



GRAND MASTERS 2018 WORLD CUP

60s

[Abstract](#)

Review of the 60s experience at the world cup hosted by Club Polo Barcelona

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Results

Pool B	Aus	Can	RSA	Scot	USA				
Australia			7-0	2-1	7-0			6-0	
Canada	0-7		0-3	0-4			0-5		
South Africa	1-2		3-0		1-4			2-1	
Scotland		0-7	4-0	4-1				5-1	
United States		0-6	5-0	1-2	1-5				
Placing Games			Goals						
Rank	No	wins	draws	loses	For	Against	Dif	Points	
1	Australia	4	4	0	0		22	1	21
2	Scotland	4	3	0	1		13	9	4
3	South Africa	4	2	0	2		7	7	0
4	United States	4	1	0	3		7	13	-6
5	Canada	4	0	0	4		0	19	-19

Coach Murray Paton review of World cup 2018 60s

As requested please find below my post World Cup thoughts. I hope this is along the lines of what you were looking for.

I have split this into 2 sections:

- General club points applicable to all age groups (this will be repeated in each report)
- Age Group Specific Thoughts

General Points:

1) Whilst Badalona was an excellent location in terms of standard of hotel and local amenities, I feel in future accommodation much closer to the ground would be preferable going forwards. The length of journey to and from the pitch really added to an already lengthy and tiring day and in particular for the older age groups in the heat, the trip to the pitch was a challenge of stamina and endurance in itself, let alone prior to a game of hockey.

2) Provision of a first aid kit per team is an absolute must. I appreciate these are heavy items and transport for them is not easy, but even a basic first aid pack must be present at every game for every team. Due to different venues and game times it was not possible to share one kit between the teams. This kit must include basic provisions to deal with blood and impact injuries e.g. bandages and ice. We cannot rely on venues providing this for us and swift treatment pitch side is a must even for minor injuries which can become more significant if not treated quickly.

3) In my view going forwards the club must request medical information from players and this must be kept with each team for the following reasons:

- a. The coach should know about serious conditions, in order to recognise symptoms or issues early on and prevent serious injury or illness.
- b. Suitable medical information should be available to pass immediately to medical staff, should something serious arise, or the player is unable to communicate effectively.

For me the unfortunate incident with the USA player, brought home how un-prepared we were for such a situation had this been a member of our club.

4) Following on from this incident I would also like to request that the club formally acknowledge and recognise with some sort of award or token gift the work that Ian Wilson and Billy Taylor did that day. Despite having played 70 minutes of hockey, the calmness and clear thought they displayed in this situation was exceptional. Whilst both are trained for the situation and we were lucky to have them to hand, I have no doubt that without their swift actions it could have been a very different story in terms of the players recovery, if any at all. This went above and beyond in a very emotionally and physically draining situation. I find it frustrating that the World Grand Masters have not recognised their actions, but I doubt they will as this will be an admittance that suitable medical cover was not to hand!

5) Facemasks, the club purchased additional masks ahead of the tournament, but we were slow to get these distributed out to the teams, namely because I don't believe we had purchased enough to cover the Thistles as well. I may be wrong, but my understanding is we

never got to a position where all 3 international teams had facemasks because we did not buy enough to include the Thistles and they took a set.

6) The club needs more out of competition games. Let's make use of the contacts we have down south and arrange matches against North and Midlands etc. to get really competitive matches. This keeps the guys sharp, allows the coaches and players to work on things from training and keeps players motivated too. Internal club games just don't give value add.

7) Physios – These guys were fantastic, they really were the difference between us and other clubs at times, helping keep the show on the road and an objective opinion on players welfare. For me this was invaluable, and we must ensure a similar approach in future. Team specific physios would be the utopia as they were really stretched over the 10 days, particularly with travel and different venues. Please can the club support any references or recommendations from Ian, Ella, Darren or Will if they ask.

Pre-Tournament

Preparation and Training

1 I realise it is difficult to find suitable opposition, but I think more games need to be played pre-tournament. Need to continue to practice set pieces e.g. short corners.

