

Keeping Up Appearances: Thanks go to Robin Bailey for the following update on the new uniforms. Many thanks also for all the work involved – I’m sure that there was more required than most of us realise. Hopefully you can now have a rest in the backline for the Blue team - except perhaps for those games where it’s part of my job description to make sure that you keep busy.

New Shirts: Robin would like to thank all players for their co-operation with the issuing of the new shirts and to report that a total of 132 shirts has been handed out so far. There are a few still to be issued due to lack of stock in some sizes and that he has not been able to catch up with some players, mostly but not exclusively in the 50s. An order is expected to be placed to remedy the shortages (*in progress as we go to press – Ed*). The committee would like to thank Greg Allen for his firm’s sponsorship of the shirts and for his financial contribution towards the cost.

Old shirts: Robin has a limited colour and size range of the old shirts which are available from him at \$5.00 each. There are no Red shirts available. Any shirts unsold by Thursday 22nd March will be donated to a worthy charity. (*Stop press – all caps are now sold*)

Socks: Robin has stock of all colours and sizes of socks except extra large White socks (i.e. maroon). These are on order and supply is expected soon. All socks are supplied by Just Hockey at a special price to us (thank you) and are sold at a subsidised price to players of \$5.00 a pair.

Please direct all enquiries regarding the purchase of any of the above uniform items to Robin Bailey or David Evans.

Department Of Limericks: This issue’s doggerel may be controversial as it covers the recent debate about the 60s goalkeepers- and where they should play. The “heat” emails may be too hot for us to touch until things cool down a little – I mean the weather of course.

Simon T is our well-known chairman
And when he re-drafts is a fair man. #
He’s been heard to utter,
“Can’t shift Barry Rutter
As a keeper he’s surely a rare man.” #

So say all we Electric Blue players.

Department of Corrections: Apologies to Murray Sharp and Colin Murray-Smith for the politically incorrect “heightist” comments in the previous issue. Apologies go also to the “lower” draftees – Harvey Davies and Neil Patterson. It was too good a punning chance to miss (for me anyway). On which note we hope that readers appreciated the restraint shown in wishing Dudley Younger a happy birthday – without any attached pun (I must confess to thinking about it). Actually birthdays are increasingly becoming less of a reason for celebrating and more of a reason for sackcloth and ashes (personally). Would our readers welcome the publication of the current birthdays in each month’s issue? Or do they tend to agree with me that the less said and done the better.

Where Are They Now?: The 60s Green team is minus Peter Stevens – but seem to be doing OK without him having won all three games on 7th March. I heard on the 29th that Peter is currently sailing in the Caribbean. Will he still be there when the Australian cricket team arrives?

Where Are They Now? (Part Two): Neil Mannolini has now winged his way to Italy (with Pat), and the trip will include several family re-unions. One of them is with a cousin who will be celebrating later this year the same birthday (with trailing zero) which Neil enjoyed (I hope) last month. This double act sounds like a very good reason for a party – and it should be a beauty.

Whistle While You Work (with Neil Mannolini):

1) First Breach. Players need to understand that the “first breach” is not necessarily THE penalisable one. What happens immediately AFTER is what the umpire must consider. Maybe the ball went to a same team player? Or to a defender who was obstructed in trying to get at the ball? All this can happen over some space, and is it an advantage to the offended player to take it right back?

2) Quality Of Play. Simon has expressed concern at the standard of our hockey. On Wednesday (February 28) there were a number of times when poor hitting meant that the ball bounced at an awkward height leading to possible danger when a player swung hopefully at the ball. Players need to watch “top hockey” (i.e. State or International etc) where almost EVERY hit is the slap shot. It is quicker, the ball stays on the turf and at greater speed gets to a fellow player. Bob le Merle is the only one who rarely uses the old “grass hockey” hit – he bends his back and slaps the ALONG THE TURF. So guys, when you warm up by hitting the ball around bend your backs and slap the ball! I guarantee you’ll play better hockey.

3) Foot! No longer the bane of hockey. Unless a player deliberately kicks the ball, it is not necessary to award a hit UNLESS he gets an advantage. It’s play on in most cases where there is a minor touch and especially if the opposition makes no attempt to play/get the ball.

4) Penalty Corner or not. On Wednesday 28 two attacking forwards crossed the half line, one passed the ball to his mate, who had an agricultural swipe at the ball that ended over the backline because a defender made an intercept. Howls from players including calling for a penalty corner and one for a stroke. I should have awarded a penalty corner. However I was not convinced that the defender’s somewhat intercept was deliberate. 2 points; umpires make mistakes (me too!) and a stroke is only to be awarded for a DELIBERATE breach INSIDE the circle.

5) One International (now retired) umpire has umpired Veterans hockey but won’t any more. Why? Because far too many players keep calling for free hits for almost anything. This he feels – and he’s perfectly correct – detracts from the game and players should get on with it. You won’t see guys querying or making asides to umpires in top hockey – they want the ball and want passionately to win. Umpires may make mistakes ... but remember the old adage; “he without fault can cast the first stone.” Get on with it and enjoy the hockey. (*Hear hear! Ed*)

Impertinent Question: Who was the player who stopped a goal-bound shot with his knee on Turf 1 on the 22nd. This comes with three clues attached. Clue 1: He’s not a goalkeeper. Clue 2: He didn’t save his team a goal, he cost them one. Clue 3: He’s on the editorial staff of this publication. Apologies to Colin Murray-Smith, who should have scored his third for the day.

