

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

Red 50s

White 50s

Oxford Results: I do not intend to report in full, as interested readers can access the web-site for themselves at www.wgma60plusworldhockey.com. Clicking onto “World Cup Oxford Results” will produce detailed results for all grades – including goal scorers. A brief summary:

World Cup 60s: Netherlands 1st, Australia 2nd, England 3rd.

World Cup 65s: England 1st, Germany 2nd, Netherlands 3rd (*beat Australia in shoot-out*).

World Cup 70s: Australia 1st, England 2nd, Germany 3rd.

Tournament Trophy 60s: England LX 1st, Netherlands B 2nd, Alliance 3rd.

Tournament Trophy 65s: England LX Red 1st, England LX Blue 2nd, Southern Cross Blue 3rd.

Tournament Trophy 70s: Southern Cross 1st, England LX 2nd, Alliance 3rd.

Congratulations to all Wednesday Masters who returned with a medal – with special mention to our national 70s whose medal colour is gold. The Southern Cross 70s were the only team in their TT division with a positive goal difference, while Peter Gason topped the goal scorers in the World Cup 70s & John Ree was prominent on the TT 70s list.

I don't intend to write an entire issue devoted to Oxford, as all of us who were there will have our own memories, photographs, and memorabilia from the different times we were at the grounds, around the town, and in the countryside. I have included a few of my personal highlights:

Alliance International Hockey Club: Congenial, very good company and made me feel very welcome. Sharing a hotel with 3 Japanese national teams.

Balliol College: Like stepping into the pages of Dorothy Sayers.

Reception at Magdalen College.

Reception at Oxford Town Hall.

Oxford traffic – terrible while by total contrast Oxford public transport was excellent.

Oxford restaurants: Tried lots – did not find a bad one. Standards of service generally were very high.

Carfax tower – and every single one of its 99 steps.

Blenheim Palace – which was (*and no doubt still is*) blooming marvellous.

World Cup 60s grand final between Netherlands & Australia: Terrific match – wrong result.

Baroque music concert in Exeter College chapel followed by a Turf Hotel drink with friendly locals.

Oxford Hawks Hockey Club: Worked very hard and well on food, drinks, and hospitality.

Masters Matters Internal News: Here is a good news / bad news story – which is which depends solely on your point of view. The good news for all Oxford travellers is that I lost my Masters Matters notebook at Perth Airport while trying to find enough Australian coins to phone my lift home – whose number was in the notebook. He arrived as this process was taking place. The bad news is that I remember many of the Oxford notes (*but please refer to “They Said It”*).

Strange But True: The bronze medal match in the London Olympics took place while I was in transit – so I looked for the result between Australia and Great Britain in (and on) the British media without any success. Not until I met Paul Robinson on the footbridge at Oxford Station did I hear who'd won. And to think I once believed that our Australian media were the most biased in the world.

Punology Part 1: Did you hear about the person who sent ten different puns to friends in the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did. (*thanks again Marty Greay*)

Comebacks: I spotted Ian Brown arriving to play on 8th August, but after speaking to him post-Oxford he said that his hockey was still yet to arrive. It was good to see Mike Black having a run on 12th September – apparently he has yet to receive an accurate diagnosis. I also sighted Ray Norton at the Stevens Reserve grand finals – he tells me that the heart bypass (triple!) went OK & he looks forward to resuming his hockey next year. Finally, Roger Davey (*former Wednesday Masters O/50s*) resumed Wednesday hockey in the 60s on 19th September – with two new knees. Welcome back.

Quotable Quote: “I wonder anybody does anything at Oxford but dream and remember, the place is so beautiful. One almost expects the people to sing instead of speaking. It is all like an opera.”
William Butler Yeats.

Quotable Quote No 2: “Oxford whispering from her towers the last enchantments of the Middle Age. Home of lost causes, and forsaken beliefs, and unpopular names, and impossible loyalties.”
Matthew Arnold (he of the dreaming spires).

