

**Format of Circulars**

In response to feedback from various quarters it was felt that this new method may be of more value (and more interesting). As you will notice (if downloading from the website) we have also taken the opportunity to include pictures. Additional feedback is always welcomed and comments should be forwarded via post or email to the address detailed at the foot of each page.

**Club Registration Fees**

Despite some clubs being somewhat late in forwarding their membership details all information has now been updated onto our database. As in previous years a copy of your clubs details are attached and I would request that you review it to ensure all members (including those that have joined since the beginning of the season) are listed with the appropriate marker ('S', 'Y', 'I' or 'M') detailed. 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. If required blank membership forms are available from the WHU website. Please complete and return direct to this office together with any fees due.

As we are looking to increase the circulation of information issued to members from this office it is vital that all email addresses are checked, amended and returned where appropriate.

**Annual General Meeting**

At the recent AGM held in Welshpool a number of important decisions were made. Taking them in the order of the Agenda, you may have seen in the national press the meetings response to the request from the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and Great Britain Olympic Hockey (GBOH) that we should consider foregoing our representation in World level events. Whilst the benefits for GB could be seen it was felt that an overall review of hockey within the UK should be undertaken prior to any commitment being given. Additionally the meeting considered that there should be a restructuring of the way in which hockey is developed within the UK, such that it provides as a minimum equal opportunities to all to aspire to the highest level possible. The

meeting also confirmed that we would not relinquish our position at 1) European outdoor or indoor events at International or club level 2) World events below Senior level or 3) Commonwealth Games. This information has been fed back to GBOH for them to take forward.

Registration fees for next season (2005/6) were confirmed 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. Details of the insurance are covered in full later in this circular.

One new Director was elected (Dr Karen Evans) with John Turton being re-elected, both for a period of three years. Colin Crayford and Jen Barton were also elected for one year periods as Player/Umpire representatives. Full contact details on all the above are available from the WHU website.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the presentations to various members of the WHU who were each awarded a Certificate of Merit. The recipients were as follows:

Carol Brookes	Shirley Clayton
Glyn Davies	Chris Déspres
Sue Jackson	Dave Pedwell
Margaret Smith	Jackie Williams



**Chris Déspres receiving his award from  
Anne Ellis**

All the above richly deserved their awards for the sterling service they have given to hockey in Wales over a substantial number of years. Regrettably, due to the inclement weather some of the recipients were unable to attend the meeting and it is hoped that the appropriate Regional Committees will make suitable arrangements for the awards to be presented in the near future.



**Carol Brookes receiving her award from Anne Ellis**

### **School Registrations**

Would Schools please ensure that their fees for 2004/5 (Secondary £15, Primary £10) are forwarded to their area Secretary as soon as possible. A substantial number have yet to make their payments which is of course mandatory if participating in any WHU event or competition.

### **RAF Careers**

We are extremely grateful to the RAF for their continued support. They are again sponsoring numerous Youth leagues and tournaments throughout Wales as well as the RAF day which was recently held at RAF Sealand. Clubs will find enclosed 1 RAF Newsletter for each of their younger members whilst Schools will find one Newsletter per school.

### **Club Details**

As with any organisation, club officers continually change. Where this information has been forwarded to us it is always available on the WHU website by following 'WHU information' 'Directory of clubs'. If you are aware of additional changes please let us know.

### **National Performance Coach**

Following Alan Lint's return to New Zealand at the completion of his contract we are delighted to welcome David Griffiths as the Performance

Coach. Although born and bred within the UK, David moved to Perth, Western Australia at a tender age where most of his hockey career was spent within the Regional hockey centre. He comes to us with an excellent pedigree having worked within the elite identification system for some time. David will also be taking on the role of Senior Women's Squad coach following Lesley Hobley's move to Scotland.



**David Griffiths**

### **Rule Books**

Each club and school will find enclosed a copy of the new 2005 FIH rule books for outdoor hockey. Additional copies (and indoor books) are available from the UK distributor, Colin Crayford. An order form is available on the WHU website by following the link at the bottom of the Home Page. Alternatively please contact this office when a hardcopy of the order form can be posted.

