

# 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

**Guide To Important Stuff:** Where to find what you need to know:

Dates For The Diary: this page.

Bunbury trip latest: Page 4.

Rule Changes: Page 4 - see "Rules 'R Us."

Venue Changes: All teams are back at the Stadium from February 6th. Still only one turf.

Umpiring: This page, Page 4 - Limericks Part 1, Page 6 (Editorial One)

**Whistle While we Work:** Why do we do this? Umpiring.

A few years ago a former FIH international umpire umpired on a Wednesday. He only came once. Why? He was shocked at the number of players that questioned, argued or disagreed often with his decisions. He was not prepared to give up his afternoons for this bad sportsmanship.

This was a real loss. Our "Masters Hockey" is the envy of other States and is supposed to be for the enjoyment / camaraderie of our great sport.

Players surely appreciate our fortune in having talented umpires like Lionel David and Vern Gooch (both for years umpired in WA's Classic League or First Division hockey) and John Lindsay - umpired at First Division level in NSW.

Lately the number of incidents where our umpires are given a hard time has increased and on Wednesday January 22 there were far too many ... the norm rather than the exception .... even discourteous in the extreme.

All players would do themselves a service by reading the current Rule Book. Besides covering all the rules of play, there is a section on umpiring. Rule 2.3.c ... "It is not acceptable for players to abuse opponents, umpires or other officials verbally or through body language and attitude."

Umpires must deal firmly with abuse of this sort. It goes on to spell out appropriate warnings (cards either Green or Yellow or Red).

Good sportsmanship begets Good Enjoyment in our Great Game

Neil Mannolini - Volunteer Umpire

*Thanks very much Neil. At the conclusion of play at Lemnos on January 22nd there were 2 volunteer umpires who would be most reluctant to take the whistle again. I would like to remind readers that every word in Neil's piece also applies to our Saturday competition at Perry Lakes. Ed.*

*Further comment was received from Roger Partington who liked an earlier idea from Neil Mannolini that the recipient of a card should umpire the next match. Neil Scaddan suggests that umpires need to crack down much more on bad tackles - on both Wednesday and Saturday. Ian Hill is concerned that a few umpires are being a little overbearing and pedantic.*

*PS: For a few years written ratings and critiques were done by each Womens First Division Club for their umpires. One game when Lionel filled in I gave him 10/10 - he got them all correct. Ed.*

**Dates For The Diary:**

January: Wednesday hockey subscriptions of \$300 due.

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.

**Department of Health:** This section of 'Masters Matters' needed some expansion, as there are so many names to mention. Our best wishes go to all sufferers, and their families, who will possibly meet some of the many terrific people working in our health system (like our WHM members) who are managing to achieve some extraordinary results. The list is certainly not complete - please let me know of any others of our number who are in therapy.

John Burt's other half Anne: Chemo-therapy.

Steve McEntee's partner Lynda: Chemo-therapy.

Terry Gaston: Operation. Last heard of convalescent at home.

Brian Stewart: Back stenosis operation.

Ham D'Souza: Back stenosis operation. Last heard that operation done (OK) recovery now begins.

Bob Bowyer: In recovery mode (yet again!) after knee replacement. Now lapping ovals.

Peter Livingstone: In preparation mode for knee replacement (s?).

Peter Stevens: Ankle.

Stan Salazaar: Sciatica.

Ash Foster's other half Gwen: Leukaemia.

Peter Williamson: Also back problem / surgery?

**Letters To The Editor:** Those who provided feedback from the last issue were Ric Denny, Ken Beer, Pam Herbert, and Neil Mannolini. Thank you all. Some extracts and highlights ...

**Ric Denny:** Ric is playing touch football in the hockey off season, and while he may be having a problem or two with the offside rule the experience gained in the West is standing him in good stead for after match socialising. "... I will be playing for Mittagong come March and hopefully will be going to Grafton for NSW State championships in the Southern Highlands Over 63 team. Who knows, could even be in Perth come September / October. We have settled into Bowral life, although one can encounter 4 seasons in a day, but this negated by the scenery, drives, dining-cafes, history etc the area has to offer. ... Best regards to you and all at WHM - Ric."

