

Wednesday Hockey Masters Perth Est 1991

A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Gold

B White

B Blue

C Blue

C Gold

C Red

C White

Masters Matters

Guide To Some Stuff: A partial list of what is where:

Team Changes - 'C' division goes for Gold: This page.

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Foreign Correspondents - The French Letter: Page 7 and all new - the Balinese Bulletin: Page 8.

Team Changes: Effective from 18th February the 'C' division was expanded to four teams with the addition of a Gold side. We have now reached 11 teams. To all the lifters who did the recruitment to increase our numbers to this level - well done. From my (since 2006 only) experience it does us all good to have a shake-up occasionally, and become accustomed to new team-mates. Flexibility of mind is just as vital at our advanced ages as flexibility of body. If there is anybody out there who can let us know how the new team (and the 'C's) is going 'Masters Matters' would like to hear from you.

WHM And The Fires: Well done to all who assisted. Those we know of include John Ree, who was on standby for a considerable time (and was called away from hockey on 25/02). John Harper has now retired as a professional fire fighter, but attended the recent outbreaks as a volunteer. Ron Venables gets involved often providing food and drinks to the men on the front line. Please let us know of any more - I know that the blazes will have come close to quite a few of us.

Editorial - Saturday O/65s: Each Saturday the teams are selected as players arrive, and the aim is to end up with two (sometimes three) even sides. As Les has now pointed out, this task is made very difficult (if not impossible) when players arrive one minute before game start time - 3:00 pm. There is a knock-on effect of this in that we cannot depart from the rooms to the playing field until it's time to start (as teams need to be announced to all), which means that none of us get a proper warm-up. So the standard of the hockey can leave a lot to be desired until we settle in - and we also run a risk of injury. The other adverse effect of this can be that we start later - and either have to curtail the hockey or the post-match socialising - neither of which is a desirable outcome. Let's all arrive at least 15 minutes early. To some extent (warm-ups) these comments apply to Wednesdays too.

Dates For The Diary:

March 22nd: WHM Annual Bunbury match and Freeway Bike Hike. *(Yes - it's on)*

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: "A newspaper consists of just the same number of words, whether there be any news in it or not." Henry Fielding (1707 - 1757). English magistrate, dramatist, novelist and satirist. *He said newspapers, not newsletters, but if the cap fits ...*

Department of Health: Thanks to all those who have kept 'Masters Matters' in touch with both the good news and the not so good news. Keep those cards, letters, emails and smoke signals coming.

Bob Le Merle has undergone 2 knee replacements and Tom Long has had 1. Both have now started on the long, arduous rehabilitation required. Members of WHM who have successfully made it back include Roger Davey, Bob Bowyer & Gordon Thomas. Ric Watts is having a replacement too, in the near future. Best wishes to all. Ken Walter is an ongoing health work-in-progress - a diagnosis is yet to be reached. George Winning visited hospital for cellulitis in a leg, and is not allowed to have a drink yet. We just heard that Eric McCauley had a severe heart attack but managed to pull through, and begin the process of recovery & rehabilitation. February comebacks include: Scott Blackwell had another go, having had a small setback during the broken ribs recovery but is back now. Col Sanders returned February 25th and seemed to have got through without mishap. Paul Robinson followed the cellulitis with a tour of Tasmania, then did a calf muscle in his first game back. Ken Watt is now playing again, but is some way off full fitness. According to our informant Trevor Kerr has made a recent comeback, from a tent in Busselton. And Ian Hill was struck on the head by a ball on the 18th after a bit of aerial ping-pong, but managed to take to the turf again on the 25th. However, he did wear a crash helmet initially, following the good precedent set by our chairman a few years ago.

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

Letters To The Editor: Thanks to the few respondents to the last issue: Steve Farrar, John Milner, & Peter Hammond. Low numbers but high quality - see Balinese Bulletin on Page 8. Last words on 9.11: From Steve Farrar: "I'd like add to the debate about the ball hitting a foot. As written in the rule book (rule 9.11) when the ball hits a foot (or any other part of the body) a free hit is not on all occasions awarded to the non-offending team. Rule 9.11 states:
Field players must not stop, kick, propel, pick up, throw or carry the ball with any part of their body.
*Guidance Notes: It is not always an offence if the ball hits the foot, hand or body of a field player.
The player only commits an offence if they gain an advantage or if they position themselves with the intention of stopping the ball in this way.
It is not an offence if the ball hits the hand holding the stick but otherwise would have hit the stick.*
Thanks Steve, I think this probably closes the debate. Ed.

Department Of Limericks Part 1: Sometimes reality must be faced.

With an ear to the grapevine it seems
We're all working arranging Cairns teams
It would surely be great
If one played for the State
That will only occur in my dreams.

