme, all of them being supported with valuable CPD opportunities and given huge recognition for the pivotal role they play in the future of our sport.

'We recognise that the early years matter the most and believe that quality provision at age 7-11 will create hockey-literate children that transition to our member clubs'



DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

Launched in 2018, Hockey Wales Development Centres have been designed to provide additional training opportunities for young people in Welsh communities who want to access more hockey. We recognised that there are hundreds of children out there that would practice all day if they could, but don't always get access to the facilities, so our Development Centres look to bridge that gap and allow more hockey to happen.

We now have 8 Development Centres established nationwide delivering sessions to children from age 7-17. The Development Centres run in Half-Termly blocks and are supplemented by Holiday Camps that usually run at similar locations in School Holidays.

Development Centres are reactive to the needs of the group, and feature as an opportunity for players released from the performance pathway to work on their game with a view to re-entering the pathway at a later stage.

There is great value put on the knowledge and application of our coaching workforce to make the Development Centres successful, and the effective use of our Hockey Young Ambassadors helps to provide a really welcoming, well-rounded feel to each session.

The Development Centres also act as an additional entry route into the sport, which we have found particularly effective following our Hooked on Hoci work in primary schools. The 'pay as you play' approach enables children to make the transition from school to club via a participation and enjoyment focussed session delivered by highly qualified Hockey Wales coaches.

We specifically place our Development Centres in areas where there is latent demand for hockey provision. We mobilise the skillset of local coaches, to ensure that the eventual transition from Development Centre session to club hockey session is a smooth and accessible one with familiar faces recognisable throughout for the participants.

'We now have 8 Development Centres established nationwide delivering sessions to children from age 7-17'



NEW INITIATIVES

This year has been the inception of the North Wales Youth Hockey Tournaments and West Wales Junior League, which has seen 20 clubs consistently enter teams in the Under 9, Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 age groups. Running monthly competitions at alternating venues, these competitions have been designed to ensure that participating clubs can come together in their local area on a given date.

The engagement with the programme has been excellent with many clubs reporting increases in youth membership due to the consistency the members are getting with the competitive opportunities. Huge thanks must go to the parents and volunteers who help to make the days run so smoothly and provide a world class experience for hundreds of children throughout both the regions.

'North and West Wales Youth Hockey Tournaments has seen 20 clubs consistently enter teams in all age groups'





ACHIEVING POTENTIAL

ACHIEVING POTENTIAL HIGHLIGHTS

TEAM GB – 4 WELSH PLAYERS IN THE GB SET-UP



Sarah Jones



Jacob Draper



Leah Wilkinson



Rupert Shipperley

SENIOR WOMEN



Leah Wilkinson gaining the most caps for any Welsh sportsperson.



Phoebe Richards, Jo Westwood and Sian French passed the 100-cap milestone.



Rose Thomas was named goalkeeper of the tournament at the FIH Series Finals.



The U21 team re-entered the European B division event and successfully gained promotion to Euro 'A' division in 2022.

SENIOR MEN



FIH Series Finals event got off to the best possible start, beating Canada 3-1 with a milestone for Gareth Furlong who achieved his 100th cap.



A huge highlight for hockey in Wales to see the men play in the top A division competition.



A mouth-watering clash against England at the A division competition resulted in a 2-2 draw.



The U21 men re-entered European competition in 2019 and their 1st place finish ensured promotion to 'B' division.



GB HOCKEY

Great Britain commenced this year with the Tokyo 2020 Olympics in their sights, however a global pandemic forced the postponement of the games to next summer.

Great Britain Men and Women qualified for the games in November with convincing wins at home, reigning Olympic champions defeated Chile 5-1 on aggregate whilst GB's men topped Malaysia 9-3.

Having all put in good performances in the FIH ProLeague opening games of 2020, we are hopeful that 4 Welsh players, Sarah Jones, Jacob Draper, Leah Wilkinson and Rupert Shipperley,

will feature in the Tokyo 2021 Olympics, a milestone that has not been achieved for Wales in decades.

This year also saw honours for former GB and Wales Captain Sheila Morrow, who was awarded the OBE for services to hockey in Wales and became a much-deserved Life Member of Hockey Wales. Sheila has represented hockey on so many levels and in so many guises it is difficult to summarise all that she has achieved, but she has always been incredibly proud of her Welsh heritage and represented us with huge distinction throughout the hockey world.





