

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

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Lost & Found: Les Waldon has owned his state tracksuit tops for some time - but now has another one which was left behind after the State O/70 practice matches against WA Country. Please contact Les to reclaim your property - either on a Wednesday or Saturday, or via "Masters Matters."

Department Of Health: Many thanks to Bill Baldwin for keeping us up to date with the pacemaker saga. If you missed it, the installation has taken place, and Bill's recovery has begun. He made it to the Stadium on the 31st, and is taking things very quietly until the end of the year. Please keep us in touch - and keep attending on a Wednesday if medically advisable.

Department Of Aged Care: The general bye and Bob Bowyer's invitation gave a "Masters Matters" scribe the chance to experience the 65s at Perry Lakes again, where they seem to be in good shape. Thanks to all for another enjoyable Saturday afternoon in my own age group.

One happening worth mention was that during the third quarter miss-hits became frequent as fatigue took its toll. During three-quarter time it was suggested that a free hit should be awarded if any miss-hit did not result in an immediate turnover, and the improvement during the final session was quite amazing. Could we try this idea on Wednesdays?

A further consequence of the day was that Barry Rutter is now a member of the RAC, having managed to lock his keys in the boot of the car. Suggestions from fellow Saturday Masters included: phone the RAC ("I'm not a member"), get Lesley to bring the spare key ("There isn't one"), and by the way, "I don't have a mobile phone with me." Barry played on the field rather than in goal, and obviously the disruption to the regular routine had consequences. Thanks to all who helped him with advice, mobile phone calls, and company (provided by Ken Watt) until the RAC arrived. It seems that BR was late home from hockey again, but for a different reason. See *Limericks Part 3 - Ed.*

Letters To The Editor: Thanks to the readers who responded to our July issue. They included Peter Murray, John Milner, Ken Watt, and Peter Fogels. Several are included here for some variety.

Peter Murray (re an O.G.): "Very few get one past John (*Burt*). It takes great skill and ability." *Dave Mellor managed it in a club game on 6th July - obviously inspired by the story in the last issue. He got one past our keeper at the other end too. I have a different method - dumb luck. Ed.*

John Milner (on an "agist" piece of doggerel): "I am a bit concerned that you may have blown my cover. It's a real treat for me to get a run with all you Aust/State reps, and I wouldn't want to get 'dropped' on account of my many failings. I'm trying not to draw attention to myself.

Anyway I was born in a leap year, so I am really just gone 21!"
I like to think my own failings are less apparent because I have so few hits. Ed.

Ken Watt "With regard to Rusty Phillips' query re longevity with one club:
I migrated from Cricketers to Suburban in 1954, to Graylands in 1962/63 and back to Subs in 1964. My calculations suggest 55 years with Subs until 2012 in which I played about 4 games. I am unsure as to how many Saturday games make a season, however if it is 16 that would equate to approx 900 games with Subs."

Congratulations Ken - good to see that you settled down eventually. Ed.

Compliments To The Chefs Part One: Many thanks to the sausage sizzlers on 3rd July - who according to my information were Ric Watts (great to see you back) and Ken Watt. It was a cold day - especially for non-players. At least the new barbecue was in use, which is under cover.

Editorial Corner: The original topic here was a blistering attack on the unholy alliance between major sports (i.e. sponsored sports) and the main-stream media, but I have decided to hold it over in favour of (*yet*) another plea for tolerance in the area of umpire / player relations. It is probably fair to say that our game is much easier to umpire when there are very few mistakes, as generally it is an error which necessitates a whistle blast and a free hit. At our age errors are more frequent, due to our physical infirmities, and the same applies to our umpires, who are not quite as mobile as they once were (*not like the rest of us*), and cannot always get into the ideal position to see everything. It is very frustrating to earn a free hit, or a corner, only for it not to be awarded, but we all (*me too*) need to take Neil Mannolini's advice from the July issue, and keep on going. Perfection is an aspiration rather than a realisation these days.

Masters Nationals 2013: Preparation continues for all teams, both State and WA Country, with training sessions and practice matches in a variety of locations and times. All sides with the possible exception of the WAC O/70s, who after an initial burst of playing the WA State 70s have decided to conserve their energies for Sydney.

