

Wednesday Hockey Masters Perth Est 1991

Blue 70s

Gold 70s

White 70s

Gold 60s

White 60s

Blue 60s

Blue 50s

Red 50s

White 50s

Masters Matters

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A Division (formerly O/70s): From December 4th until further notice at Hale.

George Winning search party: Page 7.

Dates For The Diary:

November to January: Stadium turfs re-surfacing - **weekly email fixtures. As (aka 70s) at Hale.**

December 18th: WHM Christmas Party

December 25th / January 1st: No hockey.

March 16th: WHM touring side(s) to Bunbury.

May 31st to June 15th 2014: World Cup (Men and Women). Kyogera Stadium - The Hague.

June 5th to 13th 2014: World Cup (40s, 45s, 50s, and 55s) Rotterdam Hockey Club.

June 3rd to 13th 2014: World Cup (60s, 65s, 70s, 75s) Hockey Club Klein Switzerland - The Hague.

September 27th to October 11th 2014: Interstate Masters Championships in Perth.

WHM Bunbury Tour - Don't Say You Didn't Know: Following on from the successful visit of WHM to Bunbury this year another visit has been proposed for 2014. It is proposed to try for 2 teams, one over 65 and the other over 55. There are 2 grounds at the Bunbury location, with the 2 teams playing concurrently. 2 teams are being sought to try and involve more players in Bunbury & WHM. If there are insufficient numbers, particularly for an O/55 team that team will be cancelled.

The time and date selected is for a 3:00 pm start on Sunday March 16, 2014 Format is for 3 games of 25 minutes duration, followed by a BBQ. The later starting time has been chosen to take into account the weather in March can be unpredictable, and we did not want to have to play in searing heat. The games are to be played in WHM spirit, i.e. we are playing for enjoyment only, and against players who we would not normally play. Transport will be for each player to arrange; this year car pooling was successfully organised by some of the players. Some players last year stayed overnight in Bunbury; once again this is at each player's discretion. Costs are yet to be determined and will be each player's responsibility.

It is proposed to have 12 players for each team to ensure the maximum game time for each player. Nominations are now being called for players who wish to participate. If there are more than 12 nominations the selector's decision will be final and the selection criteria will be: -

- 1) Order in which the nominations are received.
- 2) Team balance. We don't want to take 12 goalies.
- 3) Any vacancies that arise will be filled taking into account the above 2 criteria.

Nominations for 2 umpires are also being sought. We are looking for 2 honorary volunteers. Spectators are welcome to attend, but we will need numbers for catering purposes. Spectators will be required to contribute to the barbecue.

Nominations for teams & umpires are to go to John Mercer (johnmercercer@iinet.net.au) & open from 10/12/2014. Spectators (including partners of players) wanting to attend should also advise John.

Direct questions to Robin Bailey (email robin.b@bigpond.com or phone 9332 3345).

Regards, Robin Bailey

New Age(s) Hockey: Comments about our trial are still conspicuous by their total absence. Maybe Simon and Bob are receiving all the grumbles - or possibly everything is working brilliantly after the latest adjustments (70s: 4 x 20 minutes, 60s: 3 x 40 minutes, 50s: 3 x 35 minutes). A personal view: 70s: Standard improving. Play even - scores not always so (*I blame Rusty Phillips - ace goalscorer*).

Eleven plus players per team. 80 minutes allows everybody to have a run.

Two goalkeepers are not always available.

60s: Speed of play and standard has improved markedly.

Eleven players per team, and often more. 80 minutes is probably the minimum time needed.

50s: Numbers seemed well down on 13th November. Apparently much the same on the 20th.

All teams: Shirts and socks will be organised after finalisation of teams and fixtures on both turfs.

Letters To The Editor: Thank you for the feedback on the previous issue. Respondents included Ric Denny, Pam Herbert, and Stan Salazaar.

Ric Denny: (*Who dropped us a line from Bowral*) "... Have made a couple of contacts re local comp but as yet nothing concrete. State selection trials (for NSW) are to be held at Grafton in March and Keith Ellis (a part-time Wednesday player / visitor) has been keeping me informed. Glad to hear that Saturday O/65s is going (what I read as) from strength to strength. I enjoyed catching up with the O/70s state and country guys in Sydney, a final farewell I guess for my hockey playing days in/for WA. ... my regards to all WHM."

Thanks Ric - 'Masters Matters' looks forward to more on Masters Hockey in NSW. Ed.

