

The Bottom Line

QEII UNDERWATER HOCKEY CLUB
NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2005



My Word!

Is there anyone out there that would like to go to Wellington to compete in the Nationals on August 5th/6th? If so, please forward your names to Bryn

and turn up to as many sessions as you can between now and then. Our club did very well in the South Islands and if we want to emulate those results (or indeed better them) then our teams need to get some play together as teams, working together in our correct positions. If the B team, for one, had been a cohesive unit right from the start of the tournament then maybe we could have done better than bronze.

Not that I'm competitive or anything...

Love to you all,

Moosh



Chinese Takeaways?

President's Report from Matt Toohy

Dear All,

Thanks to those club members who helped with barriers for the South Island Champs and the Schools. There have been grumbles from club members that it is always the same people showing up to help, putting away the cage and helping with the running of the club. To a certain degree that is true, but I have also seen that some new members of the club have already pitched in and helped. The funds that we raise from barrier hire help pay tournament participation fees and it is my view that if some people will never help with getting the barriers in, then those people should not have their tournament fees paid. This would provide an incentive to every active club member to get down and help out at least once a year. We will talk about this at the July committee meeting, so please give me feedback before then.

Other than that, what a blast with our teams getting medals in the South Islands and also in the schools competition! Congratulations to all those involved.

Dave Whyte has got information on a ref's course and we will need to get more club members trained for their refing. I was pretty rusty before the South Islands (I did my refs course in 1988), so I am keen to do the course. Can anyone else who is interested contact me so that we can set up a course. It does take a weekend, but we will try and make it fun with a few games of hockey. I have a copy of the rules and they are also available on the web - just type in "International Rules for Underwater Hockey" on google and click on the link. We need to ref club games in the lead-up to the tournaments so we can get used to playing by the rules!

I am glad to be in the water and have enjoyed the good standard of hockey with the new recruits. See you on the bottom!

Matt



A Texan limousine

South Islands Competition Reports:

A Grade — Beefeaters

Well, a historic South Island Gold for our A grade team, a fantastic result, and a good experience to be part of.

The win was somewhat tempered by our two losses to the SP8's team of barbarian imports from scattered corners of the country, but that's a minor point.

On with the commentary.

We started out playing the 3,2,1 formation, but quickly realised that our defence wasn't quite up to the task - leaving some nasty gaps that the SP8's team pounced upon. We reverted to 2,1,2,1 for the rest of the day, it may have been conservative, but it worked.

By far and away the most enjoyable game was the second one against Pegasus - we pounded them. I think our entire team came out of that one with a huge grin! It was certainly the most satisfying game I've played in a long time.

With Brendan enjoying being back at the sharp end of the formation, (where he belongs), and coupled with a very strong forward lineup of Bryn, Mark, Denis and Tristan, they were impressive to watch as they thundered down the pool.

As for us backs, for me playing goalie was a new experience - I'm used to being a forward or midfield in competition, so to be at the back of the formation took some getting used to!!

I have to make a special mention for Ian, he stepped up and showed some real class under pressure, with Aaron, Gary and Toby providing some solid defensive

work that enabled the forwards to concentrate on doing their job without (I hope!) too much worry.

The interesting point for me, was that (excluding SP8's) we won convincingly in almost all of our games (at least according to the scorelines) but we were all very much aware that we were a bit rough around the edges, and that there is a lot of improvement possible within the team. This truly is just the beginning.

With some more work individually, and playing as a team more often, we have the potential to be a force to be reckoned with at Nationals, and a win there would help propel us to the next level. It's been a long time since a Christchurch club made it into Premier grade, (Otautahi in 2000, for those who didn't know that), and an A grade win at Nationals would set us up to have a crack at Prem. Grade next year.

Sure, it's ambitious, but I think it's something we need to strive for, the only way we will get our level of play up to that of Wellington and Auckland (and to help get our players into NZ teams) is to be playing that level of hockey. It may be tough going to start with, but as more of our players experience that level, the more competitive we will become. It'll take time, but from what I saw at South Islands, we're capable of doing it.

