

# EUROHOCKEY MED ZONE FORUM



## CATANIA, ITALY

22-24 JUNE

### ***Gibraltar Representatives attending***

Peter Pizarro, GHA Chairman & Stephen Valarino, Youth Development Officer

### ***Summary***

The forum was chaired by Jorge Alcover (SPAIN-EHF Executive Member ) with Norman Hughes (ENGLAND-Continental Development Officer) and Gianni Rossi (ITALY). Representatives of the following National Associations were represented : Italy, Portugal, Malta, Greece, Turkey, Gibraltar and Egypt.

A whole range of issues were discussed directly affecting Mediterranean hockey playing countries. The key focus being sharing ideas, comparing National Plans and increasing the number of youngsters (boys & girls) playing hockey.

### ***Strategic Planning***

All representatives of each country introduced themselves and then each nation gave a short Powerpoint presentation on their respective strategies and National Youth Plan. Gibraltar was invited to start proceedings and their presentation, covering the work that had been done over the last five years and their targets for the next three, was greeted with an ovation from all present. In fact a copy of the presentation is available on this website.

### ***Youth Development***

All present were informed about the various Youth Camps/Competitions available. The next EHF organised competition to be held in Brescia, Italy at the end of August 2007 at Under 14 level. Gibraltar confirmed its participation in this tournament and was invited to host one an EHF Youth camp in 2008. The EHF was also delighted that the Gibraltar Under 18 squad had stepped in at the last minute to take the place of one of the nations that had dropped out of the up and coming Youth Nations Championships to be held in Athens, Greece July 2007.

### ***Funding***

The GHA will be running a Level 1 Coaching Seminar in June 2008 for all helpers/ leaders/coaches currently involved in the Youth Leagues. The GHA will be applying for an FIH 'A' Grant which will help towards the cost of bringing over a qualified individual to give this course. The course will be open (at a minimal fee) to all other GHA individuals interested and to the neighbouring Spanish, Portuguese & Moroccan associations.

### ***Competition Development***

All present were aware that the established Mediterranean Games currently do not have Hockey as a participating sport. There had been three Med Cup Hockey competitions organised in the past, running parallel to the Mediterranean Games, but these had been discontinued due to the enormous costs involved. It was agreed that the in the future we should lobby to have hockey incorporated into the Official Mediterranean Games.

In the meantime it as agreed to have various smaller tournaments by dividing the Med Zone into regions and thus reducing travel costs. The Eastern Med countries will look to organise a tournament between Greece, Turkey, Italy, Malta & Cyprus. In the West Med zone Gibraltar, Spain, Portugal, France & Morocco would be holding an annual Youth Under 14 Competition to be labeled the IBERIA CUP. Gibraltar agreed to try and host the first in 2008.