

FLH



PURE HOCKEY GOLD



Vitality

HOCKEY
WOMEN'S WORLD CUP
LONDON 2018

MEDIA KIT

21 JULY - 5 AUGUST 2018

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KEY CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

FIH MEDIA CONTACTS

For all media queries relating to the event, please contact:

Sarah Juggins - FIH Media Operations Manager

EMAIL: sarah.juggins@fih.ch

TEL: +44 78 12 525 310

EVENT NAME: Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup 2018

WHEN: 21 July - 5 August 2018

WHERE: Lee Valley Hockey & Tennis Centre, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London E20 2ST

TEAMS: England (Hosts), Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain, USA.

EVENT WEBSITE: <http://fih.ch/events/world-cup/world-cup-2018/hockey-world-cup-london-2018-w>

BROADCAST AND LIVE STREAMING

Broadcast and live streaming information will be published on the event website as listed above. For more information [click here](#)

FIH TOURNAMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TMS)

Raw competition data including match starting line-up pdfs, pool tables, top scorers, in-match statistics and daily appointment sheets will be available for the media at <https://tms.fih.ch/competitions/869>

SOCIAL MEDIA:

The FIH will provide comprehensive coverage of the event via our social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

FACEBOOK: facebook.com/fihockey

INSTAGRAM: instagram.com/fihockey

TWITTER: twitter.com/fih_hockey

SNAPCHAT: snapchat.com/fihockey

HASHTAG: [#HWC2018](https://twitter.com/HWC2018)

STATISTICS ARCHIVE:

A link to the statistics archive, which contains head to heads, team stats, individual stats, all time scorers and more, can be found at the following link: <http://stats.fih.ch>

Please be aware that this is an archive and will not be updated as the competition progresses.

INTRODUCTION

*A message of welcome from Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra,
President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH).*

Dear Hockey Fan,

On behalf of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018, an event which ranks alongside the Olympic Games as the greatest prize in the sport.

The 16-day, 36-match showpiece is the climax of the women's hockey calendar and the culmination of several years of intense preparation for the world's best teams and players. I expect each game to not only entertain but also to inspire a global passion for this incredible sport, just as the hockey competition did at the London 2012 Olympic Games, which took place just a few hundred metres from the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre here in East London. There simply could not be a better location for an event of this magnitude, where 16 nations will fight for the chance to be crowned champions of the world.



The staggering ticket sales for this event provide plenty of evidence that it will be a fantastic celebration of our sport, with hundreds of thousands of fans getting their chance to witness hockey history in the making. As well as the spectators who will attend Lee Valley, television audiences across all participating nations will be eagerly awaiting the start of this iconic competition which, thanks to our UK Partner and host broadcaster BT Sport, will be the most innovative and technologically advanced hockey television experience in the history of the sport.

This is the second time that a Hockey World Cup competition has taken place on English soil, the first being the Willesden 1986 men's event in North-West London. Australia's Kookaburras claimed the title at that event thanks largely to the inspiration of one of hockey's true greats, Ric Charlesworth, who was named player of the tournament and top scored with six goals.

The Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018 would not be possible without the incredible organisation and tireless dedication of England Hockey, who have left no stone unturned in their efforts to create the greatest possible experience for the teams, fans and officials. An already superb venue has been transformed into something spectacular thanks to their relentless drive and passion for our sport, and they deserve our gratitude for creating the perfect stage for this wonderful event.

I would like to wish all of the athletes and officials a competitive, healthy and fun tournament and I hope all of the fans experience one of the greatest showcases in the history of hockey. I sincerely hope that everyone enjoys their time at this sensational event.

Yours in hockey,

Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra

FIH President

ABOUT THE HOCKEY WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Held every four years, the Hockey Women's World Cup brings together the world's greatest teams and players for the toughest, most skilful and entertaining international hockey imaginable.

This showpiece tournament combines extraordinary talent levels with unrivalled prestige to serve as the climax of the world hockey calendar. The Hockey World Cup provides a unique chance to achieve sporting immortality. Every nation, team and player has the chance to attain true legendary status, with a place in hockey's history books being reserved for the competition winners.

Offering contrasting styles and skills, the players step onto the biggest stage with the simplest of equations: win your matches or go home empty handed. Global superstars compete for national pride, personal greatness and ultimate glory.

The Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018 is the 14th women's edition of the Hockey World Cup. The first officially recognised women's World Cup event took place in 1974 on the French Riviera in Mandelieu. The Netherlands are the reigning champions and have won more women's World Cups than any other nation, having claimed the title on seven occasions.

The number of teams that compete in the Hockey Women's World Cup has changed at various points in history. This year's edition contains 16 nations, matching that of the 2002 competition in Perth, Australia. The 1974 and 1978 World Cups both featured 10 nations and the 1976 World Cup featured 11 nations, with the remaining seven Hockey Women's World Cup events being 12 nation events.

Edition	Venue	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2014	The Hague (NED)	Netherlands	Australia	Argentina
2010	Rosario (ARG)	Argentina	Netherlands	England
2006	Madrid (ESP)	Netherlands	Australia	Argentina
2002	Perth (AUS)	Argentina	Netherlands	China
1998	Utrecht (NED)	Australia	Netherlands	Germany
1994	Dublin (IRL)	Australia	Argentina	USA
1990	Sydney (AUS)	Netherlands	Australia	Korea
1986	Amstelveen (NED)	Netherlands	West Germany	Canada
1983	Kuala Lumpur (MAS)	Netherlands	Canada	Australia
1981	Buenos Aires (ARG)	West Germany	Netherlands	Soviet Union
1978	Madrid (ESP)	Netherlands	West Germany	Belgium
1976	West Berlin (FRG)	West Germany	Argentina	Netherlands
1974	Mandelieu (FRA)	Netherlands	Argentina	West Germany

A link to the statistics archive, which contains head to heads, team stats, individual stats, all time scorers and more, can be found at the following link: <http://stats.fih.ch/wc/>

Please be aware that this is an archive and will not be updated as the competition progresses.

A CLASSIC REMASTERED: HOCKEY WOMEN'S WORLD CUP TROPHY GETS AN UPGRADE



Standing 50 centimetres tall, the trophy that will be raised by the winners of the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018 is a study in craftsmanship and tradition.

The original trophy was donated by the Royal Bank of Scotland at the International Federation of Women's Hockey Associations (IFWHA) World Cup in Edinburgh in 1975 and then used again at the 1979 IFWHA World Cup before being used for the first time at the FIH World Cup in Kuala Lumpur in 1983. This followed the merger of the IFWHA and the International Hockey Federation. The original was a beautifully crafted silver bowl – or quach as it is known in Scotland – with intricate engravings of thistles adorning it. Unfortunately, it was a much smaller trophy than the equivalent Men's World Cup trophy and so, as the International Hockey Federation (FIH) pursues its aim to achieve gender parity in all areas of the game, a revised women's trophy was required.

And so enter the master craftspeople of London-based goldsmiths and silversmiths, **Thomas Lyte**.

The luxury brand designs, makes and restores sports trophies for a wide range of top level events, including the Webb-Ellis Rugby World Cup, golf's Ryder Cup, rugby's Six Nations, the FIBA World Cup, the Louis Vuitton America's Cup Challenger and the English Football Association's FA Cup. The company also holds a Royal Warrant as suppliers of silversmith and goldsmith services to the British royal household.

Andrew Jones is one of the Directors of Thomas Lyte and he explained how the luxury brand became involved with the FIH.

"I was approached by the FIH with an interesting project to turn the 'salad bowl' as it was affectionately known, into a trophy that was comparable to the men's trophy. The designs the team at FIH had come up with were fantastic, it was a case of us working out how we could meet their ideas and increase the size of the trophy to match the men's without losing its original design."

Among the stipulations made by the FIH design team were that the trophy was similar in height, weight and style to the men's trophy. It also had to incorporate the original trophy in some way.

The original Women's World Cup trophy stood at 13 centimetres, so some major additions were needed to raise its stature by a further 35 centimetres. The extra height comes from a beautifully decorated plinth and a heavily embellished silver column. The original silver bowl has had to be replaced with an identical one because its age was beginning to show and it would not have lasted another raucous celebration. The gold-plated handles however, are the original handles and have been attached to the new silver bowl, which sits proudly atop the plinth and column.

The plinth is detachable because weight would be an issue if the entire trophy was handed to the winning team.

Matching the design to the Men's Hockey World Cup trophy has presented some challenges.

Both trophies have intricate engravings on the column. For the women's trophy these carvings will mirror the thistle emblems that decorated the original. The neck of the trophy has a gold-plated pattern which adds an extra layer of decoration. The whole trophy, Jones said with justifiable pride, "will look stunning."

ABOUT LONDON

THE LONELY PLANET WEBSITE'S OVERVIEW OF THE CITY

One of the world's most visited cities, London has something for everyone: from history and culture to fine food and good times.

London is as much about wide-open spaces and leafy escapes as it is high-density, sight-packed exploration. Central London is where you will find the major museums, galleries and most iconic sights, but visit Hampstead Heath or the new Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to escape the crowds and view the city's greener hues up close. Or venture even further out to Kew Gardens, Richmond or Hampton Court Palace for excellent panoramas of riverside London.

This city is very multicultural, with a third of all Londoners foreign born, representing 270 different nationalities. What unites them and visitors alike is the English language, for this is both our tongue's birthplace and its epicentre. These cultures season the culinary aromas on London's streets, the often exotic clothing people wear and the music they listen to. London's diverse cultural dynamism makes it among the world's most international cities. And diversity reaches intrinsically British institutions too; the British and Victoria and Albert Museums have collections as varied as they are magnificent, while flavours at centuries-old Borough Market now run the full gourmet and cosmopolitan spectrum.

To read more [click here](#)



In 2016 London was named as the world's number 1 city destination on TripAdvisor, according to its users. To read the full story on the BBC website, [click here](#)

THINGS TO DO IN LONDON

WARNER BROTHERS STUDIO TOUR LONDON – THE MAKING OF HARRY POTTER

Have a magical day out with a behind-the-scenes tour of the Harry Potter films at Warner Bros. Studio Tour London. See first-hand the sets, costumes, and props used in all the Harry Potter films, and step inside some of the films' locations including the Great Hall, Dumbledore's office and Hagrid's hut.

COCA-COLA LONDON EYE

The Coca-Cola London Eye is a major feature of London's skyline. It boasts some of London's best views from its 32 capsules, each weighing 10 tonnes and holding up to 25 people. Climb aboard for a breathtaking experience, with an unforgettable perspective of more than 55 of London's most famous landmarks – all in just 30 minutes!

MADAME TUSSAUDS LONDON

At Madame Tussauds, you'll come face-to-face with some of the world's most famous faces. From Shakespeare to Lady Gaga you'll meet influential figures from showbiz, sport, politics and even royalty. Strike a pose with Usain Bolt, get close to One Direction or receive a once-in-a-lifetime audience with Her Majesty the Queen.

HOP-ON HOP-OFF BUS TOUR

Book in advance for one of the best-selling London tours. Buy a 24-hour ticket and enjoy the freedom to hop on and off the sightseeing buses and explore some of London's most famous places, such as Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral and Trafalgar Square.

