

February 16th, 2016

First of all, Happy New Year to everyone in Hockeyland. I trust that everyone is now in full swing preparing for the season ahead, busily going through registrations, team assignments and pre-season training. So upfront, I would like to wish everyone all the very best for the season ahead. May you all enjoy our fantastic game and have fun!

This is my first President's Update since coming into the role late last year and it has been a busy period. Hockey NSW has had some great successes in the indoor arena in January, with the U13 Boys, U15 Boys, U18 Women's, U21 Women's and Open Men's Teams all taking home the Gold medal at the National Indoor Championships. Some great results also by the Open Women's, U18 Men's and U15 Girl's taking out the Silver Medal.

Congratulations and well done to all the teams as well their support crews behind the scenes.

We've been very busy off the field as well. A fortnight ago the Board of Hockey NSW met to determine our 2016 Strategic Focus items. In broad terms, the Board determined three key areas:

- The 'product' of hockey
- Long term financial health of hockey
- Engagement in hockey in NSW

There were many elements discussed under each of these banners that the Board will work on during the year with the challenge of delivering outcomes by year's end.

During the strategic day, the Board were also presented with a holistic view in regards to how and where Hockey NSW's money is spent. Out of every dollar received by Hockey NSW, 70% is spent on providing services to our members. In the three main areas in which Hockey NSW provides services (State Teams, State Championships and Development Programs) 72 cents from every dollar received goes to these programs. 18 cents then goes to our personnel costs and 9 cents for other administrative costs. This clearly demonstrates the focus of Hockey NSW on providing the best services and products for our members and as always, the Board and management consistently strive for stronger efficiencies in our sport.

Last week I had the privilege of visiting some of our inland Associations to better understand their successes, challenges and future within their areas. I would like to thank Parkes, Dubbo, Orange and Bathurst Hockey Associations for their time and hospitality. I also had the chance to drop into the Indoor Men's Masters State Championships at the new facility in Goulburn. Next month I will be visiting Tamworth, Taree, Newcastle, Hunter and Central Coast for more insights and hope to get to as many Associations in the coming months.

Later this week, we'll be holding our Annual Awards Night. I would like to congratulate all the nominees and wish them all the best. I look forward to seeing you there on the night.

Finally, next week is one of our biggest events on the calendar - the Basil Sellers Regional Challenge. I would like to thank Mr. Basil Sellers for his generous contribution to this event and I hope everyone enjoys what will be a huge weekend of hockey.

Yours In Hockey,

Michael Tentomas
President of Hockey NSW