

**Wednesday
Hockey Masters
Perth
Est 1991**

Blue 60s

Electric Blue 60s

Gold 60s

Green 60s

Red 60s

White 60s

Masters Matters

Blue 50s

Gold 50s

Red 50s

White 50s

Issue No 8

July 2012

Headline News: The fixtures for 11th and 18th July (the next two Wednesdays) have been transferred from Melville to Hale due to a booking problem at the southern location. Starting times are 1:00 for 60s and 3:30 for 50s. Bob was careful to be non-specific about am and pm – this time.

Strange But True: Hard to believe that the WA Country O/65s have not quite filled the numbers for Hobart as yet and are still looking for two or three more players. Tournament dates are from October 1st to 14th inclusive – and team accommodation is available for \$55 a day. (I believe that you can “roll your own” if you prefer 5 star hotels). Please contact Harvey Davies from the Electric Blue O/60s (on 08 9387 6789) for further information – and/or to notify your intention to join us.

Draft Picks Anyone?: The White O/60s would be asked to appear before the stewards if Wednesday Masters was run on similar rules to racing or trotting. On June 13th they scored zero points having (obviously) lost all three matches – and one week later on the 20th they won all three matches and scored nine points. I can offer a partial explanation for this – having filled in for them in their first game on the 20th. After John Ree and I put our heads together he scored two goals – and for those of you who witnessed the incident neither of us appears to have suffered concussion. I actually claimed two hits in this match – the other one was hitting the ball to JR. That was my last hit for the day.

By the way, our previous issue made much (*too much GH and BC?*) about a Red player “owning up” and the umpire reversing his decision. Perhaps it paid off – the Reds won all their three matches the very next week (13th June). Was this karma in operation?

Comebacks: It’s been great to see Bill Baldwin back from Colorado and immediately playing well. This should have been mentioned in our last issue – but my hockey (on-field) gear contains no room for a notebook and pen (and my wallet contains no money for a tablet computer). As a result I sometimes forget things – but am not always certain when this happens.

On this topic Ric Denny obviously decided that he’d helped to generate enough umpiring material for “Masters Matters” to last for some time – and made a re-appearance for the White team on the 20th – perhaps this was the cause of their improved form. Hope you pulled up OK.

Quotable Quote: “Not every age is fit for childish sports.” Titus Maccius Plautus – 254 BC to 184 BC. *It’s fortunate for Wednesday Masters that hockey is an adult sport.*

Quotable Quote No 2: “Baseball is 90% mental. The other half is physical.” Yogi Berra. *He must have been one of John Halley’s four out of three people who have trouble with fractions I wonder if this applies to hockey also - and does age make a difference?*

Uniforms: Robin Bailey now has the large White team socks (i.e. maroon) which were previously not available. He is now has stock of all regular items, and might be able to take it easy for a while

July 4th Sizzled: Many thanks to Gordon Thomas for a great job at the barbecue. Good weather too.

Department Of Insensitivity: For some reason “Masters Matters” readers have been sending in puns, and I’ve received many which are sufficiently bad to be very good. At least I can take note of Peter (Archie) Andrews and stop writing about myself for filling pages. Here’s a sample:
Wife / mother definition: Eight stone of moan and bustle. (*Thanks to Marty Greay*)

Reader Feedback: Thanks to Neil Mannolini for putting me right about obtaining a rule book. “You might add in your next a note that the latest Rule Book is the 2011, and is available at Perth Hockey office – see Sue Cook. There is no 2012 book issued as rules cannot be changed UNTIL AFTER the 2012 Olympics in London.”

I also heard from Ric Denny about an incident on Turf 2 in which a hit at goal during a penalty corner (the first shot) hit the backboard - but still managed to cause some debate. From my vantage point (watching the game from the wing as usual) it was obvious that Ric (who was the sole umpire) had a most difficult decision to make, as the point at issue appeared to be (and was) the height at which the ball crossed the goal line. The rule book has been consulted (by both Ric and “Masters Matters”) and the relevant rule is worth including in full, together with its explanatory notes:

Rule 13.3 (k): If the first shot at goal is a hit (as opposed to a push, flick or scoop), the ball must cross the goal-line, or be on a path which would have resulted in it crossing the goal-line at a height of not more than 460 mm (the height of the backboard) before any deflection for a goal to be scored.

