



IN THE CREASE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AIHA

ISSUE 10, December 2009

Welcome all players, parents, officials, coaches, managers, spectators and fans to the December '09 Auckland Ice Hockey newsletter.

Editor's Message

Well, here we are at the end of 2009 and the close of yet another busy year. We hope you all enjoyed your 2009 ice hockey season and the prizegiving celebrations which gave everyone the chance to socialise - while acknowledging the efforts and successes of our players, coaches, managers and officials.

The AGM in November saw a good turnout with our new president, Günther Birgel, and pee-wee league director, Caroline Culloty, elected for the coming year with Sue Fraser taking over the helm as midget league director. We farewelled Grant Hay and Leesa Terlesk from their respective portfolios and thanked them for their generous contributions over the past years.

Although our season has finished for the year the Northern Hemisphere has swung into action and we have had a few players head overseas to continue playing and building their experience. The New Zealand U20 team shortly head off to the IIHF World Championships in Istanbul and we wish them all the very best for a successful tournament.

Don't forget to keep checking our website for any latest news www.aiha.org.nz
Details regarding 2010 registrations will be posted in the new year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR and best wishes for 2010.

Donna



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President's Message

Dear Hockey Members, Players and Supporters,

I have the honour to have been voted in as the new AIHA President at the last AGM. Thanks to many of you who attended and witnessed Grant Hay, the President for the last 8 years, abdicate his position. Last February Grant took on the New Zealand Ice Hockey President's role and hence was unable to carry on as the AIHA President. Fortunately Grant is not totally lost to Auckland Ice Hockey - he is carrying on as the Learn to Play and Atom League Director.

Grant has been a pillar of ice hockey in Auckland and was the initiator of many organisation changes to the sport in the early part of this decade. At that time there were 7 clubs in the Auckland region and a keen group of parents, including Grant realised that changes had to be made to get the sport on a healthy growth and financial path. We all thank Grant hugely for the enormous amount of work he has put into realizing and managing the change. Also a huge thanks to Grant's wife Elizabeth and the family for standing and supporting him over the years.

Fortunately there has only been one other change on the board (the PeeWee League Director Sue Fraser has moved up to run the Midgets and has been replaced by Caroline Culloty). The current Midget Director, Leesa Terlesk, will be helping Donna Currid with the Marketing and Fundraising portfolio. Leesa has also been doing a tremendous job and a huge thank you to Leesa for all her work! The team is well oiled and I am convinced we can carry on making "our" sport grow and prosper in the future.

It's my turn now to say a few words about myself. Quite a few of you know me already. I am born in Austria but "matured" in NZ as some of the hockey friends pointed out to me at my 50th birthday last year. In 1987 my wife Heidi brought me here and I have no regrets about staying in NZ. I have a son Lukas (plays for the Botany Swarm) and a daughter Natalia (she has just finished her Bachelor of Visual Arts). I work for Fletcher Building as the IT Manager for Corporate.

My background is not in ice hockey (except TV spectator of the old Soviet vs Czechoslovakia battles) but in skiing and soccer. Towards the end of the last century Lukas decided to give ice hockey a go and we were happy to support him with that. This led me to get involved further, initially in managing teams (first in club, then regional and later on at national level) and in 2001 to join the AIHA board when the restructure was carried out. I initially was involved as the Junior Vice President (responsible for running all junior grades within our Association) and after several years I became the Vice President until 2008. In 2009 I stepped back (worked as AIHA NZ delegate to the National Board only) to make room for new blood only to be drawn back in again as President.

My biggest achievements within the ice hockey sport in Auckland and NZ have been:

- Introduction of levelling the junior teams to be of similar strength (in the old club structure we had teams that were hugely superior to others and the whole competition was out of equilibrium)
- Being part of an AIHA executive team that works harmoniously
- Bringing in overseas experts to run holiday programmes before we had our own resources
- Having been instrumental with introducing a fully paid junior coach for the AIHA (this was initially Anatoly Khorozov and now is Csaba)
- The start up and management of the NZIHL (New Zealand Ice Hockey League)

If any of you have concerns, ideas or want to talk to me please feel free to do so. However, please remember particular team or age group concerns should be taken up with the appropriate League Director in the first instance.

