

Hockey Talk Magazine

The on-line magazine of
TalkHockeyRadio

In this edition:

- **Bill Colwill looks at the prospects for the second half of the EHL season**



- **We don't do league tables—well, not normally—but the Winter break is a good time to take stock, so we print a full EHL league table, together with the top three from the feeder leagues.**

- **That was the year that was. We look back at the action-packed year of hockey that was 2006. A two-page special.**



PLUS.....

All the news, including our regular news roundup from the last month.

No 7. January 2007

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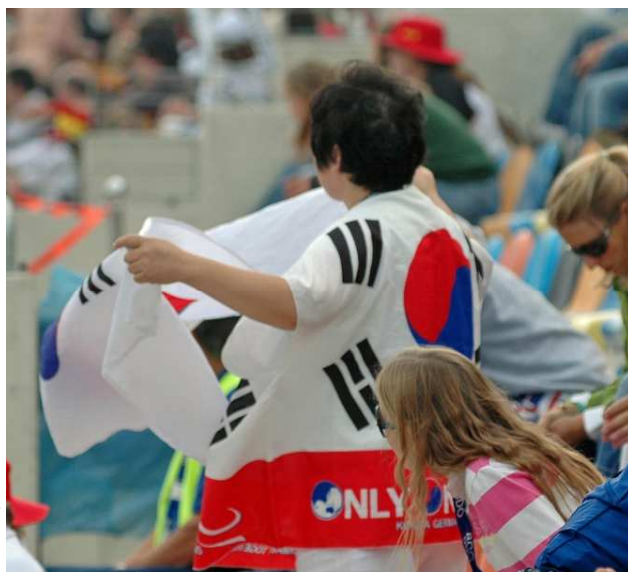
ASIAN GAMES MEDALISTS BOOK FIRST BEIJING PLACES

A 2-0 victory over Japan in the semi-final at the 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, gave Korea the first of the qualifying places for the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Having secured their place, Korea went on to meet China in the final. China, who had already qualified by virtue of being the hosts, scored first when Na converted one of only two penalty corners awarded to China. But it did not take long for Korea to display the sort of class that had impressed at the World Cup. Yoon put Korea on equal terms from a goal in open play and Korea were soon ahead from a penalty corner strike from Yeo. The score remained at 2-1 until the last ten minutes, when Korea were awarded a penalty stroke. Yeo stepped up to the spot to make the final score 3-1 and give the Asian championship to Korea.

Pakistan's misfortune at failing to reach the finals was somewhat mitigated by the fact that China's automatic qualification meant that the bronze medal winner would also qualify for Beijing. Playing Japan for the bronze, it was Japan who took an early lead, courtesy of Yamabori. Adnan replied two minutes later with a penalty corner strike and just before the break Shakeel put Pakistan ahead. Two goals from Waqas in the second half gave Pakistan a commanding lead, but Japan were able to pull one back—Yamabori the scorer—to leave the final score at 4-2. The match was somewhat marred by the sin-binning of Shakeel and Tsubouchi in the closing seconds of the match. India finished

in 5th place, having beaten Malaysia 6-5. The 4th to 7th finishers in the Asian Games have been earmarked for the Qualifying Tournament, details of which can be found on page 6. This gives India, Japan, Malaysia, and Bangladesh, a second opportunity to qualify.

In the women's tournament only one place was on offer and this was taken by Japan who were beaten in the final 1-0 by China. China, of course, have already qualified.



Great Britain's hopes of qualifying for the Beijing Olympics rest on England gaining a medal in the European Nations Cup in Manchester. Failure to gain a medal would mean that GB would have to compete in a qualifying tournament for one of the three remaining places ●**THM**

MORE HOCKEY NEWS ON PAGE FOUR

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BILL COLWILL'S MID-SEASON REVIEW

In contrast to this time last season the Premiership is neck-and-neck. In this article Bill looks at the prospects for our top teams in second half of the season

At the mid season break last year the odds on Cannock and Leicester Ladies finishing the season at the top of their respective Premier Leagues would not have been worth spending money on. Cannock was 11 points clear of Reading and Leicester 7 points ahead of Olton. And Cannock did finish League leaders at the end of the season. This year the second half of the season will re-start at a much more interesting position. Leicester are just one point ahead of Slough and Canterbury, and in the Slazenger men's competition Cannock and Loughborough Students are locked on 19 points each.

