

**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

Editorial Corner Part One: I have moved Neil Mannolini to the front page following receipt of his most recent piece, as I consider it to be front page news. My own satisfaction with all media sporting coverage has decreased to the point that I no longer read every word or every story, for the reasons NM explains. The saturation TV coverage has progressed to the point of being nauseating, while the role played by the media in the Lance Armstrong saga (and others) was very far from ideal.

Neil Mannolini - Variations On A Whistling Theme:

As promised, a variation to my “ramblings / whatever” about umpiring.

“Hockey Needs Help.” On December last Ric Charlesworth issued a blast about the paucity of support for our great game. Some pertinent points from his article;-

- 1) He expressed concern for the viability of some sports because the saturation media coverage and endless sponsorship of the AFL and NRL was insurmountable.
- 2) There are more people covering the AFL than playing it. It’s unbelievable! The stories are benign - “Whose ankle is sore?” - day after day.
- 3) The future landscape of Australian sport will be “big, beefy, and spoiled,” because hockey is being “drowned out” by corporate games, especially rugby league and AFL.
- 4) We should ask why the public purse funded billion dollar stadiums to help “corporate” sports get richer. We’re building a football stadium in Perth for the richest sport in the nation worth \$1.5 billion - which is publicly funded. They’re not going to pay their share to build the stadium, but it will help make them money.
- 5) The AIS, which funds 37 sports, doesn’t have the budget of the Adelaide Crows.
- 6) The Department of defence had a bigger budget than the Australian Sports Commission.
- 7) Foxtel contributed \$250 million to broadcast AFL but refused to pay \$30,000 to broadcast a 12 hour package of international hockey. Hockey Australia needed to pay the ABC to broadcast the Champions Trophy.

Ric is right. We need help. Or do we sit back and do nothing because it’s all too hard. As taxpayers surely we should voice our concerns about our great game and come up with some ideas / action plans to lift our profile. (*Contributions to “Masters Matters” on this theme welcome - Ed.*)

AFL will never win a gold medal at any Olympics. We have over 150,000 players who play our game and keep playing all their lives ... how many AFL players are capable of taking to the field at 60? Or even earlier, dare we say even 40?

Gentle folk - surely we are sick of all the press coverage given to the “big, beefy, and spoiled” and overpaid Australian Rules players?

Neil Mannolini

Department Of Tourism: Maybe interest in this suggestion is low because possible starters do not fancy a country trip with the “Masters Matters” editor. Remember that what happens on tour, stays on tour. The other possibility is that nobody is volunteering because they do not know who else is going - as at 17th January the list reads (in order of response) Peter Livingstone, Jim Wright, Ash Foster, Barry Rutter, John Mercer, Robin Bailey, Simon Thomson, Neil Patterson, Paul Robinson. That’s Electric Blue (6), Gold (1), Blue (1), White (1). For new (*and old*) players the full proposal can be read in issue # 12 of 2012 - accessible via the WA Vets web-site at www.wavets.org. It appears to me that we have now reached the point where a volunteer organiser starts work - any takers?

Editorial Corner Part Two: I am often very thankful that I got into sport before it became necessary to participate in a group grope every time a team mate does something good. I am even more thankful that all other Wednesday Masters appear to think the same way - and often assist in this process by reducing the frequency of their doing something good (my own is "hardly ever").

The preceding lines had been in place for a few days when Stan Salazaar gave me this story. As the connection is clear here is an extract from the Hockey Circle of May 1981.

Off! The Player Who Kissed His Captain: "Midfield player Nick Green was sent off for kissing the scorer of his team's third goal. The 20-year old law student was shown the 'red card' for behaving like a footballer. He got his marching orders in a hockey match between St Annes and Knutsford in the North-West league. Umpire John Machin said last night: "When St Annes scored their second goal the players over-reacted and I told them not to behave like footballers. After the third goal Green defied what I had said and I sent him off. But we all had a good laugh afterwards." Mr Green, of Thornhill Road, Childwall, Liverpool, said: "it seems funny now, but I was furious at the time." (*I wonder if his captain was furious a little earlier*) He said he kissed skipper Peter Stone after the third goal "just for a bit of fun to see what the umpire would do." He added: "After the game there were no hard feelings. But I still think the umpire had no right to send me off." Now he has gone into the record books as the only player to be sent off for planting a kiss on a team mate. Col. Dennis Eagan secretary-general of the Hockey Association said he had never heard of a similar occurrence. He added: "There is nothing in our rules, or in the rules of the game, to stop this sort of incident.""