Comebacks: Jim Banks seems to be a semi-permanent entry in this section - how long should it be before a replaced hip can play again? Ross Easton (*shoulder injury*) was back on 31st July - possibly without the knowledge of his surgeon - hope all still OK. It was very pleasing to see Roger Jewell having a run with the 65s at Perry Lakes - and seeming to be travelling (and playing) very well. It's been quite a long time for Roger, but even longer for Rusty Phillips, who finally returned at Hale on the 17th. Bad luck defenders - he looked very fit and scored a couple of goals. I thought about adding a quiz question - how long since Rusty last played - but that would have given one serial respondent to quiz questions an unfair advantage. *By the way – what is the answer? Ed.*

Dates For The Diary:

August 7th: Barbecue at the Stadium.

September 4th: Barbecue at the Stadium.

September 25th: Masters Nationals - Sydney.

October 2nd: Masters Nationals - Sydney.

December xxth: Christmas Party. (*To be advised*)

June 5th 2014: Start date for 7th Grand Masters World Cup - The Hague.

June 13th 2014: Finish date for World Cup.

Punology One: "I'd rather a bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy." Comment on a Ben Pobjie article for the ABC's Drum, attributed to a 'Monty B'.

Compliments To The Chefs Part Two: Well done to Bob Bowyer and Gordon Thomas for sausage sizzling above and beyond the call of duty at Hale on the 17th July. Not only was the weather very adverse, but the bar did not open until 4:00 pm, by which time many 60s had departed. Bob also stayed on to make sure that the 50s were fed too, and then had to tackle the Narrows Bridge.

Quotable Quote No 1: "The political problem of mankind is to combine three things: economic efficiency, social justice, and individual liberty." John Maynard Keynes. 1883 – 1946.

Whistle While You Work - With Neil Mannolini:

Interesting that some of our “Wednesday Wonders” players have asked whether we should “adopt” the current European experiment where players are permitted to play any ball above shoulder height (with the usual subject to danger concerns we expect).

The questions came from a few players. The same guys are known to query the existing rules not fully understanding them - especially the “advantage rule” and / or the ball hitting a foot in its passage!

When F.I.H. decrees changes to the rules then both local players and umpires need to adopt and follow.

Don’t pre-empt get on with the game as governed by the EXISTING rules, and enjoy. Naturally this applies to both players and umpires (whoever they may be).

Neil Mannolini - Volunteer Umpire

Thanks Neil for this piece of sound advice. We have trouble adapting to the previous rule changes - perhaps introducing more before we must is not a good idea. The word ‘volunteer’ in Neil’s piece serves to remind us that our umpires are unpaid volunteers, and it is not compulsory for them to attend. On the other hand we might find it rather difficult to play without them. Ed.

Department Of Viticulture: For those who are not present for the wine raffle, the usual process is for Bob or Gordon to find an honest, upright, trustworthy citizen to draw the first winning ticket - each winner then picks the next one. The newsletter editor has now lost this role (in keeping with the greatly diminished respect accorded to the mainstream media these days) so Chip Challoner was asked to do the honours on 3rd July. To show that some of us have managed to absorb the new rules Chip found his own name in a blind draw. *See next paragraph - Ed.*

Department Of Limericks: I hope that Chip is a believer that any publicity is good publicity - even in the non-mainstream media such as “Masters Matters.” Topics for limericks are not easy to find these days, and any unusual event tends to start the rhyming thought process.

Some think the new rules are a farce
For the rest they’re a pain in the arse
But a raffle blind dip
In the barrel by Chip
Was a model on how to self-pass.

(The above does not necessarily represent my own views on the new rules. Ed.)

Weekly Bottle Drive: After the raffle on 31st July the winners by team are: Electric Blue (5), Gold (3), Green (2), with Blue, Red and White all (1). The past players are yet to score this quarter - perhaps more time in the bar is necessary.

Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department: “So you maintain that the human race is an intelligent species? Have you observed the spectators at the Tour de France?” *Very grumpy, unwell Ed.*

Department Of Health Part 2: As a follow-up from complimenting the chefs who officiated on 3rd July, both did not play on the day. Ric Watts (stents) and Ken Watt (torn shoulder ligaments) have umpired in July & Ric has now resumed play. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to you both.