### **Gilmour Sports**

As many of you will already be aware Gilmour Sports provide a comprehensive selection of development bags and goalkeeping equipment at discounted rates to WHU members and clubs. This range has recently been further developed with a full selection now available for order by completing and faxing the order form available on our website. As part of the proposed development of our website, we intend to make available for purchase various items of hockey items including hats, polo shirts, t-shirts, kit bags etc which will all be WHU branded and very reasonably priced.

### **Insurance matters!**

As you will have seen above the insurance cover for all registered members will be improved with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

Over the course of the next few weeks 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.

### Stick Rule Changes

In order to provide early notice of a rule change, due to be implemented at international level (and EHL Premier 1) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2006 and all other domestic levels as at 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006 **ALL** players, umpires, coaches should note the following. The maximum bow/rake on any stick cannot be more than 25mm compared to the existing 50mm. Therefore, if purchasing a new stick be aware that if it does not conform to the new regulations you will not be able to use it after 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006 in any domestic competition.

### Mixed International

Whilst the venue has yet to be advised, if you are interested in playing for the Mixed International squad in their annual match against England on 17<sup>th</sup> July, the new Manager, Rob Riley is already looking for players. Rob can be contacted at [r.riley@breakthrough-uk.co.uk](mailto:r.riley@breakthrough-uk.co.uk) or 07960-481592.

### Monthly Hockey on TV

From June 2005 the FIH will be issuing on a 4 weekly basis a 29 minute TV show to all satellite and cable broadcasters. It is hoped that this will be on a 'free-to-air' basis with the programmes covering all aspects of the sport.

### Awards

In what is becoming one of the most successful periods ever for hockey in Wales, the following awards have been received by our members:

Anne Mullin	WSA Administrator of the Year
Pam Richards	SCW Coach of the Year
Chris Déspres	BBC Wales Volunteer of the Year
Anne Ellis	Elected to FIH Executive <b>AND</b> UK Hockey Writers Official of the Year
Andrew Seimann	Runner-Up UK Hockey Writers Youth Player of the Year.



**Anne Mullin with her WSA award**

### European Club Tournaments

4 clubs will be representing Wales in 5 differing competitions over the next couple of months. Swansea HC and Penarth LHC have already participated in Indoor in Hungary and Italy respectively (both narrowly missing out on promotion) with Penarth LHC competing in the Cup Winners Trophy in Austria. Cardiff HC and Swansea LHC will be involved with European Hockey Trophy and Challenge respectively. As Swansea are hosting their event (13/16 May) all support, both during and in the lead up to the tournament would be gratefully appreciated. Any offers of help or enquiries regarding the tournament should be made to Sue Gray at [sue@grayish.demon.co.uk](mailto:sue@grayish.demon.co.uk). We wish all those teams, officials and umpires competing in Europe the best of luck and look forward to

hearing about our clubs promotion to the higher divisions.

### **HSBC**

We are delighted to announce that HSBC are continuing their sponsorship of a number of Welsh Hockey Union events. HSBC have been involved with the WHU for many years having sponsored the Women's National League since its inception. The new deal covers a three year period and as part of the contract the WHU will be transferring its accounts to HSBC. Members will be fully aware that supporting any sponsor is vital and we would recommend that if at all possible, each club and member consider transferring their own accounts to the Bank.

### **Database**

As part of the continual development in the services that we are able to offer our members, we are actively pursuing the options available to enable club membership secretaries the ability to update and amend their members' details directly onto a web-based membership section. We are looking at a number of areas in the communication front including a review and re-launch of a revamped website.

### **Development News**

The Development Section of the WHU under the management of Debbie Austin (National Development Manager) has grown again with the addition of new Local Development Officers in Caerphilly (Bev Rogers) and Rhondda Cynon Taff (Judith Powell). They join their respective Sports Development Units at a very active time of year as far as hockey is concerned. Fun Centres for boys and girls at Under 13 age groups will be underway in the spring and will be followed closely by Regional Under 13 Competitions. It is at this time of year that the LDO's will be planning their Dragon Sport Festivals and Leagues for the Primary Schools in their Unitary Authorities. They will also be working closely with their local clubs to support and encourage entries into the RAF Careers Under 15 girls Competition. Entry lists have now closed and match schedules and venues should be distributed to those clubs in the very near future.

Amanda Roberts, the full-time LDO for Cardiff, has taken over the organisation of the Activate National Primary Schools Competition. Entries are coming in thick and fast at the moment, and we are assured of some high quality hockey again this year as the competition progresses on to Area and National Finals from the Zone

matches which will take place all across Wales in May.

