

August 2010



Wellington Hockey Association

Newsletter 4

No easy predictions for Premier 1 semis and finals

The semi finals for the PI Open Grade start at 1.15pm this Saturday with some great games on the card. **Indians play Northern United** in the first of the men's semi finals and **Hutt play Harbour City/Tawa** in the other men's semi starting 2.45pm. While Hutt finished top of the table, Harbour City/Tawa pushed them hard in their most recent game with Hutt having to recover from a 3 - 1 deficit to get the win. Northern United led the competition for much of the first two rounds whereas Indians have had a mixed season before finding their way to 2nd place on the table 1 point

ahead of Northern and Harbour. Both these games will be highly competitive with neither result easily predicted.

In the women's competition, **Indians will play Karori** in the 2 v 3 play off starting at 1.30pm. Karori were the early leaders in the PI competition and at full strength push all their opposition (as evidenced in their narrow loss to Eastern Hutt last weekend). Indians have at times struggled to convert possession to goals but have more than justified their finishing 2nd on the table with some quality team hockey played through the season. In the other

semi **Eastern Hutt will take on Victoria** starting at 3.00pm.

Eastern started the season a bit slower than they would have liked but their goal scoring has certainly ramped up of late and should add to the flavor of the game. Victoria produce a real team effort each week and fight hard in each game they play - they will not be planning on Eastern Hutt marching through to the final!

Join us on Saturday - it will be a great afternoon of hockey.

The PI finals will be played on Saturday 14 August - the women's final starting at 2.45pm and the men's at 4.30pm.

Good luck Kate McCaw!

Wellington's Kate McCaw is one of 16 players selected to represent New Zealand at the inaugural Youth Olympics being held in Singapore starting 16 August. In addition Kate has been named as one of two vice-captains for the team and



will lead the forward line in this role. This is a tremendous achievement for Kate who plays for Samuel Marsden in the Secondary Premier One competition, the Wellington Under 18 team, Capital Under 21 team and is in the Capital NHL squad also. We therefore asked Kate a few questions to give us some more detail on what the Youth Olympics are

all about and what it means for her to be part of this wonderful occasion.

Tell us very briefly about the Youth Olympics itself?

The Youth Olympics is based on the normal Olympics so includes 205 countries, 26 Olympic Sports and 3,600 athletes. The difference with this Youth (14- 18 years)

Olympics is the cultural and education programme that accompanies the sports competition. This programme includes things like "chat with the champions" where athletes get a chance to spend time with famous athletes such

as Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt and draw inspiration from them. Another aspect of the games is developing a greater understanding of other cultures and becoming aware of competitive sport all over the world, all of whom share the same passion.

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Dates for your diary:

- 7 August - Premier One competition semi finals
- 14 August - Premier 1 Open Grade - Finals Day
- 30/8 - 3/9 Winter Sports Week (Secondary Schools) - Wellington hosting the boys and girls 2nd XI Tournaments (Galletly Cup and Chris Arthur Cup)
- 4/5 September - Open Grade Finals Weekend
- 14 - 17 September - Secondary Competition finals week
- 11 October - Secondary Competition review meeting - NB this is a changed date
- 12 October - Primary Competition review meeting - NB this is a changed date
- An updated **Competition Calendar** is available on the website under [Competitions/Draws](#)

Kate McCaw cont...

What selection process did you go through to get into the team?

The selection process actually started a couple of years ago where the selectors were looking at our age group tournaments and talent I.D those players they were interested in. From there, our Association nominated us to go to a regional coaching clinic this year. It was here the Head Coach, Greg Nicol, was able to have a closer look at us and rank us all. The selectors then watched most of us play at U21 nationals this year and the team was selected following that.

How many trainings/games will you have had with the team before you head away to the Olympics?

By the time we leave, we would have had three 3 day training camps and we are hoping to have two practice games in Singapore before the tournament actually starts.

This has been a busy year for you - roughly how many hours do you play/practice hockey a week at the moment?

I train/ play hockey 5 times a week so roughly 8 hours on the turf a week.

What more are you learning about hockey by taking on the vice-captain role/being in this team?

