

Today, The Hockey Museum launches a UK-wide competition for primary schools, with the winning design being displayed at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The Hockey Museum's Art of Hockey competition, supported by The National Hockey Foundation, is open to primary schools across the United Kingdom. Children are invited to design their own piece of two-dimensional artwork about the sport of hockey, using South American influences.

Teachers can download competition guidelines, entry forms and inspiration posters to support the way in which they organise the competition in school. The inspiration posters provide a good display to show children some of the artwork already in The Hockey Museum's collection.

Chosen for its interpretation of the theme, the winning design will be exhibited in the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Operations Centre at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games; at the FIH Headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland; and as part of The Hockey Museum's exhibition at The 2016 Champions Trophy on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London.

Other shortlisted entries will be displayed at The Hockey Museum and within its exhibition at The 2016 Champions Trophy, plus a number of children and schools will win Art materials.

This competition is a critically important element of The Hockey Museum's Education programme, which aims to reach all schools across the UK, and potentially from around the world, with its online resources and access to the Museum's collection.

"The Art of Hockey competition celebrates the start of our journey as a Museum into the world of education" says Jon Rye, volunteer Education Officer at The Hockey Museum. "We know that schools have been enthused by Olympic and Paralympic athletes from around the world, and as an Olympic sport Hockey can continue to provide the inspiration for children and young people.

Deadline for entries is Friday 6 May 2016. More information and all of the competition resources can be found at www.hockeymuseum.net/education. The winning design will be announced on Friday 10 June 2016, eight weeks before the Rio 2016 Olympic Games begins.

ADDITIONAL QUOTES:

Mike Smith, Curator of The Hockey Museum, said: "The Hockey Museum is gathering a vast and interesting collection which will give children and young people the opportunity to explore the history of our sport, and teachers rich material with which to engage children in learning. It is our duty to ensure that the collection is shared and to give hockey's history a future."

Tony Billson, Chairman of The National Hockey Foundation, said: "The National Hockey Foundation is pleased to be able to support such a wonderful competition. Our aim is to encourage the development and growth of our sport, and we hope that this competition will encourage new young hockey enthusiasts – players, officials or spectators."

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. For further details, please contact Jon Rye, THM Education Officer on education@hockeymuseum.net or 07792 985006.

2. Full competition information and resources can be found at www.hockeymuseum.net/education from 22 February 2016.

3. About The Hockey Museum

The Hockey Museum (THM) is a relatively new organisation whose aim is to preserve, share and celebrate the rich heritage and history of the sport of hockey, not only in Britain where the modern game started, but also from all round the world. The Museum is now home to a growing collection of hockey archives, artefacts and memorabilia. A key part of the work of the Museum's team of volunteers is to register, collate and store these fascinating records and items and over time, to make them accessible to the hockey family and the wider public through the website, newsletters, displays and other exhibitions. The Museum was set up as a Trust in the autumn of 2011 and then gained Charitable Status in the summer of 2012. The next step is to achieve Museum Accreditation by the middle of 2016. These steps will all help to safeguard the valuable collection that is being put together. THM is supported by England Hockey and has recently gone into partnership with the International Hockey Federation to lead their work to preserve hockey's international history. www.hockeymuseum.net

4. About The National Hockey Foundation

The Foundation is a charitable Trust originally established to develop and operate the hockey stadium at Milton Keynes. The Foundation hopes to be able to give financial support to the development of sport in England particularly at youth level. The Trustees see their role being to encourage the development and growth of hockey by providing funding to the sport through clubs and educational establishments and by support to England Hockey's youth development activities. www.thenationalhockeyfoundation.com

5. About Bubble & Scruff

An agency dedicated to putting children and young people at the heart of everything we do, to improve their learning and life opportunities. Developing educational programmes and learning materials that excite and inspire children and young people, engage educators and reach the family home. Taking real-life experiences, knowledge and values, mixing it with curriculum subjects and learning outcomes, and creating educational resources for inside and outside the classroom. The Hockey Museum's volunteer Education Officer, Jon Rye, founded and manages Bubble & Scruff. www.bubbleandscruff.com