



PRESS RELEASE

ST ALBANS STARS OFF TO HOCKEY CHAMPIONS TROPHY

Two members of the St Albans Hockey Club's Women's 1st XI are heading off with the England team to play in the Champions Trophy later this month. The tournament features the eight top teams in the world and takes place in Mendoza, Argentina from 29 November.

Hannah Macleod, who is the St Albans Women's Head Coach, has 108 international caps and 10 medals including Olympic bronze at the London 2012 Olympics and silver at the 2012 Champions Trophy. Fellow forward Ellie Watton, who is the Club's Hockey Development Officer, played her first international in 2013 and won silver at last year's Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Both players represented England in the 2014 World Cup in The Hague, before returning to coach local youngsters on St Albans Hockey Holiday Camps organised by Watton at Oaklands College.

Macleod said: "I'm both relieved and excited about representing England again. It's been a very tough few months since the World Cup and I've very much valued the support I've had from everyone at St Albans Hockey Club. My passion and love for the game has returned since working with a fantastic group of players and staff and this has played a big part in providing the necessary drive and determination to return to form and compete for selection."

On the management side, the Tangerines are also well represented. The England Women's Team Manager in Argentina is St Albans HC goalkeeping legend and Club Goalkeeping Coach, John Hurst. Heading in the opposite direction, the St Albans Men's 1st XI Head Coach Andy Halliday is the England Team Manager for the Men's Champions Trophy which takes place in India starting on 6 December. Both Hurst and Halliday are former St Albans players who for many years represented England and Great Britain in international hockey.

PHOTO (below): England hockey internationals Hannah Macleod and Ellie Watton in recent action for St Albans HC (photo: Chris Hobson).



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