Another Fine Mess: In the last issue (No 9) Clyde Evans warned us all about a new fixed speed camera on the Kwinana Freeway south near the Pagoda ballroom. Since then both Jim Wright and Ken Watt have notified me about the same camera, but little did I realise that I had already found it myself on 21st July – and now have the photo to prove it.

Reader Feedback: Save for a brief line from Peter Kennedy (good to hear that “he gets read”) nobody wrote. Perhaps everybody was busy packing for Oxford, or (*for the first time?*) we were totally non-controversial, or everybody read Issue # 9 while away (*see “Where Have We Been?”*)

Whistle While You Work - with Neil Mannolini:

As a change, you might include the following --

- a) Richard Jewell (well known to YM guys and a former International Umpire) stated the following on the Role of the Umpire:

“The principal role of the umpire is to control the game such that no team or player gains an unfair advantage by breaching the rules.

The most important is the advantage rule.

The mark of a good umpire is one who can obtain and maintain control while permitting the game to flow as much as possible, without intruding in the play.”

- b) Quiz question ...

When the teams run onto the pitch, the captain of one team is carrying an axe instead of a more orthodox stick.

What should the umpire do?

Answer: He should inspect the axe and permit its use if it weighs less than 28 ounces, is flat on one side, and passes through a two-inch ring and has no sharp protrusions which could be a danger to other players.

(So the “give him an axe” comment has a factual basis? Ed.)

Happy whistling - Neil Mannolini

Plus Ca Meme Chose: I spent a few hours in the week following the tournament walking round the Musee d'Orsay looking at old masters. The thought occurred that this was exactly what I'd been doing in Oxford – only these masters were somewhat better-looking.

Punology Part Two: I'm not getting any negative feedback on my propensity for puns – which must be shared by many readers judging by the number of them who've sent me more. If you dislike them you may need to groan louder. This one is all about the UK traveller who attended a theatrical performance about puns – and discovered it was just a play on words. (*thanks again to Ian Lyon*)

Department Of Limericks: Readers are fortunate that my notebook parted company at Perth Airport on the homeward journey – as it contained several limericks created on the trip describing some of my misadventures. Their initial quality was not as good as I (or readers) would have liked, as this couple of samples will demonstrate.

We lined up to board the big plane
That would fly us right over the main
If you lack first class means
You must join the sardines
How I longed for a luxury train

I found as I kept getting older
For travel I'd got a bit bolder
But the whole bloody way
To Olympics UK
My neighbour slept on - on my shoulder

Then I found I'd no room at the inn (*for 8 hours*)
And I'd managed to stuff up my pin
And I needed a piss
Had no pence, oh what bliss
Could have done with a great big stiff gin

Wednesday Masters Interstate: Tom Crossen has most unfortunately been unable to continue as coach of the O/70s (*how's that for a euphemism?*) and Barry Rutter has been drafted (*volunteered?*) as the replacement. I must admit to some curiosity about the team policy whenever one of the squad wins a bottle of wine (*see Coaching Corner*) - is it compulsory to share with the coach?

Editorial Corner: Readers with long memories and acute perception have possibly noticed from our first issue onward a few subtle hints (and some not so subtle) about the Wednesday Masters Christmas Party (December 12th) - and the need for a voluntary organiser. No doubt you have all given the matter careful consideration, and when Simon calls for a volunteer the response will be underwhelming. Seriously, if it is needful for Simon to meet and greet our guests, address the multitudes (presentations and thanks) as both Master of Ceremonies and Wednesday Masters chairman, etc etc and so forth it is very difficult for him to also organise the entertainment and book a couple of hundred people in for a meal (*I should know - I actually almost tried it - once. Ed.*). Perhaps we need to form a small (all-working) sub-committee - any takers? Or any feedback?

