

# HOCKEY WAIRARAPA



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## Major Supporters of the New Turf

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## Junior umpires

There are a good batch of junior umpires coming through at the moment. A group of them have been doing the intermediate 'A' grade this year and have made huge strides so far. Thanks must go to Lyall Hicks who has been assisting with the umpires mentoring programme as has Susannah van Woerkom and Rochelle Retter. The umpires are going to be sitting their local badge practicals soon and we wish them the best of luck.

Newsletter 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009

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## Holiday Coaching Programme

67 junior players attended the second annual Hockey Wairarapa Holiday Programme in the first week of the July school holidays. Coach Marcus Emery was impressed with the aptitude and attitude of the players and enjoyed the new turf, saying it was 'one of the best in the country'. Other coaches at the programme were Junior Blacksticks player Bridget Blackwood, and ex Wairarapa players Dane Lett, Tara Hall, and Richard French. Orin Lockyer was the goalkeepers coach. The programme ran smoothly with the highlight being the mini NHL at the end of day two, in which Central beat North Harbour in the final. ....

On Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> Marcus Emery and Bridget Blackwood took specialist coaching sessions for three different age groups; U11, U13 and U16. They did a great job of passing on their expertise and all the players enjoyed it. The various age groups worked on different skills but some of the things that were taught were; elimination and aerial moves, receiving skills, passing, specialist skills and goal scoring.....

On Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> Hockey Wairarapa ran a coaching session for players under the age of 8. There was a good turnout and even a 4 year old came along. Coaches Trent Lett and Amanda Pottinger did an excellent job and have received very positive feedback.

## Local Competitions.....

Harlequins are topping the Men's 1 table at the moment, with Redstar leading the Women's. Games in both grades are being strongly contested and it will be interesting to see how the second half of the season pans out.

Men's 2 is proving to be very competitive with the college teams giving some of our more "senior" players "a run for their money"

Primary 6 & 8 aside hockey begins again this weekend after a break for the holidays. Please keep your results coming in!!



*Players and coaches enjoy an early morning photo before day two of the Hockey Wairarapa Holiday Programme.*



## Trust House Turf & Pavilion Update.....

The new water turf is proving to be a huge hit and feedback from players has been very positive.

It seems that the Wairarapa could have one of the best playing surfaces in the country!

The concrete base for the new pavilion has been poured and DAS Construction are busy with the continued work that will see phase 1 of the pavilion project well under way. Remember, to ensure that this project continues to completion your support is vital. Please join the "Supporters Club" now!!

Help to ensure hockey in our region continues to be the best that it possibly can be!

## Blacksticks update

The Blacksticks women recently competed against two of the best sides in world Hockey. They lost both games against Argentina and China but performed admirably in their first hit out under new coach Mark Hager. Hager has picked a very young team with the idea of building for the future.

The Blacksticks men will be at full strength when they take on Malaysia in five tests to be played in the lower north island. There are two tests in Palmerston North (9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of August) which will be a great chance for the Wairarapa Hockey community to see some top class international action. The Blacksticks line up will include captain Phil Burrows, Youth World cup MVP Simon Childs, world class midfielder Ryan Archibald and one of the best drag flickers in the world in Hayden Shaw.

## "Coach of the Month"

Sharon Joliffe and Mary Field have been awarded the Sport Wairarapa coach of the month award for July. The award comes after years of great service to Wairarapa Hockey. This year they have been very successful coaching the Wairarapa U16 girls team. The team was unbeaten in pre-tournament games and finished the Tournament in 8<sup>th</sup> position.



*Wairarapa U16 Girl's Most Valuable Player - Katherine Van Woerkom in action against Bay of Plenty, the game was won 3 – 0 by Wairarapa.*

The U18 women beat arch rivals Manawatu to finish 11<sup>th</sup> at their tournament in Christchurch. Amanda Pottinger was strong all tournament and Libby Noema was the teams top goal scorer. Two of the three games they lost were only by one goal and so they were very nearly in the top 8.

The U16 boys played some good hockey in pool play, winning their first game 11-0 and then narrowly losing to some of the big guns. They found it tough going after that and ended up 16<sup>th</sup> out of the 20 teams. However, it was a very young team and with the likes of Mitchell Blackwood and Braden Smith there for another couple of years and some very talented players coming through the next few years look very promising.

The U16 girls have been the most successful team so far, finishing 8<sup>th</sup> at their tournament. They finished second in their pool after beating Bay of Plenty, Poverty Bay and Nelson and narrowly losing to Auckland. Their quarterfinal was against eventual finalists Manawatu who they had already beaten twice in pre-tournament games. Unfortunately, they lost two nil in a hard fought match. Defender Katherine Van Woerkom was named Most Valuable Player after the tournament. The tournament ended what a very successful year for the team, they played a good brand of Hockey and there was a strong team culture.

Both U16 Championship teams enjoyed their tournaments and gained some valuable experience for the upcoming years. It is great that a province of our size can send development teams to these tournaments. Defender Josh McKay was very good at the back for the development boys, while Jess Watson was the Most Valuable Player for the girls!!

Well done to all of these teams!

## Upcoming Events.....

**Local Badge umpiring practical's:** Everyone that attended the Local Badge umpiring course is going to have the chance to sit their practical test, the successful participants will have a New Zealand Hockey recognised qualification.

There will be a **striker's clinic** held in August for junior players. It will include; goal scoring, priority positions in the circle and leading.

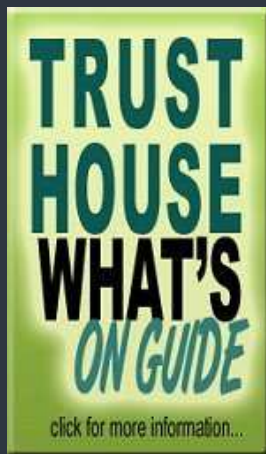
**The Olympic Stick** boy's college tournament is to be held in Wairarapa this year from the 31<sup>st</sup> of August until the 4<sup>th</sup> of September. There are 15 teams registered including local sides Kuranui College and Chanel College

**Umpires night:** An umpire's night is to be held to say thank you to all the umpires donating their time and officiating the junior grades. There will be a refreshments and a spread put on.

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August:** Wai Coll 1<sup>st</sup> XI take on St Matts 1<sup>st</sup> XI in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Wellington Premier College Competition, this game will be fiercely contested as the winners will take home the "Dunce Cup". Push back is at 1.30pm on the Trust House Turf.

This year **Hockey Wairarapa** is looking to have an Awards Dinner to celebrate and recognise our players, coaches and officials.

Watch this space for more details.



**For further information about Hockey Wairarapa contact:**

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For full draws, results and Hockey Wairarapa information visit [www.hockeywairarapa.org.nz](http://www.hockeywairarapa.org.nz)