

# Wednesday Hockey Masters Perth Est 1991

**Blue 60s**

**Electric Blue 60s**

**Gold 60s**

**Green 60s**

**Red 60s**

White 60s

## Masters Matters

**Blue 50s**

**Gold 50s**

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White 50s

Issue No 5

APRIL (2) 2012

**Headline News:** The next committee meeting is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> May. Please contact your team captain regarding items which you desire to be discussed. Thanks also to Bob Bowyer for providing me with a copy of the introduction for new players guide (developed by our executive) which I've included in this edition to provide information on our competition and club (*see page 8*).

**Department Of Major Corrections:** Our last edition claimed that the Australian 50s and 55s were playing in Canterbury NZ. Wrong - almost diametrically opposite on the globe – Canterbury UK. This was done without using a GPS – with one we could have had the first ever interstellar Masters.

**Wednesday Masters Across The World:** Following on from last issue I now have the team for the Southern Cross 70s going to Oxford - thanks to Bob Stidwell, Mike Black, and Peter Fogels for the information. Due to the number of Sandgropers I've included the whole list which reads:

Noel Condon (captain), Mick Martin (vice captain), Bill Williamson (manager), Mike Black (coach), Bob Stidwell (GK), Henry Barry, Bruce McBryde, John McBryde, Ash Foster, Ian Hill, Dave Horsley, Roy Hansen, Peter Livingstone, John Ree, Paul Robinson, and Ivan Wilson.

Thanks also to Mike Black and Peter Fogels for more information about the West Australians in the other Southern Cross teams in the 65s and 60s. They are:

O/60s: Peter Fogels (captain), Len Collier, David Mellor, Graham Still (Geraldton)

O/65s Blue: Geoff McNeill WAC (vice captain), Peter Murray, Geoff Corlett (GK)

O/65s Red: Peter Hearne (vice captain), Murray Sharp WAC, Brian Soares, John Burt WAC (GK)

**Wednesday Masters Allied To The World:** Several of our fellow players are going to Oxford as part of an Alliance team. From the Alliance Hockey website they include:

O/60s: Terry Gaston

O/65s: John Mercer

O/70s: Bob Bowyer (captain), Colin Benporath, Peter Blockley, Peter Ford, Bob Maley, Brian Stewart.

Roger might consider drafting some social fixtures for the Wednesday Masters UK branch for August as so many of us will be there. How many going to St Ives? As I know nothing of the numbers of kits, cats, sacks, and wives the (*wrong*) answer may not be in Issue #6. (*The right answer is 1*)

**Reader Feedback:** I confirmed that the source of the clock battery mentioned in Issue #4 was indeed Ricky Watts. Thank you again Ricky – did you bring one for the Red team too, given their improved form? Or is this an attempt to answer the Biology question in our Chairman's Exam (*see Issue #3*).

Thanks to Phil Anderson for this follow-up pertinent question (somewhat edited) on the cross-eyed school teacher: "Would a cross eyed hockey player have an advantage in being able to see both ends of the hockey ground at the same time?" If the game were played with two balls on the field at once - probably "yes" At times I would like at least three independent eyes – one for the ball, one for its intended recipient (on the rare occasions I have it), and one for the closest opponent.

**Mouthguards:** I had a most interesting chat with Marcus Frayne from the 50s (who manufactures them) on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Melville. He asked me not to run a commercial as he's not actively seeking any more work. However, the technical aspects are fascinating and I would like to print an article here. Meantime, interested readers can contact Marcus themselves on a Wednesday.

**Apparel:** Simon unveiled a couple of inexpensive jackets and a walk-out shirt on the 4<sup>th</sup> – all to include the Wednesday Masters logo. General (and personal) reaction was fairly cool, so Masters Matters did a little investigating. Some of us already have lots of hockey gear in many logos – and aren't keen on further expansion. I am also unsure that such prominent advertising of Wednesday Masters is a good idea. However, I consider that the idea is worth pursuing – maybe with a bit of hard sell. Are there any advertising copywriters in our ranks? Howard Read? What do you think?

**Quotable Quote:** “I have enjoyed greatly the second blooming – suddenly you find – at the age of fifty, say – that a whole new life has opened before you.” Agatha Christie was not talking about Wednesday Masters – but she might well have been.

**Quotable Quote No 2:** “The incompetent with nothing to do can still make a mess of it.” Laurence J Peter (*he of the Principle*). As stated a couple of issues ago – doing nothing is not easy.

