

# 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

Issue No 7

July 2013

**Masters Nationals 2013:** At the time of going to “press” nominations, selection trials, and practice matches have all featured on the Masters Hockey calendar recently, and continue on. This monthly publication is not the most immediate means of communication, but if a captain or manager of a team within our Wednesday age range would like an announcement in “Masters Matters”, please send it in. Editorial discretion applies of course.

**Department Of Health:** As a follow up from our last, thanks to Bill Campbell who wrote to us: “Re defibrillator: Some time ago the Masters Committee stumped up half the cost of two, one for each ground. I believe one went walkabout from ground 2, but should have been replaced.”

**Department Of Migration:** Welcome to several new players who have just joined the ranks of the O/60s. They include Peter Dennis, Gordon Jeffery, and John Jeffreys who have all gone to Gold. Jim Balding has become a White team member, while Geoff Roberts has been allocated to Red. By the way Geoff’s email name of ‘Dirty Stoker’ was assigned to him by his son-in-law when setting up, and refers to his former engineering occupation rather than any hockey characteristics.

While on the subject of new players, we again remind readers that it is necessary to gain approval from our executive (Chairman Simon and Secretary Bob) before issuing invitations. At any given point of time there are usually several prospective additions to our ranks, and it’s vital that the approval process and allocation to teams is done to ensure that we all get enough game time, and that no team gains an unfair advantage.

**Keep Those Cards And Letters Coming In:** Many thanks to the readers who sent a response to the last “Masters Matters.” They included Ken Dyer, Peter Murray, John Milner, Bill Campbell, Ric Watts, and Roger Partington. Could I assure Peter and John that doing this was not the cause of both of you getting a mention elsewhere in this issue.

**Good News From Blades:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June featured the 800<sup>th</sup> club game of my team mate and friend Ian Goldspink. Many current and past players (including some Wednesday Masters) packed the sideline, then attended a special little ceremony in the rooms. Congratulations to Ian on this feat, which according to Ceri Writer on the night may be unmatched.

Rusty Phillips has posed the question (for a change) as to how many Wednesday players have clocked up this number of games for the one club? We also need to remember that Goldy’s games tally includes only Saturday club matches.

While on Blades, well known Wednesday Masters, State, and Australian goalkeeper John Harper has (finally!) decided to retire from active service as a firey. There is no truth in the rumour that he wants to spend more time with his hockey. Best retirement wishes from Wednesday Masters

**Compliments To The Chef:** At severe risk of error, many thanks to the sausage sizzlers on 5<sup>th</sup> June. I hear that the process was kicked off by Col Murray-Smith and Ken Watt - and carried on by Gordon Thomas, with assistance from Neil Scaddan and Derek Jobe. The only thing which did not go according to plan was that it became necessary to use the old barbecue.

**Quotable Quote No 1:** “I like to pay taxes. With them I buy civilisation.” Oliver Wendell Holmes junior. Great US jurist: 1841 - 1935

**Editorial Corner:** If there is an odd number of goalkeepers present on a Wednesday, is it fair to have a team with a keeper play against one without? My answer is that yes it is, as any goalkeeper who has paid his \$300 and turns up at the Stadium on a Wednesday all padded up and ready to play deserves to get a game - as many games as he is up to playing. Despite a few slings and arrows aimed at them here "Masters Matters" does believe that goalkeepers are people too.

**It Pays To Advertise?:** It seems to have been a bad move to insert a "hits wanted" ad into "Masters Matters" as I received another unwanted one on 5<sup>th</sup> June. The post has become a dangerous place when a teammate is shooting - but this one was not fatal, just a flesh wound. Did anybody ever find the missing Electric Blue radar set, originally advertised as lost in the April issue.

However, the advertisement for a Red team goal in our last (No 5 - May 2013) was answered by Peter Murray (Green defender) who deflected the ball superbly past John Burt on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Bad luck for the Electric Blues - he was unable to produce a repeat performance in the next game.