TOWER OF LONDON

Fully deserving of its world heritage status, more than one million visitors a year flock to this 700-year-old building. Head to one of its highly popular tours and take in a site steeped in the history of British Kings and Queens of old.

THE VIEW FROM THE SHARD

Rise high above London and see the city's iconic skyline from a unique perspective, with views stretching up to 40 miles (64km). Spot the likes of the Coca-Cola London Eye, St Paul's Cathedral and Wembley Stadium from The View from The Shard's observation deck, which sits 800ft (244m) up Western Europe's tallest building.

LONDON DUNGEON

Delve into the ancient capital's most horrible history at the London Dungeon - experience live actors, thrilling rides and exciting special effects. Step back into the darkest of times... are you brave enough to face 90 minutes of London's dark past?

SEA LIFE LONDON AQUARIUM

Get a taste of the deep blue sea at the SEA LIFE London Aquarium. Spot up to 400 species including sharks, stingrays, moray eels and clown fish. See stunning green sea turtles and test your nerve on the glass "shark walk". Learn more at daily talks and feeding times.

SHREK'S ADVENTURE – LONDON

Shrek's Adventure London takes you on a family-friendly journey through the world of Shrek and friends. With Donkey as your guide, you'll visit 10 fairytale-themed live shows, including a mirror maze and Shrek's swamp.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information on London and its attractions, head on over to: www.visitlondon.com

ABOUT THE LEE VALLEY HOCKEY AND TENNIS CENTRE



Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre is the London 2012 Olympic Legacy facility for hockey, situated in the north of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in East London. Creating a permanent hockey legacy was one of the pledges in London's Olympic bid, and this truly world class facility has absolutely delivered on that promise.

The facility was originally constructed with two state-of-the-art, Union Jack fringed water-based synthetic surfaces, with the main arena having 3,000 permanent seats as well as the ability to increase this capacity for major events. For the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018, the pitches have been resurfaced by FIH Global Supplier Polytan and, thanks to the incredible demand for tickets, the venue capacity has trebled to 10,000.

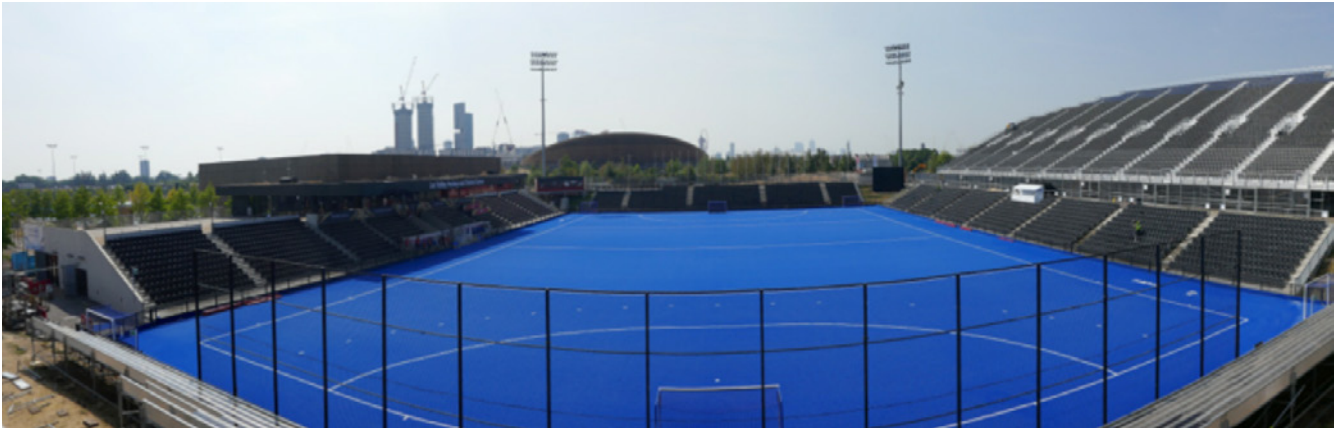
The Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre played host to Wheelchair Tennis in the 2012 Paralympic Games. The venue is a short walk from the centre of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which was the site of the Riverbank Arena which hosted Hockey at the Olympic Games.

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre was officially opened in May 2014, two months prior to July's Investec London Cup. The first major international event to be held at the venue welcomed teams from England, Scotland, Ireland, South Africa and Wales.

In the summer of 2015, Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre played host to the hugely successful Unibet EuroHockey Championships, where England women and Netherlands men took the titles in front of sell-out crowds. World class international hockey events followed in the intervening years, with the venue playing host to the Hero Hockey Champions Trophy (men and women) in 2016 and the Hero Hockey World League Semi-Final (men) in 2017, events which also saw the stadium enjoy bumper spectator numbers.

For more information on the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, [click here](#). For more information about Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, [click here](#)

ADDRESS: Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, London E20 2ST



FAN CENTRAL

The Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup in London this summer just got bigger and better!

With the tournament drawing ever closer we're delighted to announce details of Fan Central, a hub for everyone to get together and kick-start their World Cup experience.

- The go-to destination for fans of the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018
- Covering an area the size of almost three Hockey pitches, the site is located where the London 2012 Olympic Hockey competitions took place
- Big screen, live music, food and drink with a festival vibe
- Free entry, open to all including non-ticket holders



Come early to maximise your day out! Walk the Vitality Mile and you'll arrive at Fan Central; there's loads to do. It's a place to meet fellow fans, shop, eat, drink, pick up a stick, meet your sporting heroes and be entertained. Get together and sample the atmosphere of a World Cup in London!

With a big screen, live music, entertainment, plenty of places to eat and drink and a festival vibe, Fan Central will be the go-to destination both ahead of and after seeing the action inside Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.

Over the coming weeks, we'll be releasing more details of all Fan Central has to offer and exclusive extras for ticket holders - from shopping, activities, eating and entertainment.

For more information about Fan Central, [click here](#)

QUALIFICATION FOR THE VITALITY HOCKEY WOMEN'S WORLD CUP LONDON 2018

The qualification criteria set out by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) in July 2015 stated that the line-up for the 16 nation event would consist of the following:

1 TEAM: The host nation of the Hockey World Cup 2018 shall be automatically qualified.

5 TEAMS: The continental champions of Africa, Pan America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

10 TEAMS: The ten highest placed teams from the Semi-Finals of the Hockey World League 2017 not qualified as above.

The FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final event in Brussels (BEL) was the first of the World Cup qualification events to be played, taking place from 21 June to 2 July 2017. **Netherlands, China, New Zealand, Korea** and **Australia** claimed the required top five finish to secure their tickets to London.

This was followed Hockey World League Semi-Final in Johannesburg (RSA), which took place from 8-23 July 2018, where **USA, Germany, Argentina, South Africa** and **Japan** also achieved qualification. World Cup hosts England finished third in this competition, meaning that the highest ranked of the sixth placed finishers from the two Hockey World League Semi-Final events would also receive a ticket to London. That ticket went to Japan (11), who were higher ranked than Italy (16), the sixth placed finisher in Brussels.

The continental championships were played between 5 August and 5 November, with four of the five events being won by teams that had already qualified for the World Cup thanks to their performances in the World League Semi-Finals. The Netherlands, South Africa, Argentina and Australia were the winners of the respective European, African, Pan American and Oceania titles. This opened the door to **Italy** (6th in Brussels), **Spain** (7th in Brussels), **Ireland** (7th in Johannesburg) and **Belgium** (8th in Brussels), the highest placed teams in the World League Semi-Finals that had not already qualified. **India**, who finished eighth in Johannesburg but were lower ranked than Belgium, booked their ticket to London by winning the Asian continental championship.

FINTRO HOCKEY
WORLD LEAGUE
WORLD CUP QUALIFIER
 Semi-Final Brussels

- 1 Netherlands
- 2 China
- 3 New Zealand
- 4 Korea
- 5 Australia

21.06.2017 - 02.07.2017



Continental Championships

- 1 Italy
- 2 Spain
- 3 Ireland
- 4 Belgium
- 5 India

05.08.2017 - 05.11.2017

HOCKEY
WORLD LEAGUE
WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS
 Semi-Final Johannesburg

- 1 USA
- 2 Germany
- 3 Argentina
- 4 South Africa
- 5 Japan

08.07.2017 - 23.07.2017



*England is allocated an automatic place as Host.



1	England*	9	New Zealand
2	Argentina	10	South Africa
3	Australia	11	USA
4	China	12	Italy
5	Germany	13	Spain
6	Japan	14	Ireland
7	Korea	15	Belgium
8	Netherlands	16	India

To learn more about the qualification criteria, please [click here](#)

COMPETITION FORMAT

The Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018 event will feature four pools comprising of four participating teams followed by a knock-out phase.

POOL PHASE

All of the competing teams will play against each other, with three points being awarded for a win, one point for a draw and zero points for a loss. Teams will be ranked according to the number of points they have accumulated in the competition, providing the basis for the classification matches. The Pools were composed as follows based on the FIH World Ranking on 6th November 2017.

Pool A	Pool B	Pool C	Pool D
1	2	3	4
8	7	6	5
9	10	11	12
16	15	14	13

POOL SPLITTERS

If at the end of the pool matches two or more teams have the same number of points for any place in a pool, the first splitter will be according to their respective number of matches won, followed by Goal Difference, Goals Scored and the result of the match played between the tied teams. If more than two teams are involved, then a ranking based upon the results of the matches among (only) them shall determine their respective position, based upon the points awarded. If there still remains equality among two or more teams, then these teams will be ranked according to the number of Field Goals scored in the pool matches. Should there still remain equality among two or more teams, then the ranking will be determined by a shoot-out competition between those teams.

CLASSIFICATION MATCHES

The winners of the pools will qualify for the quarter-finals, with the second and third ranked teams in each pool playing crossover matches in an attempt to join them in the last eight. The fourth placed team in each pool will be eliminated from the competition.

The crossover matches will be as follows, although not necessarily played in this order.

Match 1: 2nd Pool A v 3rd Pool B

Match 2: 2nd Pool B v 3rd Pool A

Match 3: 2nd Pool C v 3rd Pool D

Match 4: 2nd Pool D v 3rd Pool C

The winners of these matches will play in the quarter-finals, with the losing teams being eliminated.

The **quarter-finals** will be as follows, although not necessarily played in this order.

Match 5: 1st Pool A v Winner Match 2

Match 6: 1st Pool D v Winner Match 3

Match 7: 1st Pool B v Winner Match 1

Match 8: 1st Pool C v Winner Match 4

The winners of these matches will qualify for the semi-finals, with the losing teams being eliminated.

The **semi-finals** will be as follows, although not necessarily played in this order.

Winner Match 5 v Winner Match 6

Winner Match 7 v Winner Match 8

The winners of these matches will play for 1st and 2nd places (the final) and the losers will play for 3rd and 4th places.

The score at the end of the regulation time of any match will be registered by the FIH as the result of the match. If at the end of regulation time the result is a draw, in order to establish an outright winner of a classification match for the purpose of the competition, a shoot-out will be played to establish the winner.

