

WA Masters Hockey 2019 Annual Report

Charter

The WA Masters Hockey Committee is a committee of Hockey WA and is responsible to the Management of Hockey WA and encompasses all matters relating to Masters Hockey and Masters Hockey State Teams.

Chairman's Report

The WA Masters Committee Members holding office in November of 2019 and their portfolio responsibilities are:

- Jill Van Duuren – State Women's Representative and HA Women's State Delegate
- Keith Gilbride – Men's State Representative and HA Men's State Delegate
- Sinead French-Bluhm – Finance
- Scott Macdonald – Assistant Men's State Representative and Men's Local Competition
- Suzi Wood – Assistant Women's State Representative and Women's Local Competition
- Cameron Robinson – Communications and Technology
- Jean-Marie Rudd – Assistant Chair
- Peter Andrews – Secretary
- Peter Connolly – Chair
- Stacy Hamilton – Country Sub-Committee Chair

I acknowledge and congratulate all Committee Members' for their enormous enthusiasm, energy and significant contributions throughout the year.

Three members of the current Committee Keith Gilbride, Scott Macdonald and Peter Connolly have each completed their elected 3 year term. Scott Macdonald retires and offers himself for re-election to the committee to be held at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Keith Gilbride and Peter Connolly have decided to retire from the committee.

As the Charter specifies, the Committee has significant advisory and operational responsibilities. In its advisory capacity, the Committee provides advice to Hockey WA management and staff on a wide range of local competition issues and policies, and the development of Masters Hockey for the hockey community. Its operational responsibilities encompass the selection of Coaches, Managers and Players to participate in the annual Australian Masters Championships, this year held in Bunbury/Busselton W.A. for the Men's Teams and The Gold Coast Queensland for the Women's Teams, and the significant associated logistical arrangements in sending 18 teams to the Championships

Local Competition

Significant changes were made to the Masters competitions for the 2019 season. These changes included:

- Sharing of mid-week competition nights (Monday and Wednesday) between Men and Women
- Changes to the automatic age dispensation rules for almost all age groups
- FIH and HA required a mandatory move to playing games in 17.5 minute quarters rather than 35 minute halves.

A survey will be sent to Hockey WA registered players from the age of 30 and up early in the 2020 season, the content will be similar to the survey conducted in 2017 so that the effect of these changes and potential other areas of interest or concern of the local Masters playing group can be collected and analysed. It was originally intended that this survey would be distributed at the end of the 2019 season, however, technical issues and changes at Hockey WA meant that achieving this goal was not feasible.

Using lessons learned from the 2017 survey, WAMHC will notify clubs well in advance, minimum several weeks, of the distribution of the survey. WAMHC will distribute any findings and recommendations to clubs for comment as part of a consultation period prior to any implementation of change that might be indicated by the results of the survey.

Awards

The following WA hockey stalwarts were recognised at the National Championship in the Gold Coast with awards for Outstanding Contributions to Women's Masters Hockey in WA

Karen Allen
Anita Duckworth
Robyn Himbeck
Wendy Quint
Helen Rule

Congratulations to each of you, worthy recipients all. I would like to thank you for your many years of excellent service to WA Masters Hockey.

The WA Masters Hockey Committee would also like to congratulate **Janese McDougall** who was awarded entry into the Green and Gold Club at this year's National Championships on the Gold Coast.

Australian Masters Championships

Women

Gold Coast hosted the 2019 Women's Australian Masters Championships. Seven teams from Over 35 through to the Over 65 were entered in the Championships. The WA results were Over 35, Bronze Medal; Over 40, 5th ; Over 45, 4th; Over 50, 5th; Over 55, Bronze Medal; Over 60, 5th ; Over 65, Silver Medal.

The Women's Masters State Teams nominate players to receive awards for outstanding contribution to the team. Congratulations to the following players for their extraordinary efforts in supporting their team throughout the National Championships process.

