

## **Youth Report on the World Youth Hockey Promoters Festival**

The Third World Youth Hockey Promoters Festival took place in Santiago, Chile on 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2005. Representatives from over 25 countries attended the festival, making it a great success. The aims of the festival were as follows; to select the World Youth Hockey Promoter; to learn about hockey leadership and to create intercultural awareness and friendships. I think everyone would agree that these aims were certainly met!

The structure of the festival was excellent. Everyday, a different continent led the proceedings and gave us a presentation on their diverse countries. This enabled us to gain knowledge of their many cultures and traditions. We even learnt to speak a few words of languages such as Croatian and Dutch! After this our day consisted of different workshops which were centred on broadening our knowledge of leadership and management roles within hockey. They usually started off with some theory and then we would have to undertake a task in order to fully complete the workshop. The workshops ranged from those on coaching and umpiring to the more organisational side of hockey, looking at fundraising for a club and event management. We all agreed that these workshops were extremely helpful and were especially useful at providing tips and hints that we could use back in our own countries, within our teams and clubs.

On the first few mornings, time was also devoted to the presentations of people from every country. They were designed to show how youth development had progressed and been promoted in our areas. It was extremely interesting to hear about the different projects the promoters had embarked upon, whether they were one-off youth festivals, an on-going youth activator project or how to promote hockey in areas where it is not already popular. Every youth promoter had to give a mark out of ten to every presentation, and the final six had to give their presentations to an international panel of judges. The six finalists were Jane Cronin, Ireland; Michael Steinmann, Germany; Andrea Balette, Argentina; Chloë Guy, Wales; Lwandle Simelane, South Africa; and Nicola Connell, New Zealand. The eventual winner was Michael Steinmann who gave a talk on the international hockey day he helped set up between the Netherlands and Germany. Well done to Michael, who was then selected as the Global Youth Hockey Promoter!

It wasn't all hard work though. One of the best things about the festival was the numbers of international games we were able to watch as our festival took place at the same venue as the Junior Women's World Cup. Some of the most enjoyable games were England versus Chile and Australia versus Netherlands. It was a real treat for us to watch these talented athletes playing the sport we love so much at such a high level. Furthermore on the last night we all congregated together at the Manquehue Club for a goodbye dinner, during which we were awarded with our certificates. It was also a chance to seal the many firm friendships made during the week.

I am sure I speak for all world youth promoters when I say that the Youth Festival was an extremely enjoyable and fascinating experience which we would all love to repeat. I am certain we all travelled home determined to turn our experiences into practises in our own countries.

By Chloë Guy, Youth Hockey Activator

# World Youth Hockey Promoters Festival

2005

Santiago de Chile, Chile (18<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September)

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September, I was ready to leave Wales for my first trip outside Europe. Chloe and I met up with the Scottish representative Jen, and left Heathrow airport for South America. After the long flight, we arrived in Santiago close to midday on Saturday, and we met up with our Chilean hosts for our stay. After some much needed sleep, the festival began on the Sunday (day 1) in Club Deportivo Manquehue's fantastic clubhouse. Our first activity was "Speed Dating" to find out a bit about each other, and then group discussions on what workshop would the most important in the week. We then split up into our working groups for the week, before listening to a presentation about the state of Chilean hockey at present. Each day, we would watch matches from the Junior Women's World Cup in the evenings, before returning to our host's houses (or attending "grills"/ barbecues thrown by the host families). Day 2 of the festival was "Oceania Day", with Aussie staff member Carl Darlton talking about his cultures and traditions in Australia. The first half of the presentations took place, including mine (which went *slightly* over time!). In the afternoon, two top Argentinean international umpires, Carolina de la Fuente and Soledad Iparraguirre took the Umpiring workshop, with a large discussion on umpire's interpretations, which had very many different opinions. Day 3 was "Africa Day", taken by well travelled Paul Bundy, originally from Zimbabwe. He talked to us about the Zulu tribe's jewellery, and what the different colours and patterns meant. We were all given beads to create our own unique jewellery, with patterns to show what continent and country we were from. The second half of the presentations were given in the morning, with Chloe doing hers today. In the afternoon, we had an Events Management workshop, which involved us organising an event in our working groups. Day 4 was "European Day", run by our very own Anne Ellis (who's birthday was today, along with other staff member Roxana). The European promoters set up tables with traditional items and food from each of their countries, and taught the others how to say "Hello" or "Good Morning" in each native language. Most of the day was taken up by the Coaching workshop with ex-German and Spanish national coach, who has achieved Olympic Silver (1980) and European Gold medals through coaching. He told us the importance of small-sided games when developing a young hockey player, and how to "Stimulate not instruct". The practical session gave us our only opportunity to get on the pitch use our sticks! Later in the day, Monica Cumberbatch took a Fundraising workshop, with another activity to work through in our groups. Day 5 was "Americas Day", where each represented country showed us their traditional foods and objects, as well as performing their native dances to music. Today was sight-seeing, where we travelled to the beach resorts of Valparaiso and Vina del Mar. Day 6 was "Asia Day", where again we were shown traditional items from the represented countries. In the morning, we had a Club Development workshop, where we had to start a club from scratch in our working groups, and present it to the others. In the afternoon, the final presentations were shown in the afternoon. Jane Cronin (Ireland), Michael Steinmann (Germany), Lwandile Simelane (South Africa), Andrea Balette (Argentina), Nicola Connell (New Zealand) and our own Chloe were voted by the

promoters and staff to be chosen to present their presentations to the FIH panel to judge the best. Michael was awarded as "FIH Youth Hockey Promoter of the Year 2005" for his presentation on "Youth Hockey Internationals (Germany-Netherlands)", where he mixed his youth team (at his club where he coaches) in Germany with the youth at his club (where he plays) in Holland. The final presentation was done by the FIH Youth Panel, to give us an insight in what goes on and whether we would like to get involved. Day 7 was the last day of the festival, where we had a closing ceremony and meal with our hosts at the club in the evening, with the presentation of certificates. We all had our final group photos, and said goodbye to those leaving early the next morning. The next day was finals day of the JWC, which Korea won, before me, Chloe and Jen had to leave for home. We all thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience, and we have made friends for life. This has left me with so many ideas and opportunities, and I would like to thank the WHU for allowing me to represent them in the festival.

By Jon Elliott, Youth Hockey Activator