

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:

Dates For The Diary: This page.

Department of Health: Page 3.

'A' division blog: Page 5.

Past Players: Page 6.

Foreign Correspondents: The French Letter: Page 7. The Balinese Bulletin: Page 8.

Have Hockey Stick Will Travel One: Thanks to Robin Bailey & Rob McNab for successfully organising another WHM trip to Bunbury. The Wednesday team was a couple of players short at the start of the match and had to acquire Phil Hewton and Chris Morley from the opposition for the day. The South-West team also included Brian Thomas - who intercepted a fiercely struck clearance by a team-mate with his knee at point blank range during the second quarter and was understandably not moving as freely thereafter. Thank you to the South-West for their hospitality - and to Rob for some ingenious multi-tasking. At one point he was simultaneously starting the barbecue, starting the time clock and going onto the turf to umpire the second half. We hope for a full report in the next issue.

WHM And The Fires: I originally heard that Ivan Wilson had lost a house at Boddington in the recent blazes and thought that I'd better check with him. The item burnt was actually a trailer, but as it had been hand crafted by Ivan's father in the 1950s it was a significant loss. Mementoes are precious.

Editorial - Wednesday 'A' Division: I cannot remember seeing so many players felled as occurred on the 25th March. At times it looked like an Australian rules match with recumbent bodies all over the turf (Ian Hill who has played that game at high level was not involved). There were several instances when had it been a Saturday match, or an interstate tournament, an umpiring card would have been used. I have had a suggestion that our umpires should make a note of cardable offences when they occur, and each month we publish the roll of shame here. What do readers think of this one?

Dates For The Diary:

April 15th 2015: PHS unavailable, 'A' and 'B' divisions are at UWA, 'C' division at Hale.

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: Now that the music programme from the Perth Festival has finished it's time to come back to earth: "Of all noises I think music is the least disagreeable." Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784). English writer, lexicographer, and man of many parts. *Of course he had no chance to hear modern popular "music" which at almost all times I think is very disagreeable noise.*

Logo / Name: At the time this is due to be sent out a decision on a WHM logo has not quite been finalised. A very constructive debate has produced what to me seems to be a very good possible outcome. Hopefully the new design will appear on the front cover of the May edition.

Department of Health: This section can be very difficult to close off each month as the situation has a habit of changing several times between newsletters. So here is today's snapshot.

Roger Partington is recovering from a broken thumb. Bob Byers has had an appendectomy - I hope that the process has improved in the 58 years since I had mine. Neil Patterson needs to have the cardioversion procedure again as unfortunately the last one did not cure the problem. Paul Robinson has had to delay his comeback, as his Achilles has decided to give problems. George Bradbury had a finger nail removed by a lofted ball on the 18th and has missed out on playing for a few weeks. Ken Walter is still to receive a diagnosis. Les Waldon had a kidney biopsy as a follow up to his Christmas health concerns and missed a few playing dates. Simon Thomson went away to an Australian team training get together, and has returned with a back injury. An enforced rest seems to be on the cards for a while. I also heard that Ian Pestana is not playing, but not the reason, nor how long the absence is due to last. It was very pleasing to see Bob Stidwell return to action on the 25th. Marty Greay has played again on a Saturday - hope all still well. And I have sciatica.

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

Department Of Limericks Part 1: Finding a topic for a 5-liner has become rather difficult. This one is located here for obvious reasons.

Each month we record all our woes
The space MM needs grows and grows
We keep getting worse
And so does my verse
Though the health is reported in prose.

Writing verse has been too good to me lately to think about giving it up any time soon - Ed.

Letters To The Editor: Thanks to the respondents to the March issue: Stan Salazaar, Chris Morley, John Burt, Keith Kessell and John Milner. Low numbers again but also high quality again.

Quotable Quote No 1: "Blessed are they who hold lively conversations with the helplessly mute for they shall be called dentists." Ann Landers (pen name of Chicago Sun-Times advice columnist). The real names of its writers were Esther 'Eppie' Lederer and Ruth Crowley. *For some reason it seemed appropriate for this issue to include quotes on dentistry.*

Strange But True: Following his painfully extensive dental work at the end of February the editor of this newsletter did not have an alcoholic drink for 8 days. This is something I would not recommend to any of our readers who are accustomed to a small occasional libation. There must be lots of much better ways to lose weight. Though I saw George Winning in the bar (with a soft drink) on the 25th, who told me that he is coming up for 40 dry days. George's drought looks as though it will match the Biblical flood in length. Masters Matters would like to buy GW a drink when this is again possible.

Punology One: Readers may have spotted a death notice for Ken Beer, of Doubleview. This was not our WHM Ken Beer, but a former Scarborough Apex and hockey mate of mine. Following his funeral I heard this quote, which I think is very likely to have been original - it certainly is characteristic.

