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MATCH

	REPORT									
Saturda 18th January			4		5	Elite League				
L		Period Scor	e s 1-	0, 2-1, 1-4						
jānis Voris	Starter	Noah Delmas	~	Jordan Stallard	~	Ryan Foss	~			
n Shane Owen	BackUp	Olivier LeBlanc	~	Lucas Chiodo	~	Phélix Martine	eau 🗸			
e		Tyler Heidt	~	Michael Cichy	~	Massimo Caro	zza 🗸			
		Brodie Kay	~	Johnny Curran	×	Kieran Craig	~			
U		Daniel Krenželok	~	Austin Farley	~	Ben Brown	~			
p		Patrick Kyte	×	Aiden Wilson	×	James Spence	×			
F S				Charles-Antoine	e Pa	iement 🗸				
Pering	Refs	Anderson	Â	Arnold	Une	L ralov				

The Flyers started the weekend with a road trip to meet the Manchester Storm with the two teams occupying the places outwith the play offs. The home side were without Connor Lee, Noah Kaariainen and Gianluca Estevez. The Flyers travelled without Patrick Kyte, Aiden Wilson, Cameron Kenny and James Spence. Ahead of face off there was a minutes applause for Rob Trumbley who played for Storm amongst others and that Flyers fans will remember as a fearsome opponent. It was a quiet start to the game without a shot on goal in the opening four minutes. The first real chance of the game then came when Austin Farley carried the puck through the middle and his lay off to the right wing saw Michael Cichy clank one of the post. The following shift Farley was parked in front of Evan Weninger but couldn't get a clean connection on the puck as it was scrambled clear of the Storm goal. In the 6th minute it was Cichy again testing Weninger but his shot hit the outside frame of the goal before Olivier Leblanc was called for roughing to send the Storm on the first power play of the night. The Storm had several chances with the man advantage with Jānis Voris gloving a snapshot from Stephen Johnson before doing well in a scramble to keep Alexis D'Aoust out. The Storm weren't finished and Tyler Hinam in his first game back from injury went through the centre of the defence and Voris made the initial pad save before eventually sitting on the puck to get the stoppage and the Flyers completed the kill. In the 10th minute Kieran Craig had a shot from a tight angle saved by Weninger and the Storm then went the other way on a 2 on 1 with Owen Griffiths failing to get a stick on the puck with the net gaping. The home side however took the lead on the next shift when the Flyers failed to get the puck out of their zone and it ended up on the stick of Joe Morrow in the high slot and he found the top of the net above the glove of Voris. Weninger fought off a shot by Lucas Chiodo in the 11th minute. In the 12th minute Tyler Heidt was up on the rush and he took the puck to the net but the Storm goalie shut the wickets to deny him. A minute later and it was the visitors again with a quality chance when Farley threaded the puck to Cichy who went in on goal but couldn't beat the pad of Weninger on the back hand. Voris had to be alert as he gloved a shot from Cam Critchlow in the 15th minute the Grant Hebert went down the right wing and fired the puck into the logo of Voris. The final chance of the period fell to the Flyers as Lucas Chiodo was robbed by Weninger who made a huge pad save and then made another block to preserve the lead.

PERIOD 2

In the 22nd minute Craig had a shot from the circles that Wenninger held. D'Aoust found himself with plenty of time and space in the 25th minute on the left hand side and he tried to pick the top corner on Voris who snagged his shot. The Storm went back on the power play in the 27th minute when Daniel Krenželok was called for delay of game for shooting the puck over the glass. The Storm power play which is statistically worst in the league were unable to get any shots on Voris as Flyers completed the kill. In the 29th minute Chiodo picked up the puck in the neutral zone and scampered into the Storm zone but Weninger was equal to his back hand effort. In the 30th minute the Flyers survived not getting the puck out of their zone when Voris was out aggressively to stop D'Aoust before Stephen Johnson took a slashing penalty. The Flyers with the a advantage were unable to get anything set up and late on in their power play they shipped a short handed goal as Morrow took the puck down the right side and his pass cross slot saw Voris miss his poke check and the puck landed on Loren Ulett's stick to fire home. The visitors almost gave up another short handed counter on the next shift as Voris was forced to come out of his goal way above the circles to poke check the puck and clear the zone as the

MATCH REPORT

Storm returned to full strength. The home side did however strike again moments later when Hebert carried the puck down the right and his back hand pass found Ryan Hughes on the edge of the crease who had an easy task to find the back of the net. The Flyers called their time out at this point with 33 minutes on the clock. The Storm almost increased their lead in the 36th minute on a 2 on 1 but the puck bobbled over a Storm stick with plenty of net top aim at. In the 38th minute Critchlow and Phélix Martineau dropped the gloves at centre ice with the Storm man getting the take down. On the restart the Flyers pulled a goal back when Krenželok let a shot go from inside the blueline and Weninger failed to hold it with the rebound finding the stick of Cichy in the slot who went five hole.

PERIOD 3

Two minutes into the final period Massimo Carozza with speed went in on the Storm goal and lost his footing before crashing into the boards but thankfully was able to return to the play. In the 44th minute the Storm added another goal as the Flyers turned the puck over in their zone and Voris made the initial save from D'Aoust but the rebound was picked up by Hughes who fired home. Crucially however 30 seconds later the Flyers reduced the arrears when they gained possession of the puck in the Storm zone and Chiodo fed it to Noah Delmas who came in off the blue line and his shot beat Weninger under the glove and above the pad. The Flyers were back on the power play in the 45th minute when Hughes was called for roughing. Hinam straight away had a shorthanded bid but Voris made the save and the Flyers once again had trouble getting anything set up as the Storm completed the kill and returned to full strength. In the 47th minute Hughes tested Voris who was his equal and a minute later Martineau create a chance with a big hit along the boards and when the puck found Charles-Antoine Paiement his slapshot was denied by a huge shot block by Zach Sullivan. The Flyers returned to the power play in the 51st minute as the Storm were penalised for too many men and this time they made their numerical advantage count. The Flyers recycled the puck and Ryan Foss was able to feed Chiodo who stepped out from the corner of the goal and with Weninger sprawling across the ice he lifted the puck high into the net to make it a one goal game. 90 seconds later and incredibly the visitors tied the game when the Flyers again outworked the Storm in their own zone and Foss again was the provider as he slid a pass out front from behind the net and Craig buried the puck past Weninger. Storm called their time out as the Flyers tails were clearly up. Martineau went very close when he shot against the grain in the 55th minute and the puck whistled past the post with Weninger rooted. Voris made a great save in the 56th minute on Jake Durflinger but the Flyers were called on the play with Leblanc getting the gate for slashing. Craig Martin was first to threaten the Flyers goal on the Storm power play but Voris stood tall and he then denied D'Aoust with a pad save on a big slapshot as the home side iced five forwards in an effort to get the regulation winner. With 30 seconds left on the Flyers kill the numbers were evened as the Storm were penalised for a high stick as the teams skated 4 on 4. The Flyers returned to full strength and with two minutes remaining got the go ahead goal. Martineau had the shot and Weninger made the save but couldn't stop the rebound which found Cichy and he drove the puck into the net. With 80 seconds remaining the Storm pulled Weninger for the extra attacker and the Flyers iced the puck a couple of times. Voris made another huge stop in a scramble around his net as the Storm players crashed his crease but the Flyers stood firm to ice a memorable comeback win.

	<u>Storm</u>	Stats				<u>Flyers</u>	<u>Stats</u>	
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
For	Morrow	Martin	Johnson	1	Cichy	Stallard	Krenželok	For
46	Ulett	Morrow	Durflinger	2	Delmas	Chiodo	Martineau	35
Shots	Hughes	Hebert	Durflinger	3	Chiodo	Foss	Cichy	Shots
Against	Hughes	D'Aoust	Morrow	4	Craig	Foss	Carozza	Against
35				5	Cichy	Martineau	Foss	46
PiMS				6				PiMS
13				7				11
				8				
MOM				9				MOM
Hughes				10				Voris







GETTING TO KNOW #93

BEN BROWN

Date of Birth – January 13, 2004

Position - Forward

Age - 21

Height - 178cm / 5'10"

Place of Birth – Dundee

Weight - 89 kg / 196lbs

Shoots - Left

Professional Career 2021-22 Dundee Stars (EIHL) 2022-23 Dundee Stars (EIHL) 2023-24 Milton Keynes Lightning (NIHL) 2024-25 Milton Keynes Lightning (NIHL), Fife Flyers (EIHL)





#93 WE ASKED...

1. What other sports did you play growing up? A lot of roller hockey

2. Who has been the biggest influence on your career so far?

My parents have been the biggest influence for sure. they've gave up and sacrificed a lot for me to be where i am today

3. Who is the best player you have played with?

When I was 15 I played with Ivan Miroshnichenko and he plays in the NHL now which is pretty cool. But in my senior career so far probably Sebastian Bengtsson

4. Who is the best player you have played against?

I can't really name one player from my senior career yet as I've played against so many good players. But again when i was younger i played against a guy Filip Mesar. He got drafted first round a couple years ago he was really good.

5. What is the most memorable game you have played in?

Can't pick one but a couple cup finals with my old team the Dundee Comets - winning trophies is always memorable.

6. What is your favourite/least favourite rink to play in?

Favourite either Belfast or Nottingham. Least favourite Kilmarnock

7. If you could make one rule change in hockey, what would it be and why?

No icings

8. Which hockey team do you cheer for/which one do you root against?

Big Detroit Red Wings fan. Don't really hate on any teams in the NHL

9. Most admired hockey player and why?

Pavel Datsyuk. Arguably one of the smartest players ever and his stick work was insane.

10. What would be your best piece of advice for youngsters starting in hockey?

Never give up. Work hard and always listen to your coaches.

11. What do you consider to be the strongest part of your game and where are you trying to improve?

I think my shot is the strongest part of my game and I'm always trying to work on my speed

12. Pre-game routine?

Nothing crazy just arrive 3 hours before face-off, have a coffee and chill out for a bit before I start warming up

13. Pre-game meal?

Pasta bolognese

14. Any gameday superstitions?

Just arriving 3 hours before face off, doing the same warmup and listening to some music in my airpods

15. Favourite other sport(s) to play?
Roller hockey and Badminton
16. Favourite other sport(s) to watch?
I just watch hockey haha
17. Favourite athlete (non hockey)?
Cristiano Ronaldo
18. Favourite sports team (non hockey)?
Manchester United
19. Which do you prefer books or movies?
Movies
20. Favourite TV show(s)?
The Office, Gavin and Stacey

21. If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Probably pasta bolognese

22. Favourite beverage (non alcoholic/alcoholic)? An ice cold can of Coke

23. If you could share a meal with any 4 individuals, living or dead, who would they be?

Paul Bissonnette, Bob Probert, Tie Domi and Ryan Reaves. I'm sure there would be some funny stories at that table

24. Favourite singer/music/band? The 1975

25. What is your favourite vacation destination?

I went to Paris last summer with my girlfriend that was a cool place

26. What was your favourite and least favourite subject in school?

PE favourite, RME least favourite

27. What is your go to Karaoke song?

Everybody wants to rule the world - Tears for Fears

28. If you could join any past or current music group which would it be and in what capacity? (guitar/vocals/drummer etc)

I'd like to be a guitarist for the 1975 that would be pretty cool

29. Have you ever had a nickname? What is it?I've had a few, Benny, Brownie, Le Brun, Bean30. If you were a super-hero, what powers would you have?

Read people's minds

31. What three items would you take with you on a desert island?

Stick, orange hockey ball, and a net, so i would never be bored

32. How many languages do you speak? Just English

33. If not a hockey player what occupation would you have? Plumber

MATCH

DEDUDT

Sunday 19th January			2	PANTHERS	4	Elite League	
L		Period Scor	es 0	-0,2-1,0-3			
Jānis Voris	Starter	Noah Delmas	~	Ryan Foss	~	Massimo Carozza	a 🔹
Shane Owen	BackUp	Olivier LeBlanc	~	Lucas Chiodo	~	Phélix Martineau	
9		Tyler Heidt	~	Michael Cichy	~	Jordan Stallard	
-		Brodie Kay	~	Johnny Curran	×	Kieran Craig	
J		Daniel Krenželok	~	Austin Farley	~	Ben Brown	
5		Patrick Kyte	×	Aiden Wilson	×	James Spence	>
s				Charles-Antoin	e Pa	iement 🗸	
Rodger	Refs	Ferguson	Â	Rodger	Line	Ward	٦

The Fifers welcomed the Nottingham Panthers hoping to carry forward the momentum from the previous evening's win in Manchester. The visitors started Jason Grande in net and were without the injured Quinn Wichers as they were looking for a four point weekend to keep in touch with the top three teams. The Flyers started exactly the same bench as the previous evening with Patrick Kyte, James Spence Aiden Wilson and Cameron Kenny all scratched.

The first shot of the game came after 20 seconds when Grande blockered away a shot from Massimo Carozza who went down the right wing. Jānis Voris was in the game after 90 seconds when he stopped a Tim Doherty shot. In the 4th minute Voris was almost caught out by a shot from the half boards by Jordan Kelsall that he blockered and it almost spun into the net. The game was fast paced with very few whistles as the teams went back and forth at each other. The Panthers took the first penalty of the game in the 7th minute when Didrik Henbrant went to the box for hooking. The Flyers couldn't get anything set up in the Panthers zone and the closest to an opening goal came on a shorthanded bid by Kelsall who tried to sneak the puck past Voris at his post but he scrambled it clear as the Panthers completed the kill. In the 11th minute Voris came up with a solid save when he got a glove to a shot by Zech Cooper who was in the slot but he did enough to deflect the puck over the bar. Tyler Heidt tested Grande from distance in the 13th minute and he had some trouble tracking the puck but the Panthers then broke quickly and Voris was again stellar as he made a couple of pad saves in quick succession to deny Hugo Roy. Phélix Martineau then forced Grande to cover up a shot as the pace of the game was creating a lot of exciting hockey. The Panthers came close in the 14th minute to the opener when Voris bobbled a puck that got behind him and the puck lay flat on the goal line before being swept clear, the referee signaled no goal as play continued and the Flyers broke 2 on 1 with Lucas Chiodo feathering the puck to Martineau who was in deep but Grande slid across to make a pad save at his post. When the play was blown dead the referee went to video review which upheld the no goal on ice decision. A Jordan Stallard one timer in the 115th minute was sticked away by Grande. Voris then denied Mitchell Fossier from the slot with a lights out reaction save as the teams headed to the room all square.

PERIOD 2

Carozza had the first shot of the middle period when he tested Grande from the left wing. The Panthers goalie was scrambling a minute later but Charles-Antoine Paiement couldn't get a contact on the puck. The Panthers went down the ice and Voris gloved a long range shot by Josh Tetlow. Paiement on the back hand was foiled by Grande in the 23rd minute and a moments later a nice flowing move involving Stallard, Austin Farley and Michael Cichy saw the latter release a shot from an angle that was blockered away by the visiting keeper. The Panthers took the lead in the 26th minute when Fossier had time down low to pick the top corner over Voris's glove. A minute later and the Flyers were guilty of a turnover in their own zone and Voris made a full splits save at close range to rob Reid Stefanson. In the 30th minute Grande held on to a Ben Brown shot with Stallard on the doorstep.

MATCH

REPORT

A few moments later Voris mad a save on Fossier but the Flyers were penalised on the play when Noah Delmas was sent to the box for tripping. The Panthers first man advantage of the night saw them with lots of zone time around the Fife net without getting any direct shots on Voris. The Flyers had a short handed chance when Martineau broke 2 on 1 with his shot missing the target but the Flyers completed the kill. The Flyers leveled the game in the 33rd minute when Ryan Foss played a pass to Carozza who sniped the corner of the net stick side on Grande. Shortly after the Flyers were back on the power play as Zech was called for a trip on Paiement. Sam Herr took the puck the length of the ice and drove the net but Voris stood strong as the Flyers again couldn't settle the puck down in the Panthers zone and the visitors returned to full strength without any serious danger around Grande. Voris again denied Herr in the 38th minute as the Panthers captain tried to drag the puck across his crease. Inside the final two minutes Paiement was given the gate for hooking as the Panthers went on their second power play. Within 11 seconds the Flyers were incredibly ahead as Kieran Craig stole the puck and went in on Grande who made the first save but Craig was able to slip the rebound in at the post for a shorthanded tally. The Panthers resumed their power play that was cut short when Matt Alfaro was binned for a slash as the teams ended the period skating 4 on 4.

PERIOD 3

The Flyers returned to full strength after 30 seconds of the third period and had a minute of power play which the Panthers again killed with ease. In the 43rd minute Voris was aggressively out of his crease to take the net away from Henbrant in the slot. Tyler Heidt was then called for a cross check and Voris made a blocker save on Herr and the Panthers again had a lot possession in the Fife zone without generating very much direct action on the Fife netminder as the Flyers returned to full strength. The Panthers however were ramping up the pressure and the Flyers struggled to exit their own zone. Stallard was penalised for slashing in the 48th minute and Voris got across his goal to stop a shot from Kristoff Kontos and that was the only danger as the Flyers completed another kill. The visitors pressure did however pay off in the 51st minute Zsomber Garat let a shot go from the high slot and it somehow squeaked through Voris to find the net. Just over a minute later and the visitors had the lead with a well worked goal that pulled Voris out of position and Kontos provided the back door finish. The Flyers returned to the power play in the 53rd minute with Matt Spencer being called for boarding. The Flyers had an early chance as a shot was tipped in front of Grande and almost found the net. With 6 seconds remaining the Panthers were again penalized with Jaako Niskala going to the penalty box for a cross check. A short 5 on 3 saw the Flyers miss the net with a shot and Herr went the other way on another shorthanded bid but Voris made another excellent save. Martineau had a shot blockered away by Grande and Henbrandt saw his shorthanded shot saved by Voris as the Panthers returned to full strength. Voris was pulled for the extra skater with 100 seconds to play as the Flyers used their time out. The first couple of draws were won by the Flyers but the Panthers defended doggedly and finally worked the puck out of their zone and with patient possession got the puck to Otto Nieminen who found the empty net to ice the game with 45 seconds remaining.

