

# Wednesday Hockey Masters Perth Est 1991

A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Gold

B White

B Blue

C Blue

C Red

C White

# Masters Matters

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

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Announcement of George Winning Trophy: Page 5.

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The French Letter: Page 6.

Interstate Tournament Changes: Page 6. (*Note - 2015 venue is definitely Cairns*)

Rule Changes 2015 - summary: Page 8.

**Editorial - Christmas Party:** Bob Bowyer's email following the Christmas Party has said many of the things I intended to include here. It remains to offer my personal thanks to Jason and the PHS staff who provided a repast which ranked as one of the best value for money meals I've enjoyed. Thanks also to the people who moved the chairs and tables to set up our outdoor function. Congratulations to Simon for a complete, interesting and (above all!) brief formal part of the evening. Very well done also to Bob for an enormous number of raffle prizes. So many people took home a bottle of wine (or two) I can't believe I missed out yet again. A very large Christmas hamper was generously supplied by IGA Canning Bridge, and Bob's better half Janise (many thanks) prepared two others. These were won by Bill Baldwin, Bob Robinson and John Harper. If you do manage to shop at IGA Canning Bridge please remember to mention Wednesday Hockey Masters. Our fundraising for charity in 2015 has started superbly with about \$949 added to the pool on the night. The charities we donated to in 2014 and their WHM sponsors were:

Salvation Army - Ron Venables

Palmerston Association - Eric Alcock

Brightwater Redcliffe - Gordon Thomas

Pets of Older Persons - Jim Wright

Palliative Care Association - Scott Blackwell

Motor Neuron Disease - Peter Murray

Juvenile Diabetes - Ken Walter

Hearing Research and Support Association - Len Blythe and Nigel Thomas.

**Editorial - Christmas Party Two:** By the way, the Saturday O/65s also had a Christmas function - on the 20th. Many thanks to the planners and executors, who I believe included Bob Bowyer, George Bradbury, Jim Wright, Ken Beer, Ken Watt, Les Waldon and Sue Waldon (who filled in ably for Les on the night except for beer consumption - see Department of Health on Page 3). A great self catered evening at Perry Lakes was the result - even better value for money than Wednesday's.

**Dates For The Diary:**

January 7th: Wednesday hockey resumes. Refer to online fixtures for times and turfs.

May 2nd to 10th 2015: Trans Tasman in Melbourne for ages 35 to 65 only.

August 21st to 28th 2015: European Championships - Southgate Hockey Centre North London.

September 26th to October 10th 2015: Interstate Masters Championships - Cairns.

October 26th to November 1st 2015: Asian Cup / Pac Rim TT - KL. Southern Cross 60s only.

2016: Grand Masters (O/60s and higher) World Cup - Newcastle (the Australian one).

2016: Masters (O/40s to O/55s) World Cup - Canberra.

**Department of Health:** This is still the busy section of 'Masters Matters' - I dream of a Department of Health and a Department of Corrections which both read "Nothing to Report." As usual, this is not a complete list - just all the changes that I hear about during one month.

Les Waldon ended up in hospital (R.P.H.) for the week leading up to Christmas, and was finally "let out of the institution on Sat pm (27th Dec) with a good supply of drugs and instructions to take in as much liquid as possible to keep flushing the kidneys, so a few beers are not out of the question. I have to have blood tests every other day and front up for reviews Wed and Mon. I feel quite okay, just weak and a bit spaced out." Thanks very much for the info Les, and I'm sure that plenty of Wednesday and Saturday players would be happy to buy one of those therapeutic beers. Bob Stidwell managed to make it to the Christmas party despite the chemo-therapy. Looked well. David Lester's recovery hopefully is progressing well - see 'Letters To The Editor.' Neil Patterson is currently receiving treatment for a heart ailment, and will be out of action for a while. Colin Sanders has now had the operation and is going through the process of recovery. Peter Gason is still having a knee problem or two, but soldiers on, taking an occasional turn with the whistle. Ken Walter was not happy about the impact of a back injury on his future hockey last time we spoke. Roger Jewell's absence was noted here last issue, but not the hamstring tweak which caused it. He's back now.

From the grapevine it seems that the long term injury list now includes Greg Cooper, Dudley Evans, Fred Flanagan, and Butch Worth. *And has Scott Blackwell suffered broken ribs?*

*As always, our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to all WHM sufferers*

**Letters To The Editor:** Thanks to the respondents to the last issue; Mitch Eastman, Wayne Cutler, Greg Allen, Brian Stewart, Ken Dyer, Pam, John Milner, David Lester, Derek Jobe, and Phil Anderson. Ken says (in part): "... Thank you for keeping me up to date on events in the west. Happy Christmas to you and a wonderful 2015 to all the 'Vets in the West.' I wish a speedy convalescence to those on the sidelines. "

David says (in part): "Thanks for my mention in the injured/sick list in Edition #12. Whilst I'm grateful to be remembered, I wouldn't recommend my illness as a means of getting a mention."

