



## SOUTHERN CROSS MASTERS HOCKEY INC

### Chairman's Report 2018

Welcome and thank you for attending this the 5<sup>th</sup> Southern Cross Masters Hockey Inc. Annual General Meeting.

Firstly it is my sad duty to mention the death of Mike Black. Mike and I were involved as co-coordinators in the re-establishment of Southern Cross Masters Hockey in 2011. He played in and coached the initial Southern Cross Gold Medal 70+ Tournament Trophy team in Oxford in 2012, coached the 65+ team at the European Cup TT in Kontich (Belgium) in 2013 and played in the TT 70+ team in The Hague in 2014. Since then his involvement in hockey generally was greatly curtailed by an insidious blood disease to which he finally succumbed in July this year at the age of 76 years. On behalf of Southern Cross Masters Hockey I formally extend our belated condolences to his wife Lyn and family.

#### REVIEW

Now in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of its reincarnation and 5<sup>th</sup> year as an incorporated body, Southern Cross Masters Hockey continues to grow to provide a means whereby its members can enjoy the benefits of prolonging playing and involvement in the game of hockey at the International level at ages beyond 60 years.

Our committee structure is now well established with all members involved both in their particular "portfolios" as well as in the general running of the association. With a well organised secretariat we can expect further initiatives and efficiencies in our operation which will benefit of our members in future years.

As of the 2018 AGM members of the committee and their areas of responsibilities are:

#### ***Elected members:***

Chairman	Ric Roberts (SA)
Secretary	Peter Hayes (NSW)
<i>Chef de Mission</i> /Database	Tony Cohen (NSW)
Uniforms/Web Master	Peter Fogels (WA)
Chairman of Selectors	Marvin Heaston (NSW)
Accommodation	Mike Cooke (NSW)
Assistant Secretary/Treasurer	Graham Wood (WA)

#### ***Appointed members***

Legal Matters	Peter Murray (WA)
Treasurer	Wayne Harris (QLD)

The committee usually meets at least twice a year to formalise the implementation of the wishes of the members as determined at the Annual General Meeting, and to carry out such other duties as are required for the running of the Association.

This year 3 elected committee member positions have been declared vacant and elections will be held to fill these positions at this meeting. Neither of the two appointed committee member positions becomes vacant this year, so no new appointments will need to be made by the newly elected committee (but see PS below).

#### REPORTS ON 2017-2018

##### **October: 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Grand Masters Championships, Hiroshima, Japan – Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> – Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 2017**

Southern Cross entered one team in the 65+ division of the Tournament Trophy which was in conjunction with this FIH sanctioned event. For the first time we included a tour with the hockey event and engaged a local Sydney based Japanese specialist travel company (Janesco) to help organise the tour. Reports from Mike Cooke who was the Southern Cross committee member involved with organising the tour, and others following the tour, indicate that while not so very successful on the field (unfortunately losing the bronze medal match to Alliance controversially on one on ones!), the group thoroughly enjoyed the experience, particularly the opportunity for sightseeing around Hiroshima, travel through the tourist Kansai region of central Honshu and visiting Mt Fuji and Tokyo. Hopefully this may indeed be the forerunner of more similar tours in the future, particularly if Tokyo is successful in winning the rights to hold the 2020 WMH World Cup. (see Ps below).

Thanks to Mike Cooke for his great efforts in his collaboration with Janesco in organising this tour.

##### **Barcelona World Cup, June 2018**

Southern Cross entered a team in each of the 4 age divisions of the Tournament Trophy at this International Grand Masters Hockey event.

The teams first assembled at the Melia Hotel in Sitges a delightful seaside resort about 40km south west of Barcelona on Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup>. Training was held the following morning at the Castelldefels pitch to which most travelled by local



train. The Australian 70+ team provided some stout opposition for the SX60+, SX 65+ and 70+ teams. That evening welcome drinks, reportedly greatly enjoyed, were held outdoors at the hotel. Training continued at Castelldefels on the Tuesday morning with the rest of the day free.

The World Cup Championship, including the Tournament Trophy competitions opening ceremony was held the following evening at the Real Polo Club in Barcelona. During the day Southern Cross teams and supporters were taken by coach via a tourist route to the Expo Hotel in Barcelona where luggage was dropped off and then onto the Polo Club for the opening ceremony, the highlight of which was undoubtedly the human wall!

From Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> June till Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Southern Cross teams were involved in matches in their various age competitions at both the Polo Club venue and at Castelldefels. Players were able to catch the local metro to the Polo Club and the train to and from Castelldefels. Sometimes players elected to go by taxi. Overall these methods of transport seemed to work pretty well.

On the evening of Thursday June 28<sup>th</sup> the Championship dinner was held at the Polo Club. This was a very poorly planned event and the rain did not help. Probably the worst event of this kind I have attended in nearly 20 years of attending WGMA events. Some gracious recompense was made to Southern Cross by the WGMA Chairman Wim van Noortwijk.

A much better planned and more enjoyable event, the Southern Cross Dinner, was held the following evening at the Expo Hotel. Apart from the local peculiar arrangement with drinks, the evening went very well, with the usual invited guests, speech making and award presentations. This now, at least annual event, is fast entering the folk lore of Southern Cross Masters Hockey.