SENIOR WOMEN AND U23/U21 PROGRAMME ACTIVITY

MAY 2019

Senior women played 3 matches at home against France, winning the first two and losing the final encounter. The series marked Leah Wilkinson gaining the most caps for any Welsh sportsperson, as well as Phoebe Richards, Jo Westwood and Sian French passing the 100-cap milestone. These matches were televised by S4C.

JUNE 2019

Wales travelled to Valencia to play in the FIH Series Finals event and finished in 6th place which was on ranking. Encouragingly they took higher ranked South Africa to a 2-2 draw in the first match and only narrowly lost to World Cup bronze medallists and tournament hosts Spain 1-0 in the cross-over classification match. Rose Thomas was also named goalkeeper of the tournament which was high praise in a field of quality competition.

JULY 2019

The U21 team re-entered the European B division event in Turkey after a long absence from this programme, with high hopes and a squad which included several players who had already represented the senior team over the last couple of years.

After topping their pool without conceding a goal, the team faced heartbreak in a semi-final against Italy where the opposition turned around a sizeable first half lead and then won in a shoot-out, leaving the team facing a bronze medal match against Ukraine but importantly with promotion still an option due to Italy not being able to gain promotion as they were serving a ban from EuroHockey. The team completed the tournament in style, finishing 3rd in a medal position and gaining that all-important promotion to Euro 'A' division in 2022.

AUGUST 2019

The team finished 5th at the European B division event in Glasgow. Failure to win their last group game against Poland (drawing 2-2) meant they could only finish in the 5-8 positions but, pleasingly, achieved that final finish and remained on ranking. Whilst the team wished for at least a semi-final place and were disappointed not to get this, they scored more goals than in any previous European campaign in recent times and can take some tangible positives moving forward into the next phase of activity. This tournament saw Lauren Roberts gain her first cap.

JANUARY 2020

The team travelled for the second year running to Antibes to play France over 3 games and had a well matched series, with both sides winning one game each and the official test match seeing a 1-1 draw, with most notably first cap and 18 year old Nell Butler scoring the Wales goal.

Whilst the outdoor squad was in France, a separate group of mostly U21 players, represented the senior women in the European Indoor B division in Croatia. This provided an opportunity to expose more players to senior tournament hockey and was a challenging experience against some very good indoor specialists, most notably Russia and Poland who are perennial World Cup qualifiers. The experience was valuable and the highlight game for them was taking a good and well organised Scotland team all the way and narrowly losing 4-3 in an end to end battle.

SENIOR MEN AND U23/U21 PROGRAMME ACTIVITY



APRIL 2019

The men travelled to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia for their FIH Series Finals event and got off to the best possible start, despite the challenging playing conditions, taking down the highest ranked team entering the tournament, Canada, in a 3-1 win. This game was a milestone for Gareth Furlong who achieved his 100th cap.

A narrow 2-1 win against Belarus followed by a 2-0 loss to Austria meant the team finished joint top with both Canada and Austria but goal difference worked against them and resigned them to a harsh 3rd place finish in the group and a less preferential cross-over match against the hosts Malaysia. Despite losing this game 2-1 they finished on ranking by beating China 3-2 and securing 5th place.

JULY 2019

Senior men's preparations for Euros continued with a trip to play Austria in Vienna over 3 matches in early July and were hotly contested. A 1-1 draw in game 1 was followed by narrow 3-2 and 2-1 losses, but preparation was valuable and gave the group much to build on.

The U21 men, like their female counterparts, re-entered the level of European competition in 2019 after a period of absence and had to compete in a 3 team 'C' division against hosts Lithuania and Ukraine in their attempts to gain

promotion. After coming through the mini round-robin unscathed it was Ukraine to play in the final and it could not have been any closer. With both teams locked at 2-2 as they started the final quarter Ukraine would have felt they had done enough in making it 3-2 to them with 10 minutes to go but 2 goals from Rhys Bradshaw turned the tables in the final minutes leaving Wales to run out 4-3 winners and their 1st place finish ensured promotion to 'B' division and an important climb for this age group. Special mention to loan Wall who finished tournament top scorer with 5 goals.

AUGUST 2019

A huge highlight for hockey in Wales to see the men play in the top A division competition and all eyes were on the team as they took their place at the top table in Antwerp, Belgium and a mouth-watering opening clash against England. Goals from Gareth and Rhodri Furlong put Wales into a 2-1 lead until England scrambled home an equaliser with 2 minutes to go but that point proved to be all important as England ended up joining Wales in the 5th- 8th place classification matches and taking that result with them. Although the team couldn't maintain the early momentum in the final group games, losing 5-1 to Spain and 6-0 to hosts and World Champions Belgium, the team took important

lessons from both matches, with the latter being an exceptional and unforgettable experience in front of a packed home crowd at peak evening time, which both players and staff savoured.

