



1995 - 2025

The LXer



2025

YEARBOOK

Welcome to the LXer

It is with great pleasure that I have been asked to write a few words in this year's LXer which commemorates the LX Club's 30th Anniversary. I am acutely aware that not many people read 'forwards' and instead jump straight to the juicy match reports and photos. However, if you are reading this, you might also be just the right people to read the last paragraph!



Flicking back through previous LX Yearbooks, in the 2015 edition, it was of particular interest and significance to read Gerald Wilkinson's article about the development of master's hockey in England. As many will know, the LX Club was born in 1995 in response to the emerging opportunity to play Over 60's hockey on an international stage, and so it became the vehicle for putting grandmasters hockey on the map in England. The success of LX also encouraged the national body to recognise the growing importance of Masters Hockey. Even more noteworthy in the LXer were the reports from an Intra Club Day at Felsted in February, where the 3 teams battled it out: Wilkinson's Warriors, Girling's Growlers and Dennison's Destroyers! Mike SurrIDGE was the match manager and 2 'originals' were playing that day; Gerald Wilkinson and Brian Woolcott.

The Club has expanded significantly since its inception and continues to have outstanding successes in promoting hockey at home and in competition world-wide. It was a pleasure to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Club at several events around the country this year; sail flags fluttering to mark the occasion at many a venue. Of particular note was the poignant gathering of 10 England and LX teams at Worcester which emphasised the health of over 60s hockey in England, and also the LX run International Hockey Festival in Nottingham under the WGMA banner. You can read much more about these later in the Yearbook!

However,.....and there is always a however.... Clubs of our size and stature do not run on fine words alone: they need action. The 'originals' took that action in 1995 when forming the first LX Committee at the Etap Hotel in Lille, immediately after winning the over 60's tournament; it comprised Peter Boizot (President), Ian Russell (treasurer), Tim Brooking (fixture secretary) and Gerald Wilkinson as Team Secretary. Today we have a larger committee who continue to maintain the fine traditions of the Club. They are amazing. The key to continued success is refreshing those roles with younger blood and so we look to the emerging talent in the 60's to consider how they can assist with the rewarding action of taking the Club into the next decade!

Enjoy your read, have a super festive season and a top 2026!

Mike Leatt
Chair

LX Charity of the Year 2026 The Prostate Project

For 2026 LX has chosen to support The Prostate Project. Something close to our members hearts (or we should say 'close to our bladders') as by the age of 60, significant numbers of males will have developed some evidence of Prostate problems, with most diagnoses occurring between the ages of 60 and 80. In fact almost all men will potentially have symptoms by the age of 80.

More information can be found on our website - let's do our best to support the Prostate Project in 2026.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/lx-hockey-club-6?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

LX 80s day - Olton

05 December 2024

The 80s gathered for their final games of 2024 on a rather dull & cloudy day. With a number of withdrawals leading up to the day – injury / family illness we still mustered 28 outfield players + 2 GK's. Thanks to the under age players who came in to plug the gaps so that we were able to maintain three sides with players from the team not playing filling in also.

Format was A v B / C v A / B v C – playing 3 x 30 min games.

Each game was played in a very competitive manner with some excellent hockey on display. Each team was keen for the win.

The balance of each team was good as the results below show.

A v B 1-0 to A – Hugh Mason
C v A 1-0 to C – Adrian Stephenson
B v C 1-0 to B – Frank Cowill

Our thanks to Umpires Graham Reynolds – Peter Denley & Mike Christie.

Team 'A' – John Young [GK], German Singh, Roger Lomas [Capt], Nigel S Knott, Andy Holden, David Gill, Ray Jeff, Hugh Mason, Mike Harris, Chris Parker, John Smithers.

Team 'B' – Young/ Chong [GKs], Keith Hindley, Frank Cowill, Brian Murrill, Ken Wilcock [Capt], John Youngs, Peter Danson, Manu Kokri, Chris Jones, Ted Frost.

Team 'C' - John Chong, Nigel Strofton [Capt], Bill Greenwood, Douglas Barnes, Vincent Smith, Jim Tranter, Austyn Leaverland, David Smith, Adrian Stephenson, John Donnelly, Alan Wade.

Andy Holden
Match Manager.
07th Dec 2024.

LXMAS BASH a HUGE SUCCESS

As we come to the end of another very busy year for the LX Club, the final event on the 2024 calendar was held at the Worcester International Hockey Centre on the 15th December followed by a stunning meal at the Worcester County Cricket Club. It was great that so many players and their partners made the trip.



The hockey, as always, was a fabulously well balanced, competitive and good-humoured series of matches between five composite age-group teams, festively named: Dashers, Dancers, Prancers, Rudolphs and Comets. Arranged by our Club Captain, Steve Mumford, and overseen by Tony Neeve and Graham Welch on the day, no one was particularly concerned about the outcome (!), but bragging rights on this occasion probably went to the Prancers admirably captained by Pete Willis (below).



Many thanks also to the umpires: Graeme Welch, Stu Perry, Paul Bickell and Andy Howie. It was great that so many players and their partners made the trip.

The setting for the meal that followed was superb; a packed Graham Hick Pavillion overlooking the county ground, this time green and not underwater. The staff were so very helpful, the fare was fabulous value and a joy to savour. After a good humoured grace courtesy of Vinny Smith, the diners tucked in. Later, the Chair thanked Terry Duffy and Stewart Flisher for all the organisation on the ground at Worcester, and the General LX Committee and the LX Festival Committee for their work during the year. The diners were also introduced to the new Patrons Scheme that will be formally advertised in the New Year, and the Committee positions that need to be filled. This was indeed another first class LX event and many carried on chatting well after the last morsel was consumed!



LX Intra Club Wakefield

22nd January 2025

This was the first venture into mixed LX ladies and LX men get together as an intra and inter club event! 36 LX men had signed up (after a couple of late withdrawals) and 15 LX ladies plus 1 guest in goal.... So, this made 4 teams of 13 players.

The teams were

A	red	B	white	C	blue	D	red (white when play A)
Dave Redman	GK	Peter McCollum	GK	Graham Field	GK	Eleanor Townend	GK
Maz Simpson	- mid	Alison Baron	mid/fwd	Clare Boddy	def or mid	Lynn Harkins	mid or fwd
Ruth Harland	mid	Di Kirby	defence	Janet Anderson	midfield	Liz Herbert	defence
Sue Morgan	def/mid	Jan Ahmed	fwd/mid	Titch Price	def	Lesley Welch	defence
Anne Hunter	- def	Mike Pogson	def/mid	Mary Schwier	fwd	Linda Skelton	mid
Nic Crocker	def	Ian Clancy	mid/def	John Housham	fwd	Tony Neeve	def/mid
Steve Seymour	mid	Nick Bettles	def/mid	Ian Hales	fwd	Nigel Entwistle	fwd
Chris Randall	def/mid	David Pinnington	fwd/def	Paul Barker	mid	Paul Graham	def/mid
James Lawlor	fwd	Steve Crute	mid	Owen Carr	fwd	Shi Foo	fwd
Andy Bradbury	fwd/mid	Jonathan Dakin	fwd/mid/def	Ian Foster	mid	Mike Greenberry	mid
Garry Hardwick	mid/def	Roz Ramli	def	Headless	mid/def	Gee Channa	fwd
Terry Duffy	fwd/def	Nick King	fwd	Kevin Stanton-king	mid	John Tidy	mid/def
Kevin White	mid	Mark Killoway	mid/def	David Ellis	def	Peter Willis	def/mid

Thanks to the scribes for Team B (Alison) and Team C (John) – Teams A and D enjoyed themselves so much that they never got around to writing up their performances!

B (White) Team report: we played our first game against a strong Red team. It was an even game, but Jan put us ahead with a classic short corner strike. 1/0 final score.

Flushed with success we faced the second Red team and once again, they provided strong opposition. Nick put us ahead with a reverse stick strike. Nick also provided the pass from the right backline for Alison to score from the spot. 2/0.

Our third game against the Blue team began well but our GK, Peter, who had been magnificent in the first two games retired hurt and we conceded 3 good goals. Nick scored a reverse stick consolation goal to finish 3/1 down. Two very tired teams by the end of play.

Team C Report

This was our first intra club mixed game involving LX Mens and LX Ladies clubs. With thirteen players team C enjoyed a good mix of defence, midfield and forwards giving us two substitutes at any one time.

Game 1 v Team D Drew 1-1

We started off very brightly with one or two chances to score. The Whites however did begin to dominate in the second half and despite our defiant defence scored a contested goal from a penalty corner. Spurred on by this decision we began to get the better of the game and got the ball into the back of the net when a cross (Ian Hales), from inside the D, was deflected off a defender's foot for a goal. At first it was given but on appeal (by team D) disallowed, penalty corner was given. We needed VAR or a rule book which after the game showed that it was a goal. The equaliser then and a draw!

Game 2 v Team A Lost 0-1

We were heading for the worst of this game as well when we missed an open goal with the keeper beaten in the first 5 minutes. Only to concede a soft goal 5 minutes later. It didn't get much better but we were ready for the last game. In an unlucky game for Team B....

Game 3 v Team B Won 3-1

We seemed to save all our good fortune for the last game scoring fairly early on through Ian Hales. In the second half this was followed by a second goal after a smart interchange enabling Headless (Simon) to score into an empty net. Meanwhile team B had scored and were pressing hard for an equaliser but we broke away again and after chasing a seemingly hopeless ball which magically evaded both defender and keeper left Headless to score into an empty net yet again.

All good fun and a good day was had by all players women and men.

And as the organiser it was lovely to get good feedback from all on the success of integrating LX ladies into the event – and it meant that instead of struggling to get 3 teams together (just) we had four good numbered squads. Sadly, I wasn't organised enough to get photos sorted though!

Looking forward to the next joint LX ladies/men event....!

Chris Randall



LX 80s Day – Oxford Hawks

19th February 2025

Back at Oxford Hawks for another LX80s Day under a cloudy & damp sky, this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the players gathered for another day's Hockey.

The game started with the Reds in the ascendancy with the midfield trio of Wilcock, S Knott & Danson dominating. The Reds went ahead with a typical Stephenson finish from close range. In the 2nd period the Whites came more into the game with Perryman, Tranter & Leaverland combining well together but were undone when Christie latched onto a thru ball to put the Reds 2-0 up at HT.

The Whites came out for the 2nd half determined to improve on there 1st half performance and immediately put pressure on the Reds defence. This paid off when they were awarded a Penalty Stroke which was converted by Perryman to make it 2-1 This lifted the Whites who were now in control of midfield and from an excellent move down the right and subsequent cross, Mason was on hand at the far post to slip the ball past John I Marriott to make it 2-2

The final period saw neither side take control with end to end hockey – both GK's making saves to keep their side in the game but with minutes to go once again it was that man Stephenson who was on hand to give the Reds a 3-2 win.

Played in typical LX spirit and enjoyed by all.

Most sat down to an excellent after match meal provided by Jan Roche. Many stayed behind afterwards for banter & chat.

REDS: Ingramm – Marriott [GK], Tubb, Holden, Murrill, Spencer – Knott, Wilcock, Gill [Capt], Danson, Kokri, Martin, Christie, Blake, Stephenson, Parker.

WHITES: Umney [GK], Jones [Capt], Greenwood, Hindley, Smith D, Perryman, Tranter, Leaverland, Mason, Smith V, Evans, Smithers, Kavanagh.

UMPIRES: Graham Reynolds – Peter Denley [Our Thanks]

Andy Holden
Match Manager
21/02/2025

LX Over-65s v Eng Over-70s at Reading HC

5th March 2025

LX 3 – 4 Eng



Team:

Mason Fenlon (GK); Roz Ramli (Capt); Alan Walton; Stephen Herring; Clive Biddlecombe; Ian Knox; Andy Liles; Martin Hall, Robert Dyball; Stuart Perry; Gee Chana; Clive Harder; David Lancaster; Kevin White

A lovely day for hockey at Reading with bright sunshine and temperatures in double digits – albeit only just. LX played in a 2-3-2-3 formation with the intention of pressing the England defence hard and always having men available up front. LX settle very quickly and from some disciplined defending through to some good midfield movement and quick passing we had the ball in the England D and after 3 minutes were one nil up with a well taken goal from Gee Chana.

Unfortunately, England countered quickly and with a penetrating run down the right-hand side and along the baseline into the D were able to pass to the middle of the goal where a brace of England players were waiting unmarked and made short work of it bringing the score back to 1-1. Much too and fro-ing for the majority of the rest of the time until LX made a poor clearance from the middle of the D and, again, unmarked England players were able to convert. 21 at half time.

LX came into the second half with more determination to press against England and hope to force errors and take the advantage of our "Youthfulness". We had significant success getting into the D but were not awarded as many short corners as we think we deserved. We had a few, though, and although not all were successful, we did have success with two routines, about 5-10 minutes apart that gave us a 3-2 lead. Goals coming from Andy Liles and David Lancaster.

With little 5 minutes to play, we looked like we were heading for a well-deserved win, when, after completely switching off at an England free hit in our 23, they moved the ball quickly, effectively and cleanly to two unmarked players and an easy goal. 3-3. Now, we just needed to game manage to save the draw, but again, we made unforced errors and a smashed ball from wide on the right and towards the halfway line flew into the D (at pace) where another unmarked England player managed to get a stick to it and deflect the ball in. 4-3 to England and only one minute left so, that was the final score.

Still, an excellent game of hockey and a great day among friends.



LX Club Over 80s - Cambridge

5th March 2025

In bright spring sunshine twenty six players gathered at the University Sports Ground in Cambridge. Unfortunately, only fourteen of the players were genuinely eligible for this age group and thanks must go to the "youngsters" who made sure that the fixture was able to go ahead.

The two teams were evenly matched for the first two "quarters" with the Welsh duo of Ralph Thomas and Phil Wheeler cancelling each other out in midfield. Captain Jim Masons half time team talk seemed to galvanise the Red team and with John Grinham excelling in midfield and Narinder Lota solid at the back, the Whites were under pressure.

Soon after the restart Ralph Thomas scored an excellent solo goal, being allowed to run unchallenged into the circle. Shortly afterwards Tony Jones added a second, after a shot from Thomas was saved and then Ted Frost added a third.

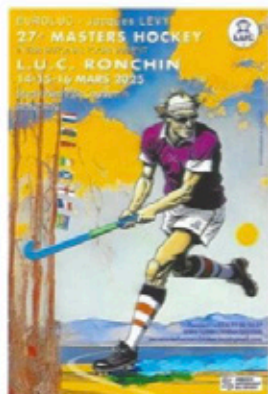
Perhaps the warmth of the sun led to a greater lethargy in both sides as there were no further goals to report. The Whites had several short corners but really failed to trouble Crawford Mckee in goal – although a mix up nearly allowed Graham Colombe to sneak a consolation.

Great thanks go to umpires Nigel Brooks and Rob Oakley for officiating and to caterer Sebastian Barker for the excellent meal afterwards.



LX Team Red – Équipe Rouge Lille Tournament

14th - 16th March 2025



The weather in Lille in March 2025 turned out to be not too bad; dry, relatively sunny, but cold! Indeed on the Saturday morning the pitch was frozen and the start a little delayed, I am not sure that the pitch watering on top of ice was exactly a good idea and maybe the team could trace the disappointments of Saturday to this or maybe I am just looking for excuses?

It was a mixed bag of results on the pitch, but off it the social side was as ever extremely well organised and thanks to Jez Allen for all his hard work for the two teams of Whites and Reds. The La Paix LX dinner on the Friday night was most convivial and the supper at the Club on Saturday night was well attended, such a shame Scotland could not beat the French in the rugby!

