



A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Gold

B White

B Blue

C Blue

C Gold

C Red

C White

Masters Matters

Issue No 10

October 2015

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Have Hockey Stick Will Travel: I missed a WHM player in the WA Country sides for Cairns. Sorry about that Darryl Richards - O/55s. And Rob Mcnab reminded me that Graham Still from Geraldton was also in London playing for Southern Cross.

The WHM totals for Cairns appear to be (as at 17/09/2015):

O/50s: WA (4), WA Country (2), total (6).

O/50s Div 2: WA (5), total (5).

O/55s: WA (12), WA Country (1), total (13).

O/55s Div 2: WA (8), total (8).

O/60s: WA (12), WA Country (5), total (17).

O/65s: WA (15), WA Country (5), total (20).

O/70s: WA (18), WA Country (15), ACT (3), total (36).

Grand Total: By these counts Cairns will host 105 current, former and casual WHM players.

Department Of Limericks Part 1: I heard that some WHM people (John Ree / Irene Simpson, Jim Banks and more I believe) are driving to Cairns, which generated this:

From Perth to North Q's a long drive

West Aussies can do it and thrive

For the rest to get there

We must take to the air

In total one hundred and five.

And this is players only, what a boost to the national and Queensland economies - Ed.

Southern Cross: The Annual General Meeting is due to be held at the Cairns Hockey Centre on October 4th at 12:30 pm during the tournament. The exact venue and agenda will be forthcoming soon - I suggest you keep an eye on the web-site www.southerncrosshockey.org.

Dates For The Diary:

October 4th: Southern Cross Annual General Meeting - Cairns Hockey Centre - 12:30.

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

Sept 30th (1:30 to 4:00pm): Oct 7th & 14th (2:00 to 6:00pm) Combined scratch games PHS 2.

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

March 29th to April 9th 2016: Masters (O/40s to O/55s) and Women's World Cups - Canberra.

May 2nd to 13th 2016: Grand Masters (O/60s and higher) World Cup - Newcastle, Australia.

Best Recovery Wishes: Must go to Lionel David, who has had a serious car accident. I understand he was injured (the worst being a broken wrist) while his wife had to be placed in an induced coma. All of us at WHM extend our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to you both.

Department of Health: Given our ages and numbers it is inevitable that some of us are going to be either injured or unwell. This section is not claimed to be comprehensive - it is all I hear.

Peter Fogels managed just two games in London before his knees allowed no more. He's seeking medical expertise and has had to pull out of the Cairns tournament. Paul Robinson has now had an operation on the troublesome Achilles and will be a few months in recovery. I am told that he has been consigned to a moon boot for some time, and will not be able to drive - I'm sure that a lift to hockey could be arranged. *Stop Press - a lift was organised and it was good to see Robbo and Marty Gray at the Stadium on the 16th. Not so good to see the wheelchair and crutches.* Peter Murray is now reviewing options for knee surgery following Cairns. Possibilities are one replacement and one arthroscopy. John Halley has had cortisone injections in both knees - his team mates hope that they will be effective for Cairns. Ken Walter has now scored goals two weeks in a row for the State O/70s, and possibly does not belong in this section again? In late and bad news Ian Pestana is in hospital with an infection in heart and lungs believed to be an aftermath of the European influenza. I have been told he has now developed pleurisy. No visitors. Our recovery wishes go to you all; may it be speedy and complete. *Let's all please do our very best to stay healthy in the last few days before Cairns, and avoid any last minute withdrawals (for once).*

Letters To The Editor: I do not deliberately make errors to provoke a response despite appearances. Thanks to all who sent me emails following the September issue: Darryl Richards, Peter Gason, John O'Donohue, John Milner and Rob McNab.

John had some nice things to say about his WA team mates in London and "I hope to catch up with you and all my West Australian hockey mates in Cairns." We intend to be there.

