

ACT Masters Hockey

Screech November 2021

It's nice to be back to normal again after another lockdown. Is this the third time? Anyway, all's going well with a nice buzz on Mondays and Thursdays. We also welcome new teams. Thanks for joining us. One particularly interesting new team is DEM DEAMONS, made up of people associated with the emergency department of Canberra Hospital.



Preparation for the Intercity *Challenge – Merv Goodridge and Doug Dawson Trophy* (Sunday 12th December) continues. Mark McElligott is kindly starting training for older players at 3 on Thursdays before Hockey Happy Hour. He did that for the aborted Australian Championships. Thanks, Mark for putting your hand up again and for your expertise and enthusiasm!

Hockey Australia Invitational Events

In another piece of innovative thinking after our return from Covid, Hockey Australia Masters has announced two Men's 3-day *return to play* invitational events. They will be an excellent opportunity for players who may not have previously played representative master's hockey to sample the fun, spirit and enjoyment a master's event brings, alongside our more experienced players.

Men's Masters Invitational 1

Age Groups: 34+ to 55+ age groups

Venue: Sydney Olympic Park

Dates: 25 – 27 February 2022

Men's Masters Invitational 2

Age Groups: 60+ and above

Venue: Sydney Olympic Park

Dates: 18 – 20 March 2022

Each event will see teams playing 5 games: two games on each of Friday and Saturday and one game on Sunday. ACT Masters Hockey intends entering one team in each age group. Should not enough nominations be received in any age group then individuals will be given the opportunity to play for another State or Territory in a composite team. See the website or <https://www.actvetshockey.com/2022-hockey-australia-mens-masters-invitational-events-nomination-form/> to nominate. Or you could nominate as a Coach or manager.

Nominations close on **19 December 2021** but send your nomination in **NOW**; don't delay.

Payer levy is \$40. You will need to arrange your own transport and accommodation, and have an ACT playing shirt, shorts and socks. Purchase arrangements will be notified.

If you have any questions, please contact the Selection Sub-Committee on selections@actmastershockey.com

Monday Night Hockey Young Umpires

Being umpired by younger people on Monday nights has been going on for so long that we don't tend to think about it. But it is a bit unusual and interesting that it works so well. We want to acknowledge our young umpires and thank them for them enabling us to play and helping make it an enjoyable experience.

Once upon a time we used to umpire ourselves, but it was burdensome. Most of us just wanted to play and not all of us were particularly good umpires. So, Leo came up with the idea of paying juniors to umpire us. As well as meeting a need for us, he thought it would be helpful income for future stars who were training so hard they didn't have time to get a normal part time job.

It had been tried before with rather mixed results. In fact, some of us with longer memories were dubious about the new scheme, but we were proved wrong. Perhaps this time we were a bit more mature and understanding or perhaps the success was due to Leo's diplomatic skills, or a bit of both.

Nowadays Hockey ACT arrange our umpiring, under Stirling Sharpe, the voluntary umpire coordinator for HACT. This is another plus coming from Masters Hockey becoming part of Hockey ACT.

As well as them simply providing a service we really enjoy the cross generational feel the young umpires give to our Monday nights. We are also pleased to provide an environment for them to develop their skills in a less pressured and supportive environment. One young umpire (over modestly) said he appreciated the chance to learn from us and learn from mistakes. This is the attitude of Hockey ACT, who use us as a gateway to higher level umpiring. The young umpires also appreciate the input from our own senior umpires like Aarron and Brad Hoff (apologies not to be able to mention everyone).

A number of young umpires have moved on to great heights. Stirling Sharpe, himself, started umpiring in Monday night vets and this led to a national and international umpiring career. Others who graduated to this sort of level include Bailey Davis, Riley dos Santos, Nathan and Jarred Cornish, Dylan Brisk and Lil Beckett (again apologies for omissions).

THANKS GUYS!

Call for more umpires

Despite the success of our young umpires scheme, good numbers of Monday night teams mean we need more umpires.

HACT pay \$25 per game. Play for an hour, umpire for an hour, and you have paid for your playing costs and a post-game schooner.

Also, your children may be interested. Umpiring is the perfect pocket money earner for young hockey players whose commitment to sport means they cannot do other part time work. Contact Leo with details of how they want to participate (a game after your game, a game at the same time, two games at the same venue etc). He will forward that to Stirling Sharp who produces the schedule and arranges payment.

Otherwise, Leo may have to introduce some 'team duty umpires' each week.