

DISTRICT DRIBBLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

June 2007

This is a bumper issue with news and information on a variety of topics. Try and get to the end of it – even if you need to read it in a few sessions!

President's Piece:

Hello all and welcome to another District Dribble. The season is now well and truly underway and I am very impressed with how our junior and women's teams are progressing in their respective competitions. Good luck to all teams for the remainder of the season. There are lots of other developments in the club that you should be aware of. Here are a few:



The clubs 80th Birthday bash has been set for the evening of **September 14** for club parents along with past and present senior players. We have also set **September 15** for a club

family and presentation day. More details will follow shortly but my thanks go to Chris Jenkins and the organising committee for their work on this. I'm sure we will all have a fantastic time with plenty of special events planned. Stay tuned on this one.

Also, are you starting to feel the COLD? Never fear, the famous Northern District jumpers have arrived. There are multiple sizes in the canteen to try on. Stock available from children's size 8 to adults XL. Just place your order on the schedule and your jumper will be



delivered the next week. Any enquiries to Anne Maher on 9456 6870, or email mahertian@yahoo.com.au And remember, at a very reasonable price of still only \$35, these will go fast so first in best dressed (or warm).

Don't forget that if you are not logging onto our website on a weekly basis then you are missing out on valuable club information and updates. A big thanks to Eileen Tudor on keeping this up and running. www.ndhockey.com.au



Just last few words on the future of the club. We have a number of important club meetings to hold before the end of this season

covering issues such marketing, promotion, player development and constitution matters. If you feel you have a particular point of view or skill in these areas, then please drop me note or come along to our next meeting to help contribute as many planning decisions we make over the next few months will be very important for the clubs future.

Larry Maher

Junior Convenor's Report:

I hope everyone is enjoying their hockey as the season progresses. Remember to always let your manager and/or coach know if you are not able to make a game. It is also important to always follow your coach's instructions during training sessions - just like you would at school for your teachers. This is so that everyone can stay safe. Good luck to those players who are representing Sydney North and Sydney West in PSSA. If you are interested in coming along to watch these teams, they will be playing a trial game at Pennant Hills on Wednesday 13th or 20th June, from 4:30-5:30pm (final date TBA). Congratulations to Sam Creighton (U15 Metro) who represented Sydney JHA in the U15/3 team recently at the U15 Boys State Championships. A further congratulations goes to Annalese Smith and Madi Clark (U15 Metro) who represented North Shore WHA in the U15/1 team at the U15 Girls Half State Championships a few weeks ago and won!!



Thanks
Alex

RAFFLE - FUNDRAISING LEVY

As you are all aware, included in our fees is a levy to cover fundraising. The prizes on offer for this year are as follows:

1. 26" (66cm) Men's 18 speed metallic blue/silver Mountain bike
2. MP3 Player 4GB Ipod Nano Blue
3. Signed Australian Youth Olympic Festival 2007 shirt by the Under 20 men's team
4. Mazon Fusion Black Magic Limited Edition junior stick and Mazon Z Force Club combo bag
5. Just Hockey Gift Voucher to the value of \$50.00
6. 6 bottles of mixed wine

In the presence of four members, the raffle has been drawn and the winners are:

- | | | |
|------------|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st | ticket 793 | Burns Family (under 13) |
| 2nd | ticket 801 | Marinkou Family (under 11) |
| 3rd | ticket 379 | Rogers Family (under 18 girls) |
| 4th | ticket 663 | Cleland Family (under 18 girls) |
| 5th | ticket 159 | Millingham Family (under 13) |
| 6th | ticket 679 | Hannigan Family (under 13) |

Congratulations to all winners. Your prizes may be collected from the Canteen through Gary Prowse.

CANTEEN/BBQ

On Friday nights & Saturday mornings, we currently have in place a roster system whereby each team mans the canteen & BBQ during their children's games. In principal, this practice works when all games include NDHA however as the field is hired out to other clubs, this is not always the case.

Majority of the time, I will endeavour to have the canteen/BBQ manned when there are no NDHA games however this may not always be possible and accordingly would call on some volunteers for either the game before or after your child's game. It is not expected to happen too often but it would be greatly appreciated if you could keep this in mind.

LIQUOR LICENCE

As we now officially hold a liquor licence, I remind all that at all times, a person over the age of 18 must be present in the canteen. It is acknowledged that children help out in the canteen and this is greatly appreciated however an over 18 person MUST be present. At no times, can an under 18 person sell alcohol.



SIGNAGE

Also a reminder to all that we have the following sign on our fences:

"NO DOGS ALLOWED WITHIN THE ENCLOSED AREA"

These signs relate to BOTH sides of the field. It is noted that there is currently no sign on the dugout side of the field and this is being addressed however in the interim, it would be appreciated if all could respect this.



Any questions, please give me a call.
Gary Prowse Ph: 9629 6040

Photo Request:

To all past and present members of the Northern District Hockey Association. (Please spread the word to anyone that may not get this newsletter.)



