



# waikato softball newsletter

march 2008

## welcome

...to the newly revamped bimonthly newsletter for our local softball fraternity.

The newsletter will be published bimonthly during the season and only one will be published during the off season.

If you would like any information featured in the newsletter, then please feel free to contact me on 07 838 2657 or 027 249 1046 or send me an email [ginam@sportsforce.org.nz](mailto:ginam@sportsforce.org.nz).

This is your opportunity to promote what you are doing in your club, school or community to everyone, so don't forget to take photos and send me your info.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically then please email me your contact details so I can ensure that you receive the next issue.

Thank you all for a great season and I look forward to seeing you all back in October ready to "PLAY BALL".

**Gina Marcum**

## name our newsletter!

We are looking for a catchy name for our new look newsletter... anything to do with softball.

Think hard, be clever and you could be our lucky **prizewinner** of a fantastic glove. Email your suggestions to [ginam@sportsforce.org.nz](mailto:ginam@sportsforce.org.nz)

## what's been happening?

Welcome back to what has turned out to be a very short round of the Waikato Softball Association Summer League Competition.

Firstly, while some of us were enjoying our summer holidays, there were a few people out there still practicing and playing softball for the Waikato region. These players went away with their respective teams to play in the national age group tournaments held all over New Zealand.

Below are the results of the team games and some comments from Jan Gray, manager of the Under 15 Boys Team. Congratulations to all the players, coaches, managers and supporters who made these tournaments happen. I am sure it was a lifetime experience and full of fun and excitement.

The Waikato Boys Under 15 Tournament was held in Wanganui from 14-19 January 2008. The team comprised of 13 Hamilton and two Rotorua boys.

They were coached by Grant Nepe and he and the team are to be congratulated on their high standard of performance, their belief in themselves and their commitment to softball.

The boys had a tough schedule, playing seven games and whether they won or lost, they just treated each game as if it was the only one that mattered - never thinking ahead to the next one or back on defeat.

The team represented themselves, their clubs, the association and province to the best and this was reflected in their 6th placing out of 11 teams - which is a vast improvement from last place last year!

Two boys were announced as part of the rest tournament team as well as **Jan Gray** as tournament rest team manager; these were **DJ Bishop** and **Daniel Horgan** - both from Rotorua. The entire team shared their pride in this achievement.

Many thanks to all the boys, their families, the Waikato Softball Association and our hardworking support team of Grant Nepe, Emily Wilson, TeHaruru Waitere and Jan Gray who encouraged the boys in a positive way that was



DJ Bishop & Daniel Horgan with Jan Gray

demonstrated in their results.

"I was pleased with the team's results, finishing sixth out of eleven teams. They pulled together well considering that the coach was thrown in at the last moment, just before Christmas but we were away as a family over this time."

"The players played well as a team, and they realised how different the national tournaments are from the college grades. The experience gained would be invaluable for them in future. I'm sure the boys enjoyed themselves which is my whole philosophy. Congratulations to all players and the two boys that made the tournament teams." - Coach Grant Nepe.

Hawkes Bay	19-0 (loss)	Manawatu	5-6 (win)
Auckland	5-9 (win)	Counties Manukau	2-10 (win)
North Harbour	3-0 (loss)	North Harbour	0-7 (win)
Wellington 1	11-0 (loss)		



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# waikato softball newsletter

softball new zealand  
coaching course update:  
new pathway

## Essential Skills Coaching Courses

16 March – Paeroa

5 April – Huntly

6 April – Te Awamutu

Look out for the upcoming courses for:

The Competitive Pitcher

The Developing Catcher

Hitting and the Short Game

The Battery Coach



All courses will be offered throughout the on and off season. If you are interested in attending then please let me know. **Gina Marcum**  
07 838 2657, 027 249 1046, email  
ginam@sportsforce.org.nz

## upcoming events

### 15 February:

Junior and Senior Finals Day and Prizegiving  
DON'T forget your camera

### 28-30 February:

National United Tournament  
(Seniors), Resthills Park, Hamilton

### May:

Waikato Softball AGM date to be confirmed

### September:

Senior Registrations Due

### October:

Junior Registrations Due/ Senior games commence

Umpire Exam

### December:

National Junior College Softball Competition –  
Resthills Park, Hamilton

## more results...

### Under 17 Boys

Nelson	21-1 (loss)	Canterbury	19-4 (loss)
Hawkes Bay	18-14 (loss)	Counties Manukau	11-4 (loss)
Auckland 1	18-0 (loss)	Counties Manukau	5-2 (loss)
Wellington	8-0 (loss)		

