

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

Peter Hammond Gets Life

On 13th February a well-earned life membership of Wednesday Masters was awarded to PH in an informal function at the Bentley Stadium. Playing numbers on the day were down a little due to the extreme weather conditions (about 4.5 teams in the O/60s) but it was apparent that almost all those who played attended the presentation, plus many past players. Congratulations and well done to Peter from us all. A well done also goes to our chairman Simon Thomson who found the right blend of seriousness, humour, information, and brevity (*even including an MM limerick - see Page 7*). Thanks also to Gordon Thomas, Rusty Phillips, and Neil Scaddan who between them organised and cooked all the food (steak and sausages!). We'll know that Peter has really settled in up there when a Wednesday Masters touring side receives an invite to play a game in Denpasar.

Department Of Tourism: Sensational news! On 6th February our player total increased to 12, a volunteer umpire joined the party, following which Robin Bailey became tour organiser and - "WHM O/60 trip to Bunbury is on! A date of Sunday 24th March has been fixed with game/s starting at 1:00 pm. We hope to have some good matches against a composite O/60 side from Bunbury and South-West region. A BBQ will be held after the games. Currently we have 12 team members, but may accept one or two more. If you are interested in participating in the games in Bunbury please advise Robin Bailey (email r.bailey@bigpond.com or phone 9332 3345 or mention it on Wednesday at hockey). If you are in the Bunbury area on March 24th, and want to come and watch, you are very welcome to do so, but please advise numbers to Robin for catering purposes."

Robin Bailey

Under this heading I extend a warm welcome to Alan Bryce of Scotland and WA Country who is a guest player in the O/60s (Green) for a few weeks from the 6th February. He's a mate of Ken Walter, but don't hold that against him. Last I heard the weather was also extending a warm welcome.

Editorial Corner Part One: A few readers have expressed some surprise at the size of the previous “Masters Matters” and asked its editor how he does all the work. My response to this is that it’s only work if you’d rather be doing something else, and I prefer writing “Masters Matters” to cleaning the house, or removing leaves from the gutter. Besides, I once worked for a company which not only believed that excellence could be pursued, but could be achieved. My pursuit of the unachievable (*for me*) may have slowed down considerably, but old habits die hard.

A Stern Chase is a Long One?: The “pursuit of the unachievable” in the previous paragraph reminded me of Bob Hope’s comment on turning 70: “I still chase women, but only downhill.”

Quotable Quote No 1: “That’s management for you. The maximum brutality working hand in hand with the minimum logic to achieve the worst possible outcome - it’s the proud old tradition of British industrial relations.” Tom Holt - “You Don’t Have To Be Evil to Work Here But It Helps.” Did anybody besides me ever work for a company run on those lines? (*Not the one mentioned in Editorial Part 1*)

Reader Feedback: I was not sure that all regular readers had received their electronic MM - as I heard that Rusty Phillips could not open his copy. Then I heard from Jim Wright, Pam Herbert, Peter Fogels (who had posted the web-site copy OK), Ken Beer, and Roger Partington - thanks to all. If you know of anyone in the loop who did not receive “Masters Matters” No 2 for 2013 please inform me.

I had a verbal response (*while on the turf*) to my suggestion that teams with fill-in star players had an advantage over those using solely their normal complements. My respondent (*I cannot remember who it was*) said that they tended not to fit in very well with the rest of the side. I’m not certain that this applies in all cases, as some Wednesday Masters have played together a lot in a variety of teams over the years. Still, it’s a good point - are there any more views out there?

Department of Good Ideas: By now all of us should have received the email from Chairman Simon about a possible O/65s Saturday grass competition this winter - about 30 players are required. This is a great way to keep involved those who are finding that their club is about to drop out of the O/60s - or for other reasons are no longer able to be involved playing at any level in the existing Saturday grades. There has been quite a lot of interest - please contact Simon on csrrthomson@bigpond.com to express yours. Vic Park are recruiting for a 2013 O/60s - please contact Barry Rutter.

Whistle While You Work: With Neil Mannolini

Occasionally some of the Wednesday vets query an umpire’s decision, and some even stand and ask the question. Meanwhile the play around them goes on.

When I first started umpiring I was watching some Under 17 players at a trial. Merv Adams was the coach and he asked me to blow a whistle (Merv was the famous Australian coach and many will certainly remember him). He asked me to deliberately blow a few wrong decisions.