From what I remember of the old rule book (*you know, the one current in the dark ages*), there used to be a kind of catch-all provision which was rule 10.k and allowed the umpire to give a card for anything he deemed to be misconduct. In this case I would deem it to be miss-conduct.

Reader Feedback: Thank you to all the readers who took the trouble to send me a positive response to the first issue for 2013. They included Roger Partington (*it was a bit Electric Blue-ful, like this one*), Bill Baldwin, Alan Ledger, Rusty Phillips, Simon Thomson, Ken Dyer, John Milner, Jim Wright, Phil Anderson, Phil Hewton, Lloyd Jones, and John Burt.

Comebacks: It was good to see (and hear) Col Benporath back on the turf on 9th January following a fairly long-term injury. He's off to Barcelona in June, but the way interest rates are going I will not be joining him. Ash Foster - other than buying a ticket (or 25) how do you win Lotto? I also noticed Clyde Evans back in the Gold team on 16th January (*not since?*) - hope there were no ill effects. And was that my Saturday team-mates Dave Evans and Peter Aylmore playing 50s on January 16th?

Punology Part 1: Did you hear about the hamburger who walked into a bar, only to be told by the barman: "I'm sorry, we don't serve food in here."

Letter To The Editor: Hi John. Would really appreciate it if you could find a space in MM mag to promote the next Australian O60s/O70s National Cricket Championships to be held on the Sunshine Coast 7th to 13th September 2013. If anyone is interested please contact me on 9574-0412 or 0408 934 585, or horsleys@bigpond.com. Western Australia needs you!!! Thanks. Cheers. David.

Department Of Limericks: The Christmas break seems to have inspired our resident Electric Blue poet laureate who appears again in this issue. He generated this editorial solicitation.

I trust that our readers don't curse

When greeted with Jim Wright's new verse

You should summon your muse

And rhyme your own views

I'll print them, provided they're terse (*Subject to editorial indiscretion of course*)

Punology Two: As I've had an eye operation recently I include this one. "I thought I saw an eye-doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian." (*Roger Partington again*)

Points For 1st Quarter: After the games on 30th January the table reads: White 21, Blue 19, Electric Blue 19, Gold 16, Red 15, and Green 10 (*Now available on WA Vets web-site; thanks to Peter Fogels*). And the O/60s wine ladder for the 1st quarter is now Blue 4, Electric Blue, Green, and past players all on 3, Red on 2 (*Gordon Thomas and Chip broke through*), with Gold and White on 1.

Coaching Corner: For the benefit of newer readers this segment began as an advice column on how to win a bottle of wine on a Wednesday afternoon. It will be discontinued from the next issue as I'm no longer entitled to write it. Are there any readers with the qualifications to take over?

Impertinent Question: Spike Milligan was asked "How long will you be in Perth?" As may have been expected his answer was "About 5 feet 10 inches." (*With thanks to Phil Anderson*).

Quotable Quote #1: "I'm not a paranoid, deranged millionaire. Dammit, I'm a billionaire." Howard Hughes - doesn't sound like one of ours, does it?

Dummy Spit Of The Day: The 16th January was quite damp at times, and I hear that Peter Gason's stick parted company again. Our informant estimated a distance travelled of about 20 metres, but this time resulting in no contact. As Simon pointed out in the bar afterwards Turf 1 (where Gase was) and Turf 2 (where Simon was) are further apart than that.

Umpiring Bad News: Toward the close of 2012 "Masters Matters" was not as diligent in thanking the umpires as we began the year. I was forcibly reminded of this by keeping my ears open on Turf 1 on 9th January - and discovered that some of the noise was being made by me. Many thanks to the day's whistlers - those I noted were Lionel David, Neil Mannolini, John Sanders, Barry Rutter, Ric Denny, and Bala Chandran. I will try to be quiet - a few more hits (*of the ball, not by the ball*) would help.