My Electric Blues failed to score on 5<sup>th</sup> June despite quite a few chances, and word spread round the forward line before our games on 12<sup>th</sup> June that a re-allocation was imminent. This served as a powerful motivating factor, and a few goals went in, for a change. Astute captancy, or a strategic leak from our chairman? Or good executive teamwork?

**Comebacks:** No sooner was Jim Banks mentioned here than he was playing again on 5<sup>th</sup> June. I also welcomed back Bill Baldwin on the 12<sup>th</sup> June - taking it as quietly as a goalkeeper ever can. Bill and Jim both play on. On 19<sup>th</sup> June Nigel Thomas made a re-appearance in the bar and earned some notoriety by drawing a Gordon Thomas (raffle co-organiser) ticket as the first wine winner. "Masters Matters" did not manage to find out whether NT's knee was up to playing again, but we did observe him chatting to a few recruitment managers (also known as team captains). Welcome back - from the USA? More news on some recent additions to our ranks can be found elsewhere.

#### **Dates For The Diary:**

July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Barbecue at the Stadium.

July 10<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Masters at **Melville**.

July 17<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday Masters at **Hale**. (*Halelujah! Ed.*)

July 28<sup>th</sup>: Closing date for August "Masters Matters" contributions.

August 7<sup>th</sup>: Barbecue at the Stadium.

September 25<sup>th</sup>: Masters Nationals - Sydney.

October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Masters Nationals - Sydney.

**Rules Are For Fools?:** Watching the AFL this year has convinced me that any sport can only work if the vast majority of players attempt to play by the rules for almost all of the time. Quite clearly this is no longer the case for Australian Rules - and the umpires have an impossible task to penalise all the deliberate and blatant infractions. As we all have a lethal weapon this kind of anarchism would render hockey unplayable - particularly by our age group. Hopefully the drug testing wagon will never arrive at the Stadium one Wednesday to test us all for an anti-inflammatory.

**Punology One:** A critic of Poets' Corner? "Everyone should leave writing poetry to the prose."

**Whistle While You Work - With Neil Mannolini:**

*Neil has now returned from his travels, and whiled away the long hours on the aircraft by devising some variations on a recurring theme in "Masters Matters".*

We all know that players know more than the umpires about the rules.

We know that according to our fearless leader teams not playing a match are responsible for providing umpires for the next game.

So .... as a positive ..... the usual "volunteer non-playing whistlers" should be banned for at least one week or two, and be banished to playing (if any team will accept them!) ... or they can study HOW THE GAME SHOULD BE UMPIRED from the grandstand.

One proviso .... the captains should select players who have never filled in as umpires so far this season. (*I'm sure the umpires could produce a short list of their most vocal on-field critics. Those who meet both qualifications are prime candidates to be given the whistle. Ed.*)

We should all certainly learn lots.

Neil Mannolini

Over to you editor. See you next Wednesday (from the sidelines!).

*I suspect that this proposal might generate a fair bit of reaction and we may need to be very careful when conferring the power of the umpire's whistle. After all, the "Masters Matters" editor is already nearly as influential as Rupert Murdoch - the whistle might give him delusions of grandeur in addition to the delusions of adequacy he already possesses. Reader contributions welcome. Ed.*

**Department Of Limericks:** Neil's piece put me in mind of an earlier suggestion from him, which I managed to fail to include in a previous edition of "Masters Matters." The penalty for abusing an umpire could be that the abuser blows the whistle for the next match, regardless of whether he's supposed to be playing in it. But who could we trust to make such a decision?

If our umpires are called a rude name  
The abuser must take all the blame  
Which now comes with a perk  
Take the whistle, and work!  
It is you who must do the next game.

**Department Of Health Part 2:** June 26<sup>th</sup> was a day for injuries, particularly if your name happened to be Gordon. Both Gordon Jeffery and Gordon Thomas tweaked hamstrings (a new meaning for g-string?), Geoff Roberts injured an ankle (on his first day), while Peter Ford suffered a broken finger on June 19<sup>th</sup>. Best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to you all. (*By the way Peter has now transferred to the Red team, effective when he resumes play again.*)

**Strange But True:** In our younger days a heart-starter was the term applied to one's first drink of the day. Now it means a defibrillator.

