

# CARDIFF GLOBAL HOCKEY MARATHON



Over 60 school children took part in this year's Cardiff Global Hockey Marathon at Cardiff Athletic Stadium on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2006. The theme of this year's global event featured 'Hockey – A Sport for Everyone'.

The event in Cardiff was used to promote hockey within a club environment, and help strengthen links between clubs and schools. The day was organised and run in conjunction with Sport.Cardiff, with the Welsh Hockey Union Activators assisting in the planning and preparation for the event.

The day was opened by the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Freeda Selway and was also attended by representatives from Cardiff County Council and the Welsh Hockey Union. The morning began with a Dragon Sport emphasis and was attended by Primary School Children aged 7 to 11yrs. They participated in fun Dragon Sport hockey games which were led by Cardiff Hockey Clubs and Cardiff based Hockey Activators.

The afternoon session was aimed at Secondary School children aged 12 – 16yrs. The emphasis was to increase the profile of club hockey in Cardiff through the promotion of the Community Clubs as well as the larger competitive clubs. The afternoon followed that of a similar format to the morning with fun games being played with a little more emphasis on skill. As well as these skills sessions, the children also took part in a fun 7-a-side tournament and rounded the day off with a team skills challenge.

As well as the hockey sessions, children also participated in a skipping workshop, following links with the British Heart Foundation, Dynamic Flexibility session that included hurdles, ladders and poles to weave in and out and a fun skills session following links with Factory Eleven.

As a result of the day, 63% of the children attending have signed up to join a club in preparation for September. Sport.Cardiff and the Welsh Hockey Union would like to thank St John's Ambulance for their assistance on the day, British Heart Foundation, Factory Eleven, Youth Hockey Activators, the Cardiff Hockey Clubs and all those that attended and participated on the day.

