



## UPDATE FROM HILARY POOLE - CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Wednesday 12th May 2010

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Dear Associations, Regions and Councils – Chairs, Board Members and Executive Officers

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Hockey Leaders conference on 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> March then the AGM on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

This update from me is released in behind Hockey New Zealand's April E Newsletter, to avoid duplication of Hockey related content. You can access the most recent newsletter through this link <http://www.p6.co.nz/nzhockey/0410/gmail2.html>

### BUILD THE HOCKEY COMMUNITY

#### Small Sticks Pilot

We are working with three associations to pilot the under six programme. The Associations taking part are Waikato, Tauranga and Otago. The programme has been developed to incorporate both fundamental skills and hockey specific skills, and is structured to be delivered in one hour sessions over 12 weeks.

This programme is designed for children, aged under six, who are “new players” or relatively new to the game of hockey. The key objectives are to provide the participants with;

- an introduction to hockey with an emphasis on being a fun experience
- an opportunity to develop fundamental skills – running, dodging, striking
- an opportunity for the players to learn by self exploring
- a positive and quality coaching environment
- full involvement for all participants
- regular changes of activities to maintain enthusiasm and interest
- a safe environment for any activities
- to provide all equipment ( sticks, balls, cones, bibs, goals) to minimize the cost for parents caregivers

The programme will be monitored during the first year of delivery, with feedback from parents, junior committees, Associations and the children reviewed to assist in fine tuning the programme.

#### Umpire Development

New Zealand punches well above our weight internationally due to our calibre of umpires and technical officials. This was reinforced most recently with the appointment of six officials to the New Dehli Commonwealth Games, which is twice the number of appointments of Australia and England. This does not happen by accident.

Over the past few months, we have had a range of feedback on umpire appointments and the management of costs associated with umpires at national tournaments. The following provides you with an update in terms of Hockey New Zealand's response to this feedback.

Thank you to those who have raised issues, and provided feedback during this process.

### **Umpire Appointment Process**

Over the past four years, the Umpires Council has provided strong direction over the umpire nomination and appointment process, supporting the work of Craig Gribble. The aim has been to build breadth and depth in the quality of umpiring and technical officials throughout New Zealand, by taking a systematic and strategic approach.

The main issue raised over the past months has been the request to give Regional Franchises and Associations the opportunity to review the proposed Umpire Appointments for National Domestic Tournaments before appointments are finalised, enabling them to confirm that they support umpire appointments from their respective catchments.

We have asked Craig and the Umpires Council to clarify the steps and timing, including communication to Associations in the Umpire Appointments Process. In particular, to provide a step that will allow the opportunity for Associations to view the proposed appointments and provide feedback on them before they are finalised. This process will then be formalised as policy in the Tournament Manual. Again, this will be confirmed at the next Umpires Council meeting in September, with the process advised at the Hockey Leaders Conference in November.

### **Umpire Feedback Process**

Craig Gribble is also working on updating the Umpire Feedback process, based on some of his learnings at the recent FIH workshop in New Delhi. Craig is aiming to implement this by June, in preparation for the bulk of this year's National Domestic Tournaments. This will be communicated as appropriate when this is ready.

### **Equalisation for U-21 and Senior National Tournaments**

Hockey New Zealand agrees in principle with umpire equalisation for the U21 Tournament, however we will not be proceeding with it for 2010. Following input from the NHL Regional Franchises, Associations and the Umpires Council we believe it is unfair to bring this in at short notice, as it has not been budgeted for in 2010. We also did not receive a full response from the Regions to show that they were in favour of full equalization for 2010, and the Umpires Council are also of the mind to introduce partial equalisation.

We will look to introduce an appropriate form of equalisation for these tournaments in 2011. Our aim is to have this confirmed following due process and review at the next Umpires Council meeting in September, and we will confirm this for implementation at the next Hockey Leaders conference planned for November 2010.

### **Umpire Equity Scheme for Age Group Tournaments**

At the 2006 Hockey New Zealand AGM it was passed that an umpire equity scheme would take effect for the 2007 season. The scheme was to address the inequalities associated with some Associations not providing any umpires, and others supplying more than their quota at their own expense. The decided figure was \$400. It was also acknowledged that this figure would not necessarily cover all costs (depending on travel distance etc). However, over time things would even out and the \$400 would be a good average. For the past three seasons, the scheme has worked effectively and has addressed the inequality issues.