**Department Of Limericks:** This issue we are not intending to reveal the identity of our limerick's mystery player. However as stated about a previous 5 liner, if the cap fits ....

Player X said his form wasn't bright  
Too much foreplay pre-game Tuesday night  
So he bypassed all sex  
Just stayed home, took a Bex  
But the rest of the week was all right

Or so many of us wish.

**Best Wishes For A Speedy Recovery:** Must go to Peter Fogels – who I managed to leave out of this section last issue – a seniors moment. He hopes to resume in May. Believe it or not the following Impertinent Question has been in the draft for this edition for several weeks – then I discovered that Peter's injury is a wrist which “feels like a gearbox missing the oil.” (*Like my knees – Ed.*)

As a follow up from our last issue Peter Gason has emerged from all the tests with an appointment for some tweaks (not much more anyway) to the plumbing. Could we suggest that you don't seek advice from Paul Robbo on how soon to come back after an operation.

One other convalescent I'm aware of is Roger Jewell, who has been a regular umpire during his non-playing period. Thanks very much for the umpiring – and best wishes for the recovery.

**Impertinent Question:** Does RSI still exist? Or was it all just mass wristeria?

**Thank You To:** Dudley Younger for another top sausage sizzle on April 4th despite a little rain interference which didn't bother the consumers much - just the cooks. Thanks also to Chip Challoner who gave Dudley a hand. The best assistance I can provide is to stay right away from it all as I'm such a great cook that my dinner guests always eat take-away (as two Wednesday Masters can attest).

**Thank You Also:** To Colin Gee for doing the sausage preparation at Melville on 11<sup>th</sup> April, and to Gordon Thomas who handled the same task on the 18th. It was reported to Masters Matters that Gordon drafted several members of the Red (60s) side to assist – good delegation and a good team effort. Both weeks tasted more than OK as far as I was concerned.

**They Said It:** After our piece in the last issue it was good to see Bala at the Stadium on April 4<sup>th</sup> – recovery in progress. He said he was there “to enjoy the sunshine and refresh the tan.”

Green team captain Dave Horsley watched from the sidelines as his side went 2-0 up. He then went on and they managed to fall over the line 2-1. “I’ve worked out what the problem is – it’s me!”

“I never forget but sometimes I don’t remember.” Now who said that?

“Whack goal! Whack goal! We won.” A John Mercer match report describes a 2-0 victory – with a nod to Jim Campbell of Raiders who originated this reporting style some time ago.

**Picturesque Speech:** A once-upon-a-time description of the newsletter editor’s hockey: “He’s as useful as an ashtray on a motorbike.” (*Unfortunately it’s not even that good now!*)

**Where Are They Now?:** Peter Evans is off to Las Vegas for a few weeks of the high life in one of the top spots thanks to a family connection. An excursion to the Grand Canyon is also planned. Contrary to our last issue Peter (Archie) Andrews did not reach the Canyon – just the west coast.

**Editorial Corner:** I must offer an apology to any umpire who I’ve offended in the last six weeks. The various colds or viruses afflicting me have added sore joints and hands to the already existing arthritis and gout – resulting in physical and mental (as my very limited ability disappears) pain. Unfortunately all too often I find this means I must exhort my fellow players to please do as I write, not do as I do – or should that be “not say as I say.”

Perhaps it is fortunate for me that the “Dummy Spit of the Day” is still behind the Stadium bar. I might have found it necessary to award it to myself after the 18<sup>th</sup> at Melville. (*Plus 14<sup>th</sup> at Altone*)

**Flashback:** From a 1985 edition of Scarborough’s “Lightning Flashes” comes the following story about the passing of a card from reader Vern Gooch to editor John Mercer which read:

MY CARD SIR

I am a bit of a bullshitter myself, but

Occasionally I like listening to a

PROFESSIONAL

PLEASE CARRY ON

**A Rose By Any Other Name:** A quote from “Raiders Review” of 1989, which reveals another possible merger hazard: “Most of us are becoming used to the new name and are managing an odd ‘Come on Raiders.’ Many teams have instituted a fines system – use the name Perth or Scarborough and you buy a jug for the side. Ask Peter Hammond from the Vets B to tell you about it – twice.”

**Comebacks:** Returns from some long absences were made by Phil Anderson, Jim Banks, and Ian Hill at Melville on the 11th. Steve McEntee only got as far as the bar - but it was the working side, as opposed to the editorial side. To show the extent of “Masters Matters” coverage we can report as an eye-witness that Steve did get onto the field at Altone Park on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> in 40s.

