



## *“Thanks 2016”*

Dear Hockey Friends,

With great pleasure I would like to update you on events, decisions and actions over the past year and on the continuing successful developments of our Hockey Association.

We are growing bigger, more efficient and older. Fortunately for us, our Grand Masters organisation has now reached a stable hockey playing level in our age groups from 60s to 75s+.

All in the spirit of *“lifelong hockey”*.

### **In memoriam Ted Jones**

*It is in that same spirit that we commemorate Ted Jones, the great pioneer of Masters hockey, who passed away on 9th September 2016, at his home in Western Australia. Ted played a major role in promoting, and furthering Masters hockey at all levels throughout the world from the early 1980s.*

*We owe him a great deal of thanks for his pioneering work on a global basis over a quarter of a century.*

### **Board meetings**

I am very glad that the functioning of the executive team, that takes care of the daily operation of our Association, and the Board in its new composition together, have been very active and working enthusiastically in perfect team spirit. Besides the weekly Skype calls we also had 8 successful Executive-, Board-, or FIH Panel meetings in Switzerland, The Netherlands, France, England, Australia, Belgium, Scotland and Dubai.

### **Organisation Structure**

During our congress in Australia in May 2016, elections were held for all the board positions.

The new WGMA structure with the 10 board members has been in full operation this year.

The attached schedule (Appendix 1) shows that we have completed the team with a Vice-President for the women's hockey group in our Association and a hockey Technical Director and Assistant. With this structure and the descriptions of the individual tasks, we are able to run the organisation in an efficient way.

A special word of thanks to our previous Hon. Secretary Adrian Stephenson who has done an outstanding job in coordinating the massive administrative and organisation functions of our Association for the past eight years. With his wealth of experience, Adrian is now, together with myself, primarily responsible as representative of WGMA for all the discussions and meetings about the future of (Grand) Masters Hockey as presented in the document “The Way Ahead”. (Appendix 2)

**Keeping in mind the slogan: *How can you know where you're going  
If you don't respect where you've come from?***

### **Important events in 2016:**

#### **Australia**

WGMA 8<sup>th</sup> Grand Masters Hockey World Cup, Newcastle, Australia May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

This first major WGMA tournament in Australia was a great success with 42 teams, well organised by Hockey Australia and the Newcastle team chaired by Peter Sweeney.

We have received comprehensive feedback from various officials that will increase our know how for these big hockey events and has provided a very usable roadmap for future tournaments and input to our WGMA event manual.

The host nation earned gold medals in all age groups except the O60s, where they lost the final to The Netherlands.



Opening Ceremony



President in “trouble”



Prize giving

## WGMA Congress Australia

A very stimulating Congress was held in Newcastle on 8<sup>th</sup> May. It was the “right time” and “place” to discuss the results achieved and the future of our organisation.



As guest of honour we had Mr. Leandro Negre President of FIH together with 18 National WGMA delegates and 20 observers.

We discussed the different reports and hockey technical issues and took decisions for the future. We also discussed at length the “Way Ahead” of our Association in cooperation with IMHA and FIH.

“The Way Ahead” was an important topic during our Congress.

I had the honour to welcome Leandro Negre, and thanked him for making the long journey from Europe to attend our Congress. I invited him to address the meeting and to give our members his own vision of the future for Masters and Grand Masters hockey as FIH President, our international governing body. Mr Negre began by applauding all that had been achieved by WGMA and IMHA in developing Masters and Grand Masters hockey over the last fifteen years. He emphasised that Masters and Grand Masters were now an integral part of the Hockey Revolution that had been outlined by FIH at the Congress in Marrakesh and received a follow-up in Dubai. He made it clear that his desire is one organisation for Masters and Grand Masters in its dialogue with FIH and that this was essential to enable FIH to promote Masters hockey as a whole to Continental Federations and National Associations.

He went on to say that FIH did not wish to force IMHA or WGMA into any particular way forward but hoped that two organisations could themselves propose a development plan that would allow them both to continue the excellent work that we are doing but at the same time create a body which spoke for both and ensured that Masters and Grand Masters presented a united front. He asked WGMA and IMHA both to agree in principle to a form of action plan before the FIH Congress in Dubai.

As conclusion the Congress accepted unanimously that the executive committee would present a plan approved by the FIH, IMHA and WGMA for discussion during an extraordinary WGMA Congress 2017 in Glasgow.

