



Club Circular June 2006

Junior (U-21) Celtic Cups

You may already be aware that over 30th June to 2nd July, Wales are hosting this bi-annual tournament at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. Entry fees are very reasonably priced at £5 per day or £10 for a three day ticket with matches taking place at 10:00, 12:00, 14:00 and 16:00 daily. With all U-16's being allowed free entry at all times we hope that clubs and schools will take the opportunity of coming along to see some excellent hockey. We are extremely grateful to Worldwide Sports Insurance UK Ltd for their financial backing of the tournament. This tournament is a warm up for the various EuroHockey tournaments to be held over 23rd – 29th July with our Men playing in Gibraltar in the Trophy while our Women play against the likes of Germany and England in the Championship in Catania. In other EuroHockey events our U-16 squads are participating in Trophy tournaments in Zagreb over 9th – 15th July (Boys) and Prague over 10th – 15th July (Girls).

WHU Modernisation

You will probably also be aware that the WHU has been without a CEO since January. You may have seen recent press & web adverts but unfortunately at the end of the process it was not possible to appoint anybody. The Board are still actively seeking a new Chief Executive Officer and in the interim the Board will be taking on extra responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the company. Dave Skirrow has also decided, for personal reasons, to concentrate on his own club and in the meantime, the role of Chairman will be covered by Anne Ellis, John Turton and Karen Evans.

Database

Although it has taken longer than anticipated to complete the new WHU registration database it will be ready for the new season. Full details will be issued in the next circular at which time club secretaries will be able to update and amend their own club's member's details online. Clubs will have the option (through their club password) to use the system as their own club notice board. Individual members will also be able to access the system to update their own information, again through individual passwords.

EuroHockey Tournaments

Our congratulations go to Swansea LHC for retaining their place in the Club Champions Trophy division with particular congratulations to Cardiff HC who after some hard matches earned promotion from the Challenge division of their own EuroHockey Club Champions tournament. Full match reports on all the above, together with other EuroHockey tournaments in which a Welsh club played, can be found on the WHU website.

Handbook

In order that the 2006/7 version can be issued at the very beginning of next season please ensure that the enclosed return is completed and returned by 30th June. You will note a few differences from previous years and I would ask that you ensure that all areas are completed.

Club Child Protection Officers (CCPO's)

A number of scUK courses have been held over the past two months with over 100 members having received training not only in Child Protection procedures but also Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) checks. One course is still to be held to cater for Mid-Wales clubs which will be held during the summer period. Only those clubs with trained CCPO's will be authorised to order CRB forms so if your club do not have such an officer as yet please contact the WHU office so that alternative arrangements can be made. It is likely that this role will become a compulsory part of any clubs membership of the WHU so please act now! For those who have completed the training, full details of the web-based Child Protection 'packs' will be forwarded to the lead officer in each club over the next few weeks. Please ensure that the CCPO detailed on the club officers' return (as detailed above) has completed the training.

Summer Hockey Camp

After the very successful Camp in Swansea last year the WHU have decided to repeat the experience this year over 1st – 3rd August. The Camp is open to anybody aged 11-15 as at 1st September 2005. The Camp costs £110 per person and includes 2 nights full board. A leaflet detailing the 'experience' is enclosed and I would ask that it is passed around all of your younger members. Further details together with an application form are also available online at www.welsh-hockey.co.uk/development_youth.htm

Mixed International

It is our turn to hold this annual match with the RAF at Valley hosting the fixture on Sunday 23rd July. It will be the first time that the match has been held off the mainland of either England or Wales and all support will be gratefully appreciated by Manager Rob Riley, Coach Andy Jones and all the squad.

Vets Internationals

The first over 45 & over 55 Men's Vets internationals will be taking place this coming weekend (24th & 25th June) in Swansea. With both Welsh teams facing England the matches are likely to be hotly contested. For further information please visit the Welsh Hockey Union website. Our over 40 & over 50 Vets will also be hosting their own Home Nations tournaments, again in Swansea over 26th & 27th August.

Gender Equality

The Government intends to introduce regulations next autumn making it an offence to discriminate on the above grounds in the provision of goods services or facilities. It appears whilst single sex clubs will be permitted to continue - (provided they are activities which persons may reasonably wish to pursue on a single sex-basis such as sports) - there should be no discrimination in membership services or facilities offered to both sexes and regardless of sexual orientation. For example Clubs and Associations will not be able to include sexual orientation as a membership criterion. Simply having a discriminatory practice will itself be an offence even though there may not be an actual victim. There could well be an issue on the quality of e.g. changing rooms & other facilities in some cases. For further information please contact Chris Brewer at the Welsh Hockey Union office.

Cancelled /Suspended Memberships

Regretfully it is sometimes necessary to suspend or cancel some individuals' membership of the WHU for a number of reasons. If you wish to check that any new member of your club is eligible for registration please contact Chris Brewer at the WHU office.

Public Liability & Personal Accident Insurance

Surprisingly a number of telephone calls are still received by clubs enquiring about taking out their own public liability insurance. To clarify any misunderstandings, all **registered** members of the WHU are covered for public liability and basic personal accident insurance. Through our insurers, WWSI (Worldwide Sports Insurance Ltd), clubs have the option of taking out enhanced

cover, including loss of earnings. Although the additional insurance is subject to the whole club being covered, the premiums negotiated are extremely competitive. As an added option, clubs can insure their kit, cups and trophies with full details available on our website. If anybody wishes to receive hardcopy versions of the insurance cover available, please contact the office.

RAF

WHU would like to thank the RAF for their continued support of Welsh hockey. They sponsored a number of our junior events this year and photographs from the Welsh Youth finals and U-15 & U-18 Club Championships can be viewed at

www.rafcareers.com/altitude/sportsactivities/finals.cfm

WHU website

Hopefully everybody will have visited the new website and found it easy to use. All international and cup results are posted as soon as practical but if you would like to see additional sections included please forward your comments to chris.brewer@welsh-hockey.co.uk

International Test Matches

A number of test matches are being lined up against various international opponents for both our Senior Men's and Women's squads. Please keep your eye on the WHU website for further details.

Staff changes

For those of you who contact the office may already be aware that Sarah Austin has left the WHU to take up a fulltime position with a Gymnastics club. We wish Sarah every success and welcome her successor, Beth Fisher who commenced work with us earlier this month.

I wish you all an enjoyable summer break.

*Chris Brewer
Operations Manager
Welsh Hockey Union Limited*

Enclosures

Summer Camp flyer
Club Officers return