

April 2010



Wellington Hockey Association

Newsletter 2

Opening Day Success

It was wonderful to see the turf full of our young players at 9am on Saturday morning in the Primary 6-a-side competition. We had some good music on, fresh baked scones on offer in the Pavilion, the sunshine on display and some really enthusiastic young players on the pitch! A great start to an excellent day.

The celebrity match was played in brilliant spirit with Peter Miskimmin's **'Professionals'** team narrowly beating Nin's **'Ricoh'** team 1-0; the only goal scored by Gareth Brooks. Both teams had a number of opportunities to score, but couldn't get the ball in the net. The non-hockey celebrities including Greg Feek, Paul Steinmetz, Mark Sorenson and Tash and Tim from MoreFM, had a brilliant time all commenting on the speed of the game and the skill of the hockey players amongst them. Certainly some new respect was found for our sport! Suzie Muirhead did a wonderful job as MC and our thanks to Devendra Patel and Sam Hunt for their umpiring of the game - apparently rugby tackles are permitted in celebrity matches!

Following the game Tim Brown, Chair of WHA, unveiled the Honours Boards - with Brent Miskimmin (ex-Blackstick and HNZ Board member) and Rosemary O'Brien (ex-Blackstick and Patron) calling forward the Blacksticks players who were there on the day. Brent commented on how important it was for him as an ex-Blackstick, to see all these wonderful players honoured by the Association. The Honours Boards were generously donated by the Thomas family and will be put on display shortly - most likely in the main entranceway of the Administration Building (there just isn't enough wall

space in the Pavilion unfortunately).

Soon after, the formal season started with a great match between Hutt and Indian's men; last year's finalists. The result was a 3-3 draw setting the rest of season up to be a highly competitive one. A repeat of the 2009 women's final saw Eastern Hutt overcome a 0 - 2 deficit to win 6 - 3. Some great goals were scored by both teams.

Players and umpires also took advantage of ProActive Rehab being on site with their free 10-minute massages on offer.

Thank you to all our sponsors on the day - Ricoh, Professionals Gillies and Mark, ProActive Rehab and Just Hockey. Your support is greatly appreciated. Our sincere thanks must also go to the Thomas family for their generous donation of the Honour's Boards.

Finally a big thank you to Nin Roberts, Nigel Pollock, Todd Foster and Paddy Frankenberg for all their work putting the day together.



Greg Feek on the move closely followed by Elke and Nin

Dates for your diary:

- Secondary Hockey – week beginning 26 April – Promotion/Relegation games
- Secondary Hockey – week beginning 3 May – full competition commences
- Primary Hockey – 2 May – competition commences
- Mini Hockey – 2 May – competition commences
- U21 tournament – 1st-8th May Palmerston North
- Introduction to Umpiring: Wednesday 21 April 6 – 8pm
- Blacksticks women versus India - 22/23 May here in Wellington (ticket info to come soon)
- Further events can be found online at [WHA Events Calendar](#)

Note from the Chief Executive

As noted on the front page, the opening day of the winter season created a really positive atmosphere down at the grounds and the feedback on the celebrity match was great. We hope to continue this game format in future seasons. Saying that however, it does appear to be a difficult thing to get hockey players down watching hockey. Obviously a number of players have games at other venues - however we hope you will all take the opportunity to watch some great hockey by joining us in May when we host the Blacksticks Women versus India. Bring your non-hockey friends along. We frequently hear the comment from non-hockey people about how fast the game is - it is always great to hear the respect given to hockey when others see it live.

The Annual General Meeting has been and gone - and very positive it was too. All the proposed Rules changes were approved unanimously and we are delighted to confirm Derek Wilshere and Treena Fitness return to the Board as the Club representatives. Thank you to all our nominees for putting themselves forward for the role. Thank you very much to those who attended and contributed to the meeting. As we noted on the night, it is important we as an Association continue to provide opportunities for all our

community to meet with and engage with us. As part of the end of year process the Annual Report was completed and forwarded to all clubs. In addition we have sent this document to local Councils and our funders and sponsors. A PDF version is also available - please contact me if you would like a copy (annemargaret@wellingtonhockey.org.nz).

An important agenda item for the AGM was to confirm Paddy Frankenberg as a recipient of a Wellington Hockey Association Service Award for 2010. The award goes to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to hockey and there is no doubt Paddy meets this criteria. The Board and AGM attendees were unanimous in their approval. Hopefully by now you will have realized Paddy has left her role with the Association to work with the National Hockey Stadium Trust. We have now advertised for a replacement for the role - please go to the home page of the website for details.

In the mean time, we are flat tacked in the office getting draws ready for 4-a-side, 6-a-side, 8-a-side, primary and secondary competitions. No rest for the wicked is there!

Happy 2010 season,

Anne-Margaret

Primary & Secondary Handbooks

The Primary and Secondary Handbooks have been sent to all convenors and can be found on the Wellington Hockey website at www.wellingtonhockey.org.nz/page/competitionsdraws.html

Scots College 1st XI Trip

The Scots College 1st XI Hockey team are currently in China, playing 2 schools in Beijing, then travelling to Hong Kong where they play 2 club age group teams and the Hong Kong National U16 team.

They have been completing a great blog for their travels available at <http://schockey.wordpress.com/> - well worth a read!

Notices

Introduction to Umpiring

The first of two Introduction to Umpiring sessions has been completed. The second is running on Wednesday 21 April 6 - 8pm

Both will be held at the National Hockey Stadium in the administration building Board Room.

