



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 12

December 2015

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Dates For The Diary:

December 2nd: Sausage Sizzle after hockey - PHS.

December 16th: Western Hockey Masters Christmas Party - PHS. Booking essential.

December 19th: Saturday Hockey Christmas function. Booking essential.

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

May 2nd to 13th 2016: Grand Masters (O/60s and higher) World Cup - Newcastle, Australia.

September 24th to October 8th 2016: Interstate Masters Championships - Adelaide.

2016: Possible Masters tournament - Rome. } Southern Cross

2017: European Cup - Glasgow. } Southern Cross

2018: World Cup - Spain. } Australia and Southern Cross

2020: World Cup - possibly Japan. } Australia and Southern Cross

More Possible Tournaments: I am reliably informed that Southern Cross teams may be formed for a tournament in Argentina late November 2016. Also maybe a trip to New Zealand early in 2017 prior to their national Masters Championships and an Asian Cup / PacRim somewhere in Asia late in 2017.

Hockey tragics who also like international travel will be able to indulge both interests fairly often in the next few years. When our Lotto syndicate wins its big one the travelling numbers may increase markedly. Meantime the headline "Have Hockey Stick, Will Travel" should be a fixture in "Masters Matters" for some time yet. I promise to let you know all I know.

Christmas Special: If you do not yet have a Western Hockey Masters cap they are still available from our uniforms officer Robin Bailey at a discounted price. Until Christmas \$15 will get you one - or you could buy several for presents. To see what they look like keep your eyes open next Wednesday.

Situation Vacant: The WHM Committee would like to encourage more social interaction, particularly on Wednesdays after hockey. To this end they are looking for an assistant to the Social Secretary to help organise Sausage Sizzles, be pro-active in organising other events to encourage players to stay on at the Stadium, and assist with arranging the Christmas Party. Please contact Simon Thomson.

Christmas Party: The cost is \$15 per head (players and partners). Bookings (essential) will be done through a team representative (captain or delegate) with money in advance as there are no door sales. The venue is the outside area at the Stadium (you may need a jacket) with minimal speeches.

Team Re-shuffles: I heard that the captains have completed their onerous task in both the A' and 'B' divisions. 'Masters Matters' has been unable to obtain a scoop as the information is top secret. How comprehensive these are will be revealed when they become effective early next year.

Department of Health: It would be great if we all got well over the break ready for next year. I'll try. Peter Fogels (MM October) is going to try an injection of Synvisc-One(it's worth an Internet search) for the knee(s). If you see him playing again we'll know it works. Eric Alcock has recovered from the bad shoulder, but now has a sore Achilles. John Jeffreys is "out of action for a while trying to restore my left knee to hockey standard." Neil Scaddan is still working his way back to a condition where he can contemplate playing again. Peter Murray has had one knee done (the arthroscopy) but has now deferred the replacement until next year. Ken Watt seems to have made a good comeback from his cataract operation and is now playing very well. John Halley has had an arthroscopy (on the 10th) which could well bring him back to the turf in good shape. Lionel David and wife are still on a steady progression to recovery (25/11). George Bradbury had a trip to the Murdoch emergency department with very alarming symptoms. These were diagnosed as pneumonia on a lung, rather than full-scale cardiac problems, which very possibly came as some relief. Speedy recovery wishes to you all.

Frank Fay: I have heard from Frank's family, and he has gone into care. His daughter-in-law tells me that he is now frail aged, with both his mobility and memory becoming impaired. She says he would still remember you if you told him who you are, and he can be visited at;
St Michael's Aged Care Facility, 53 Wasley St, North Perth. 6006

Letters To The Editor: There was again not a lot of reaction to the November issue. This may well be because it is still being read. Thanks to those who did respond; Peter Fogels, Ken Watt & Jim Wright.

Grumpy Old Men 1: "He is indebted to his memory for his jests and to his imagination for his facts." Richard Brinsley Sheridan. (1751 - 1856). *Irish playwright and poet. Nowadays the internet provides.*

Department Of Limericks Part 1: It has become customary for the December issue to look back over the year just completed. The serious version appears elsewhere (Page 9) - this one is a lot shorter. How can we describe the past year?

