



Alliance International Hockey Club

Newsletter 1 2017

Dear Friends,

This is the first newsletter in 2017 with some reports of the tournaments wherein Alliance International Hockey Club participated this year and news regarding tournaments to come.

Alliance participated in the tournaments in Wellingborough in April, Eburons, Brussels in May and in Tilburg in June. Reports of these tournaments are found below.

We regret to had to decline the invitations for Havana, Cuba, in February, Lille Ronchin in March and Le Touquet in April, because too few members nominated themselves for these tournaments. Next year we will try to do better, as we hope and expect to be invited in 2018 again.

The announced tournament in Hannover was cancelled because too few teams signed-up.

The most important tournaments of this year, the **WGMA European Hockey Championships in Glasgow** for men and women and **The 4th Asian Cup** for O65+ in Hiroshima, are however still to come end August respectively October this year. The team compositions can be found on our website. Information regarding Glasgow can be found on the website of this tournament eurogm2017.com too.

It is with these two tournaments however not yet done for this year. We recently received an invitation for **The Second American Championship in Buenos Aires, Argentina** for both men and women. This tournament will be held from 7th until and including 10th of December 2017 and includes next to the Grand Master 60+ category also the younger Master categories. 35-40, 40-50 and 50-60.

Last year Alliance was able to build a men's team for this tournament, however it was canceled because of too few countries were able to represent themselves in the Grand Master category. The Master category was reportedly however a big success.

Also this year we intend to participate with both a men's and a women's team and considering last years appetite and the disappointed reactions to the cancellation by our nominated members we expect there is sufficient interest for this tournament from our members.

You can nominate yourself for this tournament by sending an email to secretary@alliancehockey.net.

We expect that the cut-off date for confirming your participation will be half Sept 2017.

In the mean time we already received an invitation for the **Grandmasters World Cup 2018** which will be held in in Barcelona end June next year. The nominations list will be opened as of 1st of september, after the European Cup in Glasgow has finished.

In 2016 it was not possible to organise a General Assembly because the women's and men's Grand Masters World Hockey Championships differed in place and time and consequently it was not possible to meet together.

There will however be a **General Assembly this year in Glasgow during the WGMA European Hockey Cup on the 24th of August followed by the traditional Alliance Club Dinner**, both in in the Bukharah Restaurant, part of Lorne Hotel Glasgow, 923 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G3 7TQ. An invitation for the General Assembly together with the Agenda and for the dinner afterwards has been sent to all our members half July this year already.

As the O-65 team has to play a match late in the afternoon on the 24th, both the start of the General Assembly and the dinner have been delayed with half an hour until 7.00 PM, respectively 8.00 PM.

We are very happy that near 100 members have reacted positively to attend the General Assembly and/or the dinner. This number includes not only players, partners and officials of the participating Alliance teams, but also members playing in one of the participating national teams in Glasgow .

Reports of the Tournaments

Excerpt of the report of 7 a side tournament in Wellingborough on April 7th, 8th and 9th, 2017 for over 75 Regionals /Over 80s / Aspirants Tournament by Bill Greenwood.

Last year, the idea of a three day event was greeted with enthusiasm but, after a frustrating lead-in with team organisers experiencing difficulty raising teams and the multiple changes in the playing schedules, it didn't seem like such a good idea after all.

However, the pitch had been booked and medals ordered; a number of teams confirmed their intention to come and there were encouraging signs that we might even get the full complement of 14 entries we had originally expected.

The biggest disappointment was the absence of Over 75s from the East, West and North, which made the original aim of the event somewhat meaningless, with just one "real" contest over the three days.

One (limited) success was fielding the first Over 80s team – limited, because of the absence of Mike Fripp. Admittedly, his replacement was more pleasing on the eye....

The final line-up was Midlands, South, Over 80s, LX Ladies B and Alliance in the 75+ group, with St. Albans, LX, Wales Over 70s, LX Ladies A, Kettering under 14 boys and a last-minute entry from Kettering Hockey Club to "fill the gaps".

We were delighted to welcome players from abroad – 80+ Tom Harris from California (Founder / Organiser of the Calcup Hockey Festival held in May in California), Jorgos Dramitinos from Athens and Piet Voermans from Holland making his second visit. Both of the latter players were with Alliance.

Owing to the awkward number of teams, it became necessary to arrange a few "fill-in" games and the teams responded superbly (at least I am still alive to write about it...!).

