

Wednesday Hockey Masters Perth Est 1991

A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Gold

B White

B Blue

C Blue

C Red

C White

Masters Matters

Guide To Important Stuff: Where to find what you need to know:

Dates For The Diary: This page.

Bunbury trip latest: Page 3.

How it all began: Page 7 - Peter Kennedy's description of the founding of Vets hockey in WA.

Changes to Masters Matters?: See the team names on the cover page. By request, no White Cs.

Department of Health: My thanks go to all WHM members who have taken the trouble to keep MM informed. These include the Krystan Jobe / Bob Bowyer combination, Clyde Evans, David Lester, Stan Salazaar, and Terry Gaston. Our well-being has become a recurring topic throughout this edition - please continue to keep us in touch and we will publish as much or as little as you desire.

Derek Jobe: Thanks to the Krystan / Bob combination for keeping us all up to date. I spoke to Derek this morning (Feb 27th) and he reminded me that it was only three weeks since his heart attack. He is back at home with a stent and an implanted defibrillator - and making a steady recovery. Sadly this will mean no more hockey, but he has undertaken to do his best to stay in touch. So will we, mate. Honourable mention goes to the terrific people who provided first aid, the Vets Committee (who decided on the need for defibrillators at the Stadium and purchased two jointly with WAHA), and all the medical staff in the cardiac units at RPH and Murdoch.

Terry Gaston: Despite 4 sessions of chemo-therapy came and played at Perry Lakes on 1st March. "Looking on the bright side it will save me the cost of a haircut." Practicing nil bastardi carborandum.

Stan Salazaar: Was in the middle of a successful comeback from sciatica. Then did an AC joint during an extra game. Now faces at least 6 more weeks of recovery.

John Burt's other half Anne: Chemo-therapy.

Steve McEntee's partner Lynda: Chemo-therapy.

Ash Foster's other half Gwen: Leukaemia.

Brian Stewart: Back stenosis operation.

Ham D'Souza: Back operation completed OK. Recovery underway, including Stadium visits.

Bob Bowyer: Still in recovery mode after knee replacement. Can't wait to start again - but must.

Peter Livingstone: In preparation mode for knee replacements - last we heard.

Mal Horrigan / Peter Stevens: See Comebacks Page 5.

Clyde Evans: Still working on recovery from his Hobart knee. Hopes to be back soon.

Peter Evans: Now has had both hips replaced. "While his surgeon may have other views, Peter has an aim to resume with the Wednesday competition as soon as he is fit do so."

Terry Armitage: Achilles - now out of the Australian O/75s in The Hague, when son Paul is in the O/40s, thus wrecking what would have been a rare double.

David Lester: Posterior cruciate ligament. Recovery progressing slowly. His best wishes to all here.

Dates For The Diary:

March 16th: WHM touring side(s) to Bunbury.

March 29th: WHM Saturday summer hockey windup.

May 31st to June 15th 2014: World Cup (Men and Women). Kyogera Stadium - The Hague.

June 5th to 13th 2014: World Cup Men (40s, 45s, 50s, and 55s) Rotterdam Hockey Club.

June 5th to 13th 2014: World Cup Women (40s, 50s, and 60s) Rotterdam Hockey Club.

June 3rd to 13th 2014: World Cup Men (60s, 65s, 70s, 75s) Club Klein Switzerland - The Hague.

September 27th to October 11th 2014: Interstate Masters Championships in Perth.

Letters To The Editor: Thanks for the feedback from the last issue. It not only showed that there are more than just one or two who read this - but also that the information tends to spread from those who do. I had a mild case of the long dark afternoon tea time of the soul - the best cure being to get busy on the next edition of 'Masters Matters' As it seems that it is actually fulfilling its purpose of providing some information (if you search hard enough) it should continue to do so without change.

Department Of Limericks: Expansion of the 'A' Division has occurred with the addition of the Red team. At a guess this only occurred after a process akin to trade week in the AFL (the captains were closeted for a very long time). A fictitious version of what was said:

The 'A' grade will have a new team
For players they would like the cream
But Scads, Horse, and Gee
All said "Nothing from me!
Red stars? An impossible dream."

Quotable Quote No 1: "Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint." Mark Twain. (*My personal view is that many health books are very bad for one's health. Ed.*)

Rules 'R' Us:

As stick checks are very much in the news lately, Neil has given us a repeat this issue.

Question: When the teams run onto the ground the captain of one of them is seen to be carrying an axe instead of a more orthodox hockey 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, passes through a two inch ring and has no sharp protrusions which could be a danger to others.