My email address is gbirgel@gmail.com, phone home 525-0029 or mob 0274 947-332. Please note I have a job to go to and hence keep your calls to outside standard business hours unless it is super urgent.

I look forward to meeting many of you during the next season and hope you will support the AIHA and all associated teams again in the next season.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Günther Birgel

AIHA President



Grant Hay and Günther Birgel

Peewee League Director—Caroline Culloty

I am excited and nervous to take on the role as Pee Wee League Director. Luckily I will have the experience and support of Sue Fraser to guide and advise me.

The 2009 season has given me the experience of my son Jack playing in the Hornets so I have some knowledge of how the league works. When not at ice hockey or going to and from the rinks I juggle the demands of family life, direct a small Occupational Therapy company and take an active role on the school PTA. I live in Howick with husband Barney, son Jack and daughter Maggie.

There is lots to learn but I welcome your support, ideas and feedback.

I wish everyone a safe and Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the 2010 season.

Caroline Culloty

Peewee League Director



NZ U20

Congratulations to the following Auckland players who have been selected to represent New Zealand in the IIHF U20 Div III World Championships in Istanbul, Turkey from Jan 4th to 10th:

- #1 Andre Dowman
- #19 Daniel Blake
- #8 David Moss
- #17 Dion Guest
- #7 Franz Vogel
- #10 Jeremy Chai
- #6 Michael Atwell
- #20 Michael Hopkinson
- #14 Sam Boniface
- #18 Sam Moses

The team leave Auckland on Boxing Day to travel to their training camp in Prague and we wish them all a very safe and successful trip.

Good luck!!!

U12 Tournament

During the recent Under 12 tournament held in Auckland our Peewees were again successful. A Christchurch team travelled up for the tournament and 2 Auckland teams participated.

The results were:

1st place	Auckland 1	8 points
2nd place	Christchurch	4 points
3rd place	Auckland 3	0 points
Best Goalie	Daniel Lee	Christchurch
Best Defence	Shaun Henderson	Auckland 2
Best Forward	Jacob Radcliff	Christchurch
MVP	Logan Fraser	Auckland 1

Well done to all our players!

A second tournament, of the same format, is to be held in Christchurch in February.

School Holiday Programmes

Coach Csaba is again running his school holiday programmes during the summer holidays. Come along and improve your hockey skills and have fun with your friends during the public skate sessions. Cost for each week is \$150 and the dates are:

AVONDALE RINK	11th to 15th January '10	7:45am to 2:15pm
BOTANY RINK	25th to 29th January '10	7:45am to 2:15pm

For any further information and to book your place please contact Coach Csaba

Email: skatingicecoach@yahoo.com or Phone: 817 4432 or 021 398 197

Junior Training Camps

New Zealand Ice Hockey Federation is holding 2 training camps in Dunedin in January. The U13 camp is January 19th to 23rd and the U16 camp is January 25th to 30th. Costs are:

\$380 for the 5 day U13 camp – discounted to \$300 for AIHA players

\$450 for the 6 day U16 camp – discounted to \$375 for AIHA players

Coaches from all over New Zealand, including National Team coaches and AIHA Technical Coach, Csaba Kerco-Magos, will be coming down for the camps.

For further information please contact:

Jeff Bonazzo

National Coaching Coordinator

New Zealand Ice Hockey Federation

Email: jeffbonazzo@hotmail.com



Junior Elite League—Midgets

2010 will see the introduction of the New Zealand Junior Elite League (NZJEL) with teams from Auckland, Canterbury and Southern competing in a series of games from mid June through to late August. This will replace the NZ Nationals for the Midget age group.

Games will be held across New Zealand with players billeted for their 'away' weekends. The budget will shortly be finalized however the total cost for each NZJEL player, competing in all rounds, will be exceptional value compared to costs for Nationals weekends.

Further details will be published in the February 2010 newsletter or contact Andreas Kaiser if you would like any further information in the meantime.

