

The summer of 2014 will be the busiest yet for the National Hockey Museum. Firstly, we are changing our name, slightly! We are dropping the word "National" & becoming The Hockey Museum – THM instead of NHM. The change was formerly agreed by the Trustees on 2nd July. One of the main reasons for this change is that we are entering into a partnership with the FIH to support the goal of preserving and developing the history & heritage of our fascinating sport. For us at The Hockey Museum, it is a very rewarding accolade for the FIH to appreciate what we are doing & to want us to work with them.

At the end of this July's Investec London Cup, all our exhibits will return to Woking - but to a new home. After 3 happy years upstairs in an industrial unit we are moving (just across the road) into something significantly smarter & on the ground floor! We have learned a great deal about what a hockey museum should be in our first home so we hope the new home will be the launch pad for creating something really special for hockey.

To announce & celebrate all of this, & also because our old one had reached its capacity, we will shortly be launching a new website. A good website is a critical tool in getting a message across in this modern world. We may be a museum but we have to use modern technology in all aspects of our operation & we are hopeful that the new website will help us get away from being "The best kept secret in hockey".

It will be an exciting summer & autumn for us at THM, so why not come & join us in this exciting venture. Be part of the team that helps to set up our new home. Just call in & have a look – no commitment - & then decide if you would like to be part of this great undertaking. Please email me at curator@hockeymuseum.net.

Mike Smith (Trustee & Curator)

WOMEN IN HOCKEY ART



Two contrasting examples of the way that hockey players were portrayed in art the mid 20th century. Mike Barford has been leading the work to develop our collection of 'hockey in art' and these are two recent examples of originals acquired. We have a wider selection of examples on display at the Investec Cup and we will have more available on the new website when launched.

CINE-FILM THM has been given 4 large collections of old cine-film. Rowena Shepherd, who is leading the research, reports that they are too fragile to view so we plan to digitise when funds are available. See more on the website about this important work.

SIKHS IN HOCKEY

According to Wikipedia, Sikhs make up less than 2% of India's population, but at the recent World Cup in The Hague, the captain and 9 other players in the Indian squad were Sikhs. Over the years, Sikhs have also represented many other countries such as GB, Canada & Kenya at World and Olympic games. The story of the impact and influence of Sikhs on the development of hockey worldwide is being researched by Dil Bahra, a Trustee of THM. He has amassed a fantastic collection of facts on key individuals and match & tournament results for many of the Countries featuring Sikh players. Ahead of the recent World Cup Tournament in The Hague, Dil also wrote a series of articles about Sikhs who played in previous World Cups – see news section <http://www.sikhsinhockey.com/Default.aspx>. Further work will uncover more of this fascinating story so info. and images to Dilbahra@aol.com.

THE ORIGINS OF HOCKEY OR ICE HOCKEY?

Mike Barford reports that a thoroughly well researched book has just been published in Sweden titled 'On the Origin of Hockey', which is actually all about the origins of ice hockey, not hockey. Two of the three authors, Carl Giden and Patrick Houda, have spent many years meticulously investigating all the evidence which they could find about how and where their form of the game began. They reached the conclusion that ice hockey was created in England by hockey players who took their preferred game on grass to the ice and put on skates when the weather demanded it. This English form of ice hockey predated the playing of ice hockey in Canada- the country that had been widely credited with its invention. Whilst the book draws conclusions about the origins of ice hockey, much of Carl's and Patrick's research relates to the game which spawned ice hockey; they call this game 'field hockey' but which we call hockey. Mike Barford and other volunteers at the Museum were able to provide vital evidence and unique images for this book, and this support has been duly acknowledged by the authors. Mike is hoping that this collaboration with Carl and Patrick will continue in taking forward our own plans to publish an authoritative account of the early history of hockey.



