



14 October 2008

Dear colleague

Important message regarding the operation of the North Wales League

As the Glyndwr University North Wales Men's Hockey League begins, I feel I ought to write to inform you all of the principles by which the league will be operating this season.

As you are all aware, this decade has seen a decline in the strength of the North Wales League as ambitious clubs have moved to compete in the North West League because this provides a route through to National League hockey. However, the North Wales region, with the full support of the national governing body (WHU), is keen to rebuild the strength of the North Wales League and ensure that it provides meaningful and competitive hockey for adult men, particularly for those clubs where there is no avenue to progress in the relevant English pyramid structure.

To this end, for the past two seasons, North Wales Men's Hockey has moved the League day to a Sunday, has secured a sponsorship agreement with Glyndwr University (formerly NEWI) and is improving the administration of the league through using Fixtures Live to manage results and tables.

With this in mind, clubs are reminded that it was agreed at the AGM in May that the League was to be operated **flexibly** with the emphasis on **playing games** so that **everyone has the opportunity** to play the sport. In practice, this means that clubs should:

- *Wherever possible, select players who are at least 13 years of age or older. The region and its clubs have to be mindful of their responsibilities towards the issue of child protection.*
- *Select teams appropriate to the side they are playing. If a team has a large number of junior players, then it would be inappropriate to select a full team of adults as it would not provide a meaningful game for the adults and the juniors, who are the future of the sport, may get disheartened. This requires collaboration between clubs in a timely manner so that a suitably competitive fixture can be had.*

In addition to these principles of **flexibility** and **common sense**, there are a number of initiatives the League is operating this season on a trial basis. These are:

- *Clubs can select a **maximum** of two WHU registered, but non-club members, to play in their North Wales League side each week. This has been put in place, and agreed with the WHU, so that the development of inexperienced players of all ages can take place.*
- *Fixtures involving **Llandudno will be treated as a 3-0 win to the opposition** as they have a number of young players. However, this result will only stand **if fixtures are fulfilled with Llandudno** by the opposing team. Clubs should, therefore, select an appropriate side following consultation with Llandudno HC. **Failure to fulfil a fixture** by a team playing Llandudno will result in **a 3-0 win to Llandudno** and a **fine**.*
- *All games' results will be texted in using the Fixtures Live service. Clubs are responsible for ensuring they are registered with Fixtures Live and making sure that their team captain's mobile phone number is registered to send the results in by text. It is the responsibility of the home team captain to text in the result and send the match card (available for download off the website) to Adrian Bennett, League Co-ordinator.*

The League rules, along with the Cup Rules and the WHU(NR) constitution are being reviewed this year and a new set of rules submitted at the next AGM. It is to be hoped that that all clubs can work with each other to make the Glyndwr University North Wales League a success so that it can rebuild its strength for the benefit to all of the North Wales hockey community.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Upton
Chairman