

Accies man in as Scotland coach

Former international, Chris Duncan, is the new head coach of Scotland's senior women's side with a three-year contract starting on January 1.

The 30-year-old steps-up from being interim head coach at the recent FIH World Cup Qualifying tournament in Pisa, Italy, where the national team went out in the semi-final after losing to Wales in a penalty shoot.

However, their performance helped lift them into the No 17 position in the world rankings.

Edinburgh-based Duncan will work on a part-time basis and remains director of hockey at The Edinburgh Academy. He is currently head coach the Inverleith men's team which plays in the men's Premiership.

The focus next year will be the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and the European qualifiers in Dunkirk, France, and the new head coach said: "It is an honour to be appointed as the head coach of the Scotland women's team.

"Having worked with the group since 2019, I have a deep understanding of the potential and quality within the squad, and I am truly humbled to have been entrusted with the responsibility to lead this group into the next chapter.

"The opportunity to be a part of creating history with this group is hugely-exciting, as is the chance to be at the forefront of the push to continue raising the profile of women's team sport in Scotland."

He added: "I have been fortunate to have such amazing experiences both as a player and coach with Scotland, and I am

fully aware of the contribution that our national age-group pathway and domestic league platform have upon the strength of our national teams. Continuing to build and strengthen those partnerships in the days ahead is key.”

Duncan has enjoyed a meteoric rise in his coaching career. It started as head coach to Scotland’s under-16 boys before being appointed along with Dundee-based Vikki Bunce as one of two assistant coaches to the Scotland senior women’s team in 2019.

He took over as interim head coach following Wilson’s decision not to seek an extension to her four-year contact with Bunce remaining as Duncan’s assistant.

Andy Tennant, Scottish Hockey’s head of performance, said: “Chris fought-off a very strong field of candidates and impressed us with his strong vision of how he will drive the senior women’s programme towards our goal of world’s top ten.

“He is well known to us as one of a number of bright young coaches in our pathway and we are delighted to see a product of the Scottish system earn the right to coach Scotland.”

He added “For me, Chris embodies everything we are trying to do in terms of our Brave Blueprint and will continue to take a bold and confident approach to developing Scottish athletes and coaches to play our way, and continue our drive up the world rankings.

“Despite his relative inexperience, Chris has strong coaching attributes, an incredible work ethic and is always willing to learn.

“We will continue to work hard to support Chris and his development as a coach and, hopefully, his appointment shows there is now a clear pathway for emerging young Scottish coaches to climb the ladder.

“Finally, it is important that we place on record our thanks

to our principal funding partner sportscotland and Chris's employer, The Edinburgh Academy, for their support in making this happen."