



# 100 YEARS OF



# LADIES HOCKEY







The Wolf Academy launched in 2019 as a hockey specific coaching organisation. We deliver school holiday hockey camps, along side group and individual coaching sessions to both junior and senior hockey players.

For more info contact: [info@thewolfacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@thewolfacademy.co.uk)

Proudly sponsored by: **CATALYST**



# **CATALYST<sup>®</sup>** HOCKEY

STICKS



CLOTHING



ACCESSORIES



Use Code:

# CHRISTMAS30

FOR 30% OFF ALL PRODUCTS

Offer ends 31st December 2022



[enquiries@catalysthockey.com](mailto:enquiries@catalysthockey.com)  
[www.catalysthockey.com](http://www.catalysthockey.com)



# CONTENTS

Page 5	Chairman's Welcome
Page 6	Thank yous
Page 7	Timings for the day
Pages 8-10	1920s: Where it all begins
Page 11	On this day 100 years ago
Pages 12-16	1950s-70s: A blast from the past
Pages 17-21	1980s: The ultimate decade for SLHC
Pages 22-31	1990s-2000s: Partnerships & Consolidation
Pages 32-35	Highlights from the modern era
Pages 36-38	2021-22 Squads
Page 39	Bright futures for Ladies Hockey in Sheffield



# CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Written by Steve Hipwell

As Club Chair, I'd like to welcome everyone to Abbeydale for tonight's celebration. We finally have the opportunity to mark a very special milestone in the history of women's hockey here in Sheffield.

I'm told, the idea of a celebration to mark one hundred years of sport at Abbeydale, including the formation of the Sheffield Women's Hockey Club was underway many years ago. Then Covid struck and the plans were put on hold. So tonight it is great to see former and current players, officials, umpires, coaches and supporters gathered to celebrate the past century and look forward to the next one.

The club can look back fondly on winning the National Cup back in 1984 and subsequent European adventure, whilst twice the club won the North Premier League, progressing to the National League. Looking ahead, we aim to build a strong enough squad to once again scale the heights of the newly formed

Yorkshire and North East Premier and qualify once more for the National League.

We can celebrate the fact that the women regularly field five teams and are working on field a sixth team more regularly. Results are mixed but victories are celebrated whilst defeats are reflected upon. We are proud of the fact that we are able to run five training sessions a week for our women, with each of the top four sides having their own dedicated session. In addition, members of our women's section regularly umpire and coach across the junior & senior programmes. The club recently achieved Talent Centre status which will help develop our offering to our juniors but also raise standards in all areas of the club.

There will be many challenges but we have a strong executive committee ready to lead the club forward and an enthusiastic playing membership.

Women's hockey in Sheffield is in a good place and it will continue to build.



**Congratulations!**

# 100

**Sheffield Ladies Hockey Club**

MLS CONTRACTS LTD  
04 PARK SQUARE  
NEWTON CHAMBERS ROAD  
SHEFFIELD  
SOUTH YORKSHIRE  
S35 2PH

Collectively MLS have over 100 years of event experience! We are passionate, and a well-established Sports Consultancy and Event Management organisation. We work both in the UK and internationally, across professional sports including Para Sports, community/mass participation events and multi-sports manifestations.



## A BIG THANK YOU TO...

... Everyone who has contributed to the centenary celebration dinner and brochure:

- Mark Beavis for planning the dinner and creating the publicity
- Roger Lomas for contacting lots of ex members and coordinating the production of the brochure
- Helen Polack for pulling the publication together, including creating the format and editing the brochure.

The major contributors to the brochure were Joy Alexander Hall, Ann Marshall and Sue Catton. Thanks also for the contributions of Owen Carr, Pat Axe, Pauline Danson, Elaine Woodhams, Andrew Pettigrew and Kathryn Hughes. Also a final thanks to those who have placed adverts and made donations to help with costs of the brochure.



# TIMINGS

13:15 W2 v Leeds Adel

16:30 W1 v Stokesley

19:00 Drinks in Abbeydale Bar

19:30 Celebration Meal

- Speech: Sue Catton
- Followed by disco

Menu: Roast chicken, followed  
by profiteroles

 omega  
AT ABBEYDALE

Restaurant, function suite and bar



# 1920S: WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

Written by Owen Carr

Sheffield Ladies Hockey Club are celebrating 100+ years of playing at what we now know as Abbeydale Park.

In 1920, Sheffield Amateur Sports Club, incorporating Sheffield Football, Sheffield Rugby, Collegiate Cricket and Sheffield Hockey clubs were looking to acquire land in Dore to use as playing fields. Initially they looked at 35 Acres, with the backdrop of Abbeydale Hall having the potential to be made into a very handsome clubhouse!

Unfortunately, few news articles about local sport at the time still exist in the archives and even fewer pictures could be found, but here is one of hockey (albeit men's!) at Abbeydale back in the early days.





# 1920S: WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

Written by Owen Carr

It is worth noting that Sheffield Ladies Hockey Club is older than 100 years as on 6 December 1919, Sheffield Ladies beat Bradford 3-1 with 2 goals from Miss Yates and 1 from Miss Rhodes.

Sheffield University were playing in 1920 and on the 8 March lost to Manchester Uni 4-1, playing away at the Firs (now known as the Armitage Centre). Miss Rimes scored for Sheffield and it rained during the whole of the second half (sounds familiar).