The closeness of the competition will no doubt please England Hockey's Performance Director David Faulkner - one of his declared aims being to bring a greater degree of competitiveness into the elite Premiership Division of the National League. No doubt, however, several clubs will be grossly unhappy with the way they feel his aim has been achieved so far this season. Clubs have been denied the services of leading international players at the start of the season, and then - towards the end of the first half of the season - promising younger members were lost to Great Britain training. There have been other instances where a club has been denied the services of a player who has been told to rest because of an injury picked up in international training. I have heard it argued that cricket accepts similar situations for their nationally contracted players. There is, however, a big difference in cricket, where county clubs are compensated for the services of their players who are absent on international duties. Hockey clubs cultivate and develop their players with no reward, other than honour, and the loss of a player's services is without any compensation.

So, as the second half of the season restarts, the Premier clubs will be praying that their international players will have come through international commitments during the hectic mid season break without injury, that they are not required to miss League games because of the perceived need for rest, and that there will be no additional international commitments which have yet to be announced. With no top four play-offs at the end of this season it means that every League game will be crucial, with no second chance for the teams to slip up and redeem themselves in the play-offs. If a team does not finish in the top two or three, their European dreams are over.

In the women's competition, it must be a first or second finish for European hockey in 2008. A first three finish in the men's Premier will ensure entry into the new ABN AMRO sponsored European League competition set to start next October/November.

Reading, Cannock and Students, will start strong favourites to form the first English entries into the European League, although Beeston or East Grinstead could just slip in should one of the top three - probably

Students with their UAU commitments - slip up. Surbiton, in spite of their array of internationals, seem unlikely to be able to make up the 8-point gap, even if they are able to call on all their players.

The question in the Women's competition is, I believe, who will accompany Leicester into Europe? Although Slough edged Leicester out of the Cup and won the early League fixture 4-2, the Midlanders are a very powerful, attractive and well-drilled squad, with Crista Cullen and Helen Richardson dominant in defence and mid-field, and with several lively forwards. For me they look certain to take one



Egyptian Ahmed Ezz Mohamed for Havant - prominent amongst the scorers in Division One

place, with Slough or Canterbury likely to take the second. Slough is the more creative team but their finishing is suspect, whilst Canterbury look a more complete unit. The high scoring Bowdon Hightown could just cause a surprise.

Bowdon, in Men's Division One, restart three points clear of Havant, who are themselves six points clear of third place Bath Buccaneers. With Pakistan's Ali Ghazenfar for Bowdon and Egyptian Ahmed Ezz Mohamed for Havant prominent and among the goals, it is a good bet that these teams will take their place in the Premier Division next season. Predicting the promotion from the Women's Division, is much more difficult, any two from the present top six seem likely, although at the bottom the odds are that both Firebrands and Horsham are well placed for the drop.

In the regional leagues Durham University, under the guidance of their renowned coach Gavin Featherstone, take a six-point lead into the second half of the season whilst in the South, Reading's crop of youngsters start six points ahead of St Albans. Both current leaders look likely to be successful at the end of the season.

The second half of the season looks set for some lively contest. Let us hope that clubs will not be denied any of their players and that the weather is kind ●**THM**

WHAT'S ON TalkHockeyRadio

Available until 10/1/07

The December edition of **TalkHockeyRadio** is available until 10/1/07. In this edition:

- Walk like an Egyptian? We speak to the manager of Havant about the resurgence of the club and its foreign players and ask Callum Giles the secret of a good penalty strike.
- Another club on the climb in recent seasons has been East Grinstead. The club has thought up some innovative ways of attracting spectators and improving the whole matchday "experience". We interview First Team manager Matt Jones, Olympic gold medal winner Richard Leman, club coach Mark Pearn, and recent recruit and England skipper, Glenn Kirkham.