More information about the tournament format can be found at the following link:

<http://www.fih.ch/media/12944421/180411-world-cups-2018-tournament-regulations.pdf>

MATCH SCHEDULE

To see the official match schedule of the competition, please click the following link:

<https://tms.fih.ch/competitions/869#matches>

THE TEAMS

You can find some general information about the teams below. To see complete and up-to-date squad lists for each competing team, click the following link:

<https://tms.fih.ch/competitions/869#teams>

A PDF download of the latest team lists can be found here: <https://tms.fih.ch/competitions/869/reports/teams>

POOL A: NETHERLANDS, CHINA, KOREA, ITALY

NETHERLANDS

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 1

How they qualified: 1st Place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Brussels (BEL) / 1st Place – Rabo EuroHockey Championships 2017, Amstelveen (NED)

Notable honours: 3x Olympic gold medallists (1984, 2008, 2012), 2x Olympic silver medallists (2004, 2016), 3x Olympic bronze medallists (1988, 1996, 2000), 7x World champions (1974, 1978, 1981, 1983, 1986, 1990, 2006, 2014), 2x Hockey World League champions (2012-14, 2016-17), 6x Champions Trophy winners (1987, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2011), 9x European champions (1984, 1987, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2017).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1974 – 1st, 1976 – 3rd, 1978 – 1st, 1981 – 2nd, 1983 – 1st, 1986 – 1st, 1990 – 1st, 1994 – 6th, 1998 – 2nd, 2002 – 2nd, 2006 – 1st, 2010 – 2nd, 2014 – 1st.

About the team: 2017 was an exceptional year for the Netherlands, who cemented their position at the top of the FIH Hero World Rankings in style. The team were in sparkling form at the FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017 in Brussels (BEL), winning all seven of their matches to finish top of the standings. That was followed by six wins out of six at the Rabo EuroHockey Championships, giving them the European title on home soil in Amstelveen (NED). They ended the year with a superb triumph in the Sentinel Homes Hockey World League Final in Auckland (NZL), adding another Hockey World League title to the one they claimed in the 2012-14 edition of the competition. Over the course of those three elite competitions, the Netherlands scored a staggering 60 goals, conceding just three in the process.

The initial squad named by Head Coach Alyson Annan contains a glittering array of gifted individuals, including 2015 FIH Player of the Year Lidewij Welten as well as Eva de Goede – who returned to the fold late in 2017 after a year-long break from the game – and Kelly Jonker, who returned to action at the Euros following a lengthy lay-off due to shoulder surgery. Welten, De Goede and Jonker are three of nine players named in the preliminary Dutch squad to have surpassed the 100 international appearances marker, with team captain Carlien Dirkse van den Heuvel, Caia van Maasakker, Margot van Geffen, Marloes Keetels, Kitty van Male and Xan de Waard also having passed the milestone. Rising stars Pien Sanders (20) and Frederique Matla (21) are the youngest players in the initial group but both have excelled in recent months and could well be key players for Oranje in London.

Coach Comment – Alyson Annan: “The players have experienced the big occasion, in the Hockey World League Finals and at the Rabo EuroHockey Championships 2017, so they are used to playing in front of big crowds and handling pressure. We have no concerns, we will be in a great place by the time it is the World Cup.”

One to watch: Lidewij Welten. The 2015 FIH Hockey Stars Player of the Year is an exceptional attacker blessed with speed, skill and an eye for goal. Welten has been a dazzling performer for the Netherlands over many years and is likely to be a central figure in London as the Netherlands aim to defend their title.

WEBSITE: www.knhb.nl

TWITTER: [OranjeHockey](#)

FACEBOOK: [OranjeHockey](#)

INSTAGRAM: [OranjeHockey](#)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
1	VEENENDAAL Anne (GK)	22	32
3	KOOLEN Sanne	22	8
4	van MALE Kitty	30	107
5	PHENINCKX Malou	26	55
6	LEURINK Laurien	23	59
7	de WAARD Xan	22	108
8	KEETELS Marloes	25	119
9	DIRKSE van den HEUVEL Carlien (C)	31	194
10	JONKER Kelly	28	144
11	VERSCHOOR Maria	24	98
12	WELTEN Lidewij	28	178
13	van MAASAKKER Caia	29	151
15	MATLA Frederique	21	36
17	van den ASSEM Ireen	28	42
18	SANDERS Pien	20	36
20	NUNNINK Laura	23	79
21	STAM Lauren	24	44
22	KONING Josine (GK)	22	29
23	van GEFFEN Margot	28	159
24	de GOEDE Eva	29	191
28	ZUIDHOF Margot	26	9

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
29	KREKELAAR Maartje	23	33
Team Staff			
KOOIJMAN Femke	Team Manager		
ANNAN Alyson	Head Coach		
JUDGE Lucas	Assistant Coach		
ZYP Simon	Assistant Coach		
MANENSCHIJN Albert	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

CHINA

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 8

How they qualified: 2nd Place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Brussels (BEL).

Notable honours: Olympic silver medallists (2008), World Cup bronze medallists (2002), Champions Trophy gold medallists (2002), 2x Champions Trophy silver medallists (2003, 2006), Champions Trophy bronze medallists (2005), 3x Asian Games gold medallists (2002, 2006, 2010), 2x Asia Cup gold medallists (1989, 2009), 2x Asia Cup silver medallists (1993, 2017), 3x Asia Cup bronze medallists (1999, 2004, 2007).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1990 – 6th, 1994 – 7th, 1998 – 11th, 2002 – 3rd, 2006 – 10th, 2010 – 8th, 2014 – 6th.

About the team: The China women's hockey team is undergoing something of a revolution at present. The recruitment of Jamilon Mülders – the coach who guided Germany's women to Olympic bronze at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games as well as a second-place finish at the Hockey World League Semi-Final in Johannesburg – towards the end of last year, shows that there is a determination and desire to put the team back on the podium at major world level events, ten years after the Olympic silver medal at Beijing 2008.

Even before the appointment of Mülders into the position of Head Coach, China's recent progress has not been insignificant. Finishing as runners up to the mighty Netherlands at the FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017 in Brussels was a fine achievement, as was their silver medal at the Women's Asia Cup 2017 in Kakamigahara (JPN). The Asia Cup success is even more impressive considering that the team was essentially a development group consisting of players aged between 17 and 23, none of whom featured in the squad selected by Mülders for the Sentinel Homes Hockey World League Final, which was played in Auckland (NZL) in November 2017.

While experience comes in the shape of goalkeeper Li Dongxiao, Cui Qiuxia, Peng Yang and Zhang Xiaoxue, all players who have played more than 100 times for their country, the clear majority of the group is made up of individuals who have less than 50 caps. While it is undeniable that it may be a good few years before this team reaches its peak, the group will be determined to make a big statement at the event in London.

Coach Comment – Jamilon Mülders: "It is like making a cake. The most important thing is to ask the players not to just execute, rather to make them think what ingredients they think they need, like and are able to handle. They watch the teams from Europe, Oceania and South America and they can identify what they need to add to their game. But importantly, they are also learning to name their own strength and abilities. The players have great knowledge and understanding of that, but it is getting them then to have the confidence to try new things for themselves and to deal with setbacks without giving up."

One to watch: CUI Qiuxia: Having represented her country at the Rabobank Hockey World Cup 2014 in the Hague and also at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, defender Cui is one of the most experienced players in the China team and has a reputation for putting her body on the line.

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
1	LI Dongxiao (GK)	30	142
2	GU Bingfeng (C)	24	51
3	SONG Xiaoming	24	20
6	TANG Wanli	22	17
7	CUI Qiuxia (C)	27	137
9	XU Wenyu (C)	22	37
10	PENG Yang	26	160
12	GUO Qiu	22	35
13	LI Hong	19	24
16	OU Zixia (C)	22	62
17	YONG Jing	24	19
18	ZHANG Xindan	20	9
19	ZHANG Xiaoxue	25	106
20	HE Jiangxin	20	10
21	LIU Meng	22	24
24	WANG Shumin	24	19
27	TU Yidan	21	35
28	WU Qiong	29	46
31	ZHONG Jiaqi	18	24
32	YE Jiao (GK)	23	36
Team Staff			
WALTER Julia	Team Manager		
MÜLDERS Jamilon	Head Coach		
FIEBER Lukas	Assistant Coach		
HUANG Yongsheng	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

KOREA

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 9

How they qualified: 4th Place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Brussels (BEL).

Notable honours: 2x Olympic silver medallists (1988, 1996), Hockey World Cup bronze medallists (1990), FIH Champions Trophy gold medallists (1989), FIH Champions Trophy silver medallists (1995), FIH Champions Trophy bronze medallists (1987), 2x FIH Champions Challenge silver medallists (2002, 2007), 5x Asian Games gold medallists (1986, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2014), 3x Asia Cup gold medallists (1985, 1993, 1999).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1990 – 3rd, 1994 – 5th, 1998 – 5th, 2002 – 6th, 2006 – 9th, 2010 – 6th, 2014 – 7th.

About the team: Korea booked their World Cup ticket by finishing fourth at the FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017 in Brussels (BEL), with penalty corner expert Cheon Seul Ki scoring five times to help them along the way. The team made a poor start at the event in Brussels, drawing 0-0 with Italy before suffering a crushing 9-0 defeat against the Netherlands, the eventual winners. The nature of the loss against the Dutch had the potential to completely derail their competition, but pool wins over Scotland and China were followed by a dramatic shoot-out victory over hosts Belgium in the quarter-finals. It was a result that guaranteed a top four finish at that event, earning Korea tickets to both the Sentinel Homes Hockey World League Final 2017 in Auckland (NZL) – where they claimed a hugely impressive third place finish courtesy of a 1-0 victory against higher-ranked England – and, more importantly, a berth at the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018.

Korea - who also took the bronze medal at the Hockey Asia Cup 2017 in Kakamigahara (JPN) towards the end of last year - enter the World Cup without inspirational captain Kim Jongeun, a player who always has a significant on-field presence for her team. Thirty-two-year-old defender Kim Youngran will captain the side in London, being one of seven athletes in the squad to have passed the 100 international appearances marker. The two goalkeepers – Bae Sora and Hwang Hyeon – have played less than 15 senior international matches between them, with Cho Su Ji and Lee Yurim also having under ten caps each. However, the inclusion of legendary attacker Park Mi Hyun ensures that these newcomers have the perfect mentor to help them through the trials and tribulations of their first World Cup campaign.

Coach Comment - Huh Sang Young: "We gain a lot from coming to Europe to play teams such as the Netherlands, Spain and Italy. It gives us a different view of the game and the tactics played by other nations and this tournament provides a huge learning curve for the players. We are a team that grows into a tournament. We will be doing our homework on all the teams and planning our own strategy accordingly."

One to watch: Park Mi Hyun: One of all-time greats of Korean and Asian hockey, Park's return to the international stage late last year was a welcome one. Her skill, intelligence, creativity and experience could prove vital assets in London.

WEBSITE: www.hockeykorea.co.kr *

TWITTER: [hockey_korea](https://twitter.com/hockey_korea) *

FACEBOOK: [hockeycorea](https://www.facebook.com/hockeycorea) *

INSTAGRAM: [hockeykorea](https://www.instagram.com/hockeykorea) *

*Korean language sites.