The 1919-20 season saw the inaugural season of Sheffield & District Ladies' Hockey League, formed on Thursday 28 August 1919 at The Wentworth Cafe. The Hon. Secretary was Eva Binstead and there were 8 clubs: City, Craven Street, Darnall, Holly Guild, Leopold, Milton, Parkgate and Rotherham. Notice no Sheffield, although they did compete in the 1922-23 season.

In July, there was an appeal for Men to help with responsible positions in the organisation!

The first winners in May 1920 were Holly Guild, dropping just 3 points and receiving a cup to keep for a year.



# 1920S: WHERE IT ALL BEGINS

Written by Owen Carr

The following season (1920-21), the league had enough teams for 2 divisions:

## Division 1:

City  
Cravens  
Darnall  
Endcliffe Congs  
Holly Guild  
Parkgate  
Rotherham  
Tinsley

## Division 2:

Balfour's  
Firth Park  
Forward  
Meersbrook  
Rotherham Congs  
Sanderson's  
Stocksbridge  
Walkley Wes

Still no Sheffield, although there were a number of separate clubs in the City, including 2 church clubs and a number of work teams.

There were estimated to be about 40 ladies' clubs in South Yorkshire but only 2 (Leopold & University) were affiliated to the Yorkshire Ladies County Hockey Association.

The social side was different a hundred year's ago. On 27 January 1920, the S & D Ladies' Hockey League held a whist drive and dance at the Imperial Rooms. The MC for the dance was Mr T Bowker and the MC for the Whist Drive was Mr P. Binstead, presumably father of the Hon. Sec of the league.

# ON THIS DAY

## 100 YEARS AGO

Written by Owen Carr

To set the scene, here were the league tables and fixtures on Saturday 25th Nov 1922 (it was only 2 points for a win then):

Sheffield and District Ladies League Division 1 table:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Parkgate	5	4	1	0	20	6	9
Rotherham	6	3	3	0	16	10	9
Darnall	4	3	1	0	13	1	7
Clowne	5	3	1	1	23	4	5*
Nar' Storth	2	2	0	0	15	1	4
Sheffield Ladies	5	2	0	3	9	12	4
Tinsley	5	1	0	4	7	26	2
City	5	0	0	5	4	19	0
Eastwood	5	0	0	5	1	29	0

\*deducted 2 points for rule infringement.

Sheffield and District Ladies League Division 2 table:

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Inland Revenue	6	5	0	1	26	5	10
Sandersons	5	4	0	1	12	4	8
Independent	4	3	0	1	9	7	6
Chesterfield	5	2	1	2	7	10	5
City 2 <sup>nd</sup>	3	2	0	1	12	6	4
Banner Cross	6	1	2	3	7	26	4
Ranmoor	5	1	1	3	8	6	3
GPO	5	1	1	3	5	10	3
Brightside & Carbrook	5	0	0	5	5	17	1

Sheffield Ladies v Rotherham (at Abbeydale Park): 2 - 1,  
Scorers: Miss Jackson & Miss Shypher for Sheffield and Miss Cressworth for Rotherham

City v Nar' Storth: 2-2  
Independent v GPO: 3-2  
Sanderson v City: 2 5-3  
Leopold v Wickersley: 14-1  
Rotherham GS v Sheffield CSS: 4-1

There were two articles about women's hockey in The Green 'Un. The first article proves that nothing has changed in 100 years! There was strong criticism about selection for the County side! Miss M Walker of Leopold on the right wing was the only person from the Sheffield Area selected.

Hopefully, the second article shows that things have changed. This article was strongly against the playing of mixed hockey! A woman writer to the Sheffield Telegraph wrote:

"Women and girls have not the equal physical strength of a man, and generally in a mixed match the girls have a very small part of the play. Moreover, a game with men is not free from real danger. Better exercise and greater enjoyment is found in an eleven of all girls."



# 1950S - 70S: A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Written by Joy Alexander-Hall

## SETTING THE SCENE

I joined Sheffield Ladies Hockey Club in the late 1950's. The club sported the best grass pitch in Yorkshire, despite the sideways slope. It was such a privilege to play at Abbeydale. The team of catering staff provided teas which were the envy of the county - the lemon meringue pie was to die for!

The standard of hockey was very high, and in 1957 the 1st Team squad included two international players, Marion Straffen and Margaret Glossop.

Sheila Hall played for the North - a super trio.

My first game for SLHC was against a French touring side and my first appearance for Yorkshire 1st XI coincided with Marion Straffen and Sheila Hall's retirement. We travelled by train to play Northumberland and planned to have dinner on the train coming home - that is, until the dining car caught fire!!



# 1950S - 70S: A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Written by Joy Alexander-Hall

## HIGHLIGHTS

The club year started in September with the Thirsk weekend for the top eight teams in Yorkshire. We stayed at the Golden Fleece. This was a great way to start the season.

In the Spring we took part in the York Rally, which was played on temporary pitches marked out on the race course. Shin pads were the order of the day. Needless to say we never won!

In April 1973, SLHC played against Monica Pickergill's XI. Monica was Captain of Yorkshire and her team included several international stars. We managed a very respectable 1-1 draw.