Thanks must go to Bill Baldwin, who sent me confirmation that Cairns will definitely be the venue for the 2015 interstate championships. Bill also forwarded a copy of the 'Go Hockey' newsletter with all the rule changes for 2015, which we have tried to summarise on Page 8.

#### **Whistle While You Work - with Neil Mannolini :**

Manno has taken a break to read up on the rule changes - see Page 8. He will return in our next with another look at regulating our great game. Meantime, an NM quote: "Umpires do make mistakes, but not nearly as many as the players." *True for me, especially since the calf muscle comeback. Ed.*

**Strange But True:** On November 26th the 'C' division players bypassed the hockey completely and went straight to the bar. The strangeness was that the 'B' and 'A' division players already there did not condemn this action out of hand as "the young blokes are getting soft." Our matches had been terminated early by heavy rain with thunder and lightning, and it would have really been dangerous to venture onto the turf. The only time that lightning flashes were an acceptable element of WA hockey was during the days of the Scarborough Hockey Club.

**Latest 2015 Tournament News:** The venue is confirmed as Cairns, thank you Bill Baldwin for the info.

**Ask And You Shall Receive?:** Last issue under this heading I suggested that some players needed to read "How To Win Friends And Influence Umpires." I was not inundated with queries on where to buy the book but would like to suggest that the two should not be mutually exclusive.

**Department Of Limericks Part 1:** The injuries since the tournament have generated this.

We're confident when we assert  
Pulled muscles we try to avert  
That is why, each pre-game  
We all stretch, so we claim  
But still we contrive to get hurt.

*No editorial finger-pointing here as I got hurt too - Ed.*

**Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders:** The December issue's question was:

In which of these tournaments did Australia play two matches on the same day? a) Champions trophy II 1980 Karachi b) Azlan Shah Cup Kuala Lumpur 1980 c) European tour 1980 d) German Test series in Australia 1980.

No answers were received - John gives the answer as b) Azlan Shah Cup KL, which is highly probable given the extremes of weather which sometimes happen in that part of the world.

January's question is: The second time that the Australian team played Great Britain was during the:

- a) Tour of Australia 1948
- b) Olympic Games Melbourne 1956
- c) Olympic Games Rome 1960
- d) International Tournament Ahmedabad 1962

Answer next issue (*With a little bit of luck - Ed.*)

**News From The Saturday O/65s:** There was a time it was not unknown for older people to be urged to have a Bex and a good lie-down. These days at Perry Lakes it's possible for we senior members of the hockey fraternity to have a Becks, and another Becks. Many thanks to Ken Watt for providing a terrific range of post-match beverages. Personally I like to stay a little longer, which generally means Boags Light rather than Carlton Mid, both of which are available too. All of which sometimes helps a lot in leading to a good lie down.

**Grumpy Old Men Part One:** "Competence, like truth, beauty and contact lenses, is in the eye of the beholder." Laurence J Peter (1919 - 1988). From "The Peter Principle", Chapter One.

**Shakespeare Said It:** "If all the year were playing holidays, to sport would be as tedious as to work." Henry IV Part I, Act I Scene II. *Wednesdays and Saturdays are enough for most (but not all) of us.*

And on age: "Have you not a moist eye, a dry hand, a yellow cheek, a white beard, a decreasing leg, an increasing belly? Is not your voice broken, your wind short, your chin double, your wit single, and every part about you blasted with antiquity?" Henry IV Part II, Act I Scene II. *As Wednesday Masters generally behave better than Falstaff we can say "Not yet." Ed.*

**Quotable Quote No 1:** "Do not turn back when you are just at the goal." Publilius Syrus (c 100 BC) Maxims. *Is this where we forwards get it wrong?*

**George Winning Trophy 2014:** This was contested by the four teams who played in the 'A' division from 19th February - the only ones still playing for points. This shaped as being a close contest but we have not had the numbers to play the proper fixtures ever since the tournament. So the outcome was a victory for my own team the Reds despite my best efforts at missing goals. The table was:

**'A' Division Final Points 2014:**

Red W (28) L (15) D (17) F (51) A (32) points (101)

Blue W (20) L (18) D (22) F (37) A (36) points (82)

White W (17) L (21) D (22) F (46) A (53) points (73)

Gold W (14) L (25) D (21) F (37) A (50) points (63)

*Recruitment for 2015 is occurring, but as we have more long term injuries than the Australian fast bowlers there is still some doubt over who the bookmakers will install as favourite.*

**Department of Corrections:** The last issue was supposed to have been distributed via a link rather than attaching a PDF document to an email, but the distribution manager had a senior's moment. Apologies to Peter Fogels - how did we go this time?