**In the January edition
(available from 11/1/07)**

2006 was a good year for those hockey journalists who enjoy spending time in airport departure lounges! There were the Commonwealth Games, World Cup Qualifiers, Champions' Trophies, and the World Cups, not to mention domestic and European competitions.

TalkHockeyRadio had its fair share of travelling, including visits to the Indoor Finals at the NIA, the EH Cup and the European Cup Winners Cup in Reading, the Super Cup at Cannock, the European Club Championships in Berlin, the Women's World Cup Qualifiers in Rome, the BDO World Cup in Monchengladbach, and the Samsung Women's World Cup in Madrid. Phew! In the January edition of **TalkHockeyRadio** we will be re-visiting some of those events in what was a glorious twelve months of hockey, and one which had one or two bright spots for English hockey too.

**How to Get
TalkHockeyRadio**

If you've not already listened to **TalkHockeyRadio** now is the time to try. Nothing could be easier. Just go to our site at www.talkhockeyradio.co.uk and click on the **TalkHockeyRadio** icon on the Home page*. This will direct you to the Podcast page where you will find full download instructions. *NB: There are some planned changes to our web site in the new year. However, links to the **TalkHockeyRadio** programme page will continue to be clearly signposted●**THM**

THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS

2006 was packed with top hockey action. For English sides it started off with little promise but as the year progressed there were some pleasant surprises in store. Words and pictures by the editor.

January

The indoor EHL takes place and Loughborough Students regain the Premiership title. Chelmsford win the women's title for the third successive year. Germany win both the men's and women's European Indoor Nations Championships in Eindhoven. Scotland's women finish fourth. (An England team will return to indoor competition in 2008 when the European Indoor Challenge is held in Sheffield.) Outdoors, England's men compete in a three match series against South Africa which they win 3-2, 2-1, 8-0.

February

The 'Big Night Out' becomes the 'Big Day In' as the Indoor Finals move to the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham. Sky Television is there and TalkHockeyRadio records its first



Simon and Richard Mantell were in the England international squad in 2006. Richard (right) was the top scorer in the Olympic Qualifier in Beijing

bronze after Carolyn Reid saves a crucial penalty stroke after extra time. India win the silver.

April

Reading take the EH Cup by beating East Grinstead 5-3. Bowdon Hightown beat Chelmsford 5-0 in the women's cup. In the European Cup Winners' competition Reading lose 4-2 in the final to Dutch side Bloemendaal. However the standout match of the competition is the final pool game between Reading and Club an Der Alster. Trailing 2-0, Reading recover to make the score 2-2, but a Simon Mason kick into the German 'D' results in a last gasp penalty corner to Reading. The penalty is converted, giving Reading a place in the finals. Leicester win the bronze medal in the women's Cup Winners' Cup in Edinburgh. England women play Ireland at Cannock and win 1-0. England men win bronze in the World Cup Qualifier in China. Richard Mantell is the tournament's top scorer. England women's u16 and u18 teams take part in the Shell Four Nations Tournament in Bilthoven (Netherlands) and finish 4th and 3rd respectively. England men's u21 team play a four match series against Scotland and win three and draw one. TalkHockeyRadio start regular monthly



The EH Cup was won by Reading after a gripping final against East Grinstead.

podcasts.

May

England win gold at the women's World Cup Qualifiers in Rome, beating Korea 2-1 in the final. The bronze is won by Japan. James Moorhouse is named the England Hockey Challenge Young Umpire of 2006. Due to a break caused by international commitments the EHL finishes later than usual. Cannock take the men's Premiership title, with Leicester taking the women's. The Division One championships were won by the men



The women's European Club Championships in Berlin were won by Dutch side 's-Hertogenbosch. The picture shows action from the pool match between the Dutch and their hosts, Berliner

from Belper and the women from Sutton Coldfield.