Over 35s: **Stacey Hamilton**

Over 40s: **Tina Parker**

Over 45s: **Jodie George/Nicole Ilich**

Over 50s: **Anna Taylor**

Over 55s: **Kelley Robinson**

Over 60s: **Debra Andrew/Pearl Watene**

Over 65s: **Alma Davies**

Women's Australian Team Selections

Nottingham, UK

Over 35s:

Coach - Allison Rieck

Tahryn Trevenen

Claire Smith (shadow)

Over 40s:

Rachel Sherborne

Dirranie Kirby (shadow)

Capetown, South Africa

Over 45s:

Donella Berry

Isobel Bevis

Katy Vipond

Over 50s:

Assistant Coach – Tammy Cowan

Robyn Himbeck

Julie Waddell (Leadership)

Suzanne Bowyer (shadow)

Over 55s:

Pippa Button

Kelley Robinson

Carolyn Adams (shadow)

Judy Bailiff (shadow)

Over 60s:

Kim Chandler
Suzi Wood (Leadership)
Marie Fulbert-Hadet

Over 65s:

Janese McDougall (Leadership)
Karen Allan (shadow)
Gail Anderson (shadow)
Sue Gallinagh (shadow)
Jill Sheehan (shadow)

Men

Bunbury/Busselton hosted the 2019 Men's Australian Masters Championships with WA Masters Hockey fielding 11 teams in Over 35 through to Over 75 divisions. Results for the Championships were Over 35, Gold Medal; Over 40, Silver Medal; Over 45, Gold Medal; Over 50, Gold Medal; Over 50 Division 2, Silver Medal; Over 55 Division 1, Bronze Medal; Over 55 Division 2, Silver Medal; Over 60, Gold Medal; Over 65, Bronze Medal; Over 70, Gold Medal; Over 75, Silver Medal.

The performance of the WA Masters Hockey Men's Teams in 2019 continues to demonstrate our ability to perform above expectations for the size of our player base and shows the strength of our local competition, our Selection Policies and Procedures and team preparation. The WA Masters Hockey Women's teams results were lower than the very high standard that they normally achieve. We believe this is due to an unusually low number of players offering themselves for selection and teams going away under strength. The WAMHC are looking into why this was the case and at ways to rectify the situation so that WA can return to the strong finish to next years tournament that we normally achieve.

Finally WAMHC would like to say a huge thank you and congratulations to the Coaches, Managers, Selectors and sports health professionals who helped players to successfully and enjoyably tour while delivering these excellent results.

Men's Australian Team Selections**Nottingham, UK****Over 35s:**

Matthew Bottomley
Tim Deavin
Mark Nicholls
Todd Molloy (shadow)

Over 40s:

Darryl McCormick (Captain)
Michael Boyce
Murry McIntyre
George Watts (shadow)
Graham Watts (shadow)

Capetown, South Africa**Over 45s:**

Mike Illingworth (Vice Captain)
Richard Gardiner (shadow)
Gordon Mathwin (shadow)
Ben Strickland (shadow)

Over 50s:

Alan Dick (Captain)
Paul Armitage
Allan Colthart
Stewart McDonald
Matthew Needham
Cameron Robinson
Peter Bewick (shadow)
Dave Hurst (shadow)
Manager- Paula Dick

Over 55s:

Kevin Knapp (Vice Captain)
Robert Behets
Michael Hallam

Shaun Bunn (shadow)
Peter Connolly (shadow)
Darran Wilson (shadow)

Tokyo, Japan

Over 60s:

David Lockett (Captain)
Craig Burgess
Peter Crowe
Martin Ferrari
Lyle Kenny
Graham Miller
Noel Morrison
Stephen Pestana
Brian Robinson
Keith Harper (shadow)
Paul Scicluna (shadow)
Jeremy Walsh (shadow)

Over 65s:

Wayne Cutler
Colin Howell
Rudy Keswick
Geoff Robinson
Eddie Bartnik (shadow)
Thomas Long (shadow)
John Ostaszewskyj (shadow)
Ian Simes (shadow)

