



## **Barcelona 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tournament - Wim van Noortwijk remembrance**

The much anticipated Grand Masters tournament to celebrate the 125 years of Royal Club de Polo de Barcelona and also Wim van Noortwijk and his contribution to the growth of Grand Masters hockey internationally has come and gone (26 June – 3 July).

The joy and satisfaction of being together again was bursting forth from the faces of the participants, many of whom had not met since the European Nations Championship in 2019.

8 intense days of hockey and friendship with teams from Argentina and Australia as well as the European contingent.

For the curious, following are some interesting statistics from the tournament:

- 8 days on 3 pitches
- 42 teams (men 60+ 9 teams, men 65+ 13 teams, men 70+ 7 teams, men 75+ 5 teams and women 60+/65+/70+ 8 teams)
- 181 matches
- total number of goals scored 303 (excluding penalty stroke competitions), which is 1,67 goals per match
- highest scoring average with men 60+: 2,17goals per match
- lowest scoring average with women's section: 1,22 goals per match
- highest score in the tournament: men NHC 65+ vs Thistles 65+ 8-0

Italy M60 for the first time won the gold medal in a WGMA event.

Australian Wanderers touring side desires to tour Europe 4 times a year. Any offers of matches for them by our members in Europe?

Below are some of the comments received from team representatives.

*The overall view was that the Wim Van Noortwijk Memorial Tournament was thoroughly enjoyable, with well organised hockey, good umpires, and a splendid tribute to Wim and what he did for WGMA and Masters Hockey, especially at the Gala Dinner. You can take great credit for taking the lead and arranging such a significant Tournament in Wims honour. ... if we asked our participating Members in the 5 participating squads if they'd like to attend a similar Tournament soon, we'd pretty much get a 100% take up. On behalf of LX, thank you so much for putting this Event on, and we hope that WGMA will find opportunities in the coming years to do something similar, as our membership craves them. (Trevor Denison - LX England)*

*All the women's teams had a great time ... It was extremely well-managed and Maria was very much a presence. ... All in all, it was an excellent tournament thoroughly enjoyed by all and it was good to see the women's sections expanding, though a pity that Alliance didn't compete. (Linda Skelton - LX Ladies)*

*In representative tournaments teams seek to beat other countries' teams. In social tournaments the competitive urge is still there but so much more civilised to share the pleasure of meeting up again with names and faces from the past. (Kieran – Scottish Thistles)*

*During the fantastic championship in Barcelona, ... (Thierry Dujardin – French Masters)*

*The tournament was very well organised as always ...  
Considering the number of teams participating 2 x 20 minutes duration was the right decision.  
Conduct and performance of the umpires was remarkable and has improved over the years.  
A suggestion and hope: matches of 4 x 15 minutes for all. (Claudio Affabris - Associazione Veterani Gens Italica)*

For results see <https://www.hockeygrandmasters.com/schedule/>

Jawed Khan

Secretary WGMA

[secretary@wgmahockey.org](mailto:secretary@wgmahockey.org)

<https://www.wgmahockey.org/>

October 2022