**Pam Herbert:** "... Only S.O.G.s and S.O.B.s with hockey sticks play about in the West Aussie sun." (after Noel Coward). Very sensibly the Saturday organisers cancelled on 11th January in view of the forecast 44 degrees. Pam also suggested that the reader could provide their own 'S' word, and had we played my suggestions in the January issue might have applied. After you read Jim Wright's stanzas on Page 8 you may say that if we can't slurp (*I say sip - Ed.*) after the games we will not play.

**Department Of Limericks:** Those of you who have read so far will realise that the topic of umpiring will feature prominently. The source for this one was a nightmare remembered at 2:00 am.

Our umpires are all volunteers

And there's several who've whistled for years

But abuse they don't like

So they all went on strike

Can we solve it by buying them beers?

**Quotable Quote No 1:** "I am an old man now and have known a great many troubles, but most of them never happened." Mark Twain.

**Punology One:** Dancing cheek to cheek is really a form of floor play. *The source prefers anonymity.*

**Rules 'R' Us:**

In November 2013 F.I.H. introduced a couple of significant changes to the rules. I conveyed them to all our "Wednesday Masters" in John's Masters Matters.

1: The Own Goal experimental Rule was to be "no longer mandatory" and will become Experimental Rule only to be finally expunged from the Rules totally from 1st September 2014.

2: And also to be deleted / expunged from the same date, the Rule 9.7 that allows defenders to use the stick to stop or deflect the ball at any height if it is likely to enter the goal.

I had suggested that Wednesday Masters adopt both changes from January 1st 2014 for safety reasons especially. There had been numerous incidents of firing the ball into the circle willy nilly and obvious danger to the guys in the often crowded circles. Ditto with defenders swatting at the ball anywhere in the circle.

Why January 1st? Should set the highest example at all time and after a Christmas break a clean start seemed optimal. The Team Captains surely support this in the interests of safety.

Neil Mannolini

***(Thanks Neil - the WHM executive have adopted your suggestion effective 1st January. Ed.)***

**WHM Bunbury Tour:** Nominations for the WHM Bunbury games on Sunday March 16 will close on Saturday 15 February. There are still vacancies in each team, particularly in the O/55 team. Any O/50 player interested is welcome to put their name down, but O/55 will get preference. Similarly any over 65 player who misses out will be offered a game in the O/55 team if there are vacancies. The teams need to be confirmed, particularly the O/55, to alert Bunbury early in case we have to cancel that team, or possibly seek players from their area. Can you please advise John Mercer or Robin Bailey as soon as possible of your interest in going to Bunbury. Get a group together and nominate!

The games in Bunbury will be 3 x 25 minutes, starting at 3:00 pm to avoid the possible heat of the day. A BBQ is scheduled at the close of play for socialising and winding down. There will be a cost for the game and BBQ which will be of the order of \$20 - \$30, and wives, partners, mistresses and family are welcome to attend; numbers are requested for catering purposes. All costs for travel, etc. are the players own responsibility. The game last year was enjoyed by those who participated and provided an opportunity to play with and against different players.

Please contact Robin Bailey (08) 9332 3345 or robin.b@bigpond.com with questions/comments.

**Pertinent Question:** The cricket has dominated our media all summer, but the interruption to the coverage of the first One Day International for emergency bushfire coverage reminded us that it is not a matter of life and death. Avoidance of ashes is better than winning the Ashes, and we trust that all WHM players in the area have come through unscathed. This emergency is a lot closer to home for Les Hayter than his previous one.

**Department Of Limericks Part 2:** The same hockey topic:

An umpire you want to abuse?

Make sure that he has a long fuse

For if he plays hard

And gives you a card

He will not want to hear your excuse.

*(Surely it is not yet time for cards to be brandished?)*

**Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders:** Herewith the answer to last issue's question which was: Which of these statements about the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Hockey Tournament is true?