June

The hero of Melbourne, Carolyn Reid, announces that she is standing down from the England team. Mixed Trophy won by Phoenix and Mixed Plate by Ipswich. Canterbury women win silver in the European Club Championships in Berlin, losing 4-0 to Dutch side 's-Hertogenbosch in the final. In the men's competition Cannock have less fortune. Playing on their home ground they finish fifth, despite having scored 21 goals in their three pool matches. Cannock also hosted the Super Cup, which was won by Leicester in the women's competition. Reading were forced to watch Surbiton slug out a draw against Cannock before collecting the cup in the men's competition. England's u21 men have a clean sweep against their hosts in the Netherlands, winning 4-0 and 3-2 in a two match series. England start a series of Summer internationals with England women beating Australia at Reading. Former England and GB goalkeeper, David Luckes, in awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Netherlands beat Australia 6-2 in Kuala Lumpur to win the Aslam Shah trophy.



East Grinstead's Ashley Jackson scored the winning penalty stroke in the Indoor Finals at the NIA.

podcast. The women's title is won by Chelmsford. The men's final is a real thriller, with East Grinstead being 5-1 down to Canterbury at half time but coming back to level the score and win on penalty strokes. The UK Player of the Year awards are hosted by the Hockey Writers' Club and are won by Crista Cullen and Jon Ebsworth. Back indoors, Slough gain promotion for England by taking gold in the women's Indoor Club Champions Trophy in Austria. Loughborough Students finish 4th in the men's trophy in Eindhoven. In Cordoba England's women finish fourth in a Four Nations Tournament but win the Fair Play award. Beth Storry wins the best goalkeeper award.

March

Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Australia take gold in both the men's and women's tournaments. Pakistan win silver in the men's competition but England lose out on the bronze, going down 2-0 to Malaysia. England's women have more luck, winning

Continued on Page 4

More Hockey News

DUTCH WOMEN ARE THE TOPS

The Netherlands' women's hockey team was honoured with the title of Team of 2006 at the Dutch Olympic organisation's annual gala on 21 December. 2006 was a special year for the Dutch women. Having suffered the disappointment of failing to win gold in the Olympic games in Athens in 2004, they were the dominant team in the 2006 women's World Cup in Madrid, where they beat Australia in the final. The Dutch captain, Minke Booij was named the FIH Woman Player of the Year in October.



Skipper Minke Booij lifts the World Cup in Madrid

SOUTH RE-WRITE THE RULES

Concerns about the safety of junior players have caused the Southern Counties Hockey Association (England) to publish an edict in respect of junior hockey under its jurisdiction. A revision to the Rules of Hockey, due to come into force on 1 January 2007, relaxes the rule which requires every team to have a fully kitted out goalkeeper. The 2007 rules require that a team either has a fully equipped goalkeeper, a kicking back wearing a helmet, or plays with no player on the pitch with goalkeeping privileges. However, in a statement released by the SCHA it says, "The Southern Counties HA believe that this relaxation is inappropriate in junior hockey. The Association notes that the EH has already stated that Mini Hockey must have fully equipped goalkeepers." Teams in junior hockey in the South may not opt for either a kicking back or no goalkeeper. Junior hockey is defined as "....any match where the players are defined within the league or competition as being under 18 on a specific date irrespective of the actual age of all or any players in a match." HockeyTalk is not aware of any other Association implementing similar measures ●THM

That was the year that was. Continued from page three.