The requirements of this rule apply even if the ball touches the stick or body of a defender before the first shot at goal.

If the first shot at goal is a hit and the ball is, or will be, too high crossing the goal-line it must be penalised even if the ball is subsequently deflected off the stick or body of another player.

The ball may be higher than 460 mm during its flight before it crosses the goal-line provided there is no danger and provided it would drop of its own accord below 460 mm before crossing the line.

‘Slap’ hitting the ball, which involves a long sweeping or pushing movement with the stick before making contact with the ball, is regarded as a hit.

(So the height is not as the ball hits the backboard – it’s as it crosses the line. Ed)

On the same day a “Masters Matters” scribe (one of the cast of thousands) witnessed Stan Salazar scoop the ball over keeper John Burt, only for it to be deflected away from the net by Bob Bowyer’s stick at a height greater than the top of Bob’s head. Umpire Ric Denny (*yes again*) allowed Bob’s save, and the rule book was again consulted - Ric was quite right (*the umpire is always right in any case*). I also referred to Mr Mannolini. and received back the following:

Whistle While You Work - with Neil Mannolini:

Rule 9.7 is quite clear:

“Players must not play the ball with any part of the stick when the ball is above the shoulder height EXCEPT that defenders are permitted to use the stick to STOP or DEFLECT a shot AT GOAL at any height.:

The capital letters are mine to emphasise ... for example a defender outside the goal area and on the back-line cannot swat at a ball that is obviously going over the back-line. In fact the notes to the rule spell it out very clearly:

“If a defender attempts to stop or deflect a ball travelling towards the goal which will actually miss the goal any use of the stick above the shoulder must be penalised by a penalty corner and not a penalty stroke.”

Happy whistling - Neil Mannolini

Department Of Limericks: I was not able to resist the challenge of finding a rhyme to the word “karma” as mentioned in the Editorial Corner. Snake charmer, Wendy Harmer, embalm her, and drama all seemed to lack that something required – which is that it must not be complete nonsense. Doubtless some readers will desire to differ.

It seems that believing in karma
Doesn't mean that you are Dalai Lama
Can it lubricate joints?
Can it score you some points?
At least you may feel a bit calmer.

Wednesday Masters Interstate: The WAHA site today (June 26th) now has the Hobart teams for all age groups from O/40 to O/60. Congratulations to all Wednesday Masters included –and best wishes for the championships.

Editorial Corner: In what was a bleak afternoon for my team on June 20th (cold damp weather and only one point) the sole bright spot was the sportsmanship displayed by all 60s sides on Turf 2. Owning up was the norm rather than the exception – with special mention to the Blue team. Much the same happened on June 27th (*excepting that Electric Blue stole 4 points*) – and it really does make the hockey more enjoyable. From my vantage point on the wing it appears that players who do own up gain a feel-good factor, and try even harder to win the ball legitimately. The other item noted from the wing on June 27th was the dominance by the Reds over the Electric Blues in all three factors of territory, possession, and shots at goal. However Colin Murray-Smith slammed one in – and the Reds didn't. Such games have not been uncommon in 2012 – and they lead to the points table for the second quarter appearing as it does (*on Page 8*). You top the table by dominating the scoring – all other aspects of the game are only a means to an end.

Coaching Corner: Barry Rutter, John Mercer, and Spider have all had a very lean run in the wine stakes for several weeks. Barry's excuse was probably the weakest – due to being away he lacked a ticket, but made up for that after returning by winning without his name being called out. He claims this was due to having accidentally torn out too many tickets and having to pay for an anonymous double allotment. I suspect that he was merely attempting to stay out of “Masters Matters” – but as you can see he was not successful.

