



A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Gold

B White

B Blue

C Blue

C Gold

C Red

C White

# Masters Matters

Issue No 8

August 2015

**Where Some Things Are:** Any requests from readers for inclusions here?

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**Have Hockey Stick Will Travel:** *Here are the WHM current and former players in the State sides for Cairns. The full team lists are on the Hockey WA website. Names can differ between our WHM team lists and Hockey WA's - corrections welcome. Country and other states will be attempted next issue.*

**O/50s:** Mike Hallam, Rob Behets, Peter Chisholm, Tim Reynolds.

**O/50s (2):** John Nettleton, Minder Singh, Peter Bampton, Gavin Parker, Adrian Gabriel.

**O/55s:** Rob Lawson (coach), Brian Robinson, Craig Burgess, Geoff Robinson, Jeremy Walsh, John Pestana, Lyle Kenny, Noel Morrison, Peter Westlund, Steve Farrar, Steve Pestana, Wayne Cutler.

**O/55s (2):** Cameron Fairbrother (coach), Michael Sputore (manager), David Elliott, Fred Flanagan, Russell Scanlon, Graham Newson, John Rogers, Robert Crofts.

**O/60s:** Ian Pestana (coach), David Herrington, David Kerslake, Dudley Evans, Graeme Nicholls, Ian Sheppard, Ian Simes, Keith Gilbride, Len Collier (GK and manager), Peter Aylmore, Peter Komyschan, Richard Staynor.

**O/65s:** Jim Banks (coach), Alan Ledger, Bill Campbell, Geoff Hudson, Graham Challenor, Heath Tyrrell, Ian Brown (manager), Ian Kealley, John Harper, Peter Andrews, Peter Fogels, Peter Morgan, Ron Mitchell, Simon Thomson, Terry Parker.

**O/70s:** Colin Sanders (coach) Bill Williamson (manager), Len Blythe, Peter Gason, Ron Venables, Les Waldon, Ian Hill, Howie Herbert, Roger Jewell, John Jeffreys, Gordon Thomas, Peter Murray, Graham Harler, Bob Bowyer, David Lester, John Burt, Barry Rutter, Ken Walter (*see next paragraph*).

**Stop Press:** *The Cairns fixtures have just been released. With only two turfs in use the first game of the day starts at 8:00 am and the last at 8:15 pm.*

**State Teams:** I was very much intrigued by the last player listed in the O/70s - "Ken Walker." In my younger days the 'Phantom' comic strip revealed that the hero always travelled incognito as "Mr Walker" (Ghost Who Walks). Looks as though we WA Country players will face stiff opposition.

**Dates For The Diary:**

August 12th: 'A' division team reshuffle commences.

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

September 12th: Saturday hockey winter windup - Perry Lakes.

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

September 30th and October 7th (2:00 pm) October 14th (1:30 pm): Combined scratch games PHS.

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

March 29th to April 9th 2016: Masters (O/40s to O/55s) and Women's World Cups - Canberra.

May 3rd to 13th 2016: Grand Masters (O/60s and higher) World Cup - Newcastle, Australia.

**Bereavement:** Our deepest sympathies to Alan Ledger (WHM 'B' and State O/65s) who tragically lost his wife Christina recently. Our thoughts are with you and family in your time of sorrow.

**Department of Health:** Not much this issue. I hope that's because there are few problems.

Ian Brown (manager WA O/65s) has suffered a nasty finger injury. Hope you can recover (and keep the fitness up) for Cairns. Ken Walter had us worried at Perry Lakes on the 18th going down on one knee during a match and coming off - back spasm? Eric Alcock is still recovering from his shoulder operation, but was good enough to umpire at Perry Lakes. Paul Robinson and John Mercer have now made more comebacks between them than Dame Nellie Melba. Both hope that another will be unnecessary. Roger Jewell made a successful return on the 18th, as did Neil Scaddan, who put in a couple of celebratory goals. *That's all I've heard, but I'm sure there should be more.*

**Letters To The Editor:** Thanks to the respondents to the July issue: Jim Wright, Stuart Burnfield, Ken Beer, Scott Blackwell and John Milner. Another correspondent wrote: "Here we are about to enter domestic and international competitions with forwards that cannot score goals." See 'A' blog - Ed.

