



SEASON 2007/ 2008

Intro

Dear Members

Another season is upon us.

Although many of you have taken a well earned rest from hockey during the summer months your committee has been hard at work with

- (a) Several of our Youth Teams travelling to EHF competitions,
- (b) Planning & setting up an infrastructure that will best serve Gibraltar's hockey interests over the next few years and
- (c) Appealing against a ban imposed upon the whole association by the EHF.

As most of you are aware our efforts at Youth Level have been rewarded in more ways than one and we list a few for your information:

- I. More juniors than ever playing hockey
- II. Hockey once again being played in several schools
- III. Gibraltar's first summer camp (20th – 24th August 2007)
- IV. Great results at boys Under 18 & Under 14 during the summer, etc. etc.

Our intention now is to mirror these efforts at Senior Level both for men & ladies. We have set ourselves various targets (listed below) and have formulated a three year plan, by the end of which we should have successfully completed all our plans and achieved all our targets.

Targets for next 3 Years

- A. To improve local men's & women's senior competitions and to mirror the efforts and results achieved at junior level
- B. To increase men's 1st division to three teams within the next three years
- C. To appeal & have EHF club ban either eradicated or reviewed
- D. To prepare teams for European Competitions after 2 year ban
- E. To hold Whitsun / Easter international tournament in Gibraltar for next 2 years for 1st division teams (ladies & men's)
- F. To continue to compete as Nation at all European competitions
- G. To implement Nation Team Structure at all levels including selecting Team Coaches & proper training programme throughout each season
- H. To regularise registration of individuals / teams in line with EHF rules
- I. To commence training of & implement structure for Umpiring
- J. To introduce National Accreditation Scheme for all local coaches.
- K. To introduce weekday matches & more social hockey
- L. To continue the current Youth Structure in place
- M. To compile a GHA Web Site and ensure it is updated on a weekly basis



Senior Competitions (Men's & Ladies)

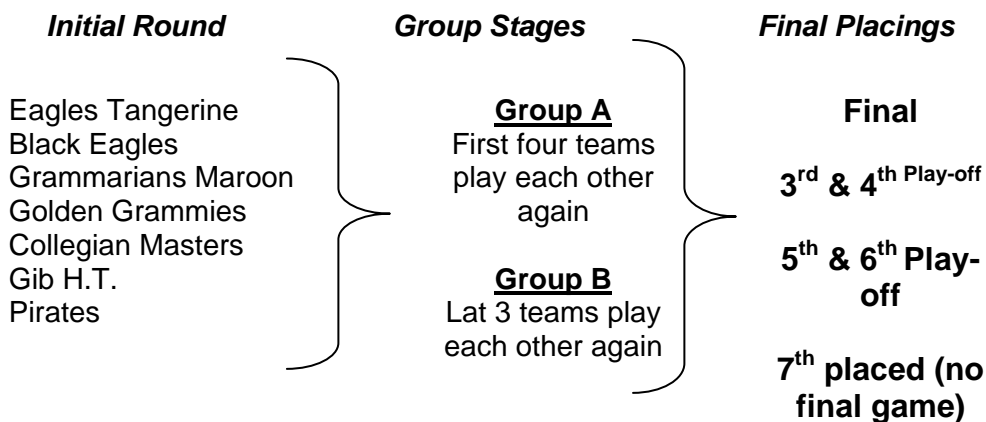
The season will be divided into four main categories as follows:

- Phase 1 : Oct to Dec 2007 – Start up Competition (SG HAMBROS TROPHY)
- Phase 2 : Jan to Mar 2008 – Senior League Competitions (SG HAMBROS LEAGUE)
- Phase 3 : April to May 2008 – Senior Cup Competitions (SG HAMBROS CUP)
- Phase 4 : May to June 2008 – Development & Social Competitions
BARCLAYS WEALTH DEVELOPMENT CUP
HOCKEY SIXES SOCIAL TOURNAMENT
BEACH HOCKEY DAY – SEASON'S END