So, that's probably enough of me waffling on, so thanks to my team for a very enjoyable tournament, and congratulations to all the other teams & players for some excellent results.

And no, we don't eat beef. (In-joke - some people will get it.)

Matt Neale (A Grade Captain, South Islands).

B Grade — Guardsmen

The build-up to this years South Island Champs had been a well organised and systematic process of preparing the B grade team for inevitable success against the much touted teams from other major colonies of the south. Many a training night had been spent thrashing the TYRs off the inferior A graders of QEII. The QEII B graders, code named "Guardsmen", were a well-oiled machine comprising a front row of slim, fit, athletic and highly skilled women, poorly supported down the back by a bunch of overweight hairy old men. Luckily we all respected each others abilities, and for those we didn't respect, we just pretended. This worked well and when coupled with superb team work, ensured everyone had fun when we played.

On tournament day our best and hairiest man withdrew due to having a finger broken by an over-energetic youth from the aforementioned A graders the previous Thursday night. This left just the overweight old men down the back, bereft of sufficient hair to scare the opposition forwards or to drive the Guardsmen forwards (women) up into goal mouth where they belonged. As a team we decided that this required a complete change of focus and strategy for the Guardsmen. Fortunately one of our team was able to spout some 2000 year old battle theory as scribed by Sun Tsu, a General in the Chinese Army. Although seemingly interesting, this lead to an early defeat at the hands of a team that we should have beaten, so the battle strategy was reversed to one which we understood better. The result was excellent and we soon won a series of games placing us third overall.

For me this was a fantastic result as the only tournaments I'd previously got a medal at were those where there were less than three teams entered.

The 2005 South Island Champs was a great competition day and very enjoyable. I'm sorry I can't give a better account of each game but I've already forgotten the detail. This partly due to having a very small cranium filler, partly due to being repeatedly kicked by young women who weren't playing far enough forward, but largely by frying the cranium filler at the after function. For me this was a very boozy experience at the Super12 final.

The Guardsmen would like to formally thank Bryn Thompson for organising the tournament, and all the officials that gave up a day of lawn mowing and painting their houses to watch us flap about the QE2 pool. As for our fans, we hope your lawns and houses look great after you put a full days work into them.

And finally to the other QE2 teams that competed and competed with pride at the tournament, we toast you all.

Cheers,

Barx (B Grade Vice-captain, South Islands).

C Grade — Ruins and Roses

The Dunedin team: big, butch, ugly and determined to beat us. We were playing off for 2nd and 3rd place. The score, two all.

The game went into sudden death, the QEII C grade team lined up on the wall, awaiting the high-pitched buzzer to go off. Rushing from the wall, Murray, John and I swam for the strike, the backs closely following us. Tearing through the water, playing our hardest. Penalty against us, right near the Dunedin's goal. The buzzer went off, swimming to defend. In a desperate fight to stop the puck, Murray's mask breaks but he's determined to carry on. Dunedin scored. We had played them before lunch and lost by a considerable amount but came back to a very exciting game after.

Our team had great fun. From the oldies to the younguns, a great experience for everyone! We came 3rd overall in the C grade, but next year hope to be first (but second could do!) I'd like to thank QEII for the support and to the C grade team, well done and hope everyone had an awesome time!

Cassandra (C Grade Vice-captain, South Islands).

St Andrews College

A cold and frosty morning, woken up too early to even think. Arriving at QEII, walking in like zombies. The St. Andrew's team, half of them totally out of it or asleep. But soon, in came James. His hyper-energy was just too much for us. Supported by an early morning breakfast of sugar. It got worse! In the Junior Open grade, there were to have been two teams, St. Andrew's and James Hargest, but we soon found out that James Hargest had pulled their Junior Open team out, leaving only StAC, in that grade and a big draw change. James was thrilled. "Does that mean we're going to Auckland?"... "Yes James."... "Will you be coming too?"... "Maybe James. If we qualify"..."YAY!" (I don't know where all his energy comes from).