I Heard It: Ian Brown Weight Watcher? Not necessarily true – however we have heard from a 50s source (an Ian Brown weight watcher?) that Brownny’s weight is now under 100,000-kilograms grams. If this is indeed true the newsletter would like to hear from Ian whether Dagger provided a positive role model or an interesting example of what not to do.

Quotable Quote: From that great user of the English language (Anonymous) comes the following: “Youth is a gift of nature, but age is a work of art.” Source - Apex Club of Terang circa 1985.

Short Thought: The Golden Rule: Whoever has the gold makes the rule. (*Gina and Clive I presume*).

Reader Feedback: Thank you to those readers who took the trouble to send a response to the second issue – and they were all friendly. It's great to hear from you and realise "It means that at least he gets read." We (50s and 60s) are obviously the literate generations.

Most respondents however took great care to be as non-controversial as possible – thus ensuring they were not quoted here. It seems that I failed to create any debate with the editorial in the last issue – perhaps the Department of Limericks in this issue will do so.

Adolphus Abrahams has suggested that we could consider printing some reports on the play. The Wednesday Masters competition contains a very large number of people who play much better hockey than me, know much more about the game than me, and write terrific match reports – refer to the state teams on the Veterans website. As my ability in the match reports area is limited to the bursting of two balloons and writing "Bang versus Bang" it is better that I concentrate on other areas. This does not mean that a match report cannot be printed here – just that I prefer it to come from elsewhere. Over to the expert readers – with the one proviso that if all the articles we receive are descriptions of crushing wins over the Electric Blues editorial discretion may be exercised.

Although I've just suggested that I don't write match reports for many good and sufficient reasons I am prepared to bend the rules occasionally. On the 22nd those of us on Turf 1 saw a great exhibition of goalkeeping from Frank Fay who made repeated saves – repeatedly. Do you deposit 20 years in the umpires' dugout before going on to play Frank? Or has Barry Rutter got a new model of goalkeeping pads which includes a ball magnet?

Ian Sutherland has produced a rather intriguing statistic – that the average maximum temperature for the 1st 8 Wednesdays in 2012 is 36.2. He also says that personally he doesn't think that a plea of insanity can be justified. I personally cannot plead guilty to committing hockey while of unsound mind because proper hockey is usually well beyond my skill set. Don't we do all the hurting at this time of the year because it feels so good when it stops – eventually (sometimes 3 days later for me).

Headline News: We are being diverted to Melville again on the 11th, 18th, and 25th of April. The actual starting times are yet to be finalised as we go to "press".

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: Here is the answer to last issue's question which was: "Who made their debut for Australia first, Julian Pearce or Ray Evans?" John tells me that this is a little bit of a trick question as they started together at the Rome Olympics.

This issue's question is: Two players also made their debut for Australia in the 1960 Olympic Games. One was a defender from WA. The other was a forward, who represented NSW at the time but who later played Veterans for the ACT.

Answer next issue.

Another Past Master: Good to see Trevor Kerr at the small sausage social on 7th March.

Stop Press: I had intended to congratulate those Wednesday Masters players who have been selected for the Australian teams in Oxford later this year – but space limitations have intervened. Next issue hopefully will include this Masters Matter – as well as many more examples of the blend of fact and fiction reputed to be the mainstay of this newsletter.

Editorial Corner: This issue features a piece of self indulgence (what, only one?). The quiz included as a qualifying exam for Wednesday Masters Chairman (*Page 5*) was originally intended to be not totally serious – if any readers can believe such a thing. Since then I have realised that it includes some questions of relevance to the role – and this can be demonstrated as follows:

History: All players of our age have a considerable history – some more chequered than others. Some players have history with each other. Essential to have knowledge for re-drafting teams.

Public Speaking: This is required when attempting to address the crowd in the bar. It's also required when a complainant (or complainants) requires immediate attention – isn't that most weeks?

Biology: If the newsletter editor is a team mate the ability to create life is essential.

I'm sure that our erudite readers will be able to provide many more parallels for themselves.

The next issue is scheduled to contain the qualifying examination for newsletter editor.

PS: Many of you will be asking me whether Simon actually passed the exam on Page 5. As it all happened before I gained entry to Wednesday Masters I don't actually know, but I don't think that it matters very much. The main reason for saying this is that it must be obvious that since assuming the role he has acquired all of the necessary skills.

Poetry In Motion: It appears that the hockey played by some members of the Electric Blue team has been nothing short of inspirational (but that is certainly not my fault). One member of the side has broken out into verse – which on merit I thought had to be included here (*see Page 6*). Some readers may think that the newsletter concentrates far too much on one team – and the limerick in Issue 4 has picked up on this issue and calls for the team colours in the newsletter to be more like a rainbow and less like an electric blue spotlight.