Stan Salazaar: "I am out of commission with very painful sciatica on my lower right back and have not had a decent sleep in three weeks. All this just when I was looking forward to the new O/70s format." Stan also sent us this:

A famous hockey coach goes to heaven, where he puts together a team of history's greatest hockey players. God (the first great hockey player) decides he would like to play a friendly game against the team from HELL. He phones the devil and asks "Are you interested in a game of hockey?" "Why not?" replies the devil. "I am warning you though. You will never win."

"Well, we have the best players of all time." says God.

"I know" says the devil. "But we have all the umpires."

Happy umpiring.

(Hope you get an occasional free hit when you resume Stan. Ed.)

Christmas Party: The date is Wednesday 18th December, the venue is Perth Hockey Stadium, start time is 6:00 p.m. for 6:30 p.m., and the (subsidised) cost is \$20 per head. Pre-booking and pre-payment is essential, and should be done on a team basis - through your captain or team manager. David Evans is the co-ordinator for the 60s and 50s (*should that be Bs and Cs? See next paragraph*). Past players are to be invited by email, and can book in through either Simon or Bob. (*PS: O/70s Gold team members please see John Mercer*) (*PPS: It's outside, bring a jumper*)

Picturesque Speech?: I am reliably informed that Wednesday Masters new names for our 3 age ranges are As (70s), Bs (60s), and Cs (50s). Bill Campbell's version would now be ROCs, OCs, and Cs.

Shakespeare Said It: "To B or not to B, that is the question." Speaking in the character of a player who cannot decide which division to play in - A, B, or C. Hamlet Act III Scene I.

Rules 'R' Us:

F.I.H. has agreed a change to the Rules of hockey:

1) Own goal rule: This mandatory Experimental Rule will no longer be mandatory and will become an experimental rule only with effect from February 14th 2014. (This rule may continue to be used in international tournaments where their current competitions are in progress). And with effect from the 1st September 2014 it will be deleted and Rule 8 will be amended and state that: -

A goal is scored when the ball is played within the circle by an attacker and does not travel outside the circle before passing completely over the goal-line and under the cross bar. The ball may be played by a defender or touch their body before or after being played in the circle by an attacker.

2) It also follows that as of 1st September 2014 the guidance to rule 9.7 that defenders are also permitted to use the stick to stop or deflect the ball at any height if it is likely to enter the goal as a result of mandatory Rule 8 will also be deleted.

F.I.H. has concluded that the own goal was contradictory to reasons for changing the free hit rules. Concern was expressed that the rule penalises skill, with the encouragement to fire the ball into the circle seen as unattractive and also increasing danger at lower levels of the game.

My personal view is that our Wednesday Masters competition should lead by adopting F.I.H.'s changes with immediate effect. We have certainly seen examples of 'firing the ball into the circle' and defenders swatting at a ball in a crowded circle. Maybe from January 1st 2014 would be more effective and give all more time to let it sink in! (*Agree totally - Ed.*)

Probability of danger must be eliminated. We must encourage attractive hockey.

Neil Mannolini

More Tournament Numbers: It appeared that our Wednesday competitions might be quite severely depleted during the World Cups at The Hague - so 'Masters Matters' extracted some numbers. The Australian sides account for 20 of our players, Southern Cross will feature 33, and the Alliance has 3. We had about 40 at Oxford, so with 56 in the Netherlands the WHM-generated world economic recovery gathers pace and momentum.

Quotable Quote No 1: Our chairman is applying it at writing time, so: "Painting, the art of protecting flat surfaces from the weather and exposing them to the critic." Ambrose Bierce - Devil's Dictionary.

Department Of Limericks: As a follow-up to last issue's Dummy Spit - and previous debate about cards - this expression of sympathy for our whistlers.

One can only feel sorry for umps
Who must sometimes be down in the dumps
They get so much advice
And it's often not nice
Why not deal out a card to the grumps.
Unfortunately 'grumps' possibly includes newsletter editors.

Anti Aging Drugs? Since the trials started the game after we senior citizens have finished is usually a bit quicker, and of a (*very!*) slightly higher standard. On the 20th November we wondered whether the younger blokes had been taking performance enhancing substances - then discovered that the game in progress was the Australian under 21s versus Singapore in their final practice before the Junior World Cup in New Delhi between 6th and 15th December.

Strange But True: One division of our Wednesday hockey (the A) has been moved to Hale for the time it will take to replace both turfs at PHS. Eric Alcock and John Mercer wish to go on record that we had no influence in this decision whatsoever, despite being beneficiaries.

