

IGMHF – 50th Anniversary of Hockey Club Klein Zwitserland 2024

What a glorious week that was (23- 30 June) – full of good hockey, renewal of friendships still strong despite the passage of time and the oceans in between and amazing brilliant weather (rumor has it this was a special order put in by the organisers a few months back!). For me personally the highlight was umpiring the Over 80M LX vs. Alliance game – an honour and a pleasure to be on the same pitch as these “youngsters”.

As with the Barcelona tournament in 2022 the organisation was spot on and things worked like clockwork.

The official dinner at Madurodam (Little Holland) was a roaring success (there was an actual DC-3 plane – the Flying Dutchman - with engines running!). See the Tournament Party report by Linda Skelton.

No report can be complete with some statistics from the tournament, so here goes:

7 days of hockey

5 water pitches

53 teams (12 M60+, 8 M65+, 10M70+, 7M75+, 4M80+, 5W60+, 5W65+, 2W70+)

154 (full) matches

465 goals scored

Highest score: LX O75 – Old Lions O75 = 10-0

Roughly 800 players (and a couple of hundred supporters)

520 meals sold at the club

725 visitors at the tournament party

More than 1,400 litres of beer hit the bellies

350-400 rolls/sandwiches per day.

Below are some of the comments received from team representatives.

On behalf of French Masters, we would like to thank you very gratefully for this wonderful hockey week.

That was for us a special anniversary date coming back to KZ, while the story of French Masters began 10 years ago with our first World Cup hosted by KZ in 2014 with the first 60 + team. We now have 5 women's teams and 8 men's teams.

Thanks for the weather, food and drinks, social life, and the Tournament Party in Madurodam.

Transmit a special thanks to all the volunteers.

Thanks again to the WGMA board for organising such events, we wish you good holidays with family and friends.

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Thierry Dujardin, France Masters

First of all on behalf of the Fighting Haddocks players a big, big thank you for putting the tournament together. We appreciate all the hard work and the many volunteers in the background that are required to make this tournament happen. Everyone we dealt with were positive and helpful. Thanks again.

Brian, Fighting Haddocks International HC, Canada

Our Red Rose Women's teams (O60 and O65) had a wonderful time at the tournament.

What a beautiful hockey club with such gracious hosts.

We enjoyed the tournament party!

Thank you for all your are doing to allow us to continue to play hockey.

Linda (Kreiser), Red Rose Field Hockey Club, USA

First of all many congratulations to Jaap and his team at HCKZ - what a brilliant tournament! An exceptionally good venue accompanied by excellent organisation made for such an enjoyable week, and the weather was great too!

Linda Skelton, LX Ladies, England

Hello Jaap,

Many congratulations on delivering such a great event at KZ. I have heard so many complimentary comments from the many LXers who attended.

I very much hope that we can continue the trend in Nottingham We are, of course, very open to any advice you may wish to send our way!

Mike, Chairman, LX England HC

I would like to say The Wanderers had a fantastic time in Den Haag.

The facilities were amazing by Australian standards and the weather was superb.

All the games ran on time and I think the absence of a tech bench at each ground actually added to the light hearted and casual feeling on the grounds.

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The atmosphere after the games was great, it was a bit of a shame that there was no tournament merchandise for sale, but I can understand the economics behind it may not stack up. The official dinner was amazing and well run.

We very much look forward to Nottingham next year.

Cameron Fairbrother, The Wanderers, Australia

The LX Club sent 6 men's squads to The Hague early this month. Our Chairman has already written to Jaap congratulating him on an extremely well organised and successful event. The weather helped of course but overall our members were extremely satisfied and I am not aware of any significant complaints.

The tournament at Klein Zwitserland set a very high standard for us to follow in Nottingham next year. We will be using many of the features and systems developed by Jaap and his team but have identified a few areas in which we feel changes could be made. ...

Graham Small, LX England HC Fixture Secretary

For results visit our website:

<https://wgmahockey.org/>

For photos visit:

<https://frankreelick.smugmug.com/FieldHockey/Nations/2024-HCKZ-IGMHF>

Jawed Khan
Hon. Secretary
WGMA

Rome, 25 July 2024