Becoming vice-captain for this team is a real honour but it also comes with a lot of responsibility. I've been given the

responsibility to look after the attack up front and to work with the leadership team to assess and judge our approach to each game throughout the tournament. I think that by doing this my understanding of the game will grow and my communication on and off the field will also increase.

Who will be your toughest opposition?

Most of the teams that are going are ranked in the top few countries so most of the teams are bound to be quite tough but I think the toughest will probably be the Netherlands and Argentina.

What is the most exciting part of this whole experience for you?

Being able to travel overseas to play hockey at such a high level but, also be a part of a huge world sporting event with 3,600 other athletes.

What are your hockey plans for 2011 and beyond?

At this stage I am still tossing up whether I will be staying in Wellington or going to Auckland to study so I could end up playing for Auckland next year.

Wellington Hockey Association wishes Kate all the best for this trip and look forward to hearing about the experience on her return (we will also put a plug in to encourage Kate to stay in Wellington next year!!!). Further information and the tournament draw can be found on the Hockey New Zealand website at <http://www.hockeynz.co.nz/coaching/youtholympics/>

Turf Availability

The most common complaint we have been receiving of late is in regard to lack of turf time for deferrals, re-schedules from flooded out games etc. This is a snapshot of actual turf bookings for a typical winter week where there are no test matches, rained out games or deferrals being played (in addition we also had 7 competition games played in Kapiti / Carteron that week). Games and Rep practice also start at 8am on a Saturday and Sunday morning on all 4 turfs with a few mid-week 6am starts thrown in to the mix. As you can see there is only 1 slot per night for any other catch up games to be played and generally at the most difficult time of day for teams to get to. For senior games the available times are around 7pm in the evening on a Saturday and Sunday.

In addition, when the draw is being generated it is not a fully automated system - each game for all our competitions has to be manually added to a summary sheet and then coded into tournament maker game by game as the system cannot easily assign games to the different venues. We also can't automatically keep track of the number of times each team plays an early or late game or what venues they have been playing at and to do so would take a lot more time over an already time consuming and fairly manual process. Therefore next time you have a question about changing game times we will certainly do

our best to assist where possible, however please try and remember this booking sheet image when you get in touch. 😊

Key:

NI = NHS1; N2 = NHS2; E = Elsdon; F = Fraser

	Club / School practice				Secondary Comp				Open Grade Comp				Rep Practice / Catch up games			
	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday		Sunday			
	N1	N2	E	F	N1	N2	E	F	N1	N2	E	F	N1	N2	E	F
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Note from the Chief Executive

It has been my pleasure to have watched some of our Under 15 representative teams in action recently. Not only have I greatly enjoyed the hockey, but the conversations I get to have with parents and supporters has been just as important. We managed to clarify a few rumours or miss-information and it was lovely to hear how our young players are enjoying their hockey and talk about their needs for their future development.

The most common question I have heard is "what's the plan for Wellington Hockey?". While we have had some very good results from our teams we have also had some poor results. I think we all know that Wellington teams should all be performing more consistently at a higher level in these national tournaments and parents quite rightly want to know how that is going to happen. In a nutshell we want good coaches at all levels of competition, good competition structures and good hockey development programmes to support our players' development. Nin's work in implementing a coaching development programme for Rep, school and club coaches is one component already well underway. In addition Sean's work with the Development Camps and Clinics along with the Wellington Academy programme which further develops and supports our elite athletes adds to developing our players for the future. Contributing their ideas and giving guidance to Sean and Nin's work is the High Performance Advisory Council which brings tremendous experience to the programmes we are developing.

One key ingredient does seem to be often missing in our play (at most levels of competition) - something described as a 'bit of mongrel.' We are not talking about rough tactics or overly aggressive play but perhaps learning to tough out a result, standing your ground, taking the opposition on at pace etc. Is this an easy concept to introduce?