As agreed at the March 2010 Hockey Leaders Conference, it is currently on our agenda to review this scheme and to assess whether the \$400 is still the appropriate amount to be charged for the age group tournaments (U-13, U15 and U18). Craig Gribble is currently consulting with Associations as agreed (Auckland, Canterbury, South Canterbury, Poverty Bay and Horowhenua), and will put forward Hockey New Zealand's recommendation to the Umpires Council in September. Again, we will confirm the proposed changes for implementation in 2011 at the Hockey Leaders conference in November 2010.

### **Umpire Level 2 Course**

A Level Two Umpiring Course was run by Craig Gribble in Canterbury last month for nine participants. The course builds on concepts from the Level One Course and included presentations from current world cup umpires Kelly Hudson and Simon Taylor. The course focused on modern hockey trends and umpires strategies. An in-depth analysis of scenarios from the world's top events for the past two years was carried out in the DVD workshop sessions.

Positive feedback was received from participants and it is the intention to run another Level Two course later in the year in the North Island.

## Regional Development Clinics

The 2010 Under 17 Clinics have been delivered in five regions: Southern (Invercargill), Canterbury (Christchurch), Central (Palmerston North), Midlands (Hamilton), and Northern (Harbour). Junior Academy head coaches Greg Nicol (girls) and Darren Smith (boys) attended all clinics to deliver the programme. This proved very successful with regional players and coaches being exposed to the national programme coaches. A total of 125 boys and 126 girls attended the clinics, they were put through two days of intense training which included fitness tests and core skill development. All players will receive a personal report written by the head coaches during May which will be very useful for their ongoing development within hockey.

## SPECTACULAR EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS

### 2010 Domestic Tournaments

#### *National Age Group Tournaments*

You will all be interested in the number of entries in the 2010 National Age Group Tournaments, particularly in the Under 15 National Tournaments. Overall we have a 10% increase in the total number of teams this year, driven mainly by the significant increase in the U18 Championship Entries, however we still only have 19 teams for the two U15 Premier tournaments, and a small drop in U15 Championship Tournament entries.

Tournament	U15			U16		U15
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
U15/16 Boys Premier	20 (20)	20 (20)	20 (20)	16 (16)	20 (19)	19 (19)
U15/16 Boys Championship	12 (2)	11 (2)	13 (3)	21 (9)	15 (5)	14 (4)
U15/16 Girls Premier	20 (20)	20 (20)	19 (19)	16 (16)	20 (20)	19 (19)
U15/16 Girls Championship	13 (3)	12 (4)	15 (3)	22 (9)	15 (5)	12 (4)
U18 Boys Premier	20 (18)	20 (19)	18 (18)	16 (16)	16 (16)	16 (16)
U18 Boys Championship				6 (2)	5 (1)	12 (6)
U18 Girls Premier	20 (20)	20 (19)	20 (20)	16 (16)	15 (15)	16 (16)
U18 Girls Championship				5 (1)	5 (1)	14 (8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>105 (83)</b>	<b>103 (84)</b>	<b>105 (83)</b>	<b>118 (85)</b>	<b>111 (82)</b>	<b>122 (92)</b>

The number of A teams at the tournament are listed in brackets.

#### *Secondary School Tournaments*

Entries for 2010 close May 17 and the number of entries are increasing daily – we will update you when these are fully to hand. Last year we had 300 secondary school teams taking part in our tournaments, however some schools enter more than one team. In 2009 we had 214 affiliated schools, with the total number of secondary schools in New Zealand being 444.

#### **U21**

The National Under 21 Tournament was held last week in Palmerston North. Hockey Manawatu did a fantastic job hosting this event. In the men's final Capital retained their title by beating Canterbury 3-1, while on the women's side the Canterbury Women beat defending champions Northern 2-0.

Mark Hager Black Sticks Women's Coach, Shane McLeod Black Sticks Men's Coach, and Ian Hicks, Black Sticks Video Analyst and Database Manager attended the tournament and met with coaching staff of all teams to understand each others perspectives on players, and playing philosophies.

#### **NHL 2010**

Hockey New Zealand confirms that the venue for the Tournament section of the 2010 National Hockey League will be hosted by North Harbour Hockey Association and held at Crown Relocations Stadium, Albany from 18 – 26 September.

Wellington Hockey Association advised us last week that they are unable to provide the necessary assurance that the National Hockey Stadium turf (NHS1) will be in a satisfactory state for the NHL in September. This is so disappointing for the Wellington Hockey Association but we fully understand the situation and their predicament, and thank them for making this tough call at this stage.

The NHS1 turf has been repaired to a satisfactory state so far this season but the effectiveness of the repairs are dwindling as the turf edges are being increasingly worn. The turf has been reviewed by national players, coaches and Craig Gribble our Umpire Development Manager, who conclude that the pitch quality is satisfactory at present for national and international play however repairs going forward are unpredictable, and possibly increasingly problematic.