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
2	CHOI Su Ji	25	3
4	KIM Youngran (C)	32	137
5	LEE Yurim	23	7
6	BAE Sora (GK)	26	6
8	AN Hyuju	30	120
10	PARK Mi Hyun	32	252
11	PARK Seunga	27	91
12	LEE Youngsil	31	112
13	CHO Eunji	28	98
14	CHO Yun Kyoung	26	76
16	CHEON Seul Ki	29	120
17	KIM Ok Ju	30	129
18	KIM Bomi	32	108
19	CHO Hyejin	23	57
21	SHIN Hyejeong	26	30
22	JANG Heesun	32	27
23	LEE Yuri	23	50
31	HWANG Hyeon A (GK)	23	5
Team Staff			
HONG Kyung Suep	Team Manager		
HUH Sang Young	Head Coach		
FIEBER Lukas	Assistant Coach		
HUANG Yongsheng	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

ITALY

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 17

How they qualified: 6th Place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Brussels (BEL).

Notable honours: 10th Place – Hockey World Cup (1976). 12th Place – Hockey World League 2013-14. 16th Place – Hockey World League 2015-16.

Rank in previous WC editions: 1976 – 10th.

About the team: Italy women qualified for the Hockey Women's World Cup 2018 by virtue of a sixth-place finish at the Hockey World League Semi-Finals in Brussels (BEL). This will be Italy's first appearance at the event since 1976, when they finished 10th. Qualification for the event is a remarkable achievement for the European team, who were ranked 15th in the world and arrived at the Hockey World League Semi-Finals as outsiders for qualification following their third-place finish at the Hockey World League Round 2 event in Kuala Lumpur (MAS). Draws against Korea and China, who were ranked several places higher, and a win over Scotland was enough to propel Italy into a finishing position that would prove to be enough for a World Cup berth.

Valentina Braconi was the star of the show for Italy at the Round 2 competition in Malaysia, scoring a hugely impressive 11 goals in just six matches. Braconi missed the Semi-Final event in Brussels but has been included in the squad for London and will be looking to repeat her goal-scoring heroics on the biggest stage. Forty-year-old Agata Wybieralska is the oldest player in the competition but remains a potent goal threat from penalty corner situations, while captain Chiara Tiddi is always a pivotal figure and will want to take her team deep into the competition.

Coach Comment - Roberto Carta: "The players are immensely proud to put on the national shirt and represent their country. When they competed at the Hockey World League Semi-Final, they were really appreciated for their style of play and skills. They want to keep improving their play with each competition. We are aiming to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, so the World Cup is another chance to learn how to play against the best sides in the world."

One to watch: Chiara Tiddi: The 29-year-old captain is renowned for her all action, fully committed style. She is also capable of contributing goals, especially from penalty corner situations.

WEBSITE: <http://www.federhockey.it>

TWITTER: [FIH_Italia](#)

FACEBOOK: [Federazione Italiana Hockey](#)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
2	TRAVERSO Celina	32	69
3	PUGLISI Sara	17	7
4	MASTRONARDI Eugenia	27	21
7	BRACONI Valentina	27	68
8	BIANCHI Eugenia	28	27
9	GARRAFFO Maria	24	42
10	MIRABELLA Dalila	23	98
12	CHIRICO Martina (GK)	30	84
14	PACELLA Elisabetta	24	99
15	SOCINO Maria	28	22
17	TIDDI Chiara (C)	29	140
18	CARTA Federica	18	16
20	SINGH Jasbeer	31	65
21	WYBIERALSKA Agata	40	116 (ITA 90, POL 26)
22	CUSIMANO Clara (GK)	17	6
23	VYNOHRADOVA Maryna	35	9 (ITA 3, UKR 6)
25	RUGGIERI Giuliana	27	54
27	OVIEDO Lara	30	18 (ARG 4, ITA 14)
28	PESSINA Ivanna	28	12 (ARG 10, ITA 2)
32	CASALE Marcela	31	47
Team Staff			
FABRIZIO Luca	Team Manager		
CARTA Roberto	Head Coach		
MATTEI Fabrizio	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

POOL B: ENGLAND, USA, INDIA, IRELAND

ENGLAND

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 2

How they qualified: Host nation

Notable honours: World Cup bronze medallists (2010), European champions (1991, 2015), Hockey World League bronze medallists (2012-13), Champions Trophy bronze medallists (2010), Commonwealth Games silver medallists (1998, 2002, 2014).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1983 – 5th, 1986 – 5th, 1990 – 4th, 1994 – 9th, 1998 – 9th, 2002 – 5th, 2006 – 7th, 2010 – 3rd, 2014 – 11th.

About the team: England's women go into the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup as one of the favourites with many of their players still on a high after winning Olympic gold for Great Britain back at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. Despite not having won the World Cup before, England have been making steady progress in recent years, masterminded by Head Coach Danny Kerry. In addition to their Olympic success they also won a bronze medal at the 2010 World Cup and were the European champions in 2015, a title claimed at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.

With world-class players including outstanding goalkeeper Maddie Hinch, captain Alex Danson and fellow Olympic gold medallists Laura Unsworth, Susannah Townsend, Hollie Pearne-Webb, Sophie Bray, Lily Owsley and Giselle Ansley within their ranks, they have talent in abundance. Home support will be crucial for England with their passionate fans capable of inspiring them to a historic first World Cup title. On home turf such a triumph would certainly rank up there alongside their Rio success.

Coach Comment - Danny Kerry: "I think we have world class players in key positions with a lot of pace to our attack and equally a good solidity to our defence with lots of options to get the ball out from the back. It will be a very tight tournament and I am really optimistic that the squad can perform and can use the support of a home crowd in those tight games and think clearly under pressure."

One to watch: Maddie Hinch: Named FIH Hockey Stars Goalkeeper of the Year in 2016 and 2017, Hinch's remarkable performances – particularly in shoot-outs – were central to both England's EuroHockey Championship title in 2015 and Great Britain's glorious gold medal success at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

WEBSITE: <http://www.Englandhockey.co.uk>

TWITTER: @EnglandHockey

FACEBOOK: @EnglandHockey

INSTAGRAM: [Englandhockey](https://www.instagram.com/Englandhockey)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
1	HINCH Maddie (GK)	29	128 (ENG 83, GBR 45)
3	LANE Kathryn	23	7
4	UNSWORTH Laura	30	224 (ENG 135, GBR 89)
5	HAYCROFT Sarah	27	77 (ENG 58, GBR 19)
6	TOMAN Anna	25	36 (ENG 31, GBR 5)
7	MARTIN Hannah	23	34 (ENG 30, GBR 4)
9	TOWNSEND Susannah	28	135 (ENG 83, GBR 52)
11	PETTY Suzy	26	17 (ENG 13, GBR 4)
13	RAYER Elena	21	25 (ENG 20, GBR 5)
15	DANSON Alex (C)	33	301 (ENG 198, GBR 103)
18	ANSLEY Giselle	26	119 (ENG 80, GBR 39)
19	BRAY Sophie	28	123 (ENG 81, GBR 42)
20	PEARNE-WEBB Hollie	27	141 (ENG 88, GBR 53)
21	WATTON Ellie	29	72 (ENG 45, GBR 27)
23	TENNANT Amy (GK)	23	10
26	OWSLEY Lily	23	113 (ENG 73, GBR 40)
27	HUNTER Jo	27	33 (ENG 28, GBR 5)
31	BALSDON Grace	25	30 (ENG 26, GBR 4)
Team Staff			
	SOUYAVE Maggie	Team Manager	
	KERRY Danny	Head Coach	
	RALPH David	Assistant Coach	

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

USA

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 7

How they qualified: 1st Place – Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Johannesburg (RSA)

Notable honours: Olympic Bronze medallists (1984), Hockey World Cup bronze medallists (1994), Hockey Champions Trophy bronze medallists (1995, 2016), Hockey Champions Challenge gold medallists (2014), 2x Pan American Games gold medallists (2011, 2015), 5x Pan American Games silver medallists (1987, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007), Pan American Games bronze medallists (1991), 4x Pan American Cup silver medallists (2001, 2004, 2009, 2013).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1983 – 6th, 1986 – 9th, 1990 – 12th, 1994 – 3rd, 1998 – 8th, 2002 – 9th, 2006 – 6th, 2014 – 4th.

About the team: The USA success story just keeps rolling on. In 2014, USA won the Champions Challenge in Glasgow with a high energy performance that has earned them the reputation as a side that never gives up. This was evident in both the semi-final and the final matches at the Hockey World League Semi-Final event in Johannesburg (RSA), where they sealed World Cup qualification. First USA came from 1-0 down against England with just three minutes remaining and then they won the subsequent shoot-out. In the final, they were 1-0 down to Germany and, with two minutes remaining, they took the match to shoot-out and also emerged victorious.

London 2018 will be USA's ninth appearance at a World Cup and they will go to the event full of optimism after a series of good performances in which they have beaten higher-ranked opposition in major competitions. At the 2014 World Cup, the team finished fourth after coming to The Hague ranked 11th in the world. In 2016, they won bronze at the Champions Trophy and finished a strong Olympic campaign in fifth place. They have also won gold at the past two Pan American Games (2011 and 2015).

Under coach Janneke Schopman – the former Netherlands international who replaced Craig Parnham as Head Coach at the start of 2017 – the team has developed the strategy to match their incredible work ethic. They are also blessed with some extremely gifted players. Jackie Briggs is a world class goalkeeper, while energetic midfield duo Melissa Gonzalez (captain) and Michelle Vitesse have nearly 450 international appearances between them. Eighteen-year-old attacker Erin Matson is one of the youngest players in the competition but is an exceptional talent and looks set to have a long international career ahead of her.

Coach Comment - Janneke Schopman: "With the players, it is country first, every time. That culture of team before individual is very, very strong and it cements all the work we do as a squad."

One to watch: Melissa Gonzalez: A player with no obvious weaknesses, Gonzalez has extraordinary fitness levels and the ability to be hugely influential both in defence and attack. She makes things happen and always seems to produce her best performances when it really matters.

WEBSITE: www.teamusa.org/usa-field-hockey

TWITTER: @USAFieldHockey

FACEBOOK: USAFieldHockey

INSTAGRAM: @usafielddhockey

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
1	MATSON Erin	18	41
2	FEE Stefanie	28	111
4	SHEALY Loren	25	52
5	GONZALEZ Melissa (C)	29	238
6	WIDDALL Alesha (GK)	28	56
9	VITTESE Michelle	28	208
10	FUNK Jill	26	136
11	WEST Taylor	24	48
12	MAGADAN Amanda	23	40
13	HOFFMAN Ashley	21	36
14	YOUNG Julia	23	19
19	MOYER Lauren	23	37
20	FROEDE Ali	25	53
21	WOODS Nicole	22	24
22	BLAZING Lauren (GK)	25	11
23	VITTESE Tara	22	7
24	SHARKEY Kathleen	28	138
26	PAOLINO Margaux	21	9
27	HURFF Laura	22	7
28	van SICKLE Caitlin	28	113
29	MANLEY Alyssa	24	86
31	BRIGGS Jackie (GK)	30	181
Team Staff			
LANGFORD Maren	Team Manager		
SCHOPMAN Janneke	Head Coach		
EDWARDS Phil	Assistant Coach		
SHEDD Nick	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

INDIA

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 10

How they qualified: 1st Place – Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2017, Kakamigahara (JPN)

Notable honours: FIH Champions Challenge bronze medallists (2002), Commonwealth Games gold medallists (2002), Commonwealth Games silver medallists (2006), Asian Games gold medallists 1982, Asian Games silver medallists (1998), 3x Asian Games bronze medallists (1986, 2006, 2014), 2x Asia Cup gold medallists (2004, 2017), 2x Asia Cup silver medallists (1999, 2009), 2x Asia Cup bronze medallists (1993, 2013).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1974 – 4th, 1978 – 7th, 1983 – 11th, 1998 – 12th, 2006 – 11th, 2010 – 9th.

