

Early July 2010 saw 5 players – 1 manager – 1 coach – 1 referee- 1 referee supervisor along with myself as Sam Taylor attending the leaders in Women's Programme all this was taking part in Vierumaki Finland at the third IIHF Women's Development camp.

Below are some of the experiences and thoughts from those that attended ALL where honoured to have been given the chance to take part in such a special event and for this we thank IHUK for giving us the opportunity – this was the second women's camp I have attended and I have to say that the IIHF are doing as much as possible to promote the women's game and much discussion took place about this – what this also highlighted was the gulf that exists between the countries such as Canada, US, Sweden and Finland and everyone else but with out doubt Canada and the US are way out in front – can we compete not financially not by the number of players we have not with the number of venues we have but we can with good planning and looking into the future something that the women's teams need to take on board by recruitment of new young players and nurturing them.

I hope over the coming weeks to produce some advertising material specially designed to encourage girls to find out more about the sport but it needs the clubs to help promote this – there will also be a meeting in September to bring all the teams and interested parties together to discuss a way forward and grow the women's game.

Geoff Hemmerman EIHA Director Women's Chair

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when we arrived in Finland on 3rd July, we were players from 36 different countries, but by the end of that day, we were 6 individual teams.. the red strawberries, the blackhawks, the white icecats, the bluebears, the green machines and the yellow bananas..

my team was the green machines, which had 18 different countries involved with it, from Australia to Denmark to America, we were spread all around the world, the training was very good and fast, the coaching was to a very high standerd, one of my coaches played in the olympics as Team Swedens Captain, Erika Holst. we played very well together as a team, our passing was crisp, scoring goals wasnt a problem, well most of the time :)

the camp was a new experience to add to my hockey trips, as i was placed on a team with 16 other girls who i had never met before, and then we were expected to come together as one team, i found it hard to communicate at first with some of the girls, as some werent very good at english, but after a few days, they started to understand it more and everyone started to talk. i think the camp has taught me to be a leader when it comes to hockey, as i was one of the girls who had english as their main language i had to explain to the other girls if they didnt understand, the camp also gave me alot of confidence and belief in myself, the coaches taught me that i have to play through pain when injured and also try 110% when on the ice, and that my body language shows when i am annoyed, and then it puts the whole team down or upset, i realised that my body language was showing i was annoyed and i stopped doing this, and the next time i was on the ice, i scored the winning goal in our final game against the yellow. my coach was proud of me for doing this, as it brought the team up and happy, i will never forget that moment, where i proved myself wrong, i proved that i was stronger and a better player than that..

the iihf development camp, was the best thing i've ever done with hockey, it was an experience i will never forget, the hockey, the facilities of vierumaki, the people, and the memories were and are amazing, i will miss everyone so much especially my team-mates, they are the best people ever!

the camp was the best experience of my life, i will never forget it, i will never forget the girls, the coaches, the iihf staff that i met, everyone was amazing, and hopefully one day, we will play each other again maybe at worlds, maybe at a tournament somewhere across the globe, maybe even at the olympics, maybe we will never see each other again, but everytime i pull on my iihf jersey, i will think green mean fighting machine!

thankyou ice hockey uk and eiha for giving me the opportunity to go to Finland.

also one more thing.

save the planet, go green!

Jodie Bloom

Team Green

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There were over 100 players at the camp from all over the world, some as far as New Zealand, and we were split into six teams that played each other during the week. All the GB players were split up across the teams. We had busy days with a game, training, lecture and off-ice almost every day! We had 4 coaches and 1 mentor coach all from different countries for each of the teams which was amazing especially to see how similarly or differently each coach taught us.

The greatest part was meeting new people, making new friends and just taking part in this once in a life time camp. Although we all talked different languages we still managed to communicate and play well together. I shared a room with an Austrian girl and was able to try out my German which she thought was hilarious (her English was much better) .

We could walk to the rink, which had two ice pads, from where we were staying. The IIHF coaches and managers had their own chalets and we were in a set of apartments where we slept and had our meals, mostly fish!

From this immense experience I have met some of the greatest people ever and hope to take everything I have learnt from this opportunity!! One of the best weeks and experience in my entire life!

I was on the Black team! BLACK HAWKS!! Finishing second overall was a great achievement!

Katherine Gale

Team Black

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IIHF Camp 3-11 July – Vierumaki

It was an amazing experience !

We started the trip at around 5am on a Saturday morning at Heathrow airport. We were all filled with excitement not knowing what was ahead of us. The journey to Helsinki and bus ride to Vierumaki was electric as all the participants were eager to arrive and start the camp. The experience began as soon as we arrived at the Institute, being split into our respective group colours. There were 6 teams in all with around 270 people involved in the camp from Leaders, Mentors, Coaches, Team Managers, Equipment Managers and players – oh and Finkey !