**Quotable Quote No 1:** "The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom." H. L. Mencken 1880 - 1956. *Computers and phones merely require knowledge.* Ed.

**Department Of Limericks Part 1:** Last issue revealed all that I know about our two trophies. So far my attempts to discover more have not been very successful - so far. Hence:

Our trophies date from days of yore

Merrill Lynch is the fifties top score

For trophy George Winning

We know its beginning

Please tell me just what it was for.

*As far as I know it went to the year's highest points scoring O/060s team after that competition was established (in 2006?). Its future is to be decided at the next Committee meeting.*

**From The 'C' Division:** Congratulations go to Tony Jones, newly appointed captain of the Blue team. It's said that if you want a job well done, ask a busy man. Hopefully the Blues will be a breeze after hosting the ABC's Q & A program.

**Grumpy Old Men One:** "Blow, blow, thou winter wind. Thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude." William Shakespeare (1564 - 1616). *It is to be hoped that this sentiment is not shared by our umpires.*

**Masters Matters Goes Automatic?:** If you saw the ABC's Media Watch program on July 6th then you know all about the story that robots are replacing journalists - and that it can be very hard to tell the difference. Peter Fogels - how long until we can have a robotic Masters Matters?

**Department Of Limericks Part 2:** The TV story made it clear it's very hard to pick the robot journo.

I felt that I needed some booze

Paul Barry announced the sad news

That robots could write

This rag in one night

But will we agree with their views?

*Roll on the headline "Masters Matters Editor Redundant" - Ed.*

**Whistle While You Work - With Neil Mannolini** : Neil and I think that reprinting 9.11 is timely. So: "Field players must not stop, kick, propel, pick up, throw or carry the ball with any part of their body. *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 would otherwise have hit the stick."*

In my words, penalties only apply if the player gains an advantage from the contact with foot or body (always subject to dangerous play). Surely this is not too difficult for players and umpires.

**From The Saturday O/65s:** The general bye on July 11th resulted in our largest attendance ever, but we still did not quite achieve enough to play two matches simultaneously. I used the term 'yellow' to describe our fourth colour, but have decided to amend this to lime green. Blue, White, Orange and the "Limeys" all enjoyed good hockey and the drinks (provided by the Committee) and snacks. Many thanks to Howie Herbert for the work required to organise the drinks (including wines) and Neil Patterson and Jim Malcolm (who could not attend, but catered anyhow) for the quality food.

Di Crocker, who runs the YMCA clubrooms on Saturdays (morning juniors too) has been very kind and helpful to us. So much so that we made a small presentation to her following the games on the 25th Thanks Di - you contribute a lot to our enjoyable Saturday afternoons.

We reported last issue that we had 49 paid up players. We have now gained the 50th - many thanks to Simon Thomson who brought up the half century during July. I hope that you managed to get the arm untwisted in time to play the next hockey match.

On August 1st Howard Read greeted me when I returned from the showers with a personal serving of two pies and tomato sauce on a plate (for which my thanks). I missed out the week before on my own supply and must have whinged a bit too loudly – again?

**July's Pertinent Question:** Unusually this one generated a couple of responses, for which my thanks. The question posed by Neil Mannolini was; "On the rules, how many players either: a) Have a rule book. b) Have read one in the past 10 years. c) Have ever read one?"

**Scott Blackwell:** "None of the above are true."

**Stuart Burnfield:** "I bought and studied the rule book in 2001. This was just before my first umpiring duty after an 8 year break from hockey. The book covered many interesting and obscure scenarios, & I was excited to be able to blow the whistle on a couple of them. This caused much dismay among all 22 players and after half time I reverted to umpiring according to the 'vibe' of the document." *Stuart attributes the following to "early hockey enthusiast T. S Eliot", which I cannot confirm online.* " Though there is a lot of information in the rule book that is good to know sometimes it is wise to overlook it. Especially when umpiring players who have clear memories of exactly what the rules were in the 1970s and part of the 1980s."

