



NIHL SENIOR LEAGUES

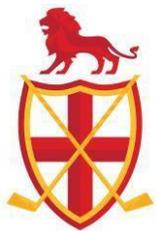


# NATIONAL ICE HOCKEY LEAGUE



SIGNED UP TO  
**Good Governance**

*"The future depends on what we do in the present"* Mahatma Gandhi



## NIHL SENIOR LEAGUES



**Report to: The English Ice Hockey Association, Annual General Meeting 2018**

**Author: Paul Hayes, Director NIHL South**

### **Forward:**

Charles and Myself would like to thank the work of the both LMC's for a successful year especially with the end of the EPIHL and the teams requesting entry into the NIHL, its has been a very testing first season.

We would like to thank all the clubs for their patience in the transition and we hope that this season has ultimately been successful.

We look forward to the forthcoming season with the hope that we can build upon the good start and develop the league further for the benefit of hockey in England & Wales.

We would like to thank the League managers who's reports will follow and especially our fixtures team Tony Lack & Gary Dent, who without there help the fixtures would not have been completed.

We would also like to thank Mary Faunt, Liz Moralee Registrations, Craig Simpson Media, Steve Merry Tournaments and Discipline Lynn Faber, we look forward to their continued support for the forthcoming season.

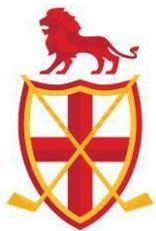
Paul Hayes  
Chairperson South NIHL

Charles Dacres  
Chairperson NIHL North

September, 2018

SIGNED UP TO  
**Good Governance**

*"The future depends on what we do in the present"* Mahatma Gandhi



## NIHL SENIOR LEAGUES



### NIHL South Report

It was, without a doubt, the biggest and most interesting season for the NIHL for a vast number of years. Following the dissolving of the EPIHL, four sides joined the NIHL (Basingstoke, Bracknell, Peterborough and Swindon), all of which have added greatly to the league. At 23 teams (9 in D1, 14 in D2) it was a case of somethings staying the same despite the changes.

Congratulations go to our champion sides as follows:

NIHL1 South Champion: Basingstoke Bison

NIHL1 South Playoff Champion: Basingstoke Bison

NIHL2 South: Oxford City Stars

In the National Competitions, Southern sides also did very well, winning all of the competitions open to them:

NIHL Autumn Cup: Swindon Wildcats

NIHL National Cup: Swindon Wildcats

NIHL Final Four: Basingstoke Bison

NIHL2 National Championship: Oxford City Stars



*"The future depends on what we do in the present"* Mahatma Gandhi



## NIHL SENIOR LEAGUES



NIHL1 saw nine sides compete and with the initial uncertainty, turned into a good league with a title chase that went up to the final day, which was very pleasing to see. Overall, despite the new sides entering the league it remained competitive indeed. It's fair to say that there was a long period at the start of the season while sides adjusted to the 'new' NIHL but sides have now adapted to the NIHL. In NIHL2 it was another season of change. With three sides dropping down to NIHL2, the league expanded to 14 sides. Another close title race, saw Oxford win with a week to spare.

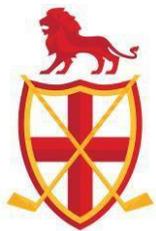
Overall, it was a season of change. The new NIHL Final Four competition was a success both financially and in terms of numbers of spectators, the new NIHL2 National Championship game was a great success and added something that had been requested for a number of years. As we look towards the 2018/19 season, it is a case of continuing to manage that change, and working to build upon the work we have already done in the NIHL

Richard Carpenter

NIHL League Manager

SIGNED UP TO  
**Good Governance**

*"The future depends on what we do in the present"* Mahatma Gandhi



## NIHL SENIOR LEAGUES



### NIHL North Report

It was, without a doubt, the most interesting season for the NIHL for a significant number of years. Following the dissolving of the EPIHL three sides joined the NIHL North (Hull, Sheffield and Telford), all of whom have brought something to the league. We also saw Nottingham added to Division 1 and additions to Division 2 in Dragons 2 and Blackburn Hawks 2 (following the loss of Blackburn Eagles). All teams tried to compete with some achieving more success than others.

There were new challenges for everybody and I'd like to congratulate all teams on their efforts to adjust to the changes.

Congratulations also go to our champion sides as follows:

NIHL1 North Champions: Sheffield Steeldogs

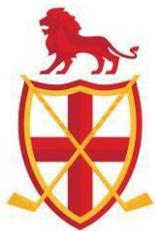
NIHL1 North Playoff Champions: Telford Tigers

NIHL2 North Champions: Sutton Sting

NIHL2 North Playoff Champions: Widnes Wild



*"The future depends on what we do in the present"* Mahatma Gandhi



## NIHL SENIOR LEAGUES



In the National Competitions there were a number of fluke results but that should only serve to give Southern teams a false sense of superiority and work in our favour for the new season when the true order of things should be restored.

NIHL1 saw ten sides compete and, despite initial uncertainty, turned into a decent league with a title chase that went up to the final day. This was very pleasing to see. Overall, despite the new sides entering the league, it remained generally competitive though it would be wrong to suggest all of the individual matches were as close as we might like to see. It's fair to say that there was a period at the start of the season while sides adjusted to the 'new' NIHL but most have now adapted or are moving forward in that process. In NIHL2 it was very competitive on the whole.

It was a season of change. The new NIHL Final Four competition was a success both financially and in terms of numbers of spectators, the new NIHL2 National Championship game was a great success and added something that had been requested for a number of years. As we look towards the 2018/19 season, it is a case of continuing to manage change and working to build upon what has already been achieved in the league. It would be wrong to say there are no problems facing us but if we all work together, and everybody continues with the attitude they brought to last season, nothing is insurmountable.

Gary Dent

NIHL League Manager



*"The future depends on what we do in the present"* Mahatma Gandhi