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Members: Cindy Roberts, Dave Hammond, Paul Liechti & Nikki Behrens

NEWS FROM COASTAL PIRATES – MAY 2015



Hi Members

We believe that you are all enjoying the holidays. Remember to keep fit and don't eat too much ice cream - the tournaments are coming up soon!

The next tournament is the Otji Fun Tournament on the 22-23 May. Hopefully the sports court will be installed by then and playing in Otjiwarongo will change tremendously. Good luck to all the players who will attend this tournament.

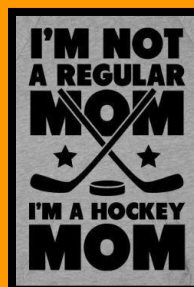
The first national league tournament is at Cazadores on the 29-31 May. From then hockey competition will start with full force...

Sadly our hockey court is still not available due to the NAMAS Awards. They are busy moving their equipment out, but it will take a few days before we can start to rebuild the court again. We will keep you informed as to when we can start training again.

Regards, Matthias Röttcher (Chairman)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 22-24 May Scorpions Business League (Otjiwarongo)
- 29-31 May Cazadores Tournament (Windhoek)
- 12-14 June National Team Training Camp
- mid-end June NARCH
- 26-28 June NIIHA Business League (Otjiwarongo)



Wishing all our
Hockey Moms a
Happy Mother's Day !





RE-ASSEMBLY OF THE COURTS

We will let you know as soon as the main rink and/or the 2nd court are re-assembled after the set-up for the Namibian Music Awards has been removed and the Swakopmund Indoor Sport Centre has completed work above the courts.

NIIHA Tournament Structure for 2015

Hey Pirates,

Please enjoy the school holidays and do try and keep fit... as the Cazadores Tournament is just around the corner!

This year NIIHA will be hosting tournament divisions as follows: 8&U to 12&U can have A and B Divisions. 14&U to 18&U will be combined divisions. We as a club will be entering both A and B teams where it suits us best for player and team development. We will also be entering two A teams in one age division. Stay tuned for team lists to come out in the middle of the holiday!!

Sobel



Player Profile: Nikki Behrens



I started playing hockey about 16 years ago when I was 14. Back then we still played with a ball, skates with a brake attached to the back of the skate, and half of the protective gear we wear today! My favourite thing about hockey back then was the spirit of the players and supporters. We used to have booklets with different cheers and songs and when you weren't playing you were next to the rink cheering and singing. We cheered for every goal scored and every goal kept, regardless of which team was playing.

My best achievement was being chosen for the Ladies National team going to South Africa... and winning gold!

I moved back to Swakopmund last year and started playing hockey again after being away for 10 years. The whole game has changed since then. I only ever knew ice-hockey rules. Now there's no more icing, off-sides and no more ramming opponents out of the way. Suddenly I'm forced to use my skills to get around my opponents instead of just taking them out ;-) and I find this a lot more challenging. Playing hockey is the highlight of my week, especially because we're such a great group of ladies and Brian does a great job of making the practices fun. I can't imagine a better sport than inline hockey!



NIIHA Raffle

Remember to sell your allocated raffle tickets and to return your raffle book and the money to Brian Sobel before the end of May as the draw date is the 30th May

I don't drive
a car,
I drive a
portable
locker room.



NARCh

NARCh stands for North American roller hockey championships which is the biggest inline hockey tournament hosted in the world in terms of the number of participating teams. This is the first year that the NARCh finals will be split into two halves. The first finals will take place on the West Coast, in Huntington beach, California from 17 June until 28 June. The second will be the East Coast finals, taking place in Germain, Florida at the end of July. There are five categories: Club, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Professional.

The Namib Sidewinders sent their first teams to NARCh in 2011. The teams consisted of a group of kids made up as a completely private initiative between some Coastal Pirates and Scorpions parents, and the group has grown since then. During their last participation, the U10 Namib Sidewinders reached the finals and lost narrowly to a team from Toronto.

This year, the Sidewinders will be entering five teams to participate in the NARCh West Coast finals. Most of the group will be flying on 10 & 11 June, returning on 2 & 3 July. Brian Sobel, who accompanied the very first NARCh incentive in 2011, will accompany us again as coach. Thank you for the positive support from the Coastal Pirates parents for allowing him to assist us in this private incentive.

We hope that in the future there will be more kids able to go to NARCh, as this kind of international exposure can greatly improve their inline hockey knowledge and skill. If you would like to follow NARCh proceedings, log onto www.narch.com.



Beginners / Development Tournament

On the 10th April, 20 participants, many of whom have only recently learnt how to skate were divided into five teams of four kids each, who fought it out to see who could score the most goals. The referees patiently reminded many of the participants of the rules of the game as the matches progressed. The Beginners had to get used to the match timer, the scoreboard and having a number of spectators. The tournament ended with a skills competition to select the best sniper of the day. Algino Gaochab won with sheer determination. Thanks are extended to the twins, Joseph and Joshua Zeferinu for being goalies all afternoon and to Amandus Röttcher and Sean Liechti for being referees. Everyone had great fun and learnt a lot, and every participant received a medal. It was amazing to see all the smiles on the faces of these new inline hockey players, and to witness the beginning stages of the development of some potentially talented players – the future of Namibian inline hockey looks bright at the coast!

Please send any feedback, suggestions, photographs or news for the next newsletter to: coastalpirates@gmail.com – attention Vikki