Coaching Corner: The wine raffle resumed at the Stadium on 12th September, much to the chagrin of the usual suspects – sorry, winners. It was apparent that a significant percentage of the wine bottles were entering the state O/70s meeting via Ken Watt and Brian Stewart on a day which featured a lot of unusual winners. More normal service resumed on September 19th with both Suburban (Ric Denny and Peter Gason) and Electric Blue (John Mercer and Simon) scoring twice. I may possibly run a points table on 2013 wine winners, as I'm sure I don't win as often as is frequently claimed.

Helpful Hint: My thanks to television programme QI for the following useful advice. How do you put a flea circus together? You have to start from scratch.

Best Wishes For A Speedy Recovery: To Les Waldon who I heard had suffered another shoulder injury in Oxford. I very much hope it's not another re-construction and that both dentistry and hockey can be resumed after a short interruption. (*Stop Press – dentistry in progress, hockey soon*)

Impertinent Question: What's worn under the kilt? Nothing, it's all in perfect working order.

Punology Part Three: In view of the current state of health (*mainly the lack of it*) of many Oxford travellers (*my own included*) I thought that this different definition was well worth an airing. A handkerchief may be thought of as cold storage. (*Thanks to Ken Watt*)

Department of Corrections: Normal "Masters Matters" service has returned in Issue #9 with a slip of the finger in Stan Salazar's Olympic Hockey Facts changing the date of the Montreal games from 1976 to 1970. Our proofreaders must have been spending too much time watching the Olympics.

Late Arrivals: I hope that nobody was delayed longer than John Mercer and Terry Gaston returning from Oxford – who were booked on the same flight and came back 24 hours late.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: This normally keenly-contested trophy has gone into temporary recess - I have trouble believing that it's because we've all been good. Maybe we're far too tired after Oxford, or practising to stay off the naughty chair in Hobart. Good fortune to all WA players and team.

New Rules From 2013: The scoring of an "own goal" is to be possible as all that will be required is for the ball to have been touched in the circle by either an attacker or a defender. Also the ball may be raised directly and intentionally from a free hit using a push, flick, or scoop action. (*Took us a while to get used to the last changes – any reader predictions on these?*)

Personally Applicable Quotations: "It is better to travel hopefully than to arrive." Robert Louis Stevenson. (*No hotel room available for 8 hours*).

"... He marks not that you won or lost, but how you played the game." Grantland Rice. (*Or if you played the game – due to health problems I had to sit on the bench for all my first game in Oxford*)

"The remarkable thing about Shakespeare is that he is really very good – in spite of all the people who say that he is very good." Robert Graves. (*Visited his birthplace in Stratford-on-Avon*)

"If you seek his memorial, look about you." So reads the inscription on Christopher Wren's otherwise bare and plain tomb in St Paul's Cathedral.

"Travel is only glamorous in retrospect." Paul Theroux. (*See you in Hobart*)



Alliance International Hockey Club Investigative Team: O/70s team manager Bev Benporath led this fact-finding mission to check out the Portabello Restaurant as a team dinner venue. Three members of the O/65s went along (Kees Tresling, Jean Pierre and Marlene Winnen, and John Mercer) joining Bob and Janise Bowyer, Colin and Bev Benporath, and Fin Everding and Maureen.

They Said It: “What’s said and done in Oxford stays in Oxford!” Peter Gason. I agree totally – which is why only these two comments made into this issue.

Simon Thomson: “Any other Australians in your team?”

Terry Gaston (Alliance O/65s, as was the newsletter editor): “No”

I was asked several times whether I was English, but thought that Terry knew differently.

Picturesque Speech: Sign on the door of closed bookshop (in Shafto Lane, not NZ): “Shut happens.

Matters For Judgement: Thanks to Roger Jewell for a copy of Dennis Jensen’s electorate magazine entitled “Tangney Matters.” An unbiased comparison (*that’s my story*) follows:

- “Tangney Matters” is not as alliterative as “Masters Matters.”
- “Tangney Matters” is not as punny as “Masters Masters.”
- “Masters Matters” contains a lot more doggerel.
- “Masters Matters” is edited by a faceless man (*perhaps that’s a very good thing*) while the MHR for Tangney averages several photos – per page.