The classification matches were key in a bid to retain 'A' division status and earn valuable world ranking points and despite a disappointing 4-2 loss against Scotland in the penultimate game, the mission was still clear before the final game against Ireland, win by a comfortable margin and Wales would stay clear of relegation. If the script was written before, then it was followed remarkably accurately by the team who won convincingly by a perfect 4-0 score line with Gareth Furlong scoring 2 and bringing his overall haul to an impressive 4 goals, and the team finishing 6th in a great campaign back at this level.

JANUARY 2020

Wales senior men took a team out to the European Indoor C division in Santander, Spain, after a short preparation period which offered an opportunity to extend the experiences of the wider squad and expose more players to tournament hockey at European level. The team finished 4th and were competitive throughout in a tough group of opponents which included Scotland, Ireland and eventual winners Spain.



NATIONAL AGE GROUPS

NATIONAL AGE GROUPS - GIRLS

EASTER 2019

Three match test series against Scotland for both the U18s and U16s played in Cwmbran and Cardiff.

MAY 2019

3-day camp in which squads for Ulster test series were selected.

JUNE 2019

A test series for both age groups away in Ulster. The U18s won the test series with 2 wins and a defeat. The U16s had mixed fortunes with a loss, win and draw across the series.

JULY 2019

As part of the build up to the Euro 5s Tournament in Poland later in the month where they placed 6th, the U16s started the month with a 4-match series in France which resulted in 3 wins and a loss.

AUGUST 2019 - FUTURES CUP

This month was dedicated to Futures Cup with a training camp followed by the tournament. Competing as the Celtic Jaguars both the U16 and U18 squads performed much better than in previous years.

FEBRUARY 2020

3-day camp at Cardiff that included 2 matches against British Colleges for the U18 squad that saw a loss in the first and a win in the second game.

NATIONAL AGE GROUPS - BOYS

EASTER 2019

U16 and U18 played 3 match test series against Scotland in Cardiff.

MAY 2019

Half term training camp, which consisted of matches for the squad against England U16, The RAF U25s and British Colleges.

JUNE 2019

U16 5s squad went to France and played 4 practice matches. Winning 1 and losing 3.

U16s and U18s played 3 match series against Ulster in Wrexham. U18s winning 2 matches and drawing 1. The U16s drew the last match after 2 close defeats.

JULY 2019

U16 5s squad played in the EuroHockey Championships held in Walcz, Poland. Finishing 9th out of 15.

AUGUST 2019 - FUTURES CUP

Both U16 and U18 boys competed better than ever at the tournament. Results were a lot closer than in previous years, particularly in the U16s. Both squads held their own against strong opposition.

PERFORMANCE SUPPORT STAFF

SENIOR WOMEN

Kevin Johnson
Head Coach

Rebecca Daniels
Manager

Gareth Weaver-Tyler
Assistant Coach (Until Sept 2019)

Moses Lodarmasse
Assistant Coach (From Nov 2019)

Walid Abdo
U21 Head Coach (Until Aug 2019)

Gareth Terrett
U21 Head Coach (From Aug 2019)

Jonny Harper
Physiotherapist

Carmen Ansley
U21 Physiotherapist

Henry Davies
S&C Coach (Until Aug 2019)

Andrew Roberts
S&C Coach (From Sept 2019)

