

**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

Dates For The Diary:

September 4th: Barbecue at the Stadium.

September 25th: Masters Nationals - Sydney.

October 2nd: Masters Nationals - Sydney.

October 16th: International 9 a side series - Stadium unavailable.

November 6th: Barbecue at the Stadium?

November: Resurfacing of turfs at the Stadium - fixture adjustments.

December 18th: Christmas Party.

December 25th / January 1st: No hockey.

Letters To The Editor (Non-Serious): Many thanks to the August issue respondents. They included Peter Murray, John Milner, Pam Herbert, Bill Baldwin, and Peter Fogels (who managed to post No 8 to the web-site before going out to sample the local brew in Vienna). Several extracts herewith:

Peter Murray (re Ken Watt's club history.): "Congratulations to Ken Watt. Two years with Graylands. They usually keep them much longer." *We checked with Ken - in case of accidents. Ed.*

Pam Herbert (on a topic near and dear to most of us): "The first testicular guard the "Cup" was used in hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974.

That means that it only took men 100 years to realize that their brain is also important."

Perhaps after 100 years one starts to think of and with higher things. Ed.

A little bird (for obvious reasons): "With the up and coming ventures, both overseas and interstate, shared accommodation has or is in the stages of being finalized. This can be a complex arrangement for the organizers - who snores, who does not, who does not drink, who drinks too much, what disagreeable habits your room mate may have, etc, etc. Although we live in a civilized society where the creaking of the closet door is and should be of little concern it may be prudent for the owner of the vehicle displaying the bumper sticker "I'M A GAY" parked at the Stadium one Wednesday to declare themselves." *Has Matt Lucas joined our ranks unbeknownst to me? Ed.*

Rusty Philips (responding to the previous issue): "Date last played: Wednesday September 22, 2010. Period of inactivity: 5 days short of 2 years 10 months, but, hey who's counting?"

Quotable Quote No 1: "There can be few fields of human endeavour in which history counts for so little as in the world of finance. Past experience, to the extent that it is part of memory at all, is dismissed as the primitive refuge of those who do not have the insight to appreciate the incredible wonders of the present." J. K. Galbraith - quoted by Satjavit Das on the ABC's Drum.

What's In A Name?: To those who are concerned that this edition of "Masters Matters" has been published posthumously, the John Mercer in the death notices on August 26th was not the editor. *Quotable Quote No 2 on Page 6 is possibly relevant here.*

Seek Not To Know For Whom The Bell Tolls?: Barry Rutter's reaction when the newsletter editor turned up on 28th August was "So it was the wrong one." It's a common name; there were 3 of us in hockey - Scarborough, Wesley, & YMCA. Some of us like to think that we're uncommon people.

Punology One: Just in case readers thought we'd plumbed the bottom of the barrel fear not, we can always go lower. Did you hear about the nuclear physicist whose favourite lunch was fission chips?

Letters To The Editor (Serious):

Bill Baldwin (on Bryan Rourke): "It may not be well known that Bryan commenced his hockey career in Kalgoorlie, both in junior and senior ranks. He was freakishly athletic at most sports and I had the opportunity to play with, and watch him excel, in first grade basketball (Perry Lakes) and football, as well as hockey. ... after his death he was elected to the Goldfields Sportsmen's Hall of Fame, principally as a result of his Australian international representation. This award is recognised with a plaque and photo displayed in the Kalgoorlie Town Hall. The only photo available to the Committee responsible was a very grainy black and white from a newspaper of the day.

I was asked some time ago to assist with a more presentable photograph. Photographs in my possession are very old "local" black and white team shots from the early 60s. His wife, Philomena, has only the same grainy photo. John Sanders has offered to follow up with Hockey Australia for possible Australian team photos, but was not all that hopeful that such records would be available.

With that background, would you mind adding a bit of a note in Edition No 9 requesting assistance from anyone who may have a good, preferably colour, photo, either action shot in Australian uniform; or formal, in Australian blazer, which they would be willing to make available for copying and enlarging." *Bill can be contacted via "Masters Matters" Ed.*

Editorial Corner: This time we include something different - here are the results for the Southern Cross and Alliance teams (some of us are current or past players) from the Kontich tournament.

