

# **Forsyth stands down as Fillingham joins coaching team**

**Scotland's men's hockey squad is looking for a new head coach after confirmation that Derek Forsyth was standing down after over 11 years in charge.**

Forsyth guided the team back to the top tier of European hockey and the team also qualified for the World League semi-finals in London. He also steered them to their highest ever world ranking in 2019, rising from 28 to 19.

Scotland men also achieved their highest finish at a Commonwealth Games in Australia's Gold Coast in 2018 by coming sixth and the side – nicknamed the Blue Sticks – won silver in 2021 at Men's EuroHockey Championship II in Poland, the second tier of European hockey.

Forsyth (pictured with Edinburgh-based goalkeeper David Forrester on his 50th cap), who also coaches Premiership women's side, Clydesdale Western, said: "I firmly believe the current squad of talented players will bring Scotland more success in the future, supported by the emerging talent from our under-21 squad."

Meanwhile, Kelly Fillingham is the new assistant coach to Scotland's women's team, taking over from Dundonian Vikki

Bunce, a former Scotland international, who has retired from the role.

The English-born coach has coached the Scotland Emerging Girls squad since 2-18 and leads on Scottish Hockey's Brave Academy. She was also assistant for the Scotland under-21 women.

It is a huge year for the women, coached by Edinburgh-based, Chris Duncan. They are building towards the Euro Hockey Championships in Germany from August 18 to 27 and are in Pool B against Belgium, Italy, The Netherlands and Spain, a tough group.