Topics covered include:

- Structure of the game
- Players and goalkeepers
- Areas of control
- Signals
- Blowing the whistle
- Rules and interpretations

I cannot emphasise enough how useful this course is in assisting you understand the rules of the game. A number of players could certainly do with some up-skilling in this respect! ☺

Places are limited therefore to book please email Sandra@wellingtonhockey.org.nz

Registrations 2010

We have 91 Open Grade team entries this year, which is down by 5 teams from last year. Clubs are reporting the economy is having an impact with the cost to play making it difficult to field teams.

On a more positive note, the Secondary competition is up by 8 teams, with 105 entries.

We have the same number of entries in the Primary competition as in 2009 and the Mini competition is up by 8 teams, with 72 entries in total across the mini-grades (in Wellington and Hutt Valley).

NHS 1 Turf Repairs

The turf repairs made at the end of March were very successful with the turf no longer a safety concern due to the ball lifting at the top of the circle. The car park end of NHS1 still has a minor lift (several centimeters at most) - therefore the NHS Trust along with Bachler Deck are going to have a further attempt to reduce that again. Because of this success, club competition will be able to continue on NHS1 and the decision was also made we would be able to host the National Hockey League in September. A big relief on both counts!

The turf will continue to need maintenance through the season to keep it at sufficient quality for our competition. Therefore if you do notice the filler lifting or have noticed a significant change in the surface quality through wear, please first check on our website to see if there are any updates under news items, and if not, please get in touch with either the NHS Trust or ourselves to report the issue.

National Hockey Stadium - 04 232 6317 or 04 389 5713

WHA - 04 389 3337 or email

annemargaret@wellingtonhockey.org.nz

Player Profile - Blair Hilton

Blair is a Wellington NHL and Blacksticks midfielder/striker who debuted for the Blacksticks in 2009.

What/who made you play hockey?

Both my parents played and were involved in hockey so they got me into it at a pretty young age.

School teams played for?

Greenacres Primary School, Tawa College

Club teams played for?

Tawa, Harbour City, Indians

First Rep team you played for and in which year?

Wellington U11A - 1997

Best experience when playing for Wellington?

Coming from 3 goals down to beat Auckland in the Under 21 final and winning NHL in Wellington

Best experience when playing for the Blacksticks?

Scoring a goal on debut vs Germany, and winning the champions challenge in Argentina

Which international team do you most enjoy competing against and why?

Australia, because they're one of the best teams in the world plus they play a fast attacking game so its always quite a good challenge playing them

What was the highlight in your recent trip to India?

There wasn't too many highlights so probably beating Korea in pool play 2-1 and going to see the Taj Mahal.

What are your goals for the rest of 2010?

To make the NZ team for the Champions Trophy and Commonwealth Games and get a medal at the Com Games

Favourite Wellington Player?

Umesh Parag

You have been involved with the coaching programme for the Association - what do you most enjoy about this?

Interacting with youth coming up through the grades - great to see their improvement

Most admired international player

Teun de Nooijer (Dutch international - been to 4 Olympics)



Blair at the recent World Cup in India

Snippet:

We will have over 240 players trialing for the boys and girls Under 18 and Under 15 teams in 2010. A great turn out this year! Good luck to all those players for the upcoming season. Information on Representative teams, trials etc is all available online under

<http://www.wellingtonhockey.org.nz/page/representative.html> (go to the drop down menu for each team's information)

Easter Hockey Days

With over 230 participants through our summer hockey programme, it was important we extended the programme further during the winter season. As a result, the Easter holiday programme has just ended as we write this publication and we had a great list of players and coaches involved. Goal keepers had a great day on Monday with Nic Porter as keeper coach and made good use of the ball machine. We focused on striking skills for all participants on day one with some great input from Blair Hilton, whose recent World Cup experience in India (above) certainly

adds to the information shared with the players.

The programme aims to ensure all players have a great hockey experience and learn the latest in ball control, defending skills and tactical set play, with our great coaching team, led by Sean Dancer.

Stay tuned for the review and positive players points to be published on our website after the completion of the Easter Hockey Days. If you have missed out on these session, be quick to register for the next clinics plan in

the July holidays (Monday 5th & Tuesday 6th) & (Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th). There are limited places available and we will accept registrations on a first come first served basis.

For more details follow the links through our website:

www.wellingtonhockey.org.nz or email

Sean Dancer at:

sean@wellingtonhockey.org.nz



Supporting great hockey

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

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Well done to Kapiti for the building of their new dugouts!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Wellington players named in the NZ Masters Teams following their National Tournament. The teams will be competing against Australia in the Trans-Tasman Challenge in the first week of May.

Women's 35+
Toni Strand
Vicki Collins

Women's 40+
Jackie Nuthall
Treena Fitness
Gail Donaldson

Women's 45+
Sally Lancashire
Jan Loader
Lee Anne McClellan—NTR

Women's 50+
Bev Robinson
Di Jordan

Men's 40+
Alan Register
Peter Lowndes
Grant Boyde
David Roper—NTR
Andy Wilson—NTR
Anthony Messenger—NTR

Men's 45+
Julian O'Sullivan
Jonathon Mackey
Keith Binnie
Richard Calkin
Phil Teague
Roy Noble—NTR

Men's 50+
Kelvin Read
Deryck Humphries

Men's 55+
Tony Smiler—NTR