In the days before screw tops W. C. Fields managed this quip on the beneficial and therapeutic effects of the fermented grape juice: “While hiking through the Andes we lost our corkscrew. Had to survive for three weeks on nothing but food and water.”

Wine Winning Report: The 4th July 60s bottles featured new winners, and old (very!) ones. Bob Bowyer and George Winning shared ownership of one bottle, which I'm sure eventually found a good home. Chris Morley and Ross Easton were at the same table, and when each of them snared a bottle it appeared that another conspiracy theory story was due to appear in “Masters Matters.” Ross then drew a ticket in the name of John Mercer, to the horror of most of those present. Does this mean that some semblance of normal service has returned?

Punography Part Two: Beauty Parlour – place where women curl up and dye.
Egotist – Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation. (Thanks to Ken Watt)

Department Of The Olympics: Here are some more of Stan Salazar's Olympic Hockey Facts.

- ❖ The last time the men's Olympic Gold match did not feature a single European country was in Montreal 1976 when New Zealand defeated Australia 1-0. (*I remember it well – Ed*)
- ❖ At the 1968 Mexico Olympics, Japan's pool match against India featured one of the most amazing incidents in the history of Olympic hockey. When one of the two umpires, Archie Young (Great Britain), awarded a penalty stroke against them in the 50th minute, disgusted with the decision and in great anger the Japanese captain led the team off the field. India were awarded the match by five goals to nil without actually scoring a goal.
- ❖ Great Britain's Russell Garcia was the youngest player to win a gold medal in men's hockey. He won gold at Seoul 1988 at the age of 18 years and 90 days.

Helpful Hint: For those attending the international sporting fixture in Oxford we offer a cautionary tale from years ago. As far as I know we are not due to visit St John's College, which was noted for its swans, but just in case ... I regret that the limerick is not by me – but that great writer Anon and should warn readers that this one is a little more salacious than our usual.

There was a young student at John's
Who attempted to fondle the swans
Whereupon said the porter
Oh pray take my daughter
The birds are reserved for the dons

Best Wishes For A Speedy Recovery: Must go to Ian Brown, who seems to be finding it very difficult to stay out of these pages - for one reason or another. Apparently our wine quote ("to dig a vineyard is worthier exercise for men") from the previous issue did not reach Fremantle in time to prevent Brownie being frivolous with dumbbells. The story does not have a happy ending – as according to our "Masters Matters" correspondent the dumbbell landed painfully on a Brown finger, inflicting a crushing injury. As I remember from having a similar thing done by a hockey ball and my own stick (twice in six games), recovery takes a while. I hope you are still permitted to consume an occasional pain killer - remembering the slogan "Good things come in glass."

A Master swore loudly in pain
His hockey had gone down the drain
For a dumbbell crashed down
On a finger of Brown
Now he's lifting wine bottles to train

Impertinent Question: "Why are traffic calming devices deliberately designed to infuriate as many motorists as possible?" Posed by Ivan Wilson – any answers Peter Willet?

Punography Part Three: Sensitive readers are warned to go on to the next page. Groan factor high. When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
I used to think I was indecisive, but now I'm not so sure. (*With thanks to Ian Lyon*)

They Said It: Amarillo Slim (*poker player*): "The population of Amarillo has stayed the same for more than 50 years. Every time some woman gets pregnant some man leaves town."

Picturesque Speech: Many of our footballers seem to be totally covered in ink judging by the media coverage I see. Must make it easy when the time comes to write themselves off.

Department of Corrections: "Masters Matters" has not actually received a flood of complaints about inaccuracies in Issue #7. Other than the subject matter and the grammar it appears that there is very little requiring either correction or apology. Perhaps that deficiency has been remedied in this issue. By the way, are the limericks too dirty for our readers, or would some of you like them stronger?

Department Of Expectoration: There were no obvious contenders for a while on the 27th – until John Mercer queried a decision with a "What?" He was later surpassed by Kenny Walter on Turf 1, who used a different "W" word following a decision. Runner-up again.