As regards the playing and LX Reds; thanks to David Blackmore for his captaincy, Tim Blackburn for his warm-ups, stretches and tactics and of course Dave Webb for the supply of beer after each game. The squad was Dave Webb (GK), David Blackmore – captain, Jez Allen, Lee Robinson, Howard Walker, Stephen Herring, Tim Blackburn, Ian Harvey, James Greig, Tony Mastroddi, Nigel Entwistle, Ian DaddoLanglois, Manmohan Singh Patti.

In the report that follows in order to keep it to a reasonable length I will probably not mention every player, just those involved in the most significant moments of each game. However, everyone, whether they were new to an overseas tour or those with previous experience, all made their contributions to a great time for all.

Scottish Thistles 2 – 2

The first game on Friday was against the old enemy of the Scottish Thistles who this year had a strong squad with their star centre forward who has the speed of a hare! Despite being aware of this, quite early in the game he was allowed to get possession of the ball in space in the LX Reds half and he ran though the defence and into the area. Webby was quickly off his line and the centre forward lost control of the ball, but only for it to fall to one of the other Thistles forwards who then slotted it home.

At half time Thistles were still up, but early in the second half a well worked LX penalty corner saw David Blackmore slip the ball to Patti whose hard shot went past the Thistles goalkeeper to level the scores. LX Reds scored again shortly after this, Nigel Entwistle pressed the Thistles central defender and won the ball, his pass back to David Blackmore allowed him to pick his spot and his shot found the net. However, Thistles were immediately back on the attack and from a resulting penalty corner a quickly taken shot caught Webby by surprise, and they had equalised. LX Reds pressed hard for the rest of the game and Thistles were dangerous on the break, but it ended in a draw.

Les Cocqs B 1 – 0

In the second game LX Reds faced the French Les Coqs B and early in the first half, following a series of attacks, were able to open the scoring. Nigel Entwistle ran through a series of half tackles in the French area and despite the desperate efforts of the defenders to keep him out was able to force the ball home, a goal scored through sheer determination. The game then became a dour midfield struggle with both teams having half chances.

In the second half the French seemed more organised and broke into the LX Reds area on a number of occasions. In one of these Webby came off his line to save from two French forwards one of whom picked up the loose ball and his push was goal bound until Ian Harvey stepped in and cleared it to safety. The LX Reds defence were kept busy throughout the remainder of the game with Stephen Herring, Tony Mastroddi, Jez Allen and Ian Daddo – Langlois fully engaged with Webby in goal making a number of clearances.

Dutch Lions 0 – 1

On the Saturday morning it was the Dutch Lions that LX Reds had to face in the first game. Throughout it was a competitive match with both midfields creating chances for the forwards. In the first half, on balance, the Dutch had the advantage despite the best efforts of the LX Reds midfield with Tim Blackburn who was often back helping out the defence; David Blackmore getting forward to support the front players and Lee Robinson, Jim Greig and Howard Walker all engaged.

In the second half LX Reds came more into it and won several penalty corners, but nothing came of them. As the players began to tire the Dutch Lions had a breakaway, their right winger got round the back of the LX Reds defence and his slip found the centre forward who had lost his marker Ian Harvey to flick the ball past a diving Webby into the far corner. LX Reds now put everything into the attack with Nigel Entwistle and Patti pressing the Dutch defence and it seemed as if this was going to pay off. There was probably only 30 seconds left on the clock when a ball up to Nigel Entwistle allowed him to glance this past his marker who was the last man before the goalkeeper, Nigel turned and seemed to be past the defender when he was struck across the face and brought down. Although the tournament had seen no cards until this point, it was such a blatant foul that the defender was sent off.

Unfortunately though, the moment was gone and the final whistle signalled the defeat, leaving LX Reds with a bad taste in the mouth for such gamesmanship.

Alliance 1 – 2

LX Reds needed to win this second game on the Saturday if they were to progress to the semi-finals and so were on the attack from the beginning. Hard pressing high on the pitch saw the forwards into the Alliance area and they won a series of penalty corners, but the relative success of the previous day eluded them and nothing came of these. Alliance also though created chances and the LX Reds defence had to work hard to keep out a series of penalty corners.

In the second half Alliance increased their efforts and had a passage of play where they had the upper hand. Webby made a number of critical saves; however, following a series of penalty corners which had been cleared, Alliance finally scored. A passing move following the penalty corner injection saw a flick towards the left hand post from close in; Webby got a stick to it, but only to deflect it past the defender on the goal line. LX Reds then responded by taking the game to Alliance with Jez Allen moving up into midfield leaving just 3 at the back. Lee Robinson went close with a flick from the top of the Alliance area when unmarked, but it was just wide of the mark. Eventually though LX Reds equalised. A determined run by Nigel Entwistle along the back line allowed him to find David Blackmore and his push found the inside of the far left hand post. LX Reds now pressed hard for the winner which had they had to have if they were to progress. However, with players up field LX Reds were undone in the last minutes of the game. A breakaway by Alliance saw forwards in the LX Reds area, Webby came off his line to stop the ball carrier, but the ball seemed to run loose and the supporting Alliance forward had an easy push into the goal.

So, the team finished 4th in the pool and so had to play the 7th / 8th place game on the Sunday.

7th / 8th place play-off German Eagles 1 – 1 at full time, won 2 – 1 on penalty shuffles.



The last game of the tournament for LX Reds against German Eagles was without doubt the most nerve wracking. The first half gave no clue for what was to come, the contest was very even with most of the play being in midfield and with both teams only creating a few chances, but no scores.

The second half saw LX Reds taking the game to German Eagles and following some early pressure a penalty corner was won. Up stepped Patti and receiving the injection, his hard low shot just inside the left hand post found the back of the net despite a despairing dive by the German keeper. Further chances came and it seemed only a matter of time before LX Reds scored again, but German Eagles defence held firm. Then suddenly drama, of the worst kind! A German attack down their right saw the winger emerge from a ruck of defenders and running from the back line into the top of the D his pass found an unmarked German forward who slotted it home. The remainder of the second half the game seesawed from end to end, but neither team could score although LX Reds were lucky when a goal bound shot was half saved by Webby. The ball though deflected up hitting the mask of Stephen Herring on the line, fortunately the umpire did not see what should have been a penalty flick. So it finished 1 – 1 and penalty shuffles ensued.

Following a negotiation with German Eagles the number of shuffles was reduced from 5 to 3, which was just as well as LX Reds only had 3 volunteers. Having lost the toss, Tim Blackburn stepped up to take the first one. His mazy run moved the German goalkeeper around, but it took a few seconds before he had the opening and his shot crossed the line just as the whistle went for the 8 seconds. The umpire initially awarded the goal, but the Germans contested this and after a long debate the goal was disallowed! The first German attempt was successful although Webby got something on it, the ball crossed the line. Nigel Entwistle went next, he attacked at speed and was able to expertly round the goalkeeper and score. Now Webby came into his own, the German forward came within reach and a sweeping tackle saw the ball dispatched out of the area. Next it was the turn of Patti, he manoeuvred the goalkeeper first one way and then the other, but as he shot the goalkeeper fell on the ball and he could not reach it. Surprisingly the umpire called time and no goal rather than the retake which should have happened. Were LX Reds ever going to get the run of the luck? However, once again Webby was the hero on the last German shuffle, diving to his left he deflected the ball over the back line.



So now it was sudden death. As the order in which takers went could change it was Nigel Entwistle who stepped up. Again, he attacked at speed and managed to get round the keeper who had dived, but was stranded; however, he had gone quite wide and his first push at goal hit the post! Were LX Reds to be denied again? Luckily no! His follow up just crossed the line in time. Then it was the turn of the German forward; he moved in slowly, firstly going left with Webby fast off his line and tracking, then right with again Webby tracking; suddenly Webby attacked, lunging towards the ball to his left ... he missed, the German stepped beyond him and still off balance from the lunging tackle he sent the ball goalwards, but the whistle blew before it crossed the line and LX Reds won. Everyone started breathing again! So much stress over a 7th / 8th play-off place! At the end though it was great to get the win in the final game.

Ian Harvey
18th March 2025





LX Intra-Club at Bristol

9th April 2025

Intra Club Days are a hallmark of LX activity. Last month at Bristol, In bright sunshine, a total of 5 teams took to the field at Clifton College, playing on 2 adjacent pitches in a round robin event, expertly organised by Ian Harvey, all matches were well contested as usual with each team containing a spread of players across the age groups. Only one game registered a big scoreline, when everything that could go right did for one team and not the other!

The photograph, courtesy of Sharon Wingent, is of the mass gathering between the LX sail flags that are making their way round the country at various events. They will of course all be at the Nottingham Festival 29 June to 6 July and will continue to be used after that. If you want them at your event, please contact Tony Neeve.

After the games, everyone retired to eat an excellent bangers, mash and peas meal in the College Sports Clubhouse, where the bar was open, and chins wagged for several hours. Thanks to all those that umpired and supported this event.



LX v Midlands at Lilleshall

14th April 2025

LX Red 65s and Red 70s made their way to the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall to play their respective Midlands age group teams. It was a first get together for the LXers ahead of the Nottingham Festival and part of the Midlands preparation for the Area Tournaments.



LX & Midlands 70s



LX & Midlands 65s

Having finally resolved the issue of which changing rooms to use (main centre or hockey pitch!) essential match briefings gave the teams their marching orders!

Both LX teams ran out winners, but the key value was playing together in the selected squads which included old acquaintances and new members alike. There was plenty of midfield action between LXers in all teams! Group and action pictures are courtesy of Quinny, the appointed Nottingham Festival photographer. After the games, everyone retired to the Wheatsheaf Inn (Martin Hall's watering hole?)



LX O70 Tilburg

25th - 27th April 2025

Gold Medal Winners



This tournament is becoming increasingly competitive and with two over 65s teams in our group it was going to take something special to win it. However, that was not our primary goal. The focus was on building a strong team ethic where everybody felt valued and important. This platform would enable us to play the best hockey we were capable of and hopefully that would see us win. Our strategy worked!

Game 1 v Germany 65s SOM

1-1 Draw

Even though we were very organized, it took ten minutes or so to settle down and by then the Germans had scored with a tomahawk strike. Really? We then lost Steve Seymour with a hamstring strain. Not good. However, we recovered quickly and launched several penetrating attacks that saw the younger side under real pressure. We had four or five short corners but couldn't quite execute them clinically. It took a searing run from Bede Grossmith and a precision pass to Andrew Sanders on the near post to see us equalise. A reasonable start to our campaign

Game 2 v Germany 70s

2-0 Win

We showed a lot more composure in this game and started well. Bede was again rampant down the right and opened the scoring with strike from the edge of the D. This settled us down and we began to put together some nice hockey. Mike Handley kept us solid at the back and did a great job of handling a very strong and aggressive centre forward who was a real handful. Mike's marking throughout the tournament was outstanding. David Blackmore was everywhere, and it was an improvised PC where he received the ball, fell over but still managed to slip the ball right that allowed Lakhan to put the game to bed. A considerable step forward.

Game 3 v Netherlands

1-0 Win

Precision was the focus for the opening game of the second day. The Dutch were a reasonable side but were not allowed to build any sort of momentum when they had possession. The press was working extremely well, and they just couldn't find any outlets to launch their attacks. The most impressive aspect of the game was the number of times DB, Andrew Sanders and Bede won the ball back in the opposition half, which allowed us to swiftly counterattack. A stroke was awarded when Lakhan Kandola's shot was stopped on the line. As skipper, Jackson stepped up and despatched it. Only 1-0 but a commanding performance, nevertheless.

Game 4 v Alliance

1-0 Win

This was a tricky game with Alliance sitting deep and defending a crowded D. When they did get the ball they launched some impressive aerals that Woody handled brilliantly but with the game at 0-0 there was always a chance that they would eventually score. The game 'finished' prematurely but the injured Seymour who had taken up a management role was insistent there was still five minutes to play. The game restarted and in the last minute, DB scored from a straight strike. Phew!

Game 5 v Wales

2-0 Win

Always a difficult game but Bill Davidson returned to the starting line-up after resting a slight pull in his hamstring. This gave our counter attacks some real threat and he opened the scoring to settle us down and allow us to take control. Wales were a reasonable side but our midfield were strong and with Crute and Evans seamlessly interchangeable throughout the tournament there was always a solid structure to our game. Robin Wilson had another fine game and laid on the second goal for Sanders to slot home.



Game 6 v Thistles 65's**0-0 Draw**

By the end of the second day we were running on empty and still had to contend with a Scottish side that had beaten the Welsh 4-0. They did put us under pressure on our 16s and Pami Bolina and Steve Crute had to work hard to find a way out of our left-hand corner. Four games in a day was clearly one too many for Jackson who was playing with a chest infection but in spite of his best efforts to give the ball to the Scots, we prevailed. Overall, it was a game we could have won but playing a younger side at the end of a long hot day did take it out of us. However, we finished the group games undefeated and top of the table.

Game 7 Semi Final v Thistles 65s**3-0 Win**

A new day, fresher legs and a determination to finish off the Scots. Our defence had been solid throughout the group games with David Garforth -Bles a permanent fixture at right back. With two England goal keepers, David Webb and Richard Boucher keeping us honest nobody really looked like causing us too much concern. We hammered the Scots with two goals from DB and a great goal from Billy who was unstoppable once he went on a run. Housh made a deliciously subtle underarm pass to put Andrew through on the keeper but having done all the hard work he saw his effort go wide. Would have been goal of the tournament.

Game 8 Final v Germany 65s SOM**2-1 Win**

We started really well, and a series of short corners saw the Germans immediately under pressure. Against the run of play they broke away and it took a fine strike into the corner to beat Webby. It was a physical game, but we were up for a battle and Bede scored a beautiful deflection from a DB strike to equalise. Game on. John Houshman scored the winner in his own inimitable style. A gentle push past the keeper which slowly but surely crossed the line and took us to a well-deserved gold medal.

So, a magnificent achievement for a very talented squad that delivered on every front. We cared about what we were doing, and we cared about each other. A victory for teamwork. It was a privilege to be a part of.

We played 8, won 6, drew 2, scored 12 and conceded 2.

David Blackmore was awesome on and off the field and was unanimously voted Player of the Tournament.

LX Intra Club at Wakefield

1st May 2025

Three teams of LXers and guests gathered at Wakefield on 1st May. We had to invite a number of guests, principally those at 58 to 60 and interested in joining LX, because of the number of those signed up who were being advised to save themselves for the upcoming over 65 cup final Yorkshire v Berkshire. (Yorkshire lost but gave them a hard match and had them worried at half time!)

We played 4 games of 20 minutes against each other and the results were:

A v B 0-1

A v C 0-0

B v C 2-1

B v C 2-0

A v B 0-0

A v C 1-0

Not many goals but Dave Ellis scored Team C's goal and Team B had two goals scored by aspiring LXer Trevor Joseph (and he claimed 2 assists too – suggesting Nick Kennerley redirected one into the goal at head height). Despite asking for witnesses and claims for goals at the time no-one else came forward.... Maybe modesty prevented?!

But an enjoyable day's hockey and a salad and a dessert much enjoyed afterwards – thanks to Irene!

And over £ 90 raised for the LX Charity, Alzheimers Society.