Umpiring Good News: A Peter Gason short corner shot at goal struck a Green foot on 9th January and umpire Barry Rutter signalled a penalty stroke. "It wasn't going in Barry" said the Red attackers, and the decision was promptly changed to a short corner. Well done to all those involved - and I'd venture to suggest that it didn't hurt a bit - except for the unfortunate player with a bruised foot.

Umpiring Bad News: Where have all the umpires gone? On 23rd January the only one of our regular non-playing volunteers I spotted was Lionel David. Are we making too much noise? The shortage was so desperate on Turf 2 that I had to blow the whistle myself for one match. Quite humbling.

Team Building Electric Blue Style:

Those O/60s and O/50s who went to the bar on 9th January will have spotted a rather unusual training aid being used by the AIS - tyre bases topped by light blue coloured human figures. A couple of casual remarks generated the following email exchange among Electric Blue team members.

LFB: Will leave it to your judgement as to use in the newsletter or not (I want to play next week). Our chairman and current Electric Blue team mate in the bar pointed to two stick figures standing just outside the circle for a girls training session, the stick figures being about a metre apart, and suggested to one of the electric team fullbacks that the stick figure positioning reminded him of them in the last game played. The unmentioned fullback, after arriving home and pouring himself a glass of red, thought "no way, they were too short."

Chairman Simon Thomson (CH): I will concede that height was one difference, the other of course was the tyre was in the wrong place.

John Mercer (RW): Thanks Jim - I must plead guilty to asking the question as to whether the figures were supposed to be a representation of the Electric Blue defence. I hasten to point out that this was due to their coloration rather than their immobility or positioning.

Jim Wright (LFB): Tragic as it is our editor got three points for his observation also.

Roger Partington (RFB): I would like to say the two fullbacks mentioned in despatches have a far greater scoring average than our star forward line. In the last game Gold attacked at least four times and Jim and I let in two goals, a 50% average. Forwards had at least 10 shots, 0 goals (*lots of points*) 0 percentage. By the way Jim and I were discussing important strategic plays or holiday options. *Two small points of clarification are required for the preceding exchange. 1) A forward line including me is certainly not an all star one. 2) Names appear in this article only because the identity (and the height) of both Electric Blue full backs is well known in the O/60s. Ed.*

Letter To The Editor:

.... may the New Year be kind to your heart, hamstrings, and hockey skills.

Ken Dyer (*Thanks Ken - for me two out of three is not bad. Ed.*)

Department of Corrections: No complaints were received about the contents of Issue No 1 for 2013. Its editor complained to its editor about the variety of fonts - hopefully corrected in this one.

Department Of Limericks Part 2: Prompted by working on the O/60s points:

Season 2013 has begun
But there still is one team who's not won
About half of team Green
Is nowhere to be seen
Are they spread round the world having fun?

As soon as this piece of nonsense was created it was made obsolete by the return of several of the wandering Greens. It took 3 games for them to remember how their team-mates played, but they won their final game on 16th January, and added another 4 points on 23rd January. I left the limerick in to solicit some travellers' tales. Peter Stevens was back on the 30th - but not a Walter to be seen.

Best Wishes For A Speedy Recovery: Neil Scaddan is on the mend, and John Burt's in "Letters To The Editor." Roger Jewell still has some time and a medical specialist or two to go.

Picturesque Speech: "Insults are the arguments employed by those who are in the wrong." Jean Jacques Rousseau.

Strange But True: You don't need a parachute to go sky-diving. You only need a parachute to go sky-diving twice.

Poets' Corner: My limericks do not merit the "poetry" word, but these pieces which continue to reach the "Masters Matters" in-box from the reigning Wednesday Masters poet laureate Jim Wright (with help from his better half) are another matter entirely. Some of you have already seen this one, but I would like to have it in the "Masters Matters" archives and so include it here.

The Masters' teams are ready once more
Every team's aim to defend and score
Despite replacements for hips and knees
Winning points they want to seize

Behind closed doors the drafting's been done
Will backroom deals be a saviour for some
Red, White and Blue, and Green and Gold
Covet a trophy, to have and to hold

Last year's winners will be the team to beat
The others will make them feel the heat
Six teams vying to be the best
All of them on a victory quest

The George Winning trophy is the ultimate prize
Will the next name on it be a complete surprise
The teams will be watching as the points accrue
The contenders forming a very long queue

Jim and Beth Wright

Olympic and Hockey Facts: Thanks again to Stan Salazaar for this ongoing contribution.

