

Introducing new Area Masters Competitions

April 2022

Dear Masters player

This is just to update you on where we are with creating more opportunities to play at masters level in Y & NE.

There is a Competitions Group consisting of Chris Randall (Wakefield) , Mason Fenlon (Tadcaster), Robert Jackson (Ben Rhydding), Ian Russell (Sheffield), Steve Seymour (Horncastle) and Steve Crute (Sunderland). We would like some female representation and to make sure the whole of the Area is represented – so if you are interested in joining the Group and developing and supporting more masters hockey let Chris Randall know. Email address at end of article.

What we plan is to follow the EH pattern of age groups for single sex competitions – so men over 40; 50; 60.... And women over 35, 45, 55; and probably with mixed games or events using a total age restriction – eg total age of team excluding GK to be min 500.... Though everything is up for discussion still! The aim of any competition is to maximise participation at masters level and raise awareness of the opportunity to play in Area teams in the Area Champs.....

We think based on existing signed up numbers we should be able to have at least 8 mixed teams representing sub areas like West Yorkshire; Lincolnshire, Tyneside and Teeside etc. This may need to come down to 6 initially until we grow the numbers in some single sex competitions.

Our aim is to run single sex leagues in the winter – with fixtures maybe once a month on Sunday (or midweek for over 60s?) with teams playing triangular fixtures at one venue. And mixed in the Summer – on similar lines.

We would have liked to start with a mixed league this Summer but we don't really have the masters contact in clubs – or Area Facilitators – yet to get teams organised and off the ground. We need people in an area to be able to play for teams that include more than one club – even if based on a core from one club - and to have names well-advertised to enable interested players to link with teams.

So what we plan for this Summer is a mixed festival at Wakefield on 30 and 31st July when we can get mixed teams together – start to understand what teams are possible from which areas and have a break in the middle of the day to present what we plan for winter season 2022/23 and Summer season 2023. We hope to be able to sign up people willing to facilitate teams in their areas and be contacts at their clubs aiming to get more masters players involved in enjoying same age group games. We may split into one day with over 50s and the other with under 50s....

So what we are asking of you:

1. Reserve the dates of 30th and 31st July in your diaries. We will be writing out to ask who is interested in playing nearer the date;
2. If you know your Club masters contact speak to them and let them know what we are planning. If you are willing to be a club masters contact (even if a second contact in your club) for area competitions let me know.

3. If you are willing to be a facilitator for a sub area (a group of teams) – with the aim of helping players to get in contact with team organisers and keeping in touch with success in recruiting players for teams – let me know.
4. If you are willing to captain or organise a team for your local group of clubs at an age group let me know.

Chris Randall

Chair Y & NE Competitions Group

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