PHASE 1 - START UP COMPETITION

Phase 1 - SG HAMBROS MENS TROPHY

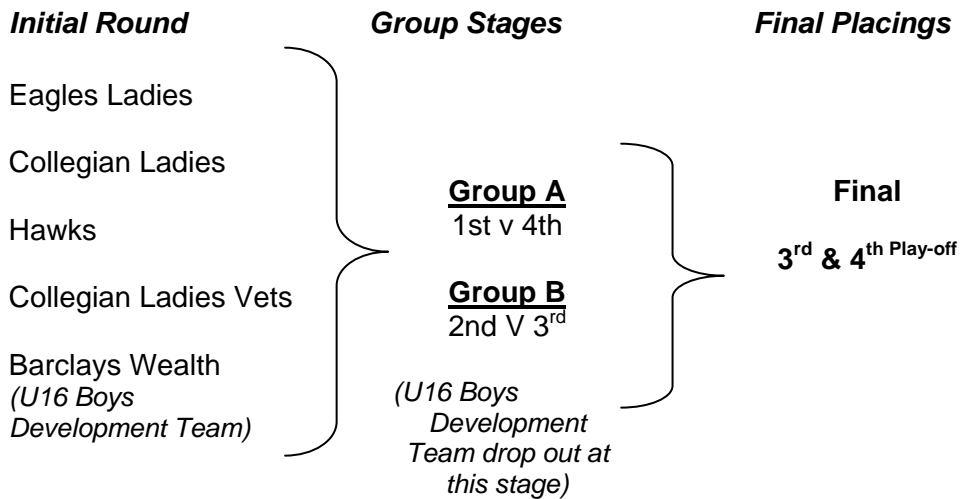
- Seven teams participating, all play each other in 1st Round
- Grammarians & Eagles to produce list of 1st twelve players & 2nd list with all other players, for registration purposes - then two teams picked from each club with six 1st division players only in each team
- Both Collegian Masters, Gibraltar H.T. & Pirates to produce one list of players for registration
- After 1st round all teams then divided into 2 groups, play group stage and then playing for 1st to 7th position
- Final day – all games to be played on one day followed by drinks / barbecue
- This is a non-Euro qualifying competition





Phase 1 - SG HAMBROS LADIES TROPHY

- Five teams participating, all play each other in 1st Round
- After 1st round boys development team drop out & ladies team play group stages as shown
- Final day – all games to be played on one day followed by drinks / barbecue
- This is a non-Euro qualifying competition



PHASE 2 - SENIOR LEAGUES

Phase 2 - SG HAMBROS MENS 1ST DIVISION LEAGUE

- 2 teams participating (Eagles & Grammarians) and playing a seven match test series
- Games played as follows -

1 st weekend one game
2 nd weekend one game
3 rd weekend rest
4 th weekend one game
5 th weekend one game
6 th weekend rest
7 th weekend one game
8 th weekend one game
9 th weekend one game

Rest weekends will be used both for National side training and also as an opportunity for teams to seek friendly games in Southern Spain

- This is a Euro qualifying competition

Phase 2 - SG HAMBROS LADIES LEAGUE

- 5 teams participating and playing a 2 rounds league



- Barclays Wealth (U16 boys side) play in league but enter on non-competitive basis
- Rest weekends will be used both for National side training and also as an opportunity for teams to seek friendly games in Southern Spain
- This **is** a Euro qualifying competition

Phase 2 - SG HAMBROS MENS 2ND DIVISION LEAGUE

- 5 teams participating and playing a 2 rounds league

PHASE 3 - SENIOR CUPS

Phase 3 - SG HAMBROS MENS 1ST DIVISION CUP

- 3 teams participating and playing on a round robin basis **2 rounds** (Eagles, Grammarians & Gib HT)
- This **is** a Euro qualifying competition
- Re-introduces Gibraltar HT as 3rd first division team & hopefully they will be able to compete in all 1st division competitions next year (2008/09)

Phase 3 - SG HAMBROS LADIES 1ST DIVISION CUP

- 5 teams participating and playing on a **round robin basis** (Eagles, Hawks, Collegians, RBS Veterans & Barclays Wealth)
- This **is** a Euro qualifying competition
- Barclays Wealth (U16 boys side) play in cup but enter on non-competitive basis

Phase 3 - SG HAMBROS MENS 2ND DIVISION CUP

- 4 teams participating and playing on a **round robin** (Eagles 58, Grammarian Reserves, Collegian Veterans & Pirates)

PHASE 4 - DEVELOPMENT & SOCIAL HOCKEY STAGE

Phase 4 – 'BARCLAYS WEALTH' DEVELOPMENT TROPHY

- 3 men's teams participating and playing on a round robin basis (Eagles, Grammarians & GHA Under 21)
- This is not a Euro qualifying competition
- All under 21's have to be released by the clubs & under 16 youngsters to be encouraged to compete as part of Eagles & Grammarians

Phase 4 – 'HOCKEY SIXES' FOR MEN

- 12 men's teams participating and playing on a round robin basis
- Two competitions running simultaneously
- Group A open to veterans & under 18'S (6 teams) & Group B open to senior men (6 teams)
- Basic Hockey Sixes rules to be circulated before the competition



Phase 4 – ‘HOCKEY SIXES’ FOR LADIES

- 6 - 8 men’s teams participating and playing on a round robin basis
- One competition with all teams playing on a round robin basis
- Basic Hockey Sixes rules to be circulated before the competition