About the team: India women's hockey team has been making steady progress in the past few years, moving up the FIH Hero Hockey World Rankings as well as making the cut for the major events. 'The Eves' qualified for the 2016 Olympic Games on the back of a strong Hockey World League campaign in 2015 and earned their place in London by claiming a superb title success in the Women's Asia Cup continental championship.

Now ranked 10th in the world, India will bring to London all the flair and style that the hockey-loving nation is famous for, plus the work ethic and structure that has developed as a result of their experiences at Hockey World League and the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. In Rani, Savita, Deepika, Vandana Katariya and Deep Ekka they have masses of both talent and experience. If they hit form they are capable of hurting the very best teams competing in London.

Coach Comment – Sjoerd Marijne: "We have a good blend of experience and youth in the team. The recent Spain Tour has given the team great confidence to do well at the World Cup. Our focus is on the first match against England. In order to reach our first goal of qualifying for the quarter-finals, we can only think about the first match against the hosts and the team is excited and confident of starting well against them in front of a packed stadium."

One to watch: Rani. Despite being just 23 years of age, India captain Rani has played over 200 international matches for the Eves. Extremely dangerous in front of goal, Rani has the talent to be among the front-runners for the top scorer accolade.

WEBSITE: www.hockeyindia.org

TWITTER: [@thehockeyindia](https://twitter.com/thehockeyindia)

FACEBOOK: [TheHockeyIndia](https://www.facebook.com/TheHockeyIndia)

INSTAGRAM: [hockeyindia](https://www.instagram.com/hockeyindia)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
1	KAUR Navjot	23	133
2	KAUR Gurjit	22	55
3	EKKA Deep	24	164
4	MONIKA	24	117
6	KHOKHAR Reena	25	14
8	PRADHAN Nikki	24	69
11	SAVITA (GK)	28	169
13	ETIMARPU Rajani (GK)	28	74
16	KATARIYA Vandana	26	201
17	DEEPIKA	31	219
18	UDITA	20	15
19	TOPPO Namita	23	149
20	LALREMSIAMI	18	25
25	KAUR Navneet	22	40
26	LAKRA Sunita	27	132
28	RANI (C)	23	213
31	MINZ Lilima	24	116
32	GOYAL Neha	21	36
Team Staff			
KUMAR C. R.	Team Manager		
MARIJNE Sjoerd	Head Coach		
WONINK Erik	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

IRELAND

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 16

How they qualified: 7th Place – Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Johannesburg (RSA)

Notable honours: 11th Place – Hockey World Cup (1994), 6th Place – EuroHockey Nations Championship (2017)

Rank in previous WC editions: 1986 – 12th, 1994 – 11th, 2002 – 15th.

About the team: Ireland women will be making their first Hockey World Cup appearance since 2002, having been assured of a ticket to London on the back of a strong Hockey World League campaign and results going their way in the Continental Championships. The Green Army performed well at the Hockey World League Semi-Final in Johannesburg (RSA), claiming seventh place thanks to a battling 2-1 win over India in their final match which left them on the verge of World Cup qualification. Their Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup spot was finalised a few months later when Australia and New Zealand - two teams that had already achieved qualification for London - reached the final of the Oceania Cup Continental Championship, opening the door for Ireland who were next in line.

After a 16-year absence, Ireland can now look forward to competing in their fourth Women's Hockey World Cup following appearances at the Amsterdam 1986 (NED), Dublin 1994 (IRL) and Perth 2002 (AUS) events. Their best finishing position came on home soil at Dublin 1994, where they finished in 11th place. The team coached by former Ireland men's international Graham Shaw has more than enough talent to outstrip their previous best performance. With over 260 international appearances to her name, the influential Shirley McCay commands respect both on and off the field, while quicksilver attacker Anna O'Flanagan has earned a reputation as a feared goal-scorer who can turn a game in the blink of an eye.

Coach Comment – Graham Shaw: "A lot of the players have been chasing this for a long time, so there will be a lot of emotion, which we will have to manage. A lot of players have been after this moment all their lives. Every match in our pool will be like a final. They are three different teams, with three styles of play, so we will have a different plan for each game."

One to watch: Anna O'Flanagan. Strong, fast and a great finisher, Anna O'Flanagan is a central figure in Ireland's attacking line-up and will surely be amongst the goals at this event.

WEBSITE: www.hockey.ie

TWITTER: [@irishhockey](https://twitter.com/irishhockey)

FACEBOOK: [IrishHockeyAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/IrishHockeyAssociation)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
1	O'FLANAGAN Grace (GK)	29	32
4	O'BYRNE Yvonne	26	111
8	EVANS Nicola	28	161
9	MULLAN Kathryn (C)	24	149
10	McCAY Shirley	30	265
11	FRAZER Megan	27	126
12	TICE Elena	20	66
13	CARROLL Naomi	25	110
14	BEATTY Emily	24	85
15	PINDER Gillian	26	135
16	LOUGHRAN Sinead	27	37
18	UPTON Roisin	24	39
19	McFERRAN Ayeisha (GK)	22	72
20	WATKINS Chloe	26	192
21	COLVIN Lizzie	28	158
22	DALY Nicola	30	161
23	MATTHEWS Hannah	27	106
24	TORRANS Sarah	19	15
26	O'FLANAGAN Anna	28	166
27	WILSON Zoe	21	72
28	DUKE Deirdre	26	102
30	MEEKE Alison	27	112
Team Staff			
	BOYLES Arlene	Team Manager	
	SHAW Graham	Head Coach	
	HENDERSON Nigel	Assistant Coach	
	GRUNDIE Gareth	Assistant Coach	
	STEWART Colin	Assistant Coach	

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

POOL C: ARGENTINA, GERMANY, SPAIN, SOUTH AFRICA

ARGENTINA

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 3

How they qualified: 4th Place – Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Johannesburg (RSA) / 1st Place – Pan American Cup 2017, Lancaster (USA)

Notable honours: 2x World champions (2002, 2010), 2x Olympic silver medallists (2000, 2012), 2x Olympic bronze medallists (2004, 2008), Hockey World League champions (2015), 7x Champions Trophy winners (2001, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016), 6x Pan-American Games gold medallists (1987, 1991, 1995, 1999, 2003, 2007), 5x Pan-American Cup winners (2001, 2004, 2009, 2013, 2017).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1974 – 2nd, 1976 – 2nd, 1978 – 3rd, 1981 – 6th, 1983 – 9th, 1986 – 2nd, 1990 – 9th, 1994 – 2nd, 1998 – 4th, 2002 – 1st, 2006 – 3rd, 2010 – 1st, 2014 – 3rd.

About the team: Agustin Corradini, the Head Coach of Argentina, has been rebuilding the team after their below-par performance at the 2016 Rio Olympics. There have been plenty of signs that Las Leonas are approaching their mesmerising best, not least the way they dominated the pool stages of Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017 in Johannesburg (RSA), the qualifying event for the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018. However, a 2-1 loss to Germany in the semi-final and a 5-2 loss to England in the third-place match will be a reminder that there is still work to be done to see this team reach its potential.

Argentina has a proud and illustrious history at World Cup events. They have been at every event since the first edition in 1974 and, in those 13 appearances, Las Leonas has taken three bronze medals, three silvers and two gold medals. The most recent of these was a glorious home victory in Rosario in 2010, when Luciana Aymar was the star of the show. At The Hague in 2014, Aymar and her colleagues had to settle for bronze but this new look, immensely gifted team will have its eye firmly on the top spot in London. Belen Succi is rated as one of the finest goalkeepers around, while Delfina Merino, Maria Jose Granatto, Florencia Habif and penalty corner queen Noel Barrionuevo are all exceptional outfield performers.

Coach Comment – Agustin Corradini: "Of course you never feel as if your team is totally ready for the challenge ahead, there are always things to improve upon. In fact, we can improve some details in just about every area. But we are a talented and hard-working team and I know the players will contest every match right to the final whistle."

One to watch: Delfina Merino. 'Delfi' is Argentina's creative mastermind. She has a reputation for scoring spectacular goals, regularly delivering when her team need it most. Named FIH Hockey Stars Player of the Year for 2017.

WEBSITE: www.cahockey.org.ar

TWITTER: [@LasLeonasHockey](https://twitter.com/LasLeonasHockey)

FACEBOOK: [ArgFieldHockey](https://www.facebook.com/ArgFieldHockey)

INSTAGRAM: [arg_fieldhockey](https://www.instagram.com/arg_fieldhockey)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
1	SUCCI Belen (GK)	32	200
4	TRINCHINETTI Eugenia	21	50
5	ALONSO Agostina	22	39
6	DONATI Bianca	23	27
7	CAVALLERO Martina	28	190
10	FERNANDEZ Magdalena	23	48
12	MERINO Delfina (C)	28	263
14	HABIF Agustina	26	125
15	GRANATTO Maria	23	82
16	HABIF Florencia	24	171
17	SANCHEZ Rocio	29	219
19	ALBERTARRIO Agustina	25	119
20	von der HEYDE Lucina	21	60
26	ORTIZ Maria	21	69
27	BARRIONUEVO Noel	34	312
28	JANKUNAS Julieta	19	47
29	GOMES Julia	26	139
31	MUTIO Maria (GK)	33	62
Team Staff			
CONNA Walter	Team Manager		
CORRADINI Agustin	Head Coach		
BERTHOLD Martín	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

GERMANY

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 6

How they qualified: 2nd Place – Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Johannesburg (RSA).

Notable honours: Olympic gold medallists (2004), 2x Olympic silver medallists (1984, 1992), Olympic bronze medallists (2016), 2x World champions (1976, 1981), 2x European champions (2007, 2013), Champions Trophy gold medallists (2006).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1974 – 3rd, 1976 – 1st, 1978 – 2nd, 1981 – 1st, 1983 – 4th, 1986 – 2nd, 1990 – 8th, 1994 – 4th, 1998 – 3rd, 2002 – 7th, 2006 – 8th, 2010 – 4th, 2014 – 8th.