2007 marks the 80th anniversary of our proud club and I would like to invite you to share your memorabilia for our celebrations planned in September. The club is looking for photo's to make our night a truly memorable one. And we are not choosy either. Ones of team mates, action shots, funny shots or whatever you can find hidden would be perfect. Every photo is very important to the club and will be immortalised for this special event.

So I am sure you are asking "HOW CAN I HELP?" It's very easy, just follow one of the very simple instructions below:

1. Load your photos onto Flickr, a photo sharing website. This is easy to do. If you haven't signed-in before, it's relatively easy (or get your kids to help!). Once in, down at the bottom is a menu option called "upload". Click that & you can upload photos from your PC, onto Flickr. Once photos are loaded into your Flickr area, select "groups" from the top menu. Insert NDHA Northern Districts into the search. Select & "join" that group. Then press "Organise" from the menu options at the bottom of the page & drag the photos into the middle box & press "Send to groups" at the top menu bar. Select NDHA Northern Districts. DONE!

General sign-on: www.flickr.com

Direct access to club photos:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/ndha/>

Load your photo's onto "NDHA 80th" at www.Flickr.com (preferably with comments and thoughts)

2. Send a copy of your photo's to the following address (these will be returned if requested):

Larry Maher
44 Clinton Close
Berowra Heights
NSW 2082

3. Call me direct on 02-9456 6870 and I will visit your home with a digital scanner to save your special photo.

So get to it. Even if you have just one photo to share, it's worth the trouble. Please feel free to contact me anytime and pass this note to anyone who you think would be able to assist.

Yours in Hockey,
Larry Maher
President - NDHA

Umpires Corner:

Hi, and welcome to the first edition of Umpires Corner. Over the next few editions of the District Dribble, we will be answering questions about umpiring decisions and interpretations of the Rules of Hockey. These rules can be downloaded from the www.worldhockey.org website, or there are a limited number of copies available at the canteen.



I will be attempting to arrange for a NSW Umpires Theory Test to be held on either Tuesday July 10, or Monday July 30, but I need firm numbers more than a month before, as the papers need to be ordered no later than 30 days before the test date. This exam is a mixture of true/false, and multiple-choice questions, and must be passed (minimum 35/50) in order to be tested for a NSW State badge.



I would ask that during a game at Pennant Hills, that the dugouts are for players and officials of THAT game only. We have had instances

over the last few weeks of players coming from the field for a drink or medication, only to be blocked by players grouped there for the following game. There is also an umpire's duty of care, to ensure the security of player's belongings, and to control numbers of reserves.

If anyone wants a question about umpiring, or booking a place in the exam, I can be emailed at mosborne62@optusnet.com.au

Some common questions about Umpiring Decisions:

Q. Sometimes the ball hits somebody's foot, and the umpire calls out "play on".

A. Rule 9.11 states "It is not always an offence if the ball hits the foot, hand, or body of a field player."

Example 1

A player in the open, without any opposition near them, traps the ball but in doing so the ball touches the end of their foot. The player would have got the ball under control anyway, and there isn't an opponent near them to force the error. As long as the ball hasn't bounced back and forth between their feet, but is only a light touch, I would call out "play on". This is only likely to be seen outside the 25; all feet INSIDE the 25/circle should be called up, except when playing advantage.

Example 2

A moving ball brushes a player's foot, and then travels to another member of the same team without significant deflection, and without interfering with an opponent's attempt to get the ball.. The general reasoning here is that the second player would have received the ball anyway, if the first player hadn't touched it, and there was no advantage to the team who received it.

For junior players, you will find that the umpire will blow feet most times, unless playing advantage, as it is a way for the players to learn what has gone wrong.

Q. Not all high balls are blown by the umpires. Why is this?

A. Rule 9.8 states " A ball is considered dangerous when it causes *legitimate evasive action by players*".

This means that the umpire will judge whether a raised ball is dangerous depending on how close it passes to players. This interpretation will

vary according to the player's ages and skill levels, so once again, there will be less latitude in juniors. Also, if you move into the path of the ball, then you have put yourself in danger, and no penalty will ensue.

Mark Osborne
0405542025

Women's Report:

2007 has been a big season, as the 4 women's teams have moved to the Sydney North Women's Hockey competition. At the start of the season, we saw many new players, and now we have 60 registered players in the 4 women's teams.

All teams have bonded extremely well and we are hoping to get a few of the teams into the finals by the close of the season.

ND1 is doing very well, and once they play their catch-up game, are expected to be the leader of the A pool division. Well done to Ambi Thind and his champion team!

ND2 and ND3 are also doing reasonably well, and are both in the middle of the B pool division.

Thankyou to Aimee Fitton who has been filling in as coach of ND2.

Thankyou to Daniel Johnson who has been doing some fantastic fitness work as the coach of ND3. Although it took some serious convincing, we are glad to have him coaching ND3.