Teams below and photos showing the new LX anniversary banners

Team A

- David Redman GK
- Ian Foster
- Colin McConnell ***
- Paul Barker
- Asif Khan
- John Tidy
- Ian Kennedy
- Mike Greenberry
- Sarbjit Dehl
- Greg Hilton
- Ian Hales
- Sarup Panesar
- Sab Gogna

Team B

- Graham Field GK
- Martin Wright ***
- Ian Clancy
- Mark Hotchkin
- Owen Carr
- Peter Willis
- Barry Jackson
- Nick Kennerley
- Chris Randall
- Alan Hill
- Keith Slaughter
- Trevor Joseph
- Colin Mason

Team C

- John Lovell GK
- Gordy Gray
- Clive Harrison
- Tony Neeve ***
- Vince Gilman-Able
- Glyn Barrick
- Nick Bettles
- Lee Robinson
- David Ellis
- Keith Stevenson
- Peter Collins
- Tom Heyes
- Shi Foo



Team A and C



Team C

LX Lakes Tour

10th - 11th May 2025

LX Reds Saturday



Squad: J Lovell (GK), G.Wolloff, M.Walford, H.Walker, D.Pinnington, D.Barnes, J.Stackhouse, A.Whittle, C.McConnell, P.Heap (C), S.Hewitt, J.Lawlar, P.Bolina.

In a week where we remembered and honored those that fought in World War II and the 80th anniversary of VE Day. It seemed only fitting that LX Reds went to battle on the beaches of Cockermouth School Astro turf. (photo evidence below)



LX Red 1 - 0 Thistles Blue

With a squad biased towards the defense and lacking in midfield, Walford stepped into the breach. This proved to be a decisive move with Walford and McConnell combining well with Stackhouse and Whittle. The first match against Thistles Blue was a good settler for the newly formatted team. Barnes, Walker, Pinnington and Wolloff controlling the defense. Bolina, Lawlar and Hewitt causing trouble up front. Heap (C) left to fill the gaps in both defense and attack. In a match with very few real chances Red came out on top 1-0.

LX Red 0 – 0 LX Red/White

With Red/White looking to have the stronger squad on paper this was felt like it would prove to be the decisive match. A win here would go along way to winning the day. This was a hard-fought battle with no quarter given. The defense was tested on a number of occasions but Barnes, Wolloff, Walker and Pinnington were up to the challenge giving few goal opportunities. Fortunately, Lovell held his concentration to the end as tipping the ball round the post kept the game to a draw.

LX Red 2 – 0 LX White

The tournament was there to be won after the previous match and goal difference was felt to be a crucial in deciding the outcome. Reds were going all out in the next match. The team had a good understanding of each other and midfield play by Walford and McConnell gave the Red defense a rest. Whittle on the left was causing lots of problems for the White's defense with driving runs and slick passing. The forward line with Stackhouse in behind on the right had numerous chances and short corners. Reds put three in the net but had one disallowed.

LX Red 0 – 0 Thistles White

In the prior match LX red/white were turned over by LX White. Jez Allen tucking away the best chance from close range to win the game 1 - 0.



This left the day's events in Reds hands. A win or a draw would prove enough. What team would Thistle whites turn up with. This was a bruising encounter with chances for both teams. Reds determined to finish with no goals against had all 11 behind the ball on a number of occasions. The reds were reduced to 10 men temporarily, when Howard Walker took a ball to the mouth and the umpire sent him from the field of play for a head injury checkup. In the end 0 - 0 was enough and the reds collected the beer. Captain Heap was particularly pleased with this, having finished runner-up on the last two Lakes Tours on goal difference. Well done Boys....

Walk Around Buttermere

10th May 2025

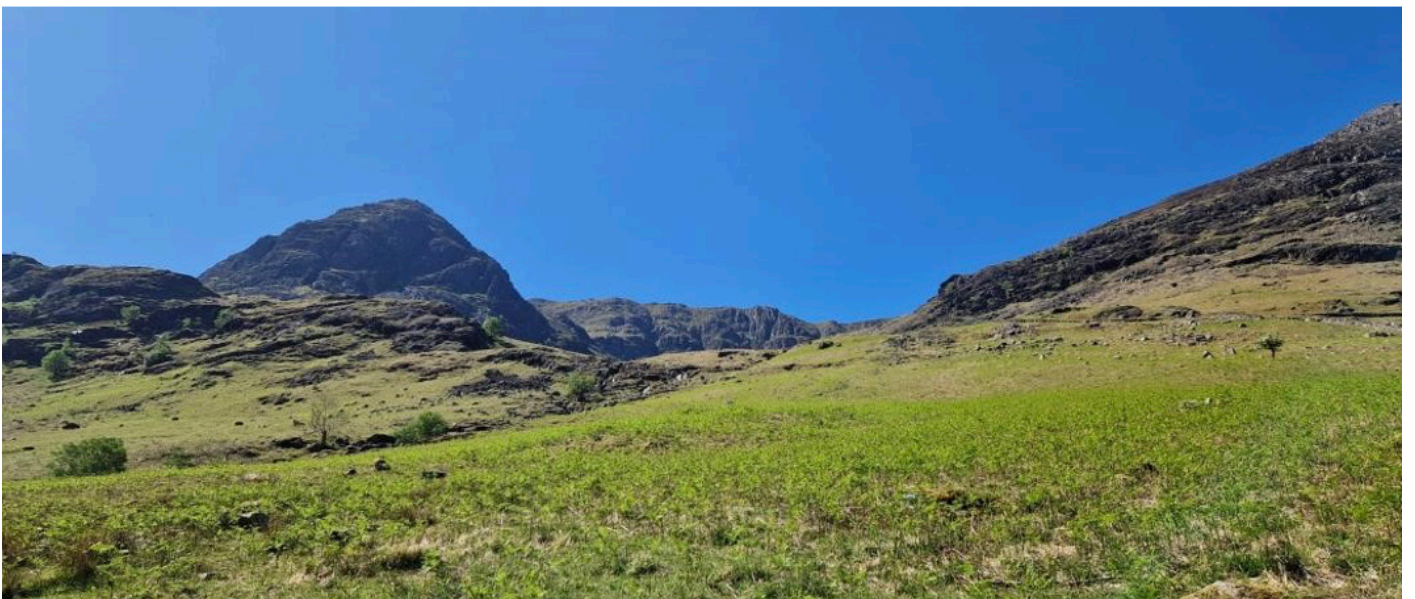
68 legs (18 ladies and 8 dogs) met at Cockermouth school car park in preparation for a walk around Buttermere. Expertly organised by Dot, volunteer drivers gathered their passengers including dogs and set off for the lake.



Most went A to Z along the valley, but one car's sat nav preferred the scenic route and took in 2 extra mountain passes. What a day to detour, the weather was spectacular, with not a cloud in the sky.



The walk was a delight, with stunning views and an osprey topping the wildlife bill. A few (very few) hardy souls went for a swim whilst others opted for a paddle. At the end of the walk, tired 2 and 4 legged individuals enjoyed refreshments at Syke Farm Tea Room before returning to base.



Many thanks to Dot and Grace for herding us safely around and to the volunteer drivers.



LX LAKES TOUR 2025 THE REIVERS REPORT

This year's Lakes Tour is due to be the last one played on the "Pleasure Beach" at Cockermouth School as the school's Head, (Paul Heap of LX fame), has arranged for the school to become so dilapidated that the authorities have decided to spend £40million on a new pitch – and an adjoining school. As Paul should be aware, places like Tilburg manage to get by with just 7 pitches and so we're looking forward to experiencing the state-of-the-art facilities when the Lakes Tour, (hopefully), resumes after a break next year.

To reflect the historic nature of this weekend, Mike and Paul arranged for the weather to be 'Scorchio' throughout and although some said that temperature in the shade was only in the low 20s, with the sun reflecting off the Pleasure Beach, it felt like it was in the 30s. Paul will have done his own report on the 5-way, round-robin that took place on the Saturday but just to add that some of those selected for the Reivers match on the Sunday had helped the Thistles teams on Saturday so had played up to 6 matches in the high temperatures. The squad of 13 was selected well in advance but in the final minutes before the match commenced, we were working out who was no longer fit to play and who was filling in for them. This confusion resulted in us lining up with 12 on the pitch – which was unfortunately spotted by an eagle-eyed umpire. Reivers started without Fossie, (a demerit for lateness), but with a relatively young lady player at right wing, who was clearly a very competent player.

As the match started, it didn't take our team very long to forget what we'd discussed in the pre-match team talk and for the Reivers to apply a lot of pressure on us, whilst we struggled to make into their half. Reivers won a series of penalty corners; one of which was given away in a successful, last-ditch effort to prevent Fossie scoring against LX. As Pete Willis will confirm, he was taken out by a very poor stick tackle when trying to defend one of those short corners and the ball found its way through to the young lady standing unmarked on the far post for a tap-in to put the Reivers one up.

Due to the heat, the match was being played in four quarters and during the first break we tried to remind ourselves that it's always a good idea to have possession of the ball. In the 2nd quarter we started to put that into practice and the balance of play swung in our favour. However, very few chances were created and none of them were taken. At half-time, we could sense that the momentum was with us as our muscles and joints had eased up due to the sauna-like conditions. The 3rdquarter saw the LX team pressing hard for the equaliser but still not creating enough chances or putting away any penalty corners. We applied a tactical high press under which only one or two of our defence were in our own half in case Reivers mounted a break-away. At the next break, there was some bafflement as to what else we could do to try to turn the game around.

At that break, one of the umpires warned the team captain that if one of our players, (known for his dog and his van), was to commit another foul, then he would find himself taking a break in the dugout. That umpire clearly had it in his mind that he might issue a card, but it was actually awarded to Chris for a relatively innocuous foul. This proved to be the missing piece in the jigsaw as, stung by going down to 10, Pete Willis picked up the ball just inside our half and went on a mazy run. After beating the first half dozen or so defenders, we were all wondering whether he would find a pass to a colleague, or whether he would run out of room and into the fence. He wove his way into the D, keeping calm, as though in the eye of a storm, and slotted the ball past the astounded keeper for our long-sought equaliser. Some say that it must have been the best goal ever scored in the history of LX hockey but who knows.

It was not long until the final whistle and we could not find the winning goal so, although the performance felt like a comfortable 4 – 0 win, we were left without the victory we deserved. Perhaps, once Paul has overseen the installation of the new pitch(es), we will get another chance to record a victory over the Reivers. I can't say that the team drowned its sorrows at the rugby club afterwards, but we did enjoy a superb steak pie meal. For the record, the LX squad was: -

GK: Mike Huggon.

Defence: Jez Allen, Graham Wolloff, Dave Ellis, Pete Willis

Midfield: Chris Topham, John Stackhouse, Paul Halfpenny, Kevin White, Mike Leatt

Forwards: Paul Heap, Lakbir (Smokey) Atwal, Manmohan Patti

Coach and reserve: Colin McConnell

LX LAKES TOUR 2025 TEAM 5 MATCH REPORT

The day was set, weather looked great, Hockey formations sorted, Captains Speech thought out and notes made to refer to, and the allimportant breakfast eaten.

My first outing as Captain of a LX team and I wanted to impress especially as I had the Tournament organiser Mike Patton, and the exChairman David Ewing on my team.

I gathered/herded the 12 players into a small group 1/2 hour before the start. Oh! scratch that, now I only have 11 players. The 2wo possible playing formations I had were ripped up and a 3rd quickly made.

We were all ready for our first match. With golden gongs in our minds and within our grasp, we eagerly awaited the umpires starting whistle.

Play started and even though all was going great, we did not end up in a winning situation.

Heads held high we continued at pace throughout the rest of the tournament, which even though we did not win, we played with heart and commitment.

Thank you all in the team for your outstanding efforts and support, in what turned out to be a great days hockey in lovely warm weather.

Many thanks also to those that helped organise things for us from the lovely teas and cake from the pitch side hut to the great hosts Mike and Dot.

Chris Topham



LX LAKES TOUR 2025

Thistles White

11th May 2025

LX Reds 1 v 1 Scottish

A fantastic weekend of Lake District scenery, sunshine, hockey and a meeting of old friends ended with a series of Sunday morning fixtures against the Scottish Thistles and Border Reivers O60s. Ours was the first game on the early morning shift.

We started brightly enough even after of the exertions of Saturday's four 25minute games and evening ceilidh dancing. Early pressure by our forwards, Ian Hales and John Housham gave us more penalty corner practice, and it was from one of these that the resulting confusion in the Thistle D allowed Ian to get a shot on target to score. One nil up.

Despite having the better of the game our central defence were somewhat exposed by a clear run on goal from just inside our half by one of the Thistles forwards. This led to a one on one save from Webby only for a defender to concede a penalty stroke for a foul on a Thistles forward in the ensuing goal mouth melee. One all at half time.

Despite the tireless work of Colin McConnell and Captain Bolina we could not create any sustained pressure in the Thistles half as the heat and exertions of the weekend took its toll.

Mike Patton was a steadying influence in defence and also took one or two opportunities to take us forward on the right. The real heroic efforts however came from Doug Barnes, left defender and James Lawlor left midfield. They were determined to keep the Thistles out whilst also supporting midfield and forwards in attack.

Besides a couple of penalty corners, John and Ian Daddo-Langlois did manage to create a last chance to score from a neat one-two towards the end of the game. John's shot however was half saved and spun agonisingly the wrong side of the goal post, leaving the game to end in a fair draw.

LX LAKES TOUR 2025

Thistles White

11th May 2025

LX Whites 4 – Scottish Thistles Blue 1

The day started in bright sunshine on a sandy pitch. The Whites soon controlled the game from the off. The midfield and forwards set up several chances before Martin Walford slotted home with a superb shot. One nil up at the quarter with the defence hardly touching the ball. The second quarter was similar with the Whites dominating possession. A drilled pass from the skipper and a deft deflection from Steve Hewitt completely wrong-footed the Thistles keeper and the defence making it 2-0 up at the halfway point.

The third quarter started in similar fashion with the midfield controlling the game setting up several more opportunities before yet another penalty corner where Pete Willis scored at the second attempt. Another goal could have followed but a weakly taken stroke was saved by the Thistles keeper.

For most of the final period Whites controlled the game and scored a fourth goal from a slick pass from Steve Hewitt enabled Peter Glading to deflect in. The Whites started to tire for the final 5 minutes when Thistles, in a rare attack were awarded a Penalty Stroke. It was missed but in the final minute managed to gain a penalty corner. With the final whistle blowing, Thistles squeezed a goal passed keeper John Lovell which prevented him having a clean sheet for the weekend.

A great game, a great weekend and enjoyed by all.

Alan Wade



LX075 at TELFORD

14th May 2025

LX075s supplemented by guests Tony 'Hampo' Hampson & Dave Sandhu lined up in Telford on a hot May day to play England O75B, with a delayed 2:15 PB.

LX had been practising various routines from 1:15 aiming for a 2PB, so were warm and 'ready to go' from the start. Captain Vinny Smith's plan was to attack from the whistle, which was carried out in style, we were immediately pressing their defence, which held out OK, until in the first few minutes a loose ball came across the D, found Mike Rushmere, who pushed it over the line, with their Keeper out of position. But, despite the opposition accepting the ball had crossed the line, the Umpire didn't see it, so he did not give a goal!!!

LX won the 1st 1/4 morally and physiologically too.

Q2 was a more balanced affair as England clearly relieved not to have gone behind, as described, started pressing harder & forcing play down the middle trying to break through and battling against our 4 man midfield of (R-L) Mick Cox, Peter Denley, Peter Bale, James Lawlor/Dave Sandhu, who were very busy managing, soaking up and countering those attacks, but our back 3 (R-L) Brian Nichols, Mike Patton, Malcolm Padmore (1st game for LX, so big Welcome Malcolm) efficiently absorbed the pressure & mopped up play when the ball got past the midfield. Big Phil Bolognaise in goal, had a few pieces of tidy-up & clearances. By half time LX had had 2 short corners to England's one, again reflecting our superiority, but still no goals to show.

