



Club / School Circular

July 2005

Club Registration Fees

Firstly an apology. As you may be aware it was our full intention that for this coming season's membership registration, Club Secretaries or Membership Officers could update their club's members' registration details electronically. Due to circumstances completely beyond our control this is not possible at present. We hope to be able to advise you in a few months as to when this system will commence.

In the meantime, as in previous years, copies of your clubs registered members are attached and I would request that you use the blank copy when renewing your membership, updating where necessary prior to returning to the WHU. Please ensure that the appropriate marker ('S', 'Y', 'I' or 'M') is marked against each person. You must ensure that everybody involved with your club, be they player, coach or umpire are listed as otherwise they will not be covered for insurance purposes.

Additionally and in order to comply with the Data Protection Act, if any of your members DO NOT wish to receive any communications either by hardcopy or electronically, please ensure you mark the sheet "No contact" against the persons name. This will of course mean that they will not receive a copy of the annual newsletter. If required blank membership forms are available from the WHU website. Please complete and return direct to the address on the bottom of the summary together with any fees due. Please note that forms should now be directed to Anne Mullin who has taken on the role of WHU Membership Officer in place of Fay Davison and I offer my grateful thanks to both Ladies.

Club Details Return

Please ensure all details are completed with the form to be returned to this office by **31st July**. This will enable the up-to-date details to be included in next season's handbook. Last season a number of clubs failed to provide any information resulting in incorrect people being contacted at various times during the season. Those that do not provide the information will be 'named and shamed' in the next Handbook far more prominently than in last years issue.

Club and School e-contacts

More and more information is being issued from this office electronically and I would ask that each club and school provides an e-contact of somebody who is willing to pass items of interest, news etc to their own members. The contact does not have to be the Club Secretary or an official of the club – just somebody willing to pass messages on. Whilst a list is maintained at present, a substantial number of 'returned message' replies are received. Please ensure the e-address is detailed on the 'Club Details Return' mentioned above. If schools wish to forward their email to info@welsh-hockey.co.uk they will be added to the circulation list.

Registration Fees

As previously advised fees for next season (2005/6) are as follows:

Club Fee	£42.25
Team Fee	£10.25
Senior Member	£17.75
Youth Member	£ 6.75
Intermediate member	£ 4.75
Mini Member	£ 2.75
Secondary Schools	£15.00
Primary Schools	£10.00

These figures include a small element of inflation (for Club, Team and Senior fees) and a general increase of £0.75 on all individual fees to cover the cost of increased insurance cover. As you will have seen above the insurance cover for all registered members will be improved with effect from 1st September 2005. Following negotiations with IMR Group to whom we have transferred our insurance, as well as the existing civil liability insurance, we will also be providing Accidental Death, Permanent Total Disability and Capital Benefit cover. This will not apply to Schools who maintain their own insurance.

The insurance cover is as follows:

Public Liability	£5m limit
Accidental Death	£10k limit (restricted to 20% for U-18's)
Perm. Total disability	£10k limit
Capital benefits:	
Total loss of sight	£10k limit
Loss of both hands or feet	£10k limit
Loss of 1 limb & 1 eye	£5k
Loss of 1 limb or 1 eye	£2.5k

Additionally, if Permanent Total Disability results from an injury sustained whilst travelling

directly to/from an organised event/match, 20% of the capital benefits will be payable.

When the new WHU website is launched in August additional WHU branded insurance will be available on our website. Clubs will have the option to take out physiotherapy, dental and loss of earnings cover as well as travel, home and car insurance together with life assurance, all by completing a simple on-line application form. The insurance is very competitively priced and if schools wish to avail themselves of any of the above please contact this office or alternatively check the website.

School Registrations

Would Schools please ensure that their fees for 2005/6 (Secondary £15, Primary £10) are forwarded to their Area Secretary (for Secondary Schools & direct to WHU for Primary Schools) together with outstanding payments for 2004/5 where appropriate. Please also forward a copy of the form to this office by 31st July in order that your details may be updated.

Mixed International

The venue has now been advised for this years International between Wales and England as being Broxbourne HC on 17th July commencing at 14:00. All support would be gratefully received by the squad, Coach Andy Jones and Manager Rob Riley.

Awards

As a culmination in what has been an excellent year for Welsh hockey is the news that Anne Ellis has been recognised with the OBE in the recent Honours list. This is extremely well deserved and is just reward for the tremendous amount of work that she has committed to sport in general and hockey in particular, not only within Wales but also through EHF and FIH.



Anne Ellis OBE

Rule Books

New rule books are not currently available following the decision of the FIH to only issue

them every January. The only major rule change that we are currently aware of is that at international level the bow/rake on any stick has been reduced to 25mm. This is to be introduced at domestic level with effect from 1st September 2006.

Staff Appointments

The Welsh Hockey Union is pleased to announce that the following appointments have been made:

Mark Hopkins – Performance Support Officer and South West Wales Regional Coach.

Chris Marriott – Development Support Officer and South East Wales Regional Coach

Steve Edwards – North Wales Regional Coach



Mark Hopkins Chris Marriott Steve Edwards

The Welsh Hockey Union / WHUA have also contracted Dr Karen Evans and Jen Barton as Umpire Development Consultants. Their task will be to develop resources and information technology as well as constructing a three year plan to ensure Welsh umpires receive the best coach education available. Again this is all tied in with the new WHU website and we are grateful to the Sports Council for Wales for their financial assistance with all the above roles.



