

WA Masters Hockey 2018 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 2018 and their portfolio responsibilities are

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

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

Two members of the current Committee Sinead French-Bluhm and Jean-Marie Rudd have each completed their elected 3 year term, they retire and offer themselves for re-election to the committee to be held at the 2018 Annual Meeting in December.

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 Women's Teams and Lismore/Ballina N.S.W. for the Men's Teams, and the significant associated logistical arrangements in sending 16 teams to the Championships.

Local Competition

Seventy-Six teams took the field in Men's Masters Saturday afternoon competitions, an increase of one over 2017, and 9 teams participated in the Over 40 Midweek Division on Monday night also an increase of 1 from 2017.

Thirty-five teams took the field in four divisions of the Women's Wednesday Night Masters Competitions, the same number as 2017.

Western Hockey Masters is a Masters only club organisation with around 180 members which plays on turf at PHS on Wednesday afternoons in three grades from Over 50s up and also runs a social Over 65s competition on Saturday afternoons at Perry Lakes grass fields all year round. I am extremely supportive of the efforts of this organisation, they are increasing participation in our sport in creative ways.

In 2017 the Committee with the assistance of Hockey WA conducted a comprehensive survey about the WA Local Masters competition. The purpose of the survey was to gain an understanding of where and how the competition should and/or should not evolve.

The survey was sent to Hockey WA registered players from the age of 30 and up, over 5200 recipients at the time. More than 800 responses were received, a response rate of over 15%, which is typical for this type of survey.

The Committee have been in consultation with Hockey WA's Competition Group to make the following changes to local competitions for the 2019 season based on strong supporting evidence from the survey results.

1. Midweek Hockey
 - a. Women
 - i. Rae Blunt fixtures only on Wednesday night
 - ii. Other grades on a consistent night as much as possible
 - iii. Introduce an Over 45 competition which will replace Division 4
 - iv. Rae Blunt competition, change the underage rules for players to be the same as the midweek men (i.e. 3 + GK up to 5 years younger in any fixture)
 - b. Men
 - i. Over 40 Division 1 Midweek fixtures move to only on Wednesday night
2. Introduce some artificial turf fixtures to Men's Saturday afternoon Over 40's Division
 - a. Aiming for two fixtures per week
 - b. Home games for clubs with a home turf
 - c. Played only Saturday afternoon between 12:00 noon and 5:30pm
 - d. Clubs without a home turf will still have home fixture on grass
 - e. Finals to be on artificial turf
 - f. Review at end of 2019 season
3. Introduce some artificial turf fixtures to Men's Saturday afternoon Over 50s Division 1
 - a. Aiming for one fixture per week
 - b. Home games for clubs with a home turf
 - c. Played only Saturday afternoon between 12:00 noon and 5:30pm
 - d. Clubs without a home turf will still have home fixture on grass
 - e. Finals to be on artificial turf
 - f. Review at end of 2019 season
4. Strict application of the promotion/relegation rules unless there are extenuating circumstances in which case HWA will, in consultation with WAMHC, determine the best outcome for the grades involved.

A report discussing all of the findings of the survey will be published on www.wamastershockey.com in early 2019.

Awards

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

- Gail Anderson
- Susan Gallinagh
- Avis Holtham
- Dale Keiley
- Janese McDougall
- Allison Rieck
- Vicki Silich
- Jill Van Duuren

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.

Australian Masters Championships

Women

Bunbury/Busselton hosted the 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, Gold Medal; Over 45, Bronze Medal; Over 50, Gold Medal; Over 55, Silver Medal; Over 60, Bronze Medal ; Over 65, Bronze Medal.

Eleven players and six shadow players from Western Australian teams were selected to play in the Australian Women's Masters Teams for the 2019 Trans-Tasman Challenge at the Gold Coast in April/May 2019.

Also selected, Allison Rieck as Coach of the Women's Australian Over 35 Team.

Men

Lismore/Ballina hosted the 2018 Men's Australian Masters Championships with WA Masters Hockey fielding 9 teams in Over 40 through to Over 75 divisions. Results for the Championships were Over 40, 5th; Over 45, Bronze Medal; Over 50, Gold Medal; Over 55 Team 1, Silver Medal; Over 55 Team 2 7th; Over 60, Silver Medal; Over 65, Bronze Medal; Over 70, 4th; Over 75, Silver Medal. WA were unable to enter an Over 35 team due to a low number of nominations.

26 players and 18 shadow players were selected in Australian Teams to participate in the 2019 Trans-Tasman Challenge at the Gold Coast (numbers include both WA and WA Country players).

Also selected were Cameron Fairbrother as Coach of the Australian Over 55 Men, Rob Lawson as Coach of the Australia Over 60 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 2018 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 huge thank you and congratulations to the Coaches, Managers, Selectors and sports health professionals who helped deliver these excellent results.

The venues for the 2019 National Championships are the Gold Coast for Masters Women and Bunbury/Busselton for Masters Men.

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 Gilsenan and the staff of Hockey WA for their considerable assistance throughout the year.

I would like to make special mention of three people in particular for their considerable efforts, Graham Pilcher, Shayley McGurk Davy and Candyce Peacock. Thank you very much, your efforts are much appreciated.

The Committee has been very stable throughout 2018 operating with nine members. The appointments made at the 2017 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.

In early 2018, the committee delivered a long awaited new web site in accordance with our media and communications policy. We are continuing to work within the framework of this policy to create 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.

These and other action plans to improve participation in, and enjoyment of, Masters Hockey are a focus of the WA Masters Hockey Committee 2019 agenda.

Peter Connolly
Chairman
WA Masters Hockey Committee
28th November 2018