It was good for the young blokes I hear (*extra team in 'C' division*)

We mostly stayed fit

And travelled a bit

But nobody aged, which is queer.

At least we all aged at the same rate, which makes it seem that nobody is getting any older. Ed.

From The Saturday O/65s: This competition continues to provide an excellent Saturday afternoon. The percentage of players who remain after the games is extremely high, some days we achieve 100% plus a few non-players. This is in keeping with the social atmosphere of the on field games, and is a great credit to all involved. The 2015 year's honour roll can be found on Page 9. Another positive factor is the location - one of the very best for grass hockey in Perth. In summer, if there is a sea breeze, we will benefit from it.

In the previous issue I mentioned that it is becoming increasingly common for non-players to drop by for a quick look at some hockey, a drink and a chat. This month I've seen Eric Alcock, Peter Andrews (RSI from scoring goals?), Howie Herbert (while injured), Bob Le Merle, Peter Murray, Rusty Phillips, Paul Robinson, Neil Scaddan, Ken Watt and Ken Walter (all hopefully only temporary).

To show how up to date we are a pink ball was used on the 28th. Judging by the trapping to start it really was swinging a lot, then some of us (though not me) began to see it properly.

Rules Are Us - With Neil Mannolini: Advantage:

- a. It is not necessary for every offence to be penalised when no benefit is gained by the offender; unnecessary interruptions cause undue delay and irritation.
- b. When the rules have been broken, an umpire must apply advantage if this is the most severe penalty. (*Example - allow a forward a shot at an open goal instead of awarding a penalty corner. Ed.*)
- c. Possession of the ball does not automatically mean that there is an advantage to apply, the player / team with the ball must be able to develop their play.
- d. Having decided to pay advantage, a second opportunity must not be given by reverting to the original penalty.
- e. It is important to anticipate the flow of the match, to look beyond the action of the moment and to be aware of potential developments in the match.

The above is on pages 43 and 44 of the 2015 Rule Book, section on Umpiring Objectives, No. 2 Applying the Rules, 2.2 Advantage.

I recommend each player should obtain their own book from Hockey WA.

Neil Mannolini - Volunteer Umpire.

Thanks very much for this piece Neil - it is so relevant to our 'A' division and Perry Lakes play now. If all players and umpires read and digest the message our games will be much more enjoyable. Ed.

Have Hockey Stick Will Travel: I spotted an Alliance hockey shirt in the Stadium bar on the 11th just as he was departing. As he'd come from a 'B' division table I enquired about the player's name. They were not very helpful (that's what I thought at the time) so I consulted the tournament program for the previous World Cup in The Hague and discovered that shirt number 47 belonged to Eric Kjekstat, who (I think) hails from Canada. The pronunciation is up to you, but we wish him all the best for his time in Australia. It does not seem that he has nominated for the Alliance in Newcastle as yet. If any reader knows some more, please enlighten us.

Department of Corrections: November's "Masters Matters" included Peter Hammond's Balinese Bulletin and completely forgot to say thank you. We do appreciate hearing from you, even if we do sometimes forget to acknowledge it. And we managed to spell Rod Sims correctly in one place and add an extra 'm' in another.

Have Hockey Stick Will Travel: The Southern Cross teams for Newcastle have now been announced. Congratulations to all from WHM who are going. As far as I can make out they are:

O/60 Blue: Stephen Farrar.

O/60 Red: Steve McEntee, Brian Thomas.

O/65 Blue: Ash Challenor, Roger Davey, Dudley Evans (capt), Peter Fogels, Mike Robinson.

O/65 Red: John Chapman, Heath Tyrell.

O/70 Blue: Peter Andrews, John Burt, Peter Hearne, Howie Herbert.

O/70 Red: George Bradbury, Rob Butler, Julian Gardner, Dave Horsley, John Jeffreys, John Mercer.

Other WHM members who are attending are Alliance: Terry Gaston (O/65s) Colin Benporath (O/70s) and Wales: Harvey Davies. All this of course is in addition to the Australian players, who we covered in the November issue. The O75s have been a separate saga and I have very little knowledge other than that the age group will now not be a separate competition in Newcastle.

Please let me know if you are going, and are yet to be mentioned in "Masters Matters."