Jon Beale & Hampo with a cameo from Vinny, played right wing, Frank Colwill & Jon B played CF & Mike Rushmere played left wing. The 3rd & 4th quarters were mostly centred around mid-field again, not much reaching any wingers. Hugh Mason had been loaned to England to make up their team, so the man who scored 5 goals in Tilburg a few weeks previously was identified as a possible threat, but Malcolm Padmore was excellent, keeping a close watch on him, hardly letting him play, so no threat there.

LX had 2 more shorts v England's 1.

With 5 mins to go, a mega melee of activity in the LX D, including Malcolm having his stick blocked, finished up with ball in the LX net!! 0-1. However, LX continued pressing hard and after some defensive panic and sticks and 1/2 clearances in England's D, Mike Rushmere pushed the ball over the line with a vengeance this time- 1-1

England pressed back. forced a short corner playing onto a foot and the final whistle went! All England players moved up, but after a great stop and clearance by Phil Bolognaise - The End!

No buts left, but - we should have won, that early incident colouring the rest of the match.

Headline is - I think we out played England and they were fortunate not to have lost.

Vinny Smith, Proud LX075 Captain on the day!!

LX O60 Eburons Tournament

29th - 31st May

On Wednesday 28 May, following journeys by plane, car and EuroStar, a group of LX 60's players and partners gathered and made or remade acquaintances in the bar of the lesser grand of the Chatelaine hotels situated in a very pleasant district of Brussels.

The LX 60's squad for the 3 day Eburons Grand Masters International Hockey Tournament held at the Royal Racing Club in Brussels was the usual eclectic mix and led by; Martin Hall (Manager), Graham Moore (Captain) Ros Ramli (Transport Manager) and Alan Walton (Social Secretary). A big thank you goes them and all those other LX'ers involved in the planning and enabling of this very well run and enjoyable mini hockey tour to this Brussels Tournament.

4 teams participated in this year's tournament: Belgian Old Lions 60's; Les Bleu (French) 60's; Westminster & Hampstead Hockey Club 60's, and LX 60's. This was a smaller but tougher group than in previous years. The Belgian & French national teams were full of players hoping to be selected for their full home national Over 60's squads for the European Championships in Germany at the end of August 2025.

The LX 60's squad met at lunchtime on Thursday 29 May for their first game against Belgian Old Lions 60's. This was a good and well contested game.

A very good move and sharp finish from the Old Lions led to the only goal of the game. There was very little to separate the teams which was a great testament to the organisation and determination of the LX team playing their first game together . LX had put in an impressive team performance and created a few decent half chances to equalise but these had been nullified by a very good Belgian goal keeper.

The evening social was a very good BBQ at the Clubhouse which was very sociable enjoyed by the LX 60's party in the company of all the other teams and their supporters.

Friday 30 May saw LX 60's play two games. The first of these was against Westminster & Hampstead HC. LX made almost too good a start going 2-0 ahead in the first quarter, the level of LX's play then dropped off and the standard of hockey deteriorated which provided Westminster & Hampstead with an opportunity to come back well into the game. Much to the disappointment of a rather tired LX squad W&H went on to take their chances well and to win 3-2. Having recovered from that blow, later that afternoon LX's second game was against a strong Les Bleus (France Over 60's team). Thankfully this turned out to be a much better quality and enjoyable game. LX 60's returned to their good standard of team play and did well to restrict the French to 4 goals although couldn't trouble the scoreboard themselves. But the Team's and supporters' morale had been restored by this performance. The Squad's spirits were facilitated further thanks to the Social Secretary's timely supply of post match cooling drinks. After quick changes and turnarounds the group spent a very enjoyable evening at the Teatro restaurant which hosted the Tournament Gala Dinner.

On Saturday 30 May LX 60's took on Westminster & Hampstead again in a play off for - 3rd & 4th place. This time LX put in an excellent and dominant team display. Although not troubling the W&H goal keeper too much and with W&H putting in a good defensive display LX eventually scored from a short corner and proceed to a very comfortable 1-0 win. A third place finish for LX 60's behind the French and the Belgians was appropriate and commendable.

The party of LX'ers and partners who had come together on Wednesday by the Saturday after some ups and downs along the way had survived to become an upstanding, cohesive group and impressive playing squad. They left Brussels taking with them pride in their hockey performances, many fond memories and with friendships made, maintained and enhanced.



LX O80 v North O75 at Timperley HC

5th June 2025

Both sides gathered at a rather damp Timperley for what was a warmup game in preparation for Nottingham for the 80s.

Fortunately, the rain held off for most of the game and conditions were perfect for Hockey.

LX were under pressure for most of the first half but dogged defense and some excellent saves by Peter McCollum kept LX in the game.

At the start of the second half LX gained a bit in confidence and went ahead with an excellent goal from David Gill.

This spurred the North on, and they pressed more and more with some good passing moves. It was disappointing that they levelled when a poor clearance was sized upon and Alex Gaydon made no mistake from close range to make it

1-1 - LX held on to secure the draw -- Not a bad result against younger legs !!

Our thanks to Umpires Nick Burnett & Alan Jerrard.

Most players & supporters stayed behind to enjoy a hot meal with plenty of chat.

LX SQUAD:

Peter McCollum GK, Jim Tranter [V/Cpt], Austyn Leaverland, Peter Danson, Ken Wilcock, Brian Tubb, David Gill [Capt], Roger Lomas, David Smith, Ted Frost, Mark Cowell.'

Andy Holden LX
80s Manager



WGMA-LX Grandmasters Festival At Nottingham: The Event

'Robin Hood' set the tone for the tournament as players from around the world congregated in Nottingham to play Grandmasters hockey! Teams from Argentina, Australia, the USA, as well as many players from Japan as part of the world Alliance teams, joined with those from Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Scotland, Wales and of course England for the festival. Competing in 5-year age groupings from 60 to over 80 years old, Radio Nottingham was totally amazed at the participation numbers and impressed with the welcome at the Opening Ceremony.



Many of the 46 teams came to practice ahead of the event which started in earnest on Monday 30th June. Over the next 7 days, and 131 matches later, gold, silver and bronze medals would be decided for the top 3 teams in each age group category; Over 60, 65, 70, 75 and 80s men and Over 60 and 65 women. Mike Talbot, the Technical Delegate and his team controlled the proceedings from the panorama afforded from his upstairs office, together with the Umpire Manager, Richard Kirk, and alongside Graham 'Smoggy' Small as LX's programme guru.

The programme consisted of a series of round robin groupings with those emerging to play in further round robin or classification games in a format determined by entry numbers. All teams played 6 games, except the over 80s. Scheduling was a challenge, but with 5 pitches available, only some of the LX host teams had to play twice in one day. Matches came thick and fast in a continuous programme that required masterful management of the 40 umpires, match officials and the results service. Daily reviews ensured consistency.

There were some fabulous matches along the way. On day one, in their second match of that day, LX 70 Men's Reds fought out a tough 1-1 draw with Spain's Sixteberians in testing temperatures, whilst on day 2 the LX Over 70's Ladies, as part of the 65s competition, ran the Dutch Lions close dipping out 2-1. During the week there was a rousing Over 80s match where the Celts fought back to draw 1-1 with Alliance. England Hockey President, Alex Danson-Bennett performed the honours to start the 75s match between LX White v Belgium Old Lions on the show pitch that ended all square at 1-1.



Inevitably there were a few shock results, but there was no denying the intensity of the matches as we approached the business end of the week! There were some nail-biting medal games; on the Saturday, the Red Roses (USA) over 60's and Buenos Aires Masters fought out a very lively 0-0 draw and then claimed the Bronze medal winning 3-2 on flicks. In possibly the match of the tournament, Buenos Aires Masters 65 Men locked horns with LX 65 Reds in a game that drew a large crowd to witness many scoring opportunities. It ended 2-2 but, after plenty of goalkeeping heroics in the 16 penalty flicks that followed, the Argentinian side secured gold coming out on top 5-4 to the deafening acclaim of their supporters. In another dramatic Bronze medal match, LX 60 Reds lost out to the Wanderers from down under, 4-3 on penalties after the game finished with a flourish at 2-2 in regulation time.







Almost all photographs taken by Paul Quinn

The rain stayed away until the final day when a few flash downpours tested the medal presentation timings! The results were:

	Gold	Sliver	Bronze
Over 60 Men	British United Brothers	Scottish Thistles	The Wanderers
Over 65 Men	Buenos Airies Masters	LX Blue	LX Red
Over 70 Men	LX Red	Sixteberians	Scottish Thistles
Over 75 Men	LX Red	LX White	Welsh Dragons
Over 80 Men	LX Red	Alliance	Celtic
Over 60 Women	Scottish Thistles	LX Ladies	Red Roses
Over 65 Women	LX Ladies Blue	Dutch Ladies	Red Roses



The tournament was a great success and a true testament to the players who keep themselves in shape to compete in such a demanding competition with great spirit and endeavour. The buzz and camaraderie during the week in and around the bar and coffee outlets was amazing and why not as, remarkably, a total of 11 different nation sides medalled; a brilliant outcome. The officiating was outstanding, the call for first aid was mercifully very low and the venue was brilliant in every way.

WGMA-LX Grandmasters Festival Nottingham: The Back Story

The aim was to stage a high quality, international hockey event to celebrated LX's 30th anniversary in 2025, by creating a festive, relaxed environment around a truly competitive tournament that embraced the spirit of the worldwide grand master's hockey.

With this in mind, in December 2023 (before all the luggage had returned from the Argentinian Tour!) the LX Chair proposed that we might secure the endorsement of the WGMA to host a tournament; the next in the series of highly successful WGMA events that had been held across Europe in previous years. The Committee supported the concept and after some discussion with the WGMA President, a formal proposal was submitted in February 2024.

Theme

What was Nottingham famous for; why Robin Hood of course! Everyone we spoke to around the world told us about the legend! So that became the 'logo' and was used as a subliminal theme for much of the Festival trappings. It worked brilliantly.

Background Research

We took some wide-ranging feedback from previous tournaments including the Hague, and together with experience from within LX, identified a list the areas that we had to deliver well and changes we might consider in order to avoid previous 'pitfalls'. This was an extremely valuable exercise that shaped our decision making.

The Date and Venue

Optimistically, we took an internal sounding in January 24 seeking expressions of interest in joining an organising committee to gauge the strength of support from our membership. We were not short of volunteers! In addition, and equally critical to success was the need to identify a time that did not clash with other events, and to have access to the right facilities; both extremely challenging in an increasingly congested world master's hockey calendar! We can say that although Nottingham was not WGMA's favoured location, it was ours, primarily because of its ability to stage all matches in one place and that the centre Director and Manager, David Griffiths, was highly motivated by the prospect. It was also relatively easy to get to.

However, even by starting the process more than a year ahead, it was a difficult to nail down a date and it was a great relief when, in April 2024, a date of 29 June to 6 July was finally agreed with England Hockey, the WMH and the Nottingham Hockey Centre which, at the time, avoided all other events. We were now able to go public and tell all our hockey friends around the world of the date and venue and circulate flyers at various big events across Europe in April and May!

The Organisation

From the initial expressions of interest, the Chair set up a group to start thinking about the task. Although coming together informally to agree a few early actions in March, the first full Organising Committee meeting was held in May 2024 and the group met subsequently most months, including an on-site meeting at Nottingham in October 2024. Meetings were lengthy! With such a qualified and experienced bunch, the key strategic areas were finalised in a brainstorming session; Hockey Programme, Hockey Management, Health and Safety, Social Programme, Communication, Marketing and Funding, Merchandise and External Offering. These became the focus for planning and action thereafter and volunteers were matched up with each of the key roles.



The group developed a timeline of deliverables for each area, on a single sheet of paper leading from the first meeting to the start of the Festival. This was a crucial part of ensuring a fully integrated approach. We soon dispensed with the concept of a Closing ceremony and replaced it with an Opening event to set the tone.



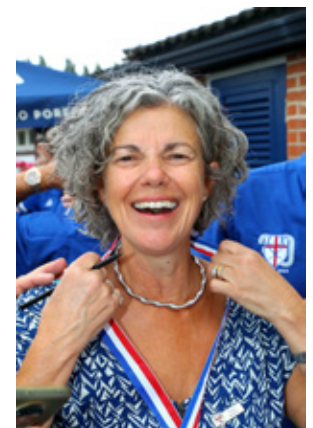
communication consistency was considered essential Graham Moore kept tight control of this and worked closely with John Housham who masterminded the programme and content of Newsletters and with Webby, who explored and exploited the Tournify app to further enhance communication through the LX Website. Specific links were established with as many organisations as we could identify and Smoggy started the long process of gaining team interest and registration, as well as starting to scope the playing programme options. Trish Slator, with all her medical experience, set about identifying criteria for us to provide the right level of First Aid at the Tournament and other general aspects of health and safety. No stone remained unturned. She gathered bids for the task, and we were delighted that the most favourable proposal submitted was from Edwin Knight who not only met all of our stringent requirements but had worked with LX over several years to provide physiotherapy support. Even better, the first aid service was further strengthened daily, on site, by doctors from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Naturally, Edwin and his team also provided the first-class physio service to all but we did produce a protocol for teams who wished to bring their own support. Steve Seymour had the unenviable task of recruiting the Officials. We needed the best. Barry Anderson provided significant assistance to both scope the manpower requirement, make connections and encourage applicants to participate. Steve was able to announce the appointment of senior officials in February and then the selection of umpires and match officials was made from applicants 6 weeks later.



We really wanted to look after our officials as they would have such a bearing on the event. Creating the social ambience was engineered by Tracy Perkins who worked with David at the Centre and set up the opening party, the Latin Night and the Traditional evening. The visit we made to Nottingham to review the main social event options was well worth it as Tracy settled on the Revolucion de Cuba and how amazing was that Latin Night... an unforgettable atmosphere.....

and something that would be talked about for many years. And as for the quality of Fish and Chips that came from the van on the Friday Traditional evening; incredulous!

Working with local groups was very important to us and eventually, we found a perfect Robin Hood (named Robin) and his talented Merry Band. They were brilliant and a real attraction at the Opening Ceremony. In the local offerings department, Jan Ahmed was our shaker and mover; he had links with the offices of both the Sherriff and the Lord Lieutenant as well as local sporting icon, Richard Whitehead, all who graced our opening Ceremony alongside John Wilmott (so very sadly no longer with us) and Ben Rae, the respective Presidents of WGMA and LX. What a great team they were. We enlisted the help of the Wilford Bowmen to run the highly popular Archery competition over 2 days; 19 teams entered and it was held in safe area behind pitches 4 and 5, with administration of participants arranged by Irene Randall. There were plenty of prizes!





The local Ripley Morris dancers provided a very English welcome on the Friday evening to entice tired legs to step out as it was to enjoy the music from local musicians that graced the event throughout the week.



The Committee was enlarged as sub-activities developed. Finance was the bailiwick of our treasurer, Peter Glading, The organising committee had made some strategic decisions such as team entry costs based on some reasonably sound expenditure estimates and then handed this to Peter(!), who in his true style made sure nothing slipped through the net, that everything was accounted for and no wrinkles or dark corners existed as we moved forward! What should be mentioned is we had 2 hiccups (yes only 2), and between Tracy and Peter, we were able to secure rebates that went to individuals where possible or to charity where not. Joe Dowling stepped up to run the Opening Ceremony; he had no idea what he was letting himself in for; stage managing the players, the volunteers, the dignitaries, the entertainers and the technologies around it!