Brett Garrard was replaced by joint captains, Glenn Kirkham and Ben Hawes

July

The England men's team, which is preparing for the World Cup in Monchengladbach, is hit by the news that top goalkeeper, Jon Ebsworth, is stepping down from the squad. He cites the career/hockey balance as the reason. The England management announce that captain Brett Garrard is being replaced by joint captains, Glenn Kirkham and Ben Hawes. The squad get their first taste of the World Cup venue, the Warsteiner Stadium, when they play a two match series against Germany in Monchengladbach. Both matches end in draws, 2-2 and 3-3 respectively. England women play the second of their matches against Australia at Reading and lose 3-1. They follow this up with a match against world champions Argentina, which they lose 4-2. The u21 women's team play in a four nations tournament in Alcalá and win 4-0 over Germany, draw 3-3 with Spain and beat the Netherlands 2-1. The u16 girls finish fifth in the European Youth Nations Championship, but the boys win the bronze with a 7-1 victory over Ireland in their competition. England men play two test matches against Poland in Gniezo and win 3-0 and 5-0. They then go on to play in a four nations tournament with Poland, Ireland and the Ukraine and take the silver medal. Poland win the gold. In the European Junior Nations Championships for Girls, England win the silver, losing 1-0 to Germany in the final. The boys come fifth in their competition. The u18 boys take part in a revived Home Nations Tournament, which they win. Scotland come second and Wales third. Germany's women win their first Champions Trophy in Amsterdam, whilst the Dutch men win their eighth in Terrassa. Cuba's men and women win their respective tournaments in the Central American and Caribbean Games.

August

England women play Japan at East Grinstead and win 4-2. They then go on to play two test matches against Germany. They draw the first 1-1 but win the second 2-1. The men play two matches against the Netherlands. They lose the first, at Belle Vue, 3-2, but draw the second at Cannock 2-2. The Dutch men also win the Hamburg Masters during August, whilst their

women win the AustroTurf March on Madrid tournament in Virginia Beach in the USA.

September

Germany win the BDO Men's World Cup in Monchengladbach, after trailing to Australia for much of the game. Spain win the silver. After a promising tournament England met Pakistan for 5th place. Martin Jones scored the only goal of the match when James Tindall latched onto a defensive mistake and passed to the unmarked Jones. Teun de Nooijer is named as FIH Player of the Year.



Germany win the World Cup in Monchengladbach

October

The Netherlands win the Samsung Women's World Cup in Madrid, beating Australia 3-1 in the final. Argentina take the bronze. England struggle in a tough pool, but manage to beat Germany in the pool and again in the 7th place match. Minke Booij named FIH Woman player of the year. FIH Allstars Teams announced. Richard Mantell and Crista Cullen are the only English members. The Girl's Regional tournaments, held at Millfield, are won by the Midlands (u15) and the South (u17).



Dutch win the World Cup in Madrid

November

England men's and women's team play in the Netherlands. England's women lose 3-0 to the Dutch in Rotterdam, whilst the men lose 3-1 to the Dutch in Hilversum. Argentina's men and women are back in action with a double victory in the ODESUR games in Buenos Aires.

For news of what happened in December 2006 turn to a Month in Focus on Page 6

FROM THE STUDIO

What's happening at [TalkHockeyRadio](#)

January is a milestone of sorts at [TalkHockeyRadio](#). Not only have I discovered that I have something in common with the Queen (she became a podcaster in December when she made her Christmas message available on-line for the first time), but it is twelve months since we made our first recordings. It was not a particularly auspicious start, as the first words I ever uttered on a podcast were "Welcome to the National Exhibition Centre." I was actually at the indoor finals at the National Indoor Arena! We have learnt a lot since then, although we still make mistakes!

One of the things that we were starting to develop during the latter part of 2006 was the number of photographs we were putting on our web site (currently in the region of about seventy) and this will continue. Our photographs produced a great deal of positive feedback. Indeed, I was touched by an email I received from a site visitor from Kenya who said that the photographs had inspired him to take up hockey. That one email made the whole exercise worthwhile. Although we get given a lot of good quality photographs, about 90% of our photos are taken by yours truly. This does not sit comfortably with the main activity of [TalkHockeyRadio](#). The problem is that the sort of camera and lens combinations you need to be able to take sports photographs in all conditions, is expensive, big, and heavy. I doubt whether I would have the physical strength to lug around both recording equipment and the proper photographic equipment that would give me pin-sharp pictures in all conditions.

