

**ILWP and Camps Report for
Titans Water Polo Executive
March 21, 2005**

'I Love Water Polo' - Winter/ Spring Session

The Winter/ Spring session of ILWP continues. We now have 99 players registered, with another potential four that I know of trying it in the next week (or have just tried it) and are keen. I have prorated the fees for new registrants, as per the Late Registration Policy for ILWP (posted on our website).

The players who did not return in January because of skiing or other winter sports have been sent an e-mail, inviting them to return for the remainder of the season. I expect we'll pick up another 3 or 4 players here, but no confirmations to date.

St-Laurent registration is now at 10 players and counting, so they are no longer an issue. On average, the players are quite young, so most will likely stay in the program for a number of years.

The ILWP newsletter went out February 20 to all ILWP players. A number of parents provided positive feedback regarding content and format.

The first skills clinic for ILWP players was held March 6, with 12 participants. This one was for players potentially interested in Academy for next year. Registration continues for the April 24 and May 1 boys and girls clinics, as well as for the All Girls Club event (for which I am collecting ILWP registrations on behalf of Kasia).

'I Love Water Polo' - Fall 2005

Planning is well underway for Fall 2005. While Rosemary was out of town the last two weeks, Jane Hughes made the requests to the eight current ILWP pools for pool time for Fall. Except for the SJCC, all have confirmed that the current slots will not be a problem. We once again requested a better time at Goulbourn, but were notified that nothing is available. ORC asked if we would move to a 4-5:30pm slot (where we could have the full pool) but we declined.

Pierre and Doug were provided with a draft budget for ILWP for the 2005-2006 season. It was a big job, as it involved pulling lots of invoices from last year, and including many smaller ticket items that have been paid for by Trillium in the past. The biggest outstanding pieces are both on the

expenses side. One is for a share of David's salary (for actual time spent with the ILWP program, and not to be confused with recruitment of new players to the Academy program, as I believe the competitive program should pay for this). The other is the pool costs. Clem has been in contact with Maria Jones at the City of Ottawa, and she is hoping to have a handle on things in the next week or so (i.e. to have an idea if we will be paying for one guard or not next year). The budget I proposed does NOT account for paying for a guard (and us providing the 2nd), but I believe there is sufficient 'wiggle room' in the current proposed budget that we can get close to break-even if we have to pay for it. If we cannot get an answer in the next couple of weeks, I propose that we go with a 'worst-case' budget scenario at this time.

I would also propose that the Club consider a 'grant' to the ILWP program to cover recruitment costs (could cover Free Intro Clinics costs like pool time or coaches, brochure printing, advertising etc). It would not be paying for specific teams or players, but, rather, would be an investment in the future of the Club, as it would attract new players who would potentially move on to the competitive program.

An ILWP calendar for 2005-2006 has been drafted, and provided to Rosemary and Pierre. It includes Free Intro Clinic dates for each practice pool, 1st and last practices per pool, League Night Games, school/ stat/ Jewish holidays, pool maintenance shutdown dates, coaching and referee clinic dates, in-service training sessions, etc. The Fall schedule is pretty well complete (pending confirmation only from NSP and SJCC) and the Winter/ Spring one is drafted (we know we will be bumped a number of Sunday nights, and the schedule has potential makeup dates). Even without the Winter/ Spring Sunday nights confirmed, we can proceed with printing the brochure for Fall.

Ray Friel and the Carlingwood YMCA are still potential sites for Fall 2005, but to date, they have not returned messages to David or myself.

Rosemary and I need to meet with Jim O'Malley to ask for pool time for next fall/ winter, and to at least get the fall times confirmed.

A draft of the Fall 2005 ILWP brochure is complete, and will be provided to Pierre in the near future for proofing and approval. I would like to get this to the printer by mid-April, so that we can take advantage of distributing through the current ILWP players the first week of May. This is all dependent on confirmation by NSP and SJCC for our Fall times.

Academy Intake Program

Zsuzsanna Etesi (mother of Ben, one of the Barracudas) is in place as the volunteer coordinator for the Academy Intake program. David, Zsu and I have had a conference call and a number of follow-up e-mails, and the plan is taking shape. There will be 12 practices available for the Academy Intake program participants (all at NSP, with the exception of two, which will be at Carleton University). We have put together a list of potential candidates, with recommendations from parents, ILWP coaches and David. David has visited the ILWP League Games a number of times to evaluate players, and has a list of players in mind for the first round of asks. We are limited in the number of players that we can take. A preliminary budget has been prepared and submitted to Pierre. Final step in the planning is to set the fee (in the works- we just need to confirm when Stay in Shape starts, as it will affect the Academy Intake budget for the nights we share/ don't share pool time and costs). Zsu is gearing up to mail the first round of invites out in mid-April.

Teen Polo/ Cadet B teams

David, Deanna and Pierre will be meeting by teleconference on March 22 to discuss pros and cons of starting a Teen Polo program versus a Cadet B program in Fall of 2005.

At Pierre's request, I informally surveyed parents of past ILWP players born in 1989-1991, for interest in a Teen Polo program, based on the format of the current ILWP program (i.e. probably two teams to start with as a pilot; one practice per week, and one night of games, possibly during the ILWP League Games, where the two teams would simply play each other). I used the ILWP registration databases for the last three years, and to date have had positive responses from 13 boys and 7 girls (the message went to about 75 families. About a dozen of these bounced back immediately, but it's possible we could still reach them by phone or snail mail).

At the conference call, we will discuss pros and cons of each program and decide on what would be good to pilot in the fall. Pool time may be an issue or not, depending on whether or not either program could share current pool time with another team (e.g. a Teen Polo team could potentially practice at the same time, but with their own coach, on Wednesday evenings with the St-Laurent ILWP team. This would most likely not work, for example, at the Pinecrest location, as that team is usually full/ overflowing, nor would it work

at SJCC or ORC because of the limited space, or at Walter Baker because of location. David would have to determine if it would be appropriate for a Cadet B team to share pool space with the regular Cadet program). Coaching may be an issue, as we would have to ensure we have sufficient coaches in place first for our current programs.

I don't believe that we need to decide immediately about either of these, UNLESS we are considering Ray Friel as a potential site for Teen Polo. We would need to decide whether we want to offer ILWP or Teen Polo here—pool space isn't big and I don't think we could do both. At this point, we don't have any pool time confirmed for Ray Friel, but are hoping to hear from them in the near future.

I have agreed to put together a draft budget for both scenarios, once the teleconference has happened and we have a better idea of the direction we would like to go.

Camps

March Break Camp, held March 15-17 at Nepean Sportsplex Pool is now complete. The camp ran 6:30-10pm for three consecutive nights (Nessies and Barracudas left at 9pm). There were a total of 35 participants (5 of them not there for the full camp, and charged accordingly). Each night started with a 30 minute warm-up, then 1 hour of shooting stations (4 stations x 15 minutes), followed by a scrimmage. Coaches were David Hart, Kasia Hart, and Pierre Fiset. Phil Sonea, Marc Tanguay and Stefan Pavicevic volunteered their times as coaches/ referees. Actual budget figures will be submitted to Pierre shortly (a few loose ends to confirm).

Summer Camp is confirmed for August 22-26 2005 (Cadet/ Youth will start the evening of August 21). Thirty-five players have registered to date, including five from out of town, all of whom would like to be billeted. A list of host billeting families has been started.

Respectfully submitted,
Deanna Barry, ILWP Executive Director