Steve Crute looked to create a user friendly 'map' of the event and also became 'Mr Gazebo' as he put together a tented village! Viv Stokes agreed to set up the information centre and bring together a roster of some 20 green shirted volunteers that created a focus for tickets, memorabilia, photos, local information and much, much more throughout the week. Chris Randall sought to attract sponsorship without much success but alighted (with the help of others) on an idea for an LX Patrons which was

highly successful, attracting 87 members. In effect the Patrons, who gathered during the tournament for a drinks party on the balcony in their unique dark blue shirts, provided the immensely popular and substantial festival medals. The official photographer throughout was the talented Paul Quinn, who worked tirelessly to turn round team photos and be at all the key moments of the week.



Other important contributions were made to provide accommodation, which was as an interesting bag; Carla was our local rep handling requests direct from teams, but LX also entered into a contract with the University in order to secure en-suite rooms in large numbers for teams travelling greater distances. Of course, Jez Allen did a super job setting up LX accommodation.

Other notable contributors include Richard Slator who set up the Buddie system to support each overseas team, Mike Greenbury who created some excellent publicity videos, Graham Beck who had an amazing medallion struck for the officials, and Neil Cole who set up the pre order and ticket purchasing system. Many others helped set up and close down the event.

There was never a shortage of volunteers and in all over 100 members were involved; it was always a case of trying to put round pegs in round holes. What transpired was an incredibly effective group and be emphasised is the attention to detail applied by committee members in each activity area, and their making of firm, timely and harmonised decisions enable us to focus capacity on the critical outcomes. We were of course indebted to David Griffiths and his team who were magnificent throughout.



Entries and Visiting Teams

Entry numbers were absolutely critical to both the financial viability and the creation of the right ambience at the event. We calculated that 45 entries put things on a sound footing. At one stage we were looking at 56 plus teams across all age groups and that was, sadly, without our friends Southern Cross, who had already committed to go to a later tournament in Europe. In the end, the unfortunate rescheduling of the Celtic Cup to clash with the second festival weekend and some inevitable withdrawals. Nevertheless, we were delighted to retain 46 teams and we know how hard managers and teams worked to ensure they arrived on time and had credible squads for the demands on 6 games in 7 days.

Reflection

LX received so many congratulatory messages that the Club can reflect with great pride that through a genuine team effort, in every sense of the word, we were able to delivery a superb hockey festival that met our intentions in every way. It was a true celebration to commemorate the development of our Club from its humble beginnings 30 years ago and gather together the hockey family of older legs.....and maybe we will wait a while before we do it again!

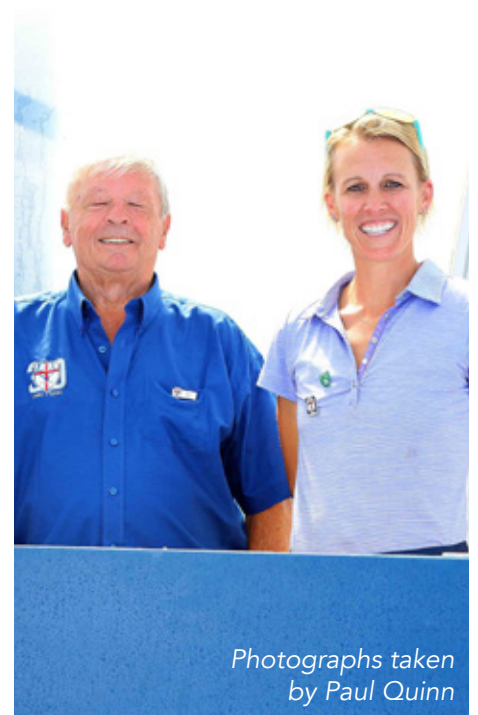
The visit from England Hockey President ; Alex Danson-Bennett

The Festival was truly honoured when the President of England Hockey, the world famous player Alex Danson-Bennett came to visit. Smoggy made the original approach over a year before and that was cemented by our President. Met on arrival by the LX Chair, Alex was absolutely brilliant at engaging with everyone involved with the event. She bumped into a disbelieving LX 60's squad pitchside before attending a light lunch where she was joined by all the 'top brass' and also presented the England Hockey lifetime Award to Graham Griffiths (David's Dad) for services to hockey and the creation of the Centre. Alex had a great conversation with Victor Vinue, the Argentinian 65s captain (and himself a full international), whose farther had competed as a goalkeeper in the London Olympics of 1948. Alex was fascinated by the memorabilia he brought with him and the similarities and contrasts to her experience in 2012, reflecting on her battles with Ayma and heard of stories from our tour to Argentina the previous year, when Victor was a super host and Bede, Webby and I organisers in the field!



Alex showed an incredible interest in all aspects of the festival; meeting firstly with the tournament management team, many of our volunteers, the medical team, the Centre staff. She checked out the officials on pitch and performed the pre-match courtesies for an over 75s match; Old Lions of Belgium v LX Whites on the show pitch. She chatted with many players and exchanged plenty of banter with the Australians! Both Presidents

enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the great expansion and camaraderie of hockey for older players and Alex was truly amazed by the size of the event and performance levels on show. We hope she was as impressed with us as we were with her. We wish her all the very best in her Presidency and remain ever grateful that she had the time to visit.



Photographs taken by Paul Quinn

NOTTINGHAM 2025 IGMHF

LX O70 Red

29th June - 6th July

A tournament report by (mostly) Nick and (contributions from) Sian Rudgard

Games played: 6

Won 5; drew 1

Goals for: 19

Goals against: 1

Scorers: Andrew Sanders - 6; Nick King - 5; Jan Ahmed - 2; Tony Neave - 2; Tim Brothers - 2; John Jarvis - 1; Mike Leatt - 1.

Day one – Sunday 29 June

The team convened for a practice warm up, in preparation for the challenging tournament that awaited us. Those of us who had volunteered for the opening ceremony parade held something back for that initial test – what would we wear for the ceremony? As sadly we had not brought any Robin Hood gear with us, we settled on club colours and a smile. We were not disappointed, as after being introduced to at least three Sheriffs of Nottingham by Mike L, Robin Hood did make an appearance, together with one merry man (Little John) and Maid Marion.

I (Nick) then joined Mike L with some Morris dancing in the marquee. Fortunately I don't think there is any video of this. As it then dawned on all of us that we had a 9.00am game scheduled on Monday to open the tournament, we went to bed early, avoiding the alcohol temptation.

Day two – Monday 30 June

Monday dawned, just in time for a 6.30am breakfast at the hotel and a 7.30am get together at the ground. It was reassuring to have with us in the dug-out Ro with her ice bucket, Pete with his clip board and efficient organisation, and Edwin lurking in his tent at the ground, on hand to patch us up as required.

The early start suited us, as we duly dispatched an Alliance side 4-0. Celebrations were cut short, as the organisers had kindly arranged for us to have an afternoon second game against a tough Spanish Sixtiberians side in a 30 degree heatwave. I decided to decamp back to the airconditioned hotel for a shower and rest in order to watch Wimbledon tennis, whilst others stayed cool at the ground.

The Spanish team duly proved to be a very well organised and skilful side with several internationals, and initially threatened to run away with the game. However LX Reds first matched them with a well marshalled defence founded on the best goalkeeper in the world, and then scored on a really well put together breakaway, as the Spanish had over extended themselves on an attack. Unfortunately late in the game, the Sixtiberians managed to get behind our defence on their right and a centred ball was put in our net, to make it a 1-1 result. This goal remarkably turned out to be the only goal conceded by us in the whole tournament!

The team celebrated surviving two full games in one very hot day, by buying the Spanish team many beers. I discovered during the post-game chat, that I had played in January 1971 for my school against one of the Spanish players in a tournament at Real Club de Polo in Barcelona. The Spanish player and I agreed on two things - first, that still to be playing in this kind of international tournament over 50 years later, summed up what Masters hockey is all about, and secondly, that his English was better than my Spanish.



Pre-match briefing

Day three – Tuesday 1 July

Tuesday was our day off and those of us in the hotel had a well-deserved 9.30am breakfast. This later timing had the advantage of avoiding the chaos of sharing breakfast with around 50 junior cricketers, who were also staying at the hotel.

The morning brought us a bit of a medical drama as unfortunately Chris was taken ill in the hotel and paramedics were called to take him to the nearest hospital for observation and treatment. We sadly missed Chris for the rest of the tournament, but he was well enough to watch us on Saturday and is now fully recovered.

I (Sian) decided to break myself in gently to my first UK based LX tournament by arriving on Tuesday afternoon in time to attend a barbeque at Jan and Linda's home hosted together with Nick and Ro King. It was a super evening, with an amazing spread of delicious food, and a wonderful cake made by Linda to celebrate the 30th birthday of the LX club. The evening gave Jan an opportunity to thank LX Committee members for all their hard work in putting together the tournament, and it was apparent that the planning had involved hours of meetings and preparation. It was a great opportunity for me to catch up with some familiar faces from the 2024 Cape Town trip, and to start to get to know some new team members I had not met before.

Day four – Wednesday 2 July

As LX Reds had finished top of the initial three team Pool B on goal difference from the Sixtiberians (+4 goals as opposed to Sixtiberians' +3), the next Pool E of three teams, pitted LX Reds against LX Whites and Chiltern.

Today started with a cold shower at the hotel due to the failure of the hotel boilers. However this was just the stimulation needed for the game against LX Whites. It is always a good challenge to play competitively against fellow LX members and this game was no exception. A very tight and enjoyable game with a high skill level finished on a 1-0 win for LX Reds. Competitiveness was replaced by a sensible number of mutually bought beers after the game.

Wednesday was also the day of The "Main Event" – a Latin Fiesta at Revolucion de Cuba in Market Street, a nice walk through the city from our hotel with the added frisson of already mounting excitement provided by dodging the motorised scooters and e-bikes careering through the city centre. I (Sian) have to confess to slight trepidation at the mention of a night out at "Revs" with images of late night revellers staggering out of our local Revolution in Wilmslow coming to mind. My fears were unfounded, however, as we were greeted by friendly staff, with garlands and Cuban hats being offered to everyone, creating a welcoming and lively atmosphere. There was a tasty food selection with some delicious pasta del nata. That was followed by some fire eaters – it was good to know that health and safety had not terminated them – and then some fabulous music and entertainment, that got everyone (almost!) on the dance floor. The evening was really well-attended and so full marks to the organisers for arranging such an original and fun event, in an unusual venue.

Day five – Thursday 3 July

There had been some doubt as to the make-up of the Chiltern side to play us, as we had heard that some team members had had to leave the tournament, due to a fixture clash with the Celtic Cup. When we got to the pitch, we saw that there were some guests in their team whom we recognised, which made the game even more fun.

Suffice it to say, by now LX Reds were well practiced and extremely comfortable with their positional line-up and combination on the pitch, and the team played spectacularly well together to power to a 7-0 win.

After a few beers and condolences with our opposition, the team went back to the hotel to prepare for a team night out. Jan had kindly recommended The Cumin Restaurant which provided Indian cuisine within walking distance of the hotel. The restaurant was clearly promising, as it endorsed the Robin Hood theme by being appropriately situated in Maid Marion Way. On entering the restaurant, the group were encouraged to see around ten restaurant award certificates on the wall behind the table, and sure enough the food turned out to merit the awards. After a delicious and very sociable meal, the group very professionally rejected visiting any other venues and returned to the hotel.

Day six – Friday 4 July

As LX Reds had finished top of the second pool E with six points from two wins, we were placed in the final top three team Pool G, together with the Sixtiberians and Scottish Thistles.

Today's game was our second game against the Spanish Sixtiberians. LX Reds had cleverly worked out from the previous game how the Spanish played, which essentially was to keep possession and work the ball steadily around in defence and midfield, until they could overload and attack down their right hand side. Unfortunately, unknown to us, the Spanish had decided to change their approach from the first game, and this time they focused on more

directly attacking through the middle of the pitch. However again the defence stood firm and very effectively absorbed everything thrown at them. When the Spanish tired in the second half, the LX Reds midfield seized the initiative, and by the end of the game, the forwards had scored two good goals, making it a 2-0 win. This was a really significant team result against an impressive Spanish team.

The Spanish kindly repaid the hospitality favour by buying us all beers after the game to set up some great socialising.

This was followed by a tasty fish and chip supper, delivered from a van in the car park. Queuing was challenging, as we were effectively standing in a wind tunnel due to the increased wind strength, but the meal was well worth waiting for.

Day seven – Saturday 5 July

Today brought the final sixth game against the Scottish Thistles. The result of this game would decide the finishing order of the top three sides in Pool G.

[Sian] It was great to see Chris back with the spectators watching the game with me from the bird's eye view of the clubhouse balcony. After an initial tightly fought period against a strong team, LX Red's superior fitness and skills told, as they ran out 5-0 winners to secure a first place finish in the O70 category and a gold medal each. There followed much celebration over beers and a delicious lemon cake provided by Linda.

I am very much looking forward to watching those members of the team who are going to be in action in Germany in August, and sorry not to be seeing those unable to make it to the event.

Day eight – Sunday 6 July

Sunday was presentation day, which sadly we both had to miss, as we had to leave the tournament on Saturday evening, but we have seen the photos showing the happy team displaying their well-deserved gold medals.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable week with a great team and was very good preparation for the late August European Championships in Germany. Many thanks to LX Chair Mike L and all the LX festival committee members and contributors, including the ladies in the wind-swept information tent, whose hard work and careful preparation ensured a really successful international tournament, and a very fitting way in which to celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the LX club.

LX O70 Reds Team: Chis Booker (Captain); Jan Ahmed (Vice-captain); Tim Brothers; Ian Burnham; Steve Crute; Martin Ferrett; David Garforth-Bles; John Jarvis; Mike Handley; Philip Hutley; Lakhan Kandola; Nick Kennerley; Nick King; Mike Leatt; Tony Neave; Nick Rudgard; Andrew Sanders; Robin White (Coach); Pete Sandry (Manager).



LX Club 30th Anniversary Hockey Festival

LX Over 75 Reds Report

29th June – 6th July 2025

30 years ago, how many of us thought we would still be playing hockey today? We owe so much to those pioneers of Grand Masters hockey and the subsequent success of our LX Club. This 30th anniversary Festival proved to be a fitting celebration of the efforts of so few for the benefits so many.

Having enjoyed the opening ceremony and joined up with old friends, it was down to business on Monday 30th June, with a match v Welsh Dragons. An early P flick calmly put away by John Tripp settled the nerves and when a second flick was awarded minutes later, finished this time by Trippy in the opposite corner, you might have been forgiven for thinking that was it. The competitive spirit is inbred in us all however, regardless of age and back came the Welsh with a well taken opportunist goal. Some good skills by Mike Christie opened up the Welsh defence however to present skipper Peter Bale with the opportunity to restore our lead and when the ball bounced obligingly to Trevor Dennison later in the game, there was only one place the ball was going to end up – in the back of the net. 4-1 win. Good start on what was a sweltering hot day.

Tuesday was a rest day for us and a chance to take in some local sightseeing, before we took to the pitch again with Alliance. We dominated but could only score one goal, courtesy of that man JT again, who seemingly was looking to put himself in contention for the Ballon d'or! 1-0.

Another day, another opponent. Belgium Old Lions. Same old scorer though – yes, JT. Patrick Martin then got in on the act, when after a melee in the D the ball sprang loose to the left and there was Pat ready to smash it jubilantly back into the net to put us 2 up. Tony Griffin increased our lead with a typical goal coming in from the right to unleash a bullet into the far corner and Peter Bale completed the scoring to make the final result 4-0 and with it guarantee us a place in the final.