Needless some youngsters stopped and queried - and the odd parent made a comment.

Afterwards I asked Merv “Why”? I quote; “I want players to keep going for the ball regardless because those that hesitate or stop are letting the side down (reducing the side by their action with one less player involved in the play).

The message from this factual story is? I’m sure our players will work it out.

Neil Mannolini

Comebacks: It was pleasing to see many past players on 13th February to farewell Peter Hammond. Those I noted included Brian Young, Ian Lyon, Eric Alcock, Jeff Godfrey, Roger Jewell, John Halley, Stu Calder, John Charlesworth, and George Winning. As far as I know Eric, Roger, and John H are all due to make a comeback at some time this year. It was good to see Mal Jackaman and Eric Alcock comparing notes as both are survivors of a common problem. I also heard that Roger Davey had given John Dunstan a lift to the Stadium - but JD had departed before I could say hello. And "Mouse" was playing again on the 20th - hope all went well for a former Blue team-mate and welcome back.

Punology Part 1: Radio 720 was running a talkback session on "heightism." A caller who claimed to be 4' 10" (*about 147 cms*) said that she found being called short "very belittling." She also said that her usual response is "I'd rather be short than rude."

Member of the panel Sharon Greenock (4' 8 ½") claimed on the same program to have been patted on the head on the way to the bar in a night club and told (in case she hadn't realised) "You're very small." She allegedly grabbed the pater by the front of his trousers and said "So are you."

Shakespeare Said It First: This is true for so many things - for instance here is Hamlet speaking; "The time is out of joint, oh cursed spite
That ever I was born to set it right."

This also could have been Ricky Watts - who has just put another battery in the bar clock. Many thanks from the Wednesday Masters clock watchers who again know when it's time not to go home.

Editorial Corner Part Two: I enquired some time ago whether there was a legal drug which improved one's hockey playing ability. All my friends of the day made the same suggestion - which I have now been trying for 50 years and finally come to the reluctant conclusion that alcohol does not work. It's probably a bit late to stop taking it now.

Department Of Limericks: Here is one way of looking at our brand new Wednesday Masters Lotto syndicate. If any reader has a suggestion for a motto please send it in.

When we purchase a ticket in Lotto

Some Masters might want a new motto (*)

But the numbers are such

We can't win very much

Perhaps it might get us to Rotto

(*) "The older we get the richer we'll be?" With apologies to the originator of "The older we get the faster we were."

There is one school of thought which says that we are competing against a repeat winner in Ashley Foster - who certainly gets a winner much more often than I have done.

News From The O/50s: Marcus Frayne (GK) is a member of our newly formed Lotto syndicate and was quite happy for organiser Bob Bowyer to buy "whatever is easiest for you and the sooner the better as I heard a whisper that Coops may make a return ... I need to buy a new box." As a former Monday / Thursday team-mate of Greg's I'm pleased to hear that they still don't count as a real goal unless several backboards are shattered. In all fairness, any pass to my post had to be slowed down considerably (and gift-wrapped) for me to be able to handle it - and Coops obliged quite often.

Points For 1st Quarter: Now that the O/60s points table is up on the WA Masters web-site I'll concentrate on the O/60s wine ladder here, which is just as closely contested as the hockey. As at 27th February the leaders are Electric Blue 5, Blue 4, with Green, Red, and past players on 3. Gold and White bring up the rear on 1. There was no raffle and no hockey points on the 13th and 20th.

Impertinent Question: A cow walked into a bar in London and the barman asked "Why the long face?" The cow's response was "Illegal ingredients coming over here, stealing our jobs."

Quotable Quote #2: "Sport no longer owns sport. Sport is a commodity to be shaped and distorted for corporate gain and those within it become similarly shaped and distorted." Ric Charlesworth from The West Australian of 9th February - "Is Sport Losing Its Noble Essence?" Terrific piece.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: After the goalkeepers union (O/60s branch) said "everybody out" on the 13th and 20th of February (due to the heat?) they must be candidates. As I've personally never stood in the dubious shade of a mask on a 40 degree day I'm reluctant to do too much finger pointing in case Roger moves me back there next week. Would a GK care to comment?