Another concept up for discussion is where is the "heart of hockey" in Wellington? There is an important and valuable history of hockey success (both

team and individual) in the Wellington region which we need to learn from and build on. We are already having conversations on how this can be achieved and there are some positive ways forward in this respect. For example we have some incredible people involved in supporting hockey in Wellington and learning about the past and present achievements of these individuals and all our hockey heroes is vital. We will share these stories with you over the next months and years.

As with any change, it all takes time and dramatic change is not something we were planning for. Rather - looking at a 3 year plan to get the best possible development structures in place and to continue to build on that foundation in the future. We therefore invite feedback from all our programme participants and do take this on board as we adapt and adjust our programme of work.

Our Strategic Plan does give a good feel for what kind of organisation the Association would like to be in the future; the next step is to agree our priorities and put some key measurables against this plan. The Board has met recently to go through this process of prioritising, and very informative it was too. In this regard all of your thoughts about your own personal priorities are welcomed. Have a look at our strategic outcomes and the areas of work that feed into these. Please then email me with your own list (a maximum of 5 priorities for you would be good! ☺) - then send to annemargaret@wellingtonhockey.org.nz as soon as you can. One change made was to alter our 'purpose' to "making great hockey happen" (previously supporting great hockey) - does this describe what we do as an organisation (or should be doing)?

Good luck to all our finalists in the next few weeks - I look forward to watching as many of these games as possible and the conversations on the sidelines that come with them!

Best wishes,
Anne-Margaret

Notices

Apologies - but the Primary and Secondary competition review meeting dates have had to change because we are no longer hosting NHL in Wellington - therefore Anne-Margaret will not be in Wellington that week. The new dates are:

Secondary meeting - 11 October

Primary meeting - 12 October

New Representative Uniforms

Those of you watching the Under 15 and Under 18 A boys' teams and Under 15 A girls team this year will have seen our new uniforms in action. Lotto will provide our men's uniforms and Samurai our women's uniforms over the next 3 years. Early feedback is really positive. We will gradually replace the existing uniforms over the next few years (as you will all realise - they really need it!). The Under 13 A teams are the next to receive the new playing strips.

Rugby at NHS?

For those of you here practicing during the school holidays you may have observed some rugby being practiced at NHS. This was the Orientals Rongotai Rugby Club making use of our great facilities while their grass fields were closed due to the wet weather. It was great to see another code appreciating the great facilities we some times can take for granted.

Umpiring - successes and gaps

We are suffering from another drop in numbers of umpires involved in the game this season. The reasons for this seem to vary from the individuals wanting to focus more on their own hockey and perhaps some coaching roles (more so in the junior umpire ranks) to others because they simply do not enjoy the role any longer.

While a cliché - it is never-the-less true that we simply cannot play hockey without the support of these officials who volunteer their time week in and week out. As an Association we have a duty to support these individuals and do so through Umpire meetings, regular communications, and for those wishing to develop as an umpire, a mentoring programme. To attract umpires to the game we ran a series of Introduction courses and work with Hockey New Zealand to offer Level 1 courses in the area. However there is a lot more we can do to improve the service we provide to our umpires and we will continue to develop the programme in this regard through the work of the umpires Advisory Council. Help from the playing community would also be appreciated - shake your

umpires' hands at the end of the game, try not to question every single decision they make (believe it or not - players aren't always overly good at knowing all the rules of the game) and respect and appreciate the contribution they are making to the game.

Happily, we are lucky to have high quality umpires in the region and we would like to congratulate the following individuals for their recent performance at National Tournament:

Dan Hunt - Under 18 Boys Premier Tournament

Sam Hunt - Under 18 Girls Premier Tournament

Miles Parker - Under 18 Championship Tournament

Stephen McLachlan - Under 15 Boys Premier Tournament

Emily McNaughton - Under 15 Girls Championship Tournament (umpired final)

Challenge Shield 1911

We had a great parcel arrive in the WHA office this week - courtesy of Robert Parton (jnr) we now have two original photos of the Wellington Men's Hockey team from 1911 and 1912. Both teams were winners of the Challenge shield - the same shield the current men's NHL teams compete for each year. Robert's father is in both the photos and we also have a couple of pictures of Robert junior holding both the photos. Robert is moving to a retirement home and wanted to ensure the photos were well looked after. We will get the photos restored and framed and add them to the existing photos we have in the Board room. Its great to see this piece of our history in print.