So far, so good and all going to the plan, set by the skipper but lying in wait were the LX Whites and we all know how unpredictable these games can be!

The Whites were certainly up for it with no quarter asked, none given. That was until Trevor Denison broke clear of his shackles and calmly slipped the ball past the keeper from the edge of the D. Undeterred, back came the Whites and from a short corner equalised, Peter Denley confidently deflecting the strike into the net. That was not the end of it however and Trevor Denison made sure of the points with a goal almost identical to the first. 2-1 win.

The final was a sense of déjà vu – LX Reds v LX Whites!

This was to be the 5th game in 7 days, but nobody was complaining of tiredness. In fact, it was the reverse and by now the squad had a good understanding of how to play together. Trippy got the scoring underway with a typically accomplished P flick. Richard Turner then started to turn the screw, poaching 2 goals before Richard Yardley got in on the act with another. JT then popped up as Johnny on the spot to touch home another before TD completed the scoring to make it 6-0 and round off a very good all-round effort, solid defensively, energetic and creative in midfield and always threatening up front.

Thanks must go to all on the LX committee and everyone else who helped to make this such a wonderful festival both on and off the pitch. A benchmark for others to follow!

LX o75s vs Pistons o75's, Southgate

Thursday 10th July 2025

Brian Woolcott, though not able to play, had assembled another star-studded squad of 12 just about able-bodied people for this annual match.

32° and humid on the water-based pitch, LX, as is often the case, took time to gel as a team and were down 0-2 by the end of the first quarter. This was largely due to LX not dealing with ariel balls down the opposition right and thus being left exposed and outnumbered at the back.

However, with a well planned and executed substitution system initiated by captain Trevor Dennison, LX took a grip on the game and fought their way back. Into the 2nd & 3rd quarters, now pushing forward more as a unit, and with some fast accurate passing, LX started to penetrate the opposition D. From one of these attacks in the 3rd quarter, LX won a short corner which was smartly despatched by Peter Newnham.

With tails up, LX came out for the final quarter continuing to press forward; the midfield combo of Sukdhev Riyat, Trevor Denison, James Greig and 'Pally' Sumal combining well together and with the dangerous forwards, Gilbert Grace, Peter G, and Trevor Wood continuing to test the Pistons defence, more opportunities were created. From a slick interchange of play, Trevor Denison on the left just outside to 25, passed to Peter Newnham at the top of the D who deftly passed the ball to Peter Gladding in the D and he, as ever, was deadly given this sort of opportunity. And so from 2 nil down LX found themselves at 2-2 and still wanting to press for the winner.

The defensive unit of Paul Berendt, Henrik Kjellin, and Graham Ramsden (great to see him back) dealt comprehensively with any attack from Pistons and joined in with LX attacking moves as Pistons attacks became more infrequent. However, there was a last-minute scare when a rare Pistons through ball found an attacker in the LX D, only to be thwarted by goalie Peter Chasney; fortunately, the ball was deflected onto a post and a travesty was averted.



LX v Stratford

13th July 2025

Our 2nd annual fixture against Stratford again fell on a very hot day and even prior to the match there were certainly people who were looking forward to getting into the shade of the club bar. The match was scheduled to start at noon; the ideal time for LX Englishmen to be out in the midday sun; and so, it was rather warm throughout.

In the run-up, we had suffered a few drop-outs from the original squad of 15 and as we had only been left with 11 and no goalkeeper, it was necessary to draft in a couple of potential recruits to LX; Steve Labram, (who played in goal for Alliance at the LX Festival), and Neil Murray, (who is in the Ireland squad for the Euros).

Suitably bolstered with top class players, we were hoping to get our revenge on a Stratford team that won last year's debut fixture when fielding a team that probably had an average age below 60. The Stratford manager is own "Beef", (Keith Miles), and he took great care to assess the strength of our team and to select the home team that he believed would be a fair match for ours.

Beef's sportsmanship seemed to have backfired on him slightly when LX took the lead slightly against the run of play. The ball found it's way into their D to Peter Booth and although his first shot was blocked by the keeper, he managed to pick up the rebound, dribble around the stranded keeper and score with what he described as a "soft push". Parity was restored in the second period when Stratford scored from a well-worked penalty corner routine and at half time it was level at 1 – 1.

It was still Scorchio as the 2nd half started and the teams were both playing well but without creating many goal-scoring chances. The youngsters in the Stratford team were able to support their attack in numbers, and, on a few occasions, we were saved by some fairly last-second defending and goalkeeping. At the other end, we put together some useful attacks, but Stratford had one or two good defenders and one who was determined to stop us by any means available: including a passable impression of a South African rugby tackle. With the umpires being very lenient, we never got the numerical advantage that some of us expected.

Towards the end of the match, we were awarded a rare penalty corner, and we decided to throw caution to the winds and send one of the defenders up to assist with the corner. When the home team then got a breakaway, our defensive resources were stretched, and a moment of misfortune resulted in an almost comical goal. The Stratford forward was winding up for a shot from the top of our D and our defender reached out to try to block it, only for the shot to hit the outstretched stick and neatly flip over the prostrate keeper and dribble into the net. Despite throwing everything we had left into attack; the final whistle came too soon with the result being a 2 – 1 win for Stratford.

We retired to the clubhouse and true to his name, Beef served us a tasty, warming chilli beef and chips. Everyone had enjoyed themselves, no one got carded or injured and both teams want to play again next year. An LX success even if the score was against us.

Finally, 3 things:

- I can reveal that the defender who tipped the ball over the keeper was myself. As I've not scored a goal yet this century, I'm considering claiming it!
- A special mention to the midfield trio of Smokey (65), Pami (72) and Trevor (75) who were inspirational with their commitment, effort and ability.
- The captain's Man of the Match was Pami who had a cracker of a game and their umpires were astonished to learn of his age.

The match squad was:

Steve Labram, Satvarg Nijjar, Graham Wolloff, Mark Stoker, Nick Cusk, Andy Foulkes, Trevor Denison, Paramjit Hayre, Neil Murray, Ian Daddo-Langlois, Lakbir Atwal, Alan Povey, Peter Booth



England and LX celebrate International Grandmasters Hockey

On the 19 July, 4 England teams and 6 teams from the LX Club came together at Worcester HC to play a series of matches in celebration of the birth of international grandmasters hockey in England. The event, hosted and sponsored by LX was part of the 30th anniversary celebrations. Fitting 10 teams on 2 pitches in one day with sensible eating arrangements was a masterful exercise arranged by the LX Club Captain, Steve Mumford.



England and LX Club 70 and 75s



The hockey was friendly but competitive as one might expect, and a useful gathering ahead of the World Cup later in the year. As the games came to a natural conclusion at 1pm for 4 teams and 3.30 pm for 6, the LX Chair, Mike Leatt was able to thank everyone, especially the umpires (Austin, Gain, Gill, Jerrold, Lees, Oakley, Reynolds) and Worcester HC for their part in making the event so successful.



England and LX Club 60 and 65s

The LX Club was formed in 1995 at a tournament in Lille when for the first time, a group of over 60's hockey players competed to represent England. England won the inaugural tournament having been initially challenged by the Dutch to raise an over 60's side. That side included Brian Woolcott, who we are delighted is still an active member of LX today. The LX Club continued to proudly represent England until 2004 when a natural transition of that responsibility to the international governing bodies was introduced. The LX Club Captain and also a co-founder of LX, Gerald Wilkinson, saw the sense in this with the expansion of hockey up the age groups. LX continued to compete with amazing success on the international stage at 60s and also at over 65, 70, 75s and 80s when they came into being. Whilst hockey at all Masters levels (a name introduced by our own President Ben Rae when Secretary General of the HA and since embraced by all as it sounds better than Veterans!!) continues to evolve world-wide, LX has been consistent in providing club and international hockey opportunities for the over 60's for 30 years. It was therefore unsurprising that almost all players at Worcester were members of LX!

Artefacts 2 - LX 2

27th July 2025

LX gave away a considerable age advantage against a much younger looking Artefacts side. Both teams featured 2 players each from Gatfers (a bunch of rough necks from Devon and Cornwall). LX welcomed back 2 stalwarts - Smoggy and Lee Connolly after time out through injury. Both came through the game successfully. By contrast, Fraser Black was hobbling at the end after being hit twice on the same big toe - painful!



Both teams took a while to find any rhythm in a nervous looking start to the game, but after some good interplay LX took the lead through Lee Connolly after 11 minutes. Shortly after, it might have been 2 - 0 but a miscued shot from Webber caught the goalkeeper's foot, narrowly missing the post and going out for a corner.

Some LX 'tactical footwork' led to a free hit which led to some serious pressure on the LX defence forcing smart saves from Ingram Marriott playing in goal. There was resolute LX defending led by Pete Sandry in the centre but, after sustained Artefacts pressure, the inevitable Artefacts equaliser was scored. Shortly afterwards Artefacts took the lead making it 2 - 1. However, LX were not quite done yet and made sensible use of rolling subs which helped to give tired legs some recovery time. Parmi Bolina scored a second LX goal to draw the game level at 2 - 2.

After this, both teams had chances to win the game, and both came close in the keenly contested final stages.

After the match, both teams retired to the clubhouse to enjoy a very nicely prepared buffet courtesy of Les from Artefacts.

Thanks to Lee Connolly for his work in coordinating things in and around this fixture in what was an enjoyable encounter.

Oxford Hawks Get together 30th July

Helping O70 White pre Ludwigsberg

The day was blessed with good weather but not too hot, some good play and enjoyable competition especially against the O70 Whites squad and concluding with an excellent meal!

We had 28 club players plus 1 umpire (thanks Imtiaz Sheikh for doing all 3 games), thanks to the players who also umpired as well, split as an A and B who played each other and then provided opposition for the O70 White side as part of the side's preparation for the European Cup in Ludwigsburg.

Game 1 saw the A team play the B team. The game started as an even contest until a B team break lead to Ian Kennedy scoring the opening goal. It was Ian Kennedy who provided a continued threat from the B team but the A team defence marshalled by Des Legg and Dave Dixon were able to negate any further attacks. It was at this point that Phil Gain ran riot scoring 3 quick goals to make it 3-1 to the A team, which was the final score.

Game 2 saw the A team play O70 White. As in game 1 the game started as an even contest neither side creating many clear-cut opportunities. The game was opened up when Phil Gain made a mazy run from around the half way line driving into the circle and firing the ball across where Trevor Denison on the back post scored, just reward for all his hard work. The game then opened up with the White side looking for an equaliser but neither side was able to capitalise on the openings created. The game ending 1-0 to the A team.

Game 3 saw the B team play O70 White. The B team scored early in the game through Tony Griffin. This sparked the White team to step up the pressure resulting in a short corner which resulted in Peter Glading scoring from close range. This seemed to give impetus to the White team who scored an open play goal from Martin Jenkins to leave the score 2-1 at the end.

Below is the summary from O70 White management of the day –

LX Whites travelled from all parts of the country for the opportunity to have some warm up games at Oxford. This was their second outing and the first where all but one member of the squad were present.

In the first game they didn't start well leaking a breakaway goal in the opening minutes but gradually they began to put some excellent passing moves together that created some goal scoring opportunities but good goalkeeping prevented the Whites from scoring. In the second game the Whites were more organised but still went a goal down early on. Gradually they began to exert more pressure and should have had a flick awarded but only got a short corner. However, they did score from this when a well worked move allowed Peter Glading to score from close range. Martin Jenkins then scored from open play with a well-placed shot from the edge of the D.

An excellent day in sunny Oxford. Next stop Ludwigsburg!



LX v Puritans

3rd August 2025

Result Puritans 1-0

As the Son of a Puritan Founder this fixture has a particular resonance for me and one is always profoundly grateful for the commitment made by the doughty band of LXers who bear down upon the area of Chiswick and Teddington on Sea (well actually the River Thames) on a Sunday Afternoon in August where Lycra and Cockerpoos abound!!

As ever, we were up against a spirited Puritans side who enjoy nothing more than 'getting one over' any National side.

In humid but dry conditions LX got off to a lively start with Manmohan Patti creating openings with his tricky stickwork for the two wide attackers in Andrew Whitham and Clive Harder. With Trevor Dennison and Bill Wickham linking well in midfield pressure was put onto the Puritans defence and a couple of Penalty Corners were awarded but unfortunately not converted.

Playing in the four-quarter format, the first quarter ended goalless and with little to choose between the two teams. At the start of the second quarter Puritans introduced a rather quick and somewhat tricky forward which altered the flow of the game to some extent and saw the LX Defence come under pressure. Both Henry Matthews and Howard Walker assisted by Paul Bird and a 'guest' defended stoutly and frustrated the now confident and enthusiastic Puritans attack. These four were most ably marshalled by Richard Boutcher in Goal - more of which to come.

Showing fantastic endeavour and teamwork LX held Puritans at bay to see the first half (end of 2nd Quarter if you are keeping up!) end goalless.

The second half (3rd Quarter) commenced in a similar vein of Puritan pressure but with Richard Boucher showing why he is one of the top English Goalkeepers in his Age Category and, undoubtedly of many ages below, kept the scores level with some magnificent saves and general scurrying around the goal line.

Unfortunately, one extremely well struck goal attempt from the aforementioned tricky forward eluded Richard's mastery and the 3rd Quarter was to end 1-0 to Puritans.

However, rather than continued one way traffic, in the 4th Quarter LX showed their true spirit and took the game to Puritans. Both Patti and Bobby Abdullah combined well in the middle of the pitch and started to find spaces for both Andrew W and Trevor D to exploit and on one such opportunity almost created an equaliser but only the side netting was troubled.

The defence continued to marshal the Puritans attack well and any attempts on goal that did sneak through were expertly dealt with by Boutcher in the LX goal. The match therefore finished 1-0 to the Home Side but it had proved a highly enjoyable and competitive match. Unfortunately, the chief Samosa maker had been struck down by a bug so teas were not available but a well-earned drink by the Thames was enjoyed by all.

My thanks again to all who took part.

Bill Wickham (Capt)

England v LX European Over 60s

12th August 2025



Photo Credit: Paul Quinn



LX O65 Reds

Squad: Martin Hall (C), Roz Ramli (VC), Steve Foster (Coach), Mason Fenlon (GK), Harry Hill (GK), Ali Wardale, Chris Topham, Richard Sykes, Pete Willis, Clive Biddlecombe, John Stackhouse, Graham Farrant, Stuart Perry, John Barratt, Graham Vinnicombe, Stephen Graves, Kevin Coleman, Don Clarke, Chris Randall/Alan Walton/Mike Leatt (Assistant Managers), Irene Randall (FA), Colin McConnell/Nic Crocker/Fraser Black (Absent Friends).

Ludwigsburg, twinned with Caerphilly (known for its pale appearance, moist crumbly texture and mild lemony flavour), a very apt description of this quiet German town. What, no, wait, perhaps the twinning is with the Welsh town of Caerphilly and not the cheese, I guess that would make more sense. If only we had a Welshman in the squad to clear that up for us? As if that's ever going to happen! Hmmm! Anyway, Caerphilly, birthplace of one of my comedy heroes, Tommy Cooper, and location for the filming of the classic Dr Who episode "Robot of Sherwood". So, Ludwigsburg is clearly aligning itself with traditional British culture while paying homage to the camp "Kabarett" of its northern neighbours. Ahh, yes, I remember fondly my time working in the Kit Kat Klub in Berlin in '38 with Sally, Bob and Joel, possibly the best midfield trio to grace a hockey pitch.

