

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 might like to know:

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Team Changes (nothing major): This page.

The French Letter: Page 7.

Rule Changes 2015 - reader responses: Page 8. *(Also includes new rules in full)*

Team Changes: The 'B' and 'A' Divisions have undergone a small re-organisation. Those affected are already informed, but it would not hurt to make everybody aware. In summary:

'B' Division: New captain of Gold - Bill Campbell. New captain of Blue - Graham (Chip) Challenor.

Bill Rochester has joined Gold, Ian Brown has joined Blue, and Greg Allen has joined White. Bob Le Merle is on the long-term injured list (see Department of Health) and Murray Sharp seems to have retired (see Letters to the Editor).

'A' Division: Additions are; Blue - Jim Malcolm, Dave Pandher, Gold - Stan Balding, Red - Bob Byers, White - Mark Faithfull, Keith Kessell. At the moment I understand that the captains are debating on which of them is to acquire Phil Anderson. I hope it's good to be wanted, Phil.

WHM Bereavements: Our deepest sympathies are extended to 'A' Blue captain Neil Scaddan whose father died recently at the age of 102. Those of us who were temporary Victorians in their O/65s at the 2010 carnival in the South-West have fond memories of Dick Scaddan, who at that stage was still working, driving and playing regular badminton. Commiserations also to Simon Thomson, who made another emergency return to the UK following the tragic demise of a younger sister.

Editorial - Saturday O/65s: It is not possible to print only good news stories about this competition, unfortunately. We (*this means Ken Watt*) have done very well during the summer seasons providing our own post-match refreshments and running the bar on the honour system. This summer it was extremely obvious that the proceeds in the honour box were falling a long way short of matching consumption - week after week. The committee deliberated on what to do about it, and decided that a public announcement should be the first step. The money container has been relocated to be in view of a member of the committee at all times - and it is hoped that further losses will not happen.

Dates For The Diary:

March (date yet to be set): WHM Annual Bunbury match. *(Yes - it's on)*

April 21st to 24th: Proposed 70s / 75s tournament in Adelaide. See Page 5.

May 2nd to 10th 2015: Trans Tasman in Melbourne for ages 35 to 65 only.

August 21st to 28th 2015: European Championships - Southgate Hockey Centre North London.

September 26th to October 10th 2015: Interstate Masters Championships - Cairns.

October 26th to November 1st 2015: Asian Cup / Pac Rim TT - KL. Southern Cross 60s only.

2016: Grand Masters (O/60s and higher) World Cup - Newcastle (the Australian one).

2016: Masters (O/40s to O/55s) World Cup - Canberra.

Grumpy Old Men Part One: "Brain, an apparatus with which we think we think." Ambrose Bierce (1842 - 1914). From "The Devil's Dictionary."

Department of Health: This section continues to be busy, but for a pleasant change not all the news is bad. There have been several comebacks, which at our age is always good news.

Those of you who read the last issue will be pleased to hear that Les Waldon returned to hockey on January 3rd, and does not appear to have missed a beat since. Perhaps those medicinal purpose beers had the desired effect. Also returning to the field in January were Peter Murray, Barry Rutter and Trevor Kerr. Peter Gason seems to have run himself back into form and fitness. Ken Walter came back on the 14th, and according to our informant (one KW) only lasted 6 minutes before retiring to the whistle for the day. Scott Blackwell did suffer broken ribs (3!), but managed to begin the comeback on 14th January. Neil Patterson's 'cardioversion' procedure went well and he feels fine, but will not be back in action until at least mid-March. Colin Sanders post-operation recovery has been disrupted by a right knee problem (the good one). Best wishes for what happens next. Paul Robinson had a case of cellulitis in an arm, but was back (before a trip to Tasmania). I hear Bob Le Merle is investigating knee replacement (s) - not career-ending we hope. Ken Watt had a trip to the hospital on Saturday 24th, is now home but tests are continuing. Despite his dire situation Ken still phoned a fellow Saturday committee member to make sure that the drinks were supplied for our post-match refreshments - dedication above and beyond the call of duty.

As always, our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to all WHM sufferers

Letters To The Editor: Thanks to the respondents to the last issue: John Sanders, Ken Beer, Ken Dyer, Chris Morley, Mitch Eastman, Murray Sharp, John Milner, Colin Gee, Ric Denny and Ken Watt.

MS says: "... I am currently enjoying a good pasture, and like a good old hack I feel very contented resting all my weary bones, however as a random country participant in Wednesday hockey which has probably come to an end....". *Sorry to hear that Sharpie, & thanks for the kind words re MM. Ed.* CG's letter and photo can be found on Page 6.