Jen Barton



Karen Evans

Website

As many of you will be aware we are presently in the process of redesigning our website with the launch due in August. It is intended to be easier to navigate and whilst it will take some time to fully populate the site with all the immense amount of information that people require we hope that you will be happy with the end result. There will be individual sections

covering (amongst others) Club / Youth Development, Umpiring, Competitions, International & Performance, News, Membership Services as well as an On-Line Shop where members & non-members can purchase various items of WHU branded clothing, insurance and First Aid Kits. We are also looking into the options of providing WHU branded holidays via a prospective new sponsor.

Club Competitions

The winners of the various National Competitions during the past season were as follows:

Welsh Cup

Women Swansea

Men Whitchurch

Welsh Shield

Women Colwyn Bay

Men Bridgend

Welsh Plate

Women UWIC

2nd XI Cup

Women Swansea

Men Whitchurch

Veterans Cup

Women Penarth

Men Swansea Bay

Sponsorship

You may have noticed in the recent hockey press that we have been successful in obtaining two substantial sponsorship deals – both of which have been ‘Sportsmatched’ by the Sports Council for Wales. The first is with Gilmour Sports and is worth some £25000 in year one consisting of a mix of cash and in-kind. Mazon branded kit will be supplied to each of our U-18, U-21 & Senior squads with the cash element enabling us to launch our new U-13 talent id and development programme. The second major ‘deal’ is with HSBC Bank plc which has been agreed at £5000 pa over three years. Again, with the funds being ‘sportsmatched’ a total income of £7800 in year one is most welcome. This will be used to develop a Skills Award project for clubs and schools at three levels and will be available to all qualified coaches and teachers through a

password protected section on the new website.

Child Protection Issues

Progress is now being made with Criminal Record Bureau checks with some applications currently with the CRB unit. It is hoped that in August / September the first in a series of workshops for Club Child Protection Officers (CCPO's) will be made available. Clubs should note that it is feasible that membership of the WHU in seasons to come may be subject to a CCPO being appointed in each appropriate club. Letters concerning the various workshops will be issued directly to each of the CCPO's whose details have been advised to the office with club secretaries receiving those where such officers are not known.

International Matches

A number of International matches at varying age levels have been held over the course of the past few weeks. The Senior Women travelled to France for a three test series against a team ranked 11 places higher in the World rankings. With a number of new faces and a young team, results of two draws and a close defeat were encouraging for the squad that are building up to their European Nations Trophy in Azerbaijan over 5th–11th September. Further matches were played against England U-21 in Swansea resulting in a 2-1 victory and a 2-2 draw. Games are also due to be played in Swansea against Ukraine over 5th–7th August and Spain U-21's in Barcelona on 13th August.



Senior Women's Squad

The Senior Men played against a full English squad, also in Swansea and registered two 0-3 defeats in front of a partisan crowd. At a full weekend of hockey the Welsh vets (40+) narrowly lost to their English counterparts 2-4 with the Dragon's (Boys U-13's) drawing 2-2 with Portsmouth Grammar School. Further matches are also planned for the Senior Men's squad against Poland (Swansea 10th-11th

August), Scotland (Manchester 13th-14th August) and against top Dutch clubs at the end of August. As with the Women this is all part of the build up to their European Nations Trophy in Rome over 11th-17th September.



Senior Men's Squad

The Senior Celtic Cups are this year being hosted by Scotland at Peffermill over 22nd-24th July where both Welsh teams will be looking to maintain their unbeaten runs from last year.

The other squads involved with European tournaments this years are the two U-18 teams who will be playing over 11th-16th July in the Czech Republic (Men) and Lithuania (Women). We wish all the Welsh squads, umpires and officials every success in their various tournaments.

Vets Hockey

The Men's Vets are also in the preparation stage with the Over-40's & Over-50's squads playing a number of matches before their 4 nations tournament in Dublin over 27th – 28th August. Their warm-ups include training at Neath over 16/17 July and Swansea on 14th August as well as a match against Edinburgh Uni Old Boys at Llys Talybont, Cardiff on 6th August. Anybody in any of the age ranges of 40, 50, 55 or 60 who are interested in playing should contact the Secretary, Bernie Wheeler at the_wheelers@talk21.com If anybody wishes to join the vets in Dublin they would be more than welcome and again, contact Bernie for further information.

International Qualification

The WHU has recently reviewed its criteria for those players who wish to be considered for selection for any of our International squads. The changes have been marked in italics:

A player shall be eligible to play for Wales if he / she satisfies one of the following conditions:

- (a) Born in Wales
- (b) One or both parents born in Wales
- (c) One or more grandparents born in Wales
- (d) *Can prove continuous residence in Wales for a period of three years (Seniors), one year (U-21's) or in the case of Youth players (U-18 and below) a period of not less than three months, immediately preceding selection. In all cases players must also be a member of a club or school affiliated to the Union or hold individual affiliation of the Union.*
- (e) Players will only be able to represent Welsh under-aged squads (U-21, U-18, U-16 etc.) if they are under the necessary age by the 1st January in the year of competition or otherwise as deemed by the European Hockey Federation / International Hockey Federation.
- (f) *Differing criteria applies for those players holding dual nationality or for those that have represented another country at U-21 or Senior level and any such person wishing to make themselves available for selection must first contact the WHU for clarification'*

In case of doubt the Board shall determine any player's eligibility to play for Wales.

Chris Brewer
Operations Manager
Welsh Hockey Union

Enclosures

Clubs

Club Details form (for return by 31st July)
 Registration Fees 2005/6 return
 Club printout x 2 (one showing no fees for completion and return to **Anne Mullin** by 1st October)
 Blank Registration Form

Schools

Secondary Schools details form (for return by 31st July to WHU Office with original to School Area Secretary)

Primary Schools details form (for return by 31st July to WHU Office)