Fortunately WA Country is a state as far as the interstate tournament goes. Ed.

Strange But True: If any members of WHM are listeners to the ABC Classic FM breakfast programme they may have heard the winner of the Aida competition announced as "John from WA." The editor of this august publication is also John from WA, and they are the same person. If I've got the details correct it means I'll be flown to Sydney to attend a performance of Aida on Sydney Harbour. The prize also included the offer of a walk-on role in the opera, but as I'm best suited to playing the rear end of a camel I might skip that bit - I would rather see and hear it from my seat.

Whistle While You Work - with Neil Mannolini : Couple of comments;-

1) We have had enough talk about Penalty Corners where a ball touches a defender's foot inside the circle. Where a defender deliberately kicks the ball, it must be a Penalty Stroke.

2) Stick Checking . Rule 9.12 (for you purists). It states, *inter alia*, that players obstruct an opponent who is attempting to play the ball, by backing into an opponent, physically interfering with the stick or body, shielding the ball from a legitimate tackle with their stick or any part of their body Note the key word ATTEMPTING. Ergo - No attempt, No breach.

Last week there was the odd frustrated lunge (stick contact WAS made), the player with the ball managed to continue on into attack. It was a STICK CHECK but I played the advantage.

A few guys have stick checked. Why? Getting slower, frustrated, etc. etc.

As the Police often say we will be targeting!!

Take Note Guys!!

Neil Mannolini - volunteer umpire

Thanks again Neil. Perhaps 'volunteer' needs to be stressed, let's all show a little more respect. Ed.

Quotable Quote No 1: "We've heard that a million monkeys at a million keyboards could produce the complete works of Shakespeare; now, thanks to the internet we know this is not true." Robert Wilensky (1951 - 2013) Professor emeritus of computer science at UCLA and artificial intelligence expert. *I'm doing my best here in 'Masters Matters.'*

Department Of Limericks Part 2: 'C' div committee report 2014: "As an O/50 competition we seem to need to get younger players ... to keep the comp viable for the future & keep the standard high." Committee said "Let's have more 'C's"

Though players do not grow on trees

With some looking around

The recruits have been found

Report for the editor please.

PS: It is not essential for the report to be in verse - Ed.

Have Hockey Stick - Will Travel: Sometimes we complain about the traffic, especially when we have to cross the Narrows Bridge to reach PHS or Perry Lakes. Some of us travel a fair way, and here are a few. As always, this list may not be complete, and corrections are welcome. Phil Anderson (Safety Bay), Jim Balding (Falcon), George Bradbury (Gooseberry Hill), Mark Faithfull (Glen Forrest), Peter Ford (Butler), John Harper (Glen Forrest), Howie Herbert (Roleystone), Dave Horsley (Clackline), John Jeffreys (Bickley), Graham Miller (Dudley Park), Roger Partington (Waikiki), John Ree (Falcon), Mike Robinson (Lesmurdie), Stan Salazaar (Hillman), Brian Soares (Kinross), and Peter Wallis (Mariginiup). But to top all these guest Phil Chalmers joined the 'B' division on the 18th - having come up from Esperance. Welcome to WHM. Occasional players Julian Gardner (Esperance) and Rob Butler (Bruce Rock) also must cover distance before joining us on a Wednesday. Well done to all travellers.

Simon Thomson on WHM Fees: As a point of clarification:

The annual fee to play in the WHM competition for 2015 is \$300. This applies to all players.

The casual \$10 fee applies ONLY to genuine visitors, usually visitors from interstate/overseas or from WA Country. The \$300 annual fee is based on \$25 which covers Affiliation Membership to HWA and Insurance, and 28 weeks of hockey time.

'A' Division Blog: Each week the scores, team numbers, and other highlights (plus any lowlights) are sent to our executive by the scorer - who is also the Editor of 'Masters Matters.' It seems like a good idea to distribute some of this information more widely here, and actually attempt to include more about hockey rather than the birds, beasts and flowers which I'm told tend to dominate each issue. So here is a brief outline of the year so far. In future, one month at a time. (and one division only?)

January 7th: Points went to White (7), Red (6), Blue (4), & Gold (0). The White team did not concede a goal. Player counts were White (8), Blue and Gold (9), Red (12). Total goals scored (8).

January 14th: Points to Gold (6), White (5), Blue (4), Red (1). Again the White team were not scored against. Player numbers were White (8), Gold (9), Red and Blue (11). Total goals scored (7).

January 21st: Points to Red (9), Blue (6), White (3), Gold (0). It was the same Red team who scored 1 point the previous week - just depends on whether the goals go in or not. Player numbers were Blue and Gold (8), Red and White (10). Total goals scored (13) on a rare day without a draw.

