



ULSTER WOMEN'S HOCKEY UNION

ANNUAL REPORT

2008-2009

ULSTER WOMEN'S HOCKEY UNION

Office Bearer's 2008-2009

President:	Mrs Ann Jameison (Pegasus)
President Elect:	Ms Mary Swan (Enniskillen)
Honorary Secretary:	Mrs Norma Gartside (Ards)
Honorary Match Secretary:	Mrs Ann Shiels (Grosvenor)
Honorary Treasurer:	Mrs Molly Martin (Ballyclare) retired Jan 2008
Past President:	Mrs Edna Gribben (Portadown)
Public Relations Officer:	Miss Helen McConnell (UUJ)
Club Representatives:	Mrs Jennifer Best (Victorians) Miss Clare Bloomfield (Lisnagarvey) Mrs Alyson Douglas (Greenisland) Mrs Paula McIlwaine (Lurgan) Mrs Lynn Mills (Ards) Mrs Jennifer Patterson (North Down) Miss Hilary Reid (Owls) Ms Susie Martin (Ballymoney) Jan 2009 Mrs Ruth Sutherland (Ballymoney) retired Dec 2008 Mrs Irene Black (Civil Service)
Other representatives:	Mrs Jennifer Hobson (Umpires' Association) Mrs Alison Symington (Schools' Committee) Mrs Lesley Rodgers (Coaching Committee)
IHA Representatives:	Mrs Norma Gartside, (Vice Chairman, Management Board) Mrs Ann Shiels, (Competitions' Committee) Mrs Marietta Lammey, (Development Committee)

ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

Introduction

The Annual Report of the Ulster Women's Hockey Union incorporates the activities of International and Interprovincial players as well as reporting on Club and School hockey throughout the Province. The administration of Coaching and Umpiring in Ulster is also included.

The 2008-2009 season was not as successful as in previous years. The Senior squad were unlucky to be beaten into 2nd place by Leinster on goal difference. The Under 21, Under 18, Under 16 and Junior Interprovincial squads won their tournaments.

The UWHU hosted a most enjoyable and successful Junior Interprovincial Tournament at UUJ and congratulations go to the organising committee for the time and skills in making this event a big success.

Ulster was well represented again on the International squads, at Senior and Under 18 and 16 levels. Other players are also in the Ireland A squad. Those selected are kept very busy training for competitions later this year and early next season eg. preparation for the forthcoming European Championships in August, the World Cup Qualifying Tournament in 2010 and, of course, the 2012 Olympic Qualification.

That these athletes continue to improve is due in no small measure to the skills, knowledge and commitment of our coaches who manage to instill enthusiasm and desire for the game into each generation. Their dedication is very much appreciated.

The proposed amalgamation between the UWHU and the UBIHA is scheduled for Saturday 16th May 2009 and we are looking forward to the many challenges which will face the new body in the days and years ahead. Again, we are grateful to those individuals from both branches who served on the Amalgamation Committee, the Sport NI representative and a special thank you to Mr Mervyn Elder who chaired the meetings.

Finance has, through the diligent work of the Treasurer, Mrs Molly Martin, ceased to be a concern. That does not mean we have a lot of money, but it does mean that we have a clear knowledge of our financial affairs. We would like to say how very grateful we are to Ms Anne Millar for her time and professional knowledge in assisting us with these matters.

We are grateful for the support received from Winemark, Belfast Telegraph, the Bank of Ireland, and Lisburn City Council.

Fixtures The Honorary Match Secretary, Mrs Ann Shiels, has had a particularly difficult year with extremely bad weather and more Irish competitions, culminating in a very congested end of season. We acknowledge the time and effort she and the members of the Fixtures Committee have given to enable us fulfill our fixtures.

The new Irish Cup competitions and Irish Hockey League have added new dimensions to Irish hockey and have, by and large, been very successful. As with most new competitions there have been teething troubles, but with a few minor amendments should prove to be very worthwhile.

At the time of writing, the Cup and Plate Finals Days have not taken place, the delay caused by the backlog of games due to very inclement weather during the season.

The Schools' Committee continues to run on all cylinders and Council is appreciative of its members' time and commitment given to keep the consistent, high standard of schools' hockey in the Province. Unfortunately the All Ireland Kate Russell Cup found its way to Connacht despite a superb effort by Foyle & Londonderry College who were beaten by Jesuits, Galway, in the final by a golden goal in extra time.

The **Umpires' Association** continues to work and encourage young umpires into the Senior scene as can be seen by the recent appearance of two talented young ladies with a very bright future.

The men's and women's sections in umpiring will also merge on 16th May 2009 and we are confident that this will mean a new way forward for the development of umpiring in the province.

Those umpires who regularly give of their time and expertise to enable players enjoy their sport have the support and appreciation of Council.

The **Development Officer**, while continuing his important role in youth development through the Under 12 and Under 14 leagues, Regional Development Squads and organising coaching courses, has been involved in a new role this season, due to the introduction by Sport NI of a new scheme called "Active Communities". These are made up of 25 local Councils which have combined geographically, it would appear, to form 11 Consortia, to which governing bodies have to "express an interest" in the hope that they will get funding or coaching assistance. To date we are uncertain as to the value of this venture. It certainly has involved a lot of form filling, time and travel.

IHA

The Irish Hockey Association "Hooked" Conference will be held at the beginning of September this year – 2009, with a much wider content. The change of date to the beginning of the season should attract a greater number of attendees. The IHA Annual General Meeting will be held on 23rd May 2009 at 11am in Pembroke Wanderers Hockey Club and will be followed later that evening by the Awards Dinner in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. This is a splendid and most prestigious event, well worth supporting and Ulster has a few nominations for awards this year. Tickets can be booked through the website.

Pegasus were hoping to lift the ESB Irish Senior Cup for a third successive year, but were thwarted by a determined UCD who won the Cup for the first time in over fifty years. However, Pegasus still have an opportunity to be the first winners of the Irish Hockey League competition, the semi-finals and final of which take place over the weekend 2nd/3rd/4th May. The second U12 Hockey festival will also take place during that weekend.

We are conscious of the time and commitment given by our representatives to IHA committees and extend our sincere thanks to them.

The Winifred Templeton Award

This award, which is presented annually, is to recognise achievement, dedication and commitment by individuals within Ulster hockey. In 2008 this was presented to Mrs Maggie Brown from Lisnagarvey Hockey Club.

Sport NI

Ms N Bowman continued as our Sport NI Liaison Officer and her assistance has been invaluable during the period running up to the amalgamation date. Without the support from Sport NI we would be unable to run our sport as we do, and this year we are particularly grateful for the funding we have received to enable the merger of the UBIHA and the UWHU to take place later this month. We are also grateful to Mr Turloch Gorman for his advice and assistance during the amalgamation process.

The Mary Peters Sports Trust and NI Sports Forum

The Mary Peters Trust (formerly Ulster Sports Trust) continues to support our talented players and we record our thanks and appreciation to the Trust for this. We also recognise the work of Mrs Edna Gribben in the role as Governing Body liaison officer. Mrs Hilary Milligan is the UWHU representative with the NI Sports Forum.