Representing the club in this high profile match were: Pam King, Liz Linfoot, Dorothy Scarr, Sheila Bromiley, Margaret Thompson, June Ayers, Pat Whitaker, Joy Alexander, Linda McLean, Gill Leeson, Pauline Danson, Ann Gillott and Kate Corfield (see picture below).





# 1950S - 70S: A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Written by Joy Alexander-Hall

## HIGHLIGHTS

At Easter in 1974, SLHC were selected to represent England at an International Clubs Festival in Deventer (Netherlands), playing teams from Belgium, Germany and France. We won the trophy for the best sporting team! Representing the club in this international fixture was: Pam King, Liz Linfoot, Dorothy Scarr, Susan Jackson, Lesley Jackson, Sheila Bromiley, Pat Whitaker, Margaret Thomson, Joy Alexander, Linda McLean and Pauline Danson.

At the end of the 1977 season, SLHC Indoor Team won the Final of the Indoor National

Clubs Championship at Crystal Palace. This successful side included: Ann Armer, Pauline Danson, Celia Emery, Tish Rivett, Carol Sharman, Sue Swainston and Pat Whitaker.

Two other teams from Abbeydale Sports Club played in National Club Finals in London the same weekend. Sheffield Football Club lost in the Final of the FA Vase and the Ladies Squash team, of which I was a member, lost in the Final of the Banbury Cup. On our return all three teams were invited by the Lord Mayor to a dinner at the Town Hall in recognition of our achievements.



# 1950S - 70S: A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Written by Joy Alexander-Hall

## REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

SLHC continued, throughout the 1960's and 70's, to be one of the strongest clubs in Yorkshire. During this period the following players were selected to play for the Yorkshire 1st XI and some gained further honours.

In alphabetical order:

Joy Alexander - Yorks. North B.  
AEWHA Advanced Coach  
June Ayers - Yorks. North  
Kate Corfield - Lancs. Yorks.  
North  
Pauline Danson - Yorks. North.  
England B  
Sheila Dickinson - Yorks.  
Sheila Hall - Yorks. North  
Gill Leeson - Yorks. North  
Linda McLean - Yorks. In 1973  
scored 105 goals for SLHC!  
Muriel Schofield - Yorks.  
Carol Sharman - Yorks.  
Marion Straffen - Yorks. North.  
England  
Sue Swainston - Yorks. North B  
Res. Wales B  
Pat Whitaker - Oxon. Yorks.  
North  
Judy Williams - Yorks. North.  
England B Res

The following represented other counties either before or after playing for SLHC:

Ann Armer - Westmorland  
Jocelyn Blackburn - Cambs.  
East. England B  
Julia Chester - Sheffield  
League  
Joan Hassall - Hunts. East.  
England  
Margaret Glossop - Notts.  
North, England  
Lesley Jackson - Kent, Worcs.  
Herefordshire. West. England  
touring team  
Susan Jackson - Flintshire.  
North Wales. Wales  
Janet Macklin - Somerset

Representing Yorkshire and  
SLHC in Indoor Hockey:

Ann Armer - Yorks. England  
June Ayers - Yorks.  
Pauline Danson - Yorks.  
England  
Sue Swainston - Yorks.  
England. Wales  
Pat Whitaker - Yorks. England  
Squad



# 1950S - 70S: A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Written by Joy Alexander-Hall

## MEMORIES

Reminiscences of a few club players - not to be taken too seriously!

Linda Tate was a larger than life character. Linda played in goal and however muddy or wet, she always managed to look glamorous. Linda was always last to arrive for matches. Her excuse on one occasion for not attending a meeting was a prior engagement at Buckingham Palace, Carriage Racing with Prince Philip!

Elizabeth Linfoot was a force to be reckoned with. Elizabeth was a fullback, she had a good eye and a powerful hit. On one occasion, when playing for the North Juniors, an opposition

supporter commented on her sturdy build, unknowingly in the hearing of Dr. Linfoot who said in a loud voice, "That is my daughter you are talking about"!

Ann Gillott was an outgoing character, especially in the bar on a Saturday evening. When questioned why she was lying on the cloakroom floor one Saturday evening, Ann replied that she was trying to fasten her jeans!! Ann was being chatted up in the bar one evening and, when asked for her phone number, without hesitation, Ann gave the young man her friend's phone number!

## A TIME OF CHANGE

The 1980's heralded a time of change and the start of a new era. It witnessed the demise of county and territorial hockey as the gateway to a place in the England team. The advent of synthetic surfaces revolutionised the game and led to massive rule changes.

# 1980S: THE ULTIMATE DECADE FOR SLHC

Written by Ann Marshall

The 1980s were undoubtedly the most successful decade in the history of SLHC, but increasingly, as the years go by, this is remembered by fewer and fewer, so it's time for a short memory-jog of those outstanding seasons when Sheffield Ladies were National Champions on no fewer than 3 occasions and played in the European Championships.

Following being AEWHA Indoor Champions in 1977, essentially the same team qualified for what became the annual trip to Crystal Palace Sports Centre in the subsequent years, 1978, 79 and 80 without being able to repeat the success of 1977. These weekends were exhausting as many of the Sheffield players played Friday night and Saturday for the club and also for Yorkshire on Sunday and back to work on Monday. Some consolation was Yorkshire winning the National Counties in 1979 and 80.

This was all preparation for the early 80s when Sheffield was one of the top clubs in England. This was before the National Leagues so the knockout competitions were the pinnacle of club hockey.

