

Welcome to the first UEA Hockey Alumni Newsletter!

Date: February 2026 Issue: 1

Off the back of a fantastic year for UEA Hockey we are excited to announce we are introducing a bi-annual UEA Hockey newsletter to keep UEA Hockey Alumni updated on all club matters and developments. We are proud of the rich history and connection we have with our Alumni, so we wanted to maintain and expand this further and continue to engage with all of you who have had a great impact on the club across the years, whether on or off the pitch.

Norman's Award



We wanted to start off with the exciting news, that last summer, we were proud to see UEA Hockey Club legend Mr Norman Hart recognised with the National Level BUCS Ad Munrow award. Norman won the prestigious award at the 2025 British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) annual awards, which took place in July. The award celebrates a remarkable individual who has made a significant contribution to supporting, growing and developing university sport over a sustained period. Norman certainly satisfied this brief and anyone that has played hockey at UEA since the early 1970s will be familiar with Norman, who started as a club coach before becoming Honorary President. To see the full UEA article regarding Norman's success click this [link](#). Well done Norman from all of us at UEA Hockey past and present.

L-R: Norman receiving his award from BUCS CEO Will Roberts

Formal re-naming of Sportspark Astro Pitch 2 to the Hart and Covell Pitch

We are proud to finally announce, after working with uea+sport, we have fulfilled the promise made at the Hart and Covell Gala (May 2024) to formally rename Sportspark Astro Pitch 2 – the Hart and Covell pitch. This was done at our annual 'Old Boy's weekend this past November, where we held a Meningitis fundraising quiz, a host of local league matches, an alumni fixture and a celebration evening.

Thanks to all those that attended. To see the article about the event and the pitch naming ceremony, including lovely words from Norman and also Michael's brother David and Dad John click this [link](#).



L-R: Norman Hart and Phil Steele (UEA Director of Sport and Commercial Services at the Hart and Covell Pitch; Michael Covell (one of UEA's greatest 'Old Boys').



Current UEA Hockey members and Alumni paying their respect with a moment of reflection regarding Michael Covell, during the recent Hockey 'Old Boys' event on Saturday 15th November 2025.

Focus Sport Status for both clubs announced

With the success of both clubs on and off pitch we are delighted to announce that both UEA Men's and Women's Hockey have been awarded uea+sport focus sport status. This means we have been awarded extra funding and given additional uea+sport staff support to enhance the development of our respective programmes. Other benefits of this status have included each of our 1st team squad members being awarded team scholarship benefits, that includes free gym, swim and track membership, strength and conditioning support, fitness testing, invites to performance sport workshops and support for performance analysis sessions. We are proud of the work we have put in over the last few years to achieve this status. The whole uea+sport focus sport programme has also been sponsored by Halo who have provided new first teams kit with their logo. Halo, as an East Anglian based company, believe in backing local talent. Many of the Halo team began their journeys at UEA, and this partnership builds on that shared connection, helping students discover opportunities to grow their careers right here in East Anglia.

Halo are proud to play a part in supporting both sport and future careers at UEA over the next three years. 🎓 Find out more about the Halo Graduate Scheme here: www.halograduates.com



UEA Men's 1st
Team
Scholarship
Squad Team
Photo 2025-26



Club Update

Due to hard work and development of UEA Hockey over the years we currently have five women's teams and four men's teams that play in the East Hockey leagues on Saturday's and a Men's and Women's team that play in the British University and Colleges Sport (BUCS) leagues on a Wednesday. Our Men's Club boast a membership of 69 and our Women's Club an impressive 122. Below is some links to see how each team is getting on in their respective leagues, with all still to play for in the second half of the season.

UEA Men's League Updates

[UEA Men's 1](#)

[UEA Men's 2](#)

[UEA Men's 3](#)

[UEA Men's 4](#)

[UEA Men's BUCS 1](#)

UEA Women's League Updates

[UEA Women's 1](#)

[UEA Women's 2](#)

[UEA Women's 3](#)

[UEA Women's 4](#)

[UEA Women's 5](#)

[UEA Women's BUCS 1](#)

Thank You Norman!

The additional support we have provided to drive the development of our clubs would not have been possible without the huge engagement we saw in May 2024's Hart and Covell Gala – whereby we had over 130 UEA Hockey members past and present turn up to celebrate both Norman and pay tribute to Michael Covell.

Norman was blown away by the support and turn out for this event and was keen to build on the momentum of the special occasion. He has pushed for the furtherment of Hockey at UEA and has kindly provided a match funding donation alongside uea+sport to ensure both Hockey Clubs could receive all the performance benefits of the focus sport and scholarship scheme.



We cannot thank Norman enough for this donation as well as over 50 years of service – he truly represents all positive aspects of what UEA Hockey stands for, commitment, hard work, selflessness and kindness. As is tradition, we recently enjoyed celebrating with Norman as our Honorary President, at the annual UEA Hockey Christmas dinner.



A selection of photos from the special Hart and Covell gala evening back in May 2024. For the full album click this [link](#).

UEA Hockey Alumni Spotlight Feature

We are really interested to hear about previous stories of UEA Hockey members during their time at the club or alternatively what new memories have been created with Hockey friends made at UEA. We are delighted to produce our first ever uea+sport Spotlight feature, after Johnny Downer (class of 2002) was kind enough to answer some questions regarding his time at UEA. For the full article see [here](#).



**UEA Men's 1st Team Squad Team
Photo 1997-98**

Call for support from Alumni

We are really proud of the development of our Hockey programmes, and we know that the growth we have had across the years could not have happened without the hard work from previous players and committee members – so a massive thank you to you all that have been part of our special clubs. As ambitious clubs we are keen to keep progressing and we would love to grow our programmes and Alumni networks even further. We think we have a fantastic hockey programme at UEA that is inclusive, offers great experiences and gives opportunities for beginners through to high level Hockey players.

With the above in mind, we are keen to hear from any Alumni that would be interested in helping us promote the UEA Hockey programmes to prospective students that you may have in junior and youth sections of your community Hockey clubs.

We are also looking to see if any previous UEA Hockey members would be interested in supporting the development of the club through a donation or fundraising support. If you would like to make a donation you can do so through [this link](#) and you can state you would like the donation ring fenced for hockey.

If you are interested in supporting with either of these initiatives or for more information regarding how you can continue to support UEA Hockey please get in contact with performance.sport@uea.ac.uk, we would love to hear from you.

Thank You!

We hope you have enjoyed reading this jammed pack first edition of the UEA Hockey bi-annual newsletter. Please feel free to circulate it to your UEA Hockey connections and tell them if they would like to be added to, or you want to opt out of, the Alumni mailing list to email performance.sport@uea.ac.uk.



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