After discussion with all National Hockey League Franchises the alternate venue for the 2010 National Hockey League has been confirmed as the Crown Relocations Stadium in Albany.

Hockey New Zealand is grateful for the support from the NHL Franchises in this matter, and thanks North Harbour Hockey Association for agreeing to host the 2010 National Hockey League.

### **Masters**

Nelson is to be congratulated for hosting a very successful 2010 Masters Tournament. As I write, nine New Zealand teams are completing in the Trans Tasman Masters Tournament in Newcastle. We look forward to updating you in due course on their results.

## **NEW ZEALAND JUNIOR HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME**

### **Youth Olympics**

Sixteen of Hockey New Zealand's rising female stars will be selected and announced this week, to represent New Zealand in field hockey in the Youth Olympics later this year.

Hockey New Zealand has selected the team based on its talent identification pathways where the young players' skill has shone through. This includes programmes and events such as the Junior Academy, Regional Under-17 clinics, and most recently the National U21 Tournament held in early May.

New Zealand qualified to send a women's team to the Youth Olympics as a result of the Black Sticks Women winning the 2009 Oceania Cup.

### **Junior Black Sticks – Coach and Management Appointments**

Hockey New Zealand is pleased to confirm the following Coach and Management appointments for the Junior Black Sticks, through to and including the 2013 Junior World Cup. While the successful Coaches and Managers named will work to develop and manage our up and coming players, this is also a good opportunity for them to lead a campaign for their own development and future prospects. We are very appreciative of the support and service from the following people:

#### **Junior Black Sticks-Men**

Coach-Grant Edwards (Canterbury)

- NHL Coach - Canterbury since 2006
- Assistant Coach BS men (2007-08)
- Assistant Coach Junior Academy (2009-10)

Manager - Dion Gosling (Auckland)

- Manager of JBS 2007 – 2009
- Manager/Asst Coach Auckland U-21 ( 2007)
- Ex Black Sticks (1994-2005)

#### **Junior Black Sticks-Women**

Coach – Darren Smith (Midlands)

- Current Assistant Coach of the BS Men since 2008
- NHL Coach - Midlands Men since 2007
- Ex Blacks Sticks (1995-2006)

Manager - Sarah Leberman (Manawatu)

- JBS Women's Manager (2006-09)
- Stand in BS Women's Manager on two occasions in 2010
- Manager NHL Central Women (2005-06)

## **NATIONAL HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME**

### **Black Sticks**

The Black Sticks Men and Women will be formally fare-welled to their respective international events (Champions Trophy and Commonwealth Games, and the Women have the World Cup at Rosario in Argentina), at a function to be hosted by our Patron, the Governor General, at Government House on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

### **Black Sticks Men**

The Black Sticks Men are in the process of regrouping after their World Cup campaign, during which they gained a disappointing 9<sup>th</sup>, but move up the World Ranking to 7<sup>th</sup>, given the poor performance of Pakistan.

### **Black Sticks Women Versus Argentina**

As you will all know Black Sticks Women had one outstanding win 3-1 in Hamilton and lost the other 2 matches against this world No. 2 side.

I sincerely thank and congratulate both Waikato and Tauranga Hockey Associations for the superb job they did hosting this series - for the presentation of the turfs, the hospitality and to the creation of a highly charged and entertaining atmosphere, we thank both Associations and your volunteers for doing a superb job.

### **Black Sticks Women vs Indian Test Series**

The team here at Hockey New Zealand have enjoyed working with the leaders from Manawatu, Hawkes Bay and Wellington, in preparation for this forthcoming series...

1<sup>st</sup> Test: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2.00pm, Endeavour Trust Twin Turfs, Palmerston North

2<sup>nd</sup> Test: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2.00pm, Endeavour Trust Twin Turfs, Palmerston North

3<sup>rd</sup> Test: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 7.00pm, Kelt Capital Hockey Stadium, Napier

4<sup>th</sup> Test: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1.00pm, National Hockey Stadium, Wellington

5<sup>th</sup> Test: Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2.45pm, National Hockey Stadium, Wellington (Live on Sky Sport 1)

## **COMMERCIALISE HOCKEY**

### **BDO**

We are very pleased to advise that BDO has extended and increased its sponsorship of our National Umpires Programme, until the end of 2010. BDO is very proud of its support of Hockey, and we are very pleased to have ongoing support for this.