Facilities were also different to those of today. Pitches were mostly grass so with winter weather causing many Saturday cancellations, the indoor game was much more important to clubs and had a higher profile than today. With no indoor facilities at Abbeydale other than the old air hall that some members might remember on the site of today's badminton hall, training was restricted to some hiring of school halls and fitness runs that coach, Richard Wilson, put us through from Abbeydale up the nightmare hills of Twentywell Lane, Mickley Lane and Dore Road. Qualifying from the North for National Finals was difficult. Hightown, Liverpool and a number of Yorkshire clubs were arch-rivals but they feared us more than us them.



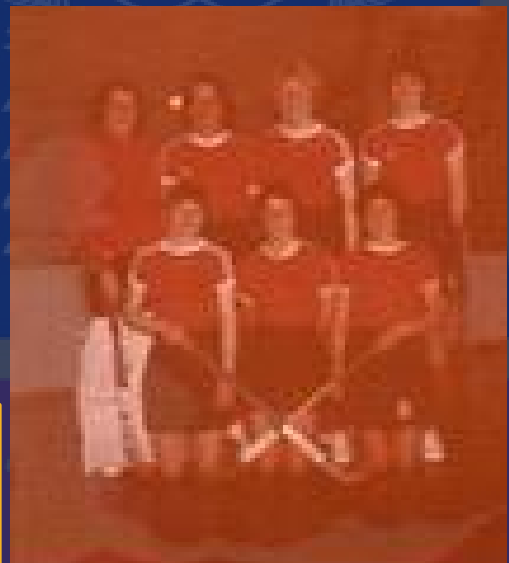
# 1980S: THE ULTIMATE DECADE FOR SLHC

Written by Ann Marshall

After 3 years, Sheffield won the National Indoor Championship in 1980 and again in 1981. The Sheffield team winning teams were:

Ann Armer (Marshall) GK: 77, 80, 81  
Julia Chester (Tapley): 80, 81  
Pauline Danson: 77, 80, 81  
Dawn Chester (Moore): 80, 81  
Sue Swainston (Brownnett): 77, 80, 81  
Judy Williams: 80, 81  
Pat Whitaker (Axe): 77, 80, 81  
Jane Powell: 80  
Barbara Cooke (Janes): 77, 80, 81  
Elaine Ward (Woodhams): 81  
Celia Emery: 77  
Eileen Manders: 81  
Tish Rivett (Old): 77, 80, 81

Ann, Sue and Pauline, and later Michelle Styring, all became England international players, playing in various international competitions across Europe. Exciting, but also challenging, times, as there was no National Lottery funding and all had to fit training and playing around full time work.



# 1980S: THE ULTIMATE DECADE FOR SLHC

Written by Ann Marshall

Sheffield wasn't just a top indoor club in the 1980s. We ranked amongst the best outdoors as well. There was no national league but this didn't stop Sheffield playing the best clubs throughout England, all (supposedly) friendlies, but the competition here was as strong as any league match. Like the Indoor, the ultimate challenge was the AEWHA National Club Championship.

The route to the Finals of the National Championship was all via tournaments. Winning the Yorkshire Cup was an achievement in itself. Rivalry with the likes of Doncaster, York and Wakefield was fierce. Success in the Yorkshire Cup meant qualification for the North Tournament, which Sheffield did repeatedly in the 1980s. The club was now up with best in England and wasn't satisfied with just reaching the North Tournament, the target was now National Finals.

As runners-up to Hightown in 1981, we got a taste for mixing it with the best, this year at Cheltenham. In 1982, this was repeated when, after winning the North Championship with a 5-0 victory over Hightown in the final, we went to Oakham for the Finals - in great form, but it wasn't meant to be, not yet. 1983 at Durham was a desperate disappointment, we lost to Slough in the final.

But 1984 was to be the year. The team was small, no rolling subs yet. The finals were at Cheltenham Ladies College, still on grass and no national stadiums yet either. We went as the North Champions. A 10- team competition, two from each of the five regions, with Sheffield reaching the final to play North rivals, Hightown; a team loaded with internationals including Maggie Souvaye and Linda Carr, household names then.



# 1980S: THE ULTIMATE DECADE FOR SLHC

Written by Ann Marshall

The final went to a penalty stroke decider. Tense, but we were confident in a shootout and came home as AEWHA National Club Champions! On arrival back at Abbeydale there had never been a ladies' celebration like it!

All England Club Champions:



NOT PICTURED: Carol Sharman, Pat Whitaker, Bev Deakin

BACK ROW:  
Elaine Burt  
Sue Swainston  
Michelle Checkley  
Ann Armer  
Judy Williams

MIDDLE ROW:  
Barbara Cooke  
Michelle Styrring  
Sue Moroney  
Julia Chester

FRONT ROW:  
Lesley Sharman  
Gill Leeson  
Elaine Ward (Captain)  
Pauline Danson

# 1980S: THE ULTIMATE DECADE FOR SLHC

Written by Ann Marshall

The reward for being National Champions was qualification for the 12th European Cup for Club Champions, played in Frankenthal, Germany in May 1985.