As you can imagine, we are entirely digital these days. That is not just the photography. Our field recordings are made onto compact flash cards similar to those used in cameras. There the similarity ends. When taking digital photos I do not mind taking a hundred shots to get a dozen really good ones. The same approach does not work at all well with digital recording. Unfortunately, during November, just such a similarity started to emerge. It came to a head when we barely had enough useable material to put together our December podcast. As part of our size/weight compromise we had originally bought a particularly compact recorder. Unfortunately, it seems not to have been tough enough for the rigours of life at [TalkHockeyRadio](#). As a result we have had to invest in some new equipment, the first of which arrived just before Christmas. So, my apologies for the lack of variety in the December podcast, but hopefully our new equipment will improve both the sound quality and the variety of our recordings. We are also hoping to bring in some new studio equipment in the new year, so keep listening for progress. ●THM The Editor

WE DON'T PUBLISH LEAGUE TABLES!

And indeed we don't normally, but as this is the middle of the winter break we thought we might update you with the latest EHL tables and leaders from the feeder leagues.

EHL Men's Premier										
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts		
1 Reading	9	6	1	2	34	20	14	19		
2 Cannock	9	6	1	2	34	21	13	19		
3 Loughborough Stds	9	6	1	2	22	17	5	19		
4 Beeston	9	5	2	2	31	16	15	17		
5 E.Grinstead	9	5	2	2	31	23	8	17		
6 Surbiton	9	3	2	4	20	23	-3	11		
7 Hampstead & W	9	1	5	3	21	29	-8	8		
8 Canterbury	9	2	1	6	18	23	-5	7		
9 Belper	9	1	2	6	16	37	-21	5		
10 Guildford *	9	1	1	7	15	33	-18	3		
Updated 3/12/06 * Pts Deducted										

EHL Women's Premier										
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts		
1 Leicester	9	7	0	2	24	12	12	21		
2 Slough	9	6	2	1	29	16	13	20		
3 Canterbury	9	6	1	2	21	12	9	19		
4 Bowden Hightown	9	4	3	2	30	20	10	15		
5 Ipswich	9	4	2	3	24	23	1	14		
6 Old Loughtonians	9	3	3	3	15	18	-3	12		
7 Chelmsford	9	3	2	4	16	14	2	11		
8 Olton & W.Warcs	9	2	2	5	15	22	-7	8		
9 Doncaster	9	0	3	6	7	24	-17	3		
10 Sutton Coldfield	9	1	0	8	16	36	-20	3		
Updated 9/12/06										

EHL Men's Division One										
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts		
1 Bowden	9	8	1	0	33	23	10	25		
2 Havant	9	7	1	1	41	20	21	22		
3 Chelmsford	9	5	1	3	30	26	4	16		
4 Old Loughtonians	9	4	1	4	29	23	6	13		
5 Bath Buccaneers	9	5	1	3	33	27	6	16		
6 Bourville	9	3	1	5	28	31	-3	10		
7 Holcombe	9	2	2	5	24	23	1	8		
8 Brooklands	9	3	2	4	19	27	-8	11		
9 Southgate	9	2	2	5	19	23	-4	8		
10 Teddington	9	0	0	9	7	40	-33	0		
Updated 3/12/06										

EHL Women's Division One										
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts		
1 Barnes Hounslow	9	6	1	2	23	10	13	19		
2 Harleston Magpies	8	5	1	2	15	9	6	16		
3 Sunderland	9	5	1	3	18	16	2	16		
4 Trojans	9	4	3	2	19	10	9	15		
5 Clifton	8	5	0	3	12	9	3	15		
6 Poynton	9	4	2	3	19	13	6	14		
7 Loughborough Stds	9	3	3	3	14	13	1	12		
8 Birmingham Uni	9	4	0	5	11	16	-5	12		
9 Firebrands	9	1	1	7	8	20	-12	4		
10 Horsham	9	1	0	8	7	30	-23	3		
Updated 2/12/06										

