

WA Masters Hockey 2017 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 2017 were Peter Connolly (Chairman), Jill van Duuren, Keith Gilbride, Sinead French-Bluhm, Scott Macdonald, Jean-Marie Rudd, Suzi Wood, Peter Andrews, Isobel Bevis and Cameron Robinson. John Heath resigned at the beginning of 2017 due to other commitments, I thank John for his service. In April of 2017 Peter Westlund, long-time chairman of the committee resigned to join the board of Hockey WA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Peter for his long and outstanding service to WA Masters Hockey through leadership of the committee. I wish Peter all the best in his new role and know that his considerable knowledge and experience will continue to benefit all hockey players in WA.

Four members of the current Committee are casual appointees due to the two resignations outlined above and two positions left vacant from the 2016 Annual Meeting. All casually appointed positions must retire at the end of the year and are available for election at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Graham Newson retired as secretary to the Committee as he moved interstate. I would like to thank Graham for his excellent service to the committee and wish him well in his future endeavours. Peter Andrews has agreed to act as secretary to the Committee until a replacement can be found.

Committee Members hold portfolio responsibilities and have discharged these with great success. I acknowledge and congratulate all Committee Members' for their enormous enthusiasm, energy and significant contributions throughout the year.

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 selecting Coaches, Managers and Players to participate in the annual Australian Masters Championships, this year held in Newcastle for Women's Teams and Hobart for Men's Teams, and the significant associated logistical arrangements.

Local Competition

Thirty-five teams took the field in four divisions of the Women's Wednesday Night Masters Competitions, the same number as 2016.

Seventy-Five teams took the field in Men's Masters Saturday afternoon competitions, an increase of two over 2016, and 8 teams participated in the Over 40 Midweek Division on Monday night, a decrease of 3 from 2016. The decrease of 3 teams is a concern and the Committee are looking at the reasons behind this loss to the competition and options for retaining and regaining teams in the midweek competition.

The continued strength of the mid-week women's competition and the weekend men's competition demonstrates the depth of the master's hockey community in the WA metro area. Grand Final Winners for Men in Division 1 for each grade included Westside Wolves in Over 40 division one and Over 40 Midweek, Modernians in Over 50 and Old Aquinians in Over 60. For Womens Midweek, YMCA in the Rae Blunt Pennant, Melville in Division 2, Suburban Lions in Division 3 and Rockingham in Division 4.

The Western Hockey Masters club facilitates Over 50 and Over 60 master's hockey competitions on a Wednesday afternoon at PHS and an Over 65 competition on Saturday afternoons at Perry Lakes

most weeks of the year. Masters hockey players in WA are fortunate to have this continuing level of choice of participation.

Australian Masters Championships

Newcastle hosted the Women's Australian Masters Championships. Six teams from Over 40 Division through to the Over 65 Division were entered in the Championships. The WA results were Over 40, Bronze Medal; Over 45, Silver Medal; Over 50, Silver Medal; Over 55, Silver Medal; Over 60, 4th ; Over 65, Silver Medal. The WA contingent won the Anne Stewart Perpetual Trophy for best overall State for a restricted (reduced team numbers) State for the 2nd year running. Seven WA Players also competed in the O35 division in a composite team known as South-West comprising the majority of its players from WA and SA. This team was coached by Ben Mynott and managed by Cheryl Poustie, both from WA.

Sixteen players and six shadow players from Western Australian teams were selected to play in the Australian Women's Masters Teams for the 2018 Masters World Cup at Barcelona, Spain in July/August 2018.

Also selected were Allison Rieck as Coach and Temeka Curly as Assistant Coach of the Women's Australian Over 40 Team.

Hobart hosted the 2017 Men's Australian Masters Championships with WA Masters Hockey fielding 10 teams in Over 40 through to Over 75 divisions. Results for the Championships were Over 40, 4th; Over 45, Gold Medal; Over 50, 4th; Over 55, Silver Medal; Over 60, Silver Medal and Over 65, 4th; Over 70, Bronze Medal; Over 75, Gold Medal; Over 50 Div 2, Bronze Medal; Over 55 Div 2, Silver Medal. WA were unable to enter an Over 35 team due to a low number of nominations.

Thirty-One players and thirteen shadow players were selected in Australian Teams to participate in the 2018 Masters World Cup at Barcelona.

Also selected were Cameron Fairbrother as Coach of the Australian Over 55 Men, Bill Williamson as Manager of the Australia Over 75 Men and Paula Dick as Manager of the Australian Over 50 Men.

Congratulations to our successful WA teams and Australian selections.

The overall performance of the WA Masters Hockey Women's and Men's Teams in 2017 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. A warm thank you and congratulations to the Coaches, Managers and sports health professionals who helped deliver these excellent results.

The venues for the 2018 National Championships are due to be announced by Hockey Australia on November 18th 2017. These will be published on the Hockey WA website and the WA Masters Hockey Facebook page.

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 a predominantly volunteer base. 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 and staff for their considerable assistance throughout the year. I would specifically like call out the efforts of Rob Moore and Candyce Peacock. Rob went above and beyond assisting with delivery of our communications and our Masters survey, while Candyce quickly and efficiently organised for the setup of and changes to the 2017 Masters State team nomination website.

The recruitment of suitably skilled and committed members for the committee became an urgent requirement in 2017 because of retirements and two already vacant positions. Four outstanding candidates for casual appointment were appointed during the year, Suzi Wood, Peter Andrews, Cameron Robinson and Isobel Bevis. These appointments have 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.

At the end of the 2017 season the committee issued one of the most comprehensive surveys of masters and near masters aged players undertaken in WA. 5200 players aged 30 and over were asked to complete the survey. The analysis of the survey results are not yet available but will provide valuable input into the annual review of our Strategic Plan

In 2018, we will deliver a new web site in accordance with our media and communications policy with the specific goal of creating closer links with the entire Masters Hockey community through direct communication to and from individuals.

Our strategic focus remains 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. Encouraging players who are reaching the age of eligibility for Masters Hockey to consider continuing their participation into and beyond the Over 35 and Over 40 competition is a critical activity. The Committee is working with Hockey WA staff to make the Over 30 Summer competition trial from last summer a permanent addition to the hockey calendar with the goal of having both Women's and Men's competitions in the post-Christmas period. This will create recognition of the opportunities for Over 35 WA and Australian representative teams.

These and other action plans to improve participation in, and enjoyment of, Masters Hockey are a focus of the WA Masters Hockey Committee' 2018 agenda.

Peter Connolly
Chairman
WA Masters Hockey Committee
10th November 2017