

# 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 1

January 2013

**Season's Greetings:** In our last issue it was all Christmas best wishes - for this one we again face the stern realities of another Wednesday Masters hockey season. This means that annual fees of \$300 are due again - and as we have now all received the "invoice" email from Bob, there is nothing to prevent us paying right away by bank transfer, or next time you see Brian ("Spider") Lester. Those whose budgets are in deficit from the effects of Christmas or Oxford or Hobart need to discuss their situations with our executive as outlined in Bob's email - now.

**Department Of Tourism:** There is some good news on the proposed Wednesday Hockey Masters touring side - we now have enough players to go on. There is also some bad news - we are still 3 short of a full team. It was notable that the first two expressions of interest following the last newsletter ("you don't really have to be pure") came from Electric Blue team mates - no names, but the initials are ST and NP. Seriously though, are we all broke, or just disinterested?

**Reader Feedback:** Thank you to all the readers who took the trouble to send me a positive response to the last issue for 2012. They included Bob Robinson, Keith Kessell, Simon Thomson, Ken Dyer, Peter Fogels, Neil Patterson, Rusty Phillips (*right again! I suspect that Rusty is due a bottle - but it's been an eternity since I won one*), Roger Partington, and Derek Jobe.

**Wednesday Masters Christmas Party:** A large thank you goes to the organisers (presumably the usual suspects Simon, Bob, and Brian) for another good night. I thought that we were given reasonable food for \$15 and the formalities were kept as brief as possible without omitting any of our charities. Well done also to the raffle organisers Bob, Gordon, and Brian whose efforts have kick-started our fund-raising for 2013 with more than \$500. Thanks also to Barry Rutter for a fine stand-up routine - if you haven't heard the one about the shoe box, you should. Numbers seemed to be a little down on past years, but this is the same for a great many things like the total number of goals scored in the 60s, the number of 60s matches where points could be counted, term deposit interest rates, etc, etc, and so forth. The only things not going down seem to be our waistlines and our ages. It was especially good to see many past players. Those I noted (*please correct me if I left you out*) included David & Jocelyn Munt (*of course - refer to previous MM*), Jim & Lyn Boyce, John Crute, George Winning, John Charlesworth, Bill MacIntosh, Tom & Marjorie Crossen (*is Tom a past player?*), and Peter Hammond. Many thanks go to John Sanders for the photos of the event, and to Peter Fogels for posting them on the Masters web-site.

**Hockey On Television:** For a change this was not the shadow Federal Treasurer, but the Nine-A-Side and Champions Trophy internationals from Perth and Melbourne respectively. Despite the ABC delaying the telecast (only to Perth of course) it was terrific to see our game being played at its highest level. I again include some personal impressions - reader feedback welcome.

- 1) Congratulations to Australia on the Champions Trophy win - five straight is remarkable.
- 2) The standard of play was a treat to watch.
- 3) The extra space with 9-a-side opened the game right out, as did the revised corner rules.
- 4) Every penalty corner resulted in a very long delay - really a rest?
- 5) Every referral resulted in an even longer delay - also a rest?
- 6) As we don't have the referral facility on Wednesdays we'd just better get on with it - when it's not possible for us to own up.

**Strange But True:** Did you hear about the learned Professor who devoted his life's work to proving that the Odyssey and the Iliad were not written by Homer, but by another Greek of the same name.

**Quotable Quote No 1:** "Nations have recently been led to borrow billions for war – no nation has ever borrowed largely for education. Probably no nation is rich enough to pay for both wars and civilization. We must make our choice, we cannot have both." Abraham Flexner 1866-1959. "Universities Part 3, 1930."

**Punology Part 1:** Ian Lyon provided so many that the supply is still nowhere near exhausted. I trust that no Wednesday Masters on the Oxford trip needed to request a kidney transplant. Had they done so the reply might have been: "England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool."

**New Players:** Those I have noticed include Alan Ledger \* (O/60s), George Bradbury (O/60s), Graeme Walter \* (O/60s), Lloyd Jones (O/60s), Phil Hewton (O/60s), and Charles Hulbert \* (O/50s). Welcome to Wednesday Masters. I've been given emails for some of you (those marked with an asterisk) - and would like to add any permanent new players to the "Masters Matters" mailing lists. For the benefit of sponsors and friends of new players my contact information is located on Page 7 of this edition.

**Whistle While You Work – without Neil Mannolini:**

Neil and I agreed that "Masters Matters" regular umpiring correspondent deserved a rest. He will be back next issue - and not necessarily restricted to umpiring topics. However, it's sometimes very difficult to stay out of "Masters Matters" - and Neil M was the umpire who awarded a goal at Melville which was not touched by an attacker in the circle. While I believe that it was not the first goal scored under the new rule, it caused some discussion at the time, and I think it's worthwhile to attempt clarification of the new rule, as it seems that sometimes we are not quite as adaptable and flexible as we used to be.

