



when they're straight and cute. It's a nice incentive, too, although I'm not sure whether our straight goalie would agree.

Internationally, Bentstix is the best on the GLBT field. In 2005, three teams (two male and one female) travelled to Amsterdam to play as a guest country entrant in the Euro Gay Games. We won Gold and two Bronze, plus the title of World's Number One GLBT Hockey Club. A couple more European games are scheduled in the next three years with teams from Belgium, Germany, Spain and the UK. But the main event we all have our eyes on right now is the upcoming Asia Pacific Outgames in Melbourne. We'll be playing against the Melbourne Bentstix Hockey Club and the NZ Hockey Heroes. We're all really looking forward to it. I just hope the organisers have enough room for all our players in the locker rooms. 🍌

Bentstix are recruiting players of all skills, ages and sexes to compete at the 2008 Asia Pacific Out Games in Melbourne. If you would like to join the team, go to www.bentstix.com.au.

For more on the Asia Pacific Outgames, go to www.melbourneoutgames.org.

Hell Bent

Australia's GLBT hockey club, Bentstix, are chasing Gold at Melbourne's Outgames. Sydney team member Daavid Rich tells DNA that hockey isn't just for lesbians.

I always wanted to play sport as a kid but never quite got the hang of the ones my dad tried so desperately to get me to play. Don't get me wrong, I love footy and soccer, but at the tender age of 7 I already knew I was a bit different from the rest of the guys on the team.

Some 27 years later, I was introduced to Bentstix Hockey Club. When I first saw them I thought to myself, "Now these guys have something happening." They were friendly, inviting and keen to encourage new players to see hockey as "an amazing game". Also, there's just something about guys playing in sport gear that gets my attention, especially hockey players, mainly due to their fit and athletic physique. Okay, the locker room gets my attention, too.

Bentstix is Australia's first and only GLBT hockey club. We have about 60 playing members, both guys and girls, and are growing rapidly.

Club president Danny Caretti and some like-minded players founded the club about 10 years ago, meeting regularly for social games. Since then, the club has grown to become a registered association with sponsorship from Darlinghurst's Taxi Club.

Bentstix is now the largest multi-state based GLBT club in Australia, with a team in Sydney, Melbourne and plans for a Brisbane team to commence play in 2008. In the past six months, Bentstix has also played

a mentoring role in the establishment of London and Auckland based GLBT clubs.

Training is lots of fun. All the guys are generally pretty relaxed and we joke and fool around a lot. We usually use this time to perfect any game plays that didn't work in the previous game. We train once a week and play mostly on Saturdays in the Sydney Hockey Association comp, with two all-guy teams. I'm sure you can imagine the reaction of the straight guys in the opposing teams when they find out they're about to play against a bunch of gay guys. I know they hate losing to us but they are all very good-spirited about the idea of playing against us. Also, marking an opponent takes a new twist



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For more on the Asia Pacific Out Games