Umpires Part One: After the previous edition of "Masters Matters" umpires turned out in force on the 6th February. Many thanks to Vern Gooch (welcome back) and Neil Mannolini for Turf 2 - and to Lionel David and Les Meade (welcome back) who handled Turf 1 for most of the day. Neil Scaddan also came out prepared to umpire during his recuperation, and compared himself to Ashton Foley: "We're both whistle-blowers who aren't wanted."

Strange But True: I went to the funeral of a former Apex club-mate in early February. To the surprise of us all the coffin was lowered to the strains of "Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye." It was a perfect reflection of the sense of humour possessed by the deceased.

They Said It: "In sport things don't always go your way. You get some bad luck and some decisions you may not agree with. But you just have to get over it and get on with the game. Whether you're playing, coaching, or cheering on your kids respect every player and official, they're all trying to do their best. And most of all, just enjoy yourself." Hockeyroo Anna Flanagan - thanks to John Sanders. "Men are like linoleum floors. Lay 'em right and you can walk all over them for years." Mae West. "It will be a while yet before they send pink smoke up the Sistine chimney." Mike Carlton - SMH. "Wednesday Masters should be fun above all else." Peter Hammond. (*MM too - Ed.*)

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

- Sabine Blemenschutz of Austria was the youngest athlete ever to compete in an Olympic hockey match when Austria played India in Moscow. She was 15 years and 363 days old.
- At the Helsinki 1952 Olympic Games the result of the Belgium versus Poland match on July 21 was annulled because the Belgian players were found to have used oversized sticks. Original score 4-3 (a.e.t.) for Belgium, 1-1 at half time, 2-2 at full time.
- In the 1921-22 season H.L. Price the Olympian triple Blue, played hockey one Saturday for England against Ireland and the following and the following Saturday played rugby for England against Scotland. He was once chosen to play for England on the same day for both hockey and rugby. He played rugby.

Umpiring Thoughts From The Blues: Thanks to Mal Jackaman for commenting on the recent series of emails on our volunteer non-playing whistlers and beginning by saying that we need to look after them, as they are a special breed (*I quite agree - Ed.*).

“But I think we need to expand our thoughts on the umpires and general conduct towards them during games. My thoughts are that volunteer umpies obviously enjoy attending WMH and umpiring but the constant questioning of umpires decisions appears to put some bad taste on the game and the ability for other to offer their umpiring services.

An umpire will probably make 20,30,40, or 50 decisions during a game and whilst the majority will be correct there will be the odd decision where he gets it wrong (as long as it is not in the “D”). We have all been playing hockey long enough to count on a hand the number of times a decision has been reversed (*you’re right Mal - this has been a news story here as well the basis for a limerick*). Some players complain vigorously but the better players take the decision on the chin (wrong or right) and get on with the game. With the new play on rule an opposition player could use your time arguing with the umpire as an opportunity to gain advantage.

Hockey is not only a game of skills the but also the ability to adapt and be flexible to all the other variables:

- Ground surface
- Opposition strengths / weakness
- Team players strengths / weakness
- Own players’ qualities
- Weather
- And the ability to understand an umpire’s attitude, i.e. policeman type, pedantic, loath to penalise, erratic, etc.

The main objective of playing hockey is to enjoy the game and ask all to play the game in the true spirit without the need to question an umpire’s decision. Leave you with these thoughts.”

Mal Jackaman

PS: I guess to be an umpire you need a thick skin (*I think you’re right here Mal*), and this is one of the reasons they umpire (*and I don’t - Ed.*)

PPS: Maybe we should consider introducing the cards but as last resort.

Umpires Part Two: Our first ever “Masters Matters” (January 2012) included Vern Gooch’s two rules of hockey. After what was said on both turfs on 6th February I think the time has come again:

Rule 1: The umpire is always right.

Rule 2: If the umpire is wrong refer to Rule 1. (*This means everybody - newsletter editor too*)

Vern also reminded me before the hockey started of the principles for goalkeepers in a one-on-one with a forward. The ball may pass, or the player may pass, but not both. I wish the goalkeeper listening in had not chosen me as his demonstration subject a little later that day.

Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department: “Youth cannot know how age thinks and feels. But old men are guilty if they forget what it was to be young.” J. K. Rowling - “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix” - 2003. (*No I haven’t read it, nor do I remember being young. G. O. Ed.*)

Commiserations: To Jeff Godfrey on the recent loss of your wife - and thank you for joining us for Peter Hammond's farewell during your difficult times. I hope you can continue to join us.