We also managed to omit Peter Murray from the list of fill-in captains and Les Waldon should have been included in the Saturday O/65 umpires.

**Department Of Limericks Part 2:** Apologies to Les Waldon for making light of his misfortune. I think it should be worth at least one beer from the editorial expense account - possibly more.

A beer or two Les now may sip

It's better than life on a drip

But the hospital stay

Would be awful if 'they'

Had decided they needed to snip.

*This one might be a shared nightmare. Unlike last time we can give no guarantees it will not happen.*

**Well Dones:** Thank you to December 'A' umpires Adolphus Abrahams, Robin Bailey, Bala Chandran, George Bradbury, Dave Horsley, Mal Jackaman, Roger Jewell, Neil Mannolini, Bob Robinson, Neil Scaddan and Ivan Wilson. Wholly based on bar presence it would appear that the 'B' division thanks are due to regulars Lionel David, Vern Gooch and John Lindsay. And from bar observations I was able to note Bill Campbell, John Harper, Shane Knapp (who seems to have made a comeback) and Nick Pereira controlling the 'C' division matches. Well done to all, whether mentioned or not mentioned. Thanks to the Saturday umpires: Peter Brien, Peter Gason, Les Waldon and any more I failed to note. Gordon was waving banners in India. And thanks to cooks Barry Rutter, Keith Platell & Ivan Wilson.

**Quotable Quote No 2 and 3:** "Youth is when you are allowed to stay up late on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you are forced to."

"An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves." Bill Vaughan - US newspaper columnist and author. *He did not mention old age, possibly because he did not attain it, dying of lung cancer at the age of 61 - Ed.*

**Punology One:** "A new year's resolution is something which goes in one year and out the other."

## Ian's Normandy Garden Labours

Photo Ian Purdie



Did any member of WHM ever manage to reach Chez Chloe?

**The French Letter No 4:** According to my neighbours, who spend several months in the Netherlands each year, this is a soft winter (slush rather than snow and ice). I asked Ian about France and:

"The advent of winter in Normandy has been surprisingly warm compared with past years and the daily temperatures have been in the range of 7-10 degrees for about three weeks. That's certainly appreciated by me as I really feel the cold. However I am sure that will change fairly soon. Many of the French ski resorts in the East and South are using manufactured snow on the slopes.

I was pretty busy toward the end of autumn constructing a garden arbour for our front garden. I am pleased with the result, and I attach a couple of photos. (*see above*)

I was impressed with reading Bob Bowyer's recent email concerning national tournaments becoming more accommodating for the "oldies." I would hope it gets a lot of support.

Ian Purdie. (*Good to hear from you. My TV showed today that the snow has arrived. Ed.*)

**Grumpy Old Men Part Two:** Democracy got a mention here last issue - here's another: "Democracy substitutes election by the incompetent many for appointment by the corrupt few." George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950) "Man and Superman (1903) - Maxims for Revolutionists."

**Punology Two:** The skills required for good government are shown by there being just one letter in between running the country and ruining the country.

**Editorial:** A couple of issues ago I requested reader opinions on splitting our annual interstate event, and then started on an opinion piece. My analysis was finding more reasons for the split than against - then I received the email from Bob Bowyer suggesting an extension of the tournament by 2 weeks to accommodate the older age groups. I fully support this idea for the reasons outlined by Bob. The thought occurred that we would not require sole use of the venue during this extended time, as we elders could use the daylight hours and others could use the evenings, much as we do year-round at PHS. I do not think that we will ever manage to accomplish change unless we campaign very strongly and in numbers for it. I urge all members of WHM who would welcome this change to make their feelings and opinions known to Bob - or you could even contribute a piece for 'Masters Matters.'

**Old Acquaintance Not Forgotten:** The Christmas party attendance included past players, and it was great to catch up again. Those I was able to note included Jeff Godfrey, Bill McIntosh, Graham Kirkaldy, David Munt, Jim Boyce and Dave Menzies. As always, apologies for any omissions.

**Reader Contribution:** Thanks to John Halley for these, which are linked with our recent emphasis on age themes. If you are not happy about reading epitaphs, skip over this. They accord closely with my own mordant taste, hence the decision to include them.

**Harry Edsel Smith of Albany New York**

Born 1903 - Died 1942

Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down  
It was.

**On the grave of Ezekial Aikle in East Dalhousie Cemetery Nova Scotia**

Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102

The Good Die Young.