Theo Dowse
GK Coach/Performance Analyst

SENIOR MEN

Zak Jones
Head Coach

Will Packer
Manager

Danny Newcombe
Assistant Coach/U21 Head Coach

Sam Rowe
Performance Analyst

Tom Jenkins
Physiotherapist

Alistair Eustace
S&C Coach

Keir Starley
GK Coach

NATIONAL AGE GROUP GIRLS

Gwyn Williams
Head Coach

Shelley Robinson
Programme Manager

Dafydd Tomos
Coach

Joe Rooney
Coach

Nick Fackrell
Coach

Rob Sorrell
Coach

Mark Mullineaux
*Senior Programmes S&C Lead/
Interim NAG Girls S&C*

Sam Milner
Physiotherapist

Amy Booth
Performance Analyst

NATIONAL AGE GROUP BOYS

Lee Ible
Head Coach

Joe Gleeson
Programme Manager

Lee Marshall
Coach

Andrew Gibson
Coach

Harry Jones
Coach

Ian Haley
Coach

Tom Little
Performance Analyst

Christy Walklin
Physiotherapist

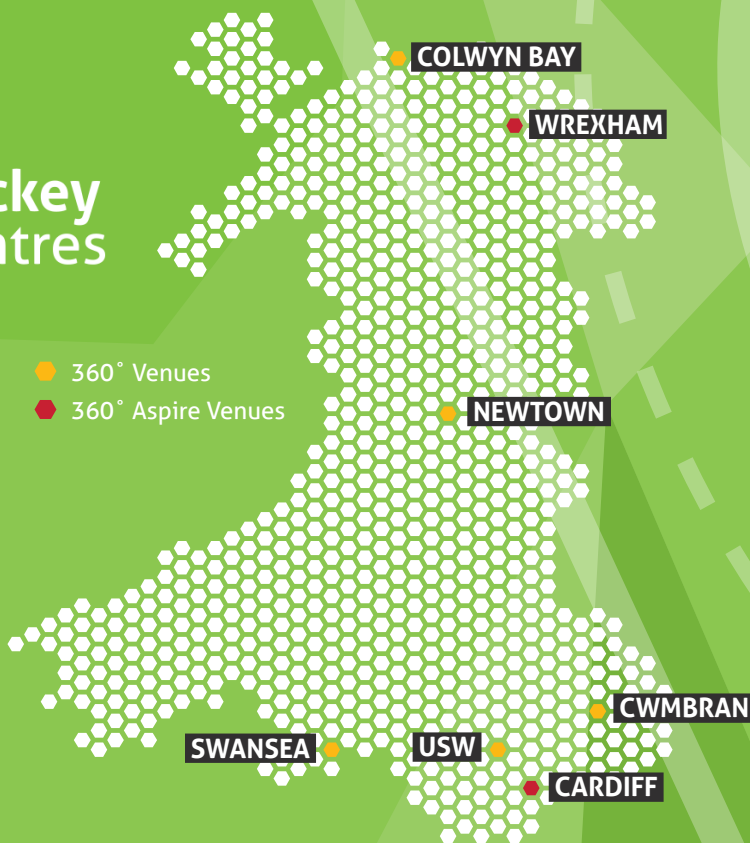
Lloyd Tonkin
S&C Coach



Performance Staff - Senior Women



Performance Staff - Senior Men

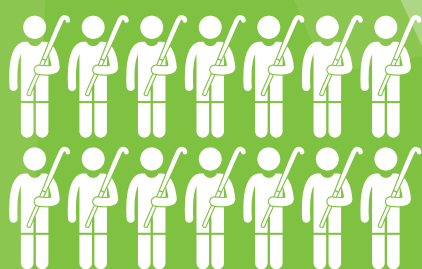


The 360 performance pathway ensures our talented youth develop in a performance environment to achieve their potential.

Entering the 360 pathway is the first step within the performance system. Once within 360 players are developed holistically within the programme ensuring they are assisted with technical, tactical, physical and psychological development on a regular basis.

2020 saw the 360 programme marred by the storms in February followed by early closure in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the cancellation of all domestic hockey.

SEPTEMBER 2019 – MARCH 2020



345
PLAYERS
across
7
VENUES



25
REGULAR
COACHES
delivering across
the centres



Dedicated
S&C
LEAD
for the programme



THRIVING ENVIRONMENTS

THRIVING ENVIRONMENTS HIGHLIGHTS

COACHING



200

LEADERSHIP AWARD
IN HOCKEY COACHING



247

COACHES AFFILIATED
ACROSS WALES



12

Coaches have been identified to be part of a bespoke ongoing Coach Development Programme.



The 4689 qualification has been updated to the Leadership Award in Hockey Coaching qualification.



Our Leadership Award in Hockey Coaching comes with Sport Leaders accreditation.

UMPIRING



14

LEVEL 1 UMPIRE COURSES
DELIVERED TO

144

ATTENDEES



This season WHUA members have received **25 APPOINTMENTS** from the European Hockey Federation.



2

UMPIRES PROGRESS
ONTO NPUA PANEL



479

UMPIRES AFFILIATED
ACROSS WALES



COACH DEVELOPMENT

As part of a new strategy 12 coaches who work across the Welsh Pathway have been identified to be part of a bespoke ongoing Coach Development Programme.