ND4 are always improving and we hope will raise their place higher in the C pool division by the end of the season. Goodluck to Julie Osborne and ND4.

Thanks must also go to Anne Boyle who has done a fantastic job distributing, collecting and collating all score sheets for the Sydney North competition, and to Mark Osborne who has taken over as Umpiring co-ordinator for the womens teams in 2007.

We would love to see some more spectators join us at Pennant Hills turf on Sunday afternoons. So if you are in the area on Sunday afternoon and would like to join the cheer squad, just ask for Daniel, as he will be handing out the pom poms.

Belinda Fitton
Women's Convenor

And now for a word or three from the ND3 and ND4 teams...

ND3...the Encoachification.

The wretched and pitiful group of 12, their dull eyes staring blankly milled in uncertainty. They sensed portentous times approaching, but little did they realise that their worlds would shortly never be the same again.

Up until this day, like a group of little match girls shivering in the bleak and frostbitten world of Dickensian decrepitude they stood upon the field watching hungrily at their fellow teams. What great and terrible things could be achieved if only they too could grasp at the same prize. If only they too had a focus to give them a sense of purpose to help them rise above their petty and self absorbed lives.

Training sessions, a lazy and uncoordinated rambling of cadaverous shufflings, were of no use in the fast paced and focused world of Club hockey.

Yet somehow it was clear to the group, even through their rummy-eyed and slow-witted ponderings that they needed some great thing, some great person to bring them to life. To engage them and shake them from the fumbling pubescence of their training, and to bring them to their potential, their maturity.

Thus it was that He was approached. As the representatives of the group, elected by a ground-swell of mediocratic ambivalence, abased themselves, too awed to even utter a sound, He waited with benevolent patience. The small and weaselly group heaped offerings of sycophantic praise, regaled him with their woeful tales of failure upon the field and pleaded the sorrow-ridden case.

"Oh great lord, bringer of skills and knowledge, we beseech you to grant us a boon. Take our blighted and unworthy bodies and temper them upon the anvil of your worldliness." It continued thus for sometime, until He could no longer deny them their petition.

And hence forth ND3, the unwanted refuse, came into the light and were "reborn". For Daniel was their coach.

ND4....or is it?

Four score and seven years ago, a feisty young lass came forth with naught but a crooked stick and a pocket full of attitude.

Well perhaps it wasn't 87 years ago, but it sounded good (and vaguely presidential), but our young Julie took up the mantle of guiding the unguidable in the lands of hockey. Through a multitude of teams and years Julie Osborne has given her time to promote the development Northern Districts club and the skills of its members.

Julie has devoted much of her (and her families) time to the world of hockey. Last year she coached ND4 from obscurity to the semi's (2nd in the competition). The only barrier to a finals position was rain so heavy that there were ducks floating on the quiet end of the field!

From that season it was recognised that her contribution was significant and was awarded coach of the year.

This year her commitment has further expanded to include the under 11's.

Hopefully, for Northern Districts, our Pool C team will reach those heady heights again. Unfortunately with their elevation to 3^d Division the challenge has been greater. Every year ND4 is pillaged to higher grades. This hasn't stopped a core of talented members from working with newer players to develop their skills and abilities.

Those longer term members, including Rachel, Millie, Emma, Jane, Lisa, Jenny (the oft-injured) and Virginia have worked well together and provided a stable core for the introduction of new team members.

There have been some near misses, some big misses and some great games. We wish our ND4 team well for the balance of the season. Whilst the start has been difficult, the team will continue to come together and finish strongly.

July Holidays:

SportsLink International



Coaching Services will be running a 3 day hockey clinic during the July school holidays on the 9th, 10th & 11th July at Cintra Park, Burwood. The clinics will run from 10am to 4pm each day and is open to players aged 6yrs to 18yrs of all standards. Players are grouped accordingly to their age and ability, thus allowing all players the opportunity to attend and receive the best available coaching. The clinic will involve skill development sessions, high intensity training exercises, games, activities, competitions and

demonstrations, and gives players the perfect opportunity to build on their skills during the holiday break.

Our highly skilled coaching staff include current and former international players, AHL representatives, and internationally recognised coaches, ensuring that the latest skills and techniques are available to the players in attendance.

Players can register by simply download a form and return to us with payment or enrol online at www.slisports.com If you require any further information, please contact me. If you would like registration forms posted out to you for distribution to your club players, please reply with a mailing address and we will get some to you.

Regards,

PAUL KELLY

SportsLink International Coaching Services

Ph: 1300 66 66 75

Mbl: 0413 480433

www.slisports.com



If you are wanting to stay in touch with the greater world of hockey, register for the Hockey E-news by going to the Hockey NSW website at www.hockeynsw.com.au, to "Contact Us", and find the box "Sign up for our newsletter". Explore the website while you are there.

Short Corner:

Why did the chicken get sent off the hockey field?

For persistent fowl play!