- A. There were 16 countries nominated for the Games.
- B. Four pools of four countries were formed.
- C. Games were conducted on a knock-out basis.
- D. There were no semi finals

As Rusty Phillips must have been on the high seas at the time no answers arrived. John tells us that the correct statement is c), and this was the reason that cash-strapped Australia did not participate. It was a very long way to go for what could have been only one game.

This issue's question is: During the 1998 World Cup IX in Utrecht, one Hockeyroo scored a goal in every match, including the successful final v Germany. Was it?

- a) Michelle Andrews b) Alyson Annan c) Bianca Langham or d) Katrina Powell.

Answer next issue.

**Towards More Picturesque Speech:** After all the repetitive headlines about one of the Australian Tennis Open finalists I would like to assure Messrs Balding and Salazaar that the words "The Man" will never be attached to your Christian names in this publication while I edit it.

**Editorial One:** For much of the time "Masters Matters" has existed, we have been promoting good sportsmanship and respect for the opposition and the umpires. This has slipped in recent months and it was obvious at Lemnos on January 22nd that the on-field standards had too - markedly. I went back to the "Masters Matters" archives - how many readers remember this from May 2012?

"Re your comments on umpiring, it is significant to observe that the players most vocal about umpiring decisions either never volunteer themselves, or are not without criticism when they do. I agree with you that we should urge more strongly that we all play honestly and give up the play when we know with certainty that we have offended. This takes a lot of pressure off the umpires and makes for more enjoyable games, which is why we're there. Obviously many incidents are not so clear-cut and we just have to accept what the umpire sees. Personally I am going to do my best in this way and I stand to be criticised if I fail. I clearly remember a club game against Wasps years ago when the situation was so bad I went to the other captain and we agreed to own up. The rest of the game was great and we left it feeling good. It's not that hard to do.

Regards - Les Waldon"

We can now add this one: "Whether you believe it or not, please accept that the umpire is always right, and never changes his mind. So just get on with the game.

For goodness sake, we are all over 70 and playing for fun, or so I thought. If you have issues with an umpire, by all means take it up with your captain afterwards, but don't disrupt the game."

John Halley

And according to Rusty Phillips on Saturday 25th: "Lighten up!"

*All are valid comments today, coming as they do from players who always provide great role models. We do not play for sheep stations, and it's time that sportsmanship and fun reappeared. One small point - nothing said to me on 22nd January started all this. Ed.*

## O/65s Action

Photo Peter Brien



**Peter Gason sees 5 White defenders - and an unmarked Bob Hotinski?**

**O/65s News:** How are we coping with the weather? See Jim Wright's stanzas on Page 8. For the benefit of those interested there has been a change to the points table. This now reads Blue (0), Gold (0), White (0). As can be seen everything is still neck and neck. Thanks to those responsible for turning on the natural air conditioning lately. It's the sea breeze in the shade of the trees.

**Dummy Spit Of The Day:** There were too many contenders at Lemnos on January 22nd for any award to be made. Editorial Two on Page 7 could be considered as a late entry.

**Quotable Quote #2:** "The stupid neither forgive nor forget; the naive forgive and forget; the wise forgive but do not forget." Thomas Szasz (1920 - 2012) academic & psychiatrist in 'The Second Sin'.

**Shakespeare Said It:** "What is my offence? What is the evidence that doth accuse me? Where lawful quest have given their verdict up unto the frowning judge?" I think this is what some players were trying to tell the umpires at Lemnos on January 22nd. Richard III Act I Scene IV

**Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department:** Lemnos Turf 22nd January. Enough said.

**Comebacks:** In recent times the wine raffle has returned in our Lemnos Division - thank you Bob, Gordon and Spider. It took four weeks before there was a dual winner - Ken Watt.

**Stop Press:** I have only just heard of the death of Simon Thomson's mother - at the age of 98. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Simon and all the family.