Conclusion

This has been an extremely busy year, more so than usual, in that we have managed to fit in some twelve meetings of the Amalgamation Committee while continuing to keep the UWHU on a pretty even keel. We are now looking forward to a new start for Ulster Hockey with a blend of experience and, if not exactly youth, certainly younger and new faces on the Board of the new Union. There are challenging times ahead and it is imperative that younger members of clubs take stock of the situation and are aware that when their playing days are over, there are still plenty of opportunities within hockey in which they can become involved.

I make no apology for repeating what I said last year in the Annual Report namely that we all lead very busy lives, but the old adage still holds that a genuinely busy person can always find time for something else. This is a unique opportunity for the hockey family in Ulster to get involved in the efficient development of our sport at grassroots level thereby assisting Ulster players, umpires and coaches achieve the top goals that hockey can offer. I look forward to an exciting, successful and enjoyable season in 2009/10.

Norma Gartside

Honorary Secretary, May 2009

Honorary Treasurer's Report

As in previous years we have received essential financial support from a range of sources.

1. Sport Northern Ireland

Investing in Sport Programme

This is now a three year programme based on a development plan submitted to and agreed with Sport NI. Funding is awarded under the following headings:

- Professional and Autonomous Sporting Organisation: to support the post of the Administrative Assistants, the modernisation programme, with particular emphasis on the amalgamation of the UBIHA and UWHU.
- Development: To support the post of the Development Officer (part time), and associated expenses and training.
- The Regional Development Programme.
- The training and preparation of the U16 U18 and U21 squads. The interprovincial events are not financially supported under this programme.
- Skilling: activity in the areas of Coach Education Programmes and Tutor training, which are delivered jointly with the UBIHA.

Grant-Aid

The rental of the hockey office and associated administrative costs are grant aided by Sports Council.

The above financial support is crucial to the success of Ulster Hockey.

On behalf of the Ulster Women's Hockey Union, I would like to extend thanks to Ms Norma Bowman Liaison Officer, who provided assistance and support throughout the year.

2. Sponsorship and Advertising

The Ulster Women's Hockey Union is very grateful for the continued support of our sponsors: -

Winemark - Ulster Shield
Belfast Telegraph - Senior Schools Cup
Bank of Ireland
Lisburn City Council

Thanks to all those who purchased advertising in the fixtures book or in programmes during the season.

3. Mary Peters' Trust

On behalf of our talented players, the Ulster Women's Hockey Union expresses it's gratitude to the Mary Peters' Trust for the continued financial awards offered to individual players.

From 16th May 2009 following the amalgamation with UBIHA there will be many changes within the UWHU and additional responsibilities within the new organisation. I wish to express my thanks to Robert Nelson, Lorraine McKeown, and Paula Stewart for their assistance throughout the year, and a special thank you to Norma Gartside, Ann Jameison, and Marrietta Lammey for guiding me through a very difficult year,

Molly Martin
Honorary Treasurer
May 2009

COMPETITION RESULTS

LEAGUE, CUP AND PLATE WINNERS 2008-2009

CUP Ulster Shield – Pegasus 1st
McConnell Shield – Pegasus 2nd
Intermediate – PSNI 1st
Junior – Armagh 3rd
Minor – Belfast Harlequins 7th
Section Cup - Randalstown 5th

PLATE Senior – TBC
Qualifying – Ballymena 2nd
Intermediate – Belfast Harlequins 4th/Queens 2nd
Junior – Dungannon 2nd / Lisnagarvey 3rd
Minor – Omagh 3rd

League winners

Premier	PEGASUS
Senior 1	UU ELKS
Senior 2	KILKEEL
Senior 3	PSNI
Senior 4	LIMAVADY
Junior 1	PEGASUS 2 ND
Junior 2	RANDALSTOWN 3 RD
Junior 3	ARMAGH 2 ND
Junior 4	DROMORE 2 ND
Junior 5	LURGAN 3 RD
Junior 6	DROMORE 3 RD
Junior 7	ARMAGH 4 TH
Junior 8	DROMORE 4 TH
Junior 9	UU ELKS 3 RD
Junior 10	RANDALSTOWN 5 TH
Junior 11	NORTH DOWN 5 TH

Veterans

Section 1
Section 2
Section 3
Veterans League Cup
Veterans Cup

Winner

TBC
TBC
TBC
TO BE PLAYED
TO BE PLAYED

Result sheets 2008-2009

		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS -	POINTS
PREMIER	PEGASUS	18	16	2	0	81	11	50
	BALLYMONEY	18	14	1	3	61	16	43
	ARDS	18	9	4	5	41	28	31
	RANDALSTOWN	18	7	7	4	30	27	28
	BELFAST HARLEQUINS	18	7	6	5	39	39	27
	ARMAGH	18	7	3	8	31	36	24
	LISNAGARVEY	18	5	5	8	23	46	20
	LURGAN	18	3	7	8	19	36	16
	VICTORIANS	18	1	3	14	21	58	6
	KNOCK	18	1	2	15	14	64	5

VICTORIANS beat COOKSTOWN in play off (6—1) and KNOCK RELEGATED TO SENIOR 1

		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
SENIOR	1	UU ELKS	18	17	2	0	87	7	50
		COOKSTOWN	18	8	7	3	32	16	31
		QUEENS	18	8	6	4	45	33	30
		PRIORIANS	18	7	6	5	28	36	27
		BALLYMENA	18	8	2	8	29	34	26
		OMAGH	18	7	4	7	28	36	25
		BALLYCLARE	18	7	3	8	29	32	24
		NORTH DOWN	18	5	5	8	22	39	20
		GREENISLAND	18	1	5	12	16	44	8
		NI CIVIL SERVICE	18	1	4	13	21	60	7

GREENISLAND and NI CIVIL SERVICE RELEGATED TO SENIOR 2

KILKEEL and DROMORE PROMOTED TO SENIOR 1

		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
SENIOR	2	KILKEEL	18	12	4	2	39	14	40
		DROMORE	18	12	3	3	46	21	39
		DUNGANNON	18	11	5	2	28	13	38
		PORTADOWN	18	8	6	4	43	26	30
		CARRICKFERGUS	18	7	4	7	27	24	25
		BANBRIDGE	18	7	2	9	31	39	23
		COLERAINE	18	5	4	9	28	34	19
		PARKVIEW	18	5	4	9	23	31	19
		SAINTFIELD	18	5	2	11	23	32	17
		ANNADALE	18	0	2	16	7	61	2

ANNADALE and SAINTFIELD RELEGATED TO SENIOR 3

PSNI and GROSVENOR PROMOTED TO SENIOR 2

		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
SENIOR	3	PSNI	17	17	0	0	79	10	51
		GROSVENOR	18	13	2	3	53	23	41
		RAPHOE	17	11	3	3	49	20	36
		DERG VALLEY	18	11	2	5	37	20	35
		LARNE	18	8	2	8	41	28	26
		ENNISKILLEN	18	6	1	11	24	37	19
		NEWRY OLYMPIC	18	4	3	11	21	57	15
		OWLS	18	4	3	11	14	38	15
		HOLYWOOD	18	2	1	15	8	58	7
		MOSSLEY	18	2	1	15	8	58	7