Erm... which reminds me, the Masters European Championships. The group stages presented a potentially challenging set of matches versus "The Usual Suspects". But Keyser Söze himself could not have masterminded a better result for the first match, ironically against the German B team, a 4-0 victory [Scorers: Perry, Coleman, Clarke (2)]. A controversial VAR review denying Clarke a debut hat-trick. Hard cheese in this case!

Next up were the LX Whites, always tough opponents, especially with their casual eavesdropping of tactics talks over breakfast and their ploy of constantly shifting their lineup due to alleged 'injuries': pellagra, scurvy, rickets to name but a few. A 1-0 win was fought out despite the industrial quantities of vitamin supplements and analgesics scattered around their dugout. [Scorer: Farrant].

Southern Cross Blue were our nemesis from last year's World Cup. An excruciating loss on shuffles in the quarter finals. Arghhhh! After 5 minutes we were 0-2 down and facing a long, long battle to rescue the match. But even now it was clear that this squad had the skill, resilience and confidence to rise to such a challenge. Level by half time we dominated the second half and were unlucky to score only once more to win 3-2. Gasp! [Scorers: Graves, Coleman (2)]. VAR yet again had a role to play, in that the facial recognition software struggled with the Graves/Barratt physiognomy but must have got it right in the end! Surely?

Finally Southern Cross Green presented a comfortable end to the first phase of the competition. A 6-1 victory securing the teams place at the top of the table and an extra day's rest. [Scorers: Stackhouse, Sykes, Hall, Perry, Barratt, Farrant]. From a coaching point of view a great team performance; 4 wins from 4, 9 different scorers, 27 short corners won, 14 goals scored and just 3 conceded. Ah-Maze-Ing!

There's something about a semi-final that ramps up the tension more than any other match. The possibility of winning – nothing! Erk! Not even a copper/tin alloy medal that signifies "just not good enough guys". It has no magnetic properties and doesn't produce sparks; that's not us!

The rematch versus Southern Cross Blue was always going to be a tense affair. Would they have a Plan B to neutralise our high energy, high pressing game? Well, as it turned out, no! Any appeals to Marmoo, Narahdarn, Illapurinja and Mamaragan, if made, went unheeded, and we ran out worthy 2-0 winners. (Scorers: Hall, Barratt).

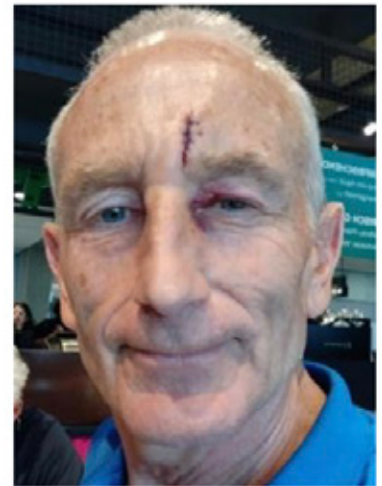
And so, to the Final. Look, we may be old men, we may have various medical interventions, we may have accumulated diverse and varied life experiences, we all have personal challenges and ambitions, we all have secret individual hopes and desires, but you know what, together as a team we've shown that we can use all of that to win. To be more than the sum of our parts!

Against a Netherlands B team who were genuinely surprised to be in the final we almost succumbed to a Southern Cross Blue reverse ferret. 2-0 up at end of Q1 and 2-2 at end of Q2. It felt like the stars has realigned and we were going to be punished for the folly of Brexit! But what folly indeed is such deliberation, and the winning goal from Richard Sykes capped a phenomenal campaign dubbed a "masterclass" performance by the YouTube commentators – and who can possibly argue with them! [Scorers: Farrant, Sykes (2)].

The squad achieved this remarkable result without a single injury throughout the tournament due to a combination of ayurvedic yoga, Pilates, bananas, quiet contemplation, prosthetics, ibuprofen, Phyllosan, and avoiding any unpleasant stretching! Until the final – when a player who cannot be named due to GDPR fell asleep in the dugout and was rudely awakened by a rogue Dutch hockey stick to the head resulting in three stiches. John Barratt is unavailable for comment but is believed to be recovering well.



LX65Red SoM European Champions (again)



Just a scratch!

LX O70 Whites

The Whites travelled to Ludwigsburg as the lowest seeded team but returned with a silver medal. A highly enjoyable and successful tournament for all involved and testimony to what can be achieved when an inclusive team culture is created.

Southern Cross Blue 2 LX Whites 0

This wasn't the start we wanted but we knew that the Blue were likely finalists. A couple of strange short corners where we conspired to allow two simple goals in was followed by a spirited fight back where we didn't really look like scoring. We were 3-4-3 and maybe should have played with 4 at the back.



LX Whites 5 Wales B 0

A game we needed to win and score more than goals than the Dutch did against Wales, which is exactly what we did. We tried some different combinations of players and positions which worked well. We strengthened our right flank with Clive Harrison, Terry Duffy, Martin Jenkins and David Sheriden combining well to create a lot of chances. Goals came from Peter Glading, Neil Flanagan, John Housham, Tony Taig and Joe Dowling.

LX Whites 1 Netherlands B 0

Always a tough game but one where we played well and deserved to win. A team goal involving Jeff Jackson, Martin Jenkins, Paramjit Hayre and clinically finished by David Sheriden was enough to see us come second in our group and set up a quarter final with Alliance.



LX Whites 2 Alliance 1

Whites were turbo charged from the off and scored two goals in the first seven minutes. A beautifully weighted pass from Sheriden picked out Tony Taig on the far post for the first and a neat move between Jackson and Glading saw Joe Dowling bursting into the D to score on the rebound after his first shot was saved. Alliance pulled a goal back to set up a nervous finish, but Cliff Peck pulled off a fabulous save to put us through to a semi-final against our Reds.



LX Whites 2 LX Reds 0

Once again, a Whites team prevailed against all the odds to beat a far stronger Reds team and reach the Final. A huge achievement and a memorable night for everyone involved. This game was full of drama. Whites lost their goalkeeper Peck just before the game started and Terry Duffy donned the kit. In Q1 Reds were awarded a penalty flick but Duffy guessed right and kept us in the game. The Whites game plan was well executed with Joe Dowling and Lee Robinson both close marking Leatt and Ahmed, allowing the Whites midfield to dominate. A forced error saw Taig latch onto a loose ball and slip the ball to Peter Glading who lashed the ball past Ferret. Game on! Whites switched to 3-4-3 at half time and went for the jugular. A superb deflection by Jenkins after Killoway had smashed the ball against Ferret's helmet and Hayre spun to shoot goalward was the 'coup de grace'. The Reds were shocked but truly magnanimous in defeat. The Whites were ecstatic.



LX Whites 0 Southern Cross 2

This was a game too far for this Whites team who had peaked in the semi final and already achieved their goal of winning a medal. Southern Cross were very well organised and their press made it very difficult for the Whites to get their passing game going. However, their defence was well marshalled by Skipper Keith Richardson and it took 58 minutes for the Aussie's to score from a dubious penalty flick which Peck nearly saved. It was a feisty game with Whites picking up four green cards and two yellows which meant they were playing with 10 men for a lot of the second half. With minutes to go Whites took off Peck in a final throw of the dice but unfortunately conceded a second goal after a penalty corner was awarded in the dying seconds of the game.

A disappointing finish but a superb effort from every member of this team. Allison Glading did a fabulous job of being Manager and Kendell played a huge part in keeping us all fit and well enough to perform at our best. Huge thanks to our wives and partners for unwavering support.



Paramjit Hayre was voted by his team as Player of the Tournament.



LX O70 Oxford

27th August 2025

Despite a majority of the great and good of LX being in Germany, the rump managed to rustle up 2 sides (with the help of a few non LX players).

A very enjoyable game, played in a good spirit and well controlled by 2 excellent umpires Henrik Kjellin and Frank Colwill who both volunteered as they are on the injured list.

Reds took the lead through Richard Turner following some slick passing out of defence with the final telling pass coming from Trevor Wood to set up the goal. Whites equalised when a hopeful hit into the D hit Vinny Smith's stick and deflected it past Ebi (that's how I saw it - Vinny will probably have a different version). Reds then scored through Trevor Wood - on his reverse stick - and the 1st quarter ended 2 -1 to Reds.

Midway through the 2nd quarter Reds increased the lead with a goal by Paul Bickell. 3 - 1 to Reds at the end of the 2nd quarter.

Both sides created a few chances but none taken; Whites had several short corners but well dealt with by the Reds defence. Bob Moxom was denied probably/possibly/maybe a certain goal when he picked up the ball on the halfway line and was bearing down on goal when Henrik blew for the end of the quarter.

No goals in the 3rd or 4th quarter so it ended 3 -1 to Reds. A bit of controversy in the 3rd quarter when Whites thought they should have been awarded a PF following a few "interesting" tackles. See below for Henrik's umpire's report on the incident !!

All in all an excellent day's hockey; the weather held fair - sunshine to start with and then just a few minutes of rain in Q3 and Q4. After the game we enjoyed the very good lunch provided by Oxford Hawks Hockey Club Paul Berendt

Since it is always good to have a drole match report, I thought I would add an umpire's explanation for the most controversial moment of the game - when I denied a penalty stroke after what looked like a straight forward takeout by Ebi :-)

Reason - I had already blown the whistle for dangerous play a split second before Ebi's move - which I deemed accidental. What provoked me was the sight of an inevitable collision between multiple players, which could only be minimized if I stopped the game rapidly. Sadly the speed at which I could put the whistle to my lips, plus the slow rate in which an older umpire can eject his breath meant not just goalkeeper and centre forward collided - In all, four people were laid horizontal in a multiple collision, but thankfully nobody was injured (apart from those who thought it should be a stroke, who felt morally injured !).

Henrik Kjellin



LX Intra Club Day at Wakefield

Because this get together clashed with the O65/O70/O75 Europeans in Ludwigsburg we invited LX ladies to join in – and 12 LX ladies joined us to make up two squads. Your correspondent and match manager was not present – being on TVR and Eurostar trains back to the UK at the time the match was played. My thanks went to Redders, Barry, Owen and Ian Hales for assisting with the admin while I was to and from Ludwigsburg. While I did get a photo back for the match report I was less successful – as will show below! – in getting details of the game.



Teams

Red - Redders in goal; Anne Wood; Keith Slaughter; Clare Boddy; Jayne Jackson (JJ); Paul Barker; Di Kirby; Simon Nightingale (HL); Sue Matthews; Vince Gilman-Abel; Ian Hales; Maz Simpson; Barry Jackson; Nigel Entwistle; Ian Daddo-Langlois; Jan Anderson.

White - Clare Gilman-Abel in goal; Alison Taylor; Peter Reid; Sue Pett; Karen Marshall; Sue Gauntlett; Martin Wright; Mike Greenberry; Ian Foster; Alison Baron; Owen Carr; Shi Foo; Rob Doel; Graham Wolloff; Lynn Harkins.

With especial thanks to umpires Helen Royan and Peter Fielding

My information from those who played was that one of the teams won 2-1. Ian Hales scored the winner (I think that means Reds won!) but that everyone thoroughly enjoyed the hockey which was played in a fantastic spirit (and I wasn't missed!).

Chris Randall

LX Over 80s Day at Olton & West Warwicks

10th September 2025

WHITE SQUAD - John Ingramm Marriott, Keith Hindley, David Smith, Patrick Martin, John Maylam, Satvarg Nijjar, Manu Kokri, Adrian Stephenson, John Peirce, David Gill [Capt] Eric Evans.

RED SQUAD - John Chong, Bill Greenwood, Chris Parker, Brian Nichols, Ken Wilcock, Peter Denley [Capt] John Smithers, Ted Frost, Martin Kavanagh, Geoff Wookey, Balbir Singh

WHITES started the game in a dominant manner putting REDS under pressure from the start and deservedly went ahead with a goal from open play by Satvarg Nijjar and continued to press with good midfield play by Martin, Maylam & Nijjar... an excellent move from midfield by WHITES resulted in a PC which was converted by Nijjar to put the WHITES 2-0 up.

At 2-0 down after 25 mins REDS started to come more into the game and reduced the deficit to 2-1 when Balbir Singh scored an excellent goal from open play. HT 2-1 to WHITES.

Balbir's goal seemed to inspire the REDS and they took the game to the WHITES at the start of the second half - his pressure payed off and REDS drew level when Ted Frost slotted home from open play. REDS were now on the front foot with WHITES having to defend constant RED pressure.... In the final period this payed off when Ted Frost scored from open play to put the REDS 3-2 and winners on the day.

Our thanks to Umpires Graham Reynolds & Mike Christie.

The game was followed by an after match meal with plenty of good chat.



Septemberfest 2025 – LX60D Report

Always ones to keep up with tech this report was compiled using AI. That's Andy's Imagination after consulting Chat60D.



As a novice skipper for the illustrious LX60D side I had prepared a minute-by-minute rotation schematic to ensure even pitch time for all. We had a mixture of old hands, good friends and new guests. Mandeep kindly took us through an active warm-up in preparation for the headline match of the tournament, an inter-club clash with LX60E skippered by the legendary Stackers.

We completed the tactical fine-tuning and were ready to enter the ring. What could go wrong? Umpires! Or the lack thereof. Tim Blackburn graciously offered to umpire the first half before departing to ensure festival administration was running smoothly, and Chris Riley stepped up to do the second half. Leaving the rotation in tatters but with experienced heads on the bench we ensured a fair rotation and faced up to the Stackers' challenge.

We had expected the usual Stackers' bus to be parked at the heart of a solid 9 man defence, but clearly they'd forgotten to put the handbrake on and came marauding forward in droves. Having spotted our strong spine of Stewart Flisher - first foray away from the manager's bench in three years-, Tim Ireland, Mandeep Hansra and Mike Anderson, they opted to hit our left flank. The initial onslaught was calmly thwarted by our guest left back Nick Sarson and his left midfield partner Barry Jackson.

Some fast one touch interplay, following tenacious midfield mastery from Mandeep and Mike saw Nigel Entwistle running clear on the left of the circle to face his Yorkshire compatriot, Redders, advancing on him at speed. Nige sensibly decided to protect his delicate hamstring for later games and opted to deftly lob the keeper rather than run round him. 1:0 and a well-deserved lead.

The E team continued attacking on their right, creating chances that were snuffed out by a resurgent Stewart, most notably his reverse pick off Martin Wright's stick just as he fired at a cowering keeper from close range. A hammered cross and first-time deflection evaded our defensive wall but fortunately I was able to fall over in time to get a stick on the shot to deflect it wide.

Comfortably marshalling the game whilst bringing on the ever-rapid Dibble to fortify the forward ranks, ably assisted by Garry Hardwick at right midfield, we created more opportunities and did that rarest of LX things- we scored two shorts. One a bullet drag flick from guest right back (though he ran over every in of the pitch at speed) Frank Bothamley , the other a majestic strike from the top by Tim Ireland under the rapidly logging keeper.

The opposition continued to create chances and scored twice, one a very well-crafted short finished off by Chris Topping from close range.

Overall, a very enjoyable and competitive game against old friends and as it's a festival we didn't keep a record of our 3:2 win.

On to an early start on Wednesday against hockey royalty, the Puritans. Having enticed Tim Blackburn away from umpiring and administrative duties to start in defence we were ready for our toughest outing. Suitably warmed up by Mandeep we hit the ground running with some accomplished hockey. Paul Field rotating across the midfield, with Garry and Barry, enabled a constant stream of through balls to our attacking forwards. Dickie Brendish came within inches of opening the scoring with a spectacular tomahawk at the end of a trademark mazy dribble. Against expectations we did outplay our rivals and reached the halfway point at a comfortable 0:0. Any breaches of the defence had only resulted in easy saves for me. Our only problem was adapting my pedantic timed rotations as Puritans had requested an extra 5 minutes per half! Mandeep gave us tactical fine tuning, and we faced the second half with optimism.