2 While the focus was very much on the World Cup, we had to prepare and train (and play) for the Celtic Cup, Home Internationals and World Cup in only 6 months of the year. With squad selection around year end and January and February virtually written off due to weather, this meant that, in effect, we only had 4 months to prepare which is quite tight. The training sessions themselves were good – especially when we could also fit in games –v- reasonable opposition.

3 Think we had enough sessions organised but maybe they could have been longer? That might have been compromised by the combination of training with the older age groups, or maybe a view that we would not 'hack it'? I'm not an advocate for long lunch breaks but some structured time in the middle of the session might have closed some of the gaps about forth coming trips, arrangements, tactics etc (bit like we used to do in the 50's/55's)

3 Also think we had a couple of sessions when the training opposition was really not challenging enough

3 Otherwise I enjoyed the bulk of what we did. Maybe more time on set plays, ie PC's dead balls could be built into longer sessions.

4 Well organised and helpful

5 Ok for me as most training sessions were in Glasgow

6 very good, coach organised though quite general dealing with whole squad while some more specific drills / tactics required. (players require to take more ownership / responsibility for intensity of own training during sessions)

6 Lack of PC practice attacking / defence both together - match play

6 Limited full game practice against challenging opposition

6 Coach under pressure due to taking club training or other age groups on same day, off pitch chats talks not available to him. (conflict Squad v Club)

7 Thought this was good although a couple more match practices against suitable opposition would have been good in an ideal world. I thought we had enough training sessions.

7 I liked the suggested stretching exercises and training guidelines for last minute fitness. I would find suggested training programme helpful. As an incentive to being fitter.

8 Felt this went well. There was a lot of engagement about the conditions we would face and options to mitigate playing conditions. Obviously not involved but the fact that there were short corner sessions being run was good and a strong signal to the rest of the squad of the commitment that was being put in.

9 Preparation and Training: - Pre-tournament training was very good, more actual games prior to any of the tournaments would have been useful so that the team gel better

10 There are enough sessions throughout the year but require coordinated with the coach and be better organised.

Coach was not involved consulted with initial booking of pitches and therefore unavailable.

Half in attendance 'club players' along with squad players difficult to manage

Quality of the sessions

Required more structure- too ad hoc

Too much standing about / especially those not all involved

11 Training was good, but felt we should have had more competitive matches as part of the build-up. It is one thing to practice but match situations create an atmosphere which requires a different kind of thinking. Some of the training involved players who were not up to the standard of the 60+ team as a whole and these players quite often caused the practice runs to break down prematurely causing frustration and devaluing the quality of the practice. I recognise that these players need training too and it should challenge their capabilities and bring about improvement, but it cannot help them if they sense the frustration of those with whom they are training.

Selection

1 Always a difficult decision but seems to have been handled well. It needs to be made as soon as practically possible. We “got away” with having one keeper but we should avoid this in the future

2 Selection is difficult in that the squad has to be selected from a very small amount of people. However, the selection process was fair in that it was made by people who knew what the squad were capable of. Selection from a larger pool would be good and an earlier selection would allow those chosen to prepare and train earlier.

3 Always difficult. Few people missing (and possibly some not making themselves available from younger group) but not sure we could have strengthened the squad significantly. (Thought we might have arranged to take Gurdiie given he was there anyway? That could have given some flexibility around individual deployment in key roles).

3 Otherwise, the selection based on participation and performance is probably the only way to go.

4 Clear

5 Would have liked the selections to have been carried out earlier.

This would have helped those of us who are still working and need to arrange holidays

6 Unsure how selection operates. Is it only by coach selection?

6 Is there an official method of informing players of selection apart from web page?

6 Made very close to tournament dates, difficult to find a balance but with thistles available it should be made earlier to allow planning.

7 I was happy with the process for Barcelona. I thought there was at least one player who might have been selected who was left out.

8 I appreciate the circumstances that led to my being the only keeper (and I really enjoyed playing all the games) but it does have a big knock on effect. We lost another outfield player to spread the playing load in the conditions we faced, and it also put pressure on the defence as effectively 4 players probably played greater than 95% of game time. Whilst I appreciate it would have been a big call we should have more clearly debated taking the extra man and then rotating a player to stand down for a game. If I had picked up a knock it would just have greatly exacerbated the situation. We also need to make sure that those coming up from the 55's get more opportunities to show selectors what they are capable of - Gurdhe was very much worth a place.