"How do you titillate an ocelot?"

"Oscillate its tits a lot."

Whistle While You Work - without Neil Mannolini :

Neil and Pat flew off on Wednesday 25th to visit their daughter and we will be minus NM's umpiring and his contribution here for a couple of issues until their return in early May. Have a great trip.

We are still using "long corner" to describe what was once a corner, but now is a 23 metre hit. It is definitely time that we changed the term to reflect this. I also attempted to find out what the new umpiring signal to indicate a 23 metre hit should be - but according to the online 2015 rule book it has not changed - one arm pointed at the corner flag on the side where the ball is to be put back into play. Can anybody enlighten us further?

After an incident in the Bunbury match where as the umpire I had to think before awarding a goal to Ken Beer some clarification of the scoring of a goal might be in order. The rule states:

8.1: A goal is scored when the ball is played within the circle by an attacker & does not travel outside the circle before passing completely over the goal line & underneath the cross bar. *The ball may be played by a defender or touch their body before or after being played in the circle by an attacker.*

John Mercer - volunteered umpire (Bunbury)

Department Of Limericks Part 2: Yet another one about Cairns.

In September a lot of our crew

Will jet off to play in North Q

When we're chatting post-game

If it's still called the same

We can spell out the name of the brew

In this case 'X' is not the unknown quantity, as long as there are four of them. Ed.

Have Hockey Stick Will Travel Two: This list may not be complete, said the last issue. Our apologies go to Chris Morley, who comes from Coolup. This is not a southern suburb - it's south of Pinjarra.

Cairns WA Appointments: From the Hockey Bulletin & only covering relevant age groups to WHM:

O/50s: Coach Kevin Knapp, Manager Tracey Connolly

O/50s (2): Coach Mike Jenson, Manager Rob Baker

O/55s: Coach Rob Lawson, Manager Astrid Miller

O/55s (2): Coach (tba), Manager (tba)

O/60s: Coach Ian Pestana, Manager Len Collier

O/65s: Coach Jim Banks, Manager Ian Brown

O/70s: Coach Don Smart, Manager Bill Williamson (*tba means 'to be appointed.'*)

Player Retirement: Our WHM Treasurer Brian ("Spider") Lester has reluctantly decided to put an end to his playing career. I remember the days when WACA spectators noted an incredibly youthful left inner starring for Perth in the then 1As. BL still visits the Stadium on Wednesdays to look after our finances, and then join the bar fellowship. He cited a total lack of hits as a significant factor in his decision to quit - I am giving serious consideration to joining him for the same reason.

Where Are They Now: Peter Kennedy has been mentioned in these pages before as a participant in the HBF Run For A Reason, and I was very pleased to see him feature in the West again with a story and photograph about this year's event. There is still much that can be done after hockey ends.

'A' Division Blog: I hope it does not need to be said that a reader who wishes to put another point of view is very welcome to send it in to MM. Provided that it is not personally abusive or too long I'm happy to include a contribution which disagrees with me.

March 4th: Poor hockey again. Only the Blue team won a game - 3 times, each 1-0. These were the only goals scored, so all other games were 0-0 draws. Points went to Blue (9), Gold, Red and White (2). I heard less umpire abuse - perhaps because I was on the sideline. Player counts White (10), Red (8), Blue (10), and Gold (12). We welcomed Julian Gardner up from Esperance. Total goals scored (3).

March 11th: Much better hockey, particularly from Blue and White. Gold also played well until they crossed the attacking 23 metre line. Points tallies were Blue (7), White (6), Red (2), and Gold (1). Umpire abuse was non-existent at the start of the day, but this deteriorated as the afternoon wore on. Player numbers were Blue (12) Gold (12) White (8), and Red (9). Bill Baldwin was a welcome addition to the goalkeepers roster. Total goals scored (10).

March 18th: Numbers were barely sufficient, but as the two lower sides on the ladder did best the scores counted. Tallies were Gold (7), Red (6), White (3), & Blue (1). Featured was a classy hat trick from Graham Harler, and White players (Ash and Gordon) getting more goals for teams other than their own. Player numbers were Gold (10), White (8), Red (7), and Blue (7). Total goals (11).

March 25th: This was not a good day in many areas; among them the poor quality of the hockey, the number of players sent sprawling to the turf and petulance at many umpiring decisions. Points went to Blue and White (5), Gold (3), and Red (2). Player numbers were Blue, Red, and White (9), Gold (8). There were only 3 goals scored for the day. One good thing was the return of Bob Stidwell.