**In a Ribbesford, England cemetery**

Anna Wallace:

The children of Israel wanted bread  
And the lord sent them manna  
Old clerk Wallace wanted a wife  
And the devil sent him Anna.

**In a Silver City, Nevada cemetery**

Here lays The Kid

We planted him raw

He was quick on the trigger

But slow on the draw.

**John Penny's epitaph in the Wimborne England cemetery**

Reader if cash thou art in want of any

Dig 6 ft deep; and thou wilt find a Penny

**Anna Hopewell's grave in Vermont Massachusetts**

Here lies the body of our Anna

Done to death by a banana

It wasn't the fruit that laid her low

But the skin of the thing that made her go.

**In a cemetery in England**

Remember man, as you walk by

As you are now, so once was I

As I am now, so shall you be

Remember this, and follow me.

*To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:*

To follow you I'll not consent

Until I know which way you went.

**I append a personal favourite:**

Reader, pass on, nor waste your time, On bad biography and bitter rhyme

For what I am this crumbling clay insures, And what I was is no concern of yours.

**In a Thurmont Maryland cemetery**

Here lies an Atheist

All dressed up. And no place to go.

**In a London cemetery (England)**

Here lies Anna Mann

Who lived an old maid

But died an old Mann.

Dec.8, 1767.

**In a Ruiduso, New Mexico Cemetery**

Here lies Johnny Yeast

Pardon me for not rising.

**In a Uniontown Pennsylvania cemetery**

Here lies the body of Jonathon Blake

Stepped on the gas instead of the brake

**A lawyer's epitaph in England**

Sir John Strange

Here lies an honest lawyer

And that is Strange.

**A grave from the 1880s in Nantucket**

Under the sod and under the trees

Lies the body of Jonathon Pease

He is not here, there's only the pod.

Pease shelled out and went to God.

**Rule Changes For 2015:** My thanks to Bill Baldwin for sending me the Go Hockey Newsletter which contained all the information. Local implementation of these changes is up to national controlling bodies, as are the age groups to which the changes will apply. Broadly, the intent is to reduce the number of variations between Tournament Rules and the actual Rules of Hockey. A summary of the changed rules follows, with my own comments attached. As always, reader feedback is welcome.

# The attacking team is permitted to take a free hit awarded within 5 metres of the circle at the point of the offence. As at present, the ball must move at least 5 metres - or it must be touched by another player from either team - before it can be played into the circle. *Some advantages of the self-pass rule were lost to the attacking side in this situation under the previous rule. Umpires will have to be careful that the self-pass is not misused by players trying to receive penalty corners by running straight at an opponent who has not had time to move away.*

# What is currently described as a corner (once upon a time a long corner) will now be taken from the 23 metre line directly opposite to where the ball crossed the back-line. *It is hoped that this change will have the effect of opening out the play, which can often become very congested. Bad luck for wingers, who will lose one of their few sources of hits. Retrieving the ball and getting it back to the 23 yard line will not be much of a substitute.*

# A green card will mean an automatic 2 minute suspension. *Hopefully this should not make a great deal of difference to our Wednesday (or Saturday) games as it is to be hoped that card-level offences play no part in our social afternoons.*

# Allowing the stick to be raised above the shoulder to play the ball, as now permitted in international matches. *I have some doubts about this one for our age group - what do readers think?*

# The maximum length of a hockey stick is now 105 centimetres.

# Repeated breaking at a penalty corner no longer leads to a penalty flick. *Apparently the despatch of breaking players beyond the centreline has been a real deterrent. Although it could be said to be cruel and unusual punishment for some of our age group.*

# Taking the ball 10 metres further forward has been removed from the rules on the grounds that it is no longer necessary with the self-pass rule.

*An article on the changes to the rules can be found via [gohockey.com/feature](http://gohockey.com/feature). There is also a link to the revised rule book.*

**Stop Press:** Due to the malfunctioning of my TV set (hockey's no good on a laptop) I did not see the multiple appearances of Gordon, Brian and the WMH banner at the Champions Trophy tournament. Thanks to those who told me about it, especially Mal Jackaman. Wednesday Masters appears on the world stage again - well done by our ambassadors to India.

**Dummy Spit Of The Day:** This has to be a selfie. I've mentioned TV troubles elsewhere and the expert came to visit on December 31st (cost \$50). He said to go out and buy a new one. So on the 1st January I re-tuned all channels and afterwards every one of them worked. Why is it so?

**Late News:** John Crute has announced his final retirement again, and this time I think he means it. He's asked for no more WHM correspondence -perhaps due to an allergy to puns.

All news and other contributions to:

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