HOLYWOOD and MOSSLEY RELEGATED TO SENIOR 4

LIMAVADY and BANGOR PROMOTED TO SENIOR 3

		PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
SENIOR	4	LIMAVADY	16	14	0	2	52	15	42
		BANGOR	16	12	0	4	51	19	36
		BALLYNAHINCH	16	9	2	5	22	21	29

COOKE	16	7	3	6	35	21	24
INSTONIANS	15	6	5	4	31	30	23
MALONE	16	6	3	7	25	30	21
BALLYCASTLE	15	2	4	9	20	30	10
DONAGHADEE	16	3	1	12	11	52	8
NEWCASTLE NOMADS	16	1	4	11	15	44	6

COLLEGE HILL WITHDRAWN DUE TO NUMBER CONCEDED GAMES

			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS
JUNIOR	1	PEGASUS 2	18	15	1	2	43	11	46
		RANDALSTOWN 2	18	12	3	3	38	10	39
		LISNAGARVEY 2	18	12	2	4	41	14	38
		BALLYMENA 2	18	10	2	6	47	28	32
		BELFAST HARLEQUINS 2	18	10	2	6	47	28	32
		LURGAN 2	18	8	4	6	28	31	28
		VICTORIANS 2	18	6	2	10	26	30	20
		NORTH DOWN 2	18	5	2	11	14	48	17
		BALLYCLARE 2	18	2	3	13	11	49	9
		ARDS 2	18	0	1	17	11	51	1

BALLYCLARE 2ND and ARDS 2ND RELEGATED TO JUNIOR 2

GREENISLAND 2ND and KNOCK 2ND PROMOTED TO JUNIOR 1

			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS
JUNIOR	2	RANDALSTOWN 3	18	13	3	2	54	23	42
		GREENISLAND 2	18	12	3	3	50	22	39
		KNOCK 2	18	11	4	3	43	19	37
		BALLYMONEY 2	18	10	1	7	38	29	31
		BELFAST HARLEQUINS 3	18	9	3	6	44	27	30
		PRIORIANS 2	18	6	3	9	28	42	21
		PORTADOWN	18	6	3	9	22	45	21
		PEAGSUS 3	18	6	1	11	24	40	18
		OMAGH 2	18	5	2	11	23	33	14
		ANNADALE 2	18	0	1	17	11	57	0

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OMAGH 2ND and ANNADALE 2ND RELEGATED TO JUNIOR 3

ARMAGH 2ND and UU ELKS 2ND PROMOTED TO JUNIOR 2

			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS
JUNIOR	3	ARMAGH 2	18	18	0	0	92	7	54
		UU ELKS 2	18	13	3	2	54	11	42
		QUEENS 2	18	10	2	6	35	29	32
		BELFAST HARLEQUINS 4	18	9	3	6	31	24	30
		VICTORIANS 3	18	8	3	7	37	21	27
		BANBRIDGE 2	18	6	4	8	23	35	22
		LARNE 2	18	5	1	12	18	54	16
		NORTH DOWN 3	18	4	3	11	19	46	15
		PARKVIEW 2	18	3	3	12	12	59	12
		COLERAINE 2	18	2	2	14	9	45	5

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PARKVIEW 2ND and COLERAINE 2ND RELEGATED TO JUNIOR 4

ARMAGH 3RD and DROMORE 2ND PROMOTED TO JUNIOR 3

			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS
JUNIOR	4	DROMORE 2	18	13	4	1	55	13	43
		ARMAGH 3	18	13	2	3	48	12	41
		LISNAGARVEY 3	18	12	2	4	52	20	38
		DUNGANNON 2	18	9	4	5	31	23	31

BALLYMENA 3	18	8	4	6	33	26	28	
GROSVENOR 2	18	7	4	7	27	23	24	
NI CIVIL SERVICE 2	18	6	6	6	27	30	24	
MOSSLEY 2	18	4	2	12	14	38	14	
NORTH DOWN 4	18	1	2	15	8	69	5	
LARNE 3	18	1	2	15	2	43	-1	***

NORTH DOWN 4TH and LARNE 3RD RELEGATED TO JUNIOR 5

LURGAN 3RD and BELFAST HARLEQUINS 5TH PROMOTED TO JUNIOR 4

			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
JUNIOR	5	LURGAN 3	18	17	1	0	62	0	52	
		BELFAST HARLEQUINS 5	18	11	3	4	26	18	36	
		CARRICKFERGUS 2	18	11	2	5	43	21	35	
		COOKSTOWN 2	18	10	5	3	33	11	35	
		BALLYCLARE 3	18	6	6	6	26	17	24	
		BALLYMONEY 3	18	6	7	5	23	17	24	
		BALLYMENA 4	18	6	5	7	15	15	22	*
		DUNGANNON 3	18	3	2	13	11	36	11	
		GREENISLAND 3	18	1	3	14	9	46	6	
		OWLS 2	19	2	0	16	5	63	6	

GREENISLAND 3RD and OWLS 2ND RELEGATED TO JUNIOR 6

DROMORE 3RD and LISNAGARVEY 4TH PROMOTED TO JUNIOR 5

			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
JUNIOR	6	DROMORE 3	14	13	1	0	42	6	40	
		LISNAGARVEY 4	14	11	1	2	37	8	34	
		RANDALSTOWN 4	14	8	2	4	36	13	26	
		HOLYWOOD 2	14	7	0	7	29	30	21	
		RAPHOE 2	13	2	3	8	8	24	4	**
		COLERAINE 3	14	4	2	8	13	27	2	*****
		BANBRIDGE 3	13	1	1	11	1	61	-2	***

KILKEEL 2ND WIHTDRAWN DUE TO NUMBER OF CONCEDED MATCHES

BALLYMENA 5TH and ANNADALE 4TH WITHDRAWN IN SEPTEMBER 08

ARMAGH 4TH and GROSVENOR 3RD PROMOTED TO JUNIOR 6

			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
JUNIOR	7	ARMAGH 4	18	12	3	3	38	10	39	
		GROSVENOR 3	18	12	3	3	36	10	39	
		LURGAN 4	18	9	3	6	30	22	29	
		LISNAGARVEY 5	18	8	3	7	19	21	27	
		ARDS 3	18	7	5	6	19	14	26	
		PSNI 2	18	7	3	8	20	25	23	
		VICTORIANS 4	18	7	4	7	29	19	19	***
		SAINTFIELD 2	18	5	1	12	16	33	16	
		OMAGH 3	18	6	2	10	18	19	14	***
		NEWRY OLYMPIC 2	18	3	1	14	6	56	10	

OMAGH 3RD and NEWRY 2ND RELEGATED TO JUNIOR 8

DROMORE 4TH and GROSVENOR 4TH PROMOTED TO JUNIOR 7

			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
JUNIOR	8	DROMORE 4	18	15	2	1	49	6	47	
		GROSVENOR 4	18	14	1	3	45	12	43	
		CARRICKFERGUS 3	18	11	3	4	30	8	36	
		KNOCK 3	18	6	6	6	22	17	23	*
		BELFAST HARLEQUINS 6	18	7	1	10	19	26	22	