- New Zealand hold the record for most goals scored in an international hockey match. They defeated Papua And New Guinea 39-0 on 12th September 2007 in Buderim Queensland.
- In 1948 Austrian hockey player Oscar Nowak participated in both the summer and winter Olympics. He was a member of the Austrian ice hockey team in St Moritz and he played field hockey for Austria in London.
- Rome (1960), Mexico (1968), and Munich (1972) boasted the largest Olympic men's tournament with 16 teams taking part.



The Way It Was : This is the best illustration I could find in my Hobart photos of the kind of place Dunalley used to be. For those whose eyesight is like mine the notice reads "Tide tables now in." As there were almost 60 Wednesday Masters in Hobart it was very good news to hear that the raffle money from 9th January (\$199 + \$1 from Ian Brown) was donated to the Tasmanian bushfire appeal.

Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department: "The surprising thing about young fools is how many survive to become old fools." Doug Larson (born 1926 - columnist in the Green Bay Press-Gazette).

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: Here is the answer to last issue's question which was supposedly an easy one for the holiday season: Westside Wolves includes several former clubs. Can you name all of them - men and women?

For a change the answer supplied by Rusty Phillips was not 100% correct. He rightly identified Claremont Collegians as a merger of Christchurch and Old Scotch, who then combined with top grade club Cricketers, but thought that the women's club in the red and grey mix was Surf. They actually ended up in the YMCC empire - it was Grads who became part of Wolves. The Claremont Collegians also included the remnant of the Mosman Park club.

This issue's question: The Australian Men's hockey team first defeated New Zealand in 1923, 1925, 1927, 1929 or 1932? For a bonus point, was it at home or in NZ? Answer next issue. *(As you can see, John Sanders is back. Ed)*

Quotable Quote #2: "Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them." Bill Vaughan. *(Or the suburb - Woodlands for example)*



Canal bank at Dunalley

Tribute to Peter Hammond: Best wishes from all at Wednesday Masters to Peter for his imminent move to Bali for permanent retirement. His involvement with hockey in this state has endured for a very long time, and been marked by distinguished contributions in many areas. I have attempted to obtain history from several sources - no doubt more will be revealed to us on February 13th when Wednesday Masters will be having a sausage sizzle and a farewell. In summary:

Began his hockey career at South Perth.

Played in the State U/21s (known as "Colts").

Played A1s with Perth in a team which included Olympians Ray Evans, Phil Pritchard, Tony Waters, and Dennis Kemp as well as state players Graham Cleghorn, Des Rogers, and Ron Lester. This team also included WA U/21s player and current Wednesday Masters treasurer Brian ("Spider") Lester.

Many years of Saturday Vets as player and team organiser with both Perth and Raiders.

Many years of interstate Vets as both player and coach.

Inaugural playing member of Wednesday Masters - in the original Blue team.

Instrumental in obtaining Wednesday Masters initial and ongoing sponsorship and playing uniforms.

Long term captain of the Red team, and continued on with this after a knee ended his playing career.

Umpired most weeks during this period.

Acquired the nickname "Hamsid" at some point during this career. How and why unknown.

Foundation member of the "chardonnay set" who pioneered after- match wines.

Peter's hockey, coaching, and company have been much valued over the years, both on and off the field. His absence from Wednesday Masters will be felt by us all. I hope that in the future Bali can be added to the list of unusual "Masters Matters" reading locations.

Letter to the Editor: Our comments last issue about the vanishing goalkeeper provoked a response. John, you stated that a lot of goalkeepers have disappeared. With this one the photographic evidence shows that I am totally screwed up (*shoulder x-ray attached - clearly showing both screws*) and having to bide my time and chew my cud. The result is that I can solve 80% of Sudoku, work in the bathroom has resumed after 18 months, and the shed is getting a make-over. I can now lift my arm above my shoulder and will see the surgeon Ben Hewitt on Tuesday. He grafted some muscle onto the bone and said that I could play 3 months after the operation on November 23rd.