The Blue team have played the most consistent hockey throughout and deservedly won the quarter. Every team has had at least one win over all their rivals, so it does not appear that the sides are out of balance. Good fortune to all teams for the second quarter. The ladder reads:

'A' Division Round 1 2015 - Final Points :

Blue	W (13)	L (7)	D (10)	F (26)	A (18)	points (49)
White	W (10)	L (8)	D (12)	F (18)	A (14)	points (42)
Red	W (8)	L (9)	D (13)	F (16)	A (17)	points (37)
Gold	W (8)	L (15)	D (7)	F (18)	A (29)	points (31)

Well Done: Thanks to March 'A' umpires Adolphus Abrahams, Eric Alcock, Bob Bowyer, George Bradbury, Bala Chandran, Ian Hill, Mal Jackaman, Trevor Kerr, Neil Mannolini, Bob Robinson, Neil Scaddan, Gordon Thomas and Ivan Wilson. Thanks to known 'B' division regulars Lionel David, Vern Gooch, John Lindsay and Ken Walter as well as all unknown 'C' umpires. Thanks also to the Saturday regulars: Peter Brien, Gordon Thomas and Brian Glencross plus player umpires I managed to note in Marty Greay, Peter Gason, Ken Walter & Simon Thomson. Well done to the cooks; I recorded Simon Thomson & Bob Bowyer (barbecue) & Gordon Thomas (Wednesday bar snacks).

Past Players: During the last couple of months we have been joined in our post game post mortems by a very good contingent. These included Derek Jobe, Ric Watts, John Jeffrey, Stu Calder, George Winning, Ian Lyon, Dudley Younger, and Nigel Thomas. The post match has also featured the return of the John Sanders joke, much to the enjoyment of many of us.

Punology Two: "Did you hear about the dyslexic devil worshipper who sold his soul to Santa."

Saturday Hockey Summer Season Windup

Photo Jim Wright



Thanks, umpire. Club Captain Les Waldon makes a presentation to regular whistler Peter Brien.

From The Saturday O/65s: The summer season came to an end on the 28th March. The games were followed by the AGM and a great self-catered meal. Office bearers elected were

Captain: Les Waldon

Vice Captain: Jim Wright

Secretary / Treasurer: Bob Bowyer

Membership / Social: George Bradbury

Drinks Manager: Howie Herbert (John Mercer assisting)

First Aid co-ordinator: Ken Beer

Many thanks to all the workers who set up the tables, prepared the food and got the drinks cold. The credits were sea food (Les Waldon & Sue), salads (Beth & Jim Wright, in that order said Jim), desserts (George Bradbury & Mary) and drinks (Ken Watt). Thanks also go to the squad of late stayers who cleaned up the tables - my sciatica had sent me home by then.

The winter season begins on Saturday 11th April at 2:00 pm. If all I hear about O/60 teams struggling for numbers is correct we may need the green shirts as well as the orange bibs.

Grumpy Old Men Part Two: "Literature is the art of writing something that will be read twice; journalism what will be read once." Cyril Connolly (1903 - 1974) from *'Enemies of Promise (1938)*. *There are times where writing a newsletter feels like writing something which will not be read at all.*

Department of Corrections: I've been too busy to pick up any errors of fact or typos in the March issue, and have not been inundated by reader complaints. Well done typist and proof reader.

The French Letter No 7:

Well spring is just beginning, although the weather is still pretty wintry. But the birds and plants are going ahead with spring behaviour anyway. Our wild cherry tree in the front garden is in full flower and looks magnificent - photo attached. (*It does, but space was lacking - Ed.*) I am busy preparing the "potager" (vegie patch) and hope to grow a wide range of vegetables.

You guys are obviously continuing to enjoy your hockey & looking forward to the nationals later this year. I envy you.

About ten years ago I had an arthroscopy on my right knee where they cut away about 50% of the cartilage. My surgeon said at the time, "I will see you again in three to five." I have done well so far but am now experiencing significant pain. Having an X-ray next week & then we will see what happens. I am hoping to avoid a replacement at this stage. Interesting though, the GP was telling me that they are now growing new cartilage for knees by using the cells from the nasal septum. That would give a whole new meaning to a "nose job."

The news in France is dominated by the aftermath of the air crash involving the German Wings A320 which crashed in the French Alps. What a tragedy! And it looks as though it was a deliberate act by the co-pilot. The terrain is horrendous from an investigative point of view - the only way in and out is by helicopter. The people living in nearby villages have opened their hearts and homes to provide support for grieving families, investigators, etc. You can't help but wonder how anyone can do such a thing - it's one thing to take your own life but another thing entirely to wipe out a whole plane load of people in the process. Anyway, enough of my venting and best wishes and good health to you all. Ian Purdie *Thanks again Ian, when might you deliver one in person?*

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: March's question was: 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. No answers came in - Rusty is only just back. Correct answer is d) who was a full back from NSW. April's question is: In an International tournament 18 of the 20 goals were scored for Australia by the WA born players, Davies, Walsh, Haselhurst and Charlesworth. Was it the a) Champion's Trophy 3 in Karachi in 1981 b) 4th World Cup in Bombay in 1982 c) The first Azlan Shah Tournament in KL in 1983 d) Champion's Trophy 5 in Karachi in 1983. Answer next issue.

