

AN EXCITING 6 MONTHS FOR THE MUSEUM

In pulling together this Newsletter I realise how much has already happened at the Museum in 2015. The major development has been our partnership agreement with the International Hockey Federation (FIH) to work together to preserve hockey's heritage. This is a tremendous vote of confidence in THM as a group of volunteers who can bring something unique to the important task of collating, cataloguing, researching and celebrating the story of our great sport. More details of this partnership can be found on the news pages of www.hockeymuseum.net. We've also been awarded our first Heritage Lottery Grant (see more below), have a draft Business Plan and are well down the path to achieving Museum Accreditation – the Arts Council badge for Museums which are operating to agreed archiving standards. And, as this Newsletter goes to press, we are about to open our biggest exhibition yet at the EuroHockey Championships at the Lee Valley Hockey Centre 21st-30th Aug. All this has taken an enormous amount of work from many of our volunteers and I can only thank them for all their commitment and expertise. But not only has all this happened, the day job of running a museum also continued apace. We have settled in well to our new and more modern premises, the collections of archive material and memorabilia continue to arrive at ever increasing rates, many fascinating enquiries continue to come in from hockey enthusiasts and members of the public alike – we have now received well over 200 since we started this service two years ago. Our team of very able and knowledgeable volunteers has also grown and the Museum is buzzing every Tuesday and Wednesday (and often Thursday and Friday!). Get in touch with Mike Smith, THM Curator, if you would like to visit and find out for yourself. **Katie Dodd Chair THM Trustees**



Hockey in Art – an Argentine Flapper

AWARD OF FUNDING FOR A PHD STUDENT

THM has recently gained success as part of the Sport in Museums Network that has recently won an application to fund a number of PhD students in some of its member museums – The Hockey Museum is one of these. From next year, we hope to be working with De Montfort University to recruit a full time PhD student to be based at the Museum offices in Woking for a period of 3 years. One of the primary functions of any museum is to provide a research resource for anyone studying their subject. Although The Hockey Museum is only in its fourth year of activity, we have already provided an invaluable resource to a number of undergraduate, post graduate and doctorate students. With the help of one of our volunteers, Jon Rye, we are also developing an Educational Programme aimed at primary schools and more details will be announced later in the year.

A GB TEAM PLAYING IN EUROPE IN 1935 – SURELY NOT?

Even our knowledgeable Curator, Mike Smith, is sometimes amazed by new information. He received an enquiry from a regular contact in Dublin, asking if we had any information on the British teams that visited Europe in 1935 and 1937? We didn't think so as THM records said that the first British team played at the 1948 London Olympics and, even then, not without a great deal of persuasion. But just to be sure, Mike did delve into the records and discovered in a 1935 edition of the *Hockey World* magazine, that a GB team did in fact come together to play in a Belgium Tournament organised under the FIH banner. The 15 man team was made up of 10 English, 4 Irish and 1 Scot. The full story of this tour and a subsequent can be found in the news section of our website.



The GB team, boarding a German-built aircraft of Belgian airlines

MUSEUM VOLUNTEER FINDS ORIGINAL FIH MINUTE BOOKS

It was a commonly held belief that all the original International Hockey Federation records were lost in 1980 in a garage fire but recently an amazing discovery was made while Nikhilesh Bhattacharya, THM visiting PhD student, was looking through the remaining archive material at the FIH offices in Lausanne. He came across two old tomes entitled *Registre des Procès Verbaux de la Fédération Internationale de Hockey* and immediately recognised them as the original Minute Books from 1924 when the FIH was set up – what an amazing find! The bound books are very fragile and Melanie Willmore, the FIH Executive Officer, will be sending them to the Olympic Museum to be properly restored. They will also be scanned so that others will be able to browse through them without further damaging the precious originals.

IRISH HOCKEY LOOKS TO PRESERVE ITS HERITAGE

Great news from over the Irish Sea where THM has discovered from our spy in the camp, Peter Jackson (Irish Head of Delegation at the Euros and father of squad member, John), that the Irish Hockey records have now been placed with the Dublin City Sports Archive and a Facebook page has been set up for people to see some of the items and find out more, see - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Irish-Hockey-Archive/1586467858284185>. Peter Agnew and others have done a great job of collecting, organising and archiving a fascinating selection of records and photographs that start to tell the history of over 120 years of Irish Hockey. Get in touch through their Facebook page if you have items to donate or stories to tell.