Note: This actually happened in an interstate tournament here in Perth some years ago. Geoff Bennett, Victorian full-back, who was noted for a somewhat robust attitude to the game, suffered much from a hostile gallery during the week's matches and answered his critics by actually carrying an axe onto the ground. The crowd loved it, and Geoff had no more trouble.

Unfortunately the axe did not meet the required specifications and was disallowed.

I'm sure this will get a laugh and proves the adage that "truth is stranger than fiction."

Neil Mannolini

WHM Bunbury Tour: We have not managed to put together an O/55 team, but the O/65s will go ahead. The latest is that the game starts at 11:00 am. There is a lot of other hockey in Bunbury on the same day, with the Southern Cross O/65s Blue team and WAC O/65s possibly also in action.

Pertinent Question: John Sanders used the term 'Harvey Norman' recently to denote no interest, and he could have been talking about the proposed WHM O/55s team for Bunbury. Why is this so?

February Workers: Thanks all. Umpires - Bala, Peter Ford, Vern Gooch, Roger Jewell, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, Roger Partington, Neil Scaddan, Ron Venables, Ivan Wilson and Jim Wright. GKs who played in the heat - Colin Benporath, Tony Marshall, Barry Rutter, Len Collier, Graeme Samson, Bob Stidwell, and Phil Woodhouse. Also cooks Gordon Thomas & Barry Rutter.

Department Of Limericks Part 2: Recent events and yet another birthday resulted in this:

Old age creeps upon us by stealth

It pays no attention to wealth

And it's incurable

Only endurable

Provided we stay in good health.

(WHM is good for both our physical and social well-being, sometimes. See Poet's Corner. Ed.)

Quotable Quote #2: "Happiness is nothing more than good health and a bad memory." Albert Schweitzer (1875 - 1965).

Poet's Corner: Post-match at Lemnos on 19th February generated this. Tune is "Pub With No Beer."

It's lonesome away from the 'B's and the 'C's

On the Lemnos blue turf where we feel the sea breeze

But there's nothing so lonesome, morbid, or drear

As a hockey club bar which may not sell us beer.

We're on the veranda, soft drinks in hand

And you seldom would see a more doleful band

We stare at our watches which all are so slow

No beer until five is what fills us with woe.

So rather than sit there just having a grouse

A good many 'A' graders went home to their spouse

In the vain hope of winning a brownie point prize

For all they achieved was an 'A' grade surprise.

But those who remained found the beer was quite cold

And a few tales of hockey as usual were told

For a lot of our future the one thing we'll fear

Is to play on a Wednesday at a club with no beer.

Those who were there will realise that though this is not poetry a small amount of poetic license has been applied to the facts. I'm sure that all spouses were delighted to see their other half early. Ed.

Towards More Picturesque Speech: The Winter Olympics could be described as "The Cold War."

(This line has been in place since well before the games started - and has proven prophetic. Ed.)

Punology One: You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Strange But True: Emails have been circulating recently as to whether the new 'B' grade should have a points table - and the captains decided that scoring in this division should not continue. The players must have misunderstood this decision - and so on 12th February not only were no points scored - no goals were scored either until one went in during the last game of the day.

Editorial: It has been noticeable since the February issue that the majority of players and umpires in the 'A' division are making a genuine attempt to bring back the usual sportsmanship and fun which we associate with our Wednesday Masters competitions. Keep up the good work.

I am sure that this will be much easier when we are all back at the Stadium on two turfs in cooler weather - don't want much do we? On which note we heard from Peter Fogels that the 'C' division had been a little confused by all the mentions of umpiring (*we did say at Lemnos? Ed.*) as "umpiring this year so far at PHS has been largely without incident. The main issue we have is getting enough volunteers to do the whistling as it seems the same few do it week in week out." It's good to hear from the younger generation - how about an occasional bulletin for 'Masters Matters'?

"Masters Matters" can now add a new location to the far-flung list. Wednesday 60s players may remember John O'Donohue from Queensland who was a guest of the Electric Blues for a few weeks last year, and is still receiving the newsletter. A "Test Your Hockey Knowledge" answer arrived from Gil Voysey, who will probably be known to quite a few members of WHM. It seems that John is circulating MM a little further in Queensland than we were aware - has the recruitment process for the Perth interstate championships already started there? From hearsay, it has here too.

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: Herewith the answer to last issue's question which was: During the 1998 World Cup IX in Utrecht, one Hockeyroo scored a goal in every match, including the successful final v Germany. Was it?

a) Michelle Andrews b) Alyson Annan c) Bianca Langham or d) Katrina Powell.