It was a little daunting at first here we were with 16 players all from different Nationalities and 6 team staff again all from different Nationalities. We had language problems to overcome, different abilities within the group, injuries and home sickness to deal with but from the first day with those 22 individuals we emerged at the end of the week a team !, and I think better people from the experience and learning together as a team.

There were 2 on ice sessions a day (3 for goalies) with one being a game, off ice sessions covering a list of topics, warm ups, cool downs, classrooms sessions and lectures every day for everyone. We all participated in team building and team bonding sessions. The team staff also had meetings to attend and Directorate meetings to feed back all the information gathered from every day for it to be collated and analysed for the smooth running and on going improvement of the camp.

It was a hectic week, but with the help from the IIHF on site staff and the Student Coaches everything (however small) was taken care of to ensure a fantastic experience for everyone. We had a birthday on our team and the girls wanted a birthday cake, our Student Coach Heikki arranged for a cake to be brought into the camp for us, so the girls could surprise the player – it worked a treat. It seemed a little thing but the nearest town was some miles away and it took some organising from him to achieve this for us.

Everyone worked hard all week, organising, learning, playing and communicating together. We were up early and active all the way through to lights out.

Now, all we have to do is bring back the experience and what we have learnt to all our individual Countries to pass on the learning.

I feel very lucky to have been selected to experience this camp, and would like to thank everyone for the enormous hard work that goes into arranging this camp and making it the experience of a lifetime for everyone.

Sally Taylor Team Manager

I can honestly say that the IIHF Development Camp in Finland was one of the best hockey experiences I have ever had.

The opportunity to work with players, coaches and managers from so many different nationalities within a team environment was challenging yet so very rewarding, a fantastic experience.

Having returned from the camp I feel both privileged, to have been selected to attend this camp, and honoured to be there representing our country and should the opportunity ever come again I would jump at the chance to go back.

A word about the girls (Sophie, Katherine, Jodie, Paige & Tiffany) I took with me, I have to say their behaviour throughout the week, the effort they gave and their willingness to mix with others was exceptional. Each and everyone of them did themselves and their country proud.

Sean Alderson Coach



IIHF WOMENS ICE HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT CAMP

Vierumäki ~ Finland 2010

by Sophie Herbert



3rd July ~ Arrival Day

On our arrival at the camp we gathered in the hall to register and meet our new coaches and team mates. It was an exciting experience for me as my mentor coach was former Olympian Danielle Goyette who picked up 2 Gold and 1 Silver for team Canada.



4th July ~ Settling In

The camp was tough in the fact that there were players from 36 different countries. This brought a challenge to the team due to many different language barriers. Later that evening was the opening ceremony where we had an introduction to the camp from the IIHF President René Fasel.

5th July ~ Play Time

Today was time to get into action, our first off ice training session was at 9am - 10am followed by a on ice session at 11:45am - 1pm. Then later on it was time for our first game.. We also had an amazing classroom session with Jamie Hagerman player of team USA.



6th July ~ Sauna Time

The same routine was followed everyday through out the week. Although, today surprised me with another new and exciting experience, the Sauna and Lake which is one of the oldest Finnish tradition's. It evolves a relaxing 5-10mins in the sauna before the exhilarating jump off the diving board into the lake.. It was COLD!

7th July ~ Trip To Helsinki

Today was time for a break from the hockey madness.. It was time to go shopping!!! The weather was great, it was over 27°C, we spent 2 hours in the town of Helsinki before heading to the shopping mall. When we arrived back there was a little bit of hockey waiting for us, we had to take part in a skills challenge, this was good as it allowed us to see what we needed to improve on in the future.

8th July ~ Back to Work (with Danielle)

Back in to the same routine and breakfast I was really looking forward to!! I was very excited about our off ice session today because Danielle Goyette was taking it. I learnt loads! She was brilliant, the knowledge and experience she carries of the game is amazing, after all she had been playing for team Canada for 14 years..!

9th July ~ Rise and Shine

Today was an early one, with a 6:30am start with all teams, coaches, referee's and managers heading on the ice for the IIHF Camp photo. Then it was off to breakfast for some much needed food.. Later on in the day we were hit with a nice surprise when 2 members of team Finland, goalie Noora Raty and the National team Captain Emma Laaksonen visited the camp.

10th July ~ Last Day :(

Before we knew it, it was the last day, last practice, last game and no one wanted it to end. Training went like lightening, we gathered for lunch before our last ever games within the camp. Time to get kitted for the last time.. The game was one of the best we played all week, it was a very even game with the score ending 2-2, resulting in a penalty shoot out.. After it was time for the closing ceremony, with all participants including players, coaches, managers, referee's and members of the IIHF. We began with dinner, followed by speeches from the IIHF president and many more. Then it was time for every team to perform their SKIT. The SKIT is a performance each team produces, it can range from dancing, singing, impressions etc. They were all brilliant and got us all laughing. The night was coming to a close, almost everyone was in tears but we had a fantastic night.

I can honestly say it was one of the best experience of my life :)