A' Division Blog: Our numbers are dropping? This is becoming more and more about less and less.

November 4th: Gold continued to dominate on a day when scoring was difficult - perhaps due to all four goalkeepers being current or former Australian players. There were many comebacks and our numbers were much improved, except for White who have several long term injured in their twelve listed players. Goal of the day went to a great effort from Ian Hill, while Barry Rutter definitely made the save of the day - just ask Bob Maley. Several comments were made that the standard of the hockey had generally improved. Player numbers were Blue (12), Gold (11), Red (11) and White (6). Re-Crutement coup of the year (*this pun courtesy Bob Bowyer*) goes to Bill Baldwin, who talked John Crute into coming out of retirement with a view to the O/75s in Newcastle. Total goals scored (7).

November 11th: The stands were not exactly packed, but I noted several injured and former players. These included Neil Scaddan, Rusty Phillips, Dudley Younger, Roger Jewell (who blew the whistle for most of the day), John Halley and Paul Robinson (with no moon boot and driving again). Somehow John Chapman played for the White team - did anyone sight a birth certificate? Gold lost a game - their first for the quarter - and the Red team showed some improvement (room for plenty more!). Some (not all) of the passing was very good, but only Red and White scored goals. Player numbers were Blue (10), Red (11), White (7) and Gold (10). Total goals scored (7).

November 18th: Thanks to the hardy players who are playing extra games to make up our numbers. This makes it difficult to maintain a decent standard of hockey for the entire day except for the goalkeepers who are all still playing well (though I believe John Crute is injured). Goal scoring is tough as all teams are struggling to make that last pass properly, (*personally guilty on multiple counts - Ed.*) though on the occasions the Reds put it together team goals resulted. Due to the very low scoring all games were close. Gold snapped up ACT visitor Alan Chapman and he repaid the favour by netting the winner against Blue who failed to score for a second consecutive week. Approximate player numbers were White (6), Gold (9), Red (10) and Blue (9). Total goals (6).

November 25th: Numbers are still well down in White and Red, but Blue had a full squad and Gold had surplus players - perhaps winning attracts them. I sighted John Crute, but was told he was only returning his goalkeeper gear following the non-event of the O/75s in Newcastle. Our passing was a real curate's egg again - parts of it were very good. The goal of the day goes to Stan Balding for a reverse stick shot from the top of the circle. Gold were again the dominant team, having regained State players Roger Jewell and Howie Herbert to add further to their representative line-up. Team numbers were White (7), Red (7), Blue (10) and Gold (12). Total goals scored (7).

Well Dones: Thank you to the November 'A' umpires: Ash Foster, Peter Gason, Vern Gooch, Dave Horsley, Roger Jewell, Neil Mannolini, Neil Scaddan and Ivan Wilson. Thanks also to the regular 'B' division volunteers - Vern Gooch, John Lindsay and George Mullins. John Harper often umpires in 'C' division. Thanks to Saturday umpires - Eric Alcock, Stan Balding, George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Peter Gason, Bob Le Merle and Ken Watt. And thanks to the Stadium staff for our Wednesday bar snacks.

Quotable Quote No 1: For those of us who never forget, but who sometimes can't remember. "It is hard enough to remember my opinions, without also remembering my reasons for them." Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 -1900). *German philosopher, poet, composer and scholar.*

Punology One: The two pianists had a good marriage. They were always in a chord.

Volunteers Honoured

Photo Hockey WA



Hockey WA Awards Night: From left to right Stuart Lamont (Vic Park & WHM), Paul Huisman (Dale), Howie Herbert (Dale & WHM), Chris Vincent (Dale) and Pat Hall (Hockey WA board). Congratulations and well done to all. Howie is showing us each week at Perry Lakes that this award is well merited.

Department of Limericks Part 2: We fringe players worry every time there's a re-vamp of the teams.
Our teams number just three and four
But both 'B's and 'A's will re-draw
In short our new fate
Depends how we rate
I hope it's not straight out the door.

Quotable Quote No 2: "For a list of all the ways technology has failed to improve the quality of life, please press three." Alice Khan (1986 -). *US writer and columnist.*

Golf Masters Too: I thought that the sport of golf had adopted our hockey terminology when the Australian Masters Championship was won by a senior. Nice going by the 56 year old Peter Senior.

