



Welsh Hockey Union Limited
Annual General Meeting
5th July 2009

Agenda Item 8

Nominees election addresses



Mary Bainbridge

For the past eighteen months I have served on the Board of WHU with responsibility for International and Performance. This I have been happy to do because of my experience with International teams as both a former player and manager. My experience of International Management over a period of almost ten years has enabled me to understand the diversity of cultures, the art of diplomacy and the ability to cope with a variety of complex issues. I have also tried to meet with International Management Teams whenever possible, support international events and listen to players in the pursuit of excellence. Part of my remit has been to see Wales become a significant partner of GB development and it is pleasing to note that our influence on this stage has increased.

On the home front, I am the only member of the Board who resides in the north and as such, able to support their needs. I have worked closely with both the Men's and Women's Associations in North Wales and have attended many North Wales hockey activities as the representative for the WHU.

I have also been a member of Wrexham Hockey Club for fifty years, during which time I have held a multiplicity of posts. At present I am the Secretary for Wrexham. The fact that we are also helping to host the Euros this year, is a fantastic opportunity for us to show Europe and the rest of the UK that we have excellent facilities for hockey in Wrexham. My WHU role has been focussed on organising the volunteers for the biggest event ever hosted by Wales. At the present time I am a self-employed Sports Consultant. To conclude, the qualities required by the WHU Board are integrity, commitment and vision and I have endeavoured to show these requirements in the past 18 months.

Jen Barton

Clubs and the players within them represent the majority stakeholders in the Welsh Hockey Union. At every level they play a huge part in making hockey a successful sport to be enjoyed by all. Running a successful club needs a lot of 'blood sweat and tears', and having been part of Welsh hockey on very many levels and as a director with responsibility for development I have been close to many of the crucial issues that affect clubs at all levels.

Development means many things to many people but it encompasses a huge range of activities which are important to allow clubs to grow and become stable, safe environments in which to learn and improve our game.

The resources at the disposal of Welsh Hockey will never be enough to do everything and it will always be necessary to find new and better ways of making the most of what's available. A year in this role is not long enough to be able to make a real impact as I feel I have barely scratched the surface. Another term as director would give me a real chance to make a positive impact on the way we shape development in Wales by representing the views of the clubs at the highest level.

Matthew James

I have represented Wales in hockey at Under 21 level and I have held the post of National Development Manager (Clubs and Young People) since March 2007 but will be stepping down on July 17th as I have accepted a Sports Development job with Powys County Council based at Brecon, which is much closer to my home near Llandovery. My time as NDM has given me an in-depth knowledge and appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the Welsh Hockey Union, and the opportunities and threats it faces.

I fully recognize that the role of a Director includes providing informed guidance and challenging debate at a strategic level as well as representing and promoting the Union's views, aspirations and plans in a variety of forum. My thorough understanding of the strategic issues and opportunities that Welsh Hockey faces in increasing the popularity and accessibility of the sport will assist me to fulfill the function of the Development Directorship in particular.

I remain very committed to the WHU's Strategic Plan 2009-13 and would be proud to help contribute towards achieving the Mission, Vision and Goals therein. I am particularly committed to trying to extend Hockey Development Officer support throughout Wales and to strengthening Wales's clubs through the development of junior sections and Club Accreditation.