EHL Men's North Division										
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts		
1 Barford Tigers	12	11	0	1	39	16	23	33		
2 Sheffield Uni/Bank	12	10	1	1	39	16	23	31		
3 Stourport	12	7	2	3	46	22	24	23		
4 Doncaster	12	7	2	3	26	19	7	23		
5 Peterborough	12	5	2	5	37	40	-3	17		
6 Harrogate	12	5	1	6	28	33	-5	16		
7 Sikh Union	12	4	2	6	22	30	-8	14		
8 Formby	12	3	3	6	21	30	-9	12		
9 Lichfield	12	3	2	7	29	27	2	11		
10 Leek	12	3	1	8	21	36	-15	10		
11 Nottingham	12	3	1	8	24	50	-26	10		
12 Sheffield Hallam	12	2	1	9	25	38	-13	7		
Updated 10/12/06										

EHL Women's North Division										
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts		
1 Durham Uni	12	9	2	1	36	14	22	29		
2 Cannock	12	6	4	2	29	20	9	22		
3 Liverpool Sefton	12	6	2	4	32	14	18	20		
4 Aldridge	12	7	2	3	17	11	6	23		
5 Bradford	12	7	2	3	21	16	5	23		
6 Belper	12	6	3	3	29	15	14	21		
7 Ben Rhydding	12	6	3	3	23	20	3	21		
8 Nottingham Hfields	12	5	1	6	20	20	0	16		
9 Whitley Bay	12	4	1	7	17	28	-11	13		
10 Preston	12	4	0	8	21	26	-5	12		
11 Chester	12	1	1	10	9	29	-20	4		
12 Worcester	12	0	1	11	7	48	-41	1		
Updated 9/12/06										

EHL Men's South Division										
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts		
1 Old Georgians	12	10	1	1	55	20	35	31		
2 Oxted	12	8	3	1	45	17	28	27		
3 Indian Gymkhana	12	7	2	3	39	31	8	23		
4 Bromley & Beck.	12	6	3	3	30	29	1	21		
5 Exeter Uni	12	6	2	4	40	25	15	20		
6 Whitchurch	12	5	1	6	42	40	2	16		
7 Birmingham Uni	12	4	3	5	40	26	14	15		
8 Firebrands	12	3	5	4	34	36	-2	14		
9 Ipswich	12	4	1	7	30	51	-21	13		
10 Plymouth Marjon	12	3	2	7	27	48	-21	11		
11 St. Albans	12	3	0	9	21	54	-33	9		
12 Oxford Hawks	12	1	1	10	19	45	-26	4		
Updated 9/12/06										

EHL Women's South Division										
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	+/-	Pts		
1 Reading	12	10	2	0	40	9	31	32		
2 St Albans	12	8	2	2	31	12	19	26		
3 Sevenoaks	12	6	1	4	20	14	6	19		
4 Swansea	12	5	4	3	26	19	7	19		
5 Woking	12	5	4	3	19	18	1	19		
6 St Austell	12	6	2	4	16	15	1	20		
7 Staines	12	4	5	3	22	24	-2	17		
8 Wimbledon	12	4	1	7	14	21	-7	13		
9 Maidstone	12	5	1	6	31	23	8	16		
10 Exmouth	12	2	2	8	10	22	-12	8		
11 Bourmouth	12	3	1	8	9	23	-14	10		
12 Southampton	12	1	0	11	8	46	-38	3		
Updated 9/12/06										

Top teams from EHL feeder leagues as at Christmas/New Year break

NORTH	
Men	
1. Durham Uni	29pts (+25)
2. Kingston-u-Hull	29pts (+21)
3. Preston	24pts (+6)
Women	
1. Sheffield Hallam	29pts (+17)
2. Spingfields	26pts (+25)
3. Harrogate	26pts (+14)