**Breaking News:** Look out for emails about shirt allocation and a new team in the A Division.

**Editorial Two:** In recent months it has become very apparent that this publication is no longer succeeding (if it ever did) in its avowed purpose of keeping all Wednesday players informed. What occasions this comment is the number of times that I discovered information contained in 'Masters Matters' has failed to reach my fellow players. I have actually tried to address this failing by means of the 'Guide to Important Stuff' which always appears as the very first item to enable those who only want the basic news on what is happening to be able to find it without wading through every paragraph. This has not worked either, as it seems that the uninformed are not even getting that far.

I regret being unable to provide coverage of the previous O/50s competition, but as I tried to explain in the early issues, it is only possible for one person to do it all by doing nothing else, which at my stage in life would be classed as cruel and unusual punishment. This aspect of proper coverage has been even more difficult while we are at different locations, and will continue to be while we have three differing competitions.

I would like to hear from readers (if any) whether they would like a change. Options:  
# Masters Matters to continue as it is for those few who read it.  
# A very much condensed Masters Matters comes out fortnightly, containing only news items.  
# A different WHM member has a go, and does it their way.  
# We don't need a newsletter. (*This option has supporters. They are probably not still with us*)  
John Mercer

**When Insults Had Class:** A few of these did not make it into the previous issue, for obvious and not so obvious reasons. As they appeared to have been appreciated (I got one email) here are the rest.

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." Clarence Darrow, (*who was a US lawyer best known for defending John Scopes on the so called monkey trial of 1925*).

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." Mark Twain

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." Irvin S. Cobb (*American author*)

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily." Charles, Count Talleyrand (*French diplomat and statesman 1754 - 1838*)

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him." Forrest Tucker (*American actor 1919 - 1986*)

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" Mark Twain

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." Mae West

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts ... for support rather than illumination."

Andrew Lang (*1844 - 1912 Scots poet, novelist, literary critic, and anthropologist*)

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music." Billy Wilder (*American film-maker*)

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." Groucho Marx

**Department Of Aged Care / Department of Corrections:** Deleted due to cutbacks.

**Strange But Untrue:** Somebody said that a Kalgoorlie hockey club must have been named after Dave Horsley. Was Pegasus formed when the term "The flying horse" applied to DH.

**Punology Two:** Does the name Pavlov ring a bell? (*From the same anonymous source*)

**They Said It:** We have decided to omit this section - just for this issue. The main reason being that quite a lot has been said lately which might have been better left unsaid.

**Poet's Corner:** Fear not, this is not another one of mine. Jim Wright claims that this one started from a few random thought and headings. He enlisted the aid of other half Beth and turned them into this epic description of the Saturday O/65s first attempt to play through a Perth summer.

### **Heat versus Over 65s**

Bob's email said a heat wave was coming  
Should we all be out there running  
With luck the heat will only be for this week  
So everyone's opinion we should seek

Ian had pondered a start at seven  
But it seemed doubtful there'd be even eleven  
Ken's suggestion of an early sea breeze  
Forecast a drop in temp from 40 degrees

If we start the game later the breeze will be in  
We can still play our game, lose, draw or win  
Members were polled .... there was overwhelming support  
Cancellation would be a last ditch resort

But things have changed, now it's forty four  
The "miserable 40" is no more  
Commonsense prevails, as all agree  
We don't want to be in emergency

We might be getting on in years  
But we want to be here for a few more beers  
Decisions we make aren't always smart  
But heat takes its toll on plumbing and heart

Hospital admissions would be a mess  
Delirium, delusion and lots of heat stress  
Ken's Friday email had the deciding say  
"The bar is not open on Saturday."

Many thanks Jim and Beth. MM awaits another instalment with expectation.

**January Umpires:** Thank you to all the Lemnos crew. Those I noted included Bob Bowyer, Bala Chandran, Peter Ford, Ian Hill, Roger Jewell, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, John Mercer, Neil Scaddan, Gordon Thomas, Ken Watt, and Ivan Wilson. Thanks also to the Stadium whistlers, but the 'Masters Matters' budget does not extend to spy drones to tell me who you were.

All news and other contributions to:  
John Mercer - O/70s sideline. Email: [johnmercer@inet.net.au](mailto:johnmercer@inet.net.au)