



**Welsh Hockey Union**  
north wales men

**Undeb Hoci Cymru**  
dynion gogledd cymru

20 Cae'r Efail  
Bwlchgwyn  
Wrexham  
LL11 5YT

19 January 2009

Dear colleague

### **Important Information for Clubs (January 09)**

Happy New Year! I hope you all have had a relaxing Christmas and New Year and are raring to get back into the hockey action for the remainder of the season. I write to let you know of some important issues that you need to be aware about.

First, the draws for the three cup competitions have been made. Information is on the North Wales Men's Hockey website ([www.northwaleshockey.org.uk](http://www.northwaleshockey.org.uk)). There are some preliminary rounds scheduled which must be played on the specified dates. Clubs should check when they are required to play as a matter of priority.

The Region will again stage a Finals' weekend for the Semi Finals and Finals of all three competitions which will be held on the weekend of 28/29 March at Glyndwr University (NEWI in old money). I would also like to take this opportunity to remind clubs of the Cup rules which are available for download from the website. However, as a general principle, no player from a first team competing in the Premier competition will be able to play in the League Cup. Also, failure to fulfil a scheduled fixture will result in a walkover to the opposition.

The under 11 and under 13 junior tournaments continue to grow, providing competitive games to a range of youngsters on a monthly basis. We also intend to hold an under 15 tournament at the end of the season which will help those youngsters currently age trapped. You will be aware that the fee for entering the junior tournaments was £160. This was to cover pitch expenses, refreshments and medals. However, the Committee feels that in light of the current economic circumstances, a fee of £80 is more suitable. Please could clubs taking part ensure that a cheque for this amount is sent to the Secretary, Anneka O'Connor as soon as possible.

Also coming up will the annual RAF Careers tournaments at both youth and school level. Matt Pritchard, Youth Co-ordinator, will be organising the youth tournaments while Wyn Pritchard will continue to organise the Schools' tournaments. The finals will again be held at Newtown in May.

The North Wales Umpires Association has a new website [www.northwalesumpires.co.uk](http://www.northwalesumpires.co.uk) and it will be organising umpiring courses soon for clubs in the area. Please look at their website for more details or contact Ian Wright, the Secretary of the North Wales Umpires on 01407 761124 or [iand.wright@tesco.net](mailto:iand.wright@tesco.net) if you have any specific enquiries. As part of North Wales's commitment to its clubs, if clubs enrol two players on an umpiring coaching course, then the Region will pay the fee for one of these players.

Both the Committee and the Umpires Association would like to draw clubs' attention to the following Welsh Hockey documents relating to both our conduct on the pitch and the regulations that apply should a player transgress.

<http://www.welsh-hockey.co.uk/downloads/DiscRegs0904.doc>

<http://www.welsh-hockey.co.uk/downloads/PITCHSIDERULESOFCONDUCT2004.doc>

Finally, 2009 sees a major hockey event coming to North Wales with the Men's EuroNations taking place at Glyndwr University in August. This is a once in a generation event, not only for Wales, but for North Wales in particular and we need to make the most the opportunity in terms of hockey development in the area. You can rest assured that your committee will be working hard to ensure that we have a highly visible presence at the event and we will be organising events around the tournament to ensure that we try and make the most of this golden opportunity. I would urge strongly all clubs to contribute in some small way



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to this event so any ideas for regional events would be most welcome. Please contact me [jon.upton@northophall.net](mailto:jon.upton@northophall.net) if you have any. Equally, volunteers for the event itself are still needed - download a form from the Welsh Hockey website [www.welsh-hockey.co.uk](http://www.welsh-hockey.co.uk) .

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Upton  
Chairman  
North Wales Men's Hockey