

# ACT Masters Hockey

## Screech April 2021

Welcome to June Screech. Craig has passed on an interesting item from WA. Did you know that for the last 5 years WA has had an annual match for Masters who have had hip or knee replacements? Facetious followers of Harry Potter might be reminded of the Headless Hunt where participating ghosts had to have been 'properly decapitated'. However, the real point is that it demonstrates the enjoyment we find in playing hockey and its special nature that enables so many to return after such major surgery.



Leo also wants to remind us that we use the code of player behaviour adopted by Hockey ACT and Hockey Australia. We do need to be aware of this code and to follow it both on and off the field. He also reminds us that, while the rules of hockey are common to all levels, we need to be aware of our own and our opponents' physical limitations. Until Masters grows to the point where our competition can be age-based, we rely on players to make assessments of the level of physical contact in individual's games.

## Hips v Knees Bionic Cup

It will come as a surprise to most of us that for the last 5 years WA Masters have had an annual **Hips v Knees Bionic Cup** match where players are only eligible to play if they have had a **HIP** or **KNEE** replacement operation.

Returning to hockey after hip or knee replacement shows the enjoyment and satisfaction we get from the sport. The other remarkable thing, is that it is **sponsored by the Australian Orthopaedic Association (AOA)**



Respected orthopaedic surgeons used to poo poo the idea of playing after knee replacement. 'Can you go for walks? Be happy with what you've got. You don't get a knee replacement to play hockey'.

Now Dr Michael Gillespie (President of the AOA) says 'The Australian Orthopaedic Association is a proud sponsor of the annual 'Bionic Cup' Hockey challenge. The event provides an opportunity to celebrate the wonder of movement and is a chance for all of us to reflect on the success that hip and knee replacement operations provide Australians' enabling us 'to enjoy better quality of life, let alone play such a physical sport like field hockey'.

## ***We're included – 2 day event later in the year***

WA and the AOA are now proposing a two-day event on either **Thu-Fri 28-29th October** (or 4-5th Nov). with an Eastern States (ES) v WA **Knees** team and a ES v WA **Hips** team on either or both days. Another option could be an Orthopaedic Cup with mixed “half & half” teams

### ***Travel sponsorship for interstate players***

*Amazingly* the AOA is considering sponsoring interstate players' expenses, **including** flights and accommodation

### ***Full article and survey of possible participation***

The full article from WA has lots more background and a link on Page 2 for contenders to complete a survey showing their interest in competing. Click [HERE](#) for the PDF and survey. The link is also on the website. If you're eligible get in quick.

## **Meet the Committee**

**Mark McElligott** – Committee Member (also a member of the Policy and Selection Sub-Committees)

Mark is one of those who after a good career including some first grade clubs took a long break. After re-engaging with hockey, he worked hard to recover his skills and develop new ones. Mark first competed at Masters Nationals in 2016 with the ACT 60s team (the memorable Adelaide blackout being a highlight of that year) and subsequently with the 60s in Hobart, Lismore and in Bunbury in 2018 where he was selected as a shadow for the Australian 60s team for the World Cup in Tokyo which was sadly cancelled due to COVID.



Mark was to Captain the Southern Cross 60s in the second Division of the World Cup in Tokyo. While the COVID impact on hockey has been a big disappointment he was fortunate to play with Southern Cross at European Cups in Glasgow 2017 and Antwerp 2019 (both Bronze medals) and in Barcelona in 2019, where they won the Gold medal. In 2020 he was one of a few who got some international experience playing with Auckland 60s in the NZ Nationals where they won silver in March before the big shutdown.

In his work Mark spent some time with the Australian Sports Commission helping develop sport in Commonwealth countries. He also umpired 1<sup>st</sup> grade but focussed on Indoor Hockey. Over 8 years he umpired 4 senior national championship finals and 6 internationals, before a further 8 years as assistant umpire manager coach at national indoor championships. Now, parallel to his playing reengagement, he has used his former skills to help with running our competition

He says that he got involved with the admin side as he was brought up to contribute to something you belong to or participate in. The Committee work is more enjoyable than the umpiring committee work and results are more evident as you're dealing with a specific group that seems to more highly value its participation and opportunities for travel, camaraderie and good times that go with Masters Hockey

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