January 28th and **February 4th:** Insufficient players - scratch games only.

February 11th: Points went to Blue (7), Red (3), Gold and White (2) on a day when all games were draws except for two wins to Blue. Player numbers were Blue and White (7), Gold (10) and Red (11). There were 8 goals scored, 6 by Blue, and 4 of those to John Ree.

February 18th: Points to Gold (6), Blue & White (4), Red (2). It was a day featuring many comebacks, so player numbers were good - all teams had 10, except for Gold, who had 11. The regular number of goals were scored again - 8.

February 25th: Points to White (5), Gold & Red (4), Blue (2). The weather was unpleasant, & so were the player / umpire interactions at times (I'm guilty too - Ed.). Four goalkeepers played, and thus could stay with the same team all day. Player numbers were Red (9), Blue (11), Gold (12) & White (8) - Gold were able to lend a player to each to Red and White for the day. The Red team can claim one of the quickest goals scored for 2015 against Gold, who turned the ball over from the pass-back and after two Red players had touched it found themselves one goal down. Good goalkeeping and poor finishing meant that only 7 goals were scored.

The player numbers do not include goalkeepers, who have braved the heat this year and turned out every week - for which our thanks. This has not stopped them playing very well most of the time (*well enough to foil me at least - Ed.*). Ice vests have occasionally been of assistance. In a very consistent performance Gordon Thomas has scored at least 1 goal every Wednesday in 2015.

Well Dones: Thanks to February 'A' umpires Adolphus Abrahams, Eric Alcock, Bala Chandran, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Dave Horsley, Mal Jackaman, Neil Mannolini, Neil Scaddan and Ivan Wilson. Thanks to known 'B' division regulars Lionel David, Vern Gooch and John Lindsay and all unknown 'C' umpires. Thanks also to the Saturday regulars: Peter Brien, Gordon Thomas and Ken Walter plus any player umpires I failed to note. Well done to our first of the month barbecue cooks - I noted Adolphus Abrahams, George Bradbury and Gordon Thomas (who does our Wednesday bar snacks too).

Quotable Quote No 2: "Programming today is a race between software engineers striving to build bigger and better idiot-proof programs, and the Universe trying to produce bigger and better idiots. So far the Universe is winning." Rick Cook, US author of light fantasy, from 'The Wizardry Compiled.' *Having progressed all the way from software engineer to idiot, I think he's right - Ed.*

Punology One: "A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy."

Southern Cross Dinner - World Cup 2014

Photo John Mercer



I selected this photograph for this issue to remind all readers that they have a rare opportunity to go to a Masters World Cup next year. The 60s, 65s, 70s and 75s are in Newcastle, Australia, and the 40s, 45s, 50s and 55s are in Canberra. We will let you know the dates when we hear them.

News From The Saturday O/65s: The time has come for many players to decide between continuing into the winter season at Perry Lakes or returning to their clubs. The deciding factor for me in 2014 was that my O/50 division 3 side no longer needed me to make up the numbers.

- The newsletter editor has played on the side which scored more goals - a couple of times.
- Another self-catered function is planned for our summer season windup - end of March.
- Well done to the selectors on the 21st when 3 teams were picked. All games were 1-1 draws or 1-0 wins, indicating that parity had been achieved.

Grumpy Old Men Part Two: "Many live that deserve death. And some die that deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then be not too eager to deal out death in the name of justice, fearing for your own safety. Even the wise cannot see all ends." J. R. R. Tolkien (1892 - 1973) from *'The Lord of The Rings' Book Four Chapter One*.

Situation Vacant: Kalamunda Hockey Club have lost their coach which is a disaster so near to the start of the season. If you can help or spread the word please contact team manager Gypsy Stockley at heresgypsy@hotmail.com or club secretary Bronwyn at b.mowle88@gmail.com. Or if you would rather phone contact the newsletter editor for the number.

The French Letter No 6:

Hi guys

I hope all is well with you and that you are all continuing to enjoy your hockey. Such a concept is now a distant memory for me. It's been seven months since I had a game and even the garden hoe mentioned in an earlier letter has taken a rest over the winter months.

Spring is now not too far away - another month and things will really start to look different and a whole lot better. Winter is fairly depressing when you live in a northern hemisphere country. Next week our 13 year old granddaughter is coming to stay for a week so I will enlist her help with planting all the vegie seeds into pots in preparation for successful germination & planting out later.

We still have no prospective buyers for our property but hopefully spring will see people up and about and looking at properties. That led me to the thought that those amongst you who are "well heeled", so to speak, might like to entertain the idea of buying our property. If two or three families got together and purchased the property you would have a wonderful holiday property in France which you could use on a time share basis - and all for a very modest outlay by Australian standards. Enquiries are very welcome.

