



Wellington Hockey Association Newsletter 6

June 2009

Didn't they do well!

I am sure the whole of the Wellington hockey community will join the WHA Board and staff in offering their congratulations to the Junior Blacksticks for their outstanding results at the Junior World Cup. It was also great to see the Wellington players from that team back in action on the weekend following their return from Singapore. Peter Miskimmin can also be spotted on YouTube commenting on the Junior's final game against Australia at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3gx-qVVdaKY>.

Definitely also more than worthy of a mention is the great performance Anita Punt put in scoring two goals in the Blacksticks 2nd match against India in their recent 3-game series.

Development Manager

For those who didn't see the announcement recently on the WHA website, we are very pleased to confirm Sean Dancer will be joining the Association in late July as Development Manager. Sean is currently working in Belgium in a similar role for the Braxgata Club and has also been coaching the Belgium Under 16 girl's team. As part of his duties Sean will coach the Women's NHL team.

The trial for the NHL women's squad was held on Wednesday 24 June and it was great to see so many players attending. Our thanks go to the selectors and coaches of the trial teams for their excellent contribution to the selection process. The selectors continue to observe club games with the women's wider training squad to be named early July. Sean Dancer will name the final team for NHL following his arrival.

We will also be holding trials for the Wellington B teams (Men's and Women's). We will send notices out about the trials via clubs and through the website. The Senior National Tournament will be held here in Wellington starting the last week of September.

NHL Men's Manager and NHL Men's Videographer wanted

For those interested in developing their coaching skills and gaining invaluable experience - there are two great opportunities available to you through being involved in the 2009 Men's NHL campaign as either Manager or Videographer.

The Association is keen to build the number of personnel skilled in using game analysis software – therefore the NHL videographer will be fully supported by the Association in developing their analysis skills (using Game Breaker). Training will be available – therefore it is not a pre-requisite to already be using Game Breaker.

The major time commitment will be the NHL competition in Christchurch from 19 – 27 September with a long weekend tournament also being held in Taupo at the end of August. Please contact Anne-Margaret (annemargaret@wellingtonhockey.org.nz) or Nin (Niniwa@wellingtonhockey.org.nz) if you are interested in learning more about either role.

WCC High Performance Programme

WHA has received funding in 2009 from the Wellington City Council to support a Talent Development programme. Players who have been identified at New Zealand level have been invited to participate in the full programme of activity. This year's programme builds on the Drag Flick and Goal Keeping Clinics which occurred last year which were run as a result of the same funding source (WCC) in 2008. This year in addition to the Drag Flick and Goal Keeping clinics, the identified players are involved in early morning training sessions at the NHS turf, nutritional and physical trainings, and muscle balance assessments. This is to ensure the athletes involved have a holistic focus regarding their development rather than purely skills/hockey specific.

Umpire development

In the last couple of years there have not been any formal structures in place to support umpiring in the region. As a result, the Umpires Advisory Council is working very hard to get some good structures and activities in place this year to support existing and develop new umpires including:

Intro to Umpiring – this 2 hour session provides a very good introduction to the basics of umpiring. Attendees will then be eligible to be considered for a Local Badge (see below). We have completed two Intro courses already with another 3 happening this week (w/b 29 June). Feedback from the first two sessions has been incredibly positive and young umpires are expressing interest in getting involved with umpiring on a more formal basis (great!).

Local Badge – aspiring umpires may wish to be formally recognised at local level and the Advisory Council have therefore re-introduced a Local Badge. It was agreed rather than simply attending a theory session in order to receive a Badge; instead umpires will be observed and assessed during two games in order to meet the specified criteria.

Mentoring Programme – there are a large number of people involved in mentoring young umpires in the Wellington Association. This group of mentors held a meeting recently to ensure they were all following a similar programme with these young umpires. They have agreed a standard template to be used to provide feedback and new umpires will be assigned a mentor who will support them in their games etc.

Hockey New Zealand - local umpires who are Under 16 will be able to be assessed for a HNZ Junior Badge and the Association will also be running a HNZ Level 1 Umpiring Course in the next months. The dates for this will be advertised through Club and School contacts and online.

How can you help develop umpiring in the region?

We are aware there is still work to be done to improve the quality and number of umpires across all grades; however please have a think about how you, your team, coaches and supporters encourage and reward our umpires. If we want to keep umpires involved in the game, encourage new umpires to get started and provide them with opportunities to develop their skills, some of the poor behaviours observed this season need to change. Our young and developing umpires have been spoken to aggressively by coaches, yelled at en masse by players from the pitch, received abuse from team supporters on the sideline and have been accused of cheating and deliberate bias (I repeat – this is what our young umpires have been subjected to this season). While certainly not rife, these behaviours should not occur at any time regardless of the perceived quality of the umpiring.

Just as no player has ever played a perfect game, mistakes by umpires will happen. You can of course query a decision if your team feels the Umpire is interpreting the rules differently than you understand them. The process to follow is for the team captain to politely ask the umpire to clarify a ruling. A coach/manager may also approach the umpires at full time, again to clarify interpretations of the rules. If you believe the umpire was not able to keep up with the pace of the game (i.e. not yet capable of umpiring at the level to which they had been appointed) please ask your School Team Convenor or Club Committee Contact to get in touch with the Association to formally express your team's concerns.

The aim of the Umpires Advisory Council is to have so many excellent umpires in Wellington they will be fighting for appointments to games. While we build to this point, please have some empathy for our umpires as they learn their role and do what you can to keep them in the game.

July Holiday Programmes

Registrations are flooding in for the July Holiday programmes:

Date	Type of Programme	Cost
6 July	Holiday Programme (open to all ages)	\$60
8 July	Elite Holiday Programme (for Rep Players up to U18)	\$60
9 & 10 July	Future Sticks (years 4-8) - ½ day 9-12pm (attend both days)	\$40
13 July	Goal Keepers – U13 (all level) ½ day 9–12pm	\$40
14 July	Goal Keepers – U16 (all level) ½ day 9–12pm	\$40

All the above programmes will be held at the NHS. Further details and registration forms are available online at http://wellingtonhockey.sitesuite.ws/page/2009_holiday_programmes.html

Men's 2009 NHL Squad Announced

Following two trials held in June, the Men's 2009 NHL training squad has been named. Go to the WHA website for details.

Blacksticks Women v Argentina and China

The Blacksticks women will be playing Argentina and China over the next weeks as follows:

Versus	Date	Time	City
Argentina	Friday 3 July	7.00PM	WHANGAREI
Argentina	Saturday 4 July	4.00PM	WHANGAREI
Argentina	Monday 6 July	6.30PM	PUKEKOHE
China	Tuesday 7 July	6.30PM	HAMILTON
China	Wednesday 8 July	6.30PM	PUKEKOHE

Good luck to Wellington's Anita Punt and Beth Jurgeleit!

Blacksticks Men v Malaysia

A little closer to home, the men's squad will be playing Malaysia in a 5-match series as follows:

Sunday, 9 August, 2.30pm	Palmerston North
Tuesday, 11 August, 6.30pm	Palmerston North
Thursday, 13 August, 6.30pm	Napier
Friday 14, August, 6.30pm	Napier
Sunday 16, August, 1.30om	Taupo

Joel Baker and Kyle Pontifex should both feature in these games.