**Matters For Judgement:** On umpiring (yet again) it has been very noticeable in recent weeks (60s) that too many of us are questioning decisions vociferously and impolitely. Relations between players and umpires are not very good (perhaps somewhat of an understatement). Could I suggest that players start “owning up” wherever possible, and that umpires should be prepared to change their decisions when it is indicated to them (politely!) that the free hit should go the other way. Are there any comments from our readers (if any) – and how are things in the 50s?

**Reader Contribution:** The preceding paragraph had been in place for at least 10 days when I received the following which seems to have been written after reading it. Unless the editorial computer has been hacked this is not the case (no collusion took place) – so all has been included excepting for a few words which might have made identification too easy. Over to Reader X.

Mr John Mercer, Honourable scribe (*flattery is not essential to have a reader contribution printed here*) for that much awaited publication Of “Masters Matters”. Not being fortunate enough to be schooled in that eloquent manner occasioned by Mr Peter Murray Esq., I hesitate to submit for your sympathetic consideration the attached modest attempt at a limerick.

There was an umpiring decision  
That led to some raucous derision  
When asked to explain  
He announced with disdain  
I will not accept a revision.

If you are desperately short of material and are forced to print the above to fill **that** space, please do not use my name for I fear some long term retaliation. (*Certainly not from me. Ed.*)

**Department of Corrections:** Did you pick the errors in grammar in the last issue? The one in the exam for newsletter editor was just yolking – but the one in the first paragraph about the Melville fixtures and times was introduced during the sub-editing process. “The starting times is” was caused by a slip of the mind rather than the more usual finger. I also managed to get the game times wrong for the grass matches by re-checking the fixtures the day before the newsletter went out, instead of just before. Did anybody pass the exam last issue?

As if there were not already enough errors a perusal of the trophy revealed that it is supposed to be awarded for “Dummy Spit of the Day”- not the week. More on this elsewhere.

**Strange But True:** Did you know that the average Australian has one testicle and one breast?

**Coaching Corner:** I don’t know if any readers took my advice as printed in the last issue – but it worked again for me on 4<sup>th</sup> April. If this were part of the Murdoch empire I might even suggest that my name came out twice – but to do so would be irresponsible journalism when that was neither confirmed or denied by the drawer of the ticket (whose anonymity should be preserved) from Bob’s barrel. To complete a day of treble wins for the Electric Blues three players won bottles of wine to go with the three wins on the turf. I cannot dodge some responsibility for the wine wins – but I deny having anything to do with the hockey wins. It shows that the Electric Blues visit the bar in numbers – which if I remember my wine-winning tips correctly is step 1.

**For The Workers:** Many of us must be reaching the awkward age – which is defined as being too tired to work and too poor to retire.

**Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders:** Here is the answer to last issue's question which was: "What do Ian Dick, Kevin Carton, and Brian Glencross have in common?"

They have all been a captain and vice captain of an Australian hockey team at some time (obviously not at the same time). Eric Alcock said that they all had been Australian captains – correct, but Johns Sanders and Mercer wanted more information.

This issue's question is: The first team Australia played internationally toured WA in 1961. What were the results in the game versus WA and the Test? For a bonus point what were the scores? Answer next issue.

**Department Of Expectoration:** We have not presented this trophy as regularly as we would have liked. So far it has only officially gone to Barry Rutter purely on circumstantial evidence – speculation about his reaction having conceded 3 goals in one game. Phil Metcalf was to have been the winner on 28<sup>th</sup> March, but could not be found in the bar. To begin the second quarter, on 4<sup>th</sup> April we could not split Kenny Walter and Ivan Wilson. Ken responded to umpiring decisions with more words more frequently than Ivan – but Ivan's stick departed from his hands on at least one occasion. Isn't there a rule that no stick can take part in a match without a player in its hand?

**Department Of Limericks Part 3:** If you've read our corrections for this issue you may think that I should not be pointing the finger at our hard-working Secretary for slipping up a little (what's 12 hours at our age) on the Melville times when I did too. He was obviously burning the midnight oil.

Don't we start Melville hockey round noon?

Can we play by the light of the moon?

For our Bob's on the job

Sending times to the mob

12:30 am? A bit soon!

**Grumpy Old Men Department:** This has been converted to a Grumpy Old Man department this issue due to a general (but not personal) shortage of grumpiness. Refer to Editorial Corner for details.

**Thank You:** Thanks also to Melville Hockey Club for looking after us on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> so well. This covers ground marking on the grass field, wheeling the goals into position on both turf and grass (done single-handed by a young lady on the 11<sup>th</sup>), watering the turf, opening up on time, and having a well stocked and well staffed bar.