Preparation included traveling to Bradford and Burton on Trent for astro practice as Abbeydale was yet to get its first Astro pitch. The experience of playing Europe is now a distant blur. Against much larger European clubs laden with internationals we couldn't match the German and Dutch clubs but performed well and returned proud of our results, finishing 7th in Europe. The picture below shows the team who represented Sheffield in Frankenthal.



BACK ROW: Gill Leeson, Celia Emery, Lesley Sharman, Carol Sharman, Julia Chester, Chris Ellis, Michelle Styring, Sue Swainston, Ann Armer, Barbara Cooke, Sue Moroney  
MIDDLE ROW: Pat Whitaker, Pauline Danson, Roger Allen (Coach), Elaine Ward (Captain), Jane Veys, Elaine Burt  
FRONT: Michelle Checkley NOT PICTURED: Bev Deakin



# 1990S - 2000S: PARTNERSHIPS & CONSOLIDATION

Written by Sue Catton

Building upon the success of the 1980s, the 1990's marked a period of opportunity and growth for Sheffield Ladies Hockey Club. This was driven from within and maximised by some high profile events hosted in Sheffield.

Whilst remaining separate clubs from a governance perspective, the men's and women's clubs were coming closer together in terms of strategic planning & delivery. The advent of the World Student Games in 1991 created opportunities for external investment and we became home to the first sand-dressed pitch in the city. There was no longer a dedicated Ladies grass pitch - now all could enjoy the experience of artificial turf, albeit we seemed to have rather a lot of sand at first!

Both the men's and women's clubs also shared a sponsor, Yorkshire Electricity - those yellow drill shirts, bright pink training tops and very very heavy skirts!! If it rained,

they used to soak up water, weighed a tonne and slapped your leg... and took an age to iron. There are fond memories of Hazel Broadbent regularly arriving with her skirt on a hanger, such was the pride in presentation! One upside however - we didn't need an alternative kit as we never clashed with the opposition...



Modelled by Nicola  
(Nipper) Smith

# 1990S - 2000S: PARTNERSHIPS & CONSOLIDATION

Written by Sue Catton

Led by the late Mike Elliot, SLHC & SHC were founding members of the Sheffield Hockey Development Group in 1988. Quality coaching was offered to boys and girls on the new pitch on Saturday and Sunday mornings and ensured that we could bridge the gap for girls between school and club hockey. The junior section was, and still is one of the most successful in the North of England and ensures a consistent pool of talent coming through to the senior teams. At the age of just 14, Sarah Davies was the first of an ongoing list of talented girls from the Club who have represented England at national age group level.

Further diversification of the talent pool at the other end of the age group led to continuing national honours with representatives of SLHC joining forces with Doncaster LHC and, playing as The Tykes, securing the National Veterans title in 1991. We qualified for the Veterans Finals again in 1997, finishing fourth.

Captained by Liz McVey, the first team secured back to back promotions. From the Yorkshire League Premier Division in the 1993/94 season, winning momentum was maintained into the following season when they finished top of North League Division 2 in SLHC's first ever season at Regional level.

1994/95 was even more special as Sheffield once again attracted national attention for Ladies Hockey. Abbeydale was chosen as one of five Sheffield venues to host the Centenary celebrations of the All England Women's Hockey Association (AEWHA).

1st team players of the 90's:  
Anna 'Spanna' Bobbett, Hazel Broadbent, Emily Carre, Sue Catton, Barbara Cooke, Sarah Davies, Jo Duff, Chris Ellis, Ali Haffety, Vicky Joel, Gill Leeson, Liz McVey, Amy Nankivell, Rab Nisbett, Sue Percival, Kate Richardson, Liz Roney, Wendy Smedley, Nicola 'Nipper' Smith, Rachel Smith, Eleanor Ward, Jo Wood.



# 1990S - 2000S: PARTNERSHIPS & CONSOLIDATION

Written by Sue Catton



BACK ROW: Mandy Ball, Pauline Danson, Sue Pratt, Vicky Joel, Michelle Checkley, Karen Price, Ali Haffety, Chris Ellis, Gill Leeson, Sue Percival, Malcolm Pratt (Coach)  
FRONT ROW: Anna Howlett, Julie Binney, Ziggy, Alison Nesbitt, Hazel Broadbent, Wendy Smedley, Becky Beagle, Liz McVey (C), Nicola Smith, Lisa ??, Barbara Cooke.

LEFT: Captain Liz McVey receiving the 1993/94 Yorkshire Cup from GBs Jill Atkins



# 1990S - 2000S: PARTNERSHIPS & CONSOLIDATION

Written by Sue Catton

All the AEWHA national finals across every age group were staged involving 1,100 players, and the event culminated in a televised senior international played at Concord Sports centre, between England and Germany. With celebration dinners and socials alongside, SLHC members played a significant role in welcoming and hosting the occasion, with Centenary programme and events being managed by Sue Catton.

Playing in North Division 1, the 1st team continued to develop, attracting players from both National League and Sheffield League Clubs including Rothe--rwick and Chapeltown, as well as the growing internal talent pool. The club also caught the attention of Derek Brock, a leading coach within the men's Hockey Association, who kept the squad on their toes.

During the 1990's SLHC ran four ladies teams and the balance of youth and experience was kept throughout all four squads with the club not choosing to go down the 'Badgers' route as followed by the men.