		LISNAGARVEY 6	18	5	5	8	16	30	20	
		BALLYCLARE 4	18	6	3	9	13	13	18	**
		ARMAGH 5	18	8	2	8	17	13	14	*****
		NI CIVIL SERVICE 3	18	3	3	12	10	50	12	
		GREENISLAND 4	18	1	2	15	9	55	4	*
		NI CIVIL SERVICE 3RD and GREENISLAND 4TH RELEGATED TO JUNIOR 9								
		UU ELKS 3RD and BELFAST HARLEQUINS 7TH PROMOTED TO JUNIOR 8								
			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
JUNIOR	9	UU ELKS 3	13	12	1	0	46	2	37	
		BELFAST HARLEQUINS 7	15	11	0	4	49	16	33	
		NEWCASTLE NOMADS 2	16	10	3	3	39	17	32	*
		DROMORE 5	16	7	4	5	22	23	25	
		ARDS 4	16	7	2	7	16	23	23	
		COOKE 2	16	6	4	6	10	24	19	**
		PARKVIEW 3	16	3	4	9	9	28	12	*
		GREENISLAND 5	16	4	1	11	7	35	10	**
		BALLYNAHINCH 2	16	1	1	14	2	32	-2	***
		BALLYMONEY 4TH and PORTADOWN 3RD WITHDRAWN in SEPTEMBER 08								
		BALLYNAHINCH 2ND RELEGATED								
		RANDALSTOWN 5TH and PRIORIANS 3RD PROMOTED to JUNIOR 9								
			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
JUNIOR	10	RANDALSTOWN 5	14	13	1	0	62	3	40	
		PRIORIANS 3	14	8	1	5	16	14	25	
		LISNAGARVEY 7	13	6	1	6	12	15	19	
		ARDS 5	14	5	4	5	18	11	18	*
		GROSVENOR 5	13	4	3	6	11	19	15	
		PSNI 3	13	5	0	8	13	25	14	*
		INSTONIANS 2	13	4	2	7	13	23	11	**
		DROMORE 6	14	2	2	10	12	47	8	
		BALLYMENA 6TH WITHDRAWN in SEPTEMBER 08								
		DROMORE 6TH RELEGATED to JUNIOR 11								
		NORTH DOWN 5TH and QUEENS 3RD PROMOTED to JUNIOR 10								
			PLAYED	WON	DRAWN	LOST	GOALS +	GOALS-	POINTS	
JUNIOR	11	NORTH DOWN 5	14	10	3	1	24	11	33	
		QUEENS 3	14	9	3	2	44	8	32	*
		MALONE	14	7	3	4	17	15	24	
		MOSSLEY 3	14	6	5	3	11	11	23	
		ENNISKILLEN 2	13	4	4	5	15	8	10	***
		CARRICKFERGUS 4	13	2	1	10	11	33	7	
		GROSVENOR 6	14	2	2	10	11	39	2	***
		SAINTFIELD 3	14	4	1	9	5	12	0	****
		ARDS 6TH and DROMORE 7TH WITHDRAWN SEPTEMBER 08								

INTERPROVINCIAL TOURNAMENTS

ESB Senior Interprovincials: 13th-15th March 2009 at Garryduff, Munster, Cork

Won by LEINSTER
(Ulster lost on goal diff)

Ulster Coach: Stephen Watt
 Ulster Assistant Coach: Arlene Boyles
 Ulster Manager: Alison Watt
 GK Coach: Mark Evans
 Physio: Gillian Leckey

Results: Friday	Leinster	v	Ulster	0 - 0
	Munster	v	Connacht	3 - 1
Saturday	Leinster	v	Connacht	4 - 0
	Munster	v	Ulster	2 - 3
Sunday	Connacht	v	Ulster	2 - 7
	Munster	v	Leinster	1 - 6

ESB U21 Interprovincials: 18th – 19th April 2009 at Grange Road, Dublin

Won by ULSTER

Ulster Coach: Mark Evans
 Ulster Assistant Coach: Lynsey McVicker
 GK Coach: Sharon Moffett
 Ulster Manager: Roisin Walsh

Results: Saturday	Connacht	V	Leinster	0 - 4
	Munster	V	South East	5 - 0
	Munster	V	Connacht	7 - 2
	South East	V	Ulster	0 - 6 (H McMillan x 3, R Mulligan x 2, M Harvey x 1)
Sunday	Leinster	V	Ulster	0 - 1 (H McMillan)
	Munster	V	Ulster	0 - 3 (H McMillan, M Harvey, S Holdsworth)
	South East	V	Connacht	1 - 2
	South East	V	Leinster	0 - 3
	Connacht	V	Ulster	0 - 4 (L McAlpine, S Holdsworth, S McCay, M Harvey)
	Munster	V	Leinster	0 - 1

ESB U18 Interprovincials: 22nd – 23rd November 2008 at Garryduff Sports Centre, Cork

Won by ULSTER

Ulster Coach: Alison McNeill
 Ulster Assistant Coach: Fiona McIlwaine
 GK Coach: Sharon Moffett
 Ulster Manager: Helene Armstrong

Results: Saturday	Ulster	v	Munster	4 - 1
	South East	v	Leinster	0 - 2
	Ulster	v	Connacht	0 - 3
	Munster	v	Leinster	2 - 2
	Connacht	v	South East	3 - 2
Sunday	Connacht	v	Leinster	1 - 3
	South East	v	Ulster	0 - 4
	Munster	v	Connacht	0 - 3
	Ulster	v	Leinster	2 - 0
	Munster	v	South East	3 - 1

ESB U16 Interprovincials:**Sunday 4th January 2009 at Alexandra College, Milltown, Dublin****Won by ULSTER**

Ulster Coach:	Jonny McBride
Ulster Assistant Coach:	Julie Doak
Ulster Manager:	Janet Douds
GK Coach:	Donna Hawthorne
Physio:	Shalini Kapur

Due to original date having to be cancelled due to weather conditions...a blitz day of matches took place for this age group which saw each province play each other once in a 30 minute match with all 18 players eligible to play

Positioning	1.	Ulster
	2.	Connacht
	3.	Leinster
	4.	Munster
	5.	South East

ESB Junior Interprovincials:**18th & 19th April 2009 at UU at Jordanstown, Belfast****Won by ULSTER**

Ulster Coach:	Crawford McCully
Ulster Assistant Coach:	Gillian McQueen
Ulster Manager:	Leanne Johnston

Results:	Saturday	Ulster	v	Connacht	0 - 0
		Munster	v	South East	1 - 0
		Connacht	v	Munster	2 - 0
	Sunday	Ulster	v	South East	10 - 1
		Connacht	v	South East	4 - 0
		Munster	v	Ulster	0 - 1

ALL IRELAND CLUB AND SCHOOL COMPETITIONS

ESB Women's Irish Senior Cup	UCD
ESB Women's Irish Junior Cup	Hermes 11
Women's Irish Hockey Trophy	Ulster Elks
Women's Irish Hockey Challenge	Fermoy

