

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

Season's Greetings: To all our regular and irregular readers, and their families. Best wishes from the entire staff of "Masters Matters" for a most happy Christmas and for the 2013 year. May all of us achieve the goals we desire - preferably (*for me*) not by scoring them against Electric Blue (*could the White team and John Ree please take note*).

Department Of Tourism: The good news on the proposed Wednesday Hockey Masters touring side is that they (*or should I say "we"*) have a goalkeeper. The bad news is that there are not enough players to go on the field unless we are playing 6 a side – assuming that Robin Bailey intends to be one of the team. Surely some of us have an opinion on this trip - even if we are not intending to join it. Peter Livingstone was one of the three written responses - and he also suggested that the team captains request expressions of interest. It should be noted that not even John Mercer gave me a written response – but it was probably all his fault for daring to suggest (even facetiously) in a limerick that all players must be pure. Please totally ignore that requirement and register your expression of interest with the aforementioned John Mercer - whose contact email is at the end of the newsletter - but for those who do not manage to read that far it's johnmercercer@iinet.net.au. (*See our cricket story later in this issue – almost a Wednesday Masters touring side already.*)

Reader Feedback: Many thanks to Greg Allen who had tried the Atlas Espresso coffee as featured in our previous issue (No 12). Greg's verdict: "... very good and I was there almost every week day (closed weekends)." All of us on email should also (thanks to our efficient Secretary) have received the story about weight training and its beneficial effects on older blokes.

Masters Matters Contributors: A large thank you goes to all of you who have sent me items for inclusion in the 2012 version of "Masters Matters." Special mention to regulars Neil Mannolini (*"Whistle While You Work"*) and John Sanders (*"Test Your Hockey Knowledge"*). Other contributors have included John Halley (who suggested "Masters Matters"), Phil Anderson, Les Waldon, Ian Sutherland, Robin Bailey, Dick Osborne (Speedie), John Rogers (*50s - it can be done*), Clyde Evans, Stan Salazaar, Ken Watt, Bob Stidwell, Pam Herbert (*whose "Someone Else" I was intending to use in my Christmas party items – but forgot*), Peter Fogels, Mike Black, Chris Morley, Dave Horsley, and Jim Wright - (poet laureate). Thanks also to those who contributed puns – Marty Greay, Ken Watt, Ian Lyon, Roger Partington, and Eric Alcock at least. My humble apologies if I have overlooked you - I can assure you that it was not intentionally.

Vale: It was with much regret that I noted the recent passing of Alan Barblett. The notices gave a picture of a successful, well-rounded, and very likeable man - a sentiment with which I agree fully. They covered most areas of Alan's career and interests (which I will not attempt to repeat here) but there was no notice from Claremont Apex Club because it no longer exists. Alan was a member there for (memory tells me) 18 years. I was fortunate to encounter him several times at Claremont as a visiting Apexian from Scarborough Club (founded by Claremont - expansion director David Anderson also of Hale hockey) and was very impressed at the quality of his contributions to his club in general, and particularly to making the club meetings enjoyable. I was also very impressed by Alan on the hockey field – and at the post games refreshments, when my newly formed Scarborough Vets C team played against the Subs senior citizens - who were conceding about 15 years to many of us. Our sympathy goes to his family and many friends.

Quotable Quote No 1: An early morning visit to the showers at Trigg Beach prompted this: "Ancient man - tool making animal, modern man – paper wasting animal." Arthur C Clarke. The room was full of discarded confectionery and other food wrappers, necessitating use of the foot broom before post-surf ablutions could occur without generating a muddy mess for the City Of Stirling.

Strange But True: (1) The previous paragraph had been in place for a week or two when Mother Nature decided that anything littering surfers could do, she could do better. On the 5th December Trigg Beach was totally covered in seaweed – something I have not seen before in 65 years of visits. (2) Turf 2 on the 5th December featured some feats of goal-scoring – with both Archie Andrews and John Ree scoring 3 in one match (*but not actually the same game*) - against Blue and Electric Blue respectively. Did I miss out on a beer?

Punology Part 1: I found this one in the Scarborough Sportsmen's Club newsletter. Did you hear about the man who burst into a doctor's surgery, exclaiming breathlessly to the receptionist: "I must see the doctor immediately - I've started to shrink!" The receptionist responded: "I'm sorry sir, the doctor is temporarily unavailable. You'll have to be a little patient."

