

## **Mens Masters Report for GHA AGM on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May**

Masters Hockey continues to grow in the county with 150 players over 40 now registered on my database, the frustration is that, apart from the over 60's, there is little opportunity (at the moment) for Masters players to play together apart from in informal veterans games where the age range can be from 40 to 70. Masters players form the backbone of many of the county's clubs acting as umpires, committee members and coaches as well as playing for teams in the various leagues. I am sure clubs recognize how important older players are and how much revenue they provide but in order to keep as many as possible involved in the game more needs to be done to keep them interested. GHA has a proposal to make that could be the start for a real Masters hockey movement in the 50+ age bracket, but more of that later!

### **West representation**

The following players have been selected to play for the West at the forthcoming Regional championships:-

Over 45's - Anton de Leeuw, Ed Breton & Trevor Done (Gloucester), Liam Tunney (Stroud)

Over 50's - Simon Thompson (Gloucester), Rich Bywater (Newent), Tim Norman (Stroud),

Nick Stamp (Westbury & UB)

Over 55's - Bruce Dunham (Wootton - under- Edge), Tim Norman (Stroud), John Partridge (Cirencester)

Lance Worth (Lansdown)

Over 60's - Dave Webb and Steve Foster (Cirencester)

Over 65's - Ian Harvey & Roger Britton (Cirencester), Neil Flanagan (Cleevillians), Lindsay Ferguson

(unatt).

Over 70's - Brian Stokes (Gloucester), Tony Griffin (Cleevillians)

### **England representation**

Over 45's - Anton de Leeuw, Ed Breton & Trevor Done (Gloucester), Liam Tunney (Stroud) is a reserve.

Over 50's - Simon Thompson (Gloucester)

Over 60's - Dave Webb (Cirencester)

Over 70's - Brian Stokes (Gloucester)

### **Over 60's EH Cup Competition**

Following a well-attended trial in September we selected 2 squads to enter in last season's Over 60's EH Cup, the only EH Cup competition that allows counties to enter teams. The "A" team had a successful season with the highspot probably being the 6:1 demolition of Staffordshire away at Cannock. Unfortunately we went out on strokes to a well organized Essex side after normal time ended with the teams tied 2:2. The "B" team lost both their games against strong Devon & Cornwall

teams but I would hope for better results next year as we get more experienced in knock-out hockey. The spirit of "B" team was amazing and they deserve praise for travelling all the way to Okehampton in the knowledge that they were likely to lose to a very strong Devon & Cornwall set up.

### Occasional games

We continue to play occasional games when the opportunity arises and will be putting out a side against Wales over 70's having already put out a side against Wales over 65's.

In June we will be playing against Somerset at the University of Bath Sports complex at over 40, 50 and 60 age groups.

### GHA Masters "Merit table"

Masters players (i.e. those over 40) form a significant part of the playing population in Gloucestershire and there are several reasons (including adult subscriptions!) why it is important for all clubs to provide them with reasons to stay playing. The main problem is that for any players under 60 years old there is little opportunity to play Masters hockey apart from an occasional vets game. GHA have recognized this as both a problem and opportunity and are proposing to introduce a Masters competition for male players aged 50 and over. This competition, if it receives sufficient support from member clubs, will start next season (2019/2020). Further details will be sent out to member clubs immediately following the AGM.

### Mens Masters Database

There is a database of masters players that is used to publicise details of games. I am continually adding to the database and all any player aged 35+ who is interested in playing Masters Hockey needs to do is to drop me an email - [malcolmlevert@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmlevert@gmail.com).

If any GHA clubs want to enter a team in one of the EH cup competitions but have insufficient players I can help them find some more by accessing the database and this will enable them to get a decent size squad together. This applies to Tier 2 and 3 competitions in the main because the rules permit players to come from a number of clubs.