

# HORNBY HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER 2011

## HOCKEY HEAVEN

Well what a week eh!! No doubt you all managed to catch at least some of the games of the Champions Trophy tournament held over the past week. Our Blacksticks so close, so often to winning a medal but in the end a bridge too far and we ended up in fourth place. However we proved we can well and truly foot it with the big boys, [to be fourth in the world rankings is no mean feat] and we look forward now to their performance in the Olympics later in the year. They deserve our congratulations for if they did nothing else they have certainly raised the profile and awareness of our sport and this hopefully will lead to a greater general participation.

Christmas is just around the corner now and from all of us on the Hornby committee we wish you all the very best for the festive season. We hope the big fella treats you well, you will all have an enjoyable break and come back ready and raring to go again next season.



Your committee is planning for next season already but it appears we will have a few gaps in our management team. Jackie has indicated she wishes to stand down as Women's Club Capt after many years at the helm and our Junior Club Capt and a committee member or two are also moving on. They leave big gaps to fill and we need some other keen members, parents or supporters to stand up and take on the challenge. Pay's not flash but the jobs are rewarding. Feel free to contact JT 3498040 or flick an email to john@hornbyhockey.co.nz if you want to offer or need some more detail

We look forward to a new look open grade competition next season, this bought about by a couple of forums between clubs, CHA and Sport Canterbury. These forums have identified several desirable philosophies that should be pursued over the next few years and the new competition format along with a couple of other initiatives is stage one of this process. We shall see grades reduced to 6 teams with three rounds making up the championship. Automatic promotion / relegation takes place after round 1 and the championship proper then takes place over 2 rounds with semis and finals. We also see the introduction of a boy's 1st eleven High School grade with the boys in these teams being released to play for clubs in the weekend if they so desire. This should bring all weekend grades to a conclusion early August and a new look Porritt Cup comp will then take us out to the season's end. Shortly after that of course we have the Olympics to look forward to so it's going to be a busy old winter.

It would appear the chances of another turf coming on line for the start of the season is not likely and planning at this stage is being done with this in mind. I'm afraid we'll still be stuck with the early and some late games for some grades.

Our website is undergoing a revamp over the summer and we hope to have it functioning in time for the start of trials etc for next year. The plan is to make it more user friendly with more up to date info rather than just a detail and contact point for the club. Hopefully it will work out OK.

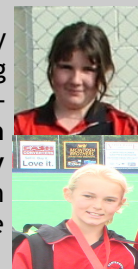
## SUMMER STUFF

There has been other hockey activity on the go since our season finished. A **Junior Summer League** has been operating at Wycola on Wednesdays. This has taken the form of coaching and small games and has been run by Clint. It's been popular with those that have attended but a few more participants would have been good. Our **Friday night Social Summer Hockey** saw 7 teams entered and they have been enjoying their weekly run. Absolutely Awesome 100% NZ Pure and The Young Ones head the standings here.

For the first time we have found enough players of the appropriate age to enter a team in the **Men's Masters** comp. Although the results have been mixed they have enjoyed a couple of wins and at one stage were 5th in the standings. I think they have dropped a couple of places since then. Trouble is they all want to be backs so the scoring opportunities are a bit limited.

The **Women's Masters** team continue to show the way and have won the pre Christmas Competition again going through this stage unbeaten so a big congratulations to them.

Canterbury Junior Hockey had their Awards Evening in November. Congratulations to **Lizzie Kingston** [Primary B] and **Lucy Turner** [Primary A] on receiving their excellence awards.



And that's about it for the year. We thank you all for being involved either as a player, support crew, worker or supporter. Your efforts have been appreciated. Put the date of our AGM [Tuesday 24 January] on your calendar now and we look forward to seeing you then as we set out to do it all over again.

Take care and enjoy your summer break