	<u>Flyers</u>	<u>Stats</u>				Panthe	rs Stats	
Shots For	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
For	Carozza	Foss	Farley	1	Fossier	Herr		For
41	Craig	Heidt	Martineau	2	Garat	Nieminen		54
Shots				3	Kontos	Zech		Shots
Against				4	Nieminen	Spencer	Henbrant	Against
54				5				41
PiMS				6				PiMS
8				7				10
				8				
MOM				9				MOM
Voris				10				Fossier



DOING THE NUMBERS

Flyers Stats 2024/25

	Players Pos GP Tot G Tot A Tot Pts PP A SH A Ev A PiMs S S % GAA SO PS S TOI GC															
Players	Pos		Tot G						PiMs	S	S %	GAA		PS S	TOI	GC
Shane Owen	G	37	0	2	2	0	0	2		1340	0.89	4.8	0	0	1888	151
Brython Preece	G	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luca Tessadri	G	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Caiden MacColl	G	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jānis Voris	G	16	0	1	1	0	0	1	4	454	0.89	4.78	0	0	628	50
Cameron Kenny	G	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Players	Pos	GP	Tot G	Tot A	Tot Pts	PP G	PP A	PP Pts	SH G	SH A	SH Pts	EVG	Ev A	Ev Pts	PiMS	SOG
Noah Delmas	D	42	2	12	14	1	6	7			0	1	6	7	16	51
Madi Dikhanbek	D	27	0	2	2	-		0			0	-	2	2	12	42
Tyler Heidt	D	41	4	11	15	1	2	3		1	1	3	8	11	32	72
Brodie Kay	D	34	0	0	0	-	-	0		-	0		Ŭ	0	2	23
Daniel Krenželok	D	41	3	6	9	1	3	4			0	2	3	5	40	137
Patrick Kyte	D	37	2	4	6	1	1	4			0	1	3	4	40	52
	_	37	0			1	1	2				1	3	4		
Olivier LeBlanc	D			8	8		1				0		'		43	32
Fynn Page	D	11	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	0
Josh Saunders	D	1	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	1
	D	0	0	0	0			0			0			0		
Lucas Chiodo	F	41	13	26	39	5	7	12			0	8	19	27	12	117
Michael Cichy	F	41	15	14	29	6	4	10			0	9	10	19	12	85
Johnny Curran	F	7	2	6	8		3	3			0	2	3	5	4	22
Austin Farley	F	27	4	9	13	1	1	2			0	3	8	11	8	51
Artur Gatiyatov	F	12	0	1	1			0			0		1	1	0	18
Martin Látal	F	11	0	1	1			0			0		1	1	4	33
Phélix Martineau	F	35	18	18	36	5	7	12		1	1	13	10	23	27	134
Maxim Musorov	F	23	5	4	9		1	1			0	5	3	8	6	46
Drake Pilon	F	29	3	7	10		2	2			0	3	5	8	51	51
Nikolai Shulga	F	22	2	6	8	1	2	3			0	1	4	5	2	22
James Spence	F	11	1	0	1			0			0	1		1	0	6
Ryan Foss	F	30	5	11	16	1	6	7			0	4	5	9	49	50
Aiden Wilson	F	14	0	0	0			0			0			0	4	3
Massimo Carozza	F	21	6	5	11	1	1	2			0	5	4	9	2	44
Jordan Stallard	F	19	1	3	4	-	-	0			0	1	3	4	8	28
Ben Brown	F	12	0	0	0			Ő			0	-		0	0	11
Kieran Craig	F	11	4	2	6			0	1		1	3	2	5	4	41
Owen Dell	F	1	0	0	0			0	1		0	5	4	0	0	0
Rhys Edwards	F	1	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	0
	г с															
Joe Lynch	r	1	0	0	0			0			0			0	0	0
Charles-Antoine Paiement	F	6	1	0	1			0			0	1		1	2	20
Diama in Diama																
Players in BLUE																
are everpresents														-		
Inc All Competitions														Team		
Figures as at		Totals		159	248	24	47	71	1	2	3	66	107	173	403	1192
19/01/2025		L	0 SO Goals	5												
					Le	gend										

GP - Games Played, Tot G - Total Goals Scored, Tot A - Total Assists, Tot Pts - Total Points, PP G - Power Play Goals Scored, PP A - Power Play Assists, SH G - Shorthanded Goals Scored, SH A - Shorthanded Assists, EV G - Even Strength Golas Scored, EV A - Even Strength Assists, PiMS - Penalty Minutes, SOG - Shots on Goal, S - Shots faced, S % - Save Percentage, GAA - Goals Against Average, SO - Shut Outs, PS S - Penalty Shots Saved , TOI - Time on Ice, GC - Goals Conceded

Penalty Shots Scored	Shorthanded Goals Scored	Game Winning Goals	Empty Net Goals For	Empty Net Goals Against
	1 - Craig	2 - Cichy 1 - Musorov Krenželok Chiodo Martineau	1 - Pilon	8

WEEK 20 - FLYERS STATS RECAP

On Saturday night.....

Manchester Storm 4 Fife Flyers 5 - Elite League

Congratulations to Johnny Curran on his first coaching win.

Congratulations to Jānis Voris on recording his first win.

The Flyers for the first time when trailing after two periods this season came back to win -0 having previously lost on all 27 previous occasions in that situation.

4 goals in the final period is the most the Flyers have scored in any 20 minutes of hockey this season. 2 PPG's tied the most scored with the man advantage for Flyers in a game this season.

Ryan Foss with 3 assists tied for most in a game this season with Lucas Chiodo and Phélix Martineau. It was the 5th short handed goal given up by the Flyers on the season and the second Loren Ulett has scored against the Flyers.

The Flyers halted their losing streak at 13 games and avoided equalling their longest winless streak of 14 games in the EIHL and also the potential to equal their all-time consecutive losing streak of 15 games from season 1950/51.

The Flyers ended their longest losing streak against the Storm on Altrincham ice at 5 games.

The Flyers ended a season high streak of 6 games without a power play goal.

On Sunday night.....

Fife Flyers 2 Nottingham Panthers 4 – Elite League

The Panthers made it five consecutive wins against the Flyers.

The Flyers trailed for 15:30 in the game, the shortest time in arrears to an opponent over the last 9 games. Kieran Craig scored the Flyers first shorthanded goal of the season. The Flyers were the only team without a shortie on the season.

The last Flyers player to score shorthanded was Teemu Pulkkinen in February 2024.

Nottingham have now conceded 6 shorthanded goals which equals both Dundee and Manchester as most across all EIHL competitions this season.

The Flyers month end stats across all EIHL seasons are below:

	January											
	Р	W	D	L	OT/SOL	% W	% D	% L	F	Α	Diff +/-	
2011/12	10	3	0	6	1	30.0	0.0	70.0	20	30	-10	
2012/13	11	3	0	7	1	27.3	0.0	72.7	30	38	-8	
2013/14	9	2	0	6	1	22.2	0.0	77.8	26	35	-9	
2014/15	10	5	0	5	0	50.0	0.0	50.0	39	43	-4	
2015/16	13	7	0	5	1	53.8	0.0	46.2	48	45	3	
2016/17	9	5	0	3	1	55.6	0.0	44.4	25	26	-1	
2017/18	10	5	0	3	2	50.0	0.0	50.0	34	35	-1	
2018/19	9	4	0	4	1	44.4	0.0	55.6	30	37	-7	
2019/20	8	0	0	7	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	18	33	-15	
2021/22	13	1	0	11	1	7.7	0.0	92.3	24	53	-29	
2022/23	8	4	0	2	2	50.0	0.0	50.0	22	25	-3	
2023/24	8	2	0	3	3	25.0	0.0	75.0	24	29	-5	
2024/25	6	1	0	5	0	16.7	0.0	83.3	11	31	-20	
	124.0	42.0	0.0	67.0	15.0	33.9	0.0	66.1	351.0	460.0	-109.0	

		Season 2024-25 Flyers games Officiated by the Stripey's										
	2 Dave Good	1	19 Steve Brown	14	44 Sam Anderson	4	77 James Ions	2				
	3 Tom Pering	2	20 Pavel Halas	7	45 Vytas Lukosevicius	1	24 Rene Jensen	1				
	9 Joe Sewell	3	23 Andrew Miller		46 Andrew Jarvie	2						
CS ALL	11 Matt Rose	2	25 Andrew Dalton	3	48 Oliver Truswell							
	14 Chris Wells	3	42 Hollie Neenan	1	49 Daniel Ferguson	16						
#	16 Alan Craig	9	43 Graham Rodger	10	52 Stephen Matthews	3						





Recent Form Guide

Following their meeting with the Flyers the weekend before Christmas the Giants then met the Clan in Glasgow on Boxing Day where they suffered their joint highest defeat on the season so far as the home side won 5-1. Two days later and the Giants reversed their fortunes on home ice with the Clan going down 4-1. The Dundee Stars provided the opponents in the final two games of 2024 and following a 5-2 win at the SEE the Giants made it back to back wins when they won 4-3 at Dundee Ice Arena on Hogmanay. It was to be a rocky start to 2025 for the Giants as they went down 5-3 on home ice to the Sheffield Steelers and then coughed up a point as they lost 3-2 in a shootout in the Midlands against the Coventry Blaze. The Nottingham Panthers visited Belfast for a two game weekend and were shutout 2-0 by the Giants in the first game who then followed up with a 4-2 win. The following weekend it was another home doubleheader for the Giants as they saw off the Steelers 4-2 and the Manchester Storm by the odd goal in five. A midweek visit to Surrey yielded two points in a 5-2 win against the Guildford Flames before a further four points were hoovered up last weekend with a shootout win at the SSE against the Coventry Blaze and a statement 4-1 win against the second placed Cardiff Devils in Wales. The Giants head to Tayside to play the Dundee Stars following their meeting with the Flyers.

LAST LEAGUE VISIT FROM GIANTS

Saturday 21st December 2024









e	G
gue	
	1.

	Flyers Stats					Giants Stats		
Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For		Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
Carozza	Cichy	Delmas	14	Goal 1	Morin	Barriga	Hanson	49
			Shots Against	Goal 2	Lee	Conway	Kawaguchi	Shots Against
			49	Goal 3	Conway	Hanson	Piccinich	14
			PiMS	Goal 4	Boudrais	Hanson	Roach	PiMS
			4	Goal 5	Lake	Lee	Bast	4
				Goal 6	Morin	Carpenter	Galambos	
			Goalie	Goal 7				Goalie
			Owen	Goal 8				Whistle
				Goal 9				
				Goal 10				

OVERALL LEAGUE HOME RECORD AGAINST GIANTS

P 31 W 9 L 22 F 78 A 111

Number Crunching

This will be the Flyers 800th game in all EIHL competitions and their 400th game at home in all EIHL competitions.

The Flyers have dropped their last three games at home against the Giants and have been outscored 3-18 in the process.

Phelix Martineau has three goals in the meetings with the Giants this season whilst Mark Cooper and Pierre-Olivier Morin with four each lead the way for the Giants against the Flyers.

The Giants have 15 different scorers in their games against Flyers this season and the Flyers have 7 different scorers against Giants.

The Giants are looking to extend their winning streak to 8 games which would be a season high for them. The Giants lead all teams with 7 shutouts across all EIHL competitions this season.

The Flyers with 10 have fewest goals from the blueline in all competitions this season, the Giants lead all teams with 30 goals from their defence.

Coming into the weekend there is quite the symmetry in Giants scoring as they have 56 goals in all three regulation periods across all EIHL competitions.

Giants 3.93 goals scored per game average leads all teams as does their average of 2.25 goals conceded per game.

The Giants also have the most shots for and least shots against average per game of all 10 teams.



WEEKEND PREVIEW WEEK 22



Recent Form Guide

Coventry and Flyers last met on the first weekend of 2025 and the following night the Blaze made it a four point weekend as they overcame the visiting Belfast Giants 3-2 in a shootout. The following weekend the Blaze started in Sheffield where they were shutout 5-0 by the Steelers before they picked up a comfortable 5-1 win against the Manchester Storm at the Skydome the following night. A 2-1 reverse in Nottingham was then followed by a 3-2 overtime win against the visiting Guildford Flames. Last weekend the Blaze made it three consecutive games beyond regulation as they were downed in Belfast 3-2 in a shootout before overcoming the Dundee Stars at the Skydome by a similar scoreline but this time the points were decided in overtime. In midweek the Blaze hosted the Guildford Flames who produced a strong third period to score five unanswered goals and claim a 6-3 win. Ahead of their meeting with the Flyers they visited the Storm in Manchester.

		LASI	LEAGUI	E VIS		DLAZE		
	nday ember 2024		9		2	FIFE 19/38 Clyrst	Elite League	
	Blaze Stats					Flyers Stats		
Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For		Scorer	Assist	Assist	Shots For
Stridsberg	Constable		51	Goal 1	Cichy	Delmas	Martineau	27
Gresock	Heintz	Amorosa	Shots Against	Goal 2	Delmas	Cichy		Shots Against
Luciani	Stridsberg		27	Goal 3				51
Regush	Stridsberg	Seitz	PiMS	Goal 4				PiMS
Seitz	McKenzie		8	Goal 5				10
Hopkins	Jurgens	Clements		Goal 6				
Seitz	Regush		Goalie	Goal 7				Goalie
Seitz	Regush	Tallberg	Robson	Goal 8				Owen
Heintz	Tallberg	Capps		Goal 9]
				Goal 10				

LAST LEAGUE VISIT TO BLAZE

OVERALL LEAGUE AWAY RECORD AGAINST BLAZE

P 30 W 9 L 21 F 75 A 128

Number Crunching

The Flyers have lost all three meetings this season against the Blaze and have been outscored 4-19 during those games.

The last meeting in the Midlands stands as the biggest win for the Blaze this season.

Michael Cichy has two goals in the meetings with the Blaze this season whilst Nick Seitz and Chase Regush with four each lead the way for the Blaze against the Flyers.

Ten different Blaze players have found the net against the Flyers this season with three different Flyers finding the net in those three games.

The Blaze have had 11 games decided beyond regulation in all EIHL competitions which is the most of all teams. They are 6 and 5 in those games.

Only the Flyers forwards have scored fewer even strength goals than the Blaze forwards across all EIHL competition this season. The Blaze forwards lead all teams with power play goals scored this season in all games.

The Blaze have scored the second most shorthanded goals this season with 8 but have also conceded 6 which is joint most.





A summary of all of the action from the previous weekend across the EIHL.

Friday 17th January

Glasgow Clan 1 Sheffield Steelers 3 Elite League

(0-3, 1-0, 0-0,) SOG 35-24 PIMs 0-0 Att 3492

Sheffield Steelers moved to within four points of league leaders Cardiff Devils after a 3-1 win over Glasgow Clan at Braehead Arena. Matt Greenfield was a big reason why the Steelers were ahead after the first 20 minutes as Clan just couldn't beat the visiting goalie despite several excellent chances to take the lead. A guick shot from Mark Simpson beat Landon Bow at 4:19 to put the Steelers ahead, and by just over nine minutes played they'd doubled it -Max Golod wrapping the puck around and finishing through Bow's fivehole at 9:02. Bow left the net after that goal, with Lucas Brine taking over, but would return for period two. After Alex Forbes and Deven Sideroff had seen chances stopped by Greenfield, in the closing seconds of the period Brandon Whistle ripped a shot into the top corner of Bow's net with 14 seconds left on the clock. With 4:28 left in period two, Clan thought they'd beaten Greenfield but Rylan Schwartz's goal was ruled out as Chris McKay had batted the puck to him with his hand. Some 30 seconds later, they finally did find a way through - Reece Kelly steeping up caused an interception in Clan's end, and as they went up the ice it was eventually Schwartz with a tap in off a Matt Berry pass back across the top of the crease. In the third, some excellent blocks by Dominic Cormier and Kevin Tansey helped the Steelers keep Clan restricted to longrange shots which Greenfield was seeing well. Clan pulled Bow with almost two and a half minutes to go, but, despite good puck pressure, really didn't force Greenfield into any desperate action in the final seconds. The win was Sheffield's eighth in a row.

Belfast Giants 4

Saturday 18th January

Elite League

Sheffield Steelers 2 (1-1, 2-1, 1-0,) SOG 37-33 PIMs 9-13 Att 7120

Belfast Giants ended Sheffield's eight-game unbeaten run, and moved themselves to within a point of the lead in the Elite League, with a 4-2 win over the Steelers in front of 7,120 fans at the SSE Arena. "It's huge," said Bo Hanson on the win, "Sheffield are won of the top teams in the league and to beat them at home too, especially in front of our crowd, builds our momentum, and hopefully, we can keep climbing moving forward." It was a cagey start as both sides knew the magnitude of the game. A well-worked put Sheffield one up at 10:11 when Brandon Whistle played the puck into Vallerand, who released to captain Robert Dowd to fire past Jackson Whistle in the Belfast net. The Giants were able to get level on powerplay through Grant Mismash, as Patrick Watling was called for interference. It was patient build-up from the Giants. The puck was worked to the right from Mike Lee to Grant Mismash, who hit a one-timer through Matt Greenfield's five-hole to get the Giants level at 19:08. "I thought our first period was pretty solid, and it's unfortunate that we were down one going into the last couple of minutes," continued Hanson. "Tying it up improved our morale in the room and gives us life as well. From there, we started the second period on time, got a couple goals there, obviously gave up one, but going into the third with a lead is huge for us." Period two had a lot going on. The Giants went ahead through Bobo Carpenter who fired home Gabe Bast's perfect feed at 27:37 to put his side 2-1 in front. David Goodwin, on his return to the Giants, played the puck to Ciaren Long in the offensive zone to allow the British forward to deke past his man and beat Greenfield at 29:24 to make it 3-1. The Steelers managed to pull one back through a rocket from Patrick Watling at 33:32, high over Whistle to make it a one-goal game again. Tensions boiled over as Josh Roach and Marc-Olivier Vallerand both fighting majors, with players from both sides involved in the scrum as the period ended. The all-important next goal went the way of the Giants 8:34 into period three through captain Mark Cooper to put them back two ahead. The Giants almost hit a fifth when a rebound bounced off the skate of Colton Saucerman, but an excellent reaction save by Greenfield gloved the puck as it rolled towards the goal line with some five and a half minutes to go. A late cross-checking minor on Brandon Whistle limited what the Steelers could do inside the final five minutes, and although they played with six skaters for the final 124 seconds they couldn't get one back and the Giants took an important win. Hanson concluded: "To be at the top you've got to beat better teams, and they're definitely one of them. A lot of respect to those guys, but it feels good to beat them for sure." If Belfast beat Manchester Storm on Sunday, they'll go top of the table.