Pertinent Question: Would readers welcome more detailed reporting of our Wednesday fixtures? By this I don't mean repetitions of "John Mercer missed another easy goal" - but stories along the lines of Col Sanders, Simon Williams, or Bill Williamson's accounts of Masters Interstate Championship matches on the WA Masters web-site. The 50s could be a part of this process, as they appear very infrequently in "Masters Matters" - perhaps by design. All that would be required is for a 50s or 60s scribe to write up a match and send it in. Or might this just be telling us all what we already know - as many politicians seem to do nowadays. Though the thought did occur that at Melville on May 1st Ham D'Souza scored 6 goals and Peter Wallis got 5 - and I doubt that very many players other than team-mates knew about it. What do readers think?

3rd July - Wanted to Buy: One goal, please contact the Blue forward line.

3rd July - Wanted to Buy: One goal, please contact the White forward line.

10th July - Wanted to Buy: One win, please contact the Blue team. (*Only non-winners on the day*)

24th July - Wanted to Buy: One goal, please contact the Blue forward line.

24th July - Wanted to Buy: One goal, please contact the Blue team's opposition. (*Three 0-0 draws*)

Blues Dispel Blues: The Blue team had scored only 1 goal from the first 9 matches in the 3rd quarter, but overcame the goal-scoring blues on 31st July. Step 1 was to lend their 12th player to the Gold team, who were short. Step 2 was to have him score an own goal. Actually the drought had broken well before this, and the Blues' 4 goals for the day indicate that they are a competitive force again.

Department Of Limericks Part 2: Our opponents were one short for their match against Electric Blue (who had 12), so captain Roger Partington changed sides, and

While a fill-in for Green, Roger P
Stopped a C M-S shot with his knee
But did Col then say "Pardon
That was such a hard one."
Just, "You prevented a goal for EB."

(This provides a new dimension to the terms "friendly fire" and "blue on blue." Ed.)

Department of Corrections: It appears that the "Masters Matters" proof-reader has been at it again - up all night watching the Tour de France and Wimbledon. The error he missed required Rusty Phillips to point out that the John Sanders question had been turned into nonsense by including the same goal tally for both option a) and b). The question in its correct form can be found in "Test Your Knowledge" on Page 6. As I'm sure readers who know him can imagine, Rusty almost said that he could not decide between a) and b), but of course did not say that, as (he actually said) had he done so, he would of course have been wrong. (*Complicated enough? Ed.*)

What has happened in this issue, given that Test cricket is also now on the proof-reader's schedule, I will no doubt discover when the complaints start to arrive.

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: Last issue's (July - No 7) question should have read: In all of the matches involving Australia, a total of 5,407 goals have gone in. The Kookaburras have scored a) 2188 b) 2688 c) 3188 or d) 3688 of them? As Rusty well knew the correct answer is d) 3688 and during those matches they conceded 1719 goals. I wish they could have spared a few for struggling O/60s Wednesday Masters teams - and newsletter editors.

This issue's question is: After the 1956 Olympic Games, at the request of the opposition, Australia played a one off Test in Sydney losing 3-5. Ian Dick scored two goals and Mel Pearce one. Was it against: a) Kenya b) Singapore c) New Zealand d) Pakistan? Answer next issue.

Happy Birthday: Another birthday with a zero on the end of it has been celebrated far from the madding crowd in the Stadium bar, but the new septuagenarian was unaware that it would be. John Sanders' entire collection of children conspired to whisk them all off to Melbourne for two football matches (MCG and The Dome), a birthday dinner, and breakfast. Congratulations and best wishes to John from all Wednesday Masters and the entire staff of this not so august journal.

Department Of Health Part 3: I have heard that Mal Jackaman has undergone a major operation for prostate cancer. All Wednesday Masters hope that it went OK, and that a speedy and complete recovery is now under way.

Department Of Limericks Part 3: Another limerick became necessary after the excitement at Perry Lakes detailed on Page 2. For the benefit of 50s, and 60s late arrivals, Barry Rutter's usual pre-match practice at the Stadium is to don all the goalkeeping gear above the south-east corner of Turf 2. So the prospect of an on-field role in the Saturday 65s at Perry Lakes caused some disruption.

Off to YM went our Barry R
But his pre-game routine took a jar
Perry Lakes has no bank
With a high water tank
So he locked all his keys in the car.

