

***Field Hockey Canada***  
**2019 Chair Report**  
***Field Hockey Canada Board of Directors***



The Board has held 16 meetings during the past year, 2 of which were face-to-face meetings held in Vancouver. It has been an extremely challenging year for all Board members: a search to find the most able Head Coach for our Women's National Program, the necessary funding to support our WNT in the quest for Olympic qualification, and a difficult decision to implement a change in staff leadership, all against the backdrop of a difficult financial climate.

Having said that, we emerge from the year stronger. Our National teams are performing well, we have a highly capable new staff leader in place and are embracing organizational change and actively addressing the challenges before us. In particular I highlight the 2-day face-to-face Board meetings as initiating stronger Board evaluation process and better governance. Emerging from these and following consultation in 2018, we are delighted to present our new Strategy "One Team: One System" to our members. With Susan Ahrens as CEO, we are committed to building our system and have a vision of achieving this through working closely with all our members and in all our communities.

In high performance, the WNT, under Giles Bonnet's extensive experience, has been successful in events in Mexico (WL 1), CWG in Australia, a Belgium-based training program from July 2018 in conjunction with successful tours to Spain, China, Scotland and the positive silver medal at Valencia FIH World Series Final. Meanwhile, the Men's National Team, under Paul Bundy's tutelage, has pursued a confident series of events: CWG Australia, World Cup in India, Azlan Shah Cup in Indonesia and winners of WL Finals in Malaysia.

Most recently, both Men's and Women's National Teams have won Silver Medals at the Pan American Games in Lima, Peru and now have a further chance for qualification to Tokyo 2020.

Following in the footsteps of the 2 Canadian Masters' teams which participated in the 2016 World Cup in Australia, we had 4 teams entered to the 2018 Masters World Cup in Spain: a men's Grand Masters (over-60) team in Barcelona June 20-30; 3 Masters teams in Terrassa July 27-Aug.5: 1 Men's (o-50) and 2 Women's (o-50 and o-55). It is hoped that this foray into the Hockey Masters arena will encourage more participation at both



local and international events. Masters Hockey is undoubtedly an area of growth and FHC is committed to supporting this.

The Board would wish to express sincere thanks to Mike Gunning, Anne McMullin, Patrick Oswald and Jesse Watson for their time and dedication to Field Hockey Canada over this last year:

**Mike Gunning** always provided very considered language to summarize Board discussions and capture crucial actions required of the organization. His input will be sorely missed.

**Anne McMullin** brought strength to issues surrounding the WNT coach decisions but always found time to participate, despite a very full professional work schedule.

**Patrick Oswald** has provided invaluable expertise as Treasurer, stepping in to assist with the implementation of changing financial procedures. As Chair, he has been instrumental in the set-up of the Fundraising & Sponsorship Committee and will be key to the long term success of this vital portfolio.

**Jesse Watson:** has been the MNT representative since July 2016. A very mature, considered contributor to board discussions when National Athlete issues were raised and never shy to voice an opinion, even if controversial.

I must express a sincere “thank you” to all Board members for the enormous support and expertise each one of them has brought to the table: the year would have been much more difficult without that collective support.

Respectfully submitted, Ian Baggott (Chair).