Mandatory experimental Rule 8.1: A goal is scored when:

- a) The ball is played by an attacker, or touches the stick or body of a defender, within the circle.
- b) After either of these actions the ball does not travel completely outside the circle before passing completely over the goal-line and under the cross-bar.

At Melville Ric Denny took a free hit just outside the 25 yard line and drove the ball at the circle - wherein it brushed Derek Hoad's leg (defender) and went into the corner of the net. As it was deemed not to be too high (i.e. dangerous) it became a goal. As a past recorder of goal scoring tallies my question now is - who is deemed to be the scorer under this rule? Should the goal be credited to Ric, or can we now have an own goal?

**Best Wishes For A Speedy Recovery Part One:** Our thoughts are with Dudley Younger who is to undergo an operation next month for bleeding behind the eye.

**Department Of Limericks:** Perspiration is still under the pump, but the best it can produce is yet another seasonal effort. It's some time ago that we last included a reader limerick - not since the umpire who refused to accept any revision to his original decision.

It's a new season, 2013  
And all Wednesday Masters are keen  
But we are getting old  
And don't want to be told  
That we are just an aging has-been  
( *I'm definitely not a has-been, just a never-was*)

**Punology Two:** "I have kleptomania but when it gets bad I take something for it." Robert Benchley.

**Hockey Points For 2012:** The quarters for the year resulted: 1<sup>st</sup>: Electric Blue (1), White (2), Green (3). 2<sup>nd</sup>: Electric Blue (1), Red (2), Green (3). 3<sup>rd</sup>: White (1), Green (2), Blue (3). 4<sup>th</sup>: Blue (1), Electric Blue (2), Red (3). The overall points tally was headed by Electric Blue (*who won the George Winning Trophy*), followed by White (2), and Green (3). Some of the emails which circulated among the winning Electric Blue team suggested that other teams had trouble withstanding their superior pace (*not my fault, I think - Ed.*). This inspired the team poet again - see Page 7.

**Wine Points For 2012:** I suspended the wine ladder for the Christmas party, as there were so many different winners (*and very few usual suspects*) that categorising the winners was beyond my ability for reduction to a set of numbers - anything meaningful anyhow. I may well run the wine scorebook again in 2013 - just to prove I hardly ever win. In the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2012 Ivan won 3 times - and two-time winners were Brian Lester, Brian Soares, and Simon Thomson.

**Coaching Corner:** In our previous issue I suggested that I did not believe that the Red team either did not go the bar after hockey or did not buy any tickets (*just won no wine*) - and asked for comment from Red team management. Both Derek Jobe and Gordon Thomas have gone overseas - but as far as I could tell no Red player (or wife) won wine at the Christmas party. Better luck for 2013?

**Impertinent Question:** How do you make holy water? Boil the hell out of it (*Ian Lyon again*).

**Dummy Spit Of The Day:** It seemed unlikely that this trophy would feature prominently on the 12th at the Christmas party, but the rain had other ideas, assisting Peter Gason's stick to fly out of his hand directly onto our Chairman's head - a distance of several metres. There have been several instances in 2012 where hockey sticks have flown - including usual suspects IW and RW - but none to match this one, which deservedly won an impromptu Dummy Spit of the Year. Some of us wondered what would become of the Chairman's address at the party, but Simon is made of very tough material and we heard every word exactly as planned (plus this additional award to Gase).

As a follow-up to this story Simon's Electric Blues were to play Peter Gason's Reds in the first fixture on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December. Simon went on wearing a motor cycle crash helmet - which he was able to discard once it became apparent that Gase had gone to play bowls instead. Fortunately bowls is not played in the rain - imagine what havoc a Gason-propelled wood could wreak.

**Quotable Quote #2:** For any reader contemplating a cruise (even a river one) and wondering what to do about mal-de-mer: “The best cure for sea sickness is to sit under a tree.” Spike Milligan.

**Letter To The Secretary:**

Many of us have been concerned about what we heard about Eric Alcock (bowel cancer followed by complications) and we thank Eric for writing to Secretary Bob with this information, and granting permission for it to be disseminated here.

Bob,

Thank you for your concern over my recent illness and I am pleased to say that all of the results are good. They did remove 20% of my bowel which was cancerous but the traumatic effect of the operation caused a heart attack. This all kept me in hospital for 12 days.

Home now and going through a slow recovery.

I suggest you place me on the “injured” list and I will let you know when I will be back closer to the time. I suspect it will be a while. In the meantime I think Mal is happy enough to captain the “Blue Brothers.”