EAST	
Men	
1. Harleston Mag.	29pts (+20)
2. Cambridge Uni.	27pts (+25)
3. Blueharts	21pts (+3)
Women	
1. Cambridge City	34pts (+28)
2. Bromley & Beck.	22pts (+1)
3. Sudbury	21pts (+6)

MIDLANDS	
Men	
1. Bridgenorth	23pts (+17)
2. Chesterfield	22pts (+10)
3. Telford & Wrekin	22pts (+9)
Women	
1. Bradford	28pts (+14)
2. Chesterfield	23pts (+10)
3. Hampton-in-Arden	17pts (+1)

SOUTH	
Men	
1. Sevenoaks	26pts (+19)
2. Chichester	26pts (+17)
3. Ashford	25pts (+18)
Women	
1. Rover Oxford	21pts (+12)
2. Southgate	19pts (+7)
3. Havant	18pts (+8)

WEST	
Men	
1. Cardiff	30pts (+30)
2. Gloucester City	24pts (+18)
3. Robinsons	21pts (+10)
Women	
Taunton Vale	25pts (+13)
Clifton II	20pts (+11)
Isca Dragons	18pts (+7)

We publish full EHL league tables on our web site every week. Go to the News page on the site to find link.

A MONTH IN FOCUS

All the most essential news

30 November: Andy Bradshaw is appointed u16 Boys Assistant Coach. Andy is player/coach of National League North side Sheffield Hallam.



Crista Cullen



My Favourite Picture of 2006

Not much happens on the hockey front for most of December, so our Month in Focus is a bit short this month. So what to put in the space? Of all the hockey exploits of 2006 this is the one for me. England are slugging out a goal-less draw against Pakistan in the BDO World Cup in Monchengladbach. I am at the point of packing up my equipment in case they water the pitch for extra time, and then suddenly Martin Jones has popped the ball into the back of the net. I was too slow to get the goal being scored, but this will do as second best. It's all in the body language. It's not the best photo I've ever taken but it's my favourite from 2006.

Peter Savage

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4 December: England Hockey announce a six year sponsorship deal with the Man Group.

6 December: Leicester's Crista Cullen named Great Britain Hockey Athlete of the Year. To mark the British Olympic Association's Centenary the BOA has presented a trophy to each of the 35 Olympic governing bodies for them to present to their top athlete

12 December: The schedules for the 2007 European Nations Championships in Manchester are announced. A tournament website at www.eurohockeymanchester2007.com is launched. England's men and women will have a ticket to the Olympics in Beijing if they can win a medal in this tournament.

14 December: Korea win gold in the Asian Games. See front page for details.

21 December: The FIH announce the venues for the Olympic Qualifying tournaments. All will be held in 2008 and are Auckland (NZ), Santiago (Chile) and Kakamigahara (Japan) for the men, and Baku (Azerbaijan), Kazan (Russia) and Vancouver (Canada) for the women.

TEN YEARS AGO

What was happening in the world of hockey in December 1996/January 1997

- Jane Sixsmith gained recognition from the Sports Writers Association when she won the Pat Beresford Award, the first individual hockey player to win the award.
- The All England Women's Hockey Association votes by a majority of 602 to 42 to form a single association with the men. The Hockey Association (the ruling body of men's hockey) had held a Special General Meeting a few days earlier and approved the amalgamation.
- Southgate overtook Hounslow as the national league's all-time most successful club. In 141 games they had accrued 290 points, the same as Hounslow, but had a better goal difference.

Who are we?

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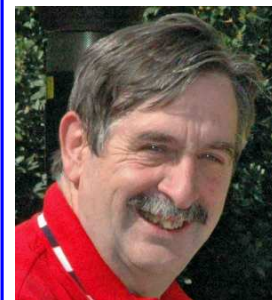
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The opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the publisher.

●HTM is anxious to encourage new writers about our sport. Contributions of not more than 600 words should be sent in a computer readable format (MS Word for preference) to our Email address (above).



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