Post Tournament Flatness: We made mention of this last issue and decided to research the numbers from our Wednesday competition who have travelled each year. From the inception of "Masters Matters" in January 2012 our totals at the interstate tournament (according to the newsletters at the time) were: 2012 (Hobart - 76), 2013 (Sydney - 83), 2014 (Perth - 107) and 2015 (Cairns - 105). I think it's possible that the increase in flatness is explained (in part) by the increase in numbers. The other really dreadful possibility is that some of us are getting older.

The French Letter No 15:

There is no doubt that this month has been dominated by the terrible slaughter and injuries inflicted on Paris citizens by armed terrorists. You will all have read about it and seen TV footage but you may not have got the sense of horror felt by the general population and at the same time an amazing sense of strength and determination which sends a clear message - we will not be cowed.

France is on a war footing and has sent its aircraft carrier close to Syria and Iraq and is now conducting bombing raids. They are directly allied with the Russians in this (an unusual alliance) as the Russians were understandably enraged by the recent sabotage (a bomb) of a plane by the same terrorist group. *There were Russian alliances at the start of WW I and at the end of WW II - Ed.*

One can only wonder about the world we live in. Living in Australia is undoubtedly a pretty safe place to be. Living in Europe at the moment is not only fraught with danger but the resultant problems arising from the terrorist threat are enormous as evidenced by the hordes of people seeking solace in other countries who are often either ill-equipped or reluctant to deal with them.

Religious zealots, both Christian and Muslim, have caused havoc over the centuries but in the present climate it's hard to distinguish friend from foe. Some of these terrorists were, though of Arab extraction, French citizens. In other words they were living in the community alongside those whom they were planning to kill. That's what is really scary.

Apart from the above, November, the first half anyway, was dominated by higher than usual temperatures - on average 5 degrees higher. However, normality is returning with this morning (23/11) being 4 degrees with 70kms wind which makes it pretty chilly.

I guess this will be in the last edition of MM before Christmas so I take this opportunity of wishing all of you and your families a joyous Christmas and a New Year filled with good hockey.

Ian Purdie (*Thanks again Ian - and from all at WHM our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to you and Joelle. Might we see you in Perth again some time in 2016? Ed.*)

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: November's question was: Which Australian Hockey goal keeper has played in the most Champions Trophy Tournaments? a) Damon Diletti b) Lachlan Dreher c) Neil Snowden d) Robert Proctor. *Rusty Phillips sent in an answer of Damon Diletti "as he seemed to be around forever in the 90s." The correct answer is b). Lachlan Dreher who played in a total of 12 Trophy Tournaments.* December's question is: Which of these statements is true? a) Jim McDowell umpired in four Olympic Games. b) Don Prior umpired in four Olympic Games. c) They both umpired in a single Games. d) They both umpired in four Olympic Games. *Answer next issue.*

Shakespeare Said It: "Things without all remedy should be without regard: what's done is done." Macbeth Act III Scene II. *Sound advice for those of us who brood about missing easy goals.* "Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows." The Tempest Act II Scene II. *And on occasions so does a hockey tournament. No reflection on any editorial room-mates intended - this is solely based on what I hear from fellow travellers. Of course what goes on tour stays on tour.*

Past Players: As always it's good to see retired (both permanently & temporarily) players in the bar and the stands on Wednesdays. Those I managed to note in November were George Winning, Jeff Godfrey, Brian Lester, John Sanders, Neil Scaddan, Bob Robinson and Rusty Phillips.

Punology Two: All pessimists have the same blood type - B negative.

Balinese Bulletin No 9: *Thanks for these Peter H. I hope you can keep going in 2016. Ed.*

RAIN???

Well ...sitting here on Saturday morning 28th November &still NO BLOODY RAIN!!! I'm sure those of you who have travelled to the Bali shores will find it hard to believe that we have not had "real" rain here since around April/May. It would appear that Climate Change is "Alive & Well" here in Bali too. The local Balinese find this lack of rain most unusual & are all complaining that it is so dry. We can only hope that December will bring with it the long awaited precipitation.

