

January 2010



Wellington Hockey Association

Newsletter 1

Note from the Chief Executive

Welcome back!

I hope you are feeling refreshed and ready for the 2010 season.

Saying that; we don't feel quite that way in the WHA office at the moment. We have all been commenting on how busy the summer has been with Summer League, Development Camps and Clinics, the introduction of the Wellington Hockey Academy as well as a lot of back-office work getting prepared for AGMs, audits, re-working the website, drafting handbooks and of course planning activities for 2010.

One of our first events on the calendar is our Season Opening Day on 27 March. We hope you can come down to join in the celebrations. We will be unveiling the Wellington Hockey

Association Honours Board and will be inviting as many of our past Blacksticks players to attend as possible. Preceding this is the celebrity game with Mark Sorenson, Brendon Pongia, Paul Steinmetz, Leo the Lion and Melissa Moon already confirmed to play alongside further celebrities and some of our past and present Blacksticks players. We also encourage clubs to enter their junior teams in the 6-a-side competition that same day. We can't think of a better way to start the season off! Finally, the finals day of the P1 2009 competition will be repeated early afternoon. We can't wait to get the season started in such a positive way!

I have just returned from a couple of days annual leave in Nelson, watching

the Masters National Tournament. That was my first introduction to the tournament and I thoroughly enjoyed the hockey and the concept itself. I recognised a large number of people competing from my playing days (giving my age away here!) and was delighted to see how competitive our Wellington teams were in the competitions. We will be repeating the very successful 11-a-side competition for Wellington Masters players in October/November 2010 therefore start to tap into your networks to get your team together.

Wishing you a great 2010 season - we look forward to seeing you all here on the 27th!
Anne-Margaret

Dates for your diary:

- 17 March - Secondary Convenors Meeting, 7.30pm, NHS Pavilion
- 18 March - Primary Convenors Meeting, 7.30pm, NHS Pavilion
- 27 March - season open day (junior club 6-a-side, celebrity match, unveiling of honours board and some great hockey on display)
- 27 March - senior competition starts, all grades
- 31 March 2010 - Wellington Hockey Association Annual General Meeting; 7.00pm at the NHS Pavilion
- Tuesday 27 April - fundraiser Golf-Day - proceeds to go to reducing the youth representative team costs in 2010; more details to come shortly (venue - Miramar Links)
- w/b Monday 26 April - Secondary Competition Challenge Week starts
- 1 May - Primary competition starts
- 1 May - Mini hockey competitions start
- 22/23 May - Blacksticks Women v India - playing here in Wellington
- 18 - 26 September - National Hockey League - here in Wellington!
- There will also be a number of umpire/rules training sessions offered again. We will send dates out to all clubs shortly.

Hockey Development Programme - In-Season 2010

The hockey development programme continued into 2010 and we had over 200 players participating over the length of the programme. We were delighted with the support we received for this initiative and the feedback from players and parents has been incredibly positive.

Further programmes are now on offer for 2010 including programmes at Easter and in July. We are more focused on Under 11s, Under 13s and Under 15s in these programmes and will again offer our Future Sticks sessions for our young beginner players.



Please go to our website for details and a registration form www.wellingtonhockey.org.nz/page/new_world_in_season_programme

Volunteers needed please

We have a large number of activities occurring over the next months and would love to have you involved if you can:

Advisory Councils 2010 - vacancies

The Advisory Councils proved very successful in 2009 and the majority of personnel are staying on for another year. However we do have a couple of vacancies this year - primarily in the Youth Advisory Council. Members of the hockey community are welcome to express interest in any of the councils, but in particular we are seeking individuals who have good knowledge of either the mini-hockey, primary hockey or secondary boys hockey competitions. Please phone or email Anne-Margaret using annemargaret@wellingtonhockey.org.nz or 04 389 3337 to talk this through further. This is not a large time commitment over the year. Just a reminder, the councils are Umpires, Masters, Youth, Open Grade and Coaching and High Performance. The current personnel for each of these groups is available on our website at www.wellingtonhockey.org.nz/page/advisory_councils

National Hockey League 2010 - 18 - 26 September

There will be a number of roles required over this week including ball boys and girls, ticket sales, medical support (first aiders) and assisting with the VIPs attending during the week. This is going to be a great week of hockey and volunteers will be able to attend for free. Please get in touch with the WHA office if you are able to contribute some of your time. There may be some paid roles during this week as well as unpaid. Any time you can offer will be much appreciated. Contact 04 389 3337 or email Paddy@wellingtonhockey.org.nz

