

10/05/2019



Falkland Islands Hockey Association Tournaments 2019

To our members,

As we do every year, we are looking toward the opportunities for us as an association to play against other teams, nations and clubs to continue to develop inline, ice and dek hockey as a sport. This open letter to all our members will hopefully give everyone a better idea of where we are this year.

PUNTA ARENAS

Regarding our regular tournament in Punta Arenas (previously called Copa Invernada, and more recently MEGA Patagonian) - at the moment we have not been able to get any conformation of dates or conformation that the tournament will even happen this year, and we have not been invited to take part as yet. As it takes several months to get organised for this tournament and to train, and give parents time to make arrangements for travel etc. we have decided as an association that we will not be taking part in any tournament in Punta Arenas or Puerto Williams this year. We are very disappointed to come to this decision; however we feel as a committee that is not fair to ask our members to keep waiting for a tournament that we are not sure will happen or that we may not be invited to compete in. However we will continue to build relationships with the clubs in the region and hope that a tournament in the next year (2020) will come together in Punta Arenas as this is really important for us as an association and a sport within the region.

LATAM CUP 2019

There is a silver lining: this year we have been officially invited to take part in the LATAM CUP 2019, which is a full size ice hockey tournament held in Coral Springs, Florida, with teams from Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Colombia and Jamaica with more potentially to be announced. This is an unrivalled opportunity for the club to play at a level which most of us have not ever experienced, with and against world class ice hockey players. This is to be held on the 6-8 of September this year.

As a committee we have decided to accept this invitation and that we will aim to take a senior team and an under 16s team. This will be to test this tournament, to see how it is organised and to hopefully develop links with the organisers and hockey associations in the area. Currently we are not looking to take a team for the ladies or girls event as we cannot field enough players, and the tournament rules do not allow for mixed ages or sexes which is disappointing, however we are confident through working with the organisers that we will be able to develop this as time goes on. We are also looking for opportunities for younger players and ladies/girls to come along and be involved with training and other opportunities but don't have any information on this as yet. Please rest assured that we are working on it.

We hope that this will become an annual event for us and that in the following years we will also be able to take an Under12s team and that ladies and girls will also be part of the tournament officially. However at this first tournament we will be only taking a senior and an under 16s team.

10/05/2019

There is obviously an increased cost for the tournament in terms of flights. We are working hard on securing funding toward travel which will be focussed on the U16s team. The Senior Team will potentially benefit from other arrangements (such as allowances for baggage and other benefits to group travel) but we have decided that the youth team is the most important to support financially and that the experience for them should not be hindered because of affordability.

We will be discussing with parents and with the school about this opportunity as it will entail missing the first two weeks of a term. However we are confident that with dedication and focus the U16s will be able to overcome the missed school days, furthermore that the experience of being involved in this kind of international tournament as a junior is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Due to the seriousness of this tournament and because it will entail missing of school time we are adamant that training for this will be mandatory. If players selected to go are seen to be missing training without a suitable excuse (i.e. sickness or injury or not being in the country) then they will be removed from the competing team. They may still choose to attend the tournament, but they will not be allowed to play in the tournament. This may seem heavy handed, but we feel strongly as a committee that this is the kind of opportunity that some of us will only see once and that out of respect for each other and for the other teams and for the opportunity to represent our country that this is the way to go.

Other Opportunities

Ecuador – we have been working with hockey associations in Ecuador to look at a potential ice tournament in the future which could be really exciting, its very much just an idea at the moment, but we will be exploring it further in the future.

La Serena – there is still potential for the association to compete in La Serena in the inline tournament there in January which is of an excellent standard of hockey.

Local competition – of course we will still look toward expanding the sport locally - especially with a growing interest from the military. We are looking at more events over the year similar to the match that was part for the combined military/civilian sports weekend back in February. This will likely be dek hockey, but we are also looking into inline type events.

If you have any comments or suggestions on any of these areas or in fact in other aspects of the hockey associations please do not hesitate to post on our Facebook page, email or send a message to Chair Jo Turner (55161) chair@hockey.co.fk or Media and PR Secretary Sam Cockwell (55431) media@hockey.co.fk.

After all, this is your association. As a committee we try to make decisions and develop the sport for all our benefit and it is important that you give us feedback.

Best Regards



Sam Cockwell (on behalf of the 2019 Falkland Islands Hockey Association Committee)