18/08/2013: Netherland B 70 (0) Alliance 70 (2)

19/08/2013: Southern Cross 60 (1) LX Club 60 (2)

Southern Cross 65 (0) LX Club Red 60 (4)

Welsh Dragon 60 (1) Alliance 60 (4)

Belgium 65 (1) Alliance 65 (2)

20/08/2013: Germany B 60 (1) Alliance 60 (1)

Alliance 70 (0) LX Club 70 (2)

Southern Cross 60 (0) Netherlands B 60 (3)

Netherlands B 65 (5) Southern Cross 65 (0)

Alliance 65 (3) LX Club White 65 (3)

21/08/2013: Alliance 70 (3) Netherlands B 70 (0)

Southern Cross 60 (3) Germany B 60 (0)

Alliance 60 (1) LX Club 60 (2)

LX Club Red (6) Alliance 65 (0)

LX Club White 65 (1) Southern Cross 65 (1)

22/08/2013: Southern Cross 60 (1) Alliance 60 (1)

Alliance 65 (7) Southern Cross 65 (0)

23/08/2013: Southern Cross 60 (5) Welsh Dragon 60 (0)

Southern Cross 65 (0) Belgium 65 (1)

Netherlands B 60 (2) Alliance 60 (1)

Netherlands B 65 (3) Alliance 65 (1)

Thanks to Ken Watt for several bulletins from the front line. The 65s were badly affected by injury.

Picturesque Speech: From Carl Vine of Musica Viva: "Please turn off your mobile phones - this year has already featured several un-programmed performances of the Nokia Concerto."

Whistle While We Work - With Neil Mannolini:

Father time is cruel.
He reduces the abilities of even the stars of yesterday.
They often cannot reach to hit the ball or gather it.
Their stick is often a 'tad' late and the opponent moves off.
They wield their 'axe' and chop his stick.
The 'Whistler' blows for the breach of the rule.

Why is it so? Rule 9.3 is why.
Why? It states "Players must not touch, handle or interfere with other players or their sticks or clothing.
So DO NOT blame Father Time.
If you cannot play the ball cleanly it's your fault. Just let your opponent move on, but be better positioned in future! Your breach and positioning has let your team down.

Neil - volunteer umpire

Department Of Viticulture: The wine ladder did not make it into the August issue, but needs to be included this time to compensate the Blue, Electric Blue, and Red teams who collectively failed to register a win on 28th August. Wine wins in the third quarter have gone to Electric Blue, Green, and Red (6), Gold (4), Blue (3), White and past players (2). Ham D'Souza is doing most of the work for the Blue team and needs some help in the bar - I trust he is getting some on the turf.

Department Of Limericks: Some news on the O/50s reached me on 7th August (*there is a first time for everything*) - a day when the O/60s finished all their matches in a temporary dry spell, while players in the later games were forcibly reminded that hockey is a winter sport.

Masters 50s have suffered some pain
When unable to play through the rain
Such a heavy downfall
They could not see the ball
But at least it confirmed that they're sane.
Depending how long it took to decide to abandon play.

It Pays To Advertise?: The August "Masters Matters" included two solicitations for a goal and one for a win on behalf of the 60s Blue team. It also included a report that their goal scoring drought had been broken, and that they had become a competitive force again. This may have been too much publicity, as they had 3 wins and scored 7 goals on 14th August. Some of us might describe this as being a little over-competitive, but that would only be those of us who lost to them.

I Wrote Too Soon?: The Blues lost all their three games on 28th August (*not my fault*). It was also a very bad day for Electric Blue (*largely my fault*) and Red (*not my fault*). Each team scored 1 goal only. Will the stewards hold an inquiry? Probably not, as peptide usage does not seem to be a factor.

Department Of Health: Best wishes for a quick recovery to all Sydney attendees currently getting over injury. Those I have been able to note include Les Waldon, Peter Willet, David Lester, Heath Tyrell, and Steve Farrar (State 55s and WHM 50s).

