

Update from HQ – WHU Update

Board Modernisation

At an EGM in January the following steps to modernise the WHU Board were approved – the number of elected positions were reduced from 9-4, to make provision for 3 non-executive directors and ensure a strategic focus. More specific development across the sport would be managed by a series of strategic action groups.

Road Shows

Following the successful Road Shows in 2007, the WHU plans a series of Road Shows across Wales in September 2008. The provisional dates for the North Wales Region are : Mold 15th Sept; Caernarfon 16th Sept; and Newtown 22nd Sept.

EuroNations Trophy (Men) 2009

NEWI, Wrexham will be the venue for the Men's Trophy over 1st/8th August 2009. The WHU's bid won out against stronger competition from other far larger countries and is an indication of the confidence that the EHF has in Welsh Hockey and the NEWI facilities. Anybody wishing to help out in what will be a huge event for Wales and the UK should contact Chris Brewer - chris.brewer@welsh-hockey.co.uk

Hockey Development Officer Appointments

Lee Ible (Wales & Brooklands HC GK) has been appointed to the post of NE Wales Hockey Development Officer (David Bickley's old job) and will start in the role on Monday July 28th. Aled Jones, URDD Sports Development Officer for Snowdonia and Anglesey) is managing a 3 year hockey development project in this region, which is being sponsored by the WHU's youth hockey partner Sport Experiences (www.sportexperiences.co.uk). Aled started this project in February.

Regional Academies & Performance Development Centres (PDCs)

The Welsh Hockey Union has made significant strides towards building a strong youth development structure and clear player pathway. The Regional Academies were launched in September 2007 and Academy training for U15 and U17 players is taking place at NEWI and Rydal School. Performance Development Centres (PDCs) are the development tier below Academies and 3 North Wales PDCs began operating in April, as partnerships between the WHU and the lead clubs, catering for players aged Under 13 from April to July. The NE Wales PDC is being led by Wrexham and Northop Hall; North Wales Coast PDC is being led by Colwyn Bay; and the Montgomeryshire PDC is being led by Welshpool. The response from clubs and schools to all 3 PDCs has been very encouraging.

Youth Hockey Activator Programme

The WHU will be holding a recruitment conference this Summer in North Wales for its Youth Activator Programme, which is now entering its seventh year and is going from strength to strength. The Activator Programme has provided youngsters with unique opportunities to develop their coaching, umpiring, sports administration and / or development skills. Applicants should be committed to the sport, and currently involved in coaching / umpiring / voluntary development work / hockey club duties etc, or be keen to become involved in such capacities. Applicants should be aged 16-21 years (age on 1st September 2007). However, strong applicants falling outside this age group will be considered. Applicants should contact Matt James at WHU for an application form – matthew.james@welsh-hockey.co.uk Clubs are encouraged to promote the Programme and encourage candidates from their clubs to apply.

Club Accreditation (WHAC)

The WHU launched the Welsh Hockey Accredited Clubs Scheme (WHAC) in November 2007 and North Wales clubs have responded well to the challenge. Both Northop Hall and Rhyl have submitted their applications and the WHU plans to award accreditation status at the forthcoming Road Shows.

Summer Camps

The WHU are running a youth hockey camp for players aged 12-16 at NEWI from Aug 19-22, all inclusive cost, incl. full board & accommodation is £215. Also running at NEWI is a Mercian Goalkeeping School with Simon Mason, this is for keepers and coaches, and runs from Aug 20-21 – cost £150. For further information contact Beth Fisher - beth.fisher@welsh-hockey.co.uk Tel. 029 2057 3947

Summer Hockey Opportunities for Club

- Does your club want to run a one day camp in the Summer to attract new members? If yes, then the WHU will provide a template and financial support. Contact Beth Fisher for further details.
- Summer Sixes – The WHU's new Six-a-side Senior Club Tournament. Taking place at Swansea on Saturday Aug 23. Contact Beth Fisher for further information.

UK School Games – Calling all young umpires!!

The WHUA and WHU are launching a new scheme to identify young talented umpires with potential for the future with aim of fast tracking them to officiate at the UK School Games held on 28-31 August 2008. Contact either the WHU or WHUA for further information.

Coaching Courses

A full calendar of coaching courses has been planned for 2008. The forthcoming Level 1 course list at Wrexham has been filled so well done North Wales. A UKCC Level 2 course is being run at Wrexham on July 18,20,27 Aug 10,17. Contact the WHU Coaching Unit for further information: coaching@welsh-hockey.co.uk