All Ireland Kate-Russell	Colaiste Iognaid
All Ireland Club Championships	Jesuits College Galway

SCHOOLS

	WINNER	RUNNER UP
1 st XI Tournament	Royal School Armagh	Sullivan Upper
Senior Cup	Foyle & Londonderry College	Ballymena Academy
Senior Plate	Ballyclare HS	Coleraine HS
Junior Cup	Rainey Endowed	Friends
Junior Plate	Sullivan Upper School	Royal School Armagh
Mc Dowell Cup (2 nd XI)	Freinds	Ballyclare HS
2 nd XI Plate	Southern Regional College	Sullivan Upper School
Senior Shield	Carrick GS and Friends (shared)	
3 rd XI Cup	Ballyclare HS	Strathearn
U14 High Schools Cup	Downshire School	Markethill HS
U16 High Schools Cup	Craigavon SHS	Ballyclare Sec
U17 Area Board Tournament	Western	North East
U15 Area Board Tournament	Southern and North East (shared)	

MINI HOCKEY

Mini Hockey Tournament (McCloy Cup)
Runners up
Strandtown Shield Plate Competition
Runners up

Winner

Waringstown Primary School, Lurgan
Omagh County Primary
Abbey Primary School, Newtownards
Gibson Primary School

Hockey Youth Games Tournament

Runners up
Plate Competition

Southern Board
North East
South east

U12 LEAGUE FINAL

Runners up

Lurgan
Randalstown

U14 LEAGUE

Belfast
Mid Ulster
North East
South East
East Antrim

Winner

Grosvenor
Dromore
Magherafelt
Lisnagarvey
Randalstown

Under 14 Club Championship - Sunday 17th May 2009

NATIONAL TEAMS: DATES, STATISTICS

ULSTER PLAYERS on IRISH SQUADS

Jenny McDonough steps down from International Hockey Stage

27 January 2009

Jenny McDonough today announced her decision to step off the Irish Hockey International stage, her decision comes after accruing eight years at the top of her game. McDonough who has amassed 117 caps first stepped up to senior level against England in 2001 and since then has been a regular face in the National Squad under both Riet Kuper and Gene Muller.

SENIOR IRISH WOMEN at SETANTA CUP

11TH – 15TH JULY BELFIELD, DUBLIN

11 June	Ireland v South Africa	(1-3)
12 June	Ireland v Germany	(0-1)
14 June	Ireland v Great Britain	(0-3)
3rd /4th Play off		
15 June	Ireland v South Africa	(1-2)

Emma CLARKE	Randalstown	53 caps
Jenny MCDONOUGH	Belfast Harlequins	110
Shirley MCCAY	Randalstown	48
Bridget MCKEEVER	Ballymoney	111
Alex SPEERS	Pegasus	42
Emma STEWART	Armagh	56

IRELAND WOMEN at Belfield -v- Scotland

V Scotland	21 Nov	1-3 (J McDonough)
	22 Nov	0-1
	23 Nov	1-2 (C McKean)

Emma CLARKE	Ulster Elks
Bridget MCKEEEVER (Cpt)	Ballymoney
Shirley MCCAY	Ulster Elks
Lauren BARR	Ballymoney
Emma STEWART	Armagh
Alex SPEERS	Pegasus
Michelle HARVEY	Pegasus
Lizzie COLVIN	Armagh
Megan FRAZER	Ballymoney
Jenny McDonough	Belfast Harlequins

IRELAND WOMEN at Belfield -v- CANADA, 17th - 19th Jan 09

v Canada	17 Jan 09	1-1 (Roisin Flinn)
	18 Jan 09	1-2 (Cathy McKean)
	19 Jan 09	2-0 (Ciara O'Brien, Nikki Symmons)

Emma CLARKE	Ulster Elks
Bridget CLELAND	Ballymoney
Shirley MCCAY	Ulster Elks
Alex SPEERS	Pegasus
Megan FRAZER	Ballymoney
Jenny McDonough	Belfast Harlequins
Rachel MULLIGAN	Armagh

IRELAND WOMEN at Belfield -v- ENGLAND, 10th – 12th April 09

V England 10 Apr 09 0-1
 12 Apr 09 1-3 (Nikki Symmons)

Emma CLARKE	Ulster Elks	66
Shirley MCCAY	Ulster Elks	61
Bridget CLELAND	Ballymoney	120
Emma STEWART	Armagh	66
Rachel MULLIGAN	Armagh	15
Lauren BARR	Ballymoney	4
Megan FRAZER	Ballymoney	7

IRELAND WOMEN at Belfield -v- GERMANY, 9th – 10th MAY 09

V GERMANY 9 MAY 3-0
 10 MAY 4-2 (N Symons; N Cregan)

Lauren BARR	Ballymoney
Bridget CLELAND (McKeever)	Ballymoney
Emma CLARKE	Ulster Elks
Michelle HARVEY	Pegasus
Rachel MULLIGAN	Armagh
Emma STEWART	Armagh

IRELAND UNDER 18 GIRLS at CARDIFF / FOUR NATIONS, 29TH JULY 08 – 1 AUG 08

V	29 JULY	SCOTLAND	(0-2) LOSS
V	30 JULY	ENGLAND	(1-6) LOSS
V	1 AUG	WALES	(4-1) WIN

Ireland finished in 3rd place- 1st ENGLAND; 2nd SCOTLAND; 3rd IRELAND; 4th WALES

IRELAND UNDER 18 GIRLS at Bellahouston in Glasgow 8th & 9th MAY 09

V SCOTLAND 8 MAY 2-0
 9 MAY 0-6 (C Watkins x 2; O Fox; G Pinder; D Gorman; D Duke)

Sammy Jo GREER (GK)	Ballymoney
Jenny KYLE	Pegasus
Anna Mae MORTON	Armagh
Natalie BARR	Ballymoney

IRELAND UNDER 18 GIRLS at Belfield v Belgium 16th & 17th April 09

V BELGIUM 16 APR BELGIUM V IRELAND 0-1
 17 APR BELGIUM V IRELAND 0-2 (C Watkins, V Surgeoner)

Sammy Jo GREER **Coleraine HS** **Ballymoney**
Natalie BARR **Lurgan College** **Lurgan**
Vanessa SURGEONER **Ballyclare HS** **Randalstown**

IRELAND UNDER 16 GIRLS at Belfield v Belgium 7th, 8th & 9th April 09

V Belgium U16 7 Apr 3-1 (Lucy McKee, Joanne Orr, Aishing Naughton)
 8 Apr 09 1-3 (Rebecca Barry)
 9 Apr 09 2-3 (Leah Ewart, Lucy McKee)

Lucy EWART **Royal School Armagh** **Armagh**
Lauren JOHNSTON (GK) **Markethill HS** **Armagh**
Lucy MCKEE **Banbridge Academy** **Armagh**
Joanne ORR **Royal School Armagh** **Armagh**
Kerri MCDONALD **Banbridge Academy** **Dromore**
Amy COOKE **Ballyclare HS** **Ballyclare**
Chloe BROWN **Nendrum College** **North Down**

IRELAND's 'A' Squad (at Cardiff)

V Wales 6 Sept 08 2-1 (Michelle Harvey)
 7 Sept 08 5-4 (K Elkin, A Connery x 2, M Frazer, M Harvey)

Michelle HARVEY **Pegasus**
Katherine ELKIN **Randalstown**
Megan FRAZER **Ballymoney**

IRELAND's 'A' Squad

V Germany U21 23 Mar 09 1-1 (Anna O'Flanagan)
 24 Mar 09 abandoned due to weather
 25 Mar 09 1-4 (Anna O'Flanagan)

Grace WATTERS **Randalstown**
Katherine STEENSON **Armagh**
Lauren BARR **Ballymoney**
Megan FRAZER **Ballymoney**
Michelle HARVEY **Pegasus**

Ann Shiels
Hon Match Secretary
May 2009

Development Officer's Report

This year, the Regional Development Squad programme was changed to target players under 14 years of age. This change facilitated a pathway from the Regional Development squad to newly created IHA Under 15 Squads.