Will come down later in 2013 to watch and see how all the guys are behaving.

Have an enjoyable Christmas and all the best for 2013.

Regards - Eric

Eric also reminded us all that regular colonoscopy screenings at our age are a good idea. Thanks very much Eric - you have the best wishes of all Wednesday Masters for a speedy and complete recovery.

**Letter To The Editor:**

Happy Christmas John ... and may the New Year be dribbling, pushing and flicking ... hopefully all of it on the hockey field.

Hopefully I will see you some time in 2013. I have to take my wife to Istanbul for her birthday, after that I hope to be in WA for the hockey, the gold prospecting, and the fishing (*simultaneously? Ed.*)  
Ken Dyer (*Good to hear from you Ken - see you later this year*)

**Department of Corrections:** I got one thing right last issue – the danger of leaving out of the thank you section more than one of our essential workers. There actually were three - I’ve heard about. My apologies to omissions Roger Partington (who does our fixtures) and Peter Fogels (who not only sponsors the WA Masters web site, but also does the computer work on it, including providing access to past issues of “Masters Matters” as well as many other things). I also left out Ivan Wilson due to my ignorance, but have now been reliably informed that our sizzle team (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month) have had difficulties with the supply of sliced onions. Ivan has stepped into the breach and now supplies them every time we have a barbecue.

**Monday Masters:** Does anybody know if we’ve ever played on a Monday in previous years? Some of us did take to the turfs on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December? The 50s did not have enough starters to play, so Heath Tyrell, Bill Rochester, and Zac Dalnish joined the 60s, who mustered about four teams for a very pleasant pre-Christmas run, complete with a post-game drink and chips - at an open bar.

**Wave This Site?:** We remind readers (*especially new ones*) that our fixtures can be accessed online at [www.wavets.org](http://www.wavets.org). It is a very well-designed website with access to much archival material from our WA State teams from 2001 onwards as well as Wednesday fixtures for both O/50s and O/60s. As a bonus the site includes the latest news and also access to all back issues of this newsletter.

**Best Wishes For A Speedy Recovery Part Two:** I hear that Colin Benporath is not too far from resuming again, after a shoulder problem which did not necessitate an operation. What has been happening to our goalkeepers lately - they seem to be more conspicuous by their absence than their presence. Are they all injured, or relaxing under a shady tree somewhere overseas.

**They Said It:** Our chairman was addressing the multitudes in the bar and described the wine raffle as: "Bob Bowyer's weekly bottle drive." It's certainly no longer John Mercer's weekly bottle drive.

Bob Robinson was reading "Masters Matters" when his wife asked him: "What are you doing today?" To which he responded: "Nothing." She said, "But that's what you did yesterday." "Yes" replied Bob, "but I hadn't finished."

**Picturesque Speech:** "His computing skills are such that he couldn't find a web site in a spider colony." The newsletter editor attempts a self-portrait? Readers please note that "spider colony" does not mean the residence of our Treasurer.

**Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department:** "To be absolutely certain about something one must know everything or nothing about it." Olin Miller.

**Comebacks:** It was good to see Col Sanders back on the turf on the day of our Christmas party, with a large glove in place to cover the missing nail. Apparently the problem has been very incapacitating (which it would need to be to prevent Colin from playing). Best wishes for a complete and speedy recovery. And Ken Walter made it back at Melville on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. Have I missed anyone?

**Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders & John Mercer:** Here is the answer to last issue's question which was: When did Belgium last play in a Championship Trophy?

The pedantically correct answer is in the one just completed - 2012. As usual Rusty Phillips was super-quick off the mark with the answer that 2012 was the first one that the men's team had ever played in. Correct! He also said he could not answer for the women's team - I don't know either. This issue's question is an easy one for the holiday season: Westside Wolves includes several former clubs. Can you name all of them - men and women? Answer next issue.

**Department Of Limericks 2:** Prompted by (*unfounded*) rumours of bar unavailability 2<sup>nd</sup> January:  
What a great way to start the New Year  
Go to Melville and take your own beer  
For our post-hockey thirst  
Would appear to be cursed  
But at least it will not be so dear

There seems to be a common theme emerging in these limericks - is alcohol counselling required?

**Poets' Corner:** As promised here is Electric Blue Poet laureate Jim Wright's response to the team's winning the Winning Trophy (*couldn't resist*). Are there any other poets out there who wish to respond on behalf of their sides? Unlike the Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey this one offers space to living versifiers - as long as any derogatory references to Electric Blue do not violate the libel laws. All is still subject to editorial discretion.