About the team: Following their wonderful Olympic bronze medal success at Rio 2016, Germany have continued to look like a team that can challenge the very best in the world. They were in fine form at the Hockey World League Semi-Final in Johannesburg (RSA), battling past higher-ranked opponents in England and Argentina before eventually suffering a shoot-out defeat against USA in the competition final. They continued their good work at the Rabo EuroHockey Championships 2017 in the Netherlands, beating Scotland, England and Ireland to secure a place in the semi-finals. Sadly, a surprise semi-final loss against Belgium was followed by defeat against England in the bronze medal match, leaving Die Danas outside of the medals.

Despite having to deal with the challenge of losing Head Coach Jamilon Mülders to China towards the end of last year – former Belgian men's international Xavier Reckinger has taken over the position vacated by Mülders – the Germany squad has every right to feel that a podium finish in London is not beyond the realms of possibility. Their team contains plenty of quality, with hugely experienced midfielder and captain Janne Müller-Wieland being a central figure. Double Olympian Marie Mävers has developed a reputation as a top class forward, while Charlotte Stapenhorst is rated by many as one of the best young strikers in the game.

Coach Comment – Xavier Reckinger: "The girls have been great and made it very difficult for us to select. The team has been developing really well. I think we now have a good mix of experienced players and young talent who bring some freshness to the team. We needed that balance, especially with a view towards Tokyo 2020. Every single player has absolutely earned this place in the World Cup team!"

One to watch: Charlotte Stapenhorst. This lively attacker has been an impressive performer over the past two years. The 23-year-old is a constant scourge to opposition defences and plays with maturity beyond her years.

WEBSITE: www.hockey.de

TWITTER: [@diedanas](https://twitter.com/diedanas)

FACEBOOK: [diedanas](https://www.facebook.com/diedanas)

INSTAGRAM: [diedanas](https://www.instagram.com/diedanas)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
3	WORTMANN Amelie	21	18
4	LORENZ Nike	21	74
5	ORUZ Selin	21	60
6	GABLAC Hannah	23	49
8	SCHRÖDER Anne	23	105
9	GRÄVE Elisa	21	34
10	NOTMAN Nina	26	23
11	MICHEEL Lena	20	5
12	STAPENHORST Charlotte	23	75
14	MÜLLER-WIELAND Janne (C)	31	268
15	KUBALSKI Nathalie (GK)	24	4
17	TESCHKE Jana	27	157
18	ALTENBURG Lisa	28	111
19	SCHAUNIG Maike	22	8
20	CIUPKA Julia (GK)	26	23
21	HAUKE Franzisca	28	141
22	PIEPER Cecile	23	82
23	MÄVERS Marie	27	189
25	HUSE Viktoria	22	18
26	VIVOT Alisa	21	7
Team Staff			
KEANEY Donna	Team Manager		
RECKINGER Xavier	Head Coach		
LEWIS James	Assistant Coach		
BOUCHOUCI Akim	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

SPAIN

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 11

How they qualified: 7th Place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Brussels (BEL).

Notable honours: Olympic gold medallists (1992), 2x EuroHockey Nations Championships silver medallists (1995, 2003), Champions Challenge 1 silver medallists (2003).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1974 – 6th, 1976 – 5th, 1978 – 8th, 1981 – 10th, 1986 – 11th, 1990 – 5th, 1994 – 8th, 2002 – 8th, 2006 – 4th, 2010 – 12th

About the team: There can be no doubt that under the guidance of Head Coach Adrian Lock, 1992 Olympic gold medallists Spain have been undergoing something of a revival. The Englishman – a former U-21 international – has been getting the best out of a youthful but extremely talented group of players that managed to reach the quarter finals of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games before suffering defeat at the hands of eventual gold medal winners Great Britain.

The squad selected by Lock for London contains no less than 14 players who have played over 100 senior international matches, with team captain Georgina Oliva being the most capped player with 199 appearances. Oliva is a key player for the Red Sticks thanks to her versatility, being able to have a significant influence both defence or midfield.

Coach Comment – Adrian Lock: “I expect us to play fast, aggressive attacking hockey, creating lots of goal-scoring opportunities and to fight hard in each game from start to finish. I expect to work as a team, to be positive and to find solutions to situations that we come up against. I think the lower ranked teams have been gradually creeping up on the higher ranked teams and I expect the World Cup to be full of surprise results, creating a tense and exciting tournament.”

One to watch: Berta Bonastre. The younger sister of Silvia Bonastre, who represented Spain at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, Berta is an attack-minded midfielder who regularly gets on the score-sheet.

WEBSITE: www.rfeh.es

TWITTER: [@rfe_hockey](https://twitter.com/rfe_hockey)

FACEBOOK: [RFEH Hockey](https://www.facebook.com/RFEH.Hockey)

INSTAGRAM: [absolutafemenino](https://www.instagram.com/absolutafemenino)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
1	RUIZ Maria (GK)	28	118
2	GUTIERREZ Rocio	33	141
7	PETCHAME Carlota	28	161
8	SALVATELLA Carola	24	108
9	LOPEZ Maria	28	161
10	BONASTRE Berta	26	159
11	GUINEA Cristina	25	126
12	CANO Carmen	25	46
14	TOST Maria	24	117
15	GARCIA Maialen	28	80
17	RIERA Lola	27	146
18	PONS Julia	23	131
19	GARCIA Begoña	23	103
20	GINE Xantal	25	139
21	PEREZ Beatriz	27	167
23	OLIVA Georgina (C)	28	199
25	MAGAZ Alicia	24	92
28	SEGU Marta	23	43
29	JIMENEZ Lucia	21	88
32	GARCIA Melanie (GK)	27	49
Team Staff			
RUIZ Alberto	Team Manager		
LOCK Adrian	Head Coach		
WILSON Andrew	Assistant Coach		
MORENCOS Esther	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

SOUTH AFRICA

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 14

How they qualified: 1st Place – Africa Cup for Nations 2017, Ismalia (EGY) / 5th Place – Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Johannesburg (RSA).

Notable honours: 7x African Cup for Nations gold medallists (1994, 1998, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2015, 2017). All Africa Games gold medallists (1995, 1999, 2003), 7th Place – Hockey world Cup (1998), 9th Place – Olympic Games (2004).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1998 – 7th, 2002 – 13th, 2006 – 12th, 2010 – 10th, 2014 – 9th.

About the team: South Africa booked their place in the World Cup thanks to a strong finish to the Hockey World League Semi-Finals 2017 on home turf in Johannesburg (RSA). Later that year, the team also became the continental champions of Africa thanks to a title success in Ismalia (EGY). Having missed out on the 2016 Olympic Games, this team was determined to ensure they would be on the plane to London next year to contest their sixth World Cup. The African nation has been present at every edition since South Africa was allowed onto the international stage following the end of apartheid.

Their best World Cup finish to date was their first appearance in 1998 when they took seventh place. In The Hague in 2014, they finished ninth, after beating two higher-ranked teams, England and Japan. Having spent one Olympic cycle away from top international competition, South Africa will be keen to prove their credentials and move back up the rankings.

Head Coach Sheldon Roston has selected eight players who have represented South Africa over 100 times, with Shelley Jones (née Russell), Lisa-Marie Deetlefs, Dirkie Chamberlain and Nicolene Terblanche having all surpassed the 200 international appearances marker. Sulette Damons – who is co-captain alongside Terblanche – is six matches away from her 200th cap. Whilst the team has an abundance of experience, the fact that nine of the 18 selected players are aged between 19 and 25 shows that Rostron is also very much looking laying the foundations for the future.

Coach Comment – Sheldon Rostron: “The group that we have created has a good blend of experience and youth. We have looked at specific skill requirements as well as the players form over the past 12 months. Simone Gouws will add a different dynamic in our defence, which we feel is needed, while the return of Lilian (du Plessis) will make us a more threatening attacking team. As much as this is a team for the Women’s World Cup, it is also a team to build for the future of South Africa Women’s Hockey.”

One to watch: Shelley Jones (née Russell). A double Olympian from the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Olympic Games, Jones is the most capped player in the current South African line-up and a regular creator of goals for the team.

WEBSITE: <https://www.sahockey.co.za>

TWITTER: @SA_Hockey

FACEBOOK: @SAWomensHockey

INSTAGRAM: sawhockey

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
4	WALRAVEN Nicole	23	41
5	GOUWS Simone	19	1
8	PATON Kristen	21	11
10	JONES Shelley	31	272
11	BOTES Kara-Lee	28	37
12	CHAMBERLAIN Dirkie	31	221
13	DEETLEFS Lisa-Marie	30	246
16	HUNTER Erin	26	37
17	MANUEL Candice	27	57
19	du PLESSIS Lilian	25	115
20	TERBLANCHE Nicolene (C)	30	213
21	MALI Ongeziwe	19	6
24	MBANDE Phumelela (GK)	25	31
27	MAYNE Jade	29	142
28	BOBBS Quanita	24	110
29	GLASBY Tarryn	23	26
30	DAMONS Sulette (C)	28	194
31	Van TONDER Marlise (GK)	21	15
Team Staff			
ELOFF Maryke	Team Manager		
ROSTRON Sheldon	Head Coach		
CERFONTEIN Kurt	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

POOL D: NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, JAPAN, BELGIUM

NEW ZEALAND

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 4

How they qualified: 3rd Place – FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Brussels (BEL).

Notable honours: 3x Oceania Cup gold medallists (2007, 2009, 2011), 2x Hockey World League silver medallists (2015, 2017), 7x Oceania Cup silver medallists (1999, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2013, 2015, 2017), FIH Champions Trophy bronze medallists (2011), 2x FIH Champions Challenge gold medallists (2005, 2009), Commonwealth Games gold medallists (2018), Commonwealth Games silver medallists (2010), 2x Commonwealth Games bronze medallists (1998, 2014), 4th place at London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Rank in previous WC editions: 1983 – 7th, 1986 – 4th, 1990 – 7th, 1998 – 6th, 2002 – 11th, 2010 – 7th, 2014 – 5th.

About the team: Following their breakthrough gold medal at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games earlier this year, Black Sticks Head Coach Mark Hager has named an almost identical side to compete in the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup London 2018. The New Zealand team contains just one change from the triumphant Commonwealth Games squad, with midfielder Lulu Tuilotolava set to play her first major international competition after recently making her debut at the Pioneer Energy Women's Tri Nations in Cromwell (NZL).

This hugely experienced side contains ten players who have played over 100 times for New Zealand, with Stacey Michelsen (254 caps), Anita McLaren (264) and Sam Charlton (219) each having over 200 international matches under their respective belts. Midfielder Michelsen is an exceptional talent, while Anita McLaren's frightening turn of pace – not to mention her prowess from penalty corner situations - makes her a defender's worst nightmare.

The Black Sticks have been outstanding performers over the last six years, regularly putting themselves in contention for a place on the podium. Fourth place finishes at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games split by a fifth-place finish at the 2014 Hockey World Cup has proven something of a frustration, but the recent success on the Gold Coast will have given the New Zealand genuine belief that they could be title contenders in London.

Coach Comment – Mark Hager: "It's a very versatile team and we believe there's a good mix of youth and experience within the group with talent across various positions," he said. "We think we've got the right balance - all 18 players in the side deserve their spot and I know they are very excited. After winning a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games we probably go in with a bigger target on our backs but hopefully that fuels us to lift even further as a group."