RD says: "A bit late but Happy New Year to you and all at Wednesday & Saturday Masters." Ric then commented on the walking wounded and "... Paul Robby getting through a championship in one piece, amazing." The Bowral golf course has been closed a few times due to heavy rain.

Department Of Limericks Part 1: The Asian Cup and its extravagant goal celebrations generated this. Soccer blokes make such fuss when they score

You'd think they had just won the war

We're all much more restrained

Just cool, calm, self-contained

Since we're always too tired to do more.

This only applies to the 'A' division and Saturday O/65s - as far as I know. Ed.

Strange But True: The appalling acts of violence committed around the world recently are coming far too close to home. Late last year I declined to print an anti-Muslim joke because "... the Masters Matters offices would probably be fire-bombed." Je n'étais pas Charlie (*). And I still recall saying to Howie Herbert, fellow Malaysian Airlines traveller on an MH17 flight, that we were due to pass over a couple of hot-spots in Afghanistan and the Ukraine. At least our respective flights did successfully cross over instead of making an unscheduled hard landing. (**) I was not Charlie*

Punology One: "A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy."

Whistle While You Work - with Neil Mannolini :

Many thanks to Neil for the research which went into producing this piece. I hope that this clarifies the situation on “off the foot” for our readers and umpires.

Peter Ford has rightly pointed out that we are ignoring Rule 9.11 ... it simply states that the only time a penalty is awarded is when a player DELIBERATELY uses his foot to stop a ball ... but if it is not deliberate it should be play on ... regardless of where on the field this happens.

If a defender INSIDE the circle standing still has his foot hit by a ball I will award a Penalty Corner. I raised this issue with Richard Aggiss (former Australian coach and a long-serving member of the FIH Rule Board - he retired from this Board about a year ago). Here's what he outlined for me, and I share it with our Wednesday Masters.

“Hi Neil. This issue has been discussed endlessly during my 20 years on RAP and the Rules Board when as far ago as CCT in Brisbane (1992) when the then FIH President decided to advise the umpires & players the whistle wouldn't be blown if the ball hit the foot. Well, you can only imagine the turmoil as neither the players nor the HRB were consulted. This idea lasted 1 day - it apparently turned into a circus. Subsequently if the ball touches the foot in open play, then play on is signalled but in 90% of the time when the ball hits or touches the foot the umpires blow the whistle and the players accept that - the players argue the game is designed to be played with the stick - hence no handstop, etc. This always will be a grey area but generally well accepted by players. In my time players cannot & never have been allowed to stop the ball with the foot. Hope this helps - Richard.”

I went on to Richard with... “Umpires always immediately blow a penalty corner when an attacking forward simply plays the ball onto the foot of a defender. It applies at all levels including first / senior division here in Perth (and all the international matches I've seen on TV). Has there ever been any intention from the Rules (FIH) body to clarify this tradition?”

Richard Aggiss's response: *“Players wanted certainty so if it hits the foot of a defender in the circle it is a PC, so FIH went with the request from the players. At the moment there is no appetite for change to this rule as far as I am aware.”*

Aggiss is no longer on the FIH Board, but I am with the majority of umpires and will continue to award a Penalty Corner when the ball hits the foot of a defender INSIDE the circle.

Neil Mannolini

Thanks again Neil. As an umpire I agree with you on awarding PCs for a foot inside the circle. For the rest of the field it does appear that everything is not cast iron, but requires common sense from both players and umpires. Off the foot was generally blown at all times in The Hague. Ed.

Quotable Quote No 1: “Even when laws have been written down they ought not always to remain unaltered.” Aristotle (384 BC - 322 BC) ‘Politics.’ *We will have to adapt to ongoing rule changes.*

Department Of Limericks Part 2: I have no feedback on interest in the Adelaide venture. It may not get sufficient numbers, but it's a worthwhile idea. My hockey ability & budget probably rule me out. Some seniors are off to SA
Quite a journey to go just to play
It's a great place to dine
And for drinking good wine
But I failed to win Lotto today.
And every other day. See the next page for all the Adelaide information.

Adelaide O/70s and O/75s: Those of you with functioning memories (not sure about mine lately) may remember from our post tournament issue that a small gathering of 70s and 75s players was a possibility for the first half of 2015. This has been picked up by the Southern Cross hierarchy and generated the following email from Ric Roberts - co-convenor, to the SC London 70s team.

Greetings all,

Some of you may have heard that there is some interest in the 70+ Australian Masters fraternity in holding a mini tournament of 70s & 75s players sometime early this year, in lieu of an international trip. The idea behind this is to provide some continuity of competition & camaraderie for this group between The Hague (2014) and the World Cup in Newcastle (2016). At this stage the suggestion has been to hold this in Adelaide, possibly in the week before Anzac Day (20-24th April) although these are by no means fixed dates.