Pertinent Question: Obviously we picked a very non-pertinent question last issue, as no responses or match reports were received. Does this mean that readers are satisfied with the status quo - or perhaps are just apathetic (see "*Strange But True*" - next paragraph). For this issue I'll attempt a more controversial topic, and ask the umpiring critics why it is that they so seldom are prepared to demonstrate to the rest of us how it should be done. In past days I personally used to claim that the worst I could say about a hockey umpire was that I could do a lot better myself. As many readers will know, that means a fairly poor umpire. This question should be one on which most of us have an opinion - what do readers think?

Strange But True: A recent survey asked its respondents the question: "Do you think that apathy is a serious problem in today's society?" By far the most common response is reported to have been: "Don't know, don't care."

Department Of Aged Care: Happy birthday (the one with a zero on the end) to Robin Bailey, who is now eligible to play in a higher grade in Sydney. Happy birthday also to Peter Murray - who recently passed the same milestone - which I trust you both celebrated appropriately. Birthday wishes also to "twins" Gordon Thomas and Brian Soares, who as of 8th August are one step behind Robin and Peter, and also one step closer to converting our Wednesday competition from O/ 60s to O/70s. (*Wait for me please, won't be long - Ed.*) Paul Robinson was buying drinks on August 28th for the same reason - happy birthday (not a 70th) and thanks for the beer. August seems to be a month of many celebrations in the Wednesday Masters fraternity.

Department Of Limericks Part 2: Many Wednesday Masters seem to be aging rapidly - that's just chronologically, not on the hockey turf. Pronunciation should be self evident.

Several Masters have passed 7 0
It's not really a time for deep woe
Some claim that we're mental
But that's incidental
Though you never should say that we're slow.

As we all know, the older we get the faster we were. Ed.

Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department: "Sometimes I think the surest sign that intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe is that none of it has tried to contact us." Bill Watterson -the "Calvin and Hobbes" cartoonist. *He's also 13 years younger than me - Ed.*

Compliments To The Chefs: Thank you to the cooks on 7th August who braved the rather inclement weather to feed the multitudes - by which I mean that the attendance was pretty good from both 60s and 50s. Those I know of are Simon Thomson and Gordon Thomas - apologies if I missed you.

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: Herewith the answer to last issue's question which was: 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

Rusty Phillips got this one right, as well as the one asking how long it's been since he last played on a Wednesday (*see letters to the Editor*). The correct answer is d) Pakistan.

This issue's question is: In 1983 Australia competed in the first Azlan Shah Cup at the Tun Abdul Razak Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, winning every game. Australia's top goal scorer with 6 goals was:

a) Craig Davies b) Nigel Patmore c) Peter Hazelhurst d) Terry Walsh? Answer next issue.

Department of Corrections: Despite all the sports watching hours put in by our proof-reader no complaints were received from readers. Either there were no errors - or just possibly no readers.

Poets' Corner: I have yet to leave a hockey club intentionally, and the prospect of doing so did not fill me with joy. Is there any such thing as a happy ending?

On Departing From A Hockey Club

From hockey clubs I've never walked away
I have no wish to simply say goodbye
But soon will come my final playing day
At Eastern Blades it seems the end is nigh.

I joined them when I was without a game
A smaller club of old and brand new friends
Of sportsmanship, and never casting blame
But all things good and bad must have their ends.

Some advice from Roger Mac I took to heart
While you keep on we all can have a role
But now I'm far too old to play a part
There is no chance I'll score another goal.

I can play on, and make the same mistakes
In Masters Sixty Fives at Perry Lakes.

More Information?: Further to our story last issue about Mike Black and a lengthy queue for an ice cream, we were informed by Mike himself that he did have a beer in hand when he joined the line.

Quotable Quote #2: After his obituary was mistakenly published: "Reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." Mark Twain.

Gold Shines Again: A highlight for the Gold 60s was winning their 3 games on August 28th, and there was speculation as to whether this had ever happened before. Last time was August 31st, 2011 - a year when Gold won the George Winning trophy. A lowlight was scoring 4 goals on 14th August while their opposition scored none - but unfortunately 2 of them were own goals in a 0-1 loss.