Whilst we are still on the subject of competitions, we have now recruited coordinators for the Women and Girls Badgers Leagues and they will be contacting clubs shortly with details and entry forms. This competition which has been in place for mens teams for some years now is an extremely good way of helping clubs to integrate their junior players through into senior hockey under the guidance of some very experienced mentors. I know that the junior players benefit greatly from the opportunity to play with and learn from some excellent role models.

Most of the LDO's have now set up Hockey Forums in their Authorities to allow their clubs and schools the opportunity not only to stay in the loop, but more importantly to help to shape hockey development in their own area. LDO contracts are for fixed terms, and the work that they are undertaking is on behalf of all of the clubs and schools in their area. Without the ongoing involvement of all of the key partners, their work will not leave any long term sustainable benefits for clubs and schools, so I would urge all schools and clubs to get involved and help hockey progress in their own area.

Our Coach and Umpire Education and Development Programme is now entering a busy phase with a number of courses at Leaders/Youth Levels for Coaches and Dragon/Level One for Umpires planned for the spring. The full list of courses is available for viewing on the Welsh Hockey Union website. Please contact the course organiser or your Local Development Officer if you would like to access any of the courses listed.

We currently have 41 learners working through a pilot Hockey NVQ programme as part of a wider exercise to improve the quality of our education development section. Future plans for this department include the establishment of a 'Coaching for Teachers' qualification encompassing Key Stage 2 right through to A' Level P.E, with a launch date of September 2005. Welsh Hockey Union is currently working with the other home countries, in a bid to devise transferable qualifications, through implementation of the UK Coaching Certificate. This will result in many changes to WHU structures during the next two years.

The development section implemented U 15 boys and girls Centres of Local Development in September 2005, delivered by national coaches and with record numbers of players involved. It is anticipated that the COLD's programme will run



again this July, with responsibility being transferred to the Welsh Hockey Union Performance Section under the guidance of our new National Performance Coach Dave Griffiths. A few amendments have been made following last years review. These include: a new technical programme, revised selection criteria, a revised course length. The programme will this year be implemented on a more local basis with the appointment of a number of new talent identification officers. Nominations for players for the COLDS in July 2005 will be disseminated by April, so please ensure talented player's names are submitted. For further details on the COLD's programme please contact the Performance Section of the WHU.

This April will see the first in what is hoped to become an annual event when approximately 70 young players from some of our targeted Unitary Authorities and ten staff travel to Disneyland Resort Paris for the International Hockey Experience. The five day trip will give the participants the opportunity to improve their hockey techniques and skills and of course plenty of time to spend enjoying all of the fun of the Disneyland Parks. As well as the coaching and domestic staff, the children will also be accompanied by some of our Youth Activators who will be assisting the coaching staff for the hockey part of the camp. The trip will also give the Activators the opportunity to start to work towards gaining a National Vocational Qualification in Activity Leadership. Interest from young players has been much higher than expected which bodes well for the continuation of this exciting new venture from the Development Section.

I hope that you will see that we are moving and growing very quickly. I hope that you will all continue to support the Development Section's efforts which have led to us helping you to make hockey the fastest growing team sport in Wales over the past year.

### **WHU Modernisation Programme**

Following the appointment of Mike Bull as our Chief Executive Office in September 2004, the WHU is currently undergoing a modernisation programme in conjunction with the WSA (Welsh Sports Association). Included in the programme is a new staffing structure, financial and office management systems, strategic plan, income generation, performance pathways and communication structures. One of the first key phases is the staff review exercise to ensure that the staffing is structured in the most advantageous way to make certain our targets are achieved. As a result of this review the Union is looking to create 3 new positions, namely Development Support Officer, Performance Support Officer and North Wales Regional Coach. The existing administrator together with the part-

time performance and development roles have either been made redundant or the posts discontinued. As soon as the new staff have been appointed their details will be publicised on the website.