KULBIR BHAURA (GB) BEING TACKLED BY INDIAN CAPTAIN, PARGAT SINGH

THE NHM VOLUNTEERS

A volunteer at the Museum for a couple of years, Lynne Morgan has recently taken on the post of Chair of the Management Committee, a critical role in steering the day to day workings of the Museum. A member of Ashford HC (Middx), Lynne has been an active hockey player and administrator for five decades. She worked for BP for 42 years, travelling extensively in her Occupational Health capacity but retirement in 2008 seems to have given her even more energy as she currently plays for the Ashford second team and is President and Chairman of the Sports Club and was short listed for this year's England Hockey 'Club Volunteer of the Year'. Hockey maybe her sport but her real passion is anything Welsh and she supports their athletics, rugby, football as well as hockey teams all round the world. Another more recent recruit to our team of volunteers is Allan Jobling, our new Webmaster. Allan, a lifelong hockey player and experienced coach started his working life in the telecoms industry but in 2003 became a partner at the 'Hockey Centre' based in Woking, retiring very recently to progress



LYNNE MORGAN



ALLAN JOBLING

his coaching. He's now involved with Surrey County, coaching Junior county teams, has joined the England Hockey Coach Education team as an assessor and is coaching various adult teams when time allows. Look out for the launch of our new website which Allan is redesigning.

WOMEN'S PE COLLEGE MEMORIES

Eilish Macbean has started to research the role played by the Women's PE Colleges on the development of hockey in England and in other countries. She has already visited IM Marsh and attended a seminar at the old Bedford College. She is particularly interested in hearing from people who, as PE College students, played representative hockey and perhaps from former students who travelled abroad and introduced hockey in other countries. It would also be interesting to hear from people who played in the Inter PE Colleges tournaments. Information to eilish.macbean@mypostoffice.co.uk

HOCKEY'S MILITARY STORIES

One fruitful area of current research has been sparked by this year's centenary of the start of WW1 and the thought "What did those Gold Medal winning hockey players of the 1908 London Olympic Games do in the Great War?" We have uncovered many answers to that question but we have extended our study to the whole of the 20th century. We are looking for any stories that relate hockey & hockey people to wartime or military situations. This includes civilians, schools & we have a number of stories telling of the vital contributions made by women can you help?

A few of our stories are "feature film" material, whilst many of course are just very sad. The first hockey player believed to have been killed in WW1 was returned home to his village in Essex for a funeral with full military honours. This was of course in line with the belief at the time that the war would be over by Christmas 1914 & no one had any idea of the carnage that was to follow. Even amongst those captured, hockey continued & we have photographs of both British & German POWs playing hockey in prison camps. If you have any hockey wartime or military stories we would love to hear from you.

DID DOROTHY EMILY HIGGINS PLAY FOR ENGLAND?

At THM, we receive lots of enquiries from many parts of the hockey world and also get enquiries from non hockey sources about people who are believed to have played hockey. A classic question is, "My great uncle Bill played hockey for England between the wars. Can you give me any details?" More often than not, great uncle Bill had not played for England & his prowess as a hockey player had grown with the telling of stories within the family!

A recent enquiry posed a similar question but the story had a most unexpected outcome. A charity in Lincolnshire enquired about one of their benefactors, Dorothy Emily Higgins, whom they believed had played for England in 1908. Checking the records, there was no sign of any international appearance but when we looked at the AEWHA Handbooks, we found numerous references to Dorothy who turned out to be a staunch supporter of Lincolnshire hockey where she played for her club, Albury, both sides of WW1 & also her county. Between the wars Dorothy was a fixture on the Lincolnshire WHA committee & also of the East Anglia WHA Council. Later she became President of Lincolnshire CWAH – maybe not an international but still a great servant of hockey.

However, the story does not end there. Clearly a very determined lady, Dorothy gave up her hockey during WW1 to help the war effort. She travelled to Belgium to drive an ambulance on the Western Front. A remarkable lady & a remarkable story, like many that we uncover when we look into the records at THM.



JOHN GAWLEY'S FLAG

JOHN GAWLEY

UMPIRE ARTEFACTS

Those of a certain age will recognise the yellow flag in the photo! The flag, a familiar and unique sight at the many National League games where John Gawley was a match delegate, was used to acknowledge signals

from match umpires. John, who was awarded the MBE for services to hockey last year, has donated several umpiring items to the Museum. Another item, a device for measuring a hockey stick's curvature, was John's own invention, produced immediately after the new ruling on the "bow" of sticks. Alan Walker, who passed on the artefacts, regretted "that the sawn-off portions removed from the excessively tall, therefore dangerous, corner flag poles at Trojans HC are no longer in the Great Man's possession." Any information on their whereabouts will be most welcome.

Feedback: We hope you've found the latest copy of the Newsletter interesting and if you have any information in connection with the stories or would like to ask further questions please get in touch. Katie Dodd (Editor) katiedodd646@btinternet.com