### Under 19 Boys

North Harbour	10-0 (loss)	Wellington	14-7 (loss)
Wellington	15-0 (loss)	Southland	7-0 (loss)
Marlborough	16-6 (loss)	Otago	11-8 (loss)

### Under 15 Girls

Wellington Development	5-7 (loss)	Wellington Development	6-14 (loss)
Hawkes Bay	1-13 (loss)	Manawatu	15-3 (win)
North Harbour	8-10 (loss)	North Harbour	11-10 (win)
Hutt Valley	2-15 (loss)		

The team came 8th, and had Tanisha Kelly named in the Tournament Team and Talhia Te Kiri named as Player of the Day for Day 3.

## spring league prizegiving

### Waikato Softball Association Spring League 2007 Prizegiving

#### Midgets Grade

Giants Grade  
Little League Minors  
Little League Major's  
Intermediate Minors  
Intermediate Major's  
Junior College  
Girls Open Grade  
Open Grade

#### Runners Up

Nawton Stars  
Uptempo Lions  
Uptempo Wolves  
Melville Softball Club  
Peachgrove Angels  
Southwell Stealers  
Peachgrove Giants  
Fairfield College  
Melville Softball Club

#### Champions

Uptempo Tigers  
Tauwhare Tigers  
Tauwhare Titans  
Uptempo Cougars  
Te Ara Rima Redbacks  
Peachgrove Giants  
Hillcrest High School  
Te Awamutu College  
Fairfield Otorohanga United

## softball coming to maori tv

Look out for coverage of the National League Finals on Maori TV during April! Hopefully this is a start for many more screenings; it might even get to be live one day, yeah! Well done Robbie with achieving this goal.



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## new coach development pathway

Softball New Zealand Coach Development framework is currently undergoing change. The future for our coach development will be based around 'communities' as identified in the Sport and Recreation New Zealand Coaching Strategy 2004.

The coaching communities will be aligned to the stages of athlete development.

The new Coach Development Pathway will look like this:

### Coach TeeBall Unit (5 points)

A new basic instruction course on how to coach tee ball.

### Induction Unit (5 points)

Similar to the current Level 0 course but with a more practical component.

### Essential Skills Unit (10 points)

Similar to the current Level 1 course but with modifications to reflect more current practices.

### Competitive Athlete Unit

Each module will have a points value dependant on the duration and content of the module. The points value and fee for each module is still to be determined. Completely revamped to incorporate the following modules:

- Pitching
- Hitting
- Catching
- The Coaching Process
- Infield
- Outfield
- Baserunning & Sliding
- Pitchers & Catchers (Battery)
- Understanding the Athlete
- Characteristics of Softball

These units will be compulsory if you wish to progress to the 'Elite Athlete' unit.

### The Elite Athlete

Yet to be developed. You will require a minimum points value and compulsory units from the Competitive Athlete Unit to commence this unit.

## What about old coaching levels?

There is recognition for coaches who have completed levels under the previous system.

### Introduction Course - 5 points

### Coaching Level 1 - 10 points

### Coaching Level 2

### Theory - 10 points

### Practical - 10 points

A coach who has completed Level 2 will have earned 45 points.

### Can you go straight into the Competitive Athlete Unit?

No - you will need to complete the Essential Skills Unit or have completed the Level 1 course prior to enrolling for this unit.

### Is there any point in undertaking the Competitive Athlete Unit if I have completed Level 2?

Absolutely! Whilst there is much of the Level 2 content used in this unit, the modules will be modified extensively to incorporate modern trends and practices. There are also new modules like 'Understanding the Athlete' and 'Characteristics of Softball' that are considered very important for effective coaching of our players.

### What if I undertake other generic courses that will enhance my development?

We will recognise other coach development opportunities by appointing a points value to the course. The number of points allocated will be dependant on the content and the duration of the course.

### How will I keep track of my accreditation?

All coaches will be issued a certificate of accreditation for all levels, units and modules completed. A database of records will be maintained at Softball NZ head office.