Where Was I Then?: I mentioned in my highlights that the Oxford Hawks Hockey Club had worked hard and well – and this young lady was one of the hardest workers. I hope that this photograph serves as a reminder to readers who were there – but in the interest of our readers’ blood pressure (and possibly that of their wives) I did not include the tight shorts.

Past Masters: The Wednesday Masters featured in the Willeton team photograph in Issue # 9 were Jim Wright (second from left back row) and Danny Ponnambalam (left front row). A correct answer arrived by return email from Bill Campbell – former player at Willeton.

In response to a complainant (who could not find the players named) about the Subs photograph which was featured in Issue # 8 the names and locations are: Ken Watt (left back row), Ric Denny (second from right back row), Paul Robinson (second from right front row), and Marty Greay (right front row). Our correspondent asked for names in the same issue as the photograph, but unless he gains a huge groundswell of support from readers (*at least 2 more*) I prefer to defer it one issue.

Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department: “The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool.” William Shakespeare, from “As You Like It.”

Vale: The Hockey Bulletin carried a fine tribute to Ian Dick, who was Australia’s first Olympic captain, and the first Olympic goal scorer. I saw him get 3 goals (at the age of 40) in the 1965 grand final at Perry Lakes stadium; YMCA led 2-0 with 10 minutes left, but a corner to Laurie Bedford and an Ian Dick goal with 10 seconds to go levelled the scores. Cricketers won 5-2 in extra time.

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: Here is the answer to last issue's question which was: In September 1953, in what was to become the World Cup, Gwen Hutchinson, ex WA, scored 2 goals to help Australia defeat for the, first time, South Africa, Wales, Denmark, or England?

The answer sent in by Rusty Phillips was – Australia 2 England 1. John has confirmed that Rusty is right – and suggested that a bottle is deserved. When I return from the UK we will attempt a collaborative bottle between Johns S & M. Assistance may also be available for consumption.

This issue's question is: Who won the women's hockey gold medal in Moscow? No Googling!
Answer next issue.

Advice To Umpires - Not: Here are some rules for the professional avoidance of decisions that appear to have been in force at many of the world's largest corporations in the lead-up to the GFC. I only make this claim because every single public inquiry has discovered that nobody in authority ever knew anything – and certainly nobody ever actually decided anything.

- 1) When it is not necessary to make a decision it is necessary not to make a decision.
- 2) If you can avoid a decision do so without delay.
- 3) If you can possibly get someone else to avoid a decision don't avoid it yourself.
- 4) If you can't get one person to avoid the decision appoint a committee.
- 5) Hide. If they find you, lie.

Where Have We Been? : Since starting this newsletter I've had feedback from readers who have picked it up in some far-flung places. I'd be curious to know whether there are any more. So far I've heard from the following countries and readers:

Australia (Lincoln Peninsula): Murray Sharp

Denmark: Peter Fogels

France: Ian Purdie

Italy: Neil Mannolini

New Zealand: Paul Robinson

USA: Peter Andrews

UK: John Mercer (*I read myself sometimes - proof reading only*)

All news and other contributions to:

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

A Last Reminder: Wednesday Masters will be in recess during the Hobart tournament.

Dates To Diarise: December 12th – Wednesday Masters Christmas Party.
December 17th – Wednesday Masters hockey (last for 2012 & it's a **Monday**)
January 2nd – Wednesday Masters hockey starts for 2013.

Stop Press: Our Secretary tells me that a 60s team captain has received an email purporting to come from a Wednesday player stranded in Spain without passport or money, and requesting a loan. The captain phoned the player at his home number – and he answered! Beware false correspondence from Wednesday players, as it seems that some mailing lists have been hijacked.