The decisions on the Hockey Technical topics can be read in the text of appendix 3.

## Glasgow 2017



The preliminary planning for the 6<sup>th</sup> Grand Masters Hockey European Cup in Glasgow next year has been started. This tournament will be the first official WGMA 60+ combined Men and Women Tournament, with ladies teams from Scotland, England, The Netherlands and Alliance.

There will be minimum 51 teams taking part, including 5 women’s teams. We are working closely together with Kieran McLernan, chairman of the organising committee, who is receiving additional support from Scottish Hockey. WGMA will share all the experience and know-how from the past in order to have another great hockey event.

## FIH Dubai

I was invited to participate in the FIH Congress “Hockey Revolution 2 - No Limits” in Dubai November 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Two years ago at the FIH Congress in Marrakesh a strategic plan for hockey was presented with one clear ambition – in 10 years time hockey must become a global game that inspires the next generation. This powerful ambition was delivered by goals and initiatives that will transform the visibility of hockey and therefore grow the game we all love. This was the largest Congress ever with over 100 National Associations represented.

For the WGMA there were three very important elements:

- A) The Masters Panel meeting on The Way Ahead
- B) The election of the new President Dr. Narinder Batra and the new members of the FIH Executive Board

C) The opportunity to promote Masters hockey to the Delegates  
On the last day of the Congress, I was able to thank Leandro Negre and present him with the WGMA President's Award for his outstanding performance as President of FIH and for the service he has provided for the sport of hockey internationally.  
We hope that he will soon join a Spanish team and play together with us in future WGMA tournaments.



### Finance

Our capital and reserve are growing step by step and the 2015 accounts were approved by Congress in Newcastle. We have sufficient funds to run the organisation based upon our present membership fee, thanks largely to the 'lean and mean' policy of our Treasurer.

If in the future we would have a serious sponsor we can do more in terms of promotion for our Association.

With 21 member countries, WGMA now represents more than 15.000 hockey players over 60.

### WGMA Website

Good progress is being made with the development of the new WGMA website.

Stephen Winnall (a Team Germany hockey player based in Switzerland) is responsible for setting up the new website and at our board meeting in March, it was confirmed that he should be a consultant to WGMA with the title of Website Manager. Stephen has been in contact with FIH so that they know what he is planning and it is expected that the WGMA site will eventually link easily to the new FIH site.

One of the board members will be responsible for ensuring that the website is operating efficiently and is a good 'shop window' for WGMA.

### Upcoming Events

<u>EuroLuc at Ronchin, Lille, France</u>	- 17-19th March 2017
<u>Celtic Cup in Cork, Ireland</u>	- 28-30th April 2017
<u>Eburons in Brussels, Belgium</u>	- 25-27th May 2017
<u>Superveterans in Tilburg, The Netherlands</u>	- 23-25th June 2017
<u>Home Internationals (GB &amp; Ireland) in Wales</u>	- 30th June-2nd July 2017
<u>Dragons Tournament, in Swansea, Wales</u>	- 29-30th July 2017
<u>Grand Masters Hockey European Cup in Glasgow, Scotland</u>	-19th-27th August 2017
<u>Grand Masters Hockey Asian Cup in Hiroshima, Japan</u>	- 23-29th October 2017
<u>Grand Masters Hockey World Cup in Barcelona, Spain</u>	- 20-30th June 2018

### Thank you all

Dear members, we hope that with this report you are convinced that the board is taking good care of the organisation.

*"We kindly ask all WGMA national delegates to make sure that this Newsletter is distributed as widely as possible in their respective countries, not only by forwarding it to all their individual members, but also by publishing it on their own organisations' website if possible".*

With thanks for your cooperation and participation in our activities this year.

On behalf of all our Board Members I send you Season Greetings and wish you a happy & prosperous New Year with a lot of success during the upcoming Tournaments.

STAY HEALTHY !!

Regards,



  
*Wim van Noortwijk*  
President WGMA

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#### WGMA Board

President - Wim van Noortwijk  
Honorary Secretary - David Ewing  
Honorary Treasurer - David Ferguson  
Consultant Director - Adrian Stephenson  
Technical Director - Jaap Quarles van Ufford

Vice President Asia - Sarinder Dillon  
Vice President S. America - Rene Granat  
Vice President Africa - Tom Lawless  
Vice President Oceania - Peter Sweeney  
Vice President Women's hockey - Nanda Siebers