During the season, over 180 young players attend regular coaching sessions at eight regional centres through Ulster, culminating in a hockey tournament at Lisnagarvey Hockey Club on Sunday 10th May, where a total of sixteen teams comprising players from each Regional Development Squad and representing each of the Education and Library Boards will compete.

The change in the Regional Development Squad programme has resulted in a development and competition programme being targeted at the same age group. The age alteration has also meant that the focus of the programme, as preparation for Ulster Under 16 selection, has been diminished. The resultant gap in provision needs to be addressed along with a review of the existing provision at under 14 level.

I am indebted to all schools and clubs that nominated children for inclusion in the Regional Development Squad programme and all the teachers and coaches who gave their time so readily to facilitate squad selection and the ensuing coaching sessions.

Hockey Academies for Under 13 players were established in partnership and funded by the Southern and North Eastern Sport Partnerships. These coaching schemes were targeted at the Under 13 age group as a stepping-stone to inclusion, the following year within the Regional Development Squads programme. In total, six squads attended a series of coaching sessions during the season, with the programme concluding with a tournament providing a competitive opportunity for the squads to test their newly acquired skills against each other. Thanks are due to all the schools and clubs that nominated children for inclusion in the Sports Academies and both sports partnerships for their continued provision of hockey opportunities for young players.

The Coach Education programme is jointly administered with the Ulster Branch, Irish Hockey Association. In the early part of the season, a number of introductory courses were held for schools. Unfortunately, Coaching Ireland is currently reviewing this course and it is not available for presentation. A one-day course for Goalkeepers and Goalkeeper coaches was held in April. The course was lead by Simon Mason, the former Great Britain and England goalkeeper. Twenty-eight people attended. Details of a range of coaching courses planned for the summer should be available shortly.

The Mini Hockey Association held eight regional tournaments during the year as part of the qualifying process for the McCloy Cup. All of these tournaments were well supported by schools. This series of keenly fought competitions resulted in twenty teams from all areas of Ulster qualifying for the Mini Hockey Championship. The finals were held at Lisnagarvey Hockey Club on Thursday 23rd April 2009. An exciting day's competition, with good weather, resulted in a final between Waringstown Primary School (Lurgan) and Gibson Primary School (Omagh), with Waringstown winning a skilful final. Omagh County Primary School and Abbey Primary School (Newtownards) met in the Plate competition, Abbey winning narrowly. My thanks are due to all the organisers of the regional tournaments. Congratulations are also due to all schools on their high standard of play and the dedication shown by teachers in developing the game with their young players. Mini hockey could not run without the strong financial support of the Union and a small band of dedicated volunteers ready to assist with umpiring the matches.

Mini Hockey Leagues continue to run in Newtownabbey, Lisburn and Ballyclare, with over 30 schools competing in regular league fixture, after school, at a central venue. The project attracts widespread support from teachers and pupils and is regularly played to large galleries of supportive parents.

The Under Fourteen League continues to flourish. In total, thirty clubs fielded thirty-four teams competed in five regional leagues based at Belfast, Ballymoney, Hillsborough, Portadown and Newtownabbey during the season. The winner and runner up of each regional league will compete in the Ulster Under 14 Club Champions on Sunday 17th May. This has the distinction of being the first competition to be run by the newly formed Ulster Hockey Association. A number of clubs will attend the Under 14 National Festival organized by the IHA in Dublin to coincide with the finals of the Irish Hockey League.

The Under 12 league continues to grow in both popularity and size. Twenty-eight teams representing twenty-five clubs played regularly, during the season in an enlarged programme of fixtures. A Champions League day was held on Sunday 26th April to provide a competitive edge at the end of the league programme. In a keenly fought day of competition Lurgan emerged as worthy winners. My thanks to all the clubs, coaches, umpires and parents for their help and support, A number of clubs attended the Under 12 National Festival organized by the IHA in Dublin to coincide with the finals of the Irish Senior Cup competitions.

The leagues at Under 12 and Under 14 levels provide a clear development structure for clubs wishing to provide competitive opportunities for their younger players. The provision of junior sections in clubs with appropriate competitive pathways increases our capacity to recruit, development and retain young players within our sport.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone for their help and guidance through out the year.

If you would like further information about any of the ongoing work, have any suggestions for further possible areas of development, or, if there are ways that I may be of help to your club, please contact me at the Hockey Office.

Robert Nelson
Development Officer
May 2009

Coaching Sub-Committee Report

Coaching Sub Committee members:

Graham Quincey, Jenny Redpath, Andrea McCullough, Lesley Rodgers

- Ulster Coaching Appointments 2008-2009

Junior Squad

Head Coach Crawford McCully
Assistant Coach Gillian McQueen

Under 21 Squad

Head Coach Mark Evans
Assistant Coach Lynsey McVicker

Ulster Coaching Appointments 2009-2010

U18 Squad

Head Coach Alison McNeill
Assistant Coach Fiona McIlwaine

- Reports were received from all squad managers/coaches after tournaments completed responses were collated regarding recommendations for possible changes and summary of these presented to Council.
- Consultation with the High Performance manager, Stephen Watt on the success of development squads at Under 18 and 16 level.
- Attendance at a number of training sessions or tournament itself for four of the squads (U16 / U18/ U21/ Seniors).
- Representation at Irish Coach Tutor meetings for all levels (Intro/ level 1/level 2/level 3).
- Involvement with new Tutor Accreditation procedure, suggestions for process and representation on course itself both as candidate and tutor.
- Direct involvement with Coach Assessment Programmes at Introductory level and levels 1 and 2
- Represented on UWHU Development Committee
- Represented on Coach Disciplinary Committee

Lesley Rodgers
Coaching Sub Committee
May 2009

UWHU Schools' Committee

Preparation for the 2008-2009 season began back in April 2008 when entries were gathered and collated for the new season. This year the Schools' Committee had even more work to contend with having added two new competitions to our calendar. The McDowell Cup for 2nd XI teams had a new format becoming a knock out cup for 2nd XI teams (formerly 2A teams). Teams knocked out in the first two rounds were then eligible to enter the 2nd XI Plate. A new 3rd XI cup was added for teams formerly known as 2B or C teams. This was played along the lines of the old McDowell Cup with section games, then section winners going into a knock out draw. This meant that the Schools' Committee now oversees a total of thirteen competitions.