Nottingham Panthers 2 Coventry Blaze 1

Elite League

(0-1, 0-0, 2-0,) SOG 35-31 PIMs 4-2 Att 6810 Nottingham Panthers scored two goals in the final five minutes to beat Coventry Blaze 2-1 in front of 6,810 fans at the Motorpoint Arena, in a game where the visitors probably deserved more. Nick Seitz scored the only goal of the opening period at 10:10 to put the Blaze ahead, and in truth they should have added to their tally in the first. Jason Grande made an excellent pad save off James Constable from point-blank range to prevent the Blaze going two ahead not long after, and the visitors created several more excellent chances to extend their lead before the intermission, but were unable to take advantage. The middle period was scoreless although an odd-man rush could have led to the Blaze going two ahead, only for Grande to bail the Panthers out again. The Blaze weathered a Panthers Storm at the start of the third period and came through unscathed. The home side did have the puck in Mat Robson's net but the play had already been blown down for the puck being under Robson's body – and with a penalty coming on the visitors. Coventry killed off the minor well to stay ahead going into the final ten minutes. Having held out for some 55 minutes, the Blaze were undone by a shot from below the goal line. A shot off the back boards fell to Otto Nieminen below the line, and he banked the puck in off the back of Robson's pads to tie things with 4:22 to go. Then, with 2:14 to play, a fake by Cooper Zech behind a screen left Robson stranded and gave the Panthers defenseman half of the net to aim at to score his first of the season and put the home side ahead. Stunned, Coventry pulled Robson with 67 seconds to play as they now tried to tie things up. Chase Gresock had a late chance to tie it but show wide when in close on Grande, while Didrik Henbrant hit the iron when shooting at the empty net in the final 30 seconds. The Panthers held on for a win that looked like it wasn't coming for some 55 minutes, closing the gap on the top three back down to three points.

Guildford Flames 5 Dundee Stars 0 Elite League

(4-0, 1-0, 0-0,) SOG 27-31 PIMs 6-4 Att 1939

Guildford Flames hit four goals in the first period to power past Dundee Stars with a five-goal win in front of a sold-out Spectrum crowd. I think at the beginning it was important for us to come out strong, and that's exactly that we did," said Daniel Catenacci who had a goal and an assist. "Sometimes this season we've come out well but kind of let up as the game went in but tonight we played a full 60 minutes which you can see with the score. The home side opened the scoring early at 03:11, as Ethan Strang scored his 20th goal of the year after redirecting a pass by Daniel Catenacci into the Stars' net. Matt Alvaro doubled the Flames' lead at 07:41, finding space behind the defence and using the open ice to shoot the puck past Richard Sabol's blocker. A blocked shot in the Flames' zone led to a two-on-one rush, with Ethan Strang's pass finding the stick of Daniel Catenacci who tapped the puck into the open net at 10:07. "Strang and I were joking about it, I got him one and then he got me right back," joked Catenacci. "It's good chemistry, we've been playing together for a while now and got used to each other." A fourth goal came through a solo effort by Jack Jacome as the Canadian picked the puck up behind the Stars' net and wedged it in from a tight angle at 14:06, prompting a goalie change for the visitors. End-to-end action in the opening frame of the second period saw Dundee come out strong, as they looked to generate some offense and get on the board early. Despite this, Matt Alvaro scored the only goal of the period as he found the back of the net for the second time at 29:36. A pass from behind the Stars' net by Jack Jacome found Alvaro on the doorstep, who sent a wrist shot past the glove of Jarrett Fiske. A late powerplay provided the best opportunity for the visitors to score their first of the night, however, Jake Kupsky stood tall and made three consecutive pad saves to deny the Stars. A scoreless third period saw a strong defensive performance by the home team, with Jake Kupsky securing his second Elite League shutout. Dundee had some high quality scoring chances throughout the period, at one point forcing Kupsky to make a diving save to keep the puck from passing the goal line. The goaltender stood tall however, and denied everything put his way on route to two vital league points.





Sunday 19th January

Coventry Blaze 3 Guildford Flames 2 Overtime Elite League

(1-1, 1-1, 0-0,1-0) SOG 42-22 PIMs 4-10 Att 1910

Chase Gresock scored all three goals for Coventry Blaze as they beat Guildford Flames 3-2 in overtime to move into fifth place in the Elite League standings. "It feels great, I'm happy that the team ground out the win," said the Blaze's hat-trick hero. "It shows a lot of character and resilience from our team after the game in Nottingham, that we can back home and were able to get this win. This is the most fun time of the year, it's great that we're right there, and anything can happen." Guildford took the lead after just 22 seconds when Jake Jacome's shot was tipped past Mat Robson in front by Matt Alvaro. The home side did push back with some good chances themselves, drawing Jake Kupsky into a good glove save to keep the Devils ahead. With 42 seconds left in the period, Gresock got on the end of a rebound from an Alex Kuqali shot to tie things up. Coventry started period two the stronger but were unable to find another way past Kupsky. That was, however, until the Flames took a face-off violation minor and Gresock fired past Kupsky to put the Blaze ahead at 32:45. That lead didn't last long though, with Brett Welychka ting things up under three minutes later to make it all square heading into the third. The Blaze had two powerplay opportunities to try and win the game inside the final ten minutes of period three, but a bounce wide or an excellent block prevented them from beating Kupsky again. Both teams deserved the point they got with the game heading into overtime, and it looked as if it might be another shootout that was needed to decide the game between these teams. Gresock had other ideas, though, and won it with 11 seconds to go in OT to get the Blaze the extra point.

Belfast Giants 3 Manchester Storm 2 Elite League

(3-0, 0-1,0-1,) SOG 22-27 PIMs 10-8 Att 6923

Belfast Giants survived a Manchester Storm comeback to hold on and win out 3-2 on Sunday afternoon at the SSE Arena, 6,923 fans saw the Giants go top of the table with the win. "We needed four points this weekend to secure first place. I thought we had a really good first period and probably dropped off a little bit, but we found a way to win, so that's important," commented JJ Piccinich after the game. "We have to give Manchester credit. They did the right things with the puck towards the end and had us on our heels a little bit. I thought we had a little bit of a pushback with five or six minutes left in the third. We did have to do a lot of defending, and we did, and that's what matters." With a minor on Loren Ulett for tripping, the Giants took full advantage and opening the scoring midway through the period - good passing from David Goodwin and Grant Mismash set up Bobo Carpenter at the back post to put the Giants ahead with 10:31 played. Another powerplay doubled the home side's lead. Alexis D'Aoust was off for a high stick, and again excellent passing from the hosts saw Jordan Kawaguchi find Mark Cooper along the boards, and he squared it for JJ Piccinich to make it 2-0 at 15:27. Thirty seconds before the break, Gabe Bast fired from the mid-slot into the bottom Corner of Evan Weninger's net to make it 3-0. Storm were forced into a netminder changed 2:49 into period two. Racing through on a shorthanded breakaway, Carpenter pulled a move but in doing so collided with Weninger who needed to leave the game. Alex Oldale took over in Storm's net and wouldn't be beaten. The visitors saw a few powerplays go by without scoring, including a short 5-on-3, but did get back into things at 36:25 when D'Aoust was picked out by Craig Martin and saw his shot loop over Jackson Whistle and into the net. 48 seconds into period three, Craig Martin scored from the slot on a powerplay to get Storm back to within one. The visitors were on the front foot and called Whistle into some decent stops to keep the Giants ahead while Oldale was rarely troubled. With 1:49 to play, Storm called a timeout and pulled Oldale for the extra skater. Having had some decent possession, Tyler Rockwell had Storm's best chance to tie things in the final seconds when he got some space in the slot, but saw Whistle glove the puck down to end the game. The win put Belfast top of the league. "It's good to finally secure it. We've been so close to first place this whole time so now that we are outright in first place, at least for the meantime, it's a good feeling in the locker room" concluded Piccinich.















A summary of all of the action from last weekend across the EIHL.

Wednesday 22nd January

 Nottingham Panthers 5
 Glasgow Clan 1
 Challenge Cup

 (2-0, 1-1, 2-0,)
 SOG 46-25
 PIMs 2-8
 Att 3813

Nottingham Panthers clinched the final place in the Challenge Cup Semi-Finals with a comprehensive 5-1 win over Glasgow Clan at the Motorpoint Arena. In the one-off, winner takes all Elimination Game, the Panthers were the quicker team out of the blocks and forced Landon Bow into some good early stops to keep the game level. At 13:20 the Panthers thought they'd taken the lead, but the goal was reviewed as the puck entered the net off Didrik Henbrant's stick. For the first time in the Elite League, the review decision was made remotely in the EIHL Situation Room, calling the goal back for a distinct kicking motion. As the play was on a delayed penalty, Steven Seigo entered the box and the Panthers never looked back. Sam Herr netted from close range just 13 seconds later, and 38 seconds after that Cooper Zech's shot flew past Bow to make it 2-0. Clan had a pushback as the period wound down with a couple of odd-man rushes, but couldn't find a way past Jason Grande. A wonderful Mitch Heard snipe pulled Clan back to within one just 2:11 into period two, before Clan shot themselves in the foot somewhat. The visitors filed to take advantage of a 3-on-1 rush up the ice, and then saw the Panthers come back the other way on a 2-on-1 where Mitchell Fossier fired high into Bow's net to make it 3-1 at 29:29. Prior to that play, Tyson McLellan had an excellent point-blank chance to level the game but shot into Grande when the top of the net was open. When Matt Alfaro made it 4-1 5:51 into period three, the tie was as good as over. Hugo Roy added a fifth which is where the scoring ended, and the Panthers took a solid home win to keep their Challenge Cup campaign alive.

Guildford Flames 2 Belfast Giants 5 Elite League

(1-2, 0-2, 1-1,) SOG 19-26 PIMs 27-14 Att 1942

Belfast Giants extended their lead at the top of the Elite League table to three points with a 5-2 win in Guildford over the Flames. The Spectrum was sold out on Wednesday night for the game. "Guildford is a tough building to play in, and we knew they'd come out hard. We got off to a good start and kept the puck in their zone which limited their offense," said David Goodwin. "We have a core group of guys that have been doing this a long time, we have some good experience with the schedule so just roll with it." It was a highenergy start from both teams with Belfast probably shading the early chances. The league leaders hit the Flames a little against the run of play as the home side came into things, however. when Scott Conway was left in too much space to beat Eamon McAdam blocker side. Three minutes later, Ciaran Long found himself free along the boards and shot on net - the puck squirming under McAdam's pads to double the lead. Matt Alvaro got on a rebound from his own shot to half the deficit with 3:19 remaining in the period. The Flames had an excellent chance to level some five minutes into period two when Austin Glover put the puck on the stick of Sam Talbot, but Tom McCollum made an excellent save to keep the puck out. Guildford then killed a major penalty when former Giant Daniel Tedesco was ejected for slew-footing at 25:37, but less than two minutes after returning to full strength they saw Jordan Kawaguchi put the Giants 3-1 ahead. A quick turnover in the final minute of the period saw Gabe Bast beat McAdam to put the Giants 4-1 up heading into the break. The Flames had a short 5-on-3 advantage at the beginning of period three, but found powerplay chances hard to come by all night. Their extra skater eventually told at 46:35 as Brett Ferguson tipped Charlie Dodero's shot past McCollum on a play after Dodero had rung a shot off the iron. Down by two heading into the final two minutes, Coach Dixon pulled McAdam for the extra skater - but with 16 seconds to go, Ben Lake found the empty net to wrap up an excellent road win for the Giants. "It's all about consistency and good routines, and that starts in practice," continued Goodwin. "We have a good leadership group, and we trust that if we're putting in the work in practice it'll transfer into the games. "I love Belfast so much, it feels fantastic to be back. I have so much respect for Robert Fitzpatrick and Adam Keefe and I'm so glad to be here."





Friday 24th January

Guildford Flames 4

Elite League

Nottingham Panthers 7 (1-1, 2-1, 1-0,) SOG 37-33 PIMs 9-13 Att 7120

Nottingham Panthers moved into third with a home win over Guildford Flames. scoring four goals in some 90 seconds in period two to build up a healthy lead. Cooper Zech continued his scoring streak with the game's opening goal at 8:01, slotting home from almost the exact same place as his previous two games, and in pretty much the same way. It took 131 seconds for the Flames to level thanks to Matt Alvaro's neat shot from the circle, but by 15:12, the Panthers defenseman had put the home side back ahead when he was left in all kinds of space at the far post. 104 seconds into period tow, excellent passing from Zech to Mitch Fossier and then Sam Herr set up the Panthers captain to make it 3-1. Guildford responded, however, at 24:44. After Ethan Strang's shot was well saved by Jason Grande, Jack Jacome reacted fasted to the rebound to fire home. A beautiful deflection from Austin Glover came off the post shortly after as they almost tied the game, while Jacome couldn't quite control a pass to go through 1-on-0 on Kupsky and ended up shooting wide from a tight angle on the next play. Having been the better team, and looking like they'd tie the game, Guildford were undone by an unfortunate event. Behind his own net, Travis Brown lost an edge and turned the puck over to Tim Doherty who fed Didrik Henbrant in front to make it 4-2 at 34:31. Henbrant repaid the favour to Doherty at 35:08 to make it 5-2, while a penalty shot was cooly slotted home five-hole by Kris Kontos at 35:41 to get the home side a sixth. The Panthers moved out of sight with their seventh when Reid Stefanson deflected into his own net off Brown's stick to complete a four-goal haul in just over 90 seconds. Jacome cut the deficit back to four goals 22 seconds into period three, while captain Brett Ferguson then got the Flames a fourth at 48:42. Guildford played on the front foot for large parts of the final period, although two late penalties make their task somewhat harder. The Panthers' cushion was good enough to see them through however, winning out 7-4.

Saturday 25th January

Belfast Giants 3 Coventry Blaze 2 Shootout **Elite League**

(0-0, 2-1, 0-1, 0-0, 1-0) SOG 41-31 PIMs 12-16 Att 7167

Belfast Giants extended their lead at the top of the Elite League table to five points with a shootout win over Coventry Blaze. The visitors were deserving of their point and moved to within four of the top four. "I thought it was a pretty good team effort tonight. They're a hard-working team, came really hard, made it a really good game, and we were lucky to get the two points tonight," said Jackson Whistle, who stopped all four Blaze attempts in the shootout. "The first period was a little wild actually to be honest. It was all over the place. Both teams had a lot of powerplays early on so it was a bit of a weird start to the game but I think we were alright and we knew if we kept going then we could start to break them down." The first period was full of penalties and powerplays as seven different players took a seat in the box in the opening 10 minutes. The Giants threatened the most out of the two teams, but neither were able to capitalise on powerplay. Belfast came closest to the opener as JJ Piccinich and Bobo Carpenter both struck the pipes, while Pierre-Olivier Morin would have gone through 1-on-0 on Mat Robson but dropped his stick on the way through. The second period began the same as the first, with a penalty. This time, Coventry were able to take advantage - Chase Gresock received the puck and tried to pick out a teammate. However, the puck deflected off the stick of Morin and past Jackson Whistle to give the Blaze the lead at 21:27. It was no surprise that when the Giants equalised, it also came on powerplay. A nice move was finished off by Scott Conway, who fired past Mat Robson from the far post to get the Giants level at 24:39. The hosts were able to get ahead through a great goal from Grant Mismash. He carried the puck into the left circle and fired into the top corner to put the Giants a goal up at 28:11. Coventry levelled early on the powerplay in period three to have the game tied again - Terrance Amorosa with the goal at 44:49 bringing the score back to 2-2. As the Blaze soaked up a lot of Giants pressure in period three, they broke and David Clements had an excellent chance to win the game late on. But shot straight at Whistle from close range. At the other end, Piccinich had Robson beat but could work the puck over the line from a tight angle and saw it trickle past the post. With the scores level at 60 minutes, both teams took a point and the game headed to overtime. Whistle made a big save towards the end of overtime, and was then the Giants' hero in the shootout as he shut the door on all four Coventry shots. JJ Piccinich and Grant Mishmash scored at the other end to give the Giants the extra





point. "It's nice to win," concluded Whistle. "Obviously we would've loved to get it done in regulation so we don't have to worry about overtime and the shootout, but it's nice to get the two points and it's a big extra point moving forward."