BDO have 14 offices around New Zealand, and I would encourage you to make a connection with their local office to see if there are ways this relationship can be developed further in your area. It was wonderful to see the support of BDO Hamilton at the recent Argentina Test Series, and I know this relationship is working well in other parts of the country.

### **Millennium Hotels**

We are also very pleased to advise that Millennium Hotels and Resorts have extended and increased its national sponsorship of Hockey New Zealand, as a sponsor and Official Supplier of hotel accommodation. Again, I would encourage you where possible to support Millennium and its brands which include Copthorne and Kingsgate.

### **Media Monitoring and Hockey on TV**

We have turned on media monitoring to track the volume and estimated value of media coverage (radio, print and TV) on a quarterly basis. This provides us with hard data to help us to understand our public profile on an ongoing basis and the level of coverage we receive from media around the country.

### **Replica Gear – Just Hockey**

Hockey New Zealand now has a new 'SHOP' link on our website allowing web visitors to purchase Black Sticks replica apparel online. The new SHOP link now directs Hockey fans and supporters to the Just Hockey Online store at [www.justhockey.co.nz](http://www.justhockey.co.nz). Black Sticks supporters can now purchase their favourite supporters items, such as the Black Sticks Replica Match shirt and Blacksticks Hoodie all at the click of a button or in-store at any one of their five stores nation wide (North Harbour, Auckland City, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin). Just Hockey's online facility accepts all major credit cards (after registering), as well as internet banking. There are also facilities for schools and clubs, who have accounts with Just Hockey, to order on the account.

## **STRONG ORGANISATION**

### **Summer Player and Team Numbers**

These returns are due by Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May, many thanks to those of you who have responded promptly – Waikato Association gets the prize for swiftest response!

### **Whole of Hockey Business Plan**

Progress is being made on this Plan which is based on the implementation of six National Projects, which we all believe will fuel the growth of Hockey throughout New Zealand. These are on the website on <http://www.hockeynz.co.nz/resources/administration/>

The Board has formed a sub committee to review the Plan on behalf of the Board, and by the end of the month this Plan will be on the Hockey New Zealand Website to gain your feedback. When this plan is complete, the Hockey Strategy will be finalised.

### **Changes to Tournament Policy and Related Matters**

As you will appreciate at Hockey New Zealand we get a steady stream of requests/proposals for amendments to policy and procedure, particularly with regard to National Domestic Tournaments and Umpiring. With Nicola Connell getting her feet under the table in this role, and me coming up to speed we realise that it would be good practice to get a process in place for the amendment of policy in a sound and timely way, having consulted our Councils appropriately. Forward notice is also important if there are financial implications for Associations and Regions, so these can be budgeted for.

To that end, for the remainder of 2010, any policy/process changes that come through will be developed and worked through the respective councils. Proposed changes will be tabled for review and hopefully adoption, at the Hockey Leaders Conference that will be held as agreed in November 2010.

### **Financial Administration and Accounts Payable**

Yes, Hockey New Zealand is now on Direct Banking – National Bank's Direct Link. Tracey Bennell our Finance Manager has done a superb job here.

In order to ensure we meet our regular financial reporting deadlines we have instigated the requirement for all invoices and accounts due for payment to have been received at New Zealand Hockey Federation Inc by *no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> working day* of the month following date of invoice.

Invoices received after that date will be included with the following month's payments.

Please note our new address details

PO Box 67-088  
Mt Eden,  
Auckland 1349

To facilitate this process, we recommend emailing invoices where possible. Invoices can be emailed directly to [Tracey.Bennell@hockeynz.co.nz](mailto:Tracey.Bennell@hockeynz.co.nz) or to another contact within Hockey New Zealand responsible for initiating these costs, where that person's email address is known.

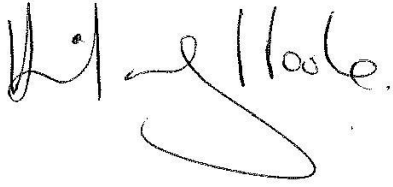
## **HOCKEY NEW ZEALAND OFFICE NEWS**

As you will know we moved to Mt Eden on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April, to a smaller open plan office, that is much more conveniently located. Jacqui Swan our new Administration Manager did a great job in particular to move us from Roma Rd, and is working through finalising the loose ends and getting the new office working smoothly.

We look forward to any of you dropping in to see us, and you are most welcome to set up on one of the hot desks to work if you are in transition between commitments.

Many thanks for your hard work and all the best for your winter season.

Kind regards and best wishes



**Hilary Poole**  
Chief Executive - Hockey New Zealand

We are pleased to acknowledge the support of:



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**New Zealand Hockey Federation (Inc.)**

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