The First Team went onto secure the Yorkshire Cup in 1996, beating arch-rivals Doncaster and continued their quest to secure North Premier League status. The end of the 1998/99 season saw a fourth place finish and a runner up spot in 1999/2000. Sheffield at this time was one of only three or four Yorkshire based teams playing at this senior regional level. National League was becoming a realistic medium term target now, with the men already playing in National League Division One.

# 1990S - 2000S: PARTNERSHIPS & CONSOLIDATION

Written by Sue Catton

## 2000 to 2009: National League, a united club, and growth in the new Millennium

This decade arguably starts to challenge the squad of the 1980's with its successes! The 2000/01 season saw the 1st Team squad finish in joint top spot in North League Div 1. We conceded the least goals in the league, with goalkeeper and vice captain Vicky Joel restricting goals against to 17 in the 18 matches, but Leyland Motors got the better of us on goal difference. It was clear to see we were edging closer to a National League place.

The Millennium season finished in style, by securing the English Hockey National Trophy, or The Duffers Cup as it was known to some, beating North Staffs in the final, held at the new National Hockey Stadium in Milton Keynes. Memories of a great weekend, bringing Milton Keynes to life and continuing into the early hours with gymnastics in the hotel corridor.

FRONT: Michelle Checkley, Hazel Broadbent, Caroline Evans, Lindsey Laude, Anna Bobbett C, Vicky Joel VC, Kate Richardson.

Not pictured: Michael Stoddard (Manager)

BACK:

Chris Ellis,  
Liz McVey,  
Sue Catton,  
Alison Glazier,  
Liz Longley,  
Caz France,  
Nicola Smith,  
Emily Carre,  
Jo Wood,  
Eleanor Ward





# 1990S - 2000S: PARTNERSHIPS & CONSOLIDATION

Written by Sue Catton

The squad included a great balance of experience and youth, with Chris Ellis playing her 22nd season for the first team and Hazel Broadbent her 16th. Six of the squad had also come up the ranks, having started their hockey in the Clubs' junior programme. Club loyalty was clearly displayed, with Liz McVey travelling from Banbury, and Captain Anna Bobbett and Nicola Smith coming from Cheshire for training and matches. Coach Alison Glazier was now at the helm, giving tirelessly and passionately for a period of 5 years during this era.

This season also marked the first year of sponsorship with JDM, a local driving school and we soon became known a

the driving force of the North! Momentum was maintained and the 02/03 season finished with the first team taking the North Division 1 title and securing promotion to the North Premier Division.

It's hard to believe looking back now that the Men's and Women's clubs actually only came together formally under Sheffield Hockey Club ahead of the 02/03 season. Lots of work and planning went into this change and the Executive Committees of both sections are to be thanked. Although this marked the end of SLHC as an entity in its own right, ladies hockey has continued at the Dale under the new structure and we're still counting the years.



The 1st Team  
on their 2003  
League win &  
promotion.



# 1990S - 2000S: PARTNERSHIPS & CONSOLIDATION

Written by Sue Catton

The start of the 2004 season marked the opening of our first water based pitch and our very own bore hole! At a cost of £270k the pitch ensured our performance teams could attract and compete with the best in the country. Over this period, closer ties were also developing with Sheffield Hallam University, as the women's club flourished, expanding to six regular Saturday teams.

It was also a successful period for commercial support with dedicated sponsors for the Ladies club and after merger, the Ladies section:

- \*JDM - 2000-01
- \*Sheffield Audi - 2002-03
- \*Yorkshire Windows - 2007-08



# 1990S - 2000S: PARTNERSHIPS & CONSOLIDATION

Written by Sue Catton

In the quest for National League, in the summer of 2005 the first team squad went on a pre-season tour to Rotterdam to get in some high quality training in for the season ahead – no one can remember the actual results, but it was a great tour and it did make a difference!



The 2005/2006 also brought Yorkshire Mixed Hockey League success for the Club, with a 100% win record in our first ever representative season in the League with the squad going on to take the Yorkshire Mixed Cup with a golden goal against Wakefield.

Finally, it all came together in the 2006 – 2007 season for the 1st squad who secured the Yorkshire Elite Cup at the beginning of the season and, ended it with promotion, at long last, to England Hockey's Slazenger National League... with a game in hand - that was easy!



Securing national league status for the first time in SLHC's 87-year history was a really significant achievement, not just for the players who had delivered on the pitch that season, but for all the players, coaches, umpires, supporters, fundraisers and administrators over the decades before.



# 1990S - 2000S: PARTNERSHIPS & CONSOLIDATION

Written by Sue Catton

It also put Sheffield HC into the small band of just twelve clubs out of 1000 across the country who had both men and women's teams playing National League hockey. Just fantastic and really great memories and camaraderie.

For the record, we secured 18 wins, 4 draws and 0 losses from 22 matches. So often the North League runners up, Sheffield could now look forward to joining the teams who had beaten them to the post over the last 5 years!



Post match warm-down and fluid replacement session



Bat puts on her leprechaun costume for St Patrick's Day



Cox assures Roachie that she will start training next week!



Scat responds positively when asked if she is ready for the challenge ahead!