*In days long gone I used to buy 10 or 20 rule books a year, and onsell them (at cost) across the bar at the Scarborough Hockey Club. They sold out, regularly. Ed.*

**Punology One:** August 2nd was Swiss Independence Day, and I heard the question posed: "What's the best thing about living in Switzerland?" Answer is: "Well, the flag's a big plus."

**Welcome To WHM:** This month we welcome new player Stephen Adams. I notice he uses the name "Goaldoc" on emails - does this mean that he stops them or does he score them?

**A' Division Blog:** Here's what I think happened. Let me know if you think differently.

**July 1st:** The Whites were the only team who needed fill-ins. They also included Len Blythe, Gold added Jim Banks and Blue had Peter Evans and Peter Hearne. Starting player counts were Gold (10), White (9), Red (10), and Blue (11). John Ree transferred from Blue to White for the day. Trevor Kerr and Mal Horrigan showed how to convert penalty corners, while Graham Harler provided a variation on converting a penalty stroke. I was not a contender for "Dummy Spit of the Day." (for a change) but I think Ivan Wilson probably was. Has anyone seen the "trophy?" Total goals scored (7).

**July 8th:** Most of us managed to arrive at UWA, with a couple of goalkeeping exceptions, who came via Curtin. Colin B and Barry R had no problems finding the UWA turfs, while John B had the day off. Narrows it down a bit. The hockey quality was variable - parts of it were very good, and some parts were not. Without Peter Willett and Stan Salazaar Gold competed well midfield but could not score. Bob Bowyer was located in the stand during the Reds third game, while his team were playing one short. Player numbers were White (10), Red (9), Blue(9) and Gold (9). Total goals scored (9). Well done and thanks to Bob Bowyer for all the work required for the sausage sizzle.

**July 15th:** The cool weather did not have a positive effect on our hockey, the quality of which varied between awful, acceptable, and very good. Mal Horrigan scored twice in very contrasting fashion (a backboard shattering corner and a deceptive slow push), but they each counted as one. It was good to see Mike Black on a hockey field again. Player numbers were Blue (10), Red (10), Gold (8) and White (10). Accolades go to the non-players who helped on the day with umpiring (Neil Mannolini, Ken Walter and Bob Le Merle) and cooking (Marty Greay, Brian Lester and Dave Evans). Dave gets extra credit as chief bottle washer for a sterling job cleaning the barbecue as well. Thanks also to UWA Hockey Club for the facilities and open bar. Total goals (7).

**July 22nd:** It was a goal free day. Very good goalkeeping from Barry, John and Tony combined with very poor finishing (White missed several open goals) and some very poor play all contributed. Red could claim a missed stroke, a poster and a disallowed goal, but it was just a day of lost opportunities for all teams. Player numbers were Blue (11), Gold (9), White (10) and Red (10).

**July 29th:** The first match of the day was another 0-0, then at last a goal went in, followed later by a few more. Some of the hockey was reasonable, some quite good, and some not so good (again) Worthy of mention (also again) is the very late arrival of many of us. The lack of any warm-up not only risks injuries - it also has a very adverse effect on the standard of the hockey. Player numbers Gold (8), White (10), Red (10), Blue (11). Total goals for the day (6).

**Well Dones:** Thanks to July 'A' umpires Adolphus Abrahams, George Bradbury, Bala Chandran, Peter Evans, Peter Gason, Colin Gee, Graham Harler, Roger Jewell, Neil Mannolini, Bob Robinson, Barry Rutter, Neil Scaddan, Gordon Thomas, Ken Walter, Ken Watt and Ivan Wilson. I assume that the 'B' division regulars Lionel David, Vern Gooch and John Lindsay were there again, as well as the usual volunteers for the 'C' division umpires - thank you. Well done to the Saturday "crew" - Eric Alcock George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Peter Gason, Brian Glencross, Vern Gooch, Marty Greay, Ian Hill, Roger Jewell, Trevor Kerr, Roger Jewell, Ken Walter and Ken Watt. Finally, thanks to all the July UWA cooks - Bob Bowyer, Dave Evans, Marty Greay and Brian Lester. And thanks to Gordon Thomas and the Stadium staff for our Wednesday bar snacks.