If such a mini tournament was held this would provide us with an ideal opportunity to train together as a team prior to going away for the European Cup in August.

The plan at this stage would be something like having East (VIC, TAS, ACT, QLD NSW) versus West (WA, WA, SA, NT) selected teams in each of the 70s and 75s age groups with the Southern Cross 2015 70s as an additional (or one of the) team (s). The teams would play a round robin which would only necessitate playing (say) in the mornings or afternoons on 4 or 5 of the days, leaving plenty of time for touristy stuff.

I reckon to get to Adelaide and spend a week here will cost you at least \$1K, depending on how you get here and where you stay. So it will not be particularly cheap, although the wine is good.

Ric addressed this to the Southern Cross London (2015) O/70s. WA co-ordination is being done by Bill Williamson (O/75s) & Les Waldon (O/70s), who should be contacted to express interest.

Department of Corrections: Our list of Saturday umpires was incomplete - Howie Herbert reminded me that we had done a game together and "... nobody berated me." I think my response was along the lines of: ... that's weird, same for me."

I also omitted the news that 'A' Red captain Roger Partington had moved himself to centre forward in the last game before Christmas and scored two good goals, creatively avoiding a hat trick.

We also managed to omit a few birthdays from the January issue. Stan Balding (2nd), John Harper (12th) and John Mercer (15th) no longer require dispensation to play O/70s. A very belated Happy Birthday to Stan and Harps (old blokes) from this young bloke.

Well Dones: Thanks to January 'A' umpires Eric Alcock, Robin Bailey, Bob Bowyer, Bala Chandran, George Bradbury, Peter Gason, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Dave Horsley, Mal Jackaman, Roger Jewell, Neil Mannolini, Roger Partington, Barry Rutter, Neil Scaddan and Ivan Wilson. Well done to the 'B' division regulars Lionel David, Vern Gooch and John Lindsay and all unknown 'C' division officials. Thanks also to the Saturday umpires: Peter Brien, Dudley Burress, Peter Gason, Gordon Thomas, Les Waldon & any more I missed. Best wishes to Peter Brien, who has undergone a small operation. And finally thanks to perennial cook Gordon Thomas who prepares all our Wednesday bar snacks.

Quotable Quote No 2: "Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard of all rules and sadistic pleasure in witnessing violence. In other words, it is war minus the shooting." George Orwell. *No wonder that umpiring on a Wednesday or Saturday can become such an emotional task - Ed.*

Chez Chloe

Photo Colin Gee



In answer to our question last issue as to whether any member of WHM had managed to reach Ian Purdie's Normandy residence Col Gee sent this:

"I have pleasure to say that Ruth and I have stayed at this first class B & B. The hosts were charming and catered to our every need during our short 4 day stay, and highlighted the many attractions and restaurants in close proximity to their home, but insisted on talking hockey all the time.

This was actually one of the highlights of one of our previous trips in 2011. The above photo shows the grandeur of Ian and Joelle's home." *Thanks Col - also see The French Letter Page 7.*

News From The Saturday O/65s: There have been a few items worthy of inclusion from what is still a most enjoyable competition. The location features a sea breeze most Saturdays, and the setting for our post match socialising is hard to better.

- The first goal for 2015 was scored by John Milner. This is becoming a habit John.
- There have been 38 different attendees in the summer comp - not all at once - yet. When this happens we might need four teams.
- John Mercer apologises to all for going off to the showers on the 17th, forgetting that he'd brought the food - it seems that old people do forget.
- We have acquired the bibs used by the WA O/70 Black team. This means that an update to the points table is required: Blue (0), Orange (0), White (0).

Grumpy Old Men Part Two: I hope nobody had a Christmas which prompted a sentiment like this: "Happiness is having a large, loving, caring family in another city." George Burns (1896 - 1996)

The French Letter No 5: Well January has been quite a month. Apart from winter really settling in (we reached minus 11 one morning - now that was cold!) we had the terrorist attacks in Paris on the Charlie Hebdo newspaper & the Jewish supermarket. What a tragedy, what a community response.

I don't think I ever properly understood the importance of freedom of the press but it became abundantly clear following that fateful day. Charlie Hebdo was certainly a "way out", controversial newspaper but it wasn't just anti-Muslim but really hit at a wide range of community institutions and individuals, including Catholics or other religious groups, politicians etc etc. The response by people all over France and from many other countries certainly gave credence to the saying of the French writer, Voltaire, who said, "I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." The "Je suis Charlie" posters and banners spread like wildfire and summed up the situation perfectly.