9 Selection was ok, it would help if tournament game programme had been more accurate thus preventing having to re schedule return flight which increased cost of flights

10 Selection criteria requires to be implemented-it has been proposed in the past but not implemented. It requires to be objective and transparent.

10 Though financial assistance is not available a concern would be selection is only open to those who can afford it.

10 Commitment / Availability is required for the whole tournament

10 Are all players selected eligible to play? Members of SHU? Ramifications for insurance

11 My only issue is a few within each of the squads suggesting they are available for all the tournaments and then pulling out for not particularly good reasons. Sometimes it seems as though they never really intended to commit or were waiting to see how good or otherwise the squads might be. Players should attend the vast majority of the training sessions to be eligible for selection.

Communication

- 1 Good communication. I prefer emails to simply posting everything on the website
- 2 Hopefully communication was good albeit we had to rely on a single squad Co-ordinator to get the required information out. One thing I noticed is that people generally are very slow to respond to any notices and we should do something about this. Waiting until you have answers from every single squad member before you can action things is not good.
- 3 Generally good. Got a bit lost like arranging to come back a day earlier than was actually required to meet fixtures, so maybe more could be done on setting out expectations. Otherwise I think it was OK
- 4 Very good aside from finish date which changed
- 5 Still not convinced that having to check the lx website and doodle poll is the best way to communicate. Possible to email players
- 6 No clear route for getting messages / information. Or I'm unaware of one. LX home page far too cluttered difficult to follow with information 'hidden' in articles.
- 6 Squad meeting time should be set aside at training for dissemination of information and questions (previous squads used lunch time) Difficult if coach is taking next session.
- 6 Squad Whats app good but too much chatter / clutter important detail getting lost ignored!
- 7 Good
- 8 Comms were generally very good and Whatsapp is a must have from an organisational and banter perspective.
- 9 communication on and off the field on games day was good and communication prior to the tournament via email was also good
- 10 There are too many channels used for information / a blurring of the roles
 - Club – information
 - Coordinators – team squad information
- 10 Whats app- works well for the team for day to day basis but requires to be dedicated to team organisational matters without the clutter of noise / chat. Team specific meet times etc
- Possibly a 2nd app for the chatter!
- 10 Doodle – waste of space (not utilised properly)
- 10 Pitch side Current coach needs to be vocal
 - Behaviour on bench – too much noise, information is lost and contradictory from coaches on occasions.
- 11 Generally of a good level amongst the 60+, cannot speak for the other squads.

Other

6 Use contacts around Scotland and England for training games

7 Physios did a great job and ideally each team should have their own or employ locally as we have done in the past.

8 No other comments

10 Club ethos being used to run international teams

Club run by committee, but international team requires a management structure able to respond / react quickly to situations for the benefit of the squad.

10 One coach per squad.

Tournament

Travel & Accommodation

1 Accommodation was well organised by Bernie. We need to appoint someone to organise this as early as possible.

2 Late selection means that flights tend to be more expensive than they need to be. Early selection would help people plan sooner. Hotel accommodation was excellent. The problem with selecting a hotel was that we could have ended up playing games at the Polo Club and Casteldefels which are some 30kms apart. Trying to get almost 4 squads of people (plus wives) – around 65 people in total - into a single hotel in Spain in the height of the tourist season was not easy – need to re-think this. Metro travel was nicely air-conditioned and cheap.

2 The “wishie-washie” initiative was very welcome (smart idea turning up in fresh kit).

3 Spoilt by previous trips to Hong Kong and Singapore!

Accommodation/location was good, though some additional leisure facilities (eg, on-site pool) might have been a good option for rehab purposes

3 Concerns about travel did not really materialise. I think that was helped by the timing of games and the efficiency of the metro. That distance from the pitch could have been an issue though in other circumstances.