Email: tco@aiha.org.nz

Referee in Chief – Braden O’Loughlin

Hi there everyone, I hope this finds you all safe and well.

With us being in the middle of our summer, and off-season, it is during this time we need to look at issues we need to deal with to make our future in Ice Hockey better for all of us.

From an associations’ perspective, two of the big problems we have is a current shortage of referees and score-bench officials, and our younger players dropping out of the game due to not being able to afford to play.

What we would like to propose to our Junior association members, ages 16 and above, is a system where you are encouraged to stay in the game whilst playing and refereeing as well. I know a lot of you struggle with making ice-time payments once you start working, move out of home and are trying to get by on your own finances. As an organisation we really value you and your involvement, so what we are proposing is a reduction in ice-time payments in return for your involvement in refereeing or score-bench.

All we will need from you to qualify for these discounts is:

- To attend a referee course mid February
- To be scheduled for a small amount of games each month and officiating in these to the best of your ability

What you will receive from us is:

- A reduction in ice-time fee payments
- You will also receive the usual wages that all officials get paid per game.
- You will be given all the coaching and mentoring you will need
- A referee jersey/whistle
- An assurance that your transition into refereeing is a very smooth and rewarding one. We will also ensure that any games you are scheduled on to officiate don’t clash with your teams’ games.

Also be aware, that with the introduction of the U16 National League this year, there will be a lot more of an opportunity for younger referees to attain higher honours officiating at this level..

If you feel that you (or someone else you know) might be interested in this, and want to talk with me in more depth about it, then please ring me on 021 554520, or email me at ref@aiha.org.nz and we can discuss things further.

I would also like to introduce a similar incentive program for all SNC players as well, but at the time this newsletter goes to publication, an SNC scheme has not been finalised. I will keep all of you SNC guys informed as any developments eventuate, but please feel free to contact me if you want to discuss coming along and getting involved in our team

I look forward to hearing from you soon, and working with you on the ice in 2010.

Regards,

Braden O’Loughlin – Referee in Chief

New Zealand Ice Hockey League

Senior and Midget National League 2010 Update

Yes, a new draft has already been completed but there are a few game dates and game times that still need confirmation. Once I have this confirmed the schedule will be posted on the NZIHL web site www.nzihl.com.

The 2009 season didn't have an Auckland team involved in the finals for the first time. This was disappointing but I believe we have the calibre in Auckland to once again play a major role in this League. The League was won by the Canterbury Red Devils who outshot the Southern Stampede by 5 : 4 in a dramatic game. However the North Island showed that there is still plenty of fire left in their bellies winning the Skate of Origin game 6 : 5.

One of the biggest concerns however has been the lack of spectators again. If this is not going to improve the AIHA will have to consider one of the two options: to either have only one team in the competition (which would slow down the development of our young talent) or to withdraw all together. Of course such a move would be disastrous for the sport in NZ and everything needs to be done to avoid this.

For the first time in 2010 we will have a Junior National League (NZJEL). This is a very exciting development and thanks to Andreas Kaisser and Jeff Bonazzo it is coming to fruition. However, as said above, if we can't get your support for the NZIHL, all these efforts may lead to nothing. Watch the AIHA web site for schedules once all games are confirmed.

If you want our junior players to have a bright future I sincerely hope you will give it your best shot to start supporting the NZIHL. Drum up your family, friends, neighbours, workmates, fellow students and whoever you can get into the rink supporting our West Auckland Admirals and Botany Swarm teams.

Further to that we are working on a sponsorship package for our NZIHL teams. The previous efforts have not lead to any support and we have some new ideas which hopefully will get some of you with businesses on board. Once I have more details I'll contact you again and hope you can assist as a sponsor or by getting some of your business associates to assist.

If you have any ideas of how we can improve on the lack of spectators or how to get more financial assistance on board I would love to hear from you.

Keep watching this space and after some regeneration over Christmas I hope to have you supporting our initiatives.

Have a wonderful break and see you at the NZIHL games next year!

Günther Birgel

NZIHL General Manager