Aligning of Coach Education Courses – This recent year has seen us offer more opportunities than ever before to our coaching workforce through the newly developed opportunity of moving our courses onto the Hockey Hub under the umbrella of GB Hockey. This has meant we've welcomed some GB tutors to deliver courses in Wales, and our tutors have gone to deliver courses throughout Great Britain. We believe this is a great demonstration of partnership working as well as being a developmental opportunity for the Welsh coaching workforce.

Community of Practice – These events have been introduced to Hockey Wales members as a platform to discuss coaching in a relaxed, informal environment.

These opportunities have proved to be popular across the country and have gained interest from coaches in other sports. It is fantastic to see sports working together for the common goal of providing a beneficial sporting experience for the participant.

Higher Education (HE) Offer– Hockey Wales are pleased to confirm that we have once again been able to honour our commitment to hockey in Universities throughout Wales by offering complimentary places on coach education courses. We believe this investment in the student body is crucial for the game to continue growing within HE institutions and in the local communities through our outreach programmes.

Bespoke Coach Development – we have been able to continue to provide 1-1 development to the coaching workforce in Wales. This 'in-situ' support allows us to develop the coach at their own

rate, in their own environment and align it to their goals, whilst underpinning the key coaching philosophies from our CPD and coach education programmes.

There have been several one-off courses throughout the year which have presented an opportunity to further understand the current landscape.

Highlights include the 'End in Mind' Roadshow, which saw Zak Jones present on the current international trends and the participants observed a senior men's coaching session. The coaches ended the day with a workshop on the GB Hockey Talent Development Framework.

Prior to lockdown we were able to deliver a workshop to Gwent Hockey youth coaches. The practical session had a focus on 'good practice' and ideas of how to deal with mixed ability groups.



LEADERSHIP AWARD IN HOCKEY COACHING

Underpinning our Hooked on Hoci programme and junior hockey throughout the country is our Leadership Award in Hockey Coaching qualification. Rebranded from the 4689 qualification, the new look award provides coaches with an accessible, engaging first step on the coaching pathway.

2019/20 saw the relaunch of the qualification, which now thoroughly embeds the Golden Thread and CHANGEIT philosophies throughout. Our research showed us that the look and feel of the cards is crucial to whether they will be used by the leaders, so a lot of time has gone into making the product right for our end users. We have also used our time in the development phase to upskill our tutor workforce, so they are appropriately prepared to deliver the best possible learning experience.

Our Leadership Award in Hockey Coaching comes with Sport Leaders accreditation and is a recognised step towards the Sessional and Coach awards required to independently coach hockey throughout Great Britain. It is ever popular with Sports Leaders in secondary schools, who find the transferrable skills they pick up in the course hugely beneficial to their ongoing development as a sporting professional, with some of them ending up as Hooked on Hoci community coaches.

200 course attendees in 2019/20.

'Our Leadership Award in Hockey Coaching comes with Sport Leaders accreditation and is a recognised step towards the Sessional and Coach awards required to independently coach hockey throughout Great Britain'



WALES HOCKEY UMPIRES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT

Yet again it is pleasing to report that WHUA umpires are continuing to compete very successfully on an international stage, this season our members have received 25 appointments from the European Hockey Federation. This included Cathy Wright as an umpire to the Indoor Championship in Minsk and Indoor Club Cup and Chris Brewer as Technical Delegate at both the Indoor Club Cup in Poznan and the EuroHockey League Finals in Amsterdam. It is unfortunate that due to the current climate many of these appointments were not taken up as the events were cancelled.

WHUA members have also been recognised at world level with several of our umpires and officials being upgraded and placed on various FIH Panels. Kevin Roberts and Toni-Lee Lambert have been placed on the International Umpire Panel (Outdoor), John

Taylor has been placed on the Technical Officiating Advancement Panel and Karen Evans has been promoted to the Umpire Managers Advancement Panel (Outdoor) and the International Umpire Managers Panel (Indoor).

Domestically, this season has also been reason to celebrate with both Clare Barwood (Outdoor & Indoor) and Abby McArthur (Indoor) joining our other umpires on the NPUA panels. Development wise, it has been a bit of strange year as lots of development activity which takes place around National Events has been curtailed due to the cancellation of the season. However, thanks must go to those committee members within each of the regions that spend lots of time and effort going out to support umpires in clubs through coaching, mentoring and assessing.