Beaten Pointless? While at Perry Lakes "Masters Matters" did make an enquiry as to the 65s points table, and Ric Denny gave us the full details, Blue - 0, White - 0. It's obviously very close.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: There are two competing group entries for the month of July - those who were locked out at Melville - and those who emerged from the showers at Hale, only to discover that the bar would not open until 4:00 pm, and went home.

Happy Birthday Part 2: Rusty Phillips was not able to go to the international hockey (World League) in Johore Baru with Gordon Thomas, as he was grounded for the birth of his second grand-child. Derek Jobe went instead - and I have heard that Rusty's descendant arrived safely and well. He must have earned enough Brownie points to make his long awaited come-back at Hale on the 17th - but was not sighted at the Stadium on the 24th. Did it take two weeks to recover? (*Having sighted Rusty at the Stadium on the 31st we asked him directly - and the answer to this question was "Yes!"*)

The running tide in the Thames



Quotable Quote #2: "A wild call, and a clear call, that may not be denied." John Masefield - 1878 to 1967. Poet Laureate 1930 to 1967. He obviously lived long enough to have experienced the necessity of a toilet visit in the middle of the night, and seems to me to have summed it up quite well. If you do not know the poem "Sea Fever" the call is that of the running tide.

They Said It: "America is the only place where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked." David Letterman.
"I don't believe in astrology. I am a Sagittarius, and we're very sceptical." Arthur C Clarke.

Punology Two: Butcher's sign (Glenferrie Meats): "Not shopping here would be a missed steak."

Department of Tourism: It was a very hot day at Lords for the cricket Test, and I am reliably informed that Mike Black joined an extremely long queue in need of some refreshment. Their ultimate aim was not to purchase a cold beer, but an ice cream. There's a first time for everything.

Shakespeare Said It: Portia in 'The Merchant of Venice' Act IV, Scene I - "The quality of mercy is not strained; it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven." I still half-expect a player to use this during an appeal to the umpire after being penalised. Shylock said no - umpires would probably say the same.

Strange But True: "Fools rush in where fools have been before." Source unknown.

Something Completely Different Part Two: More from the “Washington Post” - who invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here is a second instalment of the winners:

- 11) Karmageddon:** It's like, when everybody is sending off all those seriously bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
- 12) Decafalon (n):** The gruelling event of getting through the day consuming only things which are good for you.
- 13) Glibido:** All talk and no action.
- 14) Dopeler Effect:** The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
- 15) Arachnoleptic Fit (n):** The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
- 16) Beelzebug (n):** Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
- 17) Caterpallor (n):** The colour you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

Department Of Health Part 4: Others in recovery include Peter Blockley, whose badly cut finger required stitches both after the cut and the subsequent infection. Both Neil Patterson and Ric Denny had the cataract / new lens operation - apparently successfully judging by their form on the 31st.

Picturesque Speech: “Huge man eating crayfish seen at Joe’s.” ” It was the tastiest I’ve ever eaten,” explained the very satisfied and very tall (6’ 11”) diner. From the menu at Joe’s Fish Shack.

Sports Reporting: Please be nice to John Burt, who has had an accident while returning from the WA Country training session in Narrogin. The car left the road and hit a tree at about 90 kph - both John and wife Anne are OK apart from minor grazes, but the beloved BMW is a write-off.

Grand Masters Hockey - Europe: Good trip and good hockey to all Kontich attendees. Some of us will be attempting to follow your progress on the various web sites.

Stop Press: Many thanks to all the July umpires. They included Bala Chandran, Lionel David, Roger Davey, Ric Denny, Peter Ford, Terry Gaston, Lloyd Jones, John Lindsay, Bob Le Merle, Neil Mannolini, John Mercer (*very rusty*), Ian Pestana, Gordon Thomas, Ric Watts, and Ken Watt. And good to have past players such as George Winning, Jeff Godfrey, and Stu Calder join us in the Stadium bar.

Late News: Our web master is off to Kontich, and will not be able to maintain the O/60s on-line points table while he is away. We will endeavour to announce the latest in the bar each Wednesday.

One Last Word: Please note that our umpires do not have access to the Decision Review System (D.R.S.)as they are neither a Decision Raffle System (*as I have heard*) nor a Disastrous Rafferty's Stuff-up like the one currently being used at Old Trafford.

All news and other contributions to:

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