

Masters Report AGM 2017

From the beginning, I'd like to mention that this past winter season has been one of the most successful seasons since the inception of the Masters competition for Yarra Valley! It is as a result of a lot of hard work by the team managers, selectors and players. We managed to put together teams that were not only able to perform exceptionally well, but enjoyed just doing it.

It all started last summer 2016/17, when we won the MM35+ Summer comp at Doncaster (for the club a three-peat). The WM35+ playing at Essendon made the finals and finished fourth. With two out of three summer teams in the finals, it set the pattern for the winter season.

In winter 2017, we pulled off premierships wins in the MM45+BNW and MM45+D grades after finishing minor premiers in both grades. We were runners up in the Grand Final for the MM50+A and MM50+B's. The WM35+BNW team finished 6th overall. Again, that's four out of six teams in the finals and four teams playing in Grand Finals.

At the Presentation night, we recognised the achievers for the masters for the 2017 season.

The winners were:

Men's 50A's B&F: Neville Dixon, Runner up: Steven Down;
Men's 50B(1)'s B&F: Mohan Singh, Runner up: Bruce Smith;
Men's 50B(2)'s B&F: Stuart Bridgman, Runner up: Kath Handasyde;
Men's 45BNW B&F: Adrian Rutley, Runner up: Matt Skinner;
Men's 45D's B&F: Mohan Singh (again!), Runner up: Geoff Phipps;
Women's 35BNW B&F: Tina Dawson. Runner up: Louise Davis;
Masters Highest Goal Scorer: Andy Howell;
Masters Club Person of the Year: Geoff Phipps.

I would like to recognise the efforts of Geoff Phipps, Stuart Adcock, Max Chatterton and Kath Handasyde, Lesley Longmuir (who was ably assisted by Megan Bonness and Lyn Taylor) and Greg Watson who

performed the duties of team managers for their respective teams, without their support my job could have been a lot harder.

We have achieved promotion for next winter season in the MM45+, so will be playing in the MM45+A's and MM45+C's. Along with a number of new recruits, who are quality players, I am confident that with the flow on effect into the 45C's we will be able to at least hold our own in the higher grades.

We also had a number of players representing Victoria at the Australian Masters Hockey Championships for both the men's and women's. For the men in Hobart, there was John Meaden, Glen Connell, Max Chatterton, Noel Campbell, Rob McNeill and Andy Howell. For the women, there was Janice Cuthbert, Anne-Marie Murray, Kath Birrell, Wendy McGinskin and Jude Barnard.

Summer hockey is well under way with Hockey Victoria organising the competition to only run until the end of December 2017 with ten rounds being played and no finals. There are four men's and one women's master's teams competing. For the first time, we are holding the 35+ men's Monday competition at Yarra's ground, due to Doncaster having their ground resurfaced. There are two teams at Yarra, two teams playing at Footscray in the 50's and the women are playing in the 35+ competition at Essendon/Brunswick.

It's certainly looking good for next year, with new players settling in over the summer competitions at Yarra and the challenge of the 45's playing in a higher grade.

Go Yabbies!!

Andy Howell