Players and companions were invited to a buffet at Kettering's Clubhouse on Saturday evening. Around 70 people enjoyed an excellent meal and social evening.

The weather for the whole long weekend was superb – almost too warm at times, and the only people who did not come out more tanned were those looking after the refreshments in the pavilion and the physios on Saturday.

This event could not have taken place without the support of Kettering Hockey Club and the volunteers who helped with umpiring. Heartfelt thanks are due to them all.

Next year's tournament will be on April 6th, 7th and 8th. We have to take a chance on conflicting events, but can only hold it when the pitch is available in school holidays... Nevertheless, we hope to have the full complement of entries!!



Results of Alliance:

Alliance - MIDLANDS 1 – 2

Alliance - SOUTH 4 – 7

Alliance - LX LADIES 2 – 0

Alliance – OVER 80s 1 – 2

1st LX Ladies B, 2nd South, 3rd Alliance, 4th Over 80s, 5th Midlands.

Report of Eburons Tournament in Brussels

It was a real pleasure to participate with the Alliance team in the very challenging Eburons tournament in Brussels on 25/26/27 May 2017.

We played 10 matches of 30 minutes in three days in tropical circumstances.

Due to our real Alliance spirit, we played a draw against the Eburons, lost against England LX only 1-0 in the dying seconds of the match, and to France only 2-1.

Some of our competitors were still Master teams, while our 11 team members were nearly all already Great Grand Masters and Senior Grand Masters.

Paul Hartman

Report of International Super Veterans Tournament in Tilburg

As in 2016 Alliance participated with both a men's and a women's team in Tilburg. The men were very successfully this year by reaching the final that was however lost to England LX.

Although I cannot deny that it indeed does feeling good to win and reach the final, this is not the main feeling that remains after this weekend. For this I quote some of the words of Alliance players in team-emails after that weekend which emphasize the spirit arising when playing in an Alliance team:

“ It is amazing that a bunch of old guys who never train or play together very often can turn up and win games. What is nice about playing with Alliance is that everyone gets on with each other so well. Long may the Alliance spirit last! “

“ Thank you all for the unforgettable Tilburg tournament. I enjoyed the sportsmanship and enthusiasm, our Alliance team spirit, and our joined efforts leading to an outstanding performance. ”

“Finally, back at home, licking my wounds.....the pain pales into insignificance when you consider what we, representing the Alliance, achieved over the weekend and I am more than happy to take a couple of painkillers for a few days as payment.”

“ We all know the results, but as a forward, I must say that our defence and midfield are worthy of particular mention. Not to concede goals against England, a couple of Dutch teams and Australia is nothing short of heroic. Still trying to work out what went wrong against Belgium though!!!! “

“ I will echo what Paul has said, the team spirit, attitude and commitment were extraordinary for such a squad which is put together from those who just play for the love of the sport.”



“I still have 1 regret and that is I will be playing for Wales in Glasgow in the TT Trophy so I expect to be meeting with friends now old and new from the Alliance both on and off the pitch.”

I only have to add to the above quotes that the tournament was very well organised and that we enjoyed the Oriental Buffet on Friday and the Dinner Dance on Saturday into late in the evening, next to talking and drinking quite some beers together after each match. As such a tournament to look forward to for next years.

Results Men:

Alliance – England LX	0-0
Alliance – Dutch 75+	2-1
Alliance – Germany	3-1
Alliance – Dutch WF	2-0
Alliance – Dutch 70B	1-0
Alliance – Belgium Lions	0-2
Alliance – Australia	1-0
Final: Alliance – LX	0-3

Results Women:

Alliance – UK LX Ladies	0-5
Alliance – Golden Girls	0-3
Alliance – Dutch Ladies	0-0
Alliance – Dutch Hockeymasters	0-3
Alliance – UK LX Ladies	1-2
Alliance – Dutch Ladies	0-2

The Tournament Calendar 2017

2nd American Championships Buenos Aires, Argentina, 7th - 10th of Dec 2017

Nominations list (men and women) is open.

WGMA EC Men Glasgow, 19th-27th of August 2017



We still welcome nominations for VGM O75+ and GGM O65+

WGMA EC Women Glasgow 19th-27th of August 2017



Nomination list is closed



4th Asian Cup, Hiroshima Japan

Nomination list is closed