Congratulations to all players, team management and support staff for their efforts and performances during the Championships. The teams acquitted themselves well, with Southern Cross for the first time being Gold medallists in the 60+ TT competition and also being the inaugural TT World Cup Gold Medal in the 75+ division. The 75+ team also defeated both England and Netherlands National 75+ teams, an astonishing effort!! The 65+ and 70+ teams won Bronze medals in their TT age divisions.

**Results summary:**

60+ Blue	Gold
65+ Blue	Bronze
70+ Blue	Bronze
75+ Blue	Gold

Unfortunately the organisers of the tournament were unable to use the preferred digital match documentation software Altiusrt. While it will be a big job, it is hoped that in due course all the results will be available in a concise form and will be posted on the website and/or sent to participating members.

I would like to express special thanks to our 3 member dedicated medical support group of Alison Coles, Wendy Buteux and Mitch Killick who kept our players on the field throughout the Tournament.

Thanks also to our team of umpires Mike Anderson, George Mullins, John McMurray-Wallace and Shane Knapp.

Penultimately a huge thank you to our **Captains** Mark Elliot, Les Collier, Bruce Jacobs and Peter Murray; **Coaches**, Brian Ivkovic, Jeff Wait, Marvin Heaston and Stuart Moane; **Managers** Bek Anderson, Marlene Matthews, Wendy Looi and Irene Simpson, who did all the hard yards and to our **Chef de Mission** Tony Cohen who most successfully again held everything together.

Finally, I would like to thank Tony Cohen for hosting the Southern Cross Dinner although greatly inconvenienced by a painful, recently acquired soft tissue injury, and Mike Cooke for his fantastic attention to detail and commitment in arranging the hotel accommodation and the transfer between hotels.

This whole enterprise would not have been possible without the efforts of Marvin Heaston in his sometimes thankless role as Chairman of Selectors, Wayne Harris for looking after the ever more complicated financials, sage advice on contract negotiation from our legal eagle Peter Murray, Peter Fogels' active collaboration with our uniform provider Hypersports, Graham Wood in his role as assistant to the Treasurer and Secretary (great team shirts Woody) and above all else to the superhuman efforts of our Secretary Peter Hayes, who undoubtedly deserves a doubling in his pay. Thanks everyone for making Barcelona such a success.

**2019-et seq.**

Most recently FIH has agreed to allow WGMA and IMHA to seek a jointly agreeable union under the banner of World Masters Hockey (WMH). This is a good move which will allow hopefully a satisfactory outcome for all Masters Hockey players interested in competing at FIH accredited events throughout the world, especially in confirming and continuing the holding of Tournament Trophy events alongside the already internationally FIH sanctioned Masters events (World Cup, European Cup, Asian Cup, Americas Cup and hopefully in the future an Oceania Cup!).



In June 2019 Southern Cross will be sending 5 teams to compete in the European Cup Tournament Trophy competitions to be held in Brasschaat, near Antwerp, Belgium, viz. 60+Blue, 65+Blue, 65+Red, 70+Blue and 75+Blue. The tournament, will run from Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Southern Cross has booked team accommodation at the Lindner Hotel in Antwerp where all participants will be expected to arrive on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June and depart on Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>. Nominations for this event have already been sent to the membership by email and are available on the Southern Cross website at (<http://www.southerncrosshockey.org/>). Nominations close on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the committee for their continued support and for their unsung efforts towards providing us all with these great experiences which I hope we will continue to be able to enjoy for many years yet. I would also like to thank all the Southern Cross members for their good fellowship and cooperative goodwill that makes all these efforts worthwhile.

**Post script:**

1. By the time you read this report the Southern Cross teams for 2019, including all appointments and off field support personnel will have been chosen and announced! Congratulations to all those selected and commiserations to those who may have missed out this time. There is a long time between now and June 2019, and inevitably as always happens, injury, ill health and other changes in circumstances will inevitably necessitate some changes to these teams.
2. We have also heard in the last few days that the 2020 World Cup for 60+ Masters Hockey has been awarded to Tokyo where at this stage it is planned to be held in the October-November period. This is very good news and we congratulate our Japanese colleagues on securing this event. Southern Cross is already making plans for this venture.
3. Finally, you may have heard that in Lismore I became unwell and was admitted to the Lismore Base Hospital for 6 days where I had several tests, which after travelling back to Adelaide for a liver biopsy confirmed a diagnosis of severe, acute autoimmune hepatitis (AIH). My medical advice is that this autoimmune condition is very likely to have been induced by my over involvement in hockey administrivia, particularly since coming back from Barcelona. So as from Nov 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, I intend to take a break from almost all my formal hockey involvement, which will include my resigning from my position on the committee of Southern Cross Masters Hockey. I am confident that with the election of the new committee at this AGM, including the appointment by the committee of a suitable replacement member to complete my term of office on the committee, that Southern Cross Masters Hockey will continue to provide the members with these fantastic international hockey experiences that we are so lucky to be able to participate in and enjoy. I look forward to my further involvement with SCMH in the near future when I am returned to my former good health.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ric Roberts'.

Ric Roberts  
Chairman SCMH  
28 Oct 2018