

## **Yeovil & Sherborne Grand Masters 7-a-side Tournament 2024**

Earlier this year Yeovil & Sherborne Hockey Club faced an uncertain future with their home ground under threat of closure by Somerset County Council.

A concerted effort mounted in conjunction with the Yeovil Olympiads athletics club ensured that the Yeovil Recreation Centre was saved for the benefit of local residents and sports people from further afield. Players and hockey clubs across the UK were hugely supportive and that spirit was in evidence when Yeovil & Sherborne recently hosted the second Grandmasters Tournament with 13 teams and over 130 players aged 60+ taking part. The catalyst for hosting the competition was when the club's England Over 80s player, Bill Greenwood joined the club from Wellingborough. Bill had previously organised a successful annual masters hockey tournament and Yeovil & Sherborne HC wanted to replicate that experience in the West. Interest in veterans, otherwise known as masters, hockey continues to grow both in the UK and internationally.

The inaugural Hasbeens & Hopefuls tournament was held in Yeovil last June with 5 ladies and 2 men's teams playing in a mixed competition. Its success led to an increased number of entries so, taking account of player feedback, this year the club was able to run separate ladies and men's 7-a-side tournaments with 8 Ladies teams and 5 men's teams. The event can be described as being international because the Old Panthers ladies team representing Belgium made the journey to Yeovil. On the Saturday evening 150 players, umpires, relatives and friends enjoyed a BBQ at Yeovil Rugby Club.

The emphasis was on playing hockey in a fun, friendly and competitive spirit; the socialising that took place was as important as the game play! The success of the weekend was highlighted by the fact that all the teams taking part immediately registered for next year's event is pencilled in to be held over the same weekend.

The event emphasises the fact that Yeovil & Sherborne HC is fast becoming an important hub for master's hockey in the West. The club organises a Masters Pay and Play session on a Thursday night that runs throughout the year and is attended by older players from around the region.

For more details about joining the weekly master's sessions at the club or registering your interest in taking part in the Grandmasters Tournament next year please contact Yeovil & Sherborne Hockey Club Secretary, Jo Stevenson: [secretary@yshc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@yshc.co.uk).

### **Notes:**

For more details about the event, photographs etc please contact Yeovil & Sherborne Hockey Club Communication Officer, Nick Mowat: [communications@yshc.co.uk](mailto:communications@yshc.co.uk)

*2025 Grand Masters event.* For more details about next year's Grand Masters Tournament, or registering your interest in taking part, please contact Yeovil & Sherborne Hockey Club Secretary, Jo Stevenson: [secretary@yshc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@yshc.co.uk)

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For more information about the club in general go to: [www.yshc.co.uk](http://www.yshc.co.uk)



Numerous high-quality action and behind the scenes photos are available