During the summer months, preparations began for the Ulster U16 and U18 squads with summer coaching sessions. The U18's also sent a team to the UK games at the end of August, here they picked up a silver medal by beating Scotland 3-0 and losing to England 3-0. This was very creditable considering they faced international teams. The U18 followed up this success by winning the interpro title in Cork on the 22nd and 23rd November. Ulster won the title by virtue of goal difference beating Munster 4-1, losing 3-0 to Connacht, beating South East 4-0 and Leinster 2-0. The U16 Tournament was to have been held on the 6th and 7th December at Kilkenny College but unfortunately the tournament had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions in the form of severe frost. A shortened version was therefore played on Sunday 4th January with all teams playing each other once in thirty minute matches. Once again Ulster won following a draw with Connacht and victories over Munster 3-0, Leinster 1-0 and South East 3-0. Congratulations to all those involved in the preparation of the squads.

The first competition of the season was held Saturday 6th September when the 1st XI Tournament was played. Now that all sections are played on artificial surfaces the number of teams entering has grown and this year six sections were organised. The winners travelled to UUJ the following Wednesday 10th September for the final playoffs. The two eventual finalists were Royal School Armagh and Sullivan with Royal School Armagh taking the honours with a 2-0 win. Many thanks to all the schools who allowed us to use their pitch time to play the games and to the committee members, who ran the sections on the day.

In late September / early October the U14 Regional Development squads were selected and they have been training over the winter months in preparation for the Youth Games. This is a change from previous years with the age group being lowered to allow for early identification of talent. Many thanks here should go to the Area Secretaries who put in an enormous amount of work to ensure that trials run smoothly. Thanks also to Robert Nelson for his work in co-ordinating the whole process.

The results of this year's competitions are as follows:

	WINNER	RUNNER UP
1 st XI Tournament	Royal School Armagh	Sullivan Upper
Senior Cup	Foyle & Londonderry College	Ballymena Academy
Senior Plate	Ballyclare HS	Coleraine HS
Junior Cup	Rainey Endowed	Friends
Junior Plate	Sullivan Upper School	Royal School Armagh
Mc Dowell Cup (2 nd XI)	Freinds	Ballyclare HS
2 nd XI Plate	Southern Regional College	Sullivan Upper School
Senior Shield	Carrick GS and Friends (shared)	
3 rd XI Cup	Ballyclare HS	Strathearn
U14 High Schools Cup	Downshire School	Markethill HS
U16 High Schools Cup	Craigavon SHS	Ballyclare Sec
U17 Area Board Tournament	Western	North East
U15 Area Board Tournament	Southern and North East (shared)	

Congratulations to all the winning schools and their coaches. Foyle and Londonderry College and Ballymena Academy both traveled to Dublin at the end of March for the All Ireland Kate Russell and

while they acquitted themselves well sadly we did not bring 'Kate' back north. Next year therefore we will only have one representative in the All Ireland Competition.

The Schools' Committee met on the first Monday of each month to run the Schools Competitions. This became quite an onerous task for a number of reasons. Firstly the number of competitions has increased and secondly the absence of an administrative assistant in the Hockey Office for a good part of the year while Lorraine was on maternity leave, proved challenging to say the least. This meant extra work in typing and sending out draws on my part. We had some unfortunate problems at start of the year when the Post Office lost all the material which had been left in their Head Office to post by Ann Shiels and the whole lot had to be sent out again. We got there in the end. All the information was also sent out by e mail but some schools don't seem to check this or indeed have not given an accurate e mail address. I would ask all schools to make sure that they write this very carefully on this year's affiliation forms. There have been the usual problems with running the competitions. One of the biggest complaints is that schools do not send results to the appropriate competition secretaries. This means a lot of ringing around and unnecessary administration. Please remember that those who run the competitions are busy teachers as well and help them out next year by promptly sending in results. Another problem has been the fact that some schools do not stick to the dates by which matches should be played. Again schools are reminded that they should not play matches after the given dates without first asking the permission of the Competition Secretary who will then consult the committee. There is a great deal of time pressure nowadays in the hockey calendar, and at Senior schools level with so many girls playing for Senior Clubs, there are going to be inevitable clashes. We are often asked why we don't schedule cup matches to avoid Irish Cup Competitions and the answer is simple – if we tried to avoid every date we would never get anything played! We also have to avoid U16, U18 and U21 interpro weekends as well. There is not much room for maneuver! Hence schools should look ahead, be aware of any potential clashes and play matches before the given date not after.

The Senior Cup semi-finals and final were held at Lisnagarvey Hockey Club as were the Area Board tournaments. Once again this proved an excellent venue and the committee would like to thank David Henderson and his team at Garvey for all their help in co-ordinating, in particular, the Senior Cup matches.

What of the future? There are changes ahead. Next year the running of Schoolgirls' Hockey will be under the auspices of the new UHU joint girls' and boys' committee. The current committee will function as a sub committee to run only the cup competitions. The joint committee will look after all other aspects of schools' hockey and will consist of a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and representatives from the competitions sub committee. This time next year the GM for schools will be a joint one for the girls and the boys. When discussing the changes, we did leave in the possibility of having a forum such as this to discuss matters pertinent to schoolgirls' hockey, however all binding decisions would be made at the joint AGM. Hopefully this new partnership should work well – perhaps we will learn something from each other.

On a final note I would like to thank all those who helped with administration of schools' hockey this year, particularly those council members who gave up their time to do stints in the Hockey Office during Lorraine's maternity leave. The help and advice from Council is also much appreciated and we must thank Mary Swan for all her hard work in acting as a link and representing us on Council. Mary has also acted as our representative at Irish level, fortunately some of her meetings coincided with weekends of international rugby matches which made them less painful! Thanks also must go to Ann Jameison for all the time she has given to schools' hockey this year whether in being present at finals or looking after our interests at Council level. Last but not least, as I stand down and present my final report as Schools' Secretary, I would like to thank all my fellow schools' committee members for the tremendous hard work they do in running competitions. They sometimes take a lot on criticism for how things are run, but all should remember that if they did not give up their time, you would not have any competitions to enter!

I wish all the new committee members all the best for next year and hope that our new joint committee will take Ulster hockey from strength to strength.

Anne Knox
Hon Secretary, Schools' Committee
May 2009

UWHU Umpires' Association

This was another long season with many Premier and Senior 1 Clubs playing mid week games due to the inclement weather and the number of Irish fixtures to get through.

We were fortunate to have three additions to the senior panel – Emma Douglas (Greenisland), Christine Reid (North Down) and Linda Coughlan (Lisnagarvey) who joined us last year. I would like to thank Lyn Morrow and Jennifer Hobson among others who assisted with their mentoring skills and to those who helped them get to their current level of umpiring. Both Emma and Christine umpired at under 16 Interprovincial level and Emma umpired Under 16 International between Ireland and Belgium. Emma, Linda, Kimberley Collins and Robert Collins have also umpired under 16 and 18 'B' games between Ulster and Leinster. The girls have also been involved at Junior Interprovincials.