4 fine albeit rooms bit small for two

5 Hotel was good. Possibly a hotel closer to where we were playing. Although I understand the difficulties in trying to accommodate four teams. However, I don't see any benefit for all the teams being in the same hotel

6 Hotel and area of Barcelona was good I enjoyed it but too far away from venue.

6 Do all teams need to be in same venue -no whole national events, socialising limited as all on different programmes (understandable)

6 Squad training session poor attendance due to lack of clarity of travel confirmation of times

6 Transport system worked very well however added to the length of the day. 2/3hrs travel times caused issues with meal times and lack of time to spend at venue opening ceremony socialise watch other games etc.

7 Accommodation was also good. But I don't think we should aim to all stay as one big group involving all age groups. It was too onerous for Bernie to arrange. And the benefits were marginal as we had different match times.

7 It would have been preferable to be a little closer to the Ground but Badalona was excellent being more relaxed and smaller and presumably cheaper than Barcelona itself.

7 The Girls arrangement of Air B&B might be worth considering for the future. Probably more easily afforded by players and better relaxation space. Also, you get a bit bored with hotel breakfasts.

8 Badalona was an inspired choice as a base. Hotel was excellent and there were plenty of options for food in the evening and for relaxing on rest days.

8 Travelling by metro despite initial worries about time was good and very effective and cheap.

8 Having the local laundrette and wishy/washy enterprises was also appreciated.

9 Travel plans were communicated prior to final game timetable issued thus had to change return travel plans.

9 Accommodation was excellent, and Bernie did a fantastic job securing a great deal for everybody. Downside was travel time between hotel & ground, but if we had a hotel closer to the ground then the cost of accommodation would have been more expensive.

9 For future large tournaments what about looking for apartments as we did in Australia

10 Hotel good but

Too far from pitches - fatigue due to travel
 -poor attendance at tournament ceremonies
 -ability to support / see other games

10 Is there a need for all squads at same venue? Each squad has specific playing programmes / times. Didn't integrate operated as 4 teams so Why?

10 Travel to tournament requires to be day before / day after – the schedule did cause difficulties.

11 Squads should have some say with regard to where accommodation should be in relation to tournament location.

Game day programme

1 I think there should be some briefing more in advance of the game and not just immediately before, so everyone can digest the jobs they are supposed to be doing.

1 Physio support was extremely beneficial.

2 Game day programme was reasonably well organised. Match preparation was good. (BM) 2 Physio support was tremendous. Looking after 4 squads with 2 physios was not easy. Hotel sessions certainly helped. Really need to think about as physio per squad.

2 Game briefing was good. It was clear that we had done our homework on the competition and we generally played as a tight knit squad and to Coach's demands. Debriefing was also good.

3 Much better than previous Celtic cup and home nations, hampered initially by the lack of facilities till we found the small astro pitch. Physio support is invaluable, though we still have to work out how to attend to all the guys, such that game prep is not compromised

3 Game day programme times seemed to work ok. Polo club facilities might have been better but we got by.

3 They were good – especially when players follow the plan on to the pitch!!

3 Both necessary parts of being professional in our approach.

4 well organised

4 Briefing very good

5 Was Good. Physio support is essential. Definitely require two Physio's

5 Briefing Excellent

However, I am not convinced that Murray having to coach more than one team is right.

6 Cool downs – regular and structured most involved / all required.

6 Debrief – limited and general due to issues already mentioned (coach involved elsewhere)

6 Physio support was excellent however as they were not specific to squad were spread thin to cope with pre / post game times. Some work could have been done at accommodation if closer to venue.

6 Late notification of local physio support disappointing

6 Match prep good-but impacted by coach involved with other groups.

6 Timetable of match days appropriate -communication of times should be more formally communicated – not all on whats app

6 Warm up – regular routine good and understood by squad

6 Tactics / game plan could be completed at accommodation (again too far/coach otherwise engaged)

7 Excellent

Post-match Activities

1 No change. A mixture of whole team and small group activities are important. The whole team must keep together for the post-match drink

2 I like the informality of the squad “doing its own thing” where groups within the squad could relax and choose different activities (tours, visits, dinner). The squad all got on well and that showed in both the games and post-match activities. It was all quite relaxed which is exactly what is required after tough matches.

