

GLOUCESTERSHIRE
HOCKEY
ASSOCIATION

GHA Committee Meeting – 25th January 2024
Men's Masters Report

Masters Activity in Gloucestershire

This report is limited mainly to the over 60's age group which just reflects my own current experience and interest in masters hockey.

EH Masters O60's Championships

Update 22/1/24: With both A and B teams suffering defeats in R1 of the T1 competition they were both drawn at home in R1 of the T2 (plate) competition. The A team against Warlocks and the B team against Amersham and Chalfont. Neither opposition could field a team for the official match day of 21st January. Warlocks have since withdrawn from the competition giving the A team a walkover and A&C have offered to play on the next scheduled competition date (11th Feb) which will create some fixture congestion, but the B team will go along with that and see what happens.

After much conversation around this the general consensus is that there's just too much masters hockey going on with the same group of players taking part in all of the competitions. The challenge seems to be to get more players involved and to perhaps create a genuine tier system based on ability.

We have recruited another 4 players into the overall squad via word of mouth but there seems to be very little interest. The current squad is drawn from 10 G&H clubs.

West Masters

Several of the O60's group play for West Masters in their respective EH Regional tournament age groups but as yet lack the leadership/organisation to get involved in the West local tournaments.

International Masters

Several of this seasons O60's group represented England A, England B, England LX and Wales at this year's European championships at O60, O65 and O70. Quite a few gold and bronze medals were brought back from Valencia.

Future

There are more masters players out there in the county at all age groups but as ever the barrier is leadership and organisation to get them mobilised.

Steve Foster

GHA Men's O60's Masters