Take care and keep well.

Ian Purdie

Thanks Ian - it's good to hear from WHM's remote members. See Page 4 "Have Hockey Stick, Will Travel."

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: February's question was: 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. No answers came in - Rusty is on a cruise. Correct answer is c). March's question is: The 4th edition of the World Cup was held at the Polo Ground Buenos Aires in 1978. Australia won 6 of 8 games. Australia's highest scorer with 12 goals was: a) Terry Walsh b) Richard Charlesworth c) David Bell d) Ian Cooke.

Answer next issue.

Shakespeare Said It: "I do feel it gone but know not how it went." The Winter's Tale, Act III Scene II. *For anybody else who feels their hockey skills slipping away.*

"You are thought here to be the most senseless and fit man for the job." Much Ado About Nothing, Act III Scene III. *I have slightly paraphrased this quote but it seemed quite apposite at a time all the state teams are appointing their coaches and managers. For those who think that this breaches the equal opportunity rules, in Shakespeare's day a female chief constable was an impossibility. In our day many of the interstate championship teams are managed (bloody well) by women.*

Quotable Quote No Three (bonus): "The greatest justice in life is that your vision and looks tend to go simultaneously." Kevin Bacon - US film actor.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: After the 25th 'A' division matches there are lots of possible contenders, too many to list or for an award to be made. The weather was poor (good practice for Cairns though) but it's high time that we all (me too) did a lot better. My excuse was a tooth extraction coming up the next day, which was just as bad (or worse) than I expected. Seriously, it really is time we all were a lot more polite to umpires, or we will be unable to get any at all.

Balinese Bulletin: *Thanks to Peter Hammond, for keeping us all in touch (no, we're all not invited up).*

I thought I should "pen" a bit of a newsletter to you guys before any image/memory of me evaporates completely.

For all those interested ...No, we do not live in a fancy Bali Villa with pool & No, we do not live within walking distance of "Downtown" Seminyak with all its interesting eating places & shopping areas. You will find us in a modest but very comfortable house, some 20 min drive from afore mentioned Seminyak, travelling north west toward Canggu (a favourite surfing location). Our house is found some 250 meters down a narrow Gang (Lane) off a relatively busy major road. The local housing you pass by down the Gang on the way to our house are of traditional Bali style, as are the housing as you pass by where we live. Fortunately, we have the only real garden in our Gang ...something of an oasis.

All of our neighbours are local & we rarely encounter another foreigner in our area. If we do they are almost certain to be Expats like ourselves, choosing Bali as their home. We can, in fact, go for a week or more without hearing another English speaking voice, other than on the TV. Fortunately my Indonesian language skills are sufficient & getting better by the day.

Whenever we encounter the local Balinese going about their business we are instantly greeted with a genuine big smile & an interest in just where we are going. They are so warm & engaging & really seem to be in tune with their own particular lifestyle. Because we live within a local Balinese community security is not a real concern, as it is in certain expatriate Villa living areas. We have 4 doors leading into our living area from the garden & these, together with all windows, remain open until we decide to retire at the end of the evening. The windows which are fitted with grills, though, do remain open at all times.

We share our house with an adopted Bali dog (Eddy) who is a great guard dog as well as our best friend. In addition, our garden attracts a great many birds who seem to like talking to each other throughout the entire day before retiring after sunset. We are joined each evening in our living area by anywhere between 7 & 12 geckos running around the ceiling in search of insects attracted by the indirect lighting we have. The presence of geckos is apparently meant to be good luck ...let's hope that to be true. The other sounds of Bali we have become accustomed to include the sounds of Roosters crowing. The Roosters here seem to crow because they can & continue all day. Then there is the sound of dogs barking, seemingly also because they can. Every now & then we hear the sound of ducks quacking in the small rice field very near our house. They are there to keep the mice & snakes at bay ...let's hope that also works.

I could probably go on but I'm sure most of you will have heard enough from me.

"To Be Continued"should there be sufficient interest.

Punology Two: "Haunted French pancakes give me the crêpes."

Department of Corrections: I nearly re-named this 'Strange But True' as something must have gone awry with the last issue - but both readers and editor have failed to pick it up. There's a first time for everything - in this case I hope it's not the only time.

Stop Press: The Adelaide event has been called off. Still sounds like a good idea to me.

Editorial Last Word: This issue has been prepared with some difficulty following complications after and during a tooth extraction (no, it was not Les Waldon). I have left things as they were rather than attempting to update everything which happened yesterday. Hopefully that will appear next month.

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - 'A' Reds. Email: johnmercer@iinet.net.au.