

It was agreed to consult with clubs over the viability of setting up a Summer League in 2010. Possibilities included this being mixed 11 a side or 7 a side.

ACTION: Clubs to feedback opinions to Executive through club representatives.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, The Plough, St Asaph.

after on the final weekend of the month. If possible, each tournament would include both age groups. The cost would remain £80 for entry.

ACTION: Lee Ible, Adrian Bennett and Matt Pritchard would liaise over the organization of junior leagues.

It was noted that a proposal to change the age group competitions to U12, U14 had been received. While this was agreed in principle, owing to the national competitions being run at U11, U13, U15 and U17, it was agreed to retain the existing format for this year but consult with the south over the season relating to age groups.

ACTION: JU to liaise with south.

#### **4. Progress Update on NEWI North Wales Competitions**

AB had received most of the entries for North Wales competitions and it was agreed that the cup draws would take place at the September meeting of the Committee.

Clubs were reminded of the necessity to discuss the proposals for League restructuring at the next meetings of their club committees. A Special General Meeting would be held in November at Northop Hall HC to discuss these.

ACTION: All clubs to discuss League restructuring at their September meetings.

#### **5. Finance**

Current Account: £744.13. In the past month, a significant number of large invoices had been paid including £800 to the WHU for coaching courses and £500 to Glyndwr University for pitch hire. The coaching courses should be offset by an application to Community Chest for £1000 but more information would be available at a future meeting on the success or otherwise of this application.

#### **6. Umpires Report**

None received.

#### **7. WHU News Update**

##### *7.1 Euro Nations*

An extremely successful tournament had taken place at Glyndwr University and everyone who attended had enjoyed it and felt that it had been organized exceptionally well. The region wished to pass its thanks to both Glyndwr University and the WHU for its work. Mike Leatt had passed his own thanks to the region for its support which was gratefully received. People were slightly disappointed at the attendance by players from the region's clubs and felt that they had missed a golden opportunity to watch top class hockey. The excuse that "they didn't know" was bogus as it was well publicised within the region.

The other issue was the lack of media coverage of the event, notwithstanding the attempts of the WHU and GU to make people aware of it. A couple of minutes on BBC Wales was extremely disappointing, particularly given the relative lack of decent sport on terrestrial TV. Equally, a paragraph in the Western Mail and other local papers was also disappointing during the event, particularly as the football season had not yet started.

#### **8. Other Business**

##### *8.1 Calendar*

The revised national calendar had been received but it still was a "work in progress" as it needed to include both the new single system and the north men's and women's data.

##### *8.2 Summer Hockey*



**Notes of the Executive Meeting held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at the Plough, St Asaph**

**Present**

Jonathan Upton (Northop Hall, Chairman), Robin Bayliss (Llandudno), Mark Roberts (Colwyn Bay), Jeff Hodgekinson (Rhyl), Adrian Bennett (Dysynni)

**Apologies**

Martyn Evans (Wrexham), Lee Ible (HDO)

**1. Notes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

Confirmed.

**2. Matters Arising**

**2.1 *Links with the Women***

JU had spoken to North Wales Women and they were keen to collaborate on a number of issues of mutual benefit such as a shared calendar, web presence and junior leagues. However, no further movement had been made. It was agreed to invite the women's section to attend the Men's executive meetings as part of developing the links between the two organizations.

ACTION: JU to liaise with Women.

**3. Youth & Schools**

**3.1 *Single System***

The Executive agreed that the WHU's Single System was the best way forward for the region as it gave clarity to what players needed to do to play for Wales. However, this needed to be communicated clearly to clubs, players and parents. In particular, clarification needed to be given on the age qualification rules. The ages would be U15 and U17 and based on the 1st Jan 2010 date. This meant that players for the U15 PDC need to be born in 1994 or 1995 as they would need to be 16 or under in the year of competition at international level. A ready reckoner was available and would be distributed to clubs. It was also agreed that all the north's youth competitions would use these dates too (schools competition were outside this and would retain the traditional school years).

ACTION: Clubs to inform their members of the single system.

Concern was expressed about the lack of regional hockey for U14s as this age group side was not part of the single system because there was no Welsh side at this age. The feeling was that a) the junior leagues should provide regular competitive hockey (see 3.2 below) and that the single system was a baseline and could be developed if the region saw fit to include games at regional level for the younger age group. This would depend a lot on having adequate personnel to staff such a team. Further discussion would take place at a future meeting.

ACTION: Discussion to take place at a future meeting.

**3.2 *Junior Tournaments***

Discussion focused on the best way of arriving at the north's representatives for the national finals at Newtown in view of the RAF's decision to withdraw its sponsorship of the tournaments. The Executive saw this as an opportunity to make the junior leagues more competitive and agreed that the Leagues should act as the qualifier with the top two in both U11 and U13 progressing to the Newtown finals. It was noted that there would be six tournaments, three before Xmas and three