### Who is going to present these courses?

Regional Coaching Coordinators will initially be responsible for promoting and administering the modules and units to start with. However it is envisaged that in future we will 'invite' selected specialists around the country to present specific modules on our behalf. The challenge for us is to write course facilitator workbooks to ensure that we are all 'speaking the same language' and that coaching development is presented in a consistent fashion.

### Can I easily access coach development from my area?

The more accredited presenters we get, the greater the coverage of courses throughout New Zealand.

### What are the costs involved?

The costs for Levels 0, 1 & 2 will remain the same for the meantime. For the Competitive Athlete Unit, coaches will be charged a fee per module. This amount is yet to be determined and is dependant on the amount of resources to present the module.

### Will I have to sit exams again to pass these units?

The new coach development framework is more about engaging and less about exams. We want to know that what you have learnt in the course can be applied in a practical sense and that you have a good understanding of the skill and what's required. Their will be group discussion activities, power point presentations, homework in workbooks, mentoring and observed practical sessions. It is possible that we could sign off activities simply by observing good practice... however we may also require you to complete homework (or even sit a short test) to show us your level of understanding.



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## under 15 girls

The Waikato Under 15 Girls did themselves and the association proud. They started off the tournament with a fantastic game against Wellington, and although we went down 5-7, it was a excellent way to start the tournament. Two games a day proved very hard for the team, and they struggled in the second game. The team, especially the girls who have been in the team for the last three years, overcame some demons and finally defeated North Harbour on the final day, giving the team their seeding of seven.

Congratulations to Tanisha Kelly, from Sacred Heart (in her first softball season) who was selected in the Tournament Team. Tanisha earned her way into the team with her impressive batting performance throughout the tournament and ended up being in the top four batters of the tournament with an average of .727.

Also well done to Tahlia Te Kiri with her three, yes **three** homeruns for one day. Summer Walker also had an impressive batting tournament being on the batting, RBI's and Homeruns stats for the first two days. Overall we had three players that had been to Nationals in the past, and eight new players to National level - all proved that they can compete with the rest of the country at National level.

It is very promising that out of the 11 that attended we have 10 returning to compete again in 2009 in New Plymouth. I would like to thank Helen Te Kiri for yet again managing the team for the second year in a row; also a big thanks to the parents who made their way down to support their girls.

I thoroughly enjoyed this tournament and look forward to seeing these girls develop as talented softball players.

Many thanks,  
Angie Johnston

## coaches & managers wanted

Coaches and Managers are required for all age group representative teams for the 2008/9 season. If you are interested in coaching any of these teams please contact the WSA Secretary in writing: PO BOX 6014, Glenview, Hamilton.

### Teams:

**Under 13 Boys and Girls** – Travel away four Sundays of the season to Auckland/North Harbour/Counties.

**Under 15 Boys:** Travel away to two Sunday Tournaments, Nationals to be

held in Waikato: 15-01-09 – 18-01-09

**Under 15 Girls:** Travel away to two Sunday Tournaments, Nationals to be held in Taranaki: 15-01-09 – 18-01-09

**Under 17 Boys:** Travel away to two Sunday Tournaments, Nationals to be held in Manawatu: 22-01-09 – 25-01-09

**Under 17 Girls:** Travel away to two Sunday Tournaments, Nationals to be held in Canterbury 22-01-09 – 25-01-09

**Under 19 Boys:** Nationals to be held in Nelson 09-01-09 – 12-01-09

## board members wanted

The WSA is nearing it's AGM and would like to ensure that it is able to continue with many more successful seasons. To do this, the Board must operate at full capacity.

If you think you could be interested in becoming a board member or would

like more information, then please talk to the Waikato Softball Chairman George Woodcock.

### George's contact details:

07 856 6037  
woodcocg@waiaktodhb.govt.nz

## hillcrest high boys' & girls' teams

Preparing for training after a discussion from Gina Marcum (SportsForce) and Angela Johnston (WSA Academy) about the many opportunities that Softball can bring to each and everyone who participates in the game.

The girls were on a high after this and decided to take on the boys' team during training. Still enthusiastic on the Saturday, the girls managed to beat Sacred Heart Girls' College in a great game to play Hamilton Girls' High in the final this weekend.

**GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE THIS WEEKEND.**



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