Other Rules

- 1 SG HAMBROS MENS TROPHY - All Under 16 players can play for any of the two teams registered under the same club
- 2 Any suspension in any competition will be enforced and effective immediately
- 3 A goalkeeper will be registered for one team but can play a maximum of two games (within the whole competition) for any other team registered under his club
- 4 Umpires – all teams will have to have a nominated umpire at the start of the season who the GHA will then appoint as deemed fit
- 5 Any Gibraltar Students studying overseas (Under the age of 25), in receipt of a Gibraltar Government Grant, will be allowed to play in the local competitions as long as they (a) Register with a local club (b) Are fully aware that if they are playing for any other team abroad it is their responsibility to inform the GHA of the club’s name & also understand that he **will not be able to play for any Gibraltar club in any European competition** during that same season.
- 6 **NO LOCAL PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY FOR A SPANISH TEAM** as long as they are registered with a local club / team. To be able to play in Spain local players will have to be released by their Gibraltar team and their GHA membership cancelled (Please note that this might have implications on the player in respect of using the Stadium Hockey Pitch under any GHA allocation).
- 7 **NO FOREIGN PLAYER WILL BE ALLOWED TO PLAY FOR ANY LOCAL CLUB** until such time as the local club, for whom the Foreign players are going to play, present the GHA committee with written confirmation from the previous Hockey Federation that these players no longer are registered in that country. The GHA will in turn seek re-confirmation of this before the players can be fielded in any local competition.
- 8 Rules 6 & 7 have been specifically drawn up so as to avoid any further breach of EHF regulations and mainly due to the implications of Spanish/Gibraltar players playing in more than one league at the same time due to the geographical implications and proximity. EHF rules clearly state, and I quote :

C.1 Players' Qualifications

“A player shall be eligible to play for a club in the EuroHockey Club Competitions **ONLY** if:

S/he has not played (outdoor) for another European club since 1st November in that season, and;

NOTE : Any individual wishing to be either an official for a team, an umpire, a youth coach, etc. will have to pay £10 and register as a non-playing member of the GHA.



Other Major Projects for the Season

1 – Easter Weekend International Tournament

Several ideas have been thrown in and are listed below:

- Target International Men's Under 21 Teams – A, B & C Division
- Target suspended Slovakian & Italian Club teams
- Target Spanish regional sides (Andalucia & Galicia)
- Target Portuguese sides
- Maybe move tournament before or after Easter to target teams preparing for Europe
- Top two local men's sides of last season to compete
- Top two local women's sides of last season to compete
- Organising committee for this tournament to be composed of 3 representatives of each local club competing and one GHA committee member as chairman

2 – 1st International Under 14 Youth Tournament (Boys & Girls)

- GHA has applied for an EHF grant for this purpose and have been informed application was very thorough and we have a very good chance of been successful
- Genuine interest from Italy, Portugal & Spain already received
- Will target all Mediterranean nations
- To be held in first week of July 2008
- Will include last day Beach Hockey tournament for the 1st time

3 – National Accreditation Scheme for Coaches

- Three year plan to have local coaches certified & various individuals capable of certifying new upcoming coaches
- GHA has applied for an EHF grant for this purpose, who in turn will send professional coach to Gibraltar to certify to "Level 1 Assistant Coach" this season
- Next season another coach will be brought in to certify to "Level 2 Coaching Award"
- During the third year several leading individuals will be certified to be able to 'coaches the coaches'.
- As from this third year all individuals wanting to help with the youth leagues, or coach a team, will have to have achieved at least Level 1 Assistant Coaching Award.



4 – Umpiring : National Accreditation Scheme for Umpires

- GHA currently working on the above and will shortly present a three year plan which will result in more young umpires coming through the ranks
- The idea is to select between 10 & 12 youngsters (Under 16) who will commence to umpire the junior leagues and who will be assessed by local competent individuals
- Nathan Stagno will be heading this initiative and will also enjoy help from Louis Romero, Eric Abudarham & Brian Buckley in assessing the umpires who will then be allowed progressively to umpire 2nd division games

5 – Major Sponsorships & Web Site

The GHA is also happy to announce that our efforts over the summer have resulted in securing sponsorship deals as follows:

Senior Leagues – SG Hambros

Youth Leagues – Barclays Wealth

We also have certain individuals currently compiling a web site. It is fundamental that, with all the projects we are currently involved in and those in the pipeline, all are aware of what's happening both locally and internationally on the hockey scene. The official launch will be held at an official reception which will be held both for this purpose and to officially announce our sponsors over the next few years.

Any enquiries on any of the above please refer to the GHA committee through your Team Manager