Behind the scenes WHUA and Hockey Wales have been working with 'Who's the Umpire' to create a membership / appointments database, which will become more prevalent as the system evolves to meet our needs. Despite all the negatives of the curtailed season one positive that has arisen from it is the move to take the Level 1 umpires' course online. This should enable more Hockey Wales members to access umpire training irrespective of their geography.





FACILITIES

Through our ongoing commitment to providing Thriving Environments, we take an active role in the Facilities Collaboration Group, who work together to intelligently plan facility developments throughout Wales.

The resurfacing of the hockey pitch at Parc Bodegroes, Pwllheli has come about as a direct result of thorough consultation with the community and support from the Collaboration Group and Welsh Government.

In early 2020, the hockey pitch at Clwb Hoci Pwllheli was replaced with a brand new shockpad and carpet, which now provides an excellent platform for the club to continue their outstanding community engagement and youth hockey programmes.

We will now work with Clwb Hoci Pwllheli to deliver on their long term plan for hockey on the Llyn Peninsula, ensuring that as many people as possible from within the local community can access hockey.

'The resurfacing of the hockey pitch has come about as a direct result of thorough consultation with the community and support from the Collaboration Group and Welsh Government'



PARTICIPATION



PARTICIPATION HIGHLIGHTS

MASTERS WOMEN

OVER
35^s & 60^s

The 2019 season for the women's masters saw the introduction of two new age groups at over 35s & 60s.



The Over 40s, 45s, 50s and 55s were entered into two international tournaments in the 2019 season - the Home Nations and the IMHA European Cup.



The 60s played their first European tournament run by the WGMA and came away with a silver medal.

MASTERS MEN

OVER
35^s - 70^s

All age groups (Over 35s - Overs 70s) competed in both the Home Nations and the European Cup.



The Over 65s retained the Celtic Cup in Swansea, winning that tournament for the 4th year running.



In the Celtic Cup, the Over 70s claimed the top spot for the first time.

PERFORMANCE CLUBS

1st  **3rd** 

Cardiff & Met HC achieved 1st place in the 2019 Outdoor Men's EuroHockey Club Trophy and finished 3rd in Division One North of the National League.

3rd  **1st** 

Swansea HC achieve 3rd place in the 2019 Outdoor Women's EuroHockey Club Challenge II and won Division One North gaining promotion to the Premier Division.

HOCKEY WALES CUP COMPETITIONS

The coronavirus pandemic effected most Hockey Wales Club and School cup competitions.

Hockey Wales National Indoor finals

WOMEN'S INDOOR WINNER
SWANSEA HC

MEN'S INDOOR WINNER
CARDIFF & MET HC

Two schools' finals were played:

WINNERS U18 SCHOOLGIRLS
HOWELLS

WINNERS U16 SCHOOLGIRLS
YSGOL GLANTAF



MIXED INTERNATIONALS
July 2019

WALES
WON THE SERIES



WALES MASTERS – WOMEN OVER 35s, 40s, 45s, 50s, 55s and 60s

The 2019 season for the women's masters saw the introduction of two new age groups at over 35s & 60s. Whilst the 35s had the biggest attendance at trials we have ever seen, following a big recruitment drive orchestrated by Anne Barratt, the 60s were a lot harder to get off the ground. With only nine players we entered the team into the European cup in the hope that we would recruit some more to make up a full team which was managed, in the end, through relentless phone calls and twitter feeds.

The Over 40s, 45s, 50s and 55s were entered into two international tournaments in the 2019 season - the Home Nations and the IMHA European Cup.

This was the last season that would see the women playing under the IMHA as the WMH would be taking over in 2020, however the decision had been made by the IMHA to follow the new format that was being introduced by the WMH to split the European tournament from being all age groups at one venue to using three venues with 35s, 40s, 45s in Rotterdam,

50s, 55s in Krefeld and 60s in Brasschaat.

This presented some challenges for the women as far as support staff were concerned as we are supported by a dedicated group of volunteer Coaches, Managers, Umpires, Doctors, Physios and Statisticians who work across multiple age groups throughout the season. Whilst this did see teams travelling to tournaments without our usual support staff in place, together with the Men's masters we managed to share and get the job done.

The Home Nations tournament held 14th – 16th June at Southgate Hockey Club England, was a well hosted tournament with players enjoying some great hockey facilities. Everyone performed well throughout the tournament and we saw some exceptional performances from all our teams, along with some heartache when games did not quite go the way we hoped.