Dundee Stars 6 Glasgow Clan 2 Elite League

(0-1, 3-1, 3-0,) SOG 39-42 PIMs 4-38 Att 2149

Dundee Stars picked up a home win over Glasgow Clan, putting them five points clear of dropping out of the playoffs, and moving them level on points with their Scottish rivals. "It was a good game, obviously we got off to a slow start then they started to take some penalties and our powerplay was able to capitalise on it," said Spencer Naas who had a goal and two assists on the night. "The crowd really started to feed off that, giving us some energy and we were able to carry it into a huge win." The first period in Dundee was largely controlled by the Clan, who maintained heavy offensive pressure throughout and denied the Stars any high quality scoring chances. After Richard Sabol made a pad save on a shot from the point, a scramble ensued in front of the net, resulting in Felix Pare putting the loose puck in the back of the net for the only goal of the period at 04:44. A takeaway in the defensive zone by Deven Sideroff led to a breakaway for the Canadian, who made no mistake and roofed the puck over the shoulder of Sabol at 27:01 to double the Clan's lead. Quick passing on a five-on-three power play resulted in the Stars' first goal of the game, as Zach Tsekos found himself alone on the doorstep and slid the puck under the pads of Lucas Brine at 30:46 to cut the deficit in half. Tsekos equalised with his second goal of the period at 39:03, beating Brine with a wrist shot from the slot to make it 2-2 on a delayed penalty call. Dundee then took their first lead of the night just 13 seconds later at 39:16, with Philippe Sanche having a wide open goal to shoot into after a takeaway by Brett Gravelle behind the Clan net., putting the Stars 3-2 up after two periods. "It wasn't a terrible period we just found ourselves behind, we just wanted to keep playing the same way we were and wait for our chances, the powerplay got some opportunities and we were able to capitalise on that," added Naas. "Getting those two goals at the end of the second was a huge momentum shift and to be able to go into the third period with the lead and pull away was huge." Minors on Keaton Jameson and Felix Pare put Clan two skaters down early in the third, and Spencer Naas punished them at 41:14 as the home side moved 4-2 ahead. Sabol pulled off an excellent save to deny Clan a 2-on-1 shorthanded goal as Chris McKay sat an elbowing penalty, and then the Stars broke up the other end to see Naas finish off a Brendan Harms pass to make it 5-2. Keanu Yamamoto rubbed salt into Clan's wounds with a sixth 7:06 from the final buzzer to wrap up an excellent win for the Stars. A late penalty shot was also turned away by Sabol who ended the game with 40 saves. Naas concluded: "It's a huge win, it's something we talked about before the game, we wanted to play well for the fans. We felt like we've owed them a good performance, we appreciate them sticking with us and continuing to support us. It makes a huge difference and tonight it looked like everyone was having fun, I hope they really enjoyed it and I hope to see everyone back soon."

Sheffield Steelers 4 Manchester Storm 2 Elite League

(2-1, 2-1, 0-0,) SOG 25-26 PIMs 6-4 Att 8680

Sheffield Steelers moved back into third in the Elite League standings thanks to a 4-2 win over Manchester Storm at the Utilita Arena. Steelers' head coach Aaron Fox equalled Alex Dampier's record for the most games behind the bench for the team, and will break it on Sunday in Guildford. It took only 63 seconds for the home side to open the scoring, with Marc-Olivier Vallerand beating Sheffield-native Alex Oldale to make it 1-0. Storm levelled at 11:27 with a blast from the point off Joe Morrow's stick that was tipped in front by Loren Ulett. The goal was given after a quick video review. Sheffield re-gained their lead almost immediately, however. Off the restart, it took them 18 seconds when Daniel Leavens passed across the slot to the onrushing Max Golod. With a 2-1 lead after 20 minutes, the Steelers extended their advantage in period two with another 2-1 period. Mikko Juusola dragged the puck around Oldale 2:32 into period two as Storm got caught out on the rush, while Kevin Tansey's shot from the blue line went all the way through at 23:18 to make it 4-1. Grant Hebert sniped into Matt Greenfield's top corner off a seam pass from Ryan Hughes to bring the score back to 4-2 with 4:37 left in the middle frame. Storm threatened well in period three but couldn't get the crucial next goal to really give the home side something to worry about. At the other end, Oldale came up with two excellent saves to keep his team just the pair behind. The Storm goalie was pulled with 1:24 to go as the visitors went with six skaters, but, unusually, it didn't lead to a goal at either end and the Steelers took the two-goal win.





Sunday 26th January

Coventry Blaze 3 Dundee Stars 2 Overtime Elite League

(2-0, 0-1, 0-1,1-0) SOG 21-44 PIMs 10-7 Att 1983

A crowd of 1,983 at the Skydome saw Coventry Blaze win in overtime after Dundee Stars scored a late equaliser in a game that finished 3-2. Coventry started fast and were two up through 20 minutes, but could easily have been further ahead. Alessio Luciani was left in space to snipe past Jarret Fiske with only 3;47 played, while Jakob Stridsberg added a second inside eight and a half minutes. The hosts could have made it three when they broke 3-on-1, but Luciani found himself caught between passing or taking it on himself and in the end did neither. Dundee were the better team for period two, however with Ben O'Connor sitting a major penalty for boarding the Blaze had an excellent opportunity to extend their advantage. With five forwards out on the powerplay for the hosts, Nick Seitz made a mis-judged pinch and the Stars broke 2-on-1 the other way with Spencer Naas feeding Zach Tsekos for the finish on a bouncing puck to halve the deficit at 31:12. Outshooting their hosts in the period, the Stars may have felt disappointed to still be one behind at the end of the period. The Stars pressing again in period three, and were eventually rewarded for their efforts. Brett Gravell found a gap in Robson's net to snipe home with 2:06 to play and grab themselves a late point. Mike Kennedy was the Blaze's hero with the winner just 1:43 into overtime, his first professional goal getting Coventry the extra point.

Cardiff Devils 1 Belfast Giants 4 Elite League

(1-0, 0-3,0-1,) SOG 33-24 PIMs 10-10 Att 3110

Belfast Giants moved seven points clear at the top of the Elite League table with a well-deserved 4-1 victory over second-placed Cardiff Devils at a sold-out Vindico Arena. A back-and-forth first period in the Vindico Arena saw Belfast and Cardiff pick up a handful of penalties including a tripping minor for Belfast Giants Mike Lee. Further into the period, a 4-on-4 scenario occurred on ice following an altercation between Ben Lake and Jarrod Gourley. To round out the many penalties of the period, Reid Duke picked himself up two minutes for a boarding penalty after a huge hit. Despite the physicality and barrage of goal-scoring opportunities, the first and only goal of the period went to the home team after Ryan Barrow was able to tip in a shot from Evan Mosey 16 minutes in. The Giants had been the more dangerous of the teams in the opening period, but it was the Devils who led through 20 minutes. Period two started with Belfast finding an equaliser after Gabe Bast used impressive puck work to get the puck into a goal-scoring position to tie things at 03:54. Just under five minutes later, the Giants went ahead after Zak Galambos got the puck through the five-hole of Mac Carruth. To add to an already great period for the away team, a Belfast powerplay gave them their third goal of the night - Jordan Kawaguchi and Grant Mismash forced Mac Carruth out of position which provided Ben Lake the opportunity slot the puck home at the far post. The Giants given a bench minor for delay of the game at the start of period three, after taking the ice some three minutes after the clock hit zero. That interrupted their four-minute advantage after Reid Duke had been called for high-sticking 13 seconds before the end of the middle period, but didn't produce any goals. JJ Piccinich made it 4-1 with just under 12 minutes to go which all but killed off the game. The Giants could have added to their advantage, although a top-drawer pad save from Jackson Whistle prevented the Devils from getting back into things. The win for the Giants was their third in three over the Devils this season.

Manchester Storm 0 Nottingham Panthers 4 Elite League

(0-2, 0-2,0-0,) SOG 27-38 PIMs 8-6 Att 2117

Nottingham Panthers wrapped up a perfect week with their third win in five days, shutting out Manchester Storm by a 4-0 scoreline in front of 2,117 fans in Altrincham. Two goals in 17 seconds put the Panthers in control in the Storm Shelter. Didrik Henbrant got on the rebound of a Matt Alfaro shot to open the scoring at 9:26, while on the next play a gorgeous reverse pass from behind the net by Henbrant set up Tim Doherty in front for a neat finish. New Storm goalie David Tendeck helpless to stop either. Tyler Hinam saw a shot go just wide of Jason Grande's net in Storm's best chance of the period, but they came up short heading into the break. Another two-goal haul in the next 20 minutes had the Panthers in complete control. Henbrant was involved for the third straight goal, putting the puck past Tendeck at 37:02 to make it 3-0. Jaakko Niskala made it 4-0 42 seconds before the break to give the Panthers a comfortable lead.





Jason Grande was key for the Panthers and fully deserved his shutout with some excellent stops in the final period. He ended the game with 27 saves for his first shutout in the EIHL.

Guildford Flames 6 Sheffield Steelers 2 Elite League

(0-1, 4-1,2-0,) SOG 42-54 PIMs 14-6 Att 1935

Guildford Flames logged their first home win over Sheffield Steelers since March 2020 thanks to a 6-2 victory on Sunday at a sold-out Spectrum. Matt Alvaro scored a hat trick for the Flames. "It was a great team effort. We're short of bodies, we needed everyone tonight and we got everyone. It was a full 60 minute which was great to see," said the Flames forward. "We were down by one after the first but I thought we played pretty well. We just had to not get down about it and keep to our structure." An entertaining opening period in Guildford saw the Steelers up by one by the end of it. The teams exchanged chances through the opening phases, although the Steelers looked the more dangerous with Jake Kupsky making a couple of decent glove saves. With Daniel Tedesco in the box for hooking, a well-worked powerplay move saw Max Golod one-time home at 11:42 to put the visitors ahead. Brandon Whistle missed by a whisker as the Steelers came close to making it two, while at the other end an important deflection stopped the Flames converting a 2-on-1 rush. Four Flames goals in the middle period swung things in favour of the home side. Charlie Dodero levelled the game at 24:23 with a shot from the point that may have been tipped in front by Travis Brown. The Flames' equaliser was on the powerplay, and so was the goal that put the Steelers back ahead -a stretch pass from Matt Greenfield finding Golod who fed Mikko Juusola in front for a deflection that snuck the puck through Kupsky's five-hole. Matt Alvaro tipped Dodero's shot past Greenfield at 31:32 to tie the game again, and the Flames then took over. Brett Ferguson's beautiful feed set up Daniel Tedesco to put the Flames ahead from close range just 24 seconds later, while Curti's deflected pass into the slot sort up Alvaro for a quick finish to make it 4-2 at 36:02. "We came in and we weren't good enough tonight," admitted Steelers' Kevin Tansey. "We didn't capitalise on our chances. To win games you have to win the powerplay battles. We needed to score some there in the third to try to get it back even but we didn't. We just have to flush this one away now and get ready to go out for four points next weekend." The Flames started period three in penalty trouble and found themselves having to kill off two short 5-on-3s heading into the final eight minutes of the game. As they did, the crowd noise crew as the home fans responded to the efforts put in by their shortbenched team. With 3:04 to go, Alvaro tipped a Brown shot past Greenfield to make it 5-2 and effectively settle the game. Daniel Catenacci fired into an empty net with 18 seconds to go to score the game's final game, although that came after a short delay after a stick smashed some plexi in the Steelers' zone. "We're in a good rhythm right now," concluded Alvaro. "We're shot of bodies and it's a lot of games, but I think we've got into a good rhythm within our team to face everything coming at us."



Goalies

- 30 Cameron Kenny
- 50 Shane Owen

36 Jānis Voris

Defencemen

- 5 Noah Delmas
- 7 Tyler Heidt
- 9 Brodie Kay
- 88 Daniel Krenželok
- 19 Patrick Kyte
- 3 Olivier LeBlanc 'C'
- 4 Fynn Page

Forwards

- 93 Ben Brown
- 23 Massimo Carozza
- 37 Lucas Chiodo 'A'
- 78 Michael Cichy 'A'
- 94 Kieran Craig
- 41 Johnny Curran 'A'
- 91 Austin Farley
- 27 Ryan Foss
- 22 Phélix Martineau
- 72 Charles-Antoine Paiement
- 61 James Spence
- 43 Jordan Stallard
- 24 Aiden Wilson

Referee :



Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Time	EV/PP/SH
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Player	Offence	PIMs	Time

Period Scores								
	1st	2nd	3rd	OT/SO				
Flyers								
Visitors								

Linesman :

Referee :

Linesman :



Goal	Scorer	Assist	Assist	Time	EV/PP/SH
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					

Player	Offence	PIMs	Time

Shots on Goal										
	1st 2nd 3rd OT/SO									
Flyers										
Visitors										

Goalies

33	Tom McCollum
	Jackson Whistle
	<u>Defencemen</u>
2	Gabe Bast
;	Jeff Baum 'A'
21	Kell Beattie
'1	Karl Boudrias
22	Zak Galambos
3	Bo Hanson
.3	Mike Lee
7	Rhodes Mitchell-K
62	Cameron Pound
7	Josh Roach

Forwards

Mason Alderson
Elijiah Barriga
Robert Carpenter
Scott Conway
Mark Cooper 'C'
David Goodwin
Carter Hamill
Finley Howells
Jordan Kawaguchi
Ben Lake 'A'
Ciaran Long 'A'
Grant Mismash
Pierre-Olivier Morin
Kyle Osterberg
J.J. Piccinich
Mack Stewart

64

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88

12 86

Man of the Match Flyers:

Man of the Match Visitors:

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GIANTS IN LEAGUE PLAY SO FAR...

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ON THEIR ROSTER

Throughout the season we will pick out a story on a player(s) on the opposition bench as well as summarise their career to date.

In this issue we will again do something slightly different and look back on 25 years of the Belfast Giants who marked the occasion in January.



The Belfast Giants Ltd. was founded in 1997 by two Canadian businessmen, Bob Zeller and his associate Albert Maasland, after Zeller was in talks with the British Ice Hockey Superleague (BISL) to launch a new franchise in the United Kingdom. The city of Belfast was chosen, with its new £92 million Millennium Commission project, the Odyssey Complex, due to be completed with the addition of a deal brokered between the Odyssey Trust and facility management company SMG to house the new hockey team in the arena. On 22 March 2000, the BISL confirmed that the Belfast Giants had been accepted into the league to begin play in September for the 2000-01 season. When the club was established, Giants' management was committed to ensure the club did not attach itself to any particular faith or community, instead aspiring to represent Belfast as a whole. A number of policies were introduced to achieve this. Football colours, clothing, and flags which may have displayed a person's political or religious affiliation were banned from the arena. The national anthem of the United Kingdom, traditionally played before games at other arenas in the Elite League, is not played before Giants games. The colours of the team, notably the dominant 'teal' used in both its logo and uniform, was chosen specifically because it had no national or political connotations in Northern Ireland. Since 2000 the Giants' main logo has depicted a stylized version of the mythical warrior Finn McCool, who is commonly portrayed as a giant in popular folklore and has a close association with Ulster. The original logo had Finn brandishing a hockey stick with the Giants' wordmark in the foreground. The inaugural Giants uniforms featured white home jerseys with red and teal striping, matching socks, and black shorts. The inaugural away jerseys featured their now famous teal with red and white striping, matching socks, and black shorts. For the 2001–02 season the Giants introduced red jerseys with teal and white striping for the BT Ice Cup, and black jerseys with teal and red striping for the Challenge Cup. In 2002–03, the Giants altered their home jerseys to feature red shoulder piping with teal and black stripes. For 2004–05 the Giants replaced the red shoulder piping with black piping on home jerseys and changed away jerseys to mirror these except with teal as the primary colour. Ahead of the 2021–22 EIHL season, the Giants unveiled a refreshed primary logo and alteration to the club's home, away and Challenge Cup jerseys.

In order to build a competitive roster for the new club, Bob Zeller approached Bracknell Bees championship-winning head coach Dave Whistle to become the first head coach of the Belfast Giants. Initially, Whistle was sceptical, deterred by having seen the violent footage of The Troubles on North American news media. In response, Zeller invited Whistle to visit Belfast and experience the changing city first-hand. Following his visit, Whistle agreed on a 3-year deal to coach the Giants. Whistle's roster recruitment began by looking toward his championship team in Bracknell, signing seven core players from that team to build upon in Belfast: Shane Johnson, Todd Kelman, Rob Stewart, Todd Goodwin, Kevin Riehl, Paxton Schulte, and Colin Ward. The captaincy was awarded to incumbent signing Jeff Hoad, with assistants Jason Bowen and Colin Ward.

The beginning of the inaugural Giants season was marred with difficulties as the opening of the Odyssey Arena was delayed until early December 2000. This meant that the Giants were forced to play their first 15 games of the season on the road, without consistent ice-time for training or practice. Regardless, the Giants made their debut on 16 September 2000 against the Nottingham Panthers losing 5–1, with Kory Karlander scoring the club's first ever goal. The next evening, the Giants would travel to Bracknell in an unwelcome return for Whistle and his former Bees core. The Giants came out on top 6-5 after a shoot-out for their first ever win. However, the Giants would win only 4 out of 15 games to start the year. Finally, the Giants played their first home game against the Ayr Scottish Eagles on 2 December 2000 to a sell-out crowd of 7,300 in what Whistle described as an "awesome spectacle" despite a 2–1 defeat. In the first period, Paxton Schulte would score the only goal for the Giants and fought Trevor Doyle shortly after, cementing his overnight status as a cult player for the hometown fans. 10 days later however the Giants were forced to postpone their game against the Newcastle Jesters as US President Bill Clinton was to be accommodated at the new Odyssey Arena, the largest public building in Belfast, to address the local citizenry. The home ice proved to instigate a upturn in fortune for the Giants mid-way through the season, playing in front of a consistently sold-out Odyssey Arena. The Giants would finish the season with a respectable 23-16-9 record, finishing in 6th place, and progressing into Group A of the playoffs to then be knocked out with a 3–3 record. The Giants saw more success in the Challenge Cup, finishing 1st in the group stage to progress to the two-leg semifinal against the Sheffield Steelers. The Giants won the first leg, 2–1, and lost the second leg, 7–0, for an 8-2 aggregate loss.