Electric Blue by name and electric by pace  
Were there any other teams even in the race  
The George Winning Cup for the superior team  
For the losers it's only a dream

Celebrate we will, who could resist  
Another three wins to add to the list  
Let's finish the year with a drink and a toast  
And try to be humble and not to boast

**Olympic and Hockey Facts:** Many thanks to Stan Salazaar, who has provided "Masters Matters" with the material for another series. There is probably insufficient hockey in this supposed hockey newsletter, and this contribution helps to restore the balance.

- The first Olympic hockey tournament played on artificial turf was Montreal in 1976.
- Patricia McKillop (Zimbabwe) became the first goal scorer at the Moscow Olympics when she scored the opening goal in Zimbabwe's 4-0 win over Poland. This was the first ever Olympic Women's match.
- The striking circle was first introduced in a match between Teddington and Surbiton at Bushey Park, England in 1876.

**"Past Champions to give Green the Edge:"** was the banner headline in the sports pages of the West Australian recently. My first thought was that Dave Horsley (who has said that his Green O/60s are a comparatively aged team) had dumped "Masters Matters" in favour of our local daily newspaper - and that the Green team was to be feared greatly in 2013. Actually this would be true if they could ever manage to field two Walter brothers simultaneously - though I am not sure how this would be viewed by our drafting sub-committee. Then I read the story - and was disappointed to discover that Wednesday Masters had not achieved such prominence - it was a cycling story. Quite possibly Wednesday Masters could be considered as more of a re-cycling story.

**Stop Press:** Those who got to Melville on 2<sup>nd</sup> January enjoyed pleasant weather, a run (in my case) and some good hockey (in most other cases). Thanks to Steve & Lyn McEntee (and your colleague whose name I didn't catch) for the opening, watering, time-keeping, and bar service. Also from Melville could newer O/60s players please note that although we usually play for points Argyle Downs Station is not actually at stake. Crunching tackles, heavy bumps, and calling for the ball from your opposition are not considered to be a normal part of O/60s Wednesday Masters.

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer – O/60s Electric Blue team. Stadium bar. Email: [johnmerc@inet.net.au](mailto:johnmerc@inet.net.au)

**Editorial Corner:** I have now been a part of Wednesday Masters for more than six years - which is not really long enough to pontificate on whether the competition has a future, let alone airing views on what that future might be. This lack of knowledge, experience, and basic research does not seem to inhibit members of the MSM (main stream media) or amateur bloggers from telling us all what is wrong with life, the universe and everything - and how to fix it. Why not John Mercer too?

Players arrive at Wednesday Masters in either the 50s or the 60s, when they first have time available on Wednesday afternoons - and when invited. We depart when we are physically incapable of continuing on with hockey, or when we lose interest. Since I started (in September 2006) there has been very little movement between the age divisions - caused I believe by the need to keep four teams in the 50s. This would indicate that new recruits are not entering our competition at the lower end of the age scale. As a result both competitions are aging - many 60s players are in their 70s and many 50s players are in their 60s. This is not necessarily a bad thing - and has not prevented expansion of the O/60s competition by the addition of the Green team during 2006 and the Electric Blue team in 2007.

I do not advocate expansion of our competition at all costs. I personally don't enjoy games played for sheep stations - and we've probably all encountered players on a Saturday afternoon who we've mentally flagged as "not to be invited to Wednesday Masters" - even if we might apply this to different people. Playing for points is fine by me (*and as the current scorer I have a vested interest in its continuation*) - it seems to provide an overall purpose as well as an additional competition archive. I should point out here that despite the running story that the results are rigged in favour of the chairman's team this is not really the case. To demonstrate this, the Gold team won the George Winning Trophy in 2011 - and I was not transferred out of Electric Blue immediately - only threatened with it. (*Actually it was necessary for me to be retained - so that it could be demonstrated that not all the Electric Blues were star players*)

Other benefits of Wednesday Masters include the provision of a social facility which all the aged care advocates tell us is so important. I totally agree with them. It also provides many potential players for State teams - all turf match-hardened and who know each others' game very well.

To my mind the critical point is whether we really need to plan for a lengthy future for our Wednesday Masters competition. I doubt whether there is an abundance of possible recruits out there just waiting to be asked - and I cannot see much point in detailed forward planning for what is very likely to be declining numbers. If we stay as flexible as possible so that we can respond as necessary to whatever the future throws at us that might be the best we can do.

**Past Players:** Further to the "social facility" mentioned above it really has been good to see past players at the games, in the bar, and at the barbecue (Dudley Younger for example). It has also been very noticeable that several of our long term injured players have volunteered to umpire during the recovery period (Ric Denny and Gordon Thomas for example). I urge past players to make the effort to keep in touch - and present players to assist as much as possible.

John Mercer