

GLOUCESTERSHIRE/HEREFORDSHIRE
MASTERS OVER 60 REPORT

A year of stop-start hockey caused by the Covid pandemic made this a very difficult year to achieve much. Nigel Sherwood and I took over the reins from Malcolm Green, and at times it felt as though we had walked into a hornet's nest. We did our best to work within the framework of the Covid requirements and succeeded in getting a practice scheduled at Wycliffe School in mid-October where we had an excellent turnout. Without the help of Graham Wayland who volunteered to be our Covid Officer, this event would have been very difficult to organise.

From the response we had on the day, we realised that 2 teams could be entered into the EH Over 60 Masters competition and this would ensure that all the players would be able to enjoy some good hockey through the season. Having entered the teams, we then arranged a practice match against Wales Over 70, a week before we were due to play our first Cup ties, both being home games. However, Covid had other ideas and we went back into lockdown for a second time which eventually culminated in our withdrawal of both 2 teams in the EH competition in the middle of April 2021.

However, with the easing of lockdown there are a couple of practice matches which are in the process of being arranged against Wales Over 70, one in mid-May and the other in mid-July. Hopefully this will allow a combined team to test their mettle against a regional team and give the frustrated hockey players a chance to release some of their pent up energy on the pitch. We hope that next season will be as normal as possible and that we can look forward to 2 teams taking part once again in the competition.

Lindsay Ferguson and Nigel Sherwood