Dave Whistle re-signed ten members of the original line-up for the Giants second season, adding only six to the new roster; defencemen Chad Allan and Terran Sandwith, forwards Curt Bowen, Dave Matsos and Jason Ruff, and Mike Bales in goal. Jeff Hoad, Jason Bowen, and Colin Ward would retain their roles as captain and assistant captains respectively, to be joined by Sandwith as a third assistant captain. The season began with an exhibition tournament, the BT Ice Cup, hosted by the Giants with invitations to the London Knights, Eisbären Berlin, and the Frankfurt Lions. In their first league game, the Giants suffered a 9–3 defeat to the London Knights. This would be followed by a succession of sub-par performance on the road. By late September, Whistle decided to bring in centre Sean Berens to bolster the Giants offence. Berens' arrival and subsequent placement on the first line with Riehl and Ruff would prove a catalyst for the Giants' success to come. The Giants would go on a 9-game unbeaten streak shortly thereafter, which was broken by two losses, the first away in London and the second at home to the Nottingham Panthers on 16 October, which would be their last home defeat of the season. The Giants would then win 7–2 at home against Ayr to gain 1st place, where the team would remain for the rest of the season. Following a 4–1 win at Sheffield on 17 January 2001, the Giants travelled to Bracknell needing only 1 point to win the league. On the 19th January, in a poetic return to Bracknell for Whistle and his former Bees core, the Giants would force a 2-2 draw with the home side to clinch their first ever championship with a league record-breaking 16-game unbeaten streak. Upon their arrival back in Belfast, the Giants were welcomed at Belfast City Airport by over one thousand boisterous fans. Unfortunately the Giants would struggle with a championship hangover as the team were eliminated in their playoff qualification group. The Giants would, however, advanced to the Challenge Cup final for the first time in their history, only to be stifled 5-0 by the Scottish Eagles. That particular match became known amongst fans of the Belfast Giants at that time as 'Black Sunday' A reference to the jersey worn by the team during the match, introduced for the occasion of their inaugural Challenge cup as well as the day it was played on and the heavy defeat by a team that had suffered crushing losses to them during the regular season. Hockey fans who watched that game and also watched the Winter Olympics Men's Ice Hockey final later on/in the early hours of the next day would have seen Theo Fleury, a later Giants signing receive his gold medal as part of the winning team.



During the 2002–03 season, the financial collapse of the Manchester Storm and the Scottish Eagles, the resignation of the Bracknell Bees and the uncertainty surrounding the London Knights and their London Arena home left the Ice Hockey Superleague with little option but to fold. With the eventual demise of the Superleague in mid-2003, there were concerns that the Giants organisation would not survive because of developing financial issues. However, facing the threat of liquidation, creditors voted to accept a 20p-to-the-pound pay-out, allowing the club to continue under the new ownership of local businessman Jim Gillespie and join the newly established first-tier of British ice hockey dubbed the Elite Ice Hockey League (EIHL). The inaugural season of the Elite League ran from 12 September 2003 until 4 April 2004. The three remaining Superleague clubs, the Belfast Giants, Nottingham Panthers and Sheffield Steelers were joined by three British National League clubs, the Basingstoke Bison, Cardiff Devils and Coventry Blaze and two new clubs, the London Racers and Manchester Phoenix in establishing the Elite Ice Hockey League. The clubs hoped to provide a more financially sustainable league than its predecessor with a greater number of British trained players taking part. The league was met with considerable opposition from the governing body, Ice Hockey UK who initially refused to affiliate itself with the new league, instead desiring that the remaining Superleague clubs integrate themselves into the British National League. This led to a bitter summer of uncertainty which only the intervention of the International Ice Hockey Federation ended. The IIHF ruled that the Elite League be granted a single season's affiliation with IHUK while discussions between IHUK, the EIHL and the BNL took place on the future of the sport in the United Kingdom. The season began on 12 September 2003 with a game between the newly formed London Racers and the previous season's league champions, Sheffield Steelers. London began the season at Alexandra Palace but within a few weeks had relocated to the Lee Valley Ice Centre. The Racers went much of the season without winning, before finally claiming a 3–0 victory over Cardiff as the season drew to its close. The Giants despite finishing top of their Challenge Cup Group were upset in the eventual winners the Nottingham Panthers in the knockout rounds. It was a 4th place finish in the EIHL but failed to make the play off final weekend in Nottingham. Jason Ruff won the league Player of the Year award for the Giants. The 2004/05 season the Giants finished runners up in the league but again missed the finals weekend. In that second season of the EIHL there were a series of games between the EIHL clubs and the members of the British National League (BNL). In addition to three home games and three away games against their Elite opponents, each club also played one home game and one away game against the BNL clubs in crossover matchups. Results in these crossover games would count towards a team's points tally. The crossover games with the BNL clubs were seen by many to be the first stage towards the amalgamation of the two organisations into one league. However, early in the season it was revealed that teams including Edinburgh Capitals and Newcastle Vipers were seeking to resign from the BNL and join the Elite League. A withdrawal of these clubs would leave the BNL with only a small number of participating teams. This situation led to the resigning teams temporarily withdrawing their Elite League applications and entering into collective discussions on the entire BNL joining the EIHL instead. The Elite League offered the BNL clubs invitations to join the EIHL structure, which were declined due to unfavourable terms. Subsequently Edinburgh and Newcastle resubmitted individual applications to the Elite League, both of which were accepted. A combination of this and Bracknell Bees owner John Nike's announcement that he was withdrawing funding from the BNL team prompted the collapse of the BNL at the end of the 2004–05 season.

The Giants finished top of the standings in those crossover games despite losing 6-5 at Kirkcaldy in overtime to the Flyers who were then defeated 5-2 by the Giants in their first ever visit to Belfast.



2005/06 The format of the previous season's Challenge Cup remained the same with a separate round-robin group stage at the beginning of the season. Belfast decided not to take part in the competition due to the lack of available dates on which to play games at the Odyssey Arena. The eight participating teams were divided into two groups of four, with the winner and runner-up of each group progressing into a knockout semi final. Belfast's decision to withdraw from the Challenge Cup allowed them to establish a commanding lead before the rest of the league had entered into their full league schedule. The Giants never relinquished first place and claimed the title on March 5, 2006, following nearest rival Newcastle's 5–2 defeat to Edinburgh. This time the Giants did make it to the play off final weekend where they lost in the semi final to the eventual winners the Newcastle Vipers. It was the season that Theo Fleury graced the rinks and arenas in the UK in Giants colours as he ended the league campaign with most points and assists on his way to being named the league's Player of the Year. During their tenure in the EIHL the Belfast Giants have won six EIHL regular season titles - the most recent of which came during the 2022-23 campaign, five Challenge Cup titles (including in 2017–18, 2018–19, 2021–22 and 2022–23), and two play-off championships.

The 2019–20 EIHL season was cancelled on 13 March 2020 with the remaining league fixtures and subsequent play-offs scrapped due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Challenge Cup won by the Sheffield Steelers was the only competition to see a winner crowned. The 2020–21 Elite League season - originally penciled in for a revised start date of 5 December - was suspended on 15 September 2020, because of ongoing uncertainty over coronavirus pandemic restrictions. The EIHL board determined that the season was non-viable without supporters being permitted to attend matches and unanimously agreed to a suspension. The season was cancelled completely in February 2021. In March 2022, the Belfast Giants won their fourth Challenge Cup title after beating the Cardiff Devils 3–2 in overtime at the SSE Arena. The victory made head coach Adam Keefe the most successful in Giants history. The Giants then clinched the 2021–22 Elite League title in April, after a 2-1 shootout victory over the Sheffield Steelers.

However they missed out on the treble after losing the 2022 EIHL play-off final 6-3 to the Cardiff Devils. The Belfast Giants won their fifth Challenge Cup in March 2023 following a 9-3 victory against the Fife Flyers in a sold out SSE Arena.



The following month they clinched the 2022–23 Elite League title with a 6-1 victory against the Guildford Flames, thus making them the most successful team in the Elite League era as of 2023. They then completed the Elite League grand slam with a 4-1 victory over Cardiff in the play-off final - becoming the first team to win all three domestic trophies in the same season since Nottingham in 2013.



LEAGUE STATS

SEASON 2024/25

	S	Ŵ		Dundes			G	۲		-
Total Games Played	44	41	44	46	42	43	45	41	43	42
Challenge Cup Games	12	10	10	12	12	13	10	10	10	10
League Games	32	31	34	34	30	30	35	31	33	32
Plage et Wie	7-0	6-0	9-2	7-0	4-1	8-3	7-1	7-3	9-2	9-0
Biggest Win	v Flyers	v Storm	v Flyers	v Flyers	v Stars	v Flyers	v Flyers	v Clan	v Blaze	v Flames
	1-5			1-7						
Pignest Loss	v Panthers	2-5	2-9	v Giants	0-8	0-6	0-9	0-6	2-5	2-6
Biggest Loss		v Blaze	v Panthers		v Steelers	v Blaze	v Steelers	v Devils	v Stars	v Flames
	v Clan			v Blaze						
Longest Win Streak	7	4	6	2	1	6	3	2	6	8
Longest Loss Streak	2	2	4	8	13	4	4	6	3	4
Current Streak	7 Wins	1 Loss	1 Loss	1 Loss	1 Loss	3 Losses	2 Wins	5 Losses	6 Wins	1 Loss
Fastest Goal	00:39	00:50	00:18	01:08	01:32	00:08	00:21	00:25	00:56	00:14
Shut Out For	7	2	1	1	0	1	3	0	4	3
Shut Out Against	0	0	4	3	6	2	2	3	1	1
Empty Net Goals For	8	5	5	4	1	6	6	5	6	10
Empty Net Goals Against	5	5	3	7	8	11	4	4	5	3
Penalty Shots Scored	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	2
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-
Penalty Shots Conceded	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0
Total Goals Scored	142	135	122	115	81	110	119	108	135	131
scored by Forwards										
Powerplay	34	25	36	24	20	19	22	25	29	23
Even Strength	103	108	80	88	60	84	94	80	104	104
Shorthanded	5	2	6	3	1	7	3	3	2	4
Total Goals Scored	20	15	10	17	10	10	21	14	11	20
scored by Defencemen	30	15	16	17	10	16	21	14	11	29
Powerplay	2	2	2	5	4	4	7	4	1	6
Even Strength	28	12	12	12	6	10	13	10	10	23
Shorthanded	0	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0
Total Goals Conceded		-	2				-			
scored to Forwards	85	97	111	151	183	126	125	140	92	98
Penalty Kill	23	19	26	22	28	34	29	36	16	19
Even Strength	60	77	80	123	152	89	92	98	70	79
Shorthanded	2	1	5	6	3	3	4	6	6	0
Total Goals Conceded	14	9	23	21	26	18	17	24	12	14
scored to Defencemen										
Penalty Kill	4	2	5	2	5	3	6	4	3	3
Even Strength	10	7	17	19	19	13	11	20	9	10
Shorthanded	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	1
Goals Scored Period 1	56	37	36	44	28	43	38	39	52	50
Goals Scored Period 2	56	58	45	43	32	43	47	48	47	53
Goals Scored Period 3	56	56	53	42	30	50	54	31	45	57
Goals Scored OT/SO	5	0	6	3	1	2	2	3	5	3
TOTAL Goals Scored	173	151	140	132	91	138	141	121	149	163
Goals Scored Per Game										
	3.93	3.68	3.18	2.87	2.17	3.21	3.13	2.95	3.47	3.88
Goals Conceded Period 1	32	33	45	56	67	33	46	49	21	38
Goals Conceded Period 2	30	33	41	59	69	45	57	67	42	40
Goals Conceded Period 3	33	37	46	54	72	66	40	50	41	32
Goals Conceded OT/SO	4	3	5	4	3	1	4	2	2	2
TOTAL Goals Conceded	99	106	137	173	211	145	147	168	106	112
Goals Against Per Game	2.25	2.59	3.11	3.76	5.02	3.37	3.27	4.10	2.47	2.67
Shots For P1	638	517	463	497	434	523	472	436	474	466
Shots For P2	595	508	495	546	401	539	480	419	479	497
Shots For P3	10000									
	572	478	464	506	350	461	415	450	428	491
Shots For OT	16	3	27	13	6	1	17	8	15	11
TOTAL Shots For	1821	1506	1449	1562	1191	1524	1384	1313	1396	1465
Shots for Per Game	41.39	36.73	32.93	33.96	28.36	35.44	30.76	32.02	32.47	34.88
Shots Against P1	366	427	548	570	590	448	485	501	458	500
Shots Against P2	431	440	524	572	630	457	511	490	471	403
Shots Against P3	449	412	459	484	562	437	476	434	466	376
Shots Against OT	16	10	22	18	12	3	8	7	14	12
TOTAL Shots Against	1262	1289	1553	1644	1794	1345	1480	1432	1409	1291
Shots Against Per Game	28.68	31.44	35.30	35.74	42.71	31.28	32.89	34.93	32.77	30.74



TWO NUMBER 26'S MOYER AND LIVINGSTON

This time's two players who wore the same jersey number are both from the Elite era and both spent time as Flyers' captain. One played two seasons, making over 100 appearances for Flyers and the other spent only one term at Kirkcaldy, in the Covid shortened 2019/20 season.

Russ Moyer was heading towards the end of his playing career when he signed for Flyers in the 2016/17 season, but was an integral part of the Flyers team that season and the following one, when Flyers won their only Elite League silverware to date.

A native of North Bay Ontario, Russ spent his junior career in Ottawa and played in over 200 games for the 67's. He was part of the OHL Championship winning squad of 2000/01 and following the end of his junior career he had four seasons at college, suiting up for over 100 games for Acadia University.

His pro career began in 2006/07 in the IHL with Muskegon Fury, then on to Odessa in the CHL before heading to Europe, for two seasons in Denmark and four in Sweden. 2015/16 brought him to the UK where he was part of Sheffield's Elite League winning side.

Russ made his Flyers debut in a pre-season game against EC Peiting from the German Third Division, in a game that Shane Owen also made his first Flyers start. The following weekend on 03/09/16 he got his first competitive Flyers point in his first competitive match with an assist on the fourth goal in a 5-2 win against Belfast in the Challenge Cup.



His first Flyers goal was the opener on 01/10/16 at home to Coventry in a 4-1 success. His contribution to the win was described in the FFP as "simply a rock on the blue line", which was an apt description of the vast majority of his performances in Flyers' colours. Flyers finished sixth that season with 25 wins from 52 games and lost the play-off quarter final , losing the first leg 2-4 away and then the return 1-4 in Kirkcaldy, a game in which he dislocated his shoulder.

This unfortunate end to his first season as a Flyer didn't seem to put him off as he signed on again for 2017/18. This season was to be one of Flyers' finest in the Elite era as the Gardiner Conference trophy was captured, winning the conference by ten clear points over Braehead Clan. The FFP published a great photo of team captain Russ with the trophy, alongside Jack Dryburgh and a Flyers' great from the Heineken days



Danny Brown. Flyers' 7th place league finish meant a play-off pairing with shock troops Manchester who had defied the odds to end up as league runners up. The first leg was a disappointment for Flyers as Storm comfortably won 4-1 at Kirkcaldy. The second leg in Altrincham the following night was described by the FFP as "An Easter miracle" as Flyers won 5-1 in overtime to qualify for the finals weekend. Unfortunately Flyers were unable to deal with injuries to Evan Bloodoff and Ian Young, causing these two key players to miss the semi -final against Cardiff, who won 4-0. This meant Russ would make his final Flyers appearance in the 3rd/4th place game on 08/04/18. His last Flyers goal came in an impressive 6-2 win in Belfast on 17/03/18. Despite rumours that he would return for 18/19, Russ had played his last game as a Flyer and began a new career as a Police Officer back home in Canada.

Russ Moyer was a key component in two entertaining and relatively successful seasons for Flyers and it would have been interesting to have seen him in Flyers' colours earlier in his career.

Another No26 who had a spell as Flyers' captain was James Livingston, who played his only year for the team in the Covid shortened 2019/20 season and in my view was a player who I believed could have contributed more.

He had played his junior hockey in the OHL with Sault Ste Marie and Plymouth before jumping to the AHL in 2011/12. Over the next four seasons he played in over 200 AHL contests as well as 55 in the ECHL, then headed to Europe for two seasons in Austria and 1-1/2 in Germany.

Part way through 18/19 season he moved to Cardiff, but his production was fairly low, 2+6 in 25 league and play-off games. He moved to Flyers and unfortunately put up similar numbers in a Flyers' jersey. He made his competitive debut on 07/09/19 in a 2-3 Challenge Cup defeat at home to Glasgow and got the first of his eight competitive goals in the return fixture on 05/10/19, another 2-3 reversal.



By the time Covid restrictions ended the season, Flyers had endured a 14 game losing streak and were bottom of the table with only 15 wins from 49 starts in the league. Livingston made his last Flyers appearance in a 1-3 defeat at Belfast. He scored his final goal as a Flyer away to Manchester on 09/02/20, a game that Flyers won 4-3 after a penalty shootout.

As UK hockey shut down for a season, he played in Slovakia, followed by spells with teams in Austria, Denmark and has been in Italy the last two seasons. James Livingston had what could be described as a fairly low key time as a Flyer, even as captain and didn't quite meet the expectations hoped for from a player who had played at the level below the NHL in North America.





RULES CORNER



We conclude our look at the section of the rulebook dealing with Game Flow which is covered by Rules 76 to 87. In this part it's rules 84 to 87

Again the full text of the IIHF rule is provided along with any annotations as per the EIHL Casebook.

RULE 84 OVERTIME OPERATIONS 84.10VERTIME OPERATIONS – ROUND ROBIN OR PRELIMINARY ROUND GAME

If at the end of the three (3) regular twenty (20) minutes periods in a single Round Robin IIHF Championship or the Preliminary Round of a top category IIHF Championship, the two (2) playing Teams are tied, the Teams will then play a "sudden death" Overtime period of not more than five (5) minutes with the Team scoring first declared the winner. The Overtime period shall be played with each Team at a numerical strength of three (3) Skaters and one (1) Goalkeeper. The Overtime period will commence following a threeminute (3) intermission during which time a "shovelling" of the ice surface by arena personnel will be performed utilizing the same procedure as during "television commercial breaks". Once the intermission has been completed, the clock will be reset to 5:00 minutes and the Overtime period will begin immediately. Teams will not change ends. The players will remain at their respective Players' Benches during the 3-minute (3) intermission in which the "shovelling" of the ice surface takes place. Goalkeepers must go to their respective Players' Benches during this rest period; however, penalized Players must remain in the Penalty Box. Should a penalized Player exit the Penalty Box, they shall be returned immediately by the Game Officials with no additional penalty being assessed, unless they commit an infraction of any other rule. Teams are not permitted to return to the Dressing Room during this time.

84.2 OVERTIME EXTRA ATTACKER

A Team shall be allowed to pull its Goalkeeper in favour of an additional Skater in the Overtime period.