One to watch: Stacey Michelsen. Widely regarded as one of the world's most gifted players, 27-year-old Stacey Michelsen has effortlessly transitioned from a defender into a midfielder in recent years and is very much the creative heartbeat of the Black Sticks team. The New Zealand captain was named FIH Young Player of the Year for 2011 and was shortlisted for the FIH Hockey Stars Player of the Year for 2017.

WEBSITE: www.hockeynz.co.nz

TWITTER: [@BlackSticks](https://twitter.com/BlackSticks)

FACEBOOK: [nzblacksticks](https://www.facebook.com/nzblacksticks)

INSTAGRAM: [@nzblacksticks](https://www.instagram.com/nzblacksticks)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
1	DAVEY Tarryn	22	31
2	HARRISON Samantha	26	149
4	MERRY Olivia	26	198
5	DAVIES Frances	21	50
6	ROBINSON Amy	22	49
8	RUTHERFORD Sally (GK)	37	164
9	NEAL Brooke	26	147
12	GUNSON Ella	29	191
13	CHARLTON Samantha	26	219
15	O'HANLON Grace (GK)	25	35
16	THOMPSON Liz	23	166
22	TANNER Kim	25	33
24	KEDDELL Rose	24	176
25	SMITH Kelsey	23	79
28	GLOYN Shiloh	28	68
29	DOAR Madison	19	23
30	TUILOTOLAVA Louisa	22	6
31	MICHELSSEN Stacey (C)	27	254
32	McLAREN Anita	30	264
Team Staff			
HAGER Mark	Head Coach		
MENEZES Jude	Assistant Coach		
LESLIE Chris	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

AUSTRALIA

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 5

How they qualified: 5th Place - FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Brussels (BEL).

Notable honours: 3x Olympic gold medallists (1988, 1996, 2000), 2x World champions (1994, 1998), 3x World Cup silver medallists (1990, 2006, 2014), Hockey World League silver medallists (2012-13 Edition), 6x FIH Champions Trophy gold medallists (1991, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1999, 2003), 4x Oceania champions (1999, 2001, 2005, 2013, 2015), 4x Commonwealth Games gold medallists (1998, 2006, 2010, 2014).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1981 – 4th, 1983 – 3rd, 1986 – 6th, 1990 – 2nd, 1994 – 1st, 1998 – 1st, 2002 – 4th, 2006 – 2nd, 2010 – 5th, 2014 – 2nd.

About the team: Australia's history at the World Cup is a bright one. They finished second at the last Women's World Cup, played in the Netherlands in 2014, after being defeated by the host nation 2-0. Having played in ten Women's Hockey World Cups since 1981, the Hockeyroos have claimed gold twice (1994 and 1998), silver three times (1990, 2006 and 2014) and bronze once (1983).

The Hockeyroos arrive in London in good form, following their convincing victory in May's Tri Nations series in New Zealand, where the team beat the Black Sticks in the event final with a 4-1 triumph. Head Coach Paul Gaudoin – a former player with Australia's Kookaburras – has been vocal in his excitement about the event, which will also serve as a significant milestone towards the team's ambitions at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The squad selected by Gaudoin is one packed with ability, with prolific goal-scorer Emily Smith being named captain for the event for London. Rachael Lynch is a world class goalkeeper, while Jodie Kenny and team captain Emily Smith leads by example and are a rich source of goals for the side. Penalty corner expert Kenny and striker Smith have scored 175 international goals between them and are certain to be key players in Australia's title challenge. Energetic midfielder Jane Claxton is absent through injury, while both Casey Sablowski (née Eastham) and Georgia Nanscawen recently announced their international retirements.

Coach Comment – Paul Gaudoin: "It's an exciting team with some new faces. Midfielder Jane Claxton will be missed due to injury, but it provides a great opportunity for new talent to stake a claim for midfield positions. The Hockeyroos are bursting with talent and vitality, and I am excited about what we can achieve."

One to watch: Emily Smith. With 74 goals in 200 international appearances, Emily Smith has earned a reputation as feared goal-scorer and is a key component in the Hockeyroos' forward line.

WEBSITE: www.hockey.org.au

TWITTER: [@hockeyroos](https://twitter.com/hockeyroos)

FACEBOOK: [thehockeyroos](https://www.facebook.com/thehockeyroos)

INSTAGRAM: [@hockeyaustraliaofficial](https://www.instagram.com/hockeyaustraliaofficial)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
2	MALONE Ambrosia	20	8
3	PERIS Brooke	25	128
4	HURTZ Emily	28	102
7	KENNY Jodie	30	201
9	BRAZEL Lily	23	16
10	FITZPATRICK Maddy	21	37
11	McMAHON Karri	26	133
13	BONE Edwina	30	154
14	KERSHAW Stephanie	23	43
15	NOBBS Kaitlin	20	37
17	MORGAN Georgina	25	66
19	BARTRAM Jocelyn (GK)	25	34
20	SLATTERY Kathryn	24	85
21	TAYLOR Renee	21	53
23	COMMERFORD Kalindi	24	14
26	SMITH Emily (C)	25	200
27	LYNCH Rachael (GK)	32	182
28	BATES Kristina	22	24
30	STEWART Grace	21	48
32	FITZPATRICK Savannah	23	28
Team Staff			
GAUDOIN Paul	Head Coach		
ANDREWS Stephanie	Assistant Coach		
ALLEN Katie	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

JAPAN

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 12

How they qualified: 6th Place – Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Johannesburg (RSA).

Notable honours: 9th place – Olympic Games (2012), 10th place – Olympic Games (2016), 10th place – Rabobank Hockey World Cup (2014), 8th place – FIH Champions Trophy (2014), FIH Champions Challenge 1 gold medallists (2011), 3x Asian Games silver medallists (1986, 1994, 2006), 2x Asia Cup gold medallists (2007, 2013).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1978 – 6th, 1981 – 7th, 1990 – 11th, 2002 – 10th, 2006 – 5th, 2010 – 11th, 2014 - 10

About the team: Thanks to Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup 2018 host nation England claiming a top five finish at the Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017 in Johannesburg (RSA), the highest ranked of the sixth placed finishers from Johannesburg and the sister event in Brussels (BEL) would qualify for the showpiece event in London. That place went to Japan, who performed excellently at the competition in South Africa, recording wins over England and India before eventually losing the 5-6 classification match against an inspired host nation.

Sakura Japan, or the Cherry Blossoms as they are known, have always had the ability to spring a surprise result, but under the guidance of Head Coach Anthony Farry – the Australian who guided Canada's men to qualification for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games - they are starting to show the kind of qualities that could see them challenging for top honours in the not too distant future. Japan first contested a World Cup in 1978, where they finished in a creditable sixth place. Since then, their highest position was fifth in Madrid in 2006. With the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games just two years away, Japan's national team will be looking for a good performance in London as a precursor to a successful performance in front of home crowds just two years later.

Japan recently claimed a second-place finish behind the Netherlands but ahead of higher-ranked Spain and China at the Rabo 4-Nations invitational tournament in Breda (NED), with Akiko Kato, Hazuki Nagai and Yuri Nagai each contributing two goals to the success. They followed this by a series victory against Ireland in Cork (IRL), indicating that they are very much ready for their World Cup campaign.

Coach Comment – Antony Farry: "We have a few athletes that have played in either a World Cup or at the Olympic Games so the experienced athletes can share their feelings with the less experienced ones. However, one of the greatest things to see is the excitement and energy of athletes that comes from seeing and experiencing something for the first time. You can simulate and talk about scenarios all you like, but until you are faced with the reality of the situation it's hard to pinpoint exactly how they will react. We'll be keeping our focus on what we can control, our process and really looking to have fun and enjoy the atmosphere."

One to watch: Hazuki Nagai. A high quality midfielder who often gets amongst the goals. She will be a key player in London and, at the age of 23, is likely to be part of the team for many years to come.

WEBSITE: www.en.hockey.or.jp

TWITTER: [jha_hockey](https://twitter.com/jha_hockey)

FACEBOOK: [@hockey.nationalteam](https://www.facebook.com/hockey.nationalteam)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
1	KAGEYAMA Megumi (GK)	25	41
2	NAITO Natsuki (C)	27	34
3	ONO Mayumi	33	231
4	MATSUMOTO Natsuha	22	22
5	ASAI Yu	22	47
6	OTA Akiko	31	87
7	NAGAI Hazuki	23	132
8	MANO Yukari	24	83
9	KATO Akiko	30	51
10	SHIMIZU Minami	25	62
11	NOMURA Kana	28	104
12	NAGAI Yuri	26	140
13	KOZUKA Miki	22	35
14	SEGAWA Maho	22	26
15	ISHIBASHI Yui	22	15
16	OIKAWA Shihori	29	103
20	KARINO Mami	22	31
21	HOSHI Kimika	22	14
22	KAWAMURA Motomi	22	56
27	YAMADA Aki	25	10
30	AKAYA Erika (GK)	27	15
32	YUDA Hazuki	29	86
Team Staff			
NAKAMURA Mari	Team Manager		
FARRY Anthony	Head Coach		
SHEAHAN John	Assistant Coach		
MIURA Keiko	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

BELGIUM

Current FIH Hero World Ranking: 13

How they qualified: 8th Place - FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017, Brussels (BEL).

Notable honours: 2nd Place – Rabo EuroHockey Championships (2017), 3rd Place – Hockey World Cup (1978), 4th Place – EuroHockey Nations Championships (2013).

Rank in previous WC editions: 1974 – 5th, 1976 – 4th, 1978 – 3rd, 1981 – 8th, 2014 – 12th.

About the team: The Red Panthers may have had an anxious wait to see if they had qualified for the 2018 World Cup, but they will be looking to build on the momentum they have picked up under the guidance of Head Coach Niels Thijssen. The new coaching team only had a short period with the squad in the run-up to the FINTRO Hockey World League Semi-Final 2017 in Brussels (BEL) and the Rabo EuroHockey Championships 2017 in Amstelveen (NED). The eighth-place finish on home soil in Brussels proved just enough for a World Cup berth, but their performance at the European Championships was nothing short of remarkable. The team started the competition as huge outsiders but ended with a silver medal hanging around their necks, finishing above higher-ranked teams such as England, Germany and Spain.

Ten members of the squad selected by Thijssen for London have surpassed the 100 international appearances marker, five of which have all played over 200 times for the Red Panthers. Team captain Anouk Raes, Louise Cavenaile, Emile Sinia, Barbara Nelen and Jill Boon – sister of Red Lions forward Tom Boon – having all represented their country more than 200 times. It will be fascinating to see how they perform in London.

Coach Comment – Niels Thijssen: “We are on track. Of course, we constantly mirror and look back to times where we did well and where we could have done better. By doing that we keep our focus on improving as much as we can for the World Cup and beyond.”

One to watch: Anouk Raes. With 274 international appearances under her belt, the Belgium captain is one of the team's most experienced campaigners and consistently excellent performers.