A response came from Gil Voysey (vice captain Queensland O/60s in Sydney) of Alyson Annan. I did not know the answer myself, even though two of them played for my old club's 1st Division team during the time of my involvement. John has been rather tricky, as three of them are goal-scoring forwards. The right answer is c) - who is the only defender of the four: Bianca Langham, PC specialist from Tasmania, later Bianca Langham-Pritchard.

This issue's question is: Australia competed in all of the first four Championship Trophy Tournaments - which is the odd one out? a) CT I in 1978 b) CT II in 1980 c) CT III in 1981 d) CT IV in 1982.

Answer next issue.

Department of Corrections: We su(jest)ed last issue that the Pegasus hockey club (Kalgoorlie) must have been named after Dave Horsley. Actually it could have been, as Dave was instrumental in its founding and getting it established as one of the most successful Goldfields clubs of all time.

They Said It: "History will be kind to me, for I intend to write it." Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965)

Comebacks: It has been good to see Mal Horrigan, Barry Rutter, and Peter Stevens all back on the turf. Mal has been out since before the Hobart tournament in 2012 with a very severe hamstring injury, Barry since Sydney last year, and Peter has been affected by an ankle for quite a while. Best wishes to you all for a quick return of your touch and match fitness.

Shakespeare Said It: "Our bodies are our gardens, to the which our wills are gardeners." Othello Act I Scene III (spoken by Iago). *Might have known he'd have something to say on health.*

Another February Worker: Robin Bailey has had a fair bit to do lately. As well as the Bunbury games he's been making we all have the right gear for the team changes. Well done, and thanks.

Canberra 1985

Photo from Rusty Phillips



Veterans were very young in the olden days

Were They The Good Old Days?: Readers are invited to identify themselves in this team as 'Masters Matters' is unable to provide any names (Rusty excepted) other than a few guesses. Other historical information taken from the 'Veteran Visor' newsletter of 1989 can be found on Pages 7 and 8.

O/65s News: The summer season is in its last month, and has gone well. I believe the committee are looking for shirts from the former Green team to use when 3 sides are required. The grass around the goals has now been mowed (at last!) thanks to Howie Herbert's signage asking the phantom movers to leave them off the playing surface - please!

PS: Our deepest sympathy to Bob Hotinski on the recent loss of his father.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: Post match conversation (yes, over a couple of beers) at Lemnos Turf on February 26th established that most umpires' whistles have a subsonic vibration which causes Ivan Wilson's stick to part company from his hands. It had been thought that if the hit went Ivan's way this would not occur - but this is not necessarily true on all occasions.

Department Of Aged Care: Has now been merged with Department of Health - see Page 2.

Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department: Personal again - prompted by TV sports coverage. My internet service provider (which was originally a WA company) sponsors a Melbourne-based AFL team (Hawthorn) and a Sydney-based Big Bash team (Sydney Sixers), while the makers of my current car sponsor North Melbourne. The makers of my previous car sponsor Geelong. This customer is never right, and the companies he supports will never support the teams he also supports.

Punology Two: Acupuncture is a jab well done.

The Older We Get The Faster We Were: Many thanks to Barry Rutter for lending 'Masters Matters' a copy of a 1989 publication entitled 'Veteran Visor.' There is a lot of very relevant information on a wide variety of topics from a thriving Vets competition (*see Page 8*) - but the story which attracted my immediate attention was headed "**How It All Began**" and was by Peter Kennedy. Although I had well and truly reached the Vets age in 1989 many things here are brand new to me. Over to PK:

"Veterans as an entity was bound by some evolutionary process to evolve - and it surely has. 1988 saw an International Pac Rim Tournament with 7 teams from the Western Pacific Rim in Perth, it saw a National Carnival in Adelaide with 30 teams participating in 4 grades, including 50s and over.

In WAHA we currently see 5 grades in Saturday competition, a midweek composite team competition. Could we say that we have approximately 700 men actively participating in "Vets?" Have we achieved our objectives? We certainly have - but - what were the objectives?

As I see it - to keep aging players active - to not lose them to the game - to foster comradeship forged over many years - to retain their experience and financial support - to spread this retention of comradeship nationally and internationally.

What was the evolutionary process? Where did we begin? Players following World War II, as they drifted downwards from higher ranks, formed "social" teams, where performance off the field became of paramount importance. I remember thinking to myself (circa 1965) when I had slid gracefully(!) down to the bottom grade of the day (whatever it was); "If I go down any further, I'll be in the Under 17s."