MANGOS

The mango tree in our garden provides us with an annual feast of this beautiful fruit. Most days when the mangos are ripe enough to eat it is not unusual to be presented with up to 10 per day. They just fall to the ground when ready to eat. I need to be on the alert to their presence however, as the rotten fruit bats make short work of them if I do not get to them first. Unfortunately, it seems their bounty has come to an end & we will need to buy them from the local market at around AU\$0.70c per piece!!!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

For anyone down there thinking of coming to Bali to open a small ..or large restaurant ...DON'T!!! We are constantly presented with the existence of a new eating establishment & have been forced to comment ..."I wonder how long it will be before it closes". Sure enough ...not long after it appears ..it is gone!!! There are so many eating places here that only a "Madman" would even consider a venture of this sort.

SOUNDS OF CHILDREN.

Most of you down there who are reading this "musing" would be of an age that your residential area is likely devoid of the sound of children. We are immersed in this background sound. Children of all ages from babies through to late teens are always to be heard in the laneway where we live. They pass by or simply gather nearby, always happy & quick to laugh out loud. On occasions when the mangos are in fruit & overhang the wall into the lane, children will appear at our gate & actually ASK if they can pick the overhanging fruit. Good luck with that happening in Perth!!

Grumpy Old Men Part 2: "Calamities are of two kinds: misfortunes to ourselves, and good fortune to others." Ambrose Bierce (1842 - 1914) from *"The Devil's Dictionary."*

New TLA: As an ex worker in the computer area I have been exposed to Three Letter Abbreviations for quite a while, but this one was new to me. The president of my small social club of ex members of Apex clubs explained his head stitches as PFO. This means: "pissed and fell over."

Dummy Spit Of The Day: As this is the Christmas edition we will not award this coveted trophy until 2016. One of my New Year resolutions will be to fail to qualify at all.

Water, Water, Everywhere: This is not a quote from Coleridge's Ancient Mariner but a headline with a description of the centre of Perth after another burst water main. It seems that the retirements of Roger Partington and Ken Walter have not been adequately covered.

Newly Wed: Hearty congratulations (and thanks for the drinks) to Peter Willett, who we hear was married on October 25th. "Masters Matters" did not find out in time to send a photographer.

Thank You For 2015: We began the year with 4 'A' division teams, 3 'B' division teams & 3 'C' teams. The major changes were the addition of a fourth 'C' team and the inclusion of State sides in the 'A' and 'B' divisions during the lead-up to the Cairns tournament. The 'Masters Matters' annual review and thanks for the year herewith. It is worth noting that Colin Gee's report to committee on player numbers showed 180 active WHM players I hope that we have managed to include all the workers, but if you are not here and should be I can assure you it was not done deliberately.

Executive: There has been very little turnover in this area for some time, indicating satisfaction with the way things are being handled. Simon is still giving us hands-on leadership and is very closely in touch with everything which happens. Bob carries a daunting work load in addition to his secretarial duties, including the fund-raising raffles and the Lotto syndicate. When I joined WHM in 2006 Spider was the treasurer and uniform officer. Even though he's now retired from playing he's continued to work. Hockey is a team game, and we have a good team at the top. Thanks all.

Other Off-Field Roles: Well done to the long-term workers. These include Roger Partington, who has been producing our fixtures for quite a while. Peter Fogels maintains our website, and is responsible for placing the multiple editions of "Masters Matters" on it. Blame me, not him for its content. Robin Bailey takes care of our shirts and socks, and will be busy shortly when the re-draw begins. Colin Gee maintains our membership data base, with linkage from Dave Evans for the 'B's and 'C's. Col should be informed of any change to personal data, especially email addresses. Thank you to all.

Team Captains: As I have neglected to take detailed notes throughout the year I will not even try to list all temporary office holders. You know who you are, and so do your teams. Thank you all. Thanks also go to the regular skippers. This year 'A' captains were Neil Scaddan, Colin Gee, Roger Partington and Dave Horsley. In the 'B' division Graham Challenor, Bill Campbell and Peter Andrews were the regulars. In 'C' division report captains mentioned are Russell Scanlon, Mike Sputore, Nick Pereira, Wayne Cutler, Tony Jones and Ian Pestana. Thanks again to all skippers, both full and part time.