We have more old photos in storage and will be sorting through these over the next months to ensure they are preserved and then displayed. If you have any interesting photos or stories of personalities from the past you would like to share with us - we would be delighted to hear from you.

info@wellingtonhockey.org.nz
Ph. 04 389 3337

Summer Competitions - Masters and 6-a-side

With the NHSI turf being replaced at the end of this season we have had to modify our pre-Christmas summer competition offerings. Hopefully we will be back up to speed in the New Year, so there may be something better to suit your team in the Summer League in the 2011 competition. Full details and the registration forms are all available on our website - however in brief:

Masters competition - starts 6 October / 6 weeks

Wednesday nights - men's competition
Sunday afternoons - women's competition
For 6 weeks
All finals (men and women) played on Sunday 14 November, 2010
All games to be played at the National

Hockey Stadium

11-a-side

Full field games

Player ages - Women 30+ and Men 35+

Summer League 2010 - starts 26 October / 8 weeks

Open Grade Mixed - Tuesday, NHS

Business Mixed - Monday, Fraser

Business Mixed - Thursday, Fraser

Business Mixed - Tuesday, Elsdon



Secondary - Friday, Fraser

Secondary - Monday, Elsdon

Summer League 2011 - starts 25 January / 6 weeks

Premier Men - Tuesday, NHS -

experienced Premier Hockey Players only

Premier Women - Tuesday, NHS -

experienced Premier Hockey Players only

Business Mixed - Monday, NHS

Business Mixed - Wednesday, NHS

Business Mixed - Monday, Fraser

Business Mixed - Thursday, Fraser

Business Mixed - Wednesday, Elsdon

Entry fees range from \$240 - 400



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Making great hockey happen

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



NHS Trust and NHS Turf Update

Most of you will be aware the NHS Trust is the group that manages the turf facilities (NHS, Elsdon and Fraser turfs) and progresses future development of turf in the Wellington region. WHA has been working with the Trust to improve the quality of communication between the two groups. Rex Manning (Trustee of the NHS Trust) now attends WHA Board meetings and the NHS trustees have agreed to amend their trust deed to reinstate the rights of WHA and the clubs to appoint people to the Management Committee.

As soon as the changes to the Trust Deed are ratified by all the trustees, WHA will be appointing Derek Wilshere and Anne-Margaret Campbell to the Management Committee and arrangements will be put in place to allow the clubs to select a member.

In the mean time, those observant amongst you will have noticed the number 2 turf at the National Hockey Stadium is starting to show signs of deterioration along its seams with the circles, of course, showing the most wear. The Wellington City Council and

NHS Trust are looking into this problem and in the first instance are getting advice on whether the seams can be re-sewn before we have to resort to the gluing/filler process used on NHS1. Both the NHS turfs are considered high-use surfaces and these days the experts recommend an 8-year replacement cycle (NHS1 is in its 13th year and NHS2 its 8th).

The good news is the work with the council on replacing the number 1 turf is progressing well although unfortunately, the original project start date has had to be delayed as there was a previous booking in place for the last Saturday in October - therefore the project will start approximately 6 weeks later than initially agreed. The Council are still working toward the same finish date of 20 January - we are now far more reliant on the weather being kind to us, whereas previously this was allowed for in the project timeline.

NB - unfortunately NHS1 is again becoming more dangerous with the ball bouncing up at the circle edge when it hits a 'bad' spot along the repair lines. Please keep this in mind when you are setting up your PC brackets etc - there has been at least one instance when a trapper has been on the receiving end of a ball lifting into them.

While the WHA members of the MC have not yet been able to take up their appointments, Rex has agreed to make sure that the wider group will be fully involved in the NHS1 replacement and NHS2 repairs.

If you do notice any safety problems with any of the turfs - please do get in touch with either the NHS Trust or the WHA office.

http://www.wellingtonhockey.org.nz/page/nhs_trust.html

<http://www.wellingtonhockey.org.nz/page/contacts.html>