**Impertinent Question:** It would appear to be time that this regular feature was discontinued, as it's very hard to beat Howard Sattler in this area. Perhaps "Masters Matters" should attempt to do the one thing he seems to have failed to do, and pose a pertinent question (one each issue). Any reader suggestions are very welcome, provided they are not on the topic of Selectric Blue draft picks.

**5th June - Wanted to Buy:** One goal, please contact the Electric Blue forward line.

**5th June - Wanted to Buy:** One point, please contact the White team.

**12th June - Wanted to Buy:** One point, please contact the White team.

*To translate, the Whites lost their three games on both 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June - Ed.*

**Department Of Viticulture:** The Red team were pipped at the post in the hockey points table for the second quarter, but have come out on top in the wine winners' breakdown. Wins by team for the quarter were Red (12), Electric Blue (10), Gold (9), Blue (8), Green and White both (3). As can be seen, not even Ham D'Souza's 5 consecutive wins could lift the Blue team into contention. Archie Andrews did suggest that one possible method for success could be to share a table with Ham, and attempt to win by osmosis. White (1<sup>st</sup>) and Green (2<sup>nd</sup>) have each won a hockey quarter in 2013, but it appears they need less extra training and more bar time.

**Department Of Limericks Part 2:** Our Green team would be up before the stewards if we had them. First quarter 6<sup>th</sup> - 25 points. Second quarter 1<sup>st</sup> - 60 points. Same team, too.

Quarter 2's been a win for team Green  
All we losers are feeling quite mean  
Just to prove they're the best  
Green might take a drug test  
But Voltaren is ruled squeaky clean.

**Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department:** Once upon a time an affair of the heart meant that you were in love. Now it just means an appointment with a cardiologist.

**Dummy Spit Of The Day:** The new ground staff at the Stadium have been very busy lately with the super cleaners on both turfs - hopefully not removing all the debris left behind after Wednesday Masters have been in DS action. If there are any readers who would like some help to stop spitting the dummy, I suggest that you take over my current cold. I think it works for me, but doubtless there are umpires who would not agree.

**Shakespeare Said It:** One of the eulogists at my Saturday team mate's (*whose nickname is apparent*) funeral: "With apologies to Shakespeare and Marc Anthony; Brutus was an honourable man."

**Picturesque Speech:** "In 2003 the only facebooking going on was when people nodded off in the parliamentary library." Andrew Elder in his blog "Politically Homeless."

**Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders:** Here is the answer to last issue's question which was: Since 1922 the Kookaburras have played in 1147 matches, winning: a) 558 b) 658 c) 758. An email answer came from Rusty Phillips, which read: "According to my Hockey Australia newsletter of 23/04/2013 they have played 1163 and won 761, so I presume the required answer for the quiz is 758." It seems that time may have marched on since John posed the question, and the Kookaburras have added a few more goals. The World League might have increased the tally further. This issue's question is: In all of the matches involving Australia, a total of 5,407 goals have gone in. The Kookaburras have scored a) 2688 b) 2688 c) 3188 or d) 3688 of them? Answer next issue. Harking back to the answer in the May issue when Rusty correctly stated that Brian Glencross had scored 34 international goals I did not give Mr Phillips sufficient credit - thinking that the answer had been accessible on the John Sanders/Richard Aggiss data base. John tells me that this was not so.

**Poets' Corner:** It must be time we heard from Jim Wright and Bob Stidwell again. In the interim here is the result of a few SSBs on a Thursday evening. Apologies to John Milner for obvious reasons.

### **No Longer A Young Master**

Many years ago to hockey vets I came  
A callow youth who'd just turned forty two  
I wondered at the end of my first game  
On just how long this hockey I could do.

I met very many men of senior years  
And all of us showed no desire to quit  
We talked a lot at all those post-match beers  
The verdict was, keep at it while you're fit.

There are scores of us who all continue play  
We'll enjoy ourselves wherever we may be  
Form new grades as we need along the way  
Our own land, and the world we'll go and see.

And carry on with our Masters Hockey lives  
A fine time we will have in Eighty Fives.