Punology One: A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking. *Thank you Jack Halley.*

Pertinent Question: It would seem to be time that 'Masters Matters' stopped posing so many big questions as answers are seldom forthcoming. This time let's keep it a bit simpler - are you going to the WHM Christmas Party? And will you be taking a wife /partner / friend? Tell your team captain and pay him your \$20 per person attending - as soon as possible.

Department Of Aged Care: This title was applied to our new A division (by 'Masters Matters') as it's said that they require more attention than the other 2 divisions combined. What else would be the logical outcome of putting all the grumpy old men together and starting them at 11:45 am?

Department Of Limericks Part 2: Since the new age ranges began the 50s seem to be conspicuous by their absence. As no reader comment is forthcoming...

We have finished with 2013

And a very big year it has been

Add a Saturday group

Plus a seventies troop

But there's not a young bloke to be seen.

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: Herewith the answer to last issue's question which was: Who has scored the most goals for Australia at the Olympic Games so far? No answers arrived - the actual figures for the players given were:

(a) Jamie Dwyer (17) (b) Ron Riley (19) (c) Eric Pearce (15) (d) Jay Stacy (13).

This issue's question is: The brothers Tom and Doug Golder, Trevor and Barry Cibich, Lachlan and James Elmer, and Jason and Darren Duff all played senior hockey for Australia. Which pair is different from the others? Answer next issue.

Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department: Some time ago (May 2012) we had cause to quote Winston Churchill on Montgomery. Thanks to Jack Halley for another quote appropriate for this section: "In retreat, resolute, in advance, invincible, in victory, insufferable."

Compliments To The Chefs: Thank you to the November cooks - as far as I am aware the sizzling on November 6th was done by Barry Rutter and Gordon Thomas.

Department of Corrections: No complaints again - what are we doing wrong?

O/65s Action



Ash Foster, Col Benporath, John Milner, & Bob Bowyer at Perry Lakes

O/65s Gold News: The gold shirts were needed on Saturday 23rd November when 3 teams were selected from the 30 players present. At present the starting time is 3:00 p.m. (that's 15:00) and the ground and line markings are in pristine condition. Numbers may drop off a little when the cricket test and Christmas parties get under way - but it's still a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon. *(Thanks to John Sanders for the photograph)*

They Said It: John Mercer bought a ticket in February for both Perth concerts by the Concertgebouw and claimed: "It's cheaper than flying to the Netherlands." Later in the year he decided to go to the World Cup and bought a ticket to Amsterdam. The music was a **lot** cheaper - and both the concerts were terrific. PS: The orchestra do not seem to be performing while we are there.

Poets' Corner: Another one from Anon:
She frowned and called him Mr.
Because he never kr.
And so in spite
That very night
This Mr. kr sr.

Gone But Not Forgotten: As a follow up to this story in the previous issue, the minutes of the last committee meeting indicate that the Electric Blue shirts will continue onward. Although as a past member of both I have some regrets that this will be as a replacement for the Blue teams. Eric Alcock has questioned what needs to be done with the trophy cabinets of the discontinued sides - and perhaps we will have to arrange a garage sale.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: At the time of going to press I am unable to find any suitable recipient other than myself. The award goes to John Mercer, for conduct unbecoming at Perry Lakes on 30th November. Further details will not be forthcoming and no correspondence will be entered into.

Quotable Quote #2: It's that time of the year again: "I stopped believing in Santa Claus when my mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph." Shirley Temple.

Punology Two: The English language has many keen students and practitioners, who at times get away with a lot. Hence this: "Santa's little helpers are subordinate clauses." (*from Jack Halley*)

Comebacks Fictional: George Winning must be younger than 'Masters Matters' thought. In response to our invite to attend and play in the O/70s at the Stadium on 20th November he went to Hale. George - was it to play in the O/60s, or did the O/50s come up with a better offer?

Comebacks Factual: During November it has been great to see the return of Mal Jackaman to the turf after a long absence. Also returning were Peter Ford and Gordon Thomas.

Department Of Health: Best recovery wishes to all our players with current major problems. Those we know of are Ric Watts (infection after arthroscopy (Ham D'Souza (possible back surgery), Bob Bowyer (knee replacement), and Barry Rutter (DVT?). The same goes to all those we do not know of, as well as those with any short-term problems.

November Umpires: Thank you to all our whistlers. Those noted included Peter Andrews, Dudley Burrell, Bill Campbell, Bala Chandran, Ham D'Souza, Dudley Evans, Peter Ford, Vern Gooch, Bob Le Merle, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, Ian Pestana, Ken Watt, and Ivan Wilson.