Whistle While You Work – with Neil Mannolini:

I hope that Neil and I have not got our wires crossed as something like these pieces has already been included. However as Neil says "you are the power and as it's Santa time (goodwill and merriment and all that)" I believe that the piece on the role of an umpire is worth repeating more than once, and the follow up story on the axe is new to me – and I hope new to you too.

A short quiz for umpires:

Q: When the teams run onto the ground, the captain of one of the teams is carrying an axe instead of the normal hockey stick. What should the umpire do?

A: He should inspect the axe and permit its use if it weighs less than 28 ounces, is flat on one side, passes through a 2-inch ring, and has no sharp protrusions which could be a danger to other players. (This actually happened in an interstate game here in Perth - some 40 years ago – on the last day. Geoff Bennett, Victorian full-back who was noted for a somewhat "robust attitude" suffered much from the hostile gallery during the week's match and answered his critics by actually carrying an axe on to the ground. The crowd loved it, and Geoff had no more trouble.

Unfortunately, the axe did not meet the required specifications, and was disallowed).

Here are a few comments on the role of an umpire:

- a) The principal role (of an umpire) is to control the game so that no team or player gains an unfair advantage by breaching the rules.
- b) The most important rule is the advantage rule.
- c) A good umpire is one who can obtain and maintain control while permitting the game to flow as much as possible, without intruding in the play

These 3 points were made by an international umpire well known to many Vets – one Richard Jewell. He umpired the Munich Olympic Gold Medal Match..

John, these two are a change from my usual input, but really reflect how I have always tried to umpire. I may not have always succeeded but I HAVE tried my best.

Cheers – Neil

Quotable Quote #2: “Tell me Mr Brubeck, how, many players are there in your quartet?” This is a genuine quote from a young Australian journalist in the 1960s - and as you will all guess was prompted by the recent demise of Dave Brubeck aged 91. I saw (and of course heard) his quartet at the Capitol Theatre - also some time in the 1960s.

Department Of Limericks: Inspiration was lacking (considerably) for this issue - so perspiration was called upon and came up with this seasonal effort.

It's the end of the 2012 (*) year
And the first one for all the new gear
A great festive season
A wonderful reason
For enjoying some real Christmas cheer
(*) Pronounced “twenty twelve” the scansion works – after a fashion.

Punology Part Two: She was only a whisky maker but he loved her still. (*Roger Partington again*).

Points For 4th Quarter: After the games on December 5th the table reads: Blue leading on 31, followed by Electric Blue 30, Red 23, White 18, Gold 17, and Green 6. And the progressive wine ladder for the 4th quarter is still headed by Electric Blue 5, followed by White (Ivan Wilson x 3) and Blue both on 4, Green 3, Gold 2 (both Brian Soares), Past Players 2, and Red 0.

Editorial Corner: I had intended to include an eloquent tribute to Dennis Baker (from a local paper) in this edition of “Masters Matters” (*thanks to its contributor*). However, space and technical issues intervened. I also had intended to write a long editorial on the future of the Wednesday Masters competition but sloth and Christmas intervened. So the editorial discretion has instead been used to congratulate our executive on inviting past players to attend the Christmas party – as per the David Munt emails. Some do already frequent the bar, as the table of wine winners by team shows. One other question occurred to me – does anyone else feel that the competition has been a bit flat since the Oxford and Hobart tournaments – and, if so what can we do about it?

Coaching Corner: This item has been far too successful - now everybody else wins all the wine. So far this quarter one ticket buyer has won three times, and there are several two-time winners. The breakdown by team indicates that the Red team either do not go the bar after hockey or do not buy any tickets. I do not believe either to be true – any comment from Red team management?

Impertinent Question: How does Moses make his tea? He brews it (*Ian Lyon again*).

Comebacks: Melville on November 21st featured two of the greatest comebacks since Lazarus with both Gordon Thomas (after a knee replacement, no less) and Paul Robinson returning. Both seem to have had no ill effects, and fronted up again at the Stadium on 28th November. It was also good to see Ray Norton in the bar on 5th December, and discover that he has resumed playing.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: There does not seem to have been a lot of activity in this department lately - or all possible contenders are expectorating well away from the “Masters Matters” purview.

Letters To And From The Editor:

Received Wednesday 5th December before hockey - Subject: Tonight's function

Hi John,

No doubt this will come as a surprise but let me explain. I realised late last night that I had not replied to an invitation to the Wednesday Masters Christmas function tonight. Unfortunately today is our youngest grandson's 7th birthday and we must be at that celebration instead. I would have written to Bob Bowyer myself but as is more common every day with me, I could not locate the appropriate mail in my mail box to get his address

Please apologise for Jocelyn's and my inability to come. We do sincerely appreciate the committee's kindness in offering this opportunity. By the way, I feel very guilty for not coming out to the stadium more often to have a drink and catch up. My only New Year resolution is to do so more in 2013.