3 Tournament dinner was poor. Not sure it was value for money beyond the craic. That said I’m not sure if it’s something we can avoid. Otherwise being left to our own devices generally worked well and seemed to suit most folks.

4 good balance

6 Squad worked very well together playing wise and socially. Good mix and variety of groupings for social events meals, sightseeing etc.

6 Tournament dinner – good to attend however late night again partly due to travel

7 Thought they were good and varied

8 Worked well but also depends on the opposition having the same mindset. Been to 3 world cups now and still not had a drink with the aussies – should know better as they were the same when I played league hockey in Melbourne for 3 years.

9 after match we did socialise with some of our opposition but as a team we need to plan more than 1 team night

10 One team outing / meal disappoint not all involved but a good evening. Would have looked for a 2nd but timings and programme not allowing it.

10 Team was sociable on/off pitch very good mixture of socialising within squad.



11 I prefer to find my own space rather than be with the squad all the time when participating in a lengthy tournament, but if the majority enjoy these then they should continue. There are some squad members who like to be in smaller groups when socialising. I have no problem with that providing these are positive experiences and are not signs of discontent with the main group.

Any other constructive comments & suggestions

2 Interesting that virtually every team we played knew that we had all played together before “and it showed”. There was a strong camaraderie. Everyone supported everyone else before, during and after the games themselves.

2 Barcelona was a very good tournament for the over 60s. We were very close to getting through to the semi-finals which would have been a tremendous result for such a small pool of players. Our second game –v- Australia showed just how quickly we learn as a squad – from a 7-0 drubbing on day 1 to a 3-1 loss on day 10 with exactly the same players shows just how we performed in Barcelona.

3 Think we just need to build on the good practices we are establishing. If we could get more training time and use it well, that could only benefit.

4 well done, good tour

6 A good enjoyable tournament, final placing to finish behind Australia very good. Spanish game would be the one to be disappointed with, missed opportunities.

6 Squad requires to be operated as a squad rather than club specific coach manager and physios required at major international tournaments

6 Disappointed with Polo club felt they were not welcoming

Lack of appropriate shade for spectators

Changing facilities for the number of teams / pitches very poor

Tournament dinner lack of respect for guests table drinks removed around them

Hospitality food very good but prices of drinks in comparison to club expensive

6 Big thanks to Bernie, Ian and Murray for all their work

7 As Secretary I thought we could have been better organised. Unlike the Thistles we did not have a team Manager for each team and the team members particularly in the over 70s group were not clear due to various last-minute changes taking place. As a result, we were a little slow to submit team sheets to the Organisers. Also, the over 65 and over 70 teams did not have information readily available with shirt numbers. And there was a delay caused by the application for an underage player who did not qualify. I question whether we should we have applied for him.

8 Apparently, each side has a defibrillator, but we only took one to Spain and it was at the wrong pitch when we had the incident in the USA game. If we have made the commitment to have these we need to work out how to have them at pitch side – it will make a difference one day.

9 New Strips required both the blue and white strips are looking old and tired, time for the management to make the decision and purchase new strips

10 Poor support of opening / closing ceremony by squad / Scotland

10 Tournament meal timing does not fit into match programme

10 Socialising -for international team too much alcohol! Beer after game, then during evening meal

10 Was there a need for new top esp blue once change toto white as preferred colour.

10 Tournament rules were not adhered to.

TDs inconsistent about who's on the bench, physios' managers (named)

Caps worn during games hard edged

10 First Aid provision – Polo club could be taken to task Health and safety

EU/UK protocols regarding CPR not followed, defibulator not functioning due to incorrect connectors.

10 Insurance SHU not up to task if we had a similar issue as USA –cover requires to be topped up.

11 I would like the LX Club to positively and actively promote the setting up of a Scottish Masters Hockey Board which organises all Masters Hockey in Scotland, including selection of all national squads (Men & Women). Thereafter, the LX Club should only be concerned with supporting the Board and concentrating on developing non-elite Masters Hockey across Scotland. Being too focused upon the older age groups is not helping Masters Hockey move forward in Scotland.