About 1970 a significant move was made. George Williams and Gerry Leahy of Suburban prevailed on an old Subs stalwart, Gardie Marshall to donate a trophy in his name to be competed for annually by teams of "Over 40s" on a September Sunday. Trinity, Subs, Fremantle formed the nucleus, the day was a great success, an annual event was born.

So great was the enthusiasm that Vern Gooch in 1970 put a motion to WAHA that a "Vets" grade be formed. It was negated for fear of draining such experienced players from the normal competition. Gardie's tournament ran on and Vern kept presenting the motion. In 1977 "Vets" grade was announced and 11 teams in 1 grade took the field - 1980 15 teams and 2 grades. WAHA had seen the wisdom of retention of players and expansion of this sphere of hockey influence.

To facilitate formation of teams, Vets had at the outset a condition for two 35s to play. This was gradually eased out until all players were 40 and over.

In 1980 a Perth committee set about the next step - a National Carnival in which a condition was - a player must have played at least 5 games in Vets that season. The next step followed very quickly and the same committee put together the 1981 International in Perth.

World growth of Veterans Hockey is quite staggering. Three teams from Australia, all of Perth, participated in the 1986 World Cup in London with 80 teams competing. The fact that they were young Veterans of 35 and over made it a bit difficult for our group.

A problem that confronted our early National Carnivals was the balance between "Enjoy the game regardless" or "Put on a State Guernsey and win at all costs, regardless."

Perhaps we have compromised by reaching the stage where the 40s compete and the 50s enjoy. I wonder if I can hang on long enough for the 60s!"

Peter Kennedy

Many of our readers will remember these events well. The current figures for competitions are shown on Page 8. By the way, both Peter Kennedy and Vern Gooch receive "Masters Matters." Ed.

Where Are We Now?: During the 2013 winter season the numbers of Vets teams and grades was -

Saturday WAHA O/40s: 4 grades comprising 37 teams.

O/50s: 3 grades comprising 30 teams.

O/60s: 1 grade with 9 teams.

Mid-week WAHA O/40s: 1 grade 11 teams

Wednesday Masters O/50s: 1 grade of 4 teams.

O/60s: 1 grade of 6 teams.

In 4th quarter became O/50s: 1 grade of 3 teams.

O/60s: 1 grade of 3 teams.

O/70s: 1 grade of 3 teams - to be increased to 4.

Saturday WHM O/65s: Social hockey - 2, sometimes 3 teams.

In addition there are various competitions for senior citizens at club turfs. I am aware that (at least) Melville and Hale conduct competitions for vets.

Women: The WAHA premierships ladders indicate that there are 4 grades of O/35s with 35 teams.

More From 'Veteran Visor': The Veterans committee during 1989 comprised Gavin Brown (c), Ted Jones, John Crute, Jerry Leahy, John Dunstan, Richard Faulds, Max Stewart, Graham Sims, and Kevin Grime, with Colin Nicholas as the Exco liaison. Not even John Sanders would make this list the answer to a "Test your hockey knowledge" question - I think.

Veterans Summer Competition March 1989: Teams were published in full, but we will probably lack the space to do so. Including only those on the 'Masters Matters' circulation & captains we have:

Blue: R Phillips (capt), B Lester, J Banks.

White: M Stewart (capt), J Harper, G Hudson, J Halley.

Gold: B Smetherham (capt), B Rutter, J Jeffries, N Gandy, P Gason.

Red: G Belle (capt), E Alcock, L Waldon, G Black, R Hotinski.

Black: J Dunstan, J Crute, B Stewart, T Kerr, L Blythe, K Walter, W McIntosh, H D'Souza.

Green: G Sims (capt), P Thunder, I Wilson.

It was necessary to be selected to play here. Ed.

National Tournament - Perth 3 October to 15 October 1989: Veteran Visor included all the latest on the progress of organisation, including an appeal for volunteers. Among all the other information the committee requested these multiple choices stood out:

My talents are: Administration, tradesman, barperson, salesperson, nice, cook, kitchen hand, whatever, U name it, ??????. (*How about none of the above? Ed.*)

My wife / girlfriend / both / mother / father / children would like to help as well.

Situations (Temporarily) Vacant: There are so many WHM members going to The Hague that it is likely regular fixtures will be disrupted. However, they will probably return to normal before I do, as I'm not due back from Europe until 1st July. Is it possible for a volunteer to record the scores in the 'A' grade while I'm away - on the same pay scale as the current scorer?

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - 'A' Reds. Email: johnmerc@inet.net.au