

Brief History and Outline of the Programme

The Welsh Hockey Union Youth Activator programme was instigated in 2002, following an invite from the FIH (World body for hockey) to nominate 2 youth candidates to attend a World conference in Hobart, Australia. Following the success of this World Youth Conference, which saw one of the Welsh representatives, Bethan Walsh, crowned 'World Youth Promoter', the Welsh Hockey Union recognised the value of youth involvement in our sport's development, and initiated the Youth Hockey Activator programme.

Twelve youth attended the first Youth Activator Training Conference held at the Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardiff in April 2003. The three-day residential training involved numerous workshops, including club development, umpiring, coaching, Sports Funding, and organising meetings, forums and events. The activators were also awarded a Coach Education voucher, allowing them to attend a coaching course to further develop their skills and qualifications.

The activators then returned to their Unitary Authorities armed with the skills and knowledge required to take a proactive role in developing hockey in schools and clubs within their UA's, whilst also creating and developing a pathway to ensure that the youth voice is heard and implemented within our sport in Wales. Each activator was expected to complete a minimum of 50 hours of Continued Professional Development as criteria for their Activator role.

In 2004 another group of hockey activators were recruited in the same manner. However, the WHU ensured the recognition and continued involvement of the initial activators by providing further training and awarding their achievements with the status of 'Second Grade Activators'. Following their hard work and substantial development in their first year, these activators were given the opportunity to further develop themselves in the field of hockey. With this opportunity came added responsibilities, but also added rewards. An outline of their roles and responsibilities can be seen on the flow-chart on page 2.

This programme has since gone from strength to strength, and the WHU have recently held their third Youth Activator Training Conference in September 2005. We therefore currently have ten First Grade Activators, nine Second Grade Activators, and ten Third Grade Activators in our Development programme. Two of our third grade activators have also recently returned from the biannual World Youth Conference, this year held in Santiago, Chile, and are now working hard to implement their experiences into Welsh Hockey. Their individual reports can be read on the WHU website.

The success of this programme has been phenomenal, and has played a fundamental role in ensuring the long-term development of youth hockey. Not only do we have youth playing our sport, but we also have youth involved in running our sport. We are now looking to the future, with a view of expanding the Activator programme. It is hoped that the next Youth Activator Training Conference will see twice as many youth recruited to the role of 'Youth Activator'.

Application forms, job descriptions and details of the next conference will appear on the website shortly. Alternatively, for further information please contact Anwen Owen, WHU Development Support Officer, on 02920 573947 / 07971 617615 / anwen.owen@welsh-hockey.co.uk



YOUTH HOCKEY ACTIVATOR PROGRAMME

YOUTH STRUCTURE

FIRST GRADE ACTIVATORS

- Taster sessions in schools and clubs
- Dragon sport link work
- Mini development
- Assist in UA programme
- Coach Education
- 50 Hours CPD

SECOND GRADE ACTIVATORS

- Taster Sessions
- School / Club links
- Youth Led Programmes
- Regional Co-ordination
- Coach Education
- 50 Hours CPD

THIRD GRADE ACTIVATORS

- School / Club links
- Youth Led Programmes
- Regional Co-ordination
- International Hockey Experience
- RAF Camps
- FIH World Youth Conference
- Coach Education
- 50 Hours CPD

National
Dev.
Manager

WHU Dev.
Support
Officer

National
Trainer

Education
Dev.
Manager

Local Dev.
Officers

Regions

Unitary
Authorities

Clubs

Schools

Chairperson of youth
hockey forum;
WHU youth
representative on board

National Development Manager;
WHU Development Support
Officer;
Education Development Manager;
Board Representative with
portfolio;
Regional Committee;
National Trainer

Publicity/Press officer;
Competitions;
WHU Website;
Coaching and umpiring;
Youth and Schools