**Punology Two:** "My tailor is happy to make a pair of pants for me, or sew it seams." *I am sorry to advise (not really) that there are plenty more where this one came from.*

The fashion of the moment

Photo supplied by Bob Bowyer



**Do you have one yet?**

**Playing Gear:** Good news for those looking for a Western Hockey Masters soft peaked cap. Our new supply has arrived and is now available for sale (\$17.50) through Bob Bowyer.

**Spot The Players:** A few people managed to pick Danny Ponnambalam (second from right - front) and Shane Knapp (second from right - back). I guessed correctly that the retiring Robin Bailey was behind all others in the back row. Robin and Shane think the club was Arks - around 1981.

**Department of Corrections:** I omitted the answer to June's "Test Your Hockey Knowledge." Sorry! Correct answer was d) Jackie Pereira scored in each game of the Champion's Trophy Frankfurt 1988.

**Past Players:** Spotted last month were George Winning, Jeff Godfrey, Stuart Calder, John Sanders, Brian Lester. From 12 August spectators will be able to watch the State O/70s in action on Turf 1.

**Dummy Spit Of The Day:** This must go to all forwards from the 'A' division who missed goal scoring chances on 22nd and 29th July. If you didn't spit a dummy at the time like I did perhaps you should have; it helps to dispel the rising stress levels caused by repeated failures to convert scoring chances.

**Quotable Quote No 2:** "Wine makes every meal an occasion, every table more elegant, every day more civilized." Andre Simon - French born English wine merchant, gourmet and writer. *For those who feel the need to justify their consumption.*

**The French Letter No 11:**

My congratulations to all those selected in State teams for Cairns. I am sure that there was some spirited discussion in the bar after the announcements were made.

Summer here in Normandy has been disappointing. While the majority of France sweltered in record heatwave conditions, we have had heavy cloud, some rain and very little sun and with temperatures below 25 most days. The effect on my vegie garden has been lush growth of leaves with very little fruiting occurring. I have a wonderful collection of tall, healthy tomato plants loaded with green tomatoes and I wonder if we will get enough sun on the coming weeks for them to ripen.

We still have no action on the sale of our house which is pretty depressing - it has been on the market for four years now.

Last week I had the cataract operation on my left eye with the op on the right eye scheduled for August. The surgery went well, quite painless and the eye recovered quickly. While in the waiting area prior to entering the theatre I had an amusing experience. One of the theatre nurses, knowing that I spoke English, decided to initiate some English conversation. She was inserting drops in my left eye and then wanted me to close it, so she said "close your face." My wife Joelle, says she is going to use that line from now on!

Cheers guys and good hockey

Ian Purdie (*Thanks Ian - don't close the computer keyboard yet - please keep them coming. Ed.*)

**Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders:** July's question was: Which of the following statements is true of the Hockeyroos successful Gold medal winning effort at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games?: a) Australia did not play NZ at these Games. b) Claire Mitchell-Taverner made her debut for Australia. c) Australia conceded either 0 or 1 goal per match. d) A and B. Where were you Rusty - no answers were received. *Answer is c) - only 5 goals conceded all up and never more than one.*

August's question is: Which player is the odd one out among these Hockeyroos: a) Player #387, Halliday, Emily, WA, Defender b) Player #412 Hollywood, Kate, NSW, Midfield c) Player #413 Johnson, Fiona, NSW, Midfield d) Player #414 McGurk, Kobie, WA, Defender. *Answer next issue.*

**Shakespeare Said It:** "Wisely and slow; they stumble that run fast." Romeo And Juliet Act II Scene III. *Some consolation for those of us losing their pace - but definitely not applicable to Ron Venables.* "I am a man more sinn'd against than sinning." King Lear Act III Scene II. *Why doesn't the umpire ever give me a free hit?*

**Grumpy Old Men Part Two:** "I wish people who have trouble communicating would just shut up." Tom Lehrer (born 1928). *He said that well before the social media explosion.*

**Vale Ian Pitt:** For many years Ian's name was synonymous with umpiring in WA, but in as well as this his lifelong hockey achievements included playing for Australia, umpiring very many internationals, and becoming one of Australia's first coaching directors. Australian hockey has suffered a great loss. Our condolences go to his family and friends.