### **Child Protection Issues**

Having had 12 months prior notification, it is anticipated that a large proportion of club's Child Protection Officers (CCPO's) will have attended an appropriate scUK course (or similar) on child protection matters. It is disappointing to note that only approximately 40% of WHU clubs have advised this office as to the contact details of their CCPO's and it is assumed that the Hon Secretary will be taking on this additional role. If this is not the case please advise this office of the name of your CCPO as soon as possible. We have been extremely fortunate in obtaining sponsorship from **Marsh UK and Professional Recruitment Wales Ltd**, which together with the 'Sportsmatched' funds also received will enable us to provide each club with a CD-ROM produced by NSPCC. The CD-ROM will prove invaluable to each club when undertaking a check and/or a review of their existing procedures. The CD will be issued shortly together with full details of the next step in introducing CRB checks on all those who are involved with young people.

### **Club Competitions**

The National cup competitions have now reached the latter stages with the following matches due to be played on the stated dates:

#### **Welsh Cup**

Women – Final 1<sup>st</sup> May

Swansea v Howardian

Men – Final 1<sup>st</sup> May

Swansea Bay v Whitchurch

#### **Welsh Shield**

Women – Semi-Final 10<sup>th</sup> April

Colwyn Bay v Ruthin  
Newtown v Buckley

Men – Final 30<sup>th</sup> April

Cwmbran v Bridgend

#### **Welsh Plate**

Women – Final 24<sup>th</sup> April

Cwmtawe v UWIC

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> XI Cup**

Women – Final 24<sup>th</sup> April

UWIC v Swansea

Men – Final 24<sup>th</sup> April

Bridgend v Whitchurch

### Veterans Cup

Women – Final 1<sup>st</sup> May

Dysynni v Penarth

Men – Final 30<sup>th</sup> April

Swansea Bay v Bridgend

Congratulations should already go to Whitchurch and Penarth for their victories in their respective Welsh indoor Cup tournaments.

### Allsport 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kits

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all clubs and schools that discounted 'hockey specific' 1<sup>st</sup> Aid kits are available, either by contacting this office direct or alternatively downloading the order form from the WHU website. It is recommended that each team should carry a 1<sup>st</sup> Aid kit to all matches. Courses covering basic 1<sup>st</sup> Aid are available by contacting your Sports Development Officer within your own Unitary Authority. Costs are low but in any event a Community Chest application will normally provide the funding for you.

### Deceased Members

Following on from the sad loss of Howie Williams and Rob Chamley I regret to advise that a number of other stalwarts of Welsh hockey have recently passed away. Maurice Richardson, best known for his announcing at various Cup Finals and Tournaments, passed away at his home in New Zealand where he had been living for the past few years. Audrey Whitley, an ex-International player in both hockey and netball has also left us. Audrey held most positions within her club, Wrexham and held many posts within North Region as well as being a past Secretary of the WWHU. Another member to have passed away is Ken Williams of Penarth HC. Ken was very instrumental in helping to get youth hockey off the ground and despite being ill for some time, continued to help out with the youth whenever possible. They will all be sadly missed.

### Aberystwyth Summer Camp

Due to the unavailability of pitches at Aberystwyth the Camp has for this year been switched to Swansea. To be held over 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July, accommodation will be at the University of Swansea with full use of the new water-based ATP's on a daily basis. Full details are enclosed by way of application forms and bi-lingual posters and I would be grateful if you will also circulate your younger members directly. Organised and run by WHU qualified coaches, the costs have been kept at the lowest level possible to ensure that as many younger players as possible can attend. For further information please contact either of the organisers, Margaret Smith and Karen Evans direct.

### 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:

1. Born in Wales
2. One or both parents born in Wales
3. One or more grandparents born in Wales
4. 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 of the above cases players must also be a member of a club or school affiliated to the Union or hold individual affiliation of the Union.*
5. Players will only be able to represent Welsh under-aged squads (U-21/18/16 etc) if they are under the necessary age by the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year of competition or otherwise as deemed by the European Hockey Federation / International Hockey Federation.

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

The Board will be considering further changes to the criteria in due course.

*With every success for the remainder of the season*

*Chris Brewer  
Operations Manager  
Welsh Hockey Union*

### Enclosures

#### **Clubs**

Club membership details  
RAF Newsletter (s)  
FIH 2005 Rule book  
IMR insurance details  
Swansea Summer Camp poster  
Swansea Summer Camp application form

#### **Schools**

RAF Newsletter  
FIH 2005 Rule book  
Swansea Summer Camp poster  
Swansea Summer Camp application form