Hopefully Emma Douglas will umpire at the UK Schools Games in Wales at the beginning of Sept 09. Laura Callaghan has umpired Ireland 'A' v Canada in January, and was appointed to the European Cup Winners Trophy B Section in Lille, France in April.

Lyn Morrow and Laura Callaghan umpired the Senior Schools cup final.

Congratulations to all our umpires and technical officials who have been appointed to Interprovincials, Irish Trophy, Irish Hockey League, Irish Junior and Senior Cup games.

Courses

As we will be amalgamating with the Men's Ulster Branch in May 09 it was appropriate to hold 2 joint courses in Stranmillis College, Belfast. These were well attended and Robert Johnston assisted with the presentations. Jennifer Hobson and Pat Hall also took an umpiring course in Cookstown which was attended by representatives of the following clubs: Cookstown, Coleraine, Derg Valley, Limavady, Enniskillen, Dungannon, Priorians and also some of the schools in these areas. Thank you to Linda Black and Cookstown Club for hosting and organising the event and to Norman for providing the refreshments!

Three venues were used for the grade 3 exams, Belfast, Dungannon and Ballymena.

Badges

Overall 88 people sat the exam with 70 passes. This was excellent.

Grade 3 badges will be awarded to Emma Douglas and Christine Reid.

Grade 2 badges to Kim Collins, Jareth McCready and Mark Huddleston.

Five people have passed the written part of the Grade 1 Badge; Alan Cullen, Adare Brady, Ivan McNeill, Mark Huddleston and Michael Campbell.

At our Senior Panel meeting we addressed current umpiring issues and Robert Johnston also talked about misconduct, control, obstruction, aerial balls and issuing cards. Our Senior Panel also attended a question time evening organised by the Men's Branch in Mossley Hockey Club.

Karen Eppel, Irish Selector came up from Dublin to look at our up and coming umpires and was very impressed with their standard and will continue to monitor their progress.

I think it would be remiss if I did not mention Jennifer Hobson, Neville Gibson, Trevor Allsop and the rest of committee. Jennifer, apart from her full time demanding job, also attends Council on our behalf. Neville our treasurer is also treasurer of the IHUA and organises technical tables and umpiring kit etc. Trevor, appointments secretary, liaises with Ann Shiels, almost daily, regarding fixtures and rearranged games in order that we can provide umpires for Premier and Senior games every week. Thank you also to Kim Collins who was responsible for umpire registration and to everyone who has covered Club and School games throughout the season, well done.

Amalgamation

As you know we will be amalgamating with the Ulster Branch of the Men's Association from 16th May 2009 and in order to make this happen some people have worked tirelessly. We are very grateful to Joan McCloy and Mervyn Elder for their time and patience. Our own small committee have been

meeting since Feb 2008 with the Men's Umpires Committee and have produced a 'terms of reference' which is still a working document to help us focus on the many issues to be addressed as we progress with the new Umpiring Committee and its sub committees. I would like to thank everyone involved for their patience and guidance.

I hope we can move forward into a new and exciting era in Ulster Hockey which will be supportive and inclusive and where everyone will work together with respect for each other regardless of whether we are players, umpires, officials, coaches or spectators. A little respect goes a long way! Here's to the future of Ulster Hockey!

Mr Neville Gibson

Since writing my report our treasurer Neville Gibson passed away suddenly on 20th April 2009. Neville was known from Coleraine to Cork in hockey circles! He worked tirelessly for hockey in Ulster and Ireland and we will all miss him greatly. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Sheila at this very sad time.

Pat Hall
Honorary Secretary, Umpires Association
May 2009

Public Relations Report

With a look back over the 2008/09 season, once again it has been a busy one with many successes and developments. Of course, it has been another fantastic season for Ulster Interprovincial hockey with the Under 21 Seniors, Under 18's, Under 16's, and Ulster Juniors each returning to Ulster with their respective titles.

Unfortunately in terms of media coverage minority sport in Northern Ireland has taken a bit of a blow this year. The first of which was the Local Heroes supplement of the Belfast Telegraph which was abolished at the start of our season. Last season this extract proved to be a great promotion for ladies hockey, particularly in the lower leagues and Ruth Gorman's hard work to promote ladies hockey through that supplement has been greatly appreciated. It has been very said to see it go.

Secondly, after decades in circulation, the Ireland Saturday Night saw its last edition at the start of our season. The ISN provided weekly match reports from Premier hockey and Senior 1 and often a feature story. Its loss has been significant to Ulster ladies hockey, with the only print media means remaining is the Belfast Telegraph, The Newsletter and local papers.

However one exciting new addition to the hockey media this year has been Austin's excellent hockey magazine. The magazine gave an overview in pictures of the 2007/08 season throughout Ireland and featured many familiar Ulster faces. This magazine, the first of its kind, has showcased women's hockey to the optimum level and Roland Whites photographic displays have been exceptional. We hope that this season, once again, the magazine will receive the recognition it deserves.

Furthermore, Austin's coverage of local hockey in The Newsletter this season has been outstanding and he continues to do his best to push women's hockey to forefront at every opportunity. Of course his feature stories and match updates have been reinforced by Roland's work and many of his photos can be viewed and purchased on his website www.sportsphoto.com

Belfast Telegraph's John Flack has been another great supporter. His regular updates in the Belfast Telegraph and Sunday Life keep hockey news in the media loop.

In terms of television coverage Setanta once again have contributed to coverage of women's hockey and have covered the Irish Senior Cup and the ESB Kate Russell, with Ballymena and Foyle and Londonderry featuring. And on a local basis UTV have also helped to promote women's hockey.

Many thanks must go to Marketing Executive Katie Roche who continues to work extremely hard for Irish hockey. Her updates of Irish team and All-Ireland club hockey have been excellent. Additionally, her weekly updates of the happenings of hockey have been exciting to read and have kept Ulster hockey to the forefront.

Thanks also must go to our sponsors including Winemark and Belfast Telegraph.

Thanks once again must go to all the hockey family incusing the media, the President, council members and the clubs who have been of great assistance to me as PRO.

Helen McConnell

PRO, May 2009

Website Report

This season the UWHU website (www.hockeyulster.org) had 280,441 visits to the site between 1st May 2008 and 16th April 2009. This was an increase of 25,980 visits when compared to the 2008-09 season.

The most accessed sections of the website are the league tables, the home page, and the guestbook.

The gallery section again has proved popular and many thanks go to Rowland White who gave permission for some of his photographs to be used on the website. Links to Rowland's website are well used from both the Gallery and Links sections for users to find other photographs of league and cup matches.

The Jobs section was used by the UWHU and IHA to advertise a variety of positions and opportunities in hockey.

Child Protection information and forms are also now available on the website.

I would like to thank all those who forwarded information, reports and photographs for the website throughout the season, especially Ann Shiels for the fixtures and results, Lesley Spence for her close monitoring of the guestbook and forums and also her posts on match reports on tournaments held throughout the season and finally Robert Nelson for the information and results for the U12's and U14's leagues.

Clare Bloomfield
May 2009