

BREAKING NEWS - PRESS RELEASE – ROTHERHAM HOCKEY CLUB



‘England and Great Britain most capped hockey player Barry Middleton to attend a celebratory opening of the new pitch for Rotherham Hockey Club’

It's with great excitement that Rotherham Hockey Club announce their new pitch at Sheffield Hallam University Sports Park on Bawtry Road in Rotherham will be opened by Barry Middleton on 9th September 2017 at 12 noon.

Barry is a local hockey hero and was named as captain of the Great Britain Team and has a wealth of experience with Rio 2016 being his fourth Olympic Games.

Olympian Barry has also become the most capped English hockey international with 395 caps for GB and England Hockey and has scored 113 goals to date. Born in Doncaster he now plays in the England Hockey Premiership League for Holcombe in Kent.

The opening of the new pitch marks the start of the clubs 'HockeyFest' activities which is an England Hockey initiative about supporting hockey clubs around the country to inspire the local community to play hockey and a great reason to get members and guests together ahead of the forthcoming season.

The opening event will also see dignitaries from other funding partners involved with the new venture including Sheffield Hallam University, England Hockey, Sport England and The National Hockey Foundation.

At the pitch side ribbon cutting Rotherham Hockey Club are also pleased to announce that Barry will be joined by Sue Catton, Head of Events for England Hockey.

RHC president and Youth Co-ordinator Dave Woodward said: *"Since the closure of the old Firth Rixson Aurora Sports Club and forced move out of Rotherham into Sheffield our membership has declined and our outreach work in local schools has suffered. We have worked hard to get back to a new site in Rotherham. The scheme will be a major boost to both our club and the University and will provide a first class facility that can be enjoyed by all those involved in the sport and help us achieve our targets in developing the sport to all but especially young people".*

Richard McGloin, Director of Commercial Services said: *"Sheffield Hallam University has worked in partnership with England Hockey, Sport England and Rotherham Hockey Club to bring the Aurora hockey pitch back into use... 'Following the success of GB Ladies at the last Olympic Games hockey is seeing large numbers of new people wanting to play... The newly refurbished pitch will allow Hallam to increase the number of students participating in hockey...In addition to this the work will provide a great facility for Rotherham Hockey Club and the local community in helping to increase participation in this popular sport."*

Rotherham Hockey Club, who are also celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year, are now making final arrangements for the visit and invite all Life Members; Vice Presidents; players past, present and new; parents and guests to attend and be part of this momentous occasion and meet one of the greatest hockey internationals as they join RHC Hockeyfest activities.

Plans are also still underway with Sheffield Hallam University to mark the 'official' opening of the whole facility scheduled for autumn 2017 with the Vice –Chancellor and other dignitaries in attendance.

For more details and times of all our activities and for news regarding the opening celebrations you can follow us on Twitter @RotherhamHC or visit our web site www.rotherhamhc.org.uk and please do join us on Facebook.





Notes to press / media:

If you need more information about the visit or wish to cover events on the day you can contact RHC Communications Officer richard.haigh@rotherhamhc.org.uk or Beth Moorley England Hockey Communications Officer beth.moorley@englandhockey.co.uk or Sarah Duce SHU PR officer s.duce@shu.ac.uk