Shakespeare Said It: "For there was never yet philosopher who could endure the toothache patiently." Much Ado About Nothing, Act V Scene I. *Particularly when it's no drinking also.* "What do you read my lord? Words, words, words." Hamlet Act II Scene II. *Perhaps it was a copy of 'Masters Matters' somehow transported into the world of literary heroes.*

Quotable Quote No Two: "I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts." Will Rogers (1879 - 1935) - US humorist. Interesting bloke, well worth a Google.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: It does not make me happy to report that in the last week of March there were two instances of players "losing it" and storming off the field - one on Wednesday and one on Saturday. The players concerned know who they are (so do their team mates) and I will not name them here - this time. Seriously, we are not playing for Argyle Downs Station, and as Rusty Phillips said last year we all need to lighten up. But I could not think of a light way to express this.

Balinese Bulletin 2: *Thanks to Peter Hammond. Another slice of life from Indonesia.*

Nyepi Day: Next Saturday 21st March is what the Balinese refer to as “The Silent Day” (Nyepi). This is the day for the Balinese people to silently & spiritually reflect on the past 12 months, spiritually cleanse themselves and prepare for the year ahead. It is certainly a day of silence. From midnight Friday until 6.00 am Sunday morning there are no lights or sounds from the homes, no traffic on the roads & no people walking the streets, other than the local security guys to ensure this is so. We generally sit at night with minimum small candles burning & either read or listen to music (at a really, really low level) ...we can get away with that! Imagine trying to do something like that in Australia ...good luck!!

Traffic: What you people in Perth consider “Traffic” would be considered quite normal here & “par for the course”. What at home in Perth would take, say 15 min, here, on a good day can take up to 30 min. But that’s ok as there is always something to see along the way & you generally find something new that you hadn’t seen before. I really don’t know why they paint a white line down the middle of the road as 2 lanes of traffic often become 3, or even 4 if you count the motorbikes that sometimes mount the footpath. The motor bikes here outnumber the cars sometimes to ratio of 4:1. Erin often says ...”imagine if all those motor bikes were cars!!!” Patience here in Bali is something very quickly learnt & practiced.

Eating out: Fancy restaurants have been relegated to our very dim & distant past. They certainly abound here for the Tourist public but local Expats, like us, much prefer to eat where the tourists don’t. The food is less expensive & in most cases better & more authentic than that offered up to the tourist. We can generally enjoy a locally prepared meal for 2, with a Bintang each, for around AU\$15. If Erin decides She doesn’t want to cook an evening meal, we order “home delivery’ from between AU\$3 –AU\$7 for 2 people. Naturally we will have a Bintang or two in the fridge. Wine, sadly, is off the menu ...way too expensive!!

Damien, Some of you down there have been asking have we made new friends up here. Well, this may go to, in part, answering this question.

We have a local eatery near us called The Plumbers Arms. The name alone will explain why it is not one of our favourite haunts. Well one day recently, for a change, we thought we would eat there. We found ourselves the only patrons there other than a single guy aged in his early 50’s who arrived at much the same time as we did. Feeling sorry for him I asked if he would like to join usSome 90 minutes later he had gleaned our first names only & that we lived in the local area. We, on the other hand, learnt that he was formerly married, now divorced & was building a couple of Villas nearby. He was, in a previous life, very wealthy & had travelled extensively throughout Asia & recently spent 6 weeks living with the Dalai Lama’s bodyguards in Tibet. It was there that the Dalai Lama, himself, blessed the Jade(?) bracelet he was wearing. In addition to a seasoned traveler he was a former Professional Photographer, a “grip” for an Australian Film Production Company & a Sous Chef ...phew!! Oh & his Father was presented with the Australian Order of Merit ..for what we have no idea. Another interesting thing was he was on first name terms with Malcolm Turnbull & had gone to school with Tony Abbot where he had personally shoved Abbot’s head in the school toilet ...some of you are now smiling!! THIS is why we are very cautious in making new friends here!!!

This perhaps is where I should end this diatribe & let you get off to sleep.

More next month, if required.

All news and other contributions to: John Mercer - ‘A’ Reds. Email: johnmercer@iinet.net.au.