

Presidents Pen

6 May 2015 Newsletter - The game on Saturday - Our top Squad Men played CT Pirates and had a 1 all draw on the weekend. We absolutely dominated play for about 85% of the game and had up to 10 short corners. The field play was brilliant but unfortunately the goals are still not coming. It was bone crunching sad to see Tim Geers be lifted from the field with an ankle injury. We hope it is not too serious and we see him back soon.

For the Top Squad Women's game unfortunately I arrived for the last 10 minutes of this game just to see us go down for a 2 - 1 loss. Why our club grass games have been scheduled away on MTL home game days I do not know. Our Women's Top squad are yet to win a game but there are signs the team will get there soon as they settle in. The outcome though is very similar to our men's team in that the field play is usually solid but the goals have been hard to come by. A special mention for our Goalie Erin Judd for a great game.

The games have not been easy for Melville Men and Women Top Squads. We have new coaches, new systems, new players and some of our top players have been recruited into the Australian Squad (because they are good) and of course some are injured. None of our teams have been thoroughly beaten but of course the undeniable statistics speak for themselves and there are no excuses for that. We should not look towards our Import Players (who are most welcome and become part of us) to lead us out of this situation. Our home grown players with coaches, committee and most of all club members and supporters in these tough times need to stand united and work our way out of this situation. That is the goal, the cause and only momentum to be taken. Our favourite men and women players need all the support they can get. Show your support on game day and let's get this thing happening in a bold and supportive way. Bring your colours along to the game and let all see in the Hockey WA fraternity where we stand by waving them from the stands and sidelines. We know our teams can do it and just need to lift that tiny bit further to break this dry spell and go on from there.

We congratulate and celebrate our long time serving AIS Draft player (10 Years) **Russell Ford**. Russell has retired from International hockey. A native Victorian Russell has netted 72 times in his 158 game career for Australia. Well done, Russ from the whole of Melville City Hockey Club (your adopted club) and hope to see you at the club again at least one more time.

As a footnote to the above the new Men's uniform will be the first look ahead at how the new club uniforms will look for next year. At this point it looks like this uniform will be totally available next MTL home game. We look forward to seeing them with their team sponsors logo **poolwerx** on the front of the shirts.

The Kitchen is in full swing again on Thursday nights and other times so come on down and grab a delicious meal. At \$10.00 a serve the value is fantastic and take away containers are available. You can also meet top players and coaches as well as they join us most Thursday evenings for the meal and a quite ale. If you can help we are still looking for some volunteers to be supervisors in this area. If you can help please contact Maureen Welten or Graeme Coleman m: 0414441490.

I hope you have a good week and look forward to seeing you **at the club**.

Gary Bowater - Melville City Hockey Club – President.