



PRESS RELEASE

Brian Smith
Director of Communications
Hockey East Association
591 North Ave – #2
Wakefield, MA 01880
Office: (781) 245-2122
Cell: (339) 227-2988
bsmith@HockeyEastOnline.com

For Immediate Release: Friday, April 10, 2015

UMass Lowell, Northeastern to Play in Belfast, Northern Ireland Colgate, Brown to Join Hockey East Squads Thanksgiving Weekend

BOSTON - UMass Lowell and Northeastern University's men's ice hockey programs are slated to skate in Belfast, Northern Ireland in the Friendship Four Tournament it was announced today by Boston mayor Marty Walsh and Belfast Lord Mayor Arder Carson at the TD Garden. Joining the River Hawks and Huskies will be Colgate University and Brown University in a pair of contests set for November 27-28 for the Belpot Trophy.

“The Hockey East family is excited about this event, both from the hockey and cultural perspectives,” said Hockey East commissioner **Joe Bertagna**. “We will work with everyone to make this first event a huge success and lay the groundwork for future such tournaments for others to experience.”

The four teams will square off at Odyssey Arena, home of the Belfast Giants, a professional team that competes within the Elite Ice Hockey League. The Giants boast former Providence College defenseman **Jeff Mason** (2001-05) on roster for 2014-15. Additionally, the Belfast Giants have retired the No. 4 jersey of former Boston University defenseman **Shane Johnson** (1993-97) while former Terrier **Steve Thornton** (1991-95) served as head coach of the Giants from 2008-10 before returning to the club to serve as head coach and Head of Hockey Operations in 2014.

“During my time in Ireland, I saw firsthand how sports, and hockey in particular, play an incredible role in bridging communities,” said **Mayor Walsh**. “I am thrilled to announce the first tournament for the Belpot Trophy this fall. I would like to thank former mayor of Belfast Máirtín Ó Muilleoir for his original partnership in this ambitious exchange and his continued hospitality towards Boston and Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Arder Carson, and the Belfast City Council for their commitment to making this tournament become a reality.”

#HEA#