It was Lunger's fault. (*WA v WAC Hobart? No - Ed*) On November 9th while getting ready for a night game at Hale he told me I was in the Australian 70s side to tour Japan, Malaysia and Korea in May. The shock was too much and half an hour later I dislocated my shoulder for the 6th time.

Regards - John Burt

Letter to the Editor: Re WHM fixtures

It's interesting to note that Red, White and Blue teams each start early on 10 occasions, followed by E Blue and Green both on 7 and Gold only 4. Conversely with late fixtures Gold understandably play 8 times, Green and E Blue 5, and Red White and Blue 2 each. Analysis: Gold should be benefiting from the cooler playing conditions and be wealthier and healthier from missing out in the raffles and chips and less beers at the bar. Can I apply for a transfer (just joking of course).

See you next week - Phil (*Anderson*)

PS: (*Following correspondence with MM's editor re publishing consent*): What prompted me to look at it more closely is that I was looking forward to some later starts for Blue due to the distance I have to travel each week to and from Safety Bay. Pando.

And That Reminds Me: The preceding numbers extracted from the fixtures by Phil put me in mind of some previous long-ago palaver about who played more often on which turf. So I checked and found that during the first quarter of 2013 the 12 playing dates produce the following:

Blue:	Turf 1 (16)	Turf 2 (20)
Elec Blue:	Turf 1 (13)	Turf 2 (23)
Gold:	Turf 1 (26)	Turf 2 (10)
Green:	Turf 1 (26)	Turf 2 (10)
Red:	Turf 1 (20)	Turf 2 (16)
White:	Turf 1 (19)	Turf 2 (17)

So what is indicated by all this? You could say that the two blue teams have failed to draw a crowd - and so have been rostered to play on the outside courts. You could also say that the Green and Gold teams must be the number one and two seeded teams, and hence play more matches on centre court (*the Australian Open must be in progress*). You could also say - does which turf matter unduly? Though considering the title of this publication, it must "matter" to appear here.

But Seriously Folks: The two preceding paragraphs were both created with their writers' tongues rather firmly in their cheeks. I actually consider that a greater influence on the result of 60s matches occurs when a side with 11 of its regular players opposes a side with only 7 or 8 of its own, plus several star players filling in from the "resting" team on that turf. What do readers think?

New Hockey Website: Bill Williamson's email about Southern Cross nominations for the Kontich tournament was forwarded to the "Masters Matters" distribution list recently. As a follow-up Peter Fogels has been slaving over a hot keyboard, and the Southern Cross hockey web-site is now open for business. It can be accessed at www.southerncrosshockey.org.

Meeting With HWA: Thank you to Secretary Bob Bowyer for distributing his minutes of the meeting between our executive and HWA. I thought I'd mention a few of the points made here as well.

- Our cooks will be pleased to hear that an upgrade to the barbecue and its area is coming.
- Parking restrictions will be strictly enforced this year. We are limited to the closest 3 rows to the Stadium, and the area behind Field 1 (this is also due to be upgraded). We may be able to look forward to the issuance of parking permits, and a detailed map.
- Can any Wednesday Master enlist a Stadium signage sponsor?

Past Players: After my urging about past players in the last issue it was good to spot some in the bar on the 23rd and 30th January. Those I noted were Mal Poole, George Winning, Geoff Wood, Tom Crossen, Stu Calder and Roger Jewell. Are comebacks imminent? (*George Winning - you are invited*)

Undelivered Mail: Anybody got a current email for Neville Gandy? Mine is lynnev@smartchat.net.au but this is now bouncing back as an unknown address.

Poets' Corner Part 2: This issue was expanded by a lot of last-minute material. Here's the padding - a contrast from the grim reality which emerges from all my other attempts at emulating Jim Wright.

On Wednesday Masters First Of The Month

Our hockey games are finished, so also is the shower
But we're about to play the matches once again
As our monthly bar and sausage sizzle hour
Means it's time to go and join a few good men.

We eat and drink, but most of all we talk
Our topics can be spread across the earth
Will the snags we eat be made from beef or pork
And why have all our shares gone down in worth.

Dudley's sausages and onions disappear
Bob and Gordon raffle off good wine
Some of us consume another beer
If it's light then the driving will be fine.

And then we head for home quite tired and sore
But we'll all be coming back next week for more.

All news and other contributions to:

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