**George Winning Trophy:** I am still researching (this means asking lots of people to remember) the history of the trophy. Next issue I intend to print all that has emerged, and ask all readers of this erudite publication to help fill in the blanks. To some extent this applies to the Merrill Lynch Mercury Cup also, as it seems that there is no documentation except the engraving on the trophies.

**Balinese Bulletin 6:** *Peter Hammond's latest. The Balinese/French news are read with interest.*

With, once again, nothing really to report I thought it may be of interest, to those of you more “spiritually Aware” than others, to give some insight to elements of the Balinese Culture.

Every 210 days the whole island of Bali sprouts flimsy bamboo poles, known as “penjor,” an unmistakable sign that Galungan fever is just about to kick in. Adorned with fruit, flowers and coconut leaves, these tall poles are found on every byway and highway and outside virtually every Balinese home, fluttering aimlessly in the breeze.

Galungan is a unique 10 day celebration commemorating good over evil in typically melodramatic style. Balinese mythology is colorful to say the least and the story behind Galungan takes it to a whole new level. Briefly, it involves a shape-shifting evil giant, rivers of blood and a year-long battle royal between the Gods. During Galungan the Godly spirits return to earth and expect to be welcomed and entertained with important Balinese rituals and extravagant feasts.

From a visitor's point of view, Galungan is second only for sheer spectacle to the [Nyepi](#) “Day of Silence”. Kuningan is the final day of the festival which brings proceedings to a close. It is all a much regimented occasion where every member of the household has specific tasks to perform and dressed in their “Sunday best” finery. The preceding days are all full of feverish activity – cooking, cleaning and making offerings. You'll see the roads filled with convoys of scooters ferrying neatly dressed worshippers to and from temples carrying huge baskets of fruit, flowers or even live chickens.

The day before Galungan, men of the village head out at dawn in search of an unsuspecting pig which is to become the temple sacrifice. The meat is used to make traditional spicy “lawar” dishes containing satay, jackfruit, dozens of herbs and spices and always enough to feed a small army.

Only if you go native staying in a rural village or in a small family home stay do you see all the complicated preparations and hectic activity taking place behind the scene, although even in busy resorts such as Kuta, it's virtually impossible to escape Kuningan fever.

There are road blocks erected outside main temples as waves of devotees flood the area, bringing even more maddening traffic chaos than usual. Many restaurants and shops close for a few days but this is not on the scale of Nyepi (when Bali becomes a ghost town). There is still no shortage of places to get a cold beer or two and a bite to eat.

On Galungan day itself (always the Wednesday) it's a time for families; your favorite bartender or the girl who cleans your hotel room each morning will have headed off home to the ancestral village at dawn to spend time with the folks. After a full day of prayers, a few petty family quarrels and non stop eating, it's back to relative normality with perhaps a family stroll into the paddy fields for a picnic. Villages throughout the island celebrate the post-Galungan period in their own peculiar way.

The streets of Ubud are flooded with schoolchildren performing “Barong” dances with great enthusiasm while further east in Klungkung, a number of villages indulge in frenzied “Jempana” war games complete with long bamboo sticks to the sound of relentless drumming. There is also the bizarre ritual of a village elder seemingly “stabbing” himself with a ceremonial dagger while in a trance-like state. Curious onlookers are always welcome at these occasions and in small off-the-beaten-path villages you are likely to become the center of attention, especially with the throng of giggling children.

*Thanks Peter - sorry I could not find time and skills to fit the photographs in properly. Ed*

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - 'A' division Reds. Email: [johnmercera@inet.net.au](mailto:johnmercera@inet.net.au).