Best wishes to everyone and have a great party tonight.

Regards - David

Sent Wednesday 5th December - before hockey

Good morning David.

The function is actually next week (the 12th). I too never forget, but sometimes I can't remember.

How are you fixed for next week?

Regards - John Mercer

Received Wednesday 5th December - after hockey

What a plonker! It must be reassuring in our changing world that some people at least never change. We're clear for next Wednesday (12th), so we would be delighted to come.

Many thanks – David (or is that devoid?)

Sent Wednesday 5th December - after hockey to Simon, Bob, and Spider

Could the central booking office (is that one of you?) please include Munt for the Christmas party. The "Masters Matters" editor has pledged to use the correspondence only if he has to fill a page and has no other suitable material (*which as readers can see has occurred*).

Sent Wednesday 5th December 5th after hockey to Bob Bowyer, Spider, and John Mercer

Thanks John. Yes, you MUST include the correspondence in the next issue.

Spider – please add David Munt for 2 to the list.

Cheers – Simon

Shakespeare might have entitled this saga "All's Well That Ends Well." See you on the 12th.

Department of Corrections: As a follow-up from our story in last issue (No 12) about Peter Gason being the only original Wednesday Master I thought that any others would probably let me know. At Melville on the 21st Bill Williamson informed me that he also was an original, and so was Dudley Younger (who has only recently retired from hockey, but still mans (*is that supposed to be "persons" these days*) the barbecue for our sausage sizzles. Bill is still going strong, and scored 2 goals in Hobart against WA Country in one of the matches I did see. Paul Robinson informed me on the 28th at the Stadium that he also had played in that first game in 1991. Congratulations to you all. However, the story referred to them as payers rather than players. What the 'ell? I also reported some time ago that a new player called Mike O'Connell had joined the White O/60s: then compounded the error in the last issue (No 12) in "Comebacks" Apologies to Mike O'Connor for mishearing the name originally.

Department Of Culture & The Arts: We again discovered a Wednesday Master in the social pages of the West Australian - this time it was Keith Kessell with no less than Janet Holmes a Court. I worked out that it could not be a Perth Mod reunion as Keith had just been involved in organising one for his and my mutual year - 50 years after we all left and without any "leavers" too. Having read a little further the event was a function for WASO corporate partners.

Best Wishes For A Speedy Recovery: Those I have definite information on include Neil Scaddan (arthroscopy on right knee) and John Burt (shoulder re-construction). I also understand that Col Sanders has a bad finger injury which will take to time to heal.

They Said It: It was rather warm and humid at Melville on November 21st and Stan Salazaar decided that enough was enough (I remember that it was a similar day when he had the heart attack). The reason he offered for departure was: "It's so hot that the colour has started to run."

"I can't afford it if you give up hockey." This was Eric Alcock's physiotherapist. The length of our post-Hobart injury list should mean that we are making sure that no physiotherapist need live in poverty in the year 2013.

Picturesque Speech: "... and E announced that it had had enough of equalling mc^2 and was planning to start a new life in Patagonia with the square of the hypotenuse." Author Tom Holt from a novel entitled "Earth, Air, Fire, and Custard."

Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department: "In youth and beauty wisdom is but rare." Homer.

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders & John Mercer: Here is the answer to last issue's question which was: A unique happening followed the Men's 1A Challenge Cup 1987. What was it?

The answer is that both the teams in the Cup failed to make the final four – the only time that this happened (as far as we could ascertain at the time – and since). For those who are interested the match resulted in a 1-0 win to Scarborough over WASPS.

This issue's question: When did Belgium last play in a Championship Trophy? Answer next issue.

Stop Press: Congratulations from all Wednesday Masters go to Marjorie Crossen who before the Champions Trophy in Melbourne became the 15th West Australian to be inducted into the Hockey Australia Hall of Fame For those few of you who don't know, Marj is Tom Crossen's better half – and is pictured in our Stadium bar hall of fame too. The story appeared in the West on 7th December.

Department Of Limericks Part 2: Prompted by rumours of Stadium bar unavailability:

I might need to call on my shrink
Or not go to hockey, I think
For I'll play in the rain
In the heat, or in Spain
But I must have an after-game drink

All news and other contributions to:

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



Wednesday Masters Touring Team? : Thanks to the Green team captain for this information.