Despite creating chances and having lots of possession, quality will out. A jinking run round three defenders inside the circle with a calm push into the corner saw us go one down. Puritans now dominated and fired lots of shots on goal. Good defending from the entire back line and a few diving glove saves saw us cling on until a very bad lapse in judgement saw their forward launched skywards and me waiting for a sit down on the bench. Perhaps the umpire was unsighted by the sun but only awarded a stroke. 0:2.

Good defending by the untiring Frank and our Tim (Tim sounds like a budget sat nav, but it worked), a defensive pairing that kept them at bay until the last moments when a deflected shot saw the final score read 0:3. A loss but a great team performance that taught us a lot about ourselves.

The second game on Wednesday was a thoroughly entertaining clash with our LX 70 rivals. We had sadly lost Garry, who had to return home after the Puritans' game and in the spirit of friendship across the ages we loaned Blackers to the 70s. With no rotational master plan for this game we adapted festival rotation. The subs picked any player to rotate with every 5 minutes.

The pace of Nige, Dickie, Chris and Dibble was too much for the 70's noble defence and Nigel slotted the first goal. We were surprised to see Blackers on the bench for the first half, but then realised the 70s used a talent based criteria for rotation. Barry revelled in his new found freedom to play wherever he wanted and swiftly slotted two great goals and put in some strong midfield challenges.

At half time we exchanged our twin Yorkshire strike force of Nigel and Dickie with the 70s strikers and Blackers finally entered the fray to replace a tiring septuagenarian. In the spirit of friendship our midfield dynamos elected to play exclusively in the opposition circle leaving an ever decreasing number of defenders to entertain Nige and Dickie. Having done his bit up front Barry took pity on us and came back to help out and run 1 at shorts. Despite our best efforts the 70s pulled one back from open play and forced several shorts.

Nige then decided on the next short that he wanted to score for both teams and fired in one of his narrow angle screamers that I couldn't even get to in my dreams. With desperate calling to our distant friends up front we managed to hold on to a 3:2 win against a very talented 70s side.

Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to Mandeep, Blackers and Barry, so Thursday was looking a little short on players, but with Rob Loughton coming to join us and skilful reorganisation of work diaries keeping Tim and Nick in contention we looked to have a team plus one sub. When Mike Greenbury (previously known as the nicest man ever to pull on an LX top) put out a call for reinforcements for his side against the puritans before our game Mike A and Nigel were happy to help their friend. Even Stewart helped out the 70s.

So, after that game we asked Mike Greenbury to return the favour and supplement our dwindling numbers. Despite agreeing he quickly showed his true colours and deserted us for a better offer. Needless to say, he's off our Christmas card list.

As we took stock 30 seconds prior to push back against a strong Alliance side (heavily slanted towards Bedford) we had Nige taping up his hamstring and only able to offer static attacking options. Dickie holding his injured groin and able to muster walking speed at best and a tiring Stewart. We had a bare 11. Then as the umpire lifted his whistle the cavalry arrived. Dibble had finally found forward gear in his tractor and arrived pitch side as our spare forward.

This plan quickly failed as Stewart pulled his calf and had to retire to the bench. In their only attack Alliance managed to scramble a far post deflection in off my helmet: the only touch I made all game.

With Frank playing every position on the pitch at the same time, Paul Field dropped back to admirably bolster our defences alongside the ever reliable Tim. Chris and Nick ran tirelessly in midfield and allowed Mike and Dibble to get forward to support our attacking superheroes, who despite warnings to not do anything stupid, continued to run beyond the point of human understanding- thank you. One of our shorts was calmly despatched by Tim to level the score and despite injuries and dwindling numbers we remained comfortable and kept the ball away from me.

A great team effort from all. Rob was a real bonus in midfield and clearly a quality player who exuded calm on the ball and gave us a boost when we needed it. Hopefully the experience will prompt a couple of the guests to join the LX ranks.

With luck the injuries will heal in time and the fond memories will remain.



Cambridge LX Mixed Bonanza

15 October 2025

As ever, whilst the players inevitably have a fun time no matter the venue, the weather or indeed the format we are always indebted to the hard work of the few that make it all happen. So, before we read about the on-pitch exploits, I'd like to thank:

- Kevin Stanton-King for organizing the day, for miraculously allocating 49 players into well balanced teams and for establishing excellent lines of communication pre and post the event.
- The captains (John, Rachael, and Kevin) for their leadership, their endless capacity to cater for the positional whims of players and for their occasional words of encouragement.
- The umpires (Chris, Annette, and Nigel assisted by Kim, Colin, Paula, Shirley and Mike) without whom we wouldn't be able to play. Judging what was and what was not 'intentional' when dealing with players of our vintage takes skill, tact and a fair amount of diplomacy!
- The catering team without whom we'd go hungry and thirsty! Quite how we manage to receive a choice of hot, well-presented, tasty food served with a smile for a nominal sum is beyond me.
- Cambridge University for providing one of the very best venues in the country.
- Allison Glading for organising the ladies, taking the photographs, and for being organized enough to realise that was a good idea.
- And finally, to all the players that travelled from points north, south, east and west of Cambridge to make the day a competitive success.

Vintage League Report: A Sommelier's Take

In this refined competition, four teams have uncorked their campaigns with varying degrees of elegance, boldness, and finesse. Each team's journey mirrors a classic wine - some full-bodied and triumphant, others delicate or still maturing.

Team C – Bordeaux Grand Cru

- Record: 2 Wins, 1 Draw, 0 Losses
- Points: 7
- Wine Profile: Elegant, balanced, and masterfully structured

Team C is the Bordeaux of the league - complex, commanding, and built to age gracefully. Their unbeaten run reveals a blend of tactical depth and consistency, much like the layered notes of cassis, cedar, and spice in a Grand Cru. They've shown poise under pressure and a finish that lingers long after the final whistle.

Tasting Note: Rich in performance with a velvety draw, this team leaves a lasting impression - refined yet formidable.

Team B – Barolo

- Record: 2 Wins, 0 Draws, 1 Loss
- Points: 6
- Wine Profile: Bold, intense, and slightly unpredictable

Team B channels the spirit of Barolo - Italy's "King of Wines." Their victories are robust and full-bodied, with tannic strength and a touch of volatility. The single loss adds a hint of bitterness, but overall, they've shown the kind of power that demands respect. Like Nebbiolo grapes, they thrive in tough conditions and deliver knockout performances.

Team D – Pinot Noir

- Record: 0 Wins, 2 Draws, 1 Loss
- Points: 2
- Wine Profile: Subtle, nuanced, and hard to pin down

Team D is the Pinot Noir of the league - delicate, elusive, and often misunderstood. Their two draws suggest a team that's hard to beat but harder to define. Like a cool-climate Pinot, they show flashes of brilliance without overpowering the palate. There's potential here, but it needs time to mature.

Tasting Note: Light-bodied with hints of resilience - an elegant underdog with a slow-building bouquet.

Team A – Table Wine (Vin de Pays)

- Record: 0 Wins, 1 Draw, 2 Losses
- Points: 1
- Wine Profile: Simple, serviceable, but lacking refinement

Team A is the humble table wine - drinkable, excellent value for money but far from distinguished. Their campaign has been underdeveloped, with only a single point to show. Like a bottle opened midweek with no ceremony, they've struggled to impress but provided enjoyment along the way. There's room for improvement, but the current vintage lacks body and finish.

Tasting Note: A simple easy drink with minimal complexity.

Vintage League Table

Team	Points	Wins	Draws	Losses	Wine Style	Profile & Performance
Team C	7	2	1	0	Bordeaux Grand Cru	Elegant, structured, top-tier
Team B	6	2	0	1	Barolo	Bold, intense, slightly volatile
Team D	2	0	2	1	Pinot Noir	Subtle, resilient, nuanced
Team A	1	0	1	2	Table Wine (Vin de Pays)	Basic, reliable

Final Pour: What's Aging in the Cellar?

- **Team C** is drinking beautifully now - can they maintain their vintage quality?
- **Team B** has the tannins to dominate but must avoid overextraction.
- **Team D** is a sommelier's curiosity - will they bloom with time?
- **Team A** is a simple uncomplicated go to.

This league isn't just about results - it's about character, complexity, and the stories behind each bottle. Whether you prefer bold reds or delicate sips, the Vintage League has a flavour for every palate.









New Members 2025










The LX Club welcomes to all our new members, and each year we expose their talents and achievements in the LXer. Here is the current crop of 'newbies':

Dole	Rob		Winning Park Hockey Club Central Defence/Full Back/Wide midfield
Appleyard	Kevin		Chelmsford Evergreens 60's Forward/Midfield
Lawrence	David		Harleston Magpies Full Back
Redman	David (Redders)		Harrogate Hockey Club Goalkeeper England O50 Indoor, England B outdoor Yorkshire, North O50s, YNE O55s
Foster	Andrew		Deeside Ramblers R Back, Sweeper, C Midfield Cheshire Level 2 Umpire
Ebsworth	Martin		West Bridgford Hockey Club Left Half, Front of diamond
Booth	Peter		Newmarket Hockey Club Forward, Wing Level 1 Umpire
Hotchkin	Mark		Bourne-Deeping Hockey Club R Back, R Half, L Back (any position but GK)
Wardale	Alistair		Norwich City Hockey Club R Half, Any other defensive position, defensive midfield Norfolk, Norfolk O50, O60, East O50, O55, O60, O65 Level 1 Umpire
Vinnicombe	Graham		Cirencester Hockey Club Attacking defender, defending midfielder Gloucestershire O60, O65, West O60 Level 1 Umpire
Gilman-Abel	Vince		Lindum (Lincoln) Hockey Club RAF, Lincolnshire Vets
Hatch	Christopher		Ipswich - East Suffolk Hockey Club (IES) Umpre, L Wing, R Half, C Defence Received Ipswich Borough Council 'Unsung Hero' award in 2008 forservices to hockey in Ipswich and Suffolk. Received England Hockey (EH) Lifetime Achievement Award, 2023. Level 1 Umpire
Palfreyman	Philip		Belper Hockey Club Sweeper, C or L Defence, C or L Midfield Derbyshire
Brown	Stephen		Ocean City Hockey Club (Plymouth) Attacking midfield, Defensive midfield, Wing

NEW MEMBERS

Westaway	Peter		Amersham and Chalfont Hockey Club R midfield, C midfield, R Defence Bucks/Oxon O65, South Central O65
Padmore	Malcolm		Chester Hockey Club Winning the Regionals last year (2024) with the North, gaining a Gold medal in the 2022 World Cup playing for Wales over 70s, playing for Wales in four World Cups as well as in many international tournaments.
Brendish	Richard		Stevenage Hockey Club, Bluehearts O55 Striker Herts, Herts O55, East O60
Simmons	Andrew		Harlestone Magpies L Back, R Back, R/L Half
Holdaway	Dave		Lansdown Hockey Club C Midfield, C Forward, any Midfield/Forward Glos U21, Hereford/Glos O60 Indoor Cheltenham HC lost in play off for Crystal palace finals night
Fielding	Peter		None Sweeper, R or L Wingback, R or L Forward Northumberland Level 2 Umpire
Welsh	David		Bowden Hockey Club Centre Forward, Sweeper East, North West
Moxom	Robert (Bob)		Lansdown Hockey Club Left defender, Anywhere on the left West O40
Insley	Ian		Marden Russets Hockey Club Goalkeeper South/South East O50, O55, O60, O65, England O65 B Level 1 Umpire
Clark	Donald (Don)		Cannock Hockey Club Attacking midfield, Striker/Wing Wales U18, U21, 90+ Masters games for Wales, Midlands
Black	Simon		Norwich City Hockey Club Forward, Midfield, Defence East O55, O60, Norfolk O50, O55, O60, Wales O60 Level 1 Umpire
Slaughter	Keith		Norton Hockey Club C Back, R Back, L Back Midlands O50
Dixon-Clarke	Peter		Trojans Hockey Club Left midfield, Left wing, Left wing-back Wiltshire O50
Baden	Kewal		Sikh Union/Khalsa Centre back, Defence, Central midfield Warwickshire
Skinner	Graham		Isca Hockey Club Midfield, Forward, Wing Back England Masters 1998 - present Umpire and Coach



Bothamley	Francis (Frank)		City of Peterborough Hockey Club Defender, Forward, Midfield Lincolnshire U21, Cambridgeshire O55 Level 1 Umpire
Darnley	Andrew		Cannock Community Hockey Club Forward, Left Half, Centre Back Staffordshire and Midlands Masters
Joseph	Trevor		None Right Forward, Left Forward, Right Midfield YNE O55
Short	Adrian		East Grinstead Hockey Club Left/Right Wing, Left/Right Back
Pepperell	Keith		Alliance Hockey Club Forward
Wood	Simon		Shepton Mallet Midfield, Right Defender, Any
Hyman	Philip		Kirkby Lonsdale Hockey Club, Timperley Masters Centre Back, Left Defence, Right Defence Somerset, Lancashire, Cumbria, Nort, North West, England B Level 2 Umpire
Fallows	Julian		Worcester Hockey Club Left Back, Right Back, Centre Back
Raval	Suneil (Rav)		Reading Hockey Club Goalkeeper RAF, Combined Services, England O45, O50, O55, West and South Level 1 Umpire, Level 2 Coach

GOODBYE OLD FRIENDS

The following members/partners have sadly passed since the last LXer magazine was published.

Denis Hopkin

Ian Wilson

Nigel Steed

John Chamberlain

Barry Mills

George Hazell

Peter Sharpe

Des Osborne

John Willmott

Hazel Hopkins



HONOURING OUR PAST

Inspired by the 30th Anniversary of LX and reflections of our past, the Committee sought to appoint a Club Historian to create a lasting record. Jeff Jackson was motivated by the idea and volunteered to create a Roll of Honour/Memorial Wall which would acknowledge and record some information about every LX member that has passed since we began in 1995. Jeff has duly been appointed as the LX Historian! He recently started his research by seeking to gather information from a variety of sources with the intention that this will then go onto our website and in other established LX publications.

Jeff said 'It is extremely important to recognise the contribution members have made to our very special club and for their names to be held in one place for perpetuity.

I am indebted to the members who have helped me track down names, regions and shirt numbers of players that are no longer with us. In particular Adrian Stephenson, Anthea Ross and Brian Woolcott (who is the only player from the very first group of players that is an active member... an amazing achievement).

Anthea still had her own personal handwritten record of shirt numbers from 1 to 161 which was a great help, when cross referenced with Elaine Hunt's list which went to 163. Elaine was responsible for allocating numbers to shirts for many years.

Adrian spent hours going through old LXer Magazines to identify the players we lost each year. These magazines represent our best archived material.

Currently there are about 10 players whose numbers I am looking for but there are still a couple of sources that may enable us to complete the list before the end of the year.

Our early records are not as well documented as our current one, so it has been quite challenging to cross reference articles, obituaries in the LXer and rely on peoples' memories to try and get the definitive list. Unfortunately, in that process a few names were initially included that are still with us, for which I sincerely apologise.

It is proving to be a very interesting project and has certainly deepened my respect and appreciation for the achievements and service that our predecessors made. It has also allowed me to supply copies of precious articles and pictures to some of the relatives of our players'.

Once the Roll of Honour/Memorial Wall is published, and it may even be by the time you are reading this, should you spot any omissions or inaccuracies. Jeff would appreciate it if you would contact him at lxhistorian@lxhockey.co.uk.