Happy Birthday: To Mike Black, who also marked one of those birthdays with a zero on the end by buying a few beers in the bar on June 20th. Congratulations and best wishes from all Wednesday Masters – and also the cast of thousands from "Masters Masters." Wednesday O/70s coming soon?

Past Masters Department: Good to see Rusty Phillips respond to our invitation in Issue #7 and come out to the Stadium on the 27th June – proving that his post-hockey bar skills have not gone rusty. I hope you didn't come out for a bottle of wine as a John Sanders Quiz prize. All major metropolitan news outlets are busy cutting costs lately, and "Masters Matters" is no exception. Besides which I have no surplus bottles, possibly due to buying my tickets from the wrong vendor.

Time Gentlemen Please – And Electric Blues: As most captains do nowadays Roger Partington thoughtfully emailed his team with the times and turfs for the 13th June fixtures – first game on Turf 2 at 2:00 pm – and he would probably not be there due to the work generated by the prospective storm on Tuesday 12th. He was right about the storm, right about him not being there, but our first game should have been at 1:30 pm as Roger had sent us the fixtures and game times for the 20th. When sending the fixtures for the next week he said that they seemed to be much the same as the previous week – "did I stuff up?" The 20th was a bad day for the Electric Blues who got 1 point only. Retirement looms for Roger, who obviously needs to devote more time to hockey. We would have made much less of this – but it's Roger who draws up all our fixtures. Seriously, we do hope that retirement means we see more of him on Wednesdays, and that the Electric Blues appeal more than the Grey Nomads. We don't always work like a well-oiled machine, but short circuits are infrequent.

Letter To The Secretary: Thanks to Bob Bowyer for passing this on to me.

"... unfortunately the diagnosis is such that if I played on, I am risking further damage. So I have made the decision with much regret, after 60 years, to retire from hockey. After playing for eight years in the Perth Wednesday veterans competition which I thoroughly enjoyed, I wish you all a long and enjoyable competition for the future.

Yours in hockey – Eric McCauley

Thanks Eric – you will be missed. Best wishes for retirement. If you're ever in the vicinity of the Stadium on a Wednesday afternoon please join us in the bar.

Stop Press: The Greens are banging in some great goals lately – 2 to Dave Horsley on 4th July and Adolphus playing left wing on June 20th showed pace and scored from right wing. Neil Mannolini played 3 games on the 4th July and I hope pulled up OK on Thursday morning. Welcome back



Where Are They Now?: Many thanks to the Wednesday Master who supplied the photograph for this issue. It features no less than four current Wednesday players – and only one of them is at all easy to guess. As a clue it's Suburban, not a team assembled from the touring cast of "Hair."

Past Masters: The Wednesday Master in #7 was Les Waldon & the State player was Graham Leeks.

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: Here is the answer to last issue's question which was: During the 1956 Olympic Games Competition, how many goals did Maurice (Maurie) Foley, ex CBC and WA, score? Was it 1, 3, 5, or 7? Eric Alcock (also ex CBC) suggested that it was 7 – and knew about Maurie originally being a reserve. What do you think John S – worth a brownie point? Actual number of goals scored was 5.

This issue's question is: Who was the first Australian (Men) player to score a hat-trick of goals in a Test? Was it Cec Pearce, Austin Seaman, Jim Allen, or Ian Dick?

Answer next issue.

Grumpy Old Men Department: "What is youth but a man or woman before it is ready or fit to be seen." Evelyn Waugh.

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer – O/60s Electric Blue team. Stadium bar. Email: johnmerc@iinet.net.

Wednesday Masters Hockey - Over 60/s Competition							
Round 2 2012 - Final Points							
	Won	Lost	Drew	For	Against	Diff	Points
Elec Blue	17	8	11	37	20	17	62
Red	14	11	11	25	24	1	53
Green	12	10	14	32	29	3	50
Gold	14	15	7	37	34	3	49
White	10	14	12	32	36	-4	42
Blue	8	17	11	23	43	-20	35
Overall Points To End Round 2							
		Elec Blue		117			
		Green		93			
		White		87			
		Red		85			
		Gold		69			
		Blue		58			