2006/07 SQUAD: Vicky 'Bat' Joel, Liz 'Longers' Longley, Naomes Halliday, Nicola 'Papa' Perkins, Nicola 'Coxy' Cox, Marcie Dunbar, Sue 'Scat' Catton, Tamsin 'Pam' Woodhouse) Lindsey 'Laudie' Laude, Kath 'Hughsey' Hughes, Clare Bettie, Fee 'Dudley' Davies, Carrie Roney, Emily Carre, Caz 'Cazman' Kay. Coach: Neil Roach



# 1990S - 2000S: PARTNERSHIPS & CONSOLIDATION

Written by Sue Catton

Four years after the men's and women's sections joined together fully as Sheffield Hockey Club, we could already see the 'power of together' in action:

- \*The only club in the country with its own TV station
- \*Selected as one of only 6 England Hockey National Performance Centres
- \*50th Hockey Club to receive England Hockey Clubs First Accreditation
- \*Funding its own Hockey Development Officer
- \*Nominated by England Hockey as one of only three hockey clubs for the CCPR Club of the Year
- \*A strengthening partnership with Sheffield Hallam Uni
- \*Major sponsors for both squads
- \*Over 500 junior and senior members playing in 15 senior and 7 junior teams

Sadly National League status lasted only one season with the squad losing out to Horsham in the play-offs and were relegated back to North Premier for the 2008/09 season. But what character the Club showed bouncing straight back to National League under the leadership of Kath Hughes (Captain) and Emily Smyllie (vice captain) for the second time in the decade!

Meanwhile the depth and strength of the club was further developing with the Second team now securing North League status after winning the Yorkshire Premier League too!

All in all, quite a successful and definitely a busy decade in the Club's history!



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MODERN ERA

Photos by Kathryn Hughes and Andrew Pettigrew





# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MODERN ERA

Photos by Kathryn Hughes and Andrew Pettigrew





# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MODERN ERA

Extracts from the End of Season  
Reports by Andrew Pettigrew

## **W1** Watch Out For Sheffield

A self titled "development year" began back in June at which it our priorities were decided.... we would not compromise the beautiful game nor the beautiful team but we would forego an outright attack on the league title in exchange for putting together a squad that addressed the things that got us relegated.

Uptake was steady..... you try getting Naomi Halladay or Emma Fearnley to V drag!! Even Shelle had a go at teaching them during 'January boob camp'.

Our campaign started in defeat against eventual league winners Liverpool Sefton and was followed by a satisfactory win against a spirited Bowdon before dropping disappointing points against Timperley and the physical Whitley Bay. By the time we arrived in Poynton we were fearing the worst; VAL Crewsmith had sustained a nasty danger-wanking injury and was ruled out indefinitely.... Could the depleted squad conquer the team who boasted fringe National Premier league players.... YES! Lisa 'Friend' Appleby picked the team up, put the team into the back of the net and made sure that Poynton didn't get any more chances.... 3-1 win and the point of change as the following day we went 30 minutes before conceding to Bowdon Hightown in the cup (ask Tori about her fight with Tina Cullen)! Unfortunately the standards that were starting to be reached were not maintained through every match pre Christmas and too often we gifted weaker opposition ways back into the game and cheap points.

Indoor was one of the highlights for sure; how you win a short corner from dummie hitting the ball in the indoor game we are yet to find out but we went with it and had a good day nursing each other!

Post Christmas we really hit our stride, the league jungle drum was beating "watch out for Sheffield, they are coming up on the outside". Absolutely correct as our first rule is to not let them come inside (isn't it Tiff?). Along with our stride came a continued commitment to learn and improve which we undoubtedly have and oppositions have said how different we looked from the first half of the season to the second (VAL gained a few pounds and Jan bought a new bra!)

We couldn't report without mentioning the Ben Rhydding performances; away we showed just how good we can be and where we need to start from next season if we are going to do this job right. We carved through a strong, top of the league team and showed across the team where the improvements had been made. We also witnessed the second of Michelle Goal Machine Daniels' goals this season, the first 2 of her 1st team career that has so far spanned a decade. Great job Shelle, perhaps now someone else can have a go at L1 deflection? At home we found the same resilience and standards, two things that were sadly lacking against Liverpool away (forget that!) and fought hard for the win, whilst it didn't come we finished the last game of the season proud of our work that day and what had been done during the season. We have plenty to celebrate and be thankful for tonight.

Squad: Tiff, Toddy, VAL, Jan, Shelle, Papa, Lis, Sharpy, Total Wipeout, Leslie Hals, Hughesy, Fearndog, Shand, Gl, Lex, Random, Barcs, Mackdog, Nat, Nikki, Tori, Nanks, 3J.

Coach: Bat

Thank you to all the club officers, members who have supported the Ladies 1s this season.

Have a great night & most importantly, get better quickly Humpty! From all the girls x

2011

## **W1s** Motivational Mantras Work Wonders

The Women's 1<sup>st</sup> XI have made significant improvements following a tough relegation battle last year.

The combination of new coach and HDO Matt Godden, returning seniors and the development of key junior players all contributed to a much more positive season. It's safe to say it's been a season of challenges, surprises, disappointments but also huge highlights such as our 2-1 win over Alderley Edge at home, a team that is now heading into the new National League structure. With motivational mantras drilled into us by our coach, the team has built an entirely new way of playing hockey. We have seen talented juniors Sophie Flint, Grace Sanderson and Jo Paul secure their places in the squad and have welcomed appearances from Chloe Jones and Eleanor Milbourn. We've been exceedingly lucky to welcome Hallam Alumni player Natasha Richardson and bad-ass Alicia Lauckner from Wimbledon. Emily Lawton, Katie Murfin and Rosie 'The Force' Forster step into their second season for Sheffield. The return of yummy Mummy's Michelle Longson and Caroline 'Barcs' Torpey have added a huge amount of talent and experience to the squad, with Barcs taking top goal scorer for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. We're excited for a rest, for a couple of weeks, before pre-season fitness inevitably begins in June and we go again. Knowing how much we have developed and grown as a team under the watchful eye of Wolf, we are so excited to head into next season and keep on moving up the table.

