Darwin hockey set for change

MARC McGOWAN

THE Darwin Hockey Association is no more.

More than 75 per cent of the almost 80 club members who attended a special general meeting at Darwin Squash Centre on Thursday night voted for Hockey NT to take over the running of the competition.

A new name for the competition is still to be decided — one option being Darwin Hockey League (DHL) — but the DHA will officially cease to exist on October 14.

Chantrell Carey, a leading coach, club player and Hockey NT high performance advisory panel member, said progress was “impossible without change”.

“It’s very important to note this is not a reflection on the people who put in hard yards and time and dedication and volunteer hours over the years,” Carey told the NT News. “It’s more about where society is heading. Volunteers are a dying breed and society is not allowing as much free time.

“The changes in place were made to take away a lot of the administrative part of the volunteers, so they can focus on what their actual skill set is.”

Hockey NT’s acting chief executive, Ian Harkness, said having one governing body for Darwin instead of two was “more efficient” and would result in more productive outcomes.

Discussions are ongoing about how DHA assets, including an estimated $28,000 in a savings account, will be distributed between the clubs.

“It is not a snatch-and-grab scenario, and it depends on what the clubs decide,” Carey said. “The money could even be put into the development of the local comp — that’s up to the clubs and presidents.

Carey said she had “no hidden agenda” with her role in the overhaul and only the sport’s best interests at heart.

“It’s just make it clean, realign and let’s go forward,” she said. “For me, being a state coach for years and a national league player for over 10 years, I want the sport to grow and he as strong as it was 15 years ago.

“I want junior kids playing AFL (Australian Hockey League) and wearing the ochre and black, and more kids going away umpiring tournaments.

That’s my agenda and motivation. I want windows or doors to be open for our very highly talented juniors to have opportunities to play for Australia.”

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THE Hayward brothers are hoping to use this Australian Hockey League season to launch themselves back into the Kookaburras fold.

Jeremy and Leon Hayward performed key roles in last night’s 8-0 victory over New Zealand’s Futures team in Perth.

Jeremy was one of the Kookaburras’ travelling reserves at the Rio Olympic Games, while Leon has also played for the Northern Territory Stingers.

They are two of just six Territorians in coach Barry Sheering’s 18-man squad, along with Adrian Lockley, Dwayne Abbott, Ewan Wallin and Brodie Gleeson. Only Wallin lives in the NT.

“It’s been a pretty sporadic precursor to the tournament... (but) it was one of our bigger wins and it felt pretty fantastic,” Leon Hayward said.

“It’s certainly the biggest win I’ve had playing for the Northern Territory Stingers.”

Leon, as the Stingers’ goalkeeper, had to absorb a heap of pressure from New Zealand in the first half, particularly an early short corner and later a goalmouth scrap.

But the NT soon assumed control, avenging its 5-1 defeat to Victoria on the opening day on Thursday.

Gleeson and Jeremy Hayward were among the Stingers’ goalkeepers, while Sheering also praised Luke Tyne and Blake Wallis.

“It was a brilliant team effort,” Sheering said.

“We’ve had two training sessions and one game together, then all of a sudden we popped this result out.”

The NT Pearls went down 7-1 to Malaysia yesterday, after a first-up 3-0 loss to Victoria.

Haywards help NT to 8-0 victory

Jeremy Hayward played a key role in the Territory Stingers’ victory against the New Zealand Futures team.

NT News

Back page

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