The 35s, 40s, 45s were entered into the European tournament held in July at Rotterdam Hockey Club,

Netherlands. It was a good, but a very hot tournament which saw the start of our 35s campaign into the world of Masters hockey - it was a successful tournament for all involved with some teams' final placings better than others.

The 60s played their first European tournament run by the WGMA in Brasschaat in Belgium from the 16th – 29th June, again a tournament played in extreme heat and supported by the Men's masters (the 60's coach was unable to travel for the full tournament) they came away with a well-earned Silver Medal.

The 50s & 55s travelled in August to Krefeld Hockey Club in Germany which was the first club to ever hold an IMHA tournament and was now also the last club to hold one. It was a hard fought tournament for both teams which would narrowly see them missing out on medals, it was also the first tournament where every match played throughout the competition was televised which was a fitting end to the IMHA and the 2019 tournaments.



WALES MASTERS – MEN

OVER 35s, 40s, 45s, 50s, 55s, 60s, 65s and 70s

The 2019 season saw all age groups competing in both the Home Nations and the European Masters. All represented their country to a high standard and demonstrated skill and determination to achieve a positive season of hockey.

The 35s Home Nations were hosted at the Commonwealth stadium in Glasgow where the new look team finished fourth. Later in the summer, the squad headed to Rotterdam for the European Championships, where there were 96 international teams from 20 countries, fielding over 2000 players. After a hard-fought group stage, the team finished 6th overall following a final game against Spain.

This past season the 40s produced good quality hockey. After finishing 4th in the Home Nations in Swansea, the team travelled to the European Masters in Rotterdam and what ensued was a tremendous team effort which saw the team finish a credible 5th overall.

At the Home Nations in Glasgow the O45s finished fourth. On to Rotterdam for the Europeans where Wales found themselves in a group with hosts Holland and Scotland. After group losses Wales

moved into the play offs where they met Spain, followed up with a win against Italy in the final competitive game of the season.

The 50s came third in the Home Nations after a close defeat to England followed by draws with Scotland and Ireland. At the Euros in Krefeld, they were outplayed by Germany, had a narrow loss to eventual champions Netherlands and then beat France and Scotland. The highlight was a 6-0 win over Spain, but a defeat to Scotland left Wales in 6th place.

The 55s had a good season based on a consistent squad and some strong performances in pre-tournament practice matches which lead them to a 3rd place finish at the Home Nations in Glasgow. At the European Championships in Germany, they finished 8th overall after some great performances against tough competition.

The 60s were under new coach David Kettle. They achieved 3rd in the Celtic Cup held in Swansea, prior to travelling to Aberdeen for the Four Nations, where Wales produced great performances in a very tight competition finishing in 4th place. They went on to the European Cup in Antwerp where they achieved 6th place.

The 65s and 70s had the services of coach Andy Mitchell during 2019, which saw both teams achieve memorable results.

The 65s retained the Celtic Cup in Swansea, winning that tournament for the 4th year running. They went on to finish third in the Home Nations in Aberdeen prior to competing in the European Cup in Belgium where they secured 4th place losing 4-3 to Germany in the Bronze medal match. The 65s would surely have been medal winners without injuries to their two leading scorers in the group stages.

The 70s claimed the top spot in the Celtic Cup for the first time. Good performances continued in the Four Nations tournament in Aberdeen where they claimed second spot. The team had high hopes going to the European Cup in Belgium, and after some sterling performances attained a credible fourth place.

The 65+ Dragons finished 7th and the 70+ Dragons finished 8th in the Europeans in Antwerp whilst the 60+ Dragons had a great year, winning two of the three non-international tournaments they entered in Lille and Durham; teams included players from all four grandmaster age groups.



COMPETITIONS 2019/2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this season saw all domestic, club and community hockey suspended on 17th March 2020 for a month, and then cancelled until 30th June resulting in a shortened season with very few cup competitions reaching the final stage.

