

Thistles in Barcelona, Newsletter 2.

The organisation is getting into gear, driven significantly by Mike. Thank you Mike.

The Squad

1. Neil Mackenzie (cpt)
 2. Stuart Stephen (vice)
 3. Mike McNally (coach)
 4. John Bennett (manager)
 5. Keith Raper (social)
 6. Ian McCreath
 7. John Michalik
 8. Paul Bateson
 9. Tony Walker
 10. Guardial Duhre
 11. Chris Heeps
 12. Alan Kerr
 13. Neil Ward
 14. Dick Pearce (GK)
 15. Cliff Martin
 16. Ian Dunbar
- (these are not squad numbers).

For those of you who were not aware, there has been some discussion about taking only one keeper. Outfield players are very likely to be keen to take 2 (and so enabling the squad to increase to 18). However goalkeepers, generally, have a different perspective. Most are reluctant to invest in a competition for 50% of games. So, we've stuck to one GK: first come etc.

Thanks to Keith and John who have stuck up their hands to help with organisation and join Mike, Stuart and myself.

This is undeniably a very strong squad. We can look forward to a successful comp both on and off the pitch.

Those new to Thistles

You are very welcome, and I hope you enjoy your experience with this clump (I think that is the collective term for thistles, perhaps we should adopt a 'bouquet of thistles').

You will have to join the club. You will be informed how to do this in due course (probably by George Pickett who has volunteered to be membership sec). If you are registered with a Scottish club, joining will cost you £20 (that's what it was last year). Those not registered with a Scottish club; you will have to affiliate to the Scottish Hockey Union (which the club will do on your behalf) and cost you an additional £38. As well as supporting Scottish hockey, this fee also ensures you are insured while playing for Thistles.

Website links

Our site is

<http://www.scotlandlx.org.uk>

And from there, there are links to the World Cup web site.

You'll find that we're (currently) drawn against Southern Cross, Sixtiberians, Germany and Ireland. We could win this group. Hope it doesn't change!

Key dates:

15th April: PROBABLE training match against a bunch of blokes that Neil knows, in Penrith.

19th-20th May: Thistles v Shamrocks in Bedford.

Barcelona

18-20th June: bookable training slots.

20th June, opening ceremony

28th June, Gala Dinner (won't be as good as the Glasgow one)

30th June, Finals up to 7.30pm

30th June, Closing Ceremony

Accommodation:

It is likely that it is now too late to book into the Scotland hotel in Badalona. However if you are keen you could always ask Bernie. There are many alternatives. I know Keith is currently booking an air-B&B. Get in touch with him if you want to see if he can add a name or two or perhaps you could get one next door.

Money

In addition to travel and accommodation, you'll also have to join the club and provide your own kit.

There will also be tournament fees and Physios (about £90). There will be other bits, present for opposition, team polo etc. Keith sorting team polo.

To help the club, it would be great if we could have someone that looks after money and payments on behalf of the Thistles. It would mean that there would be a 'single point of contact' which always helps with efficiency. **Anyone gonna volunteer for this role?**

KIT

Usual shirts. Any probs contact Jackie at tobermory@mull.com . Be aware that if you need new ones, Jackie is putting in an order very, very, very soon.

Shorts and socks from PSL.

- Scottish Hockey team shorts £20: https://www.pslteamsports.com/Scottish-Hockey-Tech-Shorts_p_3315.html
- Blue socks £8: https://www.pslteamsports.com/Canterbury-Team-Playing-Socks-Navy_p_9042.html
- Red socks £8: https://www.pslteamsports.com/Canterbury-Team-Playing-Socks-Red_p_9046.html

PSL don't supply white shorts for hockey, with or without Scottish Hockey branding, so bring your own as a change if needed.

A practicality

You will need a hockey stick! You'll need it in Barcelona. If you are flying, this might cause you a problem (and/or additional expense). I am driving, so could take a few sticks on your behalf. Of course this would create a different problem: how you get the sticks to and from me. Anyway, this might help someone out.

In conclusion

This is the second of a sequence of 'newsletters' that will be distributed in the run up the Barcelona tournament, organisation appears to be cracking on.

As always, please offer your ideas, suggestions and questions.

Neil Mackenzie,
Thistles.