The march of millions of people through Paris (& in many other large French cities) was one of the most moving things I have ever seen. The leaders of many countries with arms linked led the way. I guess you saw a fair bit of it on Aussie TV but I felt it warranted a mention from me.

Changing tack - Despite one or two really cold days the winter has been relatively mild in Normandy. As yet we haven't had any snow. I am even beginning to think about spring. Have purchased my veggie seeds and this weekend am planting aubergines and celeriac seeds. They need high heat to germinate successfully so have bought a heat mat to aid the process - and even with the heat, germination is likely to take six weeks.

It was generous of Colin Gee to mention so positively his experience when he and Ruth stayed at our B&B a few years ago. Unfortunately, due to Joelle's health issues we had to cease operating the B&B. However, if any hockey tragic happen to be in Normandy at any time then we will always be glad to share a wine, beer or coffee with you,

Cheers - Ian Purdie

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: January's question was: The 2nd time that the Australian team played Great Britain was during the: a) Tour of Australia 1948 b) Olympic Games Melbourne 1956 c) Olympic Games Rome 1960 d) International Tournament Ahmedabad 1962. No answers. Correct answer is b) An extra match was required as the teams finished equal in Pool B. February's question is: Which of these statements is true about Australian goal scorers in the FIH International Hockey Tournament held in Ahmedabad in 1962 a) Eric Pearce (WA) scored 7 goals b) Gordon Pearce (WA) scored 5 goals c) Both statements are true d) Neither statement is true. Answer next issue.

Shakespeare Said It: "With mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come." The Merchant Of Venice, Act I Scene I. *Prompted by yet another personal birthday with a zero on the end.*

And also on age: "I wasted time and now doth time waste me." Richard II, Act V Scene V. *At the age of 5 a year is 20% of a lifetime while at the age of 50 it's 2%. No wonder time flies as one ages.*

WA Country: Have decided that it's time to spread the word, and have organised a couple of road trips to Geraldton on 7th March and Kalgoorlie on 14th March for a demonstration Masters match in each location. The intention is to travel up by bus on the Saturday starting in Bunbury and going via Perth. The games will be at about 6:00 pm, overnight stays are to be organised with local players, and the return journey will begin after breakfast next morning. If you are in the younger age range and might be interested contact Dean Lomax at dean@lomax.com.au to express your interest.

Rule Changes For 2015: It was good to receive reader feedback, some opinions follow:

Ken Beer: "I think we should recognise our reflexes are slow and we should minimise the risk of harm to opposing players by not adopting this rule change." (*Stick above the shoulder*)

Chris Morley: "You asked for comment on the above-the shoulder rule for our age group - I'm inclined to the view that it shouldn't be adopted for WHM - the reaction time of some of our guys is not what it (probably) was and I think it could be dangerous in itself or lead to dangerous play. Do you know whether it's proposed to adopt this rule for the Masters National Champs in Cairns? If it is then I would change my opinion and support it as the guys would then have time to acclimatise."

For the benefit of our readers we reprint the changes, as they are all now effective for WHM Wednesday and Saturday matches with the exception of the stick above the shoulder. We have decided that we do not need this one.

The attacking team is permitted to take a free hit awarded within 5 metres of the circle at the point of the offence. As at present, the ball must move at least 5 metres - or it must be touched by another player from either team - before it can be played into the circle.

What is currently described as a corner (once upon a time a long corner) will now be taken from the 23 metre line directly opposite to where the ball crossed the back-line.

A green card will mean an automatic 2 minute suspension.

Allowing the stick to be raised above the shoulder to play the ball. *Not for us.*

The maximum length of a hockey stick is now 105 centimetres.

Repeated breaking at a penalty corner no longer leads to a penalty flick. This is because the penalty of despatching the erring player over the centreline is deemed sufficient.

Taking the ball 10 metres further forward has been removed from the rules on the grounds that it is no longer necessary with the self-pass rule.

An article on the changes to the rules can be found via gohockey.com/feature.

Punology Two: Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much but the reception was excellent. (*Wish they were on my roof*)

Hockey On Radio: Turned on ABC 720 on January 29th, and was pleased to hear that John McGlue's guest was talking about Vets hockey, and how fit some of the older blokes are. He turned out to be Geoff Horsley, son of David and coach of the Australian O/40s team.

Latest 2015 Tournament News: Nominations for Cairns are open for WA Country, and also I believe for WA Metro. Accommodation in Cairns has been booked, and it seems to be time for those of us who want to go to start getting organised.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: My original 'selfie' for this has now been replaced by a general award to the entire 'A' division. It's time we all (me too) lightened up - a lot!

Stop Press: The Bunbury trip is on again this year. Robin Bailey and Rob McNab are negotiating the details as we go to press. Keep an eye on your email in-box.

All news and other contributions to:

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