Richard Staynor (shadow)

Over 70s:

Peter Fogels
Thomas Freeman
Peter Morgan
Don Sanders
Simon Thomson
William Campbell (shadow)
Ashley Challenor (shadow)
Simon Williams (shadow)

Over 75s:

Len Blyth (Captain)
Scott Blackwell
Richard Osborne
Graeme Sanson
Ronald Venables
John Burt (shadow)
Harvey Davies (shadow)
Julian Gardiner (shadow)

The venues for the 2020 National Championships are the Gold Coast for Masters Men and Cairns for Masters Women.

International Visit by Womens Masters Team

In late August, a visiting Sri Lankan Women's Masters team toured WA for just over a week. After the devastating terrorist attacks earlier this year, the effort of fundraising with no government support, visa applications, leaving their coach behind due to financial constraints and travelling half way around the world, the trip showed the ladies love of the game of hockey.

Many people and clubs made this trip possible, Imtiaz Jamaldeen (Jamal) who provided support and liaison between the team and the WA Masters committee to get the team here.

Thanks also must go to Modernians Hockey club for a game on the Monday. Special mention to Dr Richard Kozlowsky from Leederville Dental for his time and effort fitting mouth guards for the ladies free of charge when advised by your wife Janine after the game that no one wears mouth guards in Sri Lanka due to cost constraints. The smiles of the ladies in the photo speaks volumes of your generosity.

The team also had a coaching clinic with Australian Masters coach Allison Rieck, supported by Rachel Sherborne (35's co-captain) and Pat Scott (O50's manager). New skills and game play were appreciated by the team.

Later in the week, the team played the State Masters 35's ladies (with a few 40's assisting). Thanks to the umpires Dave Ferguson and Sulette Le Roux, and the technical bench for allowing the girls some good game practise. Thanks to Allison Rieck for coaching and Pat Scott for managing. A huge thank you to Temeka Curley for coaching the Sri Lankan team all week (against Mods and the 35's). After the game on Friday a supper was held in the Eastman Lounge and gifts provided by the 35's was accepted with gratitude.

The Sri Lankans then headed to Narrogin to play a team from the Upper Great Southern Association. The girls were billeted out to the team for the night and had true country hospitality.

Committee Outlook

The Committee makes a significant contribution to the development of Masters Hockey in WA to meet the needs of participants. This work is undertaken with volunteers.

The committee could not deliver these results without the support of Hockey WA and I would like to acknowledge and thank the Hockey WA Board, CEO Stuart Gilsean and the staff of Hockey WA for their considerable assistance throughout the year. WAMHC would particularly to thank Jason Butcher who during the year conducted a coaching clinic for all WA Masters Coaches, attended by 10 coaches, and a question and answer session which was very well received.

The Committee has been very stable throughout 2019 operating with a complete committee of 10. The appointments made at the 2018 General Meeting maintained or increased the diversity of participation in committee decisions by geographic location, age and club affiliation while strengthening the skill set of the committee.

Significant changes in the committee structure are likely into 2020 with the retirement of Keith Gilbride, a long time stalwart of the committee whose contribution in all areas will be missed. Keith has for many years been the driving force behind the Masters Men's State Teams and a strong advocate for more transparent selection processes and governance.

My own retirement from the committee will see a change in leadership which will undoubtedly bring a change in the focus of the committee. WAMHC will elect the new Chair from their peers at the first committee meeting of 2020.

I have no doubt that WAMHC will continue to have a strategic focus on the creation and nourishment of an environment and culture which continues to increase the number of players and to improve the experience for all of those players participating in the game of hockey at all levels.

In closing it has been a privilege to serve on the WA Masters Committee since 2012 and as Chairman for the past 3 years. I wish all of you every success in 2020.

Peter Connolly
Chairman
WA Masters Hockey Committee
11th December 2019