84.3 OVERTIME PENALTIES

When regulation time ends, and the Teams are 5 on 3, teams will start the Overtime period with 5 on 3. Once player strength reaches 5 on 4 or 5 on 5, at the next stoppage of play, player strength is adjusted to 4 on 3 or 3 on 3, as appropriate. When regulation time ends, and Teams are 4 on 4 Teams will start Overtime 3 on 3. Once Player strength reaches 4 on 4, at the next stoppage Player strength is adjusted to 3 on 3 as appropriate. If at the end of regulation time Teams are 3 on 3, Overtime starts 3 on 3. Once Player strength reaches 4 on 4, 5 on 4 or 5 on 5, at the next stoppage player strength is adjusted to 3 on 3 as appropriate. At no time will a Team have less than three (3) Skaters on the ice. This may require a fourth (4th) and/or fifth (5th) Skater to be added in the event penalties are assessed. If a Team is penalized in Overtime, Teams play 4 on 3. If both Teams are penalized with Minor Penalties at the same stoppage of play (with no other penalties in effect), Teams will continue to play 3 on 3. In Overtime, if a team is penalized such that a two-man (2) advantage is called for, then the offending Team will remain at three (3) Skaters while the non-offending Team will be permitted five (5) Skaters. At the first stoppage of play after the two-man (2) advantage is no longer in effect, the "numerical strength" of the Teams will revert back to 4 on 3 or 3 on 3, as appropriate.

84.4 PENALTY SHOT SHOOTOUT PROCEDURE

If following the completion of regulation time in any IIHF Championship game and the score of the game is tied, the Teams will then play an Overtime period with a maximum duration and number of players as specified in this rule with the Team scoring first declared the winner. If no goal is scored in the Overtime period, then the IIHF Penalty Shot Shootout Procedure will apply. The following procedure will be utilised: (I) Shots will be taken at both ends of the ice surface. The fourteen (14) meter wide longitudinal center section of the Rink, between the Face-off Spots in the Neutral and End Zones, will be dry- scraped by the ice-resurfacing machine prior to the Penalty Shot Shootout during the time required to organize the program accordingly.

(II) The procedure will begin with five (5) different shooters from each Team taking alternate shots. The Skaters do not need to be named beforehand. Eligible to participate in the "Penalty Shot" Shootout will be all Players from both Teams listed on the Official Game Sheet except as specified in article 3 below.
(III) Any Skater whose penalty had not been completed when the Overtime period ended is not eligible to be one of the Players selected to take the shots and must remain in the Penalty Box or in the Dressing Room. Also, Players serving penalties assessed during the "Penalty Shot" Shootout must remain in the Penalty Box or in the Dressing Room until the end of the procedure.



RULES CORNER



(IV) The Referee will call the two Captains to the On-ice Officials' Crease and flip a coin to determine which Team takes the first shot. The winner of the coin toss will have the choice whether their Team will shoot first or second.

(V) The Goalkeepers shall defend the same goal as in the Overtime period and remain in the goal when their own team is taking a shot.

(VI) The Goalkeepers from each Team may be changed after each shot.

(VII) The shots will be taken in accordance with Rule 24 – Penalty Shot

(VIII) The Players of both Teams will take the shots alternately until a decisive goal is scored. The remaining shots will not be taken.

(IX) If the score is still tied after all shots are taken by each Team, the procedure shall continue with a "tiebreak shoot-out", using the same or new Players. The Team that shot second in the first five Penalty Shot will start first in the "tie-break shots". The game shall be finished as soon as a duel of two Players brings the decisive result. The same Player can be used for each shot by a Team in the "tie-break shoot-out".

(X) The Official Scorekeeper will record all shots taken, indicating the Players and goals scored.

(XI) Only the decisive goal will count in the result of the game. It shall be credited to the Team that scored the goal and charged against the Team that was scored upon.

(XII) If a Team declines to participate in the "Penalty Shot" Shootout, the game will be declared as a loss for that Team and the other Team will be awarded 3 points for a win. If a Player declines to take a shot it will be declared "no score" for their Team.

84.5 OVERTIME OPERATIONS - PLAYOFF GAMES AND BRONZE MEDAL GAMES

If at the end of the three (3) regular twenty (20) minutes periods in a Playoff Game, a Relegation Round Game, a Classification Round Game or in a Bronze Medal Game and the two playing teams are tied, the teams will then play a 'sudden death' overtime period of not more than 10 minutes with the team scoring first declared the winner. The overtime period shall be played with each team at a numerical strength of three (3) skaters and one (1) Goalkeeper. The overtime period will commence following a three-minute intermission during which time a shovelling of the ice surface will be performed by arena personnel utilizing the same procedure as during television time-outs. Once the intermission has been completed, the clock will be reset to 10:00 minutes and the overtime period will begin immediately. Teams will not change ends. The players will remain at their respective player benches during the 3-minute intermission in which the shovelling of the ice surface takes place. Goalkeepers must go to their respective players' benches during this rest period; however, penalized players must remain on the penalty bench. Should a penalised player exit the penalty bench, the player shall be returned immediately by the game officials with no additional penalty being assessed, unless the player commits an infraction of any other rule. Teams are not permitted to return to the dressing room during this time.

84.6 OVERTIME OPERATIONS – GOLD MEDAL GAME

If at the end of the three (3) regular twenty (20) minutes periods in a Gold Medal Game of a top category championship and the two playing teams are tied, the teams will then play a 'sudden death' overtime with the team scoring first declared the winner. The overtime period(s) shall be played with each team at a numerical strength of three (3) skaters and one (1) Goalkeeper. The overtime period will commence following an ice resurfacing during a 15-minute intermission where the teams will return to their dressing room before the start of the overtime period. Teams will not change ends. If at the end of the first overtime period following an ice resurfacing during a 15-minute intermission where the teams will return to their dressing room before the start of the 2nd overtime period. Teams will change ends. If at the end of the 2nd overtime period the two playing teams are still tied, the teams will change ends. If at the end of the 2nd overtime period the two playing teams are still tied, the teams will change ends. If at the end of the 2nd overtime period the two playing teams are still tied, the teams will change ends. If at the end of the 2nd overtime period following an ice resurfacing during a 15-minute intermission where the teams will return to their dressing room before the start of the 2nd overtime period. Teams will then continue to play a third overtime period following an ice resurfacing during a 15-minute intermission where the teams will return to their dressing room before the start of the 3rd overtime period. Teams will change ends. This procedure will go on until a winner is declared.

85.1 PUCK OUT OF BOUNDS

RULE 85 PUCK OUT OF BOUNDS

When a puck goes outside the playing area at either end or either side of the Rink, strikes any obstacles above the playing surface other than the Boards or Protective Glass, causes the glass, lighting, timing device or the supports to break, it shall be "faced-off" at the nearest Face-off Spot in the zone from where it was

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shot or deflected out of play. Should the On-ice Officials rule that the shot or deflection that caused the puck to go out of play originated from the neutral or Defending Zones, the resulting "face-off" location shall be the nearest Face-off Spot closest to the origin of the shot or deflection that gives the offending Team the least amount of "territorial advantage". If the puck comes to rest on top of the Boards surrounding the playing area, it shall be considered to be in play and may be played legally by hand or stick. When the puck goes outside the playing area directly off the "face-off", regardless as to which Player may have last contacted the puck, the "face-off" shall remain in the same spot and no penalty will be assessed to either Team for delaying the game. When the puck is shot and it makes contact with the gloves or the body of a Player hanging over the Players' Bench, or if the puck enters the Players' Bench through an open bench door, the "face-off" shall take place at the nearest Face-off Spot in the zone from where the puck was shot, however, if the puck hits an opposing Player's glove or body that is hanging over the opposing Team's Players' Bench or enters the opposing Team's Players' Bench through an open bench door, the "face-off" shall take place in the Neutral Zone adjacent to the opponent's Players' Bench. Should the puck strike the curved glass located at the end of either Players' Bench, play shall be stopped when observed by any of

the On-ice Officials. The ensuing "face-off" shall be determined as if the puck went outside the playing area. Should the puck strike the spectator netting at the ends and the corners of the arena, play shall be stopped, and the ensuing "face off" shall be determined as if the puck went outside the playing area. Players must not stop playing the game until they hear the whistle to do so.

85.2 PUCK UNPLAYABLE

When the puck becomes lodged in the netting on the outside of either goal so as to make it "unplayable", or if it is "frozen" between opposing Players intentionally or otherwise, the Referee shall stop the play. The puck may be played off the goal netting by either Team. However, should the puck remain on the goal netting for more than three (3) seconds, play shall be stopped. Should the Goalkeeper use their stick or glove to "freeze" the puck on the back of the net or should a defending Player shield an attacking Player from playing the puck off the back of the net, the "face-off" shall take place at one of the Face-off Spots in the Defending Zone. Should the puck go under the goal either from behind or the side, or through the mesh from behind or the side, if this is witnessed by an On-ice Official, play should be stopped immediately, and the ensuing "face-off" should take place at the nearest Face-off Spot in the zone nearest to the location where the play was stopped.

85.3 PUCK OUT OF SIGHT

Should a scramble take place, or a Player accidentally fall on the puck and the puck be out of sight of the Referee, they shall immediately blow their whistle and stop the play. The puck shall then be "faced-off" at the nearest Face-off Spot in the zone where the play was stopped unless otherwise provided for in the rules.

85.4 PUCK STRIKING OFFICIAL

Play shall not be stopped if the puck touches an On-ice Official anywhere on the Rink, regardless of whether a Team is "short-handed" or not. A puck that deflects back into the Defending Zone off an On-ice Official who is in the Neutral Zone, will be deemed to be "off-side". Rule 83 – Off-side. The puck striking or deflecting off an On-ice Official does not automatically nullify a "potential icing". When a puck deflects off an On-ice Official and goes out of play, the ensuing "face-off" will take place at the Face-off Spot in the zone nearest to where the puck deflected off the Official. If a goal is scored as a result of being deflected directly into the net off an On-ice Official, the goal shall not be allowed.

85.5 FACE-OFF LOCATION

Should any Player cause the puck to go out of play or become "unplayable" in any zone, the "face-off" shall take place at the Face-off Spot in the zone from which the puck was shot. If deflected out of play, at the nearest Face-off Spot in the zone where it deflected out of play. If this stoppage is caused by an attacking player in the attacking zone, the face-off will take place at the closest face-off spot in the attacking zone (if the player did not make an infraction as per Rule 63 – delaying the game) If the zone happens to be the Neutral Zone, the Face-off Spot selected shall be the one that gives the offending Team the least amount of "territorial advantage". For a puck that is "unplayable" due to being lodged in the netting or as a result of it being "frozen" between opposing Players, the resulting "face-off" shall be at either of the adjacent Face-off Spots or at the nearest Face-off Spot in the zone from which the puck was shot, unless otherwise covered in these rules. If the attacking Team shoots the puck into the zone and a "Delayed Off-side" is indicated, or if the attacking Team commits a game flow infraction such as contacting the puck with a "high-stick" or

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THE FLYER | DIGITAL GAME DAY PROGRAMME | PAGE



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"batting the puck with a glove" (causing a stoppage of play), the ensuing "face-off" shall be in the Neutral Zone outside the offending Team's Attacking Zone.

85.6 MINOR PENALTY

A Minor Penalty for "Delay of Game" shall be imposed on a Goalkeeper who "deliberately" drops the puck on the goal netting to cause a stoppage of play. Rule 67.3 – Handling the Puck.

85.7 VERIFICATION OF TIME

Any loss of time on the game or penalty clocks due to the puck going out of play must be replaced. The Video Goal Consultant may be consulted to ensure the time is accurately replaced. Rule 37.6 – Video Review to verify time on clock

RULE 86 START OF GAME AND PERIODS

86.1 START OF GAME AND PERIODS

In game facilities during IIHF Championship events where the participating Teams enter and depart the ice surface using the same common door and hallway system, the procedure is proposed to ensure that the Teams enter and depart the ice surface in an orderly fashion and without incident. The game clock will be the only timing device used in the timing of all activities including the "pre-game warm-up", the period intermissions and the actual game itself. The game shall be commenced at the time scheduled by a "face-off" in the Center of the Rink and shall be renewed promptly at the conclusion of each intermission in the same manner.

86.2 BENCH MINOR PENALTY

A Bench Minor Penalty for "Delay of Game" shall be imposed on either or both Teams if:

(I) They are not on the ice or can be seen proceeding to the ice to start the second, third or any Overtime period when the intermission time on the clock has expired.

(II) At the start of the second, third and any Overtime period, all Players with the exception of the starting Players must proceed directly to their respective Players' Benches. Skating, warm-ups or on-ice activities by non-starters is not permitted.

(III) When the visiting Team must proceed by the way of the ice to their Dressing Room at the end of a period, they must wait for a signal from one of the Officials before proceeding. Failure to wait for the Official's signal shall result in a penalty.

86.3 CHOICE OF ENDS

If not specified by the organizing bodies, the Home Team shall have the choice of the goal to defend at the start of the game. The Teams shall change ends for each period of regulation time.

86.4 DELAYS

No delay shall be permitted by reason of any ceremony, exhibition, demonstration or presentation unless approved by the IIHF.

86.5 END OF PERIODS

At the conclusion of the first and second periods, upon hearing the buzzer, the away team will return to its players' bench and remain there until the entire home team has departed the ice surface and entered the common hallway. Once the last player of the home team has entered the common hallway, then the Referee will motion the away team to leave the ice surface. As soon as the buzzer sounds, signalling the end of the period, the game clock will be immediately re-set with the appropriate intermission time frame. Players shall not be permitted to come on the ice during a stoppage of play or at the end of the first and second periods for the purpose of warming-up. The Referee will report any violation of this rule to the Proper Authorities for disciplinary action.

86.6 PRE-GAME WARM-UP

During the pre-game warm-up (which shall not exceed 15 minutes in duration) and before the commencement of play in any period, each Team shall confine its activity to its own end of the Rink. Rule 46.10 – Fighting Prior the Drop of the Puck. The Game Timekeeper shall be responsible for signalling the commencement and termination of the pre-game warm-up and any violation of this rule by the Players shall be reported to the Proper Authorities. 20 minutes before the time scheduled for the start of the game, both Teams shall vacate the ice and proceed to their Dressing Rooms while the ice is being flooded. Both Teams shall be signalled by the Game Timekeeper to return to the ice together in time for the scheduled start of the game.





86.7 START OF GAME

If a Team does not appear on the ice on time at the start of the game without justification, this incident will be reported to the Proper Authorities. If deemed appropriate, Supplementary Discipline can be applied by the Proper Authorities at their discretion Rule 28 – Supplementary Discipline

86.8 START OF PERIODS

At the beginning of the second and third periods, and Overtime periods in playoffs (0:00 on the clock), Teams must be on the ice or be observed to be proceeding to the ice. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in a Bench Minor Penalty for "Delay of Game". Before the start of the second and third periods (and Overtime) the Teams will proceed directly to their respective Players' Benches. The visiting Team will immediately place its Skaters at the Face-off Circle, then the Home Team will follow, with the Referee allowing the Home Team to make a line change if so desired prior to the "face-off". Skating, warm-ups, or onice activities by non-starters will result in a Bench Minor Penalty for "Delay of Game" to the offending Team. No warm-up involving pucks on the ice shall be permitted for a Goalkeeper at the start of any period. If, after one warning, this continues, the Referee shall assess a "Delay of Game" penalty to the offending Team. To notify the teams that it is time to return to the ice surface at the beginning of each period, the official game Timekeeper will sound a buzzer in the Dressing Room area.

86.9 CONCLUSION OF THE GAME

At the conclusion of the game, the loosing Team will depart the ice surface first, with the winning Team waiting on the ice until the loosing Team has left the ice surface. Once the last player of the losing Team has entered the common hallway, then the Referee will motion the winning team to leave the ice surface. The Directorate may agree on an adaptation to this regulation taking into consideration the positions of the Dressing Rooms of the two competing Teams.

87.1 TIME-OUT

RULE 87 TIME-OUTS

Each Team shall be permitted to take one thirty-second (30 s) "time-out" during the course of any game. All Players including Goalkeepers on the ice at the time of the "time-out" will be allowed to go to their respective benches. This "time-out" must be taken during a normal stoppage of play. Only one "time-out" ("television commercial break / power break" or Team "time-out"), shall be permitted at any one stoppage of play. For the purpose of this rule, a "television commercial break" is deemed an "official time-out" and not charged to either Team. Any Player designated by the Coach or the Coach will indicate to the Referee that their Team is exercising its option. The "time-out" must be requested by the team before the Referee has completed the players change procedure, before the Referee lowers his hand and points to the respecting face-off location. The Referee will report the "time-out" to the Game Timekeeper who shall be responsible for signalling the termination of the "time-out". No "time-out" shall be granted following a "face-off" violation. No "time-out" shall be granted to the defensive Team following an icing, following the Goalkeeper causing a stoppage of play from a shoot-in from beyond the center red line, or when a defending Player accidentally dislodges the net causing a stoppage of play. No "time-out" shall be granted when a "Penalty Shot" has been awarded to either Team by the Referee, once instructions have been given to the Player taking the shot and the Goalkeeper defending the shot. No "time-out" will be granted during the shootout. No warm-up involving pucks on the ice shall be permitted for a Goalkeeper or replacement Goalkeeper during a "time-out". If, after one warning, this continues, the Referee shall assess a "Delay of Game" penalty to the offending Team. **87.2 COMMERCIAL BREAK**

During each regular period of the games in an IIHF Championship there shall be a maximum of three (3) commercial breaks, each with a maximum duration of seventy (70) seconds but can be subject to change for specific events. Commercial breaks shall be taken at the first stoppage of play after the following times on the game clock as it counts down:

(I) Break number 1: 14.00 (min.)

(II) Break number 2: 10.00 (min.)

(III) Break number 3: 06.00 (min.)

Despite the above indicated time slots, commercial breaks shall not be taken if:

a) A goal is scored;

b) A penalty shot is called;

c) One of the Teams is playing short-handed;





d) A fight breaks out on ice;

e) An icing infraction is called;

f) The net is dislodged accidentally by a defending player (incl. goalkeeper); and

g) The puck is shot into the end zone from beyond the center red line and the goalkeeper freezes the puck resulting in a stoppage of play.