Who Are We: Thanks you to all who took the time to email some more possible titles:

John Halley: Masters Matters. **THE EDITOR'S FINAL CHOICE**

Ric Denny: Wednesday Meanderings. Not how we all play – but it describes me quite well.

Pam Herbert: Johnno's Jabberings, Wednesday Whimpers, Wednesday Warbler, Wednesday Matters, Wednesday's Matter, Geri Gaspers, Geri Antics, Geri Antics News.

Peter Fogels: Master Blast (Eric Alcock's suggestion in the singular).

Mal Jackaman: Wednesday Hockey Masters Voice

Phil Anderson: Wednesday Scoopshots, Masters Scoopshots

John Mercer: Topsy; because the newsletter "just grewed" too.

There is absolutely no truth in the rumour that a suggestion came from Ron Venables that the title should be The Wednesday War Cry. I hope that any publicity is good publicity Ron.

All news to John Mercer – O/60s Electric Blue team. Stadium bar. Email: johnmercer@iinet.net.au

The following came from John H explaining the suggested (and final) title):

Wednesday Masters, gosh what fun!

Playing hockey in the sun

Or the rain

It's all the same

Masters Matters everyone

Masters Matters puts forth views

To inform and to amuse

Who's been sporty

Who's been naughty

Who's making all the hockey news

Wednesday Masters Qualifying Exam For Chairman

Instructions: Read each question carefully. Answer all questions.

Time limit is 4 hours. Begin immediately.

History: Describe the history of the papacy from its origins to the present day concentrating especially but not exclusively on its social, political, economic, religious, and philosophical impact on Asia, Europe, America, Africa, and Australia. Be brief, concise, and specific.

Medicine: You have been provided with a razor blade, a piece of gauze, and a bottle of Scotch. Remove your appendix. Do not suture until your work has been inspected. You have fifteen minutes.

Public Speaking: 2,500 riot-crazed activists are storming the classroom. Calm them. You may use any ancient language except Latin or Greek.

Biology: Create life. Estimate the differences in subsequent human culture if this form of life had developed precisely 500 million years earlier, with special attention to its probable effect on the English parliamentary system. Prove your thesis.

Music: Write a piano concerto. Orchestrate and perform it with flute and drum. You will find a piano under your seat.

Psychology: Based on your knowledge of their works, evaluate the emotional stability, degree of adjustment, and repressed frustrations of each of the following: Alexander of Aphrodisias, Rameses II, Gregory of Nicea, and Hammurabi. Support your evaluation with quotations from each man's work, and appropriate references. It is not necessary to translate.

Sociology: Estimate the sociological problems which might accompany the end of the world. Construct an experiment to test your theory.

Management Science: Define Management and Science. How do they relate? Why? Create a general algorithm to optimise all management decisions.

Engineering: The disassembled parts of a high-powered rifle have been placed in a box on your desk, together with an instruction manual in Swahili. In ten minutes a hungry Bengal tiger will be admitted to the room. Take whatever action you feel appropriate. Justify your decision.

Economics: Develop a realistic plan for refinancing the national debt. Trace the possible effects of your plan in the following areas: Cubism, the Donatist controversy, and the wave theory of light. Outline a method of preventing these effects. Criticise this method from all possible points of view, and point out the deficiencies in your own point of view.

Political Science: There is a red telephone on the desk beside you. Start World War III. Report at length on its socio-political effects, if any.

Epistemology: Take a position for or against truth, and then prove the validity of your position.

Physics: Explain the nature of matter. Include in your answer an evaluation of the development of mathematics on science.

Philosophy: Estimate the significance of human thought, sketch its development. Compare with the development of any other kind of thought.

General Knowledge: Describe in detail. Be objective and specific.

Extra Credit: Define the Universe; give three examples.

AN ODE TO THE ELECTRIC BLUES**Jim Wright**

It's Wednesday hockey for this elderly brigade
Bright coloured shirts, a rainbow parade
Definitely not a walk in the park
All determined to make their mark

Here they arrive, the Electric Blues
Onto the turf, in threes and twos
Rain or hail, or blazing heat
Always ready to compete

Eyes not as sharp and hearing impaired
Goes hand in hand with a lack of hair
Ignore the dodgy knees and the touchy back
They can still give the ball a resounding whack

The leader board is vital, where is our team
Bragging rights to consider, top spot the dream
But Blue and Gold, Red, Green and White
All have that spot firmly in sight

The wings are flying, the inners are ready
They trap the ball, their game firm and steady
The big fella in the middleno time to dally
Another goal to add to his tally

Barry's in goals, keeping attackers at bay
Issues a challenge "come make my day"
The captain is there, the backs hear his shout
"Keep the defence tight clear the ball out"

They leave the tomahawk to those more flexible, more fit
They'll stick with the trap, the push or the hit
They've plenty of moves, some old and some new
Their memories (wrongly) tell them what they can do

Age does not weary them or are they just insane
Their stamina sustains them they ignore the pain
The Electric Blues, part of the Wednesday Masters
Not yet ready to find other pastures