Hi John,

The 7th Australian O/60s Cricket Championship was held in Adelaide 10th to 15th November when 31 teams from all Australian States and New Zealand played in four divisions. This was the first time WA had been represented and of the 13 players in the party 7 had also played in Wednesday Masters Hockey. They are David Horsley, who was also the Manager, Ian Hill, Colin Murray-Smith, John Ree, Graeme Walter, Alan Osborne, and Neil Hopkins (Capt). The team played in Division 2 and recorded three wins and a one wicket loss which cost them the title. A wonderful performance first up with everyone very keen to participate in next year's Championships to be held on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland 7th to 11th September 2013. At the Championship Dinner in Adelaide an Australian O/70s All Star team was announced and I am pleased to advise that Ian Hill was named in the team to add to his selection in the Australian O/70s Hockey Team. Well done Ian.

This year also saw the introduction of an O/70s division. Each State can nominate up to four teams i.e. three O/60s and one O/70s so there are plenty of opportunities for interested people to resume their cricket careers!! I can assure you it is great fun. For further information and to express your interest please contact David Horsley 9574 0412 or 0408 934 585 email horsleys@bigpond.com.

Cheers – David

Thank You All For 2012: A season such as the one we have just enjoyed does not just happen without significant contributions from many people, and while I run the risk of leaving out one (*or more, given my form this year*) it is a must to attempt to give credit where credit is due.

Executive: Chairman Simon Thomson, Secretary Bob Bowyer, and Treasurer Brian Lester have all had a busy and successful year. There were times when these roles threatened to become full-time positions – thank you for all the work in keeping the competition going at the high-quality level we enjoy. Sometimes I think we do not always appreciate how well-off we are compared to other states – in both quality of competition and quality of admin. Thanks also go to Robin Bailey for making sure we all look the part. I don't think I could improve on the adjectives I used in our previous issue – efficient and indefatigable. I could also add unfailingly good-humoured.

Team Captains: Many thanks to all those who have undertaken this role during the year. These include Dave Mellor, George Naylor, Greg Allen, Ian Pestana, Dave Evans (committee liaison), Colin Gee, Dave Horsley, Derek Jobe, Eric Alcock, Mal Jackaman, Bob Robinson, Ivan Wilson, Roger Partington, and Peter Andrews. Well done all.

Sponsors: For 2012 these have included Greg Allen (*naming rights sponsor*) and Barry Rutter, who provided assistance with our socks during the re-equipment. Our thanks go to both gentlemen.

Umpires: Non-player umpires were (in order of appearance in “Masters Matters”) John Lindsay, John Sanders, Neil Mannolini, Lionel David, Gordon Thomas, Peter Hammond, Ric Denny (during his lengthy injury absence), Vern Gooch, and Dennis Rees.

Regular player umpires have included Bala Chandran, Ken Watt, Peter Ford, Peter Andrews, Neil Scaddan, Peter Gason, Ivan Wilson, Roger Partington, Barry Rutter, and Mal Jackaman. Many thanks from us all for performing what is often a thankless task – but absolutely necessary.

Stadium Staff: Many thanks to Glen and his band of helpers (*the cast of thousands?*) for all the gate-opening, pre-game watering, leaf-clearing, and ice. Thanks must also go to the bar staff for the chips and efficient service of cold drinks.

Melville and Hale: It has been necessary several times this year to move from the Stadium to other venues – thank you to both clubs for providing their facilities. There were times while sitting in the Kwinana and Mitchell car parks I wished Melville was a little closer to home, like Hale certainly is. Both clubs offer Boags Light in their bars, a recommendation in itself.

Sausage Sizzles: Many thanks to Dudley Younger (*chief cook*), Gordon Thomas (*deputy chief cook*), Lionel David, Neil Scaddan, Rusty Phillips, and the Green team (*at Melville*) who all cooked in 2012 – sometimes stuck outside in very bad weather.

Wine Raffle Organisers: To Bob, Gordon, and Spider (*and any other workers I failed to note*) thank you for all your efforts. It must be satisfying at the Christmas party to see the end result of all your labours. Thank you also on behalf of all the weekly winners from the O/60s and O/50s - I was actually one of them but only very occasionally.

Masters Matters Readers: Many thanks to you all for the amount of positive feedback I've received this year. As some of you may have guessed “Masters Matters” has been more of a hobby for me rather than an arduous task. I hope that some of its readers gained half as much pleasure from reading it as I did from putting it together. While Wednesday Masters continue to be as idiosyncratic as they were in 2012 I have no fears that we cannot continue into 2013.

John Mercer