Sponsors: Greg Allen has given us continued support (Greg's Discount Chemist). I believe that we are now talking to Ash Foster about 2016.

Umpires: A very big thank you to the Wednesday non-playing umpires. These include Lionel David, Vern Gooch, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, and Nick Pereira. I have tried to name all the Saturday whistlers throughout the year, but a very special mention must go to Peter Brien. We do appreciate it, even though we sometimes forget to acknowledge it. Thanks also must go to all player umpires.

Saturday O/65s: Congratulations to all the committee, whose hard work is really paying off. Thank you to Captain Les Waldon, Deputy Jim Wright, Sec / Treasurer Bob Bowyer, Social Director George Bradbury, and Drinks Directors Ken Watt and Howie Herbert. Jim is doing a fine job on the food too.

WHM Cooks: Thanks to all who assisted at the barbecue during 2015. Special mention to Ivan Wilson for the onion supply and to Gordon Thomas and the Stadium staff for the bar snacks.

Stadium Staff: Thanks to the bar staff for the service of cold drinks and hot food and to the ground staff for the turf preparation and watering. The colder drinks and warmer bar are still appreciated.

UWA and Hale: We went to UWA ('A' and 'B' divisions) and Hale ('C' division) for 3 weeks in April & July this year. Thank you to both clubs for our usage of their facilities.

Wine Raffle Workers: Well done to Bob, Gordon, Spider & all workers. Charity Donations Page 10.

Regular Contributors: Special thanks to Neil Mannolini, John Sanders, Ian Purdie and new boy Peter Hammond. I hope you will all be back next year.

Masters Matters Readers: Thanks to all for the positive feedback. As long as some of you are happy to keep reading I'm happy to keep on going for 2016.

Committee Meeting Highlights

George Winning Trophy: Following the Committee meeting on the 25th the criteria for awarding it have changed. It now will go to a Western Hockey member judged to have provided exceptional service to the Club. Nominations can be made by any member of WHM whether playing or non-playing (Wednesday and Saturday). Confidential written nominations are to be submitted to a nominated division representative on the committee (A, B, C and Sat) with a brief outline why the person is being nominated. This may be written or via email. The selection committee is Chairman Simon Thomson, A; Colin Gee, B; Peter Andrews, C; Ian Pestana and Saturday; Les Waldon.

Fee Structure For 2016: This was confirmed at the Committee meeting and is not to be varied.

1. All players pay \$300 per annum. No exceptions for sabbaticals, holidays, cruises, etc.
2. All new players pay \$350 which includes a uniform of shirt and socks.

Except:

1. Any player who has turned 80 years old at 1st January the year the fees are due will pay a 50% reduced annual fee.
2. Any new player joining after 1st July will pay \$200 which includes the uniform.
3. All goalies will pay \$200 annual fee. Unless they are 80!
4. Guest players pay \$10 per day. Guest means an invited player, usually from interstate, overseas or the country and includes invited players for state teams training.

Charity Donations: Those of us who participate in the weekly wine raffles might like to know where the proceeds for 2015 will go. The committee meeting decided that \$1,000 will go to each of: Salvation Army. Ron Venables.

Palmerston Association (WA). Eric Alcock.

POOPS (Pets of older persons). Jim Wright.

Hearing Research and Support Association Inc. Len Blyth and Nigel Thomas.

Motor Neurone Disease Association of WA. Peter Murray.

The Dogs Refuge Home. Fred Flanagan and Mike Sputore.

Spirit of the Streets Choir. Robert Maley.

Poet's Corner: John Halley sent this in: "Here's a bit of advice for players in 'B' & 'C' divisions, some of the little things they can expect by the time they are old enough to play in the 'A' division."

Wider feet, spreading seat

"Going" strained, low back pains

Weaker stream, find the dream

Short of breath, news of death

Discontent, posture bent

Lost some height, poor eyesight

Falling boobs, clogged up tubes

Sagging skin, double chin

Losing hair, more despair

LIFE'S UNFAIR! (*Too true - Ed.*)

To Finish (about time): Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - 'A' Division Red team (maybe). Email: johnmercer@inet.net.au.