

## Screech August 2021

### Cancellation of 2021 Australian Masters

It's hard to believe that it has happened again. Things looked fine in May and early June but Covid rolled on in NSW forcing the cancellation of this year's Australian Championships.



As Hockey Australia GM – Commercial, Communications & Events, Tim Cherry put it

“the decision was made in the interest of the health and safety of all participants, officials and spectators, as well as a range of logistical factors.

Considering the hype and anticipation around the Mega Masters since it was announced, there is no shying from how disappointing it is that it will not go ahead, The current border restrictions, coupled with the COVID case numbers in Greater Sydney, means no one from interstate could return home from the event without going into two weeks of quarantine.

We are at a stage now less than two months out where teams could forfeit accommodation deposits if we deliberate any longer, and given the number of COVID cases in the New South Wales it is unclear what Public Health Orders would be in place when the event was due to take place. The health and safety of all attendees is the absolute top priority, so making the call to cancel is the sensible and right thing to. “

Our commiserations to our players and officials who are missing out. Hopefully they will be brighter and better players next year. As a minor consolation, see below for photos of the 1993 Over 40s final.

**We also need to be very aware that Covid – 19 threatens our own ACT competition.** Leo has passed on the following instructions:

‘Remember that our Monday night competition continues under the grace of HockeyACT and ACT Government guidelines. Let's make sure we can all still play.

- If you are feeling unwell, please do not play
- If you are under a stay at home order, please do not play

Teams may be forced to play short because people do the right thing, so I am asking managers to do their best to make teams even and keep the games going.

Managers should also remember to complete their player lists and lodge with Bunji within 24 hours of the match.'

## **Olympic Hockey**

Another consolation to the cancellation is watching the fantastic performances of our Olympic teams -shame about the women. Hopefully as well as being entertained we can improve our own hockey by watching.

Apparently, there was an experiment on young horse riders. One group received extra tuition while the other group watched footage of the stars riding. The watchers improved more than the other group. Let's take this to heart. One noticeable thing in the Olympics is the way the stars immediately move the ball to protect it on receiving it. Has anyone got any advice or comments to add? We'd appreciate input for next issue ([p.boal@hotmail.com](mailto:p.boal@hotmail.com)).

*Go Australia!*

## **Opportunity to order stunning off field ACT apparel**

Those who had planned to play in the Central Coast had the opportunity to order off field apparel (bucket hats, walkout shirts etc). Clive has extended this offer to all of us. Please choose soon, using this link, so an order can go in.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIJmZY\\_f2npAFGENAy0i-26mw\\_bt-M8wSFIxagjIjzw9DWmQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScIJmZY_f2npAFGENAy0i-26mw_bt-M8wSFIxagjIjzw9DWmQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)  
<[https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2Fe%2F1FAIpQLScIJmZY\\_f2npAFGENAy0i-26mw\\_bt-M8wSFIxagjIjzw9DWmQ%2Fviewform%3Fusp%3Dsf\\_link&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cce095634ad5b4b03b55608d95574030d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637634779013171575%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=dYEmhPuL93ujA6EJDTQY6Yv4z9xCQhKizLvzDMPTAE4%3D&reserved=0](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2Fe%2F1FAIpQLScIJmZY_f2npAFGENAy0i-26mw_bt-M8wSFIxagjIjzw9DWmQ%2Fviewform%3Fusp%3Dsf_link&data=04%7C01%7C%7Cce095634ad5b4b03b55608d95574030d%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637634779013171575%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=dYEmhPuL93ujA6EJDTQY6Yv4z9xCQhKizLvzDMPTAE4%3D&reserved=0)>

## **Plan for the rest of the year**

- Current draw ends on Monday 20 September
- No Hockey on 27 September
- No Hockey on 4 October (Long weekend - but stand by for news on "something bought to you by ACT Masters" happening on the long weekend)
- FOURTH QUARTER: Begins 11 October and runs to 6 December
- End of year sevens tournament: 13 December

## 1993 Australian Championships Canberra

Our O/40s team had a fantastic tournament only losing on a penalty shootout!  
Congratulations to you who played in the team. What are your memories?

