

## Presidents Pen 17 June, 2014

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**16 June 2014 Newsletter** A regular away game week for most of Melville. Our **Premier 1 Men and Women** played at PHS. We had a great support group there and it was good sitting in the stands with our MCHC members taking it to the WASPs this week.

Our **Premier 1 Men** did not win and lost quite convincingly actually. I think a bit of an eye opener. WASPys wanted it more. Personally I put this one down to a lack mental preparedness to understand where we are at in a certain point in time. That is playing a team we must beat to stay in final contention and be a serious contender in the second half of the season. I think players and fans alike now understand this further than the date time lines and mathematics of a fixture board and would expect nothing but positive adjustment in the future. That is from all and keep the faith we can do it and I know this team can bounce back. We believe it.

Our **Premier 1 Women** fought back from a behind position to finish strongly with some mistakes and a tremendous amount of courage to take the lead and then add one more. I think the word being bandied around is **RELENTLESS**. With several players out and some junior players in the squad who are willing to work with their seniors and learn the common goal which is keep going never give up and it will happen. Then the skill cuts in. A very good win with 3 playing 4 on the ladder and making a profound sporting statement.

**Whats Happening** - I would like to share some background with Turf scheduling and grounds. It has been a nightmare this season with our whole association. We are not turf grounds rich in the state of WA. There are not enough turf fields to cater to the HWA teams. To boot we had two turfs down at the start of the season with one still operating marginally now. So our own MCHC turf is quite busy and highly utilized. To this end unfortunately though with such pressure on adequate playing surfaces a lot of competitions like our Ladies Masters and non top squads are getting very late time slots and with the Ladies also with reduced playing times. It is not fair or good enough and I understand this. I do know that if all goes well the down turfs will be up and there should be at least two extra in the pool by next season. HWA has upward pressure on clubs to have turf fields. So please be patient the immediate crisis issue looks like being resolved by next year. We then go back to busy.

Melville City Hockey Club is in negotiations with CoM, DSR and HWA to get another facility. So we know there is a need as above even without a crisis. Unfortunately things are moving slowly. Our wonderful present turf was resurfaced and had major civil works completed in out off main season time. This accentuates the importance of this project that was completely ready to go and first class well prior to the start of the season. All managed, designed and financed by MCHC members, volunteers and a sinking fund started many years ago. Food for thought and I hope noticed by the above organizations. We do ask as a responsible club with many members to allow us to get a move on so we may have our facility and second turf so hockey and sport can advance in our state. I will keep you updated.

**Uniform Shop** - Did you notice the uniform shop opened last week. A couple of celebratory bottles of wine were shared while our diligent Uniform volunteers served from an easy to set up and more professional premise. It will start to look better as time goes on but for now it is up and running so please come and top up on all your uniform requirements.

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**Volunteer Request** - While on volunteers, the kitchen staff are looking for part time **kitchen assistants** to learn the role from Lynda and Maureen. If anyone is interested and we do need your help please contact Lynda on Mob: **0418945876**.

The next **back to the club night** is being planned now. Keep an eye on the Pride for the announcement. We would like to make the next one even bigger with greater attendance at the games and night. 21 June, 4:00 - 7:00PM back to back games. Don't forget that there are MCHC games either side of these time slots also so come early or stay late there is always a game on at Melville.

I am also pleased to announce that our Honorable Mayor of the City of Melville and Melville City Hockey Club Patron Russell Aubrey will be attending the games with his lovely wife Glenis. It is always good to see them and please make them most welcome on the day.

The Committee look forward to seeing all our members at the club this Saturday.

**Gary Bowater - Melville City Hockey Club – President.**