Best Wishes For A Speedy Recovery: The current injury list is very long, and my information is very short. I'll settle for a general get well to all present and past Wednesday Masters.

Punology Two: Copper nitrate - policeman's overtime. (*Ginger Meggs comic strip*)

Picturesque Speech: "Young men dream dreams about the future, old men reminisce about the past." I'm not sure who said this - it might have been me, some time ago.

Department of Corrections: Nobody complained about the contents of Issue No 2 for 2013 - not even its padding. You did all get it, I trust.

Department Of Limericks Part 2: Prompted by the departure of Peter Hammond:

Wednesday Masters is over for Peter,
Who's found foreign climes to be sweeter.
He's retiring to Bali,
So much quieter than Mali,
But no more half and half by the litre.

WAGS Won't Play : This does not mean that the spouses and girl friends of Wednesday Masters are giving their other halves the Lysistrata treatment (please Google it - it's a delicate topic). Rather it means that our Wednesday Afternoon Goalkeepers did not play O/60s on February 13th because it was too hot. Thanks to Barry Rutter, who made an appearance at the Stadium and umpired. This gained him sunburnt feet, so John Harper (GK) swapped his on-field hockey stick for Barry's whistle. The question was asked in the last couple of issues - "Where have all the goalkeepers gone?" Would a goalkeeper be able to inform "Masters Matters" readers as to their whereabouts on a day off?

Camera Cannot Tell a Lie - Again: Thanks to John Sanders for the photographs of the 2012 Christmas party and Peter Hammond's farewell. Thanks also to Peter Fogels for putting them on the website under the headings Wednesday Hockey Photos (2012 and 2013 respectively). The PH ones remind me of a line from the padding in our last issue - "We eat and drink, but most of all we talk."

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: Here is the answer to last issue's question which was: The Australian Men's hockey team first defeated New Zealand in 1923, 1925, 1927, 1927, or 1932? The answer was July 1929 with a score of 1-0. All we got back from usual suspect Rusty Phillips was that he wasn't sure, but he did know that NZ were our first national opponents from 1922 onwards until India toured in 1925. Did it take us 7 years to beat them? This issue's question: In the 1987 Champions Trophy match versus Pakistan, Australia won 3-1. All Australia's goals were scored by 3 players whose surnames started with the letter "H". Who were they? See our next issue for the answer.

All news and other contributions to:

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

Reader Contribution: Many thanks to John Halley for this wonderful collection of actual newspaper headlines - titled "Why I Still Read the Newspaper." These will be an ongoing series
"Exclusive to all newspapers": "Diana Was Still Alive Hours Before She Died."
"Student Excited Dad Got Head Job."
"Missipi's Literacy Program Shows Improvement."
"Bugs Flying Around With Wings Are Flying Bugs."

Poets' Corner: Since "Masters Matters" began last year all kinds of padding has been used to fill up pages. This time I'm including another one of my own before it becomes obsolete - which will only occur should our current whine raffle become a wine raffle again (and I win again).

On The Pursuit Of Fermented Grape Juice 2013

Every Wednesday we raise money for the poor
Buying tickets for a chance of winning wine
But my hopes are always dashed by just one flaw
Since the wine is ever yours and never mine.

We listen to the naming of a winner
And it seems that we're once again the loser
Somebody else will always be the grinner
So far this year it's often Ham D'Souza.

For our winners all the hardest task by far
Is to choose the colour, either red or white
Then to take your valued prize out to the car
If Barry Rutter has not placed it out of sight.

But in every raffle week my hope sublime
Is that Bob has put my tickets in, this time.

Everyone's a Critic: Here's a reaction from a poet - presumably his verse had not been praised:
Sir, I admit your general rule
That every poet is a fool
But you yourself may serve to show it
That every fool is not a poet
Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772 - 1834)

Stop Press: Many thanks to all the February umpires. They included Bala Chandran, Lionel David, Ric Denny, Peter Ford, Vern Gooch, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, Les Meade, Neil Scaddan, and Gordon Thomas. And past players I noted in the Stadium bar were Jim Banks, Stu Calder, Tom Crossen, Jeff Godfrey, Peter Hearne, John Sanders, and George Winning.

There will not be a barbeque on 6th March. The next one will be on 3rd April.