Exceptions from point e-g above is when a penalty or penalties are assessed in the stoppage that affects the on-ice strength of either team. In the event that a commercial break is not taken during the time slot prescribed above, because of the exceptions above, the missed commercial opportunity shall be made up at the first stoppage of play in the next commercial break time slot. If there is another incident where the second commercial break is missed, this procedure shall continue to repeat itself until all commercial breaks are taken. However, there must always be at least 60 seconds between two commercial breaks. Any extra commercial break taken during a time slot shall follow the procedure described above and they shall be eliminated from the last remaining time slot of that period. They shall not be used to create extra commercial inventory for broadcasters. However, in such instances, the Commercial opportunity is being taken. No commercial breaks shall be taken in the final thirty (30) seconds of the first and second periods, as well as during the final two (2) minutes of the third period. No commercial breaks shall be granted during overtime. The Teams shall comply with the following provisions during commercial breaks:

a) Goalkeepers will be allowed to go to their respective players' bench.

b) Teams are allowed to change lines once the referee blows the whistle signalling the teams to return to the face-off with 20 seconds remaining in the commercial stoppage.

c) These line changes will follow the same protocol as a normal line change during a stoppage of play.

87.3 GOAL BREAK

Immediately after a goal, there is a 45-second 'goal break'. This break is for the broadcaster to show replays of the goal and for the defending team to decide whether to initiate a coach's challenge (if Rule 38 is used in the game)

EIHL ADDENDUM

RULE 84-OVERTIME

84.1 Overtime Operations

Overtime follows the third period when the score is tied after 60 minutes of regulation time and can consist of a 5-minute period, 10-minute period, or 20-minute period. In each case, these periods are played on a sudden-death basis (next goal wins). The penalty-shot shootout consists of five shots per team (if needed) followed by a sudden death, penalty-shot shootout if the score in the shootout is tied after five shots.

• Regular Season- 5-minute overtime period

Challenge Cup Group Stage- 5-minute overtime period

o Play-In Game-10minutes overtime period

• Challenge Cup Semi Finals- 10-minute overtime period only if the score is tied on aggregate at the end of the 2nd Leg

Challenge Cup Final- 20-minute overtime periods

• Playoff Quarterfinals- 5-minute overtime period only if the score is tied on aggregate at the end of the 2nd Leg

Playoff Semi Final- 10-minute overtime period

Playoff 3 v4-10-minute overtime period

• Playoff Final- Re-occurring Sudden Death 20-minute overtime period.

(1) Overtime- Regular-season and Challenge Cup group stages- If, at the end of the three (3) regular twenty (20) minute periods, the score shall be tied, each team shall be awarded one point in the League / Challenge Cup Group standings. The teams will then play an additional overtime period of not more than five (5) minutes with the team scoring first declared the winner and awarded an additional point. The overtime period shall be played with each team at a numerical strength of three (3) skaters and one (1) goaltender. Additional penalties to be assessed consistent with the rules in regulation time. The overtime period will





commence following a 1-minute break. The ice will not be dry scraped at this break. The players will remain at their respective benches. The teams will not change ends for the overtime period (defend same goal as in the 3rd period). Goaltenders may go to their respective players' benches during this rest period, however, penalised players must remain on the penalty bench. Should a penalised player exit the penalty bench, he shall be returned immediately by the officials with no additional penalty being assessed, unless he commits an infraction of any rule.

(2) Overtime- Playoff Quarter Finals

a. These games are all played on the basis of aggregate scores, therefore there will be no Overtime played at the end of the first leg regardless of score.

b. If, at the end of the second game after six (6) regular twenty (20) minute periods, the aggregate score shall be tied, the teams will then play an additional overtime period of not more than five (5) minutes with the team scoring first declared the winner. The overtime period shall be played with each team at a numerical strength of three (3) skaters and one (1) goaltender. Additional penalties to be assessed consistent with the rules in regulation time. The overtime period will commence following a 1-minute break. The ice will not be dry scraped at this break. The players will remain at their respective benches. The teams will not change ends for the overtime period (defend same goal as in the 3rd period). Goaltenders may go to their respective players' benches during this rest period, however, penalised players must remain on the penalty bench. Should a penalised player exit the penalty bench, he shall be returned immediately by the officials with no additional penalty being assessed, unless he commits an infraction of any rule.

(3) Overtime- Playoff Semi Final and Bronze Medal Game, Cup Semi-Finals- At Playoff Finals Weekend (POFW) In either a semifinal or Bronze Medal Game, or in a Cup Semi-Final based on the aggregate score, when a game is tied after three (3) twenty (20) minute regular periods of play, the teams will then play an additional overtime period of not more than ten (10) minutes with the team scoring first declared the winner. The overtime period shall be played with each team at a numerical strength of three (3) skaters and one (1) goaltender. Additional penalties to be assessed consistent with the rules in regulation time. The overtime period will commence following a 1-minute break. The ice will not be dry scraped at this break. The players will remain at their respective benches. The teams will not change ends for the overtime period (defend same goal as in the 3rd period). Goaltenders may go to their respective players' benches during this rest period, however, penalised players must remain on the penalty bench. Should a penalised player exit the penalty bench, he shall be returned immediately by the officials with no additional penalty being assessed, unless he commits an infraction of any rule.

(4) Overtime- All competitions with the exception of the Challenge Cup Final and Playoff Final – Penalties – When regulation time ends and the teams are 5 on 3, teams will start overtime 5 on 3. Once player strength reaches 5 on 4 or 5 on 5, at the next stoppage of play, player strength is adjusted to 4 on 3, 4 on 4, or 3 on 3, as appropriate. When regulation ends and teams are 4 on 4 teams will start overtime 3 on 3. If at the end of regulation time teams are three (3) skaters on three (3) skaters, overtime starts three (3) skaters on three (3) skaters. Once player strength reaches five (5) skaters on four (4) skaters or five (5) skaters on five (5) skaters, at the next stoppage player strength is adjusted to four (4) skaters on three (3) skaters, four (4) skaters on four (4) skaters, or three (3) skaters on three (3) skaters, as appropriate. At no time will a team have less than three players on the ice. This may require a fourth and/or fifth skater to be added in the event penalties are assessed. If a team is penalised in overtime, teams play four (4) skaters against three (3) skaters. If both teams are penalised with minor penalties at the same stoppage of play, with no other penalties in effect, teams will play three (3) skaters against three (3) skaters. In overtime, if a team is penalised such that a two-man advantage is called for, then the offending team will remain at three (3) skaters while the non-offending team will be permitted a fifth skater. At the first stoppage of play after the two-man advantage is no longer in effect, the numerical strength of the team will revert back to either four (4) skaters on four (4) skaters, four (4) skaters on three (3) skaters, or a three (3) skaters on three (3) skaters' situation, as appropriate.





(5) Overtime- Challenge Cup Final and Playoff Final- In the EIHL Challenge Cup Final and Playoff Final, when a game is tied after three (3) twenty (20) minute regular periods of play, the teams shall take a normal intermission (fifteen (15) or Eighteen (18) minutes) and resume playing twenty (20) minute periods (with a normal intermission each subsequent OT period), changing ends for the start of each overtime period. The team scoring the first goal in overtime shall be declared the winner of the game. The ice is to be resurfaced at the end of regulation time and after each additional 20-minute period.

84.4 "Penalty Shot" Shootout procedure- Round robin or preliminary Round Game

A penalty shootout consists of Five (5) Shooters. If a game remains without a winner after 60 minutes and the ensuing five (5) or ten (10) minute overtime (length of overtime period is dependent upon the competition as detailed above) the outcome of the game is decided with a shoot-out. The rules governing the shoot-out shall be the same as those listed in the Penalty shot procedure in the IIHF-Rulebook. (I) Shots will be taken at both ends of the ice surface. The fourteen (14) metre wide longitudinal centre section of the Rink, between the Face-off Spots in the Neutral and End Zones, will be dry- scraped by the ice-resurfacing machine prior to the Penalty Shot Shootout during the time required to organise the program accordingly EIHL– The dry scrape is not required unless it is in Playoffs

(IV) The Referee will call the two Captains to the On-ice Officials' Crease and flip a coin to determine which Team takes the first shot. The winner of the coin toss will have the choice whether their Team will shoot first or second.

EIHL- In all competitive EIHL Games the Home Team shall have the choice to shoot first or second. If the shootout progresses to sudden death shootout, the order reverses a as per IIHF rule 84.4 ix: (V) The Goalkeepers shall defend the same goal as in the Overtime period and remain in the goal when

their own team is taking a shot.

EIHL- The shooting teams' goaltender may remain on the ice at his respective end zone. The shooting teams' goaltender may not make any attempt to distract or interfere with the procedure of the shot in an attempt to take the attention away from the goaltender being shot on. If, while the penalty shot or shootout is being taken, any player, goaltender, Coach or non-playing Club personnel of the team taking the shot shall have by some action interfered with or distracted the goaltender defending the shot and, because of such action, the shot was successful, the Referee shall rule NO goal and shall impose a misconduct penalty.

84.5 Overtime Operations and Penalty Shootout procedure– Playoff Games and Medal Games See above 84.1 Overtime Operations

RULE 86-START OF GAME AND PERIODS

86.6 Pre-Game Warm-Up

During the pre-game warm-up (which shall not exceed 15 minutes in duration) and before the commencement of play in any period, each Team shall confine its activity to its own end of the Rink. EIHL- warm-up (which shall not exceed 20 minutes in duration)

Note: Warmup is to be recorded and uploaded as part of the match night footage given to the league and officials.

i. Physical contact between players on opposing teams is not allowed during the warmup and players are not allowed to skate over the centre red line during this time. Violations of these rules will be handled by the standby referee who oversees the warmup.

ii. Any violations of game rules that occur during the warmup cannot be enforced by on-ice officials because they are not on the ice to witness the violations first-hand, but these may be reviewed after the game by the proper authorities.

For any violation during the Warm Up leaves players, team officials and the clubs will be subjected to a suspension and/or fine under the EIHL Penalty Fines Catalogue. In addition, the Head Coach of the team who instigated (started) or provoked such activity is subject to a suspension or fine to the respective club. Referees are authorised to call all penalties provided for in the rule book from the start of warm-up time until 30 minutes after the end of the game, if they see the offence take place. In the case of incidents outside of this period, the main referee must submit a report to the Department of Player Safety and the Head of Hockey Operations.

HOCKEY VIEWS FROM SECTION 'C' AND BEYOND Darrian Wilson

Okay, so blowing the roof off the Auld Barn is just a saying, let's get that right from the start. We talk about it all the time and now there's likely to be some superstition against using that phrase. Remember when we used to use the phrase "setting the barn alight"? Nobody has really used that since the rink caught fire all those years ago.

It was nothing more than common sense that saw Flyers shopping trip to the Weeg cancelled and judging by Clan's recent performances it was just as well for them that the game was postponed due to the dangers of travelling to Renfrewshire and of course, the bad weather too.

Parts of the Auld Barn's roof departing to Norway meant Flyers missed the honour of being the first team to meet with the newest Continental Cup winners when Cardiff Devils were unable to visit the Auld Barn last Saturday. The competition may have its knockers and with Katowice missing four players due to paperwork issues and one team having dropped out of the finals weekend there were distractions and murmurs around about the validity of it all. Devils had to go through significant pain to get to the finals weekend and win both games that weekend to secure the trophy.

Given their liking for merch (big chains and all that) I am hoping to see celebratory sandwich platters on sale down in Wales to stimulate some vigorous hockey conversation over a pile of coronation chicken sandwiches. If they play their cards right, they could merch the chain and platter together as a pull chain and toilet lid – just one trophy away from a full flush and being able to market a Cardiff Cludgie. Steelers will be raging that they haven't thought of that.

Anyway, warmest of congratulations to Pete Russell and his squad.

Sadly, for Pete and his Devils they could have been doing with that Cardiff Cludgie last weekend as they played host to fellow title contenders Belfast Giants. Devils well and truly pooped themselves and threw away a golden opportunity. I could also have been doing with one of those Cludgies when the government alert sounded on my mobile phone, causing my home office to be filled with a strange and oddly aromatic brown haze that left wee Dug staring at me in wonderment.

Flyers had a morale boosting win down in Manchester and followed that up by taking a run at Panthers on the Sunday only for Panthers to complete two ridiculous smash and grabs in back-to-back games absolutely stealing four points on a weekend which had Stewy's mood flip flopping between angry man and happy little peanut from shift to shift. Positives from that last weekend of action being seven goals scored with five different scorers bulging the twine. A rare double for Mike Cichy on the Saturday, including one on the powerplay, helped start the Flyers comeback in that game whilst three goals without response in the last ten minutes of the match put a rubber stamp on the reason for giving everything right up to the final whistle. On the Sunday Kieran Craig's individual effort scored after just sheer determination on the penalty kill as he battled to the Panthers net before sinking his own rebound was a thing of beauty and Massimo Carozza's

strike was as sweet a shot as you will see and a welldeserved goal for him as he has played out his skin recently.

It was a two-point weekend that deserved to be more but the manner in which the team conducted themselves was more valuable than points alone, you could see the desire and determination in every shift, and you could see confidence returning. It is a source of frustration then that Flyers had to sit out last weekend.

This weekend will see Giants come to visit followed by a three-day camel ride to Coventry to have a poke at the Blaze.

Giants are seven points clear at the top with Devils slipping to second place though do have games in hand over those surrounding them. Nottingham have made a charge into third place whilst Clan have made a charge down into eighth place, albeit with games in hand that could see them snatch seventh place back, if they can get themselves playing hockey again. The League had an article out on Wednesday titled "Blaze and Flames still eyeing top four" but in reality, it looks like they will be arguing over fifth and sixth place for the rest of the season unless of course Steelers or Panthers go on a wee slide to themselves. This weekend is another toughy for Flyers, though I hope that the weekend off has helped heal any aches without bringing the momentum to a crashing halt.

Have yourself a happy hockey weekend. Darrian

Matchnight PRESENTATIONS

NOTTINGHAM PANTHERS JANUARY 19TH 2025



PANTHERS MOM MITCHELL FOSSIER

FLYERS MOM JĀNIS VORIS



SHIRT OFF BACK WINNER



WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85

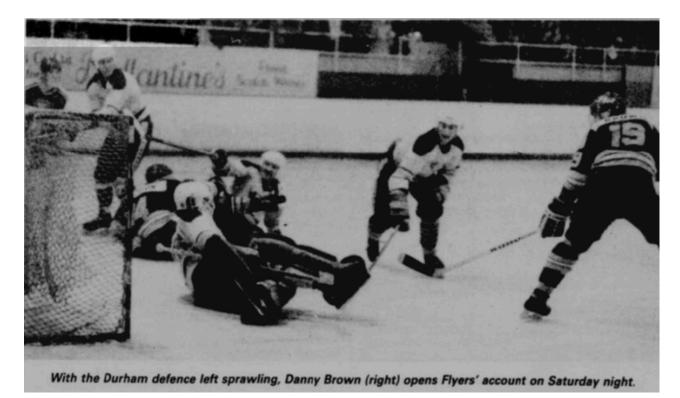
As the Heineken Premier League builds towards its climax, Fife Flyers are preparing for what is likely to be one of the most significant weekends of the season. At Kirkcaldy Ice Rink tomorrow night, Flyers take on Durham Wasps, the only side who could overtake them if they won their games in hand, while on Sunday they travel to meet fast-improving Ayr Bruins. A capacity crowd is expected for the visit of Durham, who are four points adrift of Flyers, but have played three games fewer. Flyers' player-coach Ron Plumb sees the number of matches lost as a more accurate indication of a team's true standing than looking at games in hand, and at the moment, Flyers, Durham and Murrayfield have all been beaten four times. "It is all very well having games in hand, but those matches have to be won," he said this week. Plumb will be emphasising the importance of good defence as the basis for success against both Durham and Ayr. "I was a little concerned at losing six goals to Whitley, and we must keep things tight at the back," he said. "If we play to our capabilities and take advantage of our scoring opportunities, I don't see why we can't win those games." Flyers, of course, have only played Ayr once in the league so far this season, and since then they have acquired the services of Canadian defenceman Steve Slaughter who has instigated something of a revival. Only last week, Bruins ended Dundee Rockets' proud boast of never having been beaten in a televised match, and they will prove a tough nut to crack. Flyers have no injury worries, but will again be without Jimmy Pennycook who is unavailable through work commitments. Incidentally, Dave 'Stoyanovich requires just six points from this weekend's games to bring up 200 points in all matches this season. Meanwhile, Ron Plumb is delighted at the inclusion of Craig Dickson and Gordon Goodsir in the British nder-20 side for the World Junior 'C' Pool Championships in Belgium later this month. "It is a great boost for them, and it will help Fife Flyers by making them better players," he said. Tickets for Flyers' televised match against Murrayfield Racers on March 23 are disappearing fast, and fans are advised to buy quickly to avoid disappointment. Murrayfield have asked for an allocation of 400 tickets.

09/02/1985 Fife Flyers v Durham Wasps Premier League

Fife Flyers lost their 100 per cent. home record on Saturday night — but can consider themselves fortunate to have salvaged a point after Durham Wasps had established a 3-0 lead in the first period. It took a dramatic fightback by the Kirkcaldy side in the second period to wipe out that deficit but Wasps made it all square in Flyers toughest home match of the season. Durham produced a robust, hardhitting dis play, and the usually free- flowing Flyers were made to look lack-lustre during the first period. Great Britain under-20 cap Stephen 'Johnston opened the scoring when he beat Andrew Donald from an acute angle, and four minutes later, Wasps' player-coach Paul Tilley took full advantage of a power play to make it 2-0. When Canadian forward Jamie Crapper stretched the Durham lead to three before the end of the period, Flyers" home record looked in serious jeopardy. However, a hooking penalty against O'Connor gave Danny Brown the chance to open Flyers' account, and just 19 seconds later, the huge crowd went wild as Brown sneaked the puck under. Killen to make it 3-2. With Flyers really buzzing, the home fans raised the roof when Brown completed an eight-minute hattrick to tie the score, but there was more drama to come as Dave Stoyanovich was brought down when clean through on goal, and calmly converted the resultant penalty shot himself to put the Kirkcaldy side ahead. Flyers were expected to take full control in the final period, especially with Crapper sitting out a 10 minute penalty. However, Durham's depths of resilience, and the brilliance of netminder Killen — signed only recently from Nottingham — kept the home side at bay. And the match was left all square as tiny winger Ivor Bennett broke clear to beat Donald and make it 4-4, Flyers tried desperately to retrieve the situation in the closing stages, but luck was not with them. Player-coach Ron Plumb was particularly unfortunate not to score with a deflected shot in the dying seconds. In the end, neither side was too unhappy with a share of the spoils after a fiercely contested match between the two best teams in Britain. It was the second successive draw between the sides, following last month's 5-5 result in Durham.