Conclusions

Pre-tournament Preparation and training

- Training was regarded as good, helpful, organised (Fitness & Stretching routine well received)
- Sessions could be longer to enable
 - More time on set plays especially PCs
 - More game time, training am / game pm
- More challenging games opposition required
 - As are practices, drills with squad players rather than mixed ability
- Squad specific coach required- coach split between club and squad
- Time set aside for team / squad to share information (lunch time, earlier start)
- Bookings to be coordinated with coach availability.

Pre-tournament Selection

- Selection handled well, fair, clear
- Difficult job
- Use 2 goalkeepers
- Closer liaison with 55s for potential players available
- Selection made earlier to allow travel arrangements
 - Arrange leave, holidays for those working
- Use of selection criteria to ensure open and transparent
- Commitment to be available for whole tournament
- Comment on individuals who should be involved (but none on who would miss out)

Pre-tournament Communication

- Generally good preference for emails (good use of them)
- Speed of response to requests very good apart from a couple of individuals held up process
- Concern over LX web site, confusing 'hidden articles' with important info (conflict between squad / club)
- Squad Whats app good but danger of being cluttered with chatter
- Pitch side Coach could be more vocal
 - Bench too much noise, information lost and contradictory

Pre-tournament Other

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questionnaire responce.docx

Team /squad requires management structure able to respond quickly to situations

Club ethos being used to run international team

Travel for competitive practice games / use contacts in Scotland England.

Tournament Travel & accommodation

-Well organised **Bernie's work much appreciated**

-Hotel was excellent / good enjoyed by all

BUT -too far from venue travel time impacted on

Fatigue

Attendance at tournament events opening, closing ceremonies, meal,
after match socialising

-Metro was excellent despite initial concerns

-Confusion about finish dates affected some travel arrangements

Need to arrive day before / leave day later

Tournament Schedule required sooner

-Is there a need for all squads to be together?

-Laundering kit appreciated

-In future use of air B&B, apartments

Tournament Game Day Programme

-Regular structure appreciated worked well 3hrs/2hrs/1hr before match

-Warm up / cool downs well structured

-Physio input excellent both worked very hard very much appreciated

-squad dedicated physio required

-more treatment could then be completed at accommodation

-consider using local expertise as has been done in the past

-Game briefings very good

-dedicated coach required

-could be completed at accommodation

-Match Debrief good but limited, very brief

- coach under pressure to deal with other teams (dedicated coach)
- could be completed at accommodation (30min meeting after shower etc) Impacted by travel to venue

Programme and effectiveness impacted by available facilities

- warm up areas limited
- lack of shade
- pitch time before games limited

Post-match activities

- Squad worked well together informality within group allowed choice of activities.
- After match socialising generally worked well though not all squad or opposition involved
- Team meal / outing good
- Tournament dinner disappointing but seen as an 'obligation?'

Hotel venue impacted +/- on activities plenty of variety of eating places but distance from playing venue curtailed involvement at Polo Club.

Any Other comments

- An enjoyable tournament/trip
- Pleased with results especially how squad reacted after losing 1st game, resilience
- Our preparation showed and was commented on by various opponents
- Squad requires designated officials, Coach Manager Physios
- Tasks / Roles taken on by Coach, Physios, Captain, Coordinator very much appreciated
- Disappointment about hospitality from Polo club.
- Squad poor at supporting official tournament events (mitigating factors)
- Tournament rules inconsistently applied. TDs
- First aid provision by hosts a concern
- Squad Insurance requires attention is SHUs fit for purpose
- Need to build on good practice.

Comments from interview with 60s Coordinator

Limited assistance between other squads left to front all age groups for accommodation finding it difficult fulfilling personal requirements 65+squads.

Required to use personal credit card to cover deposits for accommodation

Treasurer not chasing payments and / or providing list of payees. Late in chasing other tournament fees etc.

Payment of daily allowance to physio in arrears rather than up front. (esp for students)

Payment for physios equally spread across teams but unsure about thistles being included.

'Late' selection causes problems looking for accommodation, possible to reserve a block of rooms initially individuals then must confirm with hotel their own requirements. Model used by other national squads.

Comments from interview with team captain are included with questionnaire responses.