Latest Turf News: A casual conversation with the Stadium ground maintenance supervisor on the 27th November revealed that the estimated completion date for Turf 2 is now 19th December. The Turf 1 work is due to begin on 6th January, and hopefully be completed by the end of the month, as its underlay will remain in place.

Latest TV News: Thanks to John Sanders for the information that the ABC will be telecasting hockey from the women's World League (this week), men's World League finals in January, men's and women's World Cups in June, and the 2014 Championship Trophies at the end of the year. Channel 10 has the Commonwealth Games, and as John points out, every major tournament will be covered.

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - O/70s Gold team, wherever we are. Email: johnmercer@inet.net.au

Thank You All For 2013: This year has seen the greatest changes made to Wednesday Masters since I tacked on to the Blue O/60s in September 2006. Firstly the Saturday O/65s were added, and then came the modification and extension of our existing age groups. 'Masters Matters' will again attempt to offer thanks to those who have contributed to our successful 2013.

Executive: Our ruling triumvirate of Chairman Simon Thomson, Secretary Bob Bowyer, and Treasurer Brian Lester continue to work hard and effectively. When Bob's knee operation is taken into account (as well as the Saturday 65s, the Lotto syndicate and the wine raffle) it's no wonder he's sometimes referred to as the Minister for Everything. Simon provides direction and purpose, while dealing with complaints from a lot of grumpy old men, while Spider has outdone many other treasurers with a surplus. Roger Partington continues to produce fixtures, Peter Fogels provides the web-site and keeps it up-to-date, and Robin Bailey continues to care for the mercery (*that is not me - Ed*). Many thanks to you all, and may a less tumultuous 2014 be in store for all.

Team Captains: Many thanks to all those who have undertaken this role during the year. These include Greg Allen, Dave Mellor, George Naylor, Ian Pestana, Dave Evans (committee liaison), Eric Alcock, Peter Andrews, Colin Gee, Dave Horsley, Derek Jobe, , Mal Jackaman, Roger Partington Bob Robinson, Gordon Thomas, Ivan Wilson, Ash Challenor, Bob le Merle, Graeme Nichols and Nick Pereira. Well done all - I trust that your teams were polite and respectful.

Sponsors: Thanks to Greg Allen who has been our naming rights sponsor again. All Wednesday Masters should be aware of Greg's Discount Chemist - if not start reading in your next game.

Umpires: 2013 non-player umpires were (in order of appearance in "Masters Matters") Lionel David, Peter Ford (during injury absence), Vern Gooch, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, and Les Meade. And also Neil Scaddan, Gordon Thomas and Ric Denny (during lengthy injury absences).

The player umpires have been too numerous to list in full as we all seem to have had a go. Many thanks from MM to each and every umpire for performing this necessary and thankless task.

Stadium Staff: Thank you to the cast of thousands (we jest of course) for all the gate-opening, pre-game watering, leaf-clearing, and ice. Not to mention the chips and efficient service of cold drinks.

O/65s: Congratulations to all those who started this competition, and keep it going. Ric Denny and Les Waldon with assistance from Bob Bowyer got things going, and the competition is thriving. I do not have enough space to list all the workers but mention must be made of Ken Watt and Howard Read, who have ensured that we have drinks when the YMCA bar is not operating. Umpires Bob Le Merle and Peter Brien also have merited a special vote of thanks. And a special mention for Dudley Burress, who now brings an iced esky for the water bottles each week.

Melville and Hale: Thank you again to both clubs for providing their facilities when it was necessary for us to move from the Stadium to other venues.

Sausage Sizzles: Thanks to all the chefs throughout the year. Mentioned in MM were Col Murray-Smith, Ken Watt, Gordon Thomas, Neil Scaddan, Derek Jobe, Ric Watt, Bob Bowyer, Simon Thomson, Allen Ledger, John Ree, and Barry Rutter.

Wine Raffle Organisers: To Bob, Gordon, Spider and all workers thanks for your efforts. The results will be disbursed at the Christmas party. My cellar & Ham D'Souza's would like you to start again.

Masters Matters Readers: Thanks for the positive feedback - & thanks also to all our readers - both of you. Many thanks also to regular contributors Neil Mannolini and John Sanders, as well as the punsters. To hark back to the very first issue, the aim was to attempt to keep Wednesday players, supporters and spectators informed - and maybe entertained. Hopefully we will be back next year.
John Mercer