WEBSITE: www.hockey.be

TWITTER: [@BELRedPanthers](https://twitter.com/BELRedPanthers)

FACEBOOK: [BelgianRedPanthers](https://www.facebook.com/BelgianRedPanthers)

INSTAGRAM: [belredpanthers](https://www.instagram.com/belredpanthers)

Shirt #	Player	Age *	Caps **
2	LIMAUGE Sophie	20	37
3	CAVENAILE Louise	29	225
4	FOBE Aline	25	156
6	RAES Anouk (C)	29	274
7	VANDERMEIREN Judith	23	130
8	PUVREZ Emma	20	94
9	RAYMAKERS Mathilde	20	16
10	VERSAVEL Louise	23	152
11	PEETERS Joanne	22	77
13	GERNIERS Alix	25	174
14	SINIA Emilie	33	226
15	WEYNS Anne-Sophie	23	62
16	DUQUESNE Tiphaine	21	21
17	STRUJJK Michelle	20	22
19	NELEN Barbara	26	219
21	D'HOOGHE Aisling (GK)	23	157
22	VANDEN BORRE Stephanie	20	99
23	SOTGIU Elena (GK)	23	33
25	LECLEF Pauline	23	58
26	HILLEWAERT Lien	20	37
27	BOON Jill	31	271
29	PICARD Elodie (GK)	20	6
Team Staff			
PECHE Muriel	Team Manager		
THIJSSSEN Niels	Head Coach		
WIJBENGA Frank	Assistant Coach		
LETCHFORD Simon	Assistant Coach		

NB: Team lists are subject to change following the event briefing meeting.

* at start of competition

** as of 21 July 2018.

OFFICIALS

Appointment	Name	Country	Appointed By
Technical Delegate	STANDLEY Tammy	AUS	FIH
Technical Official	FUERST Elisabeth	AUT	FIH
Technical Official	HAWKE Gavin	NZL	FIH
Technical Official	RINALDINI Lorena	ARG	FIH
Technical Official	STICKLAND Sam	ENG	FIH
Technical Official	van RENSBURG Marie	RSA	FIH
Technical Official	ZELKIN Rene	USA	FIH
FIH Medical Officer	GORDON Dr Leigh	RSA	FIH
Umpires Manager	de KLERK Marelize	RSA	FIH
Umpires Manager	O'CONNOR Ray	IRL	FIH
Umpire	CHURCH Amber	NZL	FIH
Umpire	de la FUENTE Carolina	ARG	FIH
Umpire	DELFORGE Laurine	BEL	FIH
Umpire	GIDDENS Maggie	USA	FIH
Umpire	HUDSON Kelly	NZL	FIH
Umpire	JOUBERT Michelle	RSA	FIH
Umpire	KEOGH Alison	IRL	FIH
Umpire	LIU Xiaoying	CHN	FIH
Umpire	McCLEAN Ayanna	TTO	FIH
Umpire	MEISTER Michelle	GER	FIH
Umpire	NEUMANN Aleisha	AUS	FIH
Umpire	PRESENQUI Irene	ARG	FIH
Umpire	ROSTRON Annelize	RSA	FIH

Appointment	Name	Country	Appointed By
Umpire	WILSON Sarah	SCO	FIH
Umpire	YAMADA Emi	JPN	FIH
Video Umpire Coach	METCHETTE Carol	IRL	FIH

Note: All officials correct at time of publication. Any updates will be posted to the following link:
<https://tms.fih.ch/competitions/869#officials>

EVENT LOGO



You can download the event logo by [clicking here](#)

PHOTOGRAPHY

In event photography: Getty Images will be capturing imagery from all of the matches being played in London. Media Subscribers to Getty's services will be able to download their images as part of their service. To subscribe to Getty Images, visit gettyimages.com and follow the registration process.

National Associations and Continental Federations: Getty will be providing National Associations and Continental Federations with a selection of images after each game. To access these photos free of charge, please email: media@fih.ch and in the email subject, state: FIH Images USAGE

FIH National Associations and Continental Federations can use images for their own below the line marketing and promotional purposes to include marketing collateral and digital channels (for example website and social media). Under no circumstances should they be used for commercial purposes. Detailed information about image usage will be provided upon receipt of registration email as detailed above.

KEY STATISTICS ABOUT THE HOCKEY WOMEN'S WORLD CUP



The Netherlands are the most successful team in the history of the Hockey Women's World Cup. Copyright: FIH / World Sport Pics.

No of previous editions: 13

No of teams participated: 28 – Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, China, England, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Soviet Union, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, USA, Wales.

Most titles: 7 – Netherlands

Most podium finishes: 12 – Netherlands (7 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze)

Total no of matches played: 535

Total no of goals scored: 1700

Average no of goals per match: 4

Most matches played: 91 – Argentina

Most matches won: 70 – Netherlands

Highest % of games won: 77.78% - Netherlands

Most goals scored: 251 - Netherlands

PREVIOUS WINNERS:

Netherlands: 7 – 1974, 1978, 1983, 1986, 1990, 2006, 2014

Argentina: 2 – 2002, 2010

Australia: 2 – 1994, 1998

Germany*: 2 – 1976, 1981

*As West Germany

SELECTED PLAYER STATISTICS (SINCE 1991)

All time top goal-scorer: 22 – Maartje Paumen (NED)

Most Field Goals: 15 – Kim Lammers (NED)

Most Penalty Corners: 16 – Maartje Paumen (NED)

Most Penalty Strokes: 6 – Maartje Paumen (NED)

A link to the statistics archive, which contains head to heads, team stats, individual stats, all time scorers and more, can be found at the following link: <http://stats.fih.ch/wc/>

Please be aware that this is an archive and will not be updated as the competition progresses.

FIH HERO WORLD RANKINGS - TOP 20

Appointment	Name	Country	Appointed By
1	Netherlands	EUR	2165
2	England	EUR	1823
3	Argentina	PAN	1793
4	New Zealand	OCE	1733
5	Australia	OCE	1625
6	Germany	EUR	1530
7	USA	PAN	1298
8	China	ASI	1256
9	Korea	ASI	1221
10	India	ASI	1040
11	Spain	EUR	1028
12	Japan	ASI	1005
13	Belgium	EUR	933
14	South Africa	AFR	911
15	Chile	PAN	870
16	Ireland	EUR	798
17	Italy	EUR	623
18	Scotland	EUR	594
19	Czech Republic	EUR	515
20	Belarus	EUR	508

Notes: The complete men's and women's FIH Hero World Rankings can be found here: <http://www.fih.ch/rankings/outdoor/>

THE HOCKEY REVOLUTION

The Hockey Revolution is the ten-year strategy for hockey that was launched by the FIH in 2014 and will set the direction of the sport leading to 2024, when the FIH will celebrate its centenary.

The Hockey Revolution has sparked a new era in hockey. With the ambition of making hockey a global game that inspires the next generation, it has been designed to unite the hockey community worldwide.

The strategy has one clear Ambition, four Big Goals and five Major Initiatives aimed at increasing attractiveness of hockey for fans. It has been designed to unite the hockey family at every level as it is only if we work together that this revolution will bring results.

For more information about the Hockey Revolution and the 5 Major Initiatives [click here](#)

FIH PRO LEAGUE: COUNTDOWN TO LAUNCH WELL UNDERWAY

Ahead of its launch in January 2019, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) looks ahead to the start of the game-changing FIH Pro League, which will see the nine best men's and women's teams from around the world play each other both at home and away every year.



The inaugural season of the FIH Pro League begins on 19 January 2019, with 152 matches scheduled to take place between January and June, with national stadiums hosting matches week in, week out.

Nine women's and nine men's teams will be competing for the FIH Pro League title, playing eight home and eight away matches throughout the first six months of every year. The top four teams will then compete to determine the winner in a Grand Final later in June.

The FIH Pro League features an equally amazing line up of nations, with both the Women's and Men's Leagues featuring a glittering array of the finest international hockey teams on earth. The Women's League will see Argentina, Australia, Belgium, China, Great Britain, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand and USA all going head to head, while Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Great Britain, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan and Spain will be fighting it out for the men's title.

The FIH recently confirmed the match schedule for the event, with Spain men will getting things underway when they host Rio 2016 and EuroHockey Championship silver medallists Belgium in the opening match of the FIH Pro League.

A busy schedule then follows, with the majority of early matches being played in the southern hemisphere.

As one of the early season highlights, Argentina women will be eagerly anticipating the arrival of reigning Hockey World Cup and World League champions Netherlands as the EuroHockey title winners head south to take on Las Leonas on 24 February.

Shortly afterwards the spotlight turns to Australia as their men and women challenge Oceania rivals New Zealand for continental bragging rights over the Saint Patrick's Day weekend – 17 March. The return matches will take place in New Zealand on Anzac Day – 25 April.

Another continental duel sure to get fans buzzing will be Argentina women's visit to the USA. The Pan American rivals, who have taken wins against each other in recent months, go head to head on 12 May.

The teams then follow the summer by returning to the northern hemisphere. An exciting end to the League awaits as nations compete to finish in the top four to guarantee qualification for the Grand Final.

With Pakistan men playing in Glasgow, Scotland, their match against Great Britain on 25 May is bound capture the imagination of fans. A large local Pakistani crowd will be looking forward to the friendly rivalry with their British opponents as they aim to defend their home turf in one of Great Britain's most multi-cultural cities.

European neighbours Germany and Netherlands men always provide lots of goals and drama, and in the FIH Pro League nothing less can be expected. Whilst Netherlands fans will be looking forward to backing their team in their homeland on 5 March, Germany will be aiming for victory against the European champions on their turf on 26 April.

In what will be a unique, double-header weekend, due to their proximity - Belgium men and women will play at home to Netherlands on the Saturday before replaying the match the following day in the Netherlands over the weekend of 8 and 9 June.

Another highlight in the women's competition will be the game between continental rivals Great Britain and Netherlands in what will be a rematch of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games final. As the world's number one ranked team, the Dutch will look to gain psychological advantage from their first encounter against the Olympic champions at their home turf on 1 June, before heading to Great Britain on 15 June.

Similarly, Argentina and Belgium men also have an ongoing rivalry following their Rio 2016 Olympic Games gold medal match. On that occasion Argentina men emerged victorious therefore Belgium will be wanting to turn the tables in what will be a dramatic end to their season on 23 June – the very last day of League competition.

Looking ahead to the start of this exhilarating new competition, FIH CEO Thierry Weil said:

“The planning for this ground-breaking event has been years in the making and we are extremely excited about the start of this competition on 19th January 2019. We have been pleased by the positive response from our stakeholders, who have recognised the importance of creating a product that will attract even more fans, television coverage and commercial partners.”

He continued:

“The FIH Pro League and the recently announced Hockey Series are both central to the New Event Portfolio, which has been developed to raise the global status and popularity of hockey as part of our ambition to make hockey ‘a global game that inspires future generations’. We believe that these innovative changes will have a huge impact on the continuing development and growth of hockey in all corners of the world, attracting an army of new fans, players, coaches and officials to the sport.”

For further information about the FIH Pro League, visit the Q&A section on the FIH website by [clicking here](#)

Grand Final: 144 matches will take place as part of the League stage. A further eight matches will then take place at the Grand Final. This will take place in the Netherlands in June 2019 on dates yet to be confirmed. FIH will issue a press release once dates and a venue have been approved.