**Mini Match Report:** In a desperate passage of play on the Melville grass Nigel Thomas (attempting to score for Gold) and Chip Challoner (defending for Electric Blue) both ended up inside the net. The contest was so fierce that the goal was completely KO'd – which actually means knocked over.

**Another Past Master:** Good to see Jim Boyce at the Stadium on the 4<sup>th</sup> April. Will you be joining the ranks of the comebacks described elsewhere?

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer – O/60s Electric Blue team. Stadium bar. Email: johnmerc@iinet.net.au

**Reader Opinion:** Thanks to Neil Mannolini for keeping the hockey mindset active during the recent Italian celebrations. A couple of days after his return from Europe we received the following piece in the Masters Matters in-box and it should provide us with something to think about.

Standard?

Simon's concern about our standard of play came to mind as I watched almost "wall to wall" football for the past month. Some observations I share .....

1. The standard line-up is either – 3 strike forwards: 3 "midfield " : 4 backs + goalie ; OR
2. 3 strike forwards: 2 "midfield "OR vice versa + 5 backs & goalie.
3. All " forwards " and "midfield" players are quick movers and generally not long shot players....short passes either forward, sideways or backwards and the long shots are the occasional thrusts for goals.
4. The backs nullify any opposition attacks and do not hesitate to pass the ball to the goalie to relieve pressure and /or change the direction of play.
5. The midfield players often "lift' the ball over an opposition player.

The make up of our teams / players given that we have very few players who have either speed or the stick skills to out play / manoeuvre an opponent , suggests that either of the above set ups should be tried/ used.

Why?

- a) most teams have a couple of guys who have better "speed/skills", so that would form the basis of the forward 3.
- b) the next line up can be made up of 3 or 2 next in line,
- c) and the rest in the backs.
- d) Generally all passes to be short, to a man, in any direction to change the play – either along the turf or an overhead or over the opponent's stick.
- e) Any opponent should be picked up by the backs directly or by a pass back to the goalie who can easily change the direction to either side or back to one of the backs who in turn can get the ball forward.
- f)

The secret is NOT to hold on to the ball but an easy short pass to a player is the most effective.

I recommend the captains give the above some thought. Veteran players as a general rule have lost some speed in their legs, and playing on our flat true artificial surface demands a different style of play.

Let's not be dinosaurs, but rather "elderly masters of the new!"

Neil Mannolini

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**Editorial Corner Part Two:** The reason for this second April issue is that the newsletter was about to expand yet again. I decided to send it out before the committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> May, and before Barry Rutter's prediction of a Page 27 cartoon comes to pass, and before I master photographs.

Hi .....,

Thank you for your interest in playing with the Wednesday Masters Hockey Club.

We have two competitions, one for over 50`s and one for over 60`s.

We currently have 4 teams in the O`50`s and 6 teams in the O`60`s competition.

Teams are reconstructed every approximately 2 years to ensure evenness of competition and wider social interaction.

The 60`s currently play for a trophy.

The club provides insurance cover for players not covered elsewhere in another competition.

We play 51 weeks of the year and as part of a team you would be expected to play most weeks barring injury and holidays.

The 50`s play 3.30pm till 5pm and the 60`s play from 1.30pm till 4.00pm. We then go to the bar where we socialise, and run a weekly raffle from which the proceeds are donated to various charities at our Christmas party. This socialisation is very important to the health of our club.

The fees are \$300.00 per annum payable on 1st January each year. The fee may also be paid in 2 instalments on the 1st January and 1st July each year. Those joining through the year may be given a reduced fee.

The uniform is Black shorts supplied by you. The shirt and socks will be allocated to you at a nominal cost of \$25.00 on your allocation to a team. The shirt remains the property of the club and must be surrendered on leaving the club or changing teams where a replacement will be issued.

The club is managed by a Committee consisting of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, team representative (usually captains), uniforms manager and "Masters Matters" editor. The Committee meets usually twice a year in the absence of the need for any special meeting.

If there is anything else you would like to know please contact Simon Thomson (President) on 9448 2244, [csrrthomson@bigpond.com](mailto:csrrthomson@bigpond.com), or myself Bob Bowyer (Secretary), [rbow6666@bigpond.com](mailto:rbow6666@bigpond.com), on 9364 9685

If you believe you can match these expectations, please complete the attached Registration form.

Regards,

Bob Bowyer

Secretary WHM

9364 9685

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