2018



# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MODERN ERA

Extracts from the End of Season  
Reports by Andrew Pettigrew

## WOMEN'S 1st TEAM

The Women's 1st Team finished in 4th place in the Yorkshire and North East Premier Division for the 2021-22 season.

There were pockets of absolutely brilliant hockey throughout the season but the squad couldn't quite find the level of consistency required to challenge for the top spot, which was the aim at the start of the campaign.

Credit must go to the players whose commitment to training and weekends was unwavering throughout the season.

Even on freezing cold, rainy Thursday nights in the 8.30-10pm slot they were a pleasure to work with. As such, this end of season report is basically a shout out to the people who have made the 1st XI such an exceptional group to be involved with this season.

To squad players such as Kate Burgin, Anna Hewlett, Ellie Tew, Lulu Morrison Parry and Trixie Morrison Parry who didn't see an awful lot of 1st XI hockey, but pushed the standard in training every Tuesday and kept a genuine competition for places - thank you and I look forward to watching those of you still in Sheffield stepping up to the 1st XI full time in future.

To Georgia Pearson and Emily Lawton whose time with the team was cut in half this season due to a relocation and pregnancy respectively, we missed you in the second half of the season. Good luck with the baby Emily, a sentiment likely echoed by many who have met the father!

A nod should go to 'the kids' who leave Sheffield for University in September. Louisa Edwards (9 goals this season), Sophie Flint (Our England U18 superstar), Eleanor Milbourn (6 goals scored this season playing across midfield and at half back), Clara Miller (10/10 perseverance and commitment leading to a return of 5 goals), Jo Paul (queen of assists and winning penalty corners along with 3 goals for herself) and Bex Shorter (AKA Mr Tickle has been an unbelievable player for the W1s this season at half back).

Not only have you all been consistently excellent performers for the 1st XI for multiple seasons now, you have been an example to junior girls in the club who can see, through your achievements, that there is a pathway from junior hockey at SHC through to the Women's 1st Team. I'm looking forward to hearing all about your success with University Hockey and hope that we see you in a Sheffield playing shirt again in the future.

Sarah Brown, who has been an incredibly energetic and effective midfield player this season, also leaves us for pastures new in Manchester having completed her teaching degree at the University of Sheffield. We wish you all the best.

A thank you must go to the captaincy team of Kath Hughes (season number 20 now under the belt), Tash Richardson (11 goals for the season) and Beth Sanderson (who came back from a major knee injury and slotted in like she had never been away) who have formed a brilliant leadership group and been a constant support to myself. I'm certain that they will take the team forward with continued assuredness next season.

Congratulations to legend Jemima Board who netted 20 1st Team goals this season which is a very impressive return.

This year saw also a welcome injection of new players to defensive positions with the first complete season at the club for Fran Livera, Alice Cullen and Anna Ramsay, to be joined later in the season by the University of Sheffield's Emma Green who was a very useful acquisition. It's fantastic to have such a core of strong players like this still in place going in to the 2022-23 season.

Katie Murfin continued to be ever present at the heart of defence as she has been since her arrival at Sheffield Hallam as a fresher, continuing to be so now into her years as a full time adult!

Whilst starting to bring through the next cohort of 1st Team players in the club, the aim for Sheffield Hockey Club Women's 1st Team must remain to once again achieve a spot in the National League. No one will be more excited than me to see it happen!

A great team which is packed full of outstanding people. I wish all of you the very best in your next endeavours, whether they are in Sheffield or elsewhere. For now, enjoy a drink!

Wolf. X

2022



# 2021-22 SQUADS





# 2021-22 SQUADS





# 2021-22 SQUADS





# BRIGHT FUTURES FOR LADIES HOCKEY IN SHEFFIELD

Written by Maz Veater,  
Ladies Club Captain 2022-23



It's absolutely fantastic to be celebrating the Centenary of Women's Hockey at Sheffield Hockey Club (albeit a few years late) and to have the opportunity to interact with players both past and present. As the current Club Captain, I can fully appreciate the trials and tribulations that a club goes through, and how tough it can be to rally everyone - especially in a club of this size! I would like to thank every single player, parent, coach and umpire that have put their time and effort into supporting the Women's Section of the club throughout the last 100 years. We genuinely couldn't do it without you.

Looking ahead to the next 100 years, we are committed to creating a supportive and sustainable pathway for junior players taking their first steps into senior hockey. As we all know, the youth are the future and so we are working hard to ensure that our junior players have the best environment to nurture their skills, both on and off the pitch. My personal goal is to ensure that the ladies section at Sheffield Hockey Club is the most welcoming and inclusive that it can possibly be, and I'm so grateful to have such an amazing group of Captain's and Coaches that are also committed to this goal.

Thank you all for attending this evening, and I hope to see many of you at the next big celebration!