The Umpire is Right Again - 65s at Perry Lakes

O/65s Good & Bad News: Efforts are in progress as this issue is being finalised to keep the games going through summer. The venue is yet to be confirmed, but Perry Lakes is a strong possibility. The time of starting will probably be moved to a later, cooler hour. It is still a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon - provided, of course, that you are old enough.

The bad news is that team captain, co-organizer, and photographer (*see above*) Ric Denny is moving permanently to NSW shortly, and will be lost to us on both Wednesdays and Saturdays. Thank you Ric, not only for all your great work on the O/65s, but also for all the Stadium umpiring - we will miss you both on and off the field. Is there any chance of you getting up to Homebush from Bowral for the Sydney tournament? Or will your move be a work in progress at that time?

They Said It: "As I hurtled through space one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder." John Glenn.
"Nostalgia isn't what it used to be." Source unknown.

Punology Two: Did you hear about the two silkworms who decided to have a race. They ended up in a tie. (*From Roger Partington - some time ago*)

Dummy Spit Of The Day: Somebody included the words "John Mercer missed another easy goal" in the last issue. No sooner said than done, repeatedly on 28th August - the third time prompting me to become an entrant for this not-so-prestigious award. Were there more?

Something Completely Different Part Three: More from the “Washington Post” - for this one they invited readers to take any word from the dictionary and supply a new definition. Here is an initial instalment of the winners:

- 1) **Coffee (n):** The person upon whom one coughs.
- 2) **Flabbergasted (adj):** Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
- 3) **Abdicate (v):** To give all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
- 4) **Esplanade (v):** To attempt an explanation while drunk.
- 5) **Willy-nilly (adj):** Impotent.
- 6) **Negligent (adj):** Absentmindedly answering the door while wearing only a negligee.
- 7) **Lymph (v):** To walk with a lisp.
- 8) **Gargoyle (n):** Olive-flavoured mouthwash.

Shakespeare Said It: In theatrical circles it is supposed to be bad luck to quote from what they refer to as “The Scottish play.” But the current federal election campaign is perfectly described by “It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.” Macbeth Act V Scene IV.

Shakespeare Said It Part Two: “Oh wise and upright judge. A Daniel is come to judgement.” This version comes from Charles Lamb’s “Tales From Shakespeare”, and is not quite verbatim. One of these Wednesdays I expect to hear similar sentiments directed at our umpires.

Hockey World Cups - Europe: 2014 will feature many tournaments in the Netherlands ranging from O/70s to the one featuring the Kookaburras. More on these in the post-Sydney issue.

Comebacks: Mal Jackaman and Nigel Thomas were both at the stadium on the 28th, in addition to our usual past players George Winning, Stu Calder, and Jeff Godfrey. During August we have also seen Peter Hammond and Dudley Younger. I trust that Roger Jewell’s return to hockey through the Saturday O/65s has not been derailed by the muscle injury he suffered on the 28th.

Department Of Tourism: Our best wishes to all Wednesday Masters departing shortly to the Sydney championship. Have a safe and on-schedule trip, good hockey, and good socialising. The next issue will be appearing later in October - after my return, as I lack the gadgetry to work on it in Sydney.

Stop Press: Many thanks to all the August umpires. They included Bill Campbell, Bala Chandran, Lionel David, Ric Denny, Ross Easton, Peter Ford, Vern Gooch, John Harper, Ian Hill, Lloyd Jones, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, Bob Le Merle, Les Waldon, and Ken Watt. Special mention goes to Steve Farrar of the O/50s, who while recovering from injury arrived to umpire - and really looked the part. And a very special mention to Peter Brien, former teammate of John Milner at Wolves, who umpired Saturday’s O/65s from a walking frame seat on the Perry Lakes sidelines - and did a great job.

Late News: A trial of some variations to our age groups is being contemplated. We will know more after the Sydney tournament when the proposal is finalised and the details worked through.

All news and other contributions to:

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