CLUB COMPETITIONS

Women's Indoor Winners
– Swansea HC

Men's Indoor Winners
– Cardiff & Met HC

Women's Championship Finalists
– Howardian LHC, Cardiff & Met HC

Men's Championship Finalists
– Cardiff & Met v Penarth HC or Whitchurch HC

Women's Trophy Finalists
– Rhondda LHC, Newcastle Emlyn LHC

Men's Trophy Semi-Finalists
– Bridgend, Cardiff & Met B, Cardiff Uni A, Whitchurch A

Women's Challenge Finalists
– Carmarthen HC 2nds, Northop Hall LHC 2nds

Men's Challenge Semi-Finalists
– Bangor Uni, Cardiff & Met D, Swansea D, Whitchurch C

Women's Masters
Competition cancelled

Men's Masters
Competition cancelled

YOUTH COMPETITIONS

U18 Girls Semi-Finalist
– Eirias, Gwent, Northop Hall, Penarth

U18 Boys Semi-Finalists
– Eirias, Gwent, Swansea, Whitchurch

U15 Girls Semi-Finalists
– Bangor Gwent, Llanfair, Whitchurch Saints

U15 Boys Semi-Finalists
– Eirias, Gwent, Swansea, Whitchurch

U13 Girls
Competition cancelled

U13 Boys
Competition cancelled

U11 Girls
Competition cancelled

U11 Boys
Competition cancelled



EUROHOCKEY CLUB COMPETITIONS

2019 Outdoor Men's EuroHockey Club Trophy –
Wettingen (SUI)
– **1st Cardiff & Met**

2019 Outdoor Men's EuroHockey Club
Challenge I – Siemianowice Slaskie (POL)
– **3rd Whitchurch HC**

2019 Outdoor Women's EuroHockey Club
Challenge II – Vienna (AUT)
– **3rd Swansea City HC**
– **7th Cardiff University HC**

2020 Men's EuroHockey Indoor Club Challenge I –
Varna-Kamchia (BUL)
– **3rd Cardiff & Met HC**

2020 Women's EuroHockey Indoor Club
Challenge I – Porto (POR)
– **3rd Swansea HC**

SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS

U18 Schoolgirls Winners
– **Howell's School (Cardiff and the Vale)**

U16 Schoolgirls Winners
– **Ysgol Glantaf (Cardiff and the Vale)**

U14 Schoolgirls
Competition cancelled

U12 Schoolgirls
Competition cancelled

U18 Schoolboys
Competition cancelled

U16 Schoolboys
Competition cancelled

U14 Schoolboys
Competition cancelled

U12 Schoolboys
Competition cancelled

PARTNERSHIPS



PARTNERS

We would like to thank our Partners for their support



European Hockey Federation

International Hockey Federation



Welsh Hockey Umpires Association

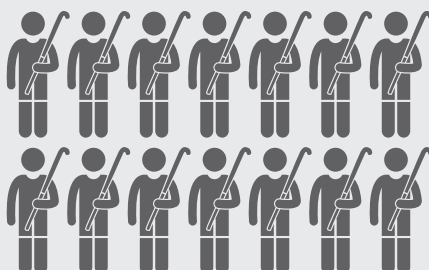
Swansea University Prifysgol Abertawe

A big thank you to Irfon Bennett who continuously captures those special moments with his photography skills.



KIT DONATIONS

We have received kit donations from the CATHEDRAL SCHOOL
THANK YOU



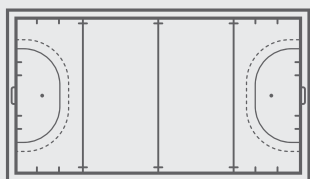
286 MEMBERS



MONTHLY DRAW

48 32 16
MONTHLY PRIZE DRAWS INDIVIDUAL WINNERS CLUB WINNERS

PROJECTS 2019 – 2020



CLUB SUPPORT

Clwb Hoci Pwllheli – Support with **PITCH RE-DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**



SCHOOL SUPPORT

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf – Support with **NEW EQUIPMENT PROJECT**



RECOGNISE ACHIEVEMENT

Fund 'The Peter English Award' at the Hockey Wales Awards **WINNER – HANNAH ROSS**



INTERNATIONAL CAPS

Sponsor **WALES SENIOR INTERNATIONAL CAPS** 1st, 50th, 100th and 150th



A new Facebook page has been set up, **188 followers**
Friends of Welsh Hockey



Twitter, 2019, 186 followers – **2020, 285 FOLLOWERS**
@Friends of WH



Instagram, **119 FOLLOWERS** since January 2020
friends_of_wh

FINANCIALS

FINANCIALS 2019-2020





HOCKEY WALES
HOCI CYMRU

THANK YOU

Hockey Wales Annual Report 2019/20.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the report and to the hockey family for your continued support.

For more information or to get involved go to:

www.hockeywales.org.uk

 @HockeyWales

 @hockey_wales

 @HockeyWales

Or email us at: info@hockeywales.org.uk

Hockey Wales

Sport Wales National Centre, Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, CF11 9SW.