The Irish have also done some great research work to pull together a full record of all the men's international matches since the first game in 1895. The task has been completed by Steve Hines who admitted that it had been a labour of love to develop the database when he took over as senior men's manager in 2001 and realised how poor the records were. He has also presented some fascinating analysis of the statistics and you can read his report in full on the News section of THM website. THM is hopefully not too far behind as we have embarked on a project to digitise all the England and GB men's and women's match and player records from the manual records developed in the 1980/90s by Bob Mason and Teresa Morris. We are aware that Hockey Australia has computerised its match records but we would be interested to hear from other countries that are taking a similar route as this will be invaluable when we begin work with the FIH to compile a database of every international match.



HLF GRANT FOR ORAL HISTORIES

THM has been awarded its first Heritage Lottery Fund grant to support a programme of Oral History interviews. Evelyn Somerville is leading this work and is now putting together a programme of interviews of players, umpires, coaches and administrators who have been influential in GB/England hockey over the last 60 or so years. This will be the start of a library of such interviews that we hope to make available on-line. See full press release on THM website.

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE ENGLISH CUP?

Another enquiry to the Museum was connected with a picture of Doreen Lancaster nee Howles and her two sisters June Taylor and Vera Simpson holding the 'English Cup'. Alan Lancaster, Doreen's son, says they played for Newhey HC and the picture was from the early 1950's. Could we help? We asked one of our volunteers, Mark Evans, if he could investigate and the full story so far can be seen on the news pages of THM website at www.hockeymuseum.net but if you know anything about the English Cup played in the Rochdale area in the 1950s, let us know.

THM HAS A NEW WEBSITE

Have a look at our new website at www.hockeymuseum.net. With lots more information and features including images from the new hockey timeline that will be on display at this month's EuroHockey Championships.



WHY WAS INDIAN HOCKEY SO SUCCESSFUL BETWEEN THE WARS?

For the last few months, the Museum has been hosting Nikhilesh Bhattacharya, a PhD student from Jadavpur University in Kolkata, formerly Calcutta. Nikhilesh is not a hockey player but chose our sport because he says it is a very under-researched topic. The title of his thesis study is *When we were champions – Hockey & the Anglo Indian Community of Calcutta* and he has been researching the influence of Indian hockey in the development of international hockey in the inter-war and post-war eras. He has also looked at the effect that Anglo Indians had on hockey becoming India's national sport. It was during the inter-war period (1920-1939) that England and Britain distanced themselves from the international arena. Much of this is recorded in the minutes of The Hockey Association which are held at THM. As a 'primary reference' source, Nikhilesh found these records invaluable. He also spent a month at the IOC Study Centre at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne to gain access to the exchanges between the Indian HF and the IOC. A copy of his thesis will be available in the library.

KATHLEEN BECKWITH – A MYSTERIOUS DONATION

Last week an anonymous parcel landed on Jenny Mitchell's desk (England Hockey West Regional Administrator). Opening it she found a selection of England badges and reports from an England Tour to the US in 1961. The parcel had a Bournemouth postmark but the only explanation was a post-it note inside saying "*Hi – I am sorting Kathleen Beckwith's papers...she loved her days of hockey playing and I couldn't bring myself to just throw it all. Hope it's of some interest to you – even if only to make you smile – Jenny (Carer)*". Jenny Mitchell contacted us at THM and we were able to confirm that Kathleen Beckwith was part of the AEWA Touring Team that went to the US in 1961 but she never received a full international cap. So who was Kathleen? As she was a West player we contacted Nan Williams, one of our volunteers who played for the West and England in the 1960s. Nan has started to seek out information and has already established that 'Kathy', as she was known, was a Dorset and West player and went on tour to the US with other international players, Freda Walker and Beryl Marsh. From *The WCWA short history 1900-1975* booklet, we know that Kathy played for the West in 1959, 1961, 1962 as right inner and in 1963 as left wing. From *The Eagle*, a US magazine published in August 1961, we know that Kathy was a member of a Touring Team to Germany in 1960, was educated at Dorchester School, Parkstone and Dartford College of PE. She was described as a housewife, keen gardener and photographer. I'm sure there is more to discover – does anyone know about Kathleen in her later life or can put us in touch with Jenny (her carer) to thank her for sending the objects to the Museum?

Newsletter Editor - Katie Dodd