We had three teams entered - a Senior Open, Junior Boys and a Junior Girls. Our junior girls team had heaps of fun! Winning 2 out of 4 games, placing us second and qualifying to go to Auckland! Everyone was very excited!

But it hadn't been all plain sailing, we had big troubles with masks not fitting, leaving us with no subs in one game, and cramp in our feet and legs. It was also the night of the Year 11 semi-formal, so it was rather stressful, but we got through it! The senior team didn't do extremely well, but next year we will have a very strong team, as we will all be moving up to the senior grade. Watch this space!

The day was very successful and on behalf of the StAC Underwater Hockey players, I would like to thank, Tristan Reynard, Jess Southern and Brendan Maxwell for helping us out, and also thanks to Mrs Linda Collins, from St. Andrew's and my mum, Samantha, for being down at the pool all day getting us sorted! And a big thanks to McPhail's Sports, who kindly donated some Body Glove, masks, snorkels and fins to us!

Cassandra

Happy Birthday to:

Mick Templeton

3 July

Matt Toohey

16 July

A police officer pulls a guy over for speeding and has the following exchange:

Officer: "May I see your driver's license?"

Driver: "I don't have one. I had it suspended when I got my 5th DUI."

Officer: "May I see the registration for this vehicle?"

Driver: "It's not my car. I stole it."

Officer: "The car is stolen?"

Driver: "That's right. But come to think of it, I think I saw the registration in the glove box when I was putting my gun in there."

Officer: "There's a gun in the glove box?"

Driver: "Yes sir. That's where I put it after I shot and killed the woman who owns this car and stuffed her in the trunk."

Officer: "There's a BODY in the TRUNK?!?!?"

Driver: "Yes, sir."

Hearing this, the officer immediately called his captain. The car was quickly surrounded by police, and the captain approached the driver to handle the tense situation:

Captain: "Sir, can I see your license?"

Driver: "Sure. Here it is." It was valid.

Captain: "Who's car is this?"

Driver: "It's mine, officer. Here's the registration."

Captain: "Could you slowly open your glove box so I can see if there's a gun in it?"

Driver: "Yes, sir, but there's no gun in it." Sure enough, there was nothing in the glove box.

Captain: "Would you mind opening your trunk? I was told you said there's a body in it."

Driver: "No problem." Trunk is opened; no body."

Captain: "I don't understand it. The officer who stopped you said you told him you didn't have a license, stole the car, had a gun in the glovebox, and that there was a dead body in the trunk."

Driver: "Yeah, I'll bet he told you I was speeding, too."

QEII UWH Committee for 2005

President Matt Toohey
Secretary Matt Neale
Club Captain Mark Hebbard
Treasurer Samantha Thompson

Other Committee members:
Nicole Brown, Ray Hall, Gary Kearns, Brendan Maxwell,
Adrian Metcalfe, Jacqui Spencer, Bryn Thompson, Dave Whyte.

These are the people to see if you have any queries/concerns, etc.

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Pool Bookings '05

Tuesdays	8.30 pm - 9.30 pm 5 lanes - 50 Metre pool (Nth end)
Thursdays	7.30 pm - 10.00 pm 5 lanes - 50 metre pool
Fridays	6.00 pm - 7.00 pm Dive Well Shelf
Sundays	4.00 pm - 6.00 pm 4 Lanes - 50 Metre pool

No Hockey due to other bookings:

July:	Sunday 10th Thursday 14th Friday 15th Sunday 17th
August:	Thursday 18th Friday 19th Sunday 21st
September:	Friday 9th Thursday 29th
October:	Thursday 6th Friday 7th
November:	Sunday 20th
December:	Friday 2nd Tuesday 13th

**Last session for 2005:
Thursday 15th December**

**OLD COMPETITION CAPS ARE
BEING SOLD BY THE CLUB FOR
ONLY \$20.00 PER PAIR.

SOLD ON A FIRST-IN, FIRST-
SERVED BASIS, SO IF YOU HAVE
A NUMBER YOU PREFER, GET IN
BEFORE IT'S GONE.**