WEMBLEY WIZARDS SEASON 1984/85



10/02/1985 Ayr Bruins v Fife Flyers Premier League

After their bruising encounter with Durham, Flyers travelled to Ayr on Sunday with a depleted squad and were handed their biggest defeat of the season. The Kirkcaldy side did not have a recognised centre in their squad, with Gordon Latto and Danny Brown suffering from cracked ribs and a knee injury respectively, while defenceman Brian Peat also missed a game with a groin strain. The match was spoiled by some very inconsistent refereeing, and a combination of this and a lack of discipline from Flyers saw them accumulate 64 penalty minutes — their highest of the season. This included a gross misconduct penalty for Stuart Drummond after only seven minutes, and a match misconduct penalty for Dave Stoyanovich late in the game. With Flyers having to reshuffle their lines, it was no surprise that they should find themselves up against it in a physical period. On several occasions they were left skating two men short, but stout resistance from the defence and an outstanding display by Andrew Donald kept the scoresheet blank at the first buzzer. The second period continued in the same vein, however, and it was only a matter of time before Ayr went ahead. This they did exactly half way through the period when Bedard scored with Flyers again two men short. Five minutes later, Bedard added a second, and with two minutes of the period remaining, Kidd made it 3-0. Flyers' heads seemed to go down at this stage, and further goals by Wells and Bedard increased Bruins' lead before Andy Linton opened the visitors' account after good work by Chic Cottrell. The match boiled over shortly after with an incident between Ayr's Murphy and Flyers' Gary McEwan who had to leave the ice with a broken nose. Murphy was then given a match misconduct penalty after hurling his helmet and gloves at the Fife support. As tempers cooled, Bruins scored twice more through Slaughter, but Cottrell, Flyers' captain for the night, pulled one back with a superb short-handed goal. However, Ayr had the final say when Dailly netted with just two minutes remaining.

1984/85 SEASON ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENT

A landmark anniversary to celebrate one of the greatest moments in Fife Flyers' history has been announced.

It was 40 years ago in 1985 that the ice hockey team was crowned British champions at Wembley Arena in London.

That triumph created the 'Plumb Line' - a historic team led by player coach Ron Plumb and fellow Canadians Dave Stoyanovich and Danny Brown and backed by a host of outstanding local players widely regarded to this day as one of the most exciting ever seen at Fife Ice Arena.

Now, the players who skated to victory are set to be reunited as part of a major celebration planned for May 2025, exactly four decades later.

Plans are in hand to stage a live show packed with memories of that never to be forgotten season, a sportsman's lunch and an exhibition of memorabilia with all profits from the events going to CHAS, the club's adopted charity, and Maggie's Fife Cancer Care Centre in Kirkcaldy.

It will be a unique chance for fans who were there to relive one of the greatest weekends of following Flyers and introduce a classic team which packed the rink on game nights to a new generation of supporters.

The events are being put together by a small team of long-standing Flyers' fans with months of preparatory work already done. It is being led by Fife Flyers historian John Ross, with Joe Rowbotham, assistant team manager in 1985 and member of KIHC's management committee, Alan Westwater, former Flyers' programme editor, Iain Anderson, a supporter of the team since 1983 and Allan Crow, editor of the Fife Free Press.



Left to right: John Ross, Iain Anderson, Alan Westwater, Allan Crow

1984/85 SEASON ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENT

They have already contacted all the surviving team members who are looking forward to the 40th anniversary reunion, and put the wheels in motion to secure a venue. Work has also started on an exhibition in Kirkcaldy which will be launched that same week. John said: "The 1985 team remains one of the greatest in the club's history, and it is only fitting we mark this landmark anniversary. We hope fans, old and new, will be able to enjoy our live event and exhibition of memorabilia - and share their memories of an incredible achievement 40 years ago. "We have had a great response from the players and key people connected with the team in 1985 who all want to be part of the celebrations and are looking forward to reuniting them for the first time in 40 years." The organising committee is appealing to fans who can donate memorabilia for the exhibition, and also to the business community to come on board as sponsors. There are gold and silver packages available at £1000 and £500 respectively, with benefits including tickets, souvenirs and publicity. Their contributions will help underpin the not-for-profit event, and boost the organisers' donations to the two charities which will benefit. Alan Westwater is leading on the exhibition which will focus on the 1985 team whose triumph was one of the greatest moments of the sport's Heineken era. Fife Flyers are excited to see these events come to fruition and hope that players and fans can share some special memories. Further detailed news on the events will be available in the next few weeks. If you can help with memorabilia or are wish to discuss further information on a sponsorship package, please email fifeflyershistorian@btinternet.com

LATEST UPDATE

The organisers behind the reunion of Fife Flyers' 1985 British Championship winning team have issued a 'save the date' to fans keen to be there. The 40th anniversary celebrations take place in May and will include a live show, exhibition and sportsman's lunch. Details of the big show are being finalised with the venue.

It will take place on **Friday, May 2nd 2025 at the Rothes Hall**, Glenrothes, with ticket details to be announced in the coming weeks.

There will also be a **souvenir brochure** available to buy at £10 which tells the story of the team's incredible triumph at Wembley Arena and the season that led to that never to be forgotten weekend. It is being put together by members of the organising committee and will be published and available for the weekend of the celebrations. Anyone who wants to order a copy in advance can do so, and get their name listed in a page for patrons. To become a patron please contact the organising committee via the email address fifeflyershistorian@btinternet.com , the FifeFlyers historian social media channels, or directly with any of the members of the committee.

The organisers have been delighted by the initial response to news of the reunion of the Class of '85 with many old-time hockey fans keen to be involved at the live show.

They are also appealing to any supporters with memorabilia from that era to consider loaning or donating to the exhibition which will be hosted at **Kirkcaldy Galleries and will run from April 30th 2025 until June 8th 2025**. Alan Westwater, the club's former programme editor, is leading the initiative and liaising with staff at the galleries where space has been reserved to showcase the team's successes. He said: "We'd love to hear from any fans who have items of interest - it could be anything from a strip to a puck or merchandising from Wembley in 1985. Anything loaned will be catalogued, displayed securely, and then returned afterwards." Offers of assistance should be directed via email fifeflyershistorian@btinternet.com

A sportsman's lunch will take place at the **Strathearn Hotel**, **Kirkcaldy**, **on Sunday**, **May 4th** with further details to be announced in the coming weeks.



KIRKCALDY ICE HOCKEY CLUB



Weekend January 18/19th

Fife Falcons continued to lead the way in the U19 league following a hard-fought 4-1 victory at Belfast Giants on Saturday.

The home side sat deep throughout the game, but goals by Jack McGowan, Cole Wallace, Ross Henderson and Harris Piotrowicz got the job done for the Falcons.

A shout-out to Fife Flames' player Lewis Blyth, who picked up the MVP award after producing a strong performance at U19 level.

Fife Phantoms were out of luck at Lanarkshire Lightning U14, with the home side showcasing their ability on the way to a comfortable win. Ryan Venters was the Phantoms' MVP.

Fife Redwings fared better in their U12 encounter at Murrayfield, claiming a 4-1 win. Mason Kelly (2) topped the scoring, while Danny McLean bagged the MVP prize.

At senior level, **Kirkcaldy Kestrels** kept themselves in contention for a top-three finish in the Scottish National League with a superb victory over Aberdeen Lynx on Saturday.

Scott Jamieson got the ball rolling with the opening goal in the 19th minute, laying the foundations for a strong performance in the second period.

Chris Wands, Josh Saunders, Finley King and Allan Anderson made it 5-0 during the middle session as the Kestrels stepped on the gas.

Joe Durkacz pulled one back for Lynx early in the third period, but the visitors never looked like reducing the deficit further.

The result moved the Kestrels two points behind third-placed Lynx with a game in hand. Dundee Rockets and Edinburgh Capitals fill the top two spots.







KIRKCALDY ICE HOCKEY CLUB



Weekend January 25/26th

Fife Flames continued their excellent form in the Scottish U16 League with an emphatic victory at Murrayfield on Saturday.

The players performed extremely well as a group, with almost every one of them tallying at least one assist to demonstrate how they try to play the game.

The Flames are well-placed to claim top spot this season, but the coaching team will be stressing the importance of avoiding complacency.

The short-benched **Fife Redwings** were out of luck at Lanarkshire Lightning U12. The home side took full advantage to cement their place at the top of the table.

Kaiden Coles picked up the MVP award for the Redwings.

With Fife Ice Arena out of action due to storm damage, **Fife Phantoms** game against Cardiff Junior Devils U14 was switched to Murrayfield Ice Rink.

The day started with a fantastic pre-game meal at the Holiday Inn, followed by a great match between the two sides.

The Phantoms secured the win with a strong bounce-back performance, and it was great to see such a positive reaction from all the players.

Both teams subsequently enjoyed the Edinburgh Capitals versus Kirkcaldy Kestrels game. Given how things looked on Friday night, it was a fantastic weekend for everyone.

Malky McPhee picked up the MVP award for the Phantoms, while Kian Barbosa scooped the prize for the Devils.

At senior level, **Kirkcaldy Kestrels** recent winning run in the Scottish National League was halted at Edinburgh Capitals on Saturday.

The respective netminders had the upper hand during the first half of the contest, producing several fine saves to keep the scoreline level.

Kestrels forward Scott Jamieson eventually broke the deadline with a powerplay goal in the 34th minute to set up a tense final period.

The Capitals finally got on the scoresheet after 54 minutes and turned the game on its head to make it 2-1 just over two minutes later.

The Kestrels pulled netminder Andy Little inside the last minute but were unable to send the contest to overtime.

Steven Wishart's side return to action at North Ayrshire Wild on Saturday (6.30 pm).



TABLES & FIXTURES SEASON 2024/25

ELITE LEAGUE

	GP	PTS	W	OTW	L	OTL/SOL	GF	GA	PTS %	
Belfast Giants	33	51	21	3	6	3	124	76	0.77	
Cardiff Devils	31	44	21	0	8	2	109	75	0.71	
Nottingham Panthers	33	43	18	3	11	1	113	76	0.65	Î
Sheffield Steelers	32	42	20	1	11	0	125	82	0.66	Ļ
Coventry Blaze	33	39	14	4	12	3	106	96	0.59	
Guildford Flames	33	37	15	2	13	3	112	108	0.56	
Dundee Stars	34	27	10	2	19	3	104	134	0.4	Î
Glasgow Clan	30	26	11	2	17	0	87	106	0.43	↓
Manchester Storm	31	21	9	1	20	1	92	127	0.34	
Fife Flyers	30	8	3	0	25	2	63	155	0.13	

As at 27th January 2025

WHAT'S ON TAP THIS WEEK

Game ID			Home	Away	Face Off
165	Wed	29-Jan-2025	Coventry Blaze	Guildford Flames	19:30
166	Sat	1-Feb-2025	Cardiff Devils	Nottingham Panthers	19:00
167	Sat	1-Feb-2025	Dundee Stars	Guildford Flames	19:00
168	Sat	1-Feb-2025	Glasgow Clan	Sheffield Steelers	19:00
169	Sat	1-Feb-2025	Manchester Storm	Coventry Blaze	19:00
170	Sat	1-Feb-2025	Fife Flyers	Belfast Giants	19:15
171	Sun	2-Feb-2025	Sheffield Steelers	Cardiff Devils	16:00
172	Sun	2-Feb-2025	Dundee Stars	Belfast Giants	16:00
173	Sun	2-Feb-2025	Glasgow Clan	Manchester Storm	17:00
174	Sun	2-Feb-2025	Coventry Blaze	Fife Flyers	17:30

FLYERS SCHEDULE 2024/25

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	FO Time	Result	Score
Saturday Aug 24th	Dundee Stars	Pre Season	н	19:00	Lost	2-4
Sunday Aug 25th	Dundee Stars	Pre Season	н	17:15	Lost	4-6
Saturday Aug 31st	UQTR	Pre Season	н	19:15	Won	2-0
Saturday Sep 7th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	н	19:15	Won	4-3
Sunday Sep 8th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	н	17:15	Lost	2-4
Saturday Sep 14th	Manchester Storm	League	Н	19:15	Lost	5-6
Sunday Sep 15th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	А	17:00	Lost SO	2-3
Saturday Sep 21st	Cardiff Devils	League	А	19:00	Lost	1-5
Sunday Sep 22nd	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	Н	17:15	Lost	5-8
Saturday Sep 28th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	Н	19:15	Won	4-1
Sunday Sep 29th	Guildford Flames	League	А	18:00	Lost	1-4
Saturday Oct 5th	Manchester Storm	League	Н	19:15	Won	3-2
Sunday Oct 6th	Nottingham Panthers	League	А	16:00	Lost	1-5
Wednesday Oct 9th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	Н	19:30	Lost	0-7
Friday Oct 11th	Cardiff Devils	League	А	19:30	Lost	2-5
Friday Oct 18th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	А	19:30	Lost	0-7
Saturday Oct 19th	Guildford Flames	League	Н	19:15	Lost	4-7
Saturday Oct 26th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	А	19:00	Lost	0-3
Sunday Oct 27th	Dundee Stars	Challenge Cup	Н	17:15	Lost	2-7
Wednesday Oct 30th	Sheffield Steeleers	League	А	19:30	Lost	2-5
Saturday Nov 2nd	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	А	19:00	Lost	3-5
Sunday Nov 3rd	Nottingham Panthers	League	Н	17:15	Lost SO	3-4
Saturday Nov 9th	Glasgow Clan	League	Н	19:15	Lost OT	4-5
Sunday Nov 10th	Dundee Stars	League	А	17:00	Lost	2-5
Saturday Nov 16th	Belfast Giants	Challenge Cup	А	19:00	Won OT	4-3
Sunday Nov 17th	Sheffield Steeleers	League	Н	17:15	Lost	1-4
Saturday Nov 23rd	Cardiff Devils	League	Н	19:15	Lost	4-5
Sunday Nov 24th	Coventry Blaze	League	А	17:30	Lost	2-9
Saturday Nov 30th	Glasgow Clan	Challenge Cup	А	19:00	Lost	2-5
Sunday Dec 1st	Sheffield Steeleers	League	Н	17:15	Won	5-3
Saturday Dec 7th	Manchester Storm	League	А	19:00	Lost	2-4
Sunday Dec 8th	Guildford Flames	League	Н	17:15	Lost	0-4
Saturday Dec 14th	Nottingham Panthers	League	А	19:00	Lost	0-6
Sunday Dec 15th	Coventry Blaze	League	Н	17:15	Lost	1-7
Saturday Dec 21st	Belfast Giants	League	н	19:15	Lost	1-6
Sunday Dec 22nd	Belfast Giants	League	А	16:00	POST	
Thursday Dec 26th	Dundee Stars	League	Н	18:30	Lost	2-3

FLYERS SCHEDULE 2024/25

Date	Opposition	Competition	Venue	FO Time	Result	Score
Saturday Dec 28th	Dundee Stars	League	А	19:00	Lost	2-7
Monday Dec 30th	Glasgow Clan	League	Н	19:15	Lost	3-8
Tuesday Dec 31st	Glasgow Clan	League	А	14:00	Lost	1-5
Saturday Jan 4th	Coventry Blaze	League	Н	19:15	Lost	1-3
Sunday Jan 5th	Guildford Flames	League	А	18:00	Lost	1-7
Saturday Jan 11th	Dundee Stars	League	Н	19:15	Lost	2-5
Sunday Jan 12th	Sheffield Steeleers	League	А	16:00	Lost	0-8
Saturday Jan 18th	Manchester Storm	League	А	19:00	Won	5-4
Sunday Jan 19th	Nottingham Panthers	League	Н	17:15	Lost	2-4
Friday Jan 24th	Glasgow Clan	League	А	19:30	POST	
Saturday Jan 25th	Cardiff Devils	League	Н	19:15	POST	
Saturday Feb 1st	Belfast Giants	League	Н	19:15		
Sunday Feb 2nd	Coventry Blaze	League	А	17:30		
Wednesday Feb 5th	Glasgow Clan	League	А	19:30		
Saturday Feb 8th	Glasgow Clan	League	А	19:00		
Sunday Feb 9th	Dundee Stars	League	Н	17:15		
Friday Feb 14th	Belfast Giants	League	А	19:00		
Sunday Feb 16th	Cardiff Devils	League	Н	17:15		
Wednesday Feb 19th	Sheffield Steeleers	League	А	19:30		
Saturday Feb 22nd	Manchester Storm	League	А	19:00		
Sunday Feb 23rd	Glasgow Clan	League	Н	17:15		
Saturday Mar 1st	Cardiff Devils	League	А	19:00		
Sunday Mar 2nd	Nottingham Panthers	League	Н	17:15		
Saturday Mar 8th	Guildford Flames	League	А	18:00		
Sunday Mar 9th	Coventry Blaze	League	н	17:15		
Saturday Mar 15th	Belfast Giants	League	Н	19:15		
Sunday Mar 16th	Nottingham Panthers	League	А	16:00		
Saturday Mar 22nd	Guildford Flames	League	Н	19:15		
Sunday Mar 23rd	Coventry Blaze	League	А	17:30		
Wednesday Mar 26th	Belfast Giants	League	А	19:00		
Saturday Mar 29th	Belfast Giants	League	А	19:00		
Sunday Mar 30th	Sheffield Steeleers	League	Н	17:15		
Saturday Apr 5th	Manchester Storm	League	Н	19:15		
Sunday Apr 6th	Dundee Stars	League	A	17:00		



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