Opening Day 2010

If anyone can assist with coordinating the 6-a-side competition or assist with VIPs on opening day that would be great! Please contact the WHA office if you can assist. 04 389 3337 or Paddy@wellingtonhockey.org.nz

IT (web and/or database) Expert

We are trying to keep administrative costs to a minimum and are currently reviewing our existing (poor) website and (out of date) database. If anyone in our community has some good knowledge re websites and/or databases (particularly online databases) and is able to donate some time to discuss where we should go to next, we would be very grateful. Please contact Anne-Margaret using annemargaret@wellingtonhockey.org.nz or 04 389 3337.

Coaches Corner

In 2009 our priority was to build the representative coaching programme and feedback on the year was very positive. We are pleased to now be able to roll out this same programme with our Primary and Secondary hockey coaches in 2010.

We recognise these are two important groups of coaches who work to ensure that our young players gain the right skill development, giving them all good fundamentals and ideally leading to an increased base of Wellington Representatives. Therefore in the 2010 season our schools coaches will be offered a variety of resources and coaching meetings to assist in their development.

Primary /Secondary Coach Meetings:

There will be 3 Primary Coach and 3 Secondary Coach meetings this year. These meetings are an open forum for all primary /secondary school coaches and we encourage all coaches to attend. The meetings follow the model introduced for Rep coaches in 2009 and which were immensely successful with a great

range of quality speakers involved. Here we can pass on information about the style and structure of hockey WHA would like to implement in our region with regards to skill development and playing style. It is also a great opportunity for coaches to ask any questions they may have.

Primary Coach Meetings:

- April 7th – NHS Pavilion - 6.00 - 7.00pm
- June 9th – NHS Pavilion - 6.00 - 7.00pm
- August 4th – NHS Pavilion - 6.00 - 7.00pm

Secondary Coach Meetings:

- May 5th - NHS Pavilion - 6.00 - 7.00pm
- July 7th - NHS Pavilion - 6.00 - 7.00pm
- September 8th - NHS Pavilion - 6.00 - 7.00pm

Additional Coaching Courses

In addition to these meetings there will be a number of **courses** offered:

- March 15 & 17th - Small sticks course for coaches with players 9 - 12 years of age; 3 hour course run over 2 nights.
- March the 19th & 20th - Club Course - 4 hour course run over 1 night and 1 morning for coaches coaching at a club level.
- March 31st - Coaching Module - PC Defence (\$5 charge if you haven't already done one of our small sticks coaching courses)

Further Resources:

Online resources will also be developed over the 2010 season.

Further details will go online as they become available however in the meantime if you have any queries or questions regarding primary coaching, please contact Nin on nininwa@wellingtonhockey.org.nz

Facilities Strategy and Development

Just a reminder the Association is working with Hockey New Zealand and the NHS Trust to build a facilities strategy for the future. This will not only focus on turf development but also practice and small competition venues (e.g. schools and indoor facilities).

Clubs have been sent a survey to complete, to provide feedback on the current facilities used for practices and games. A similar survey will also shortly be sent to schools to complete.

This is an incredibly important part of the strategic planning process, as without your comments about for example, the cost to play and the quality of the facilities you are using, we cannot gauge how satisfied you are with existing facilities. I.e. no response means there isn't any real demand for additional or improved facilities. Therefore please complete the survey! ☺

Repairs

There has been some repairs and maintenance going on over the summer break including:

- Fraser Park now re-surfaced (we are getting very good feedback about this)
- The NHS Pavilion exterior painted (and Admin building shortly to be painted)
- The practice turf and goal at NHS has received some major care and attention, gluing down the turf as much as possible and repairing/replacing the backboard and goal
- The dotted white lines on NHS1 repaired
- Tonnes of spraying of weeds around the grounds



Supporting great hockey

Wellington Hockey Association is proud to receive support from the following funders:

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Sean in India

As you may realise, Sean Dancer is currently away with Kyle, Blair and the rest of the Blacksticks Men's team, as Assistant Coach. The team has been going well and given the security concerns prior to the team travelling, it is wonderful to see them competing at this level. Sean sent through a couple of photos from his trip we thought you may wish to see (traffic being stopped for the team to travel through and pre-tournament at the stadium).