**Department of Corrections:** Again there were no complaints about the last newsletter - but I have included a (*deliberate?*) error in the on-line points table again. The heading read "Interim Points to 06/06" - but as all Wednesday Masters know should have read "to 05/06." What a difference a day makes - sometimes. At least nobody complained - except me.

**Lost and Found:** Lost, in a bar somewhere around the world, successful Test cricket team. Finder, please return to Australian Cricket Board.

**Quotable Quote #2:** "I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." Albert Einstein - 1879 to 1955.

**Red Team In Action – Good Crowd**

**Is It Easy Being Green?** : Congratulations to the O/60s Greens, who have emerged as the winners of the second quarter. Points accumulated were Green (60), Electric Blue (58), Red (57), White (43), with Blue and Gold both (38). Blue's goal difference is -11 and Gold's is -13. The Electric Blues are yet to have their bad quarter and hence lead the year to date points tally.

The Red team were one game clear heading into the final round of matches on 26th June but must have found the bearskins, boots, and baldrics too hard to handle. Actually, they could not buy a goal in either of the first two games - having not advertised in "Masters Matters?"

**Grand Masters Hockey - Europe:** Best wishes to all who are attending the 2013 tournament in Belgium with Southern Cross. The team lists and other details can be viewed on their web-site at [southerncrosshockey.org](http://southerncrosshockey.org). Our next issue is due just before you all take off.

**They Said It:** "When the white missionaries came to Africa they had the Bible and we had the land. They said 'Let us pray.' We closed our eyes. When we opened them we had the Bible and they had the land." Desmond Tutu.

"Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million." Arnold Schwarzenegger.

**Punology Two:** "You're not interested in philosophy? You Kant be serious." Condensing Literary Pun Dog site - most of the other puns are not bad enough to be any good.

**And Now For Something Completely Different:** The “Washington Post” ran a Mensa Invitational where they invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here is a first instalment of the winners:

- 1) **Cashtration (n):** The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
- 2) **Ignoramus:** A person who is both ignorant and an asshole.
- 3) **Intaxication:** Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realise it was your money to start with.
- 4) **Reintarnation:** Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
- 5) **Bozone (n):** The substance surrounding stupid people which stops bright ideas penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
- 6) **Foreploy:** Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
- 7) **Giraffiti:** Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
- 8) **Sarchasm:** The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
- 9) **Inoculatte:** To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- 10) **Osteopornosis:** A degenerate disease. (*This one got extra credit*)

**Department Of Justice:** *Neil Manno's Whistle While You Work was already in place, when another constructive thought re umpiring arrived. Here it is:*

Interesting and pertinent observation:

The guys who always are the ones who query decisions on Wednesdays are people who one never sees at the First Division (Classic League as it used to be) matches at PHS.

Why?

They would see that the top players' first (dare I say only) priority is to get on with the game .... the umpire may have got it wrong .... but hey, man, I want the ball and I'm not going to let an iffy decision stop me.

Think about it guys

Neil - Volunteer Umpire

*One problem some of us have with this is that we are no longer fit enough to pursue the ball non-stop for an entire day. None the less, Neil has a very valid point - and the answer to my quibble is that if you are short of breath use what you have to run rather than to abuse the umpire. Calling for the ball, owning up, calling for a substitution and encouraging a team mate are valid uses of the voice I can think of readily. I'm not sure there are many others - Ed.*

**Stop Press:** Many thanks to all the June umpires. They included Eric Alcock, Peter Andrews, Bob Bowyer, Bill Campbell, Bala Chandran, Lionel David, Peter Ford, Vern Gooch, John Harper, Phil Hewton, Ian Hill, David Horsley, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, Bill Rochester, Neil Scaddan, Peter Stevens, Heath Tyrell, and Ken Watt. And great to have past players join us in the Stadium bar.

Remember - 10<sup>th</sup> July at Melville and 17<sup>th</sup> July at Hale. Both start at 12:30 pm for O/60s.

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - O/60s Electric Blue team. Stadium bar. Email: [johnmercercer@iinet.net.au](mailto:johnmercercer@iinet.net.au)