Quotable Quote No 1: "Wine improves with age. The older I get the better I like it." Anonymous. *I'm of the firm opinion that this is surely a self-evident truth. Ed.*

Grumpy Old Men One: "The future ain't what it used to be." Yogi Berra(1925 -) *American major league baseball catcher, manager and coach. Stop Press - he died this week.*

Department Of Limericks Part 2: One hundred and five playing vacancies in 11 Wednesday teams.

Of players we'll soon have a lack

One hundred and five's a fair whack

Let's all have a great time

And play hockey sublime

Make sure that you all do come back.

At least at our age we usually know when we are about to do something silly. Not that this always succeeds in preventing us from going ahead and doing it. Ed.

Punology One: Where are average things made? In the satisfactory.

Who Said It First: Watchers of the ABC's "Gruen" program on the 23rd will have heard the remark made by Wil Anderson which contained this pun. The original came from Dorothy Parker, who was the drama critic for "The New Yorker" and was sent to see a play called "I Am A Camera." Her review in full read: "Me no Leica."

Whistle While You Work - Without Neil Mannolini : Manno has some adverse events in the family to attend to, and will hopefully return in our November issue. So I might take advantage of the space to push a personal issue on 'A' division umpiring. *(Though I suspect Neil might agree)*

It is evident that we will only ever have one volunteer non-playing umpire, as it seems that no one else is prepared to put up with us. This means that for every game at least one umpire must be drawn from the ranks of the players, yet time after time all is in readiness for a match to begin (even including a ball in the middle) but we are unable to start until the dugouts have been combed looking for a volunteer umpire.

I know that many of us are loath to take the whistle - this number includes me. I also know that the captains have many pressures on them - not least being the impending re-shuffle of teams which rumour has it will recur after the Cairns tournament. Nevertheless, would it be possible for the captains of the two non-playing teams to confer and nominate an umpire for the next match. As summer approaches there will be plenty of time for this to happen while the turf is being watered. Are there any reader opinions?

From The Saturday O/65s: We are now in the break between our winter and summer seasons. Play resumes on October 17th - despite the wishes of the majority (show of hands September 19th) it will begin at 3:00 pm. My thanks to all who contributed to making the winter season so good. Those I can mention include Les Waldon, Bob Bowyer, Jim Wright, George Bradbury, Howie Herbert, and a special mention to Peter Brien who umpires each week. We should remind all players that unlike the rest of us he does not possess x-ray eyes to see through those of us who persist in getting between him and the action around the ball. Nor can he move to see round us.

- John Milner persists in scoring - two more goals on the 19th. I've totally forgotten what a goal feels like, or hopefully I'm saving them for Cairns.
- Very well done to those who organised the little windup on the 12th. As value for money it was impossible to beat - thanks to good management all was included in our subscription. I believe that Jim Wright and George Bradbury combined (with help from Beth and Mary) to organise the meal through IGA Wembley. Our casual kitchen labour came all the way from Bhutan, with a little help from George and Mary.
- Thanks to Howie and Jim for doing all the heavy lifting to keep us in winter drinks. The range of beers and the temperature they are served at has been top notch, continuing on with the tradition established for Saturday hockey. It will be easier in summer hopefully when we will not have to take our entire remaining stock home each week.
- A reminder that our summer season subscriptions are now due. \$100 if you already have the shirts (blue and white) or \$120 if you need them.

State Teams / Wednesday Competition: Last year in Perth the State O/70 Black team played in the 'A' division on Wednesday afternoons, and went on to win the Gold medal. This was the idea of team manager Jim Wright, who not only thought of it, but got it properly implemented, and it must be regarded as an outstanding success. This year the concept has been expanded and both the WA 70s and WA Country 70s have played as teams in the 'A' division since August 12th. I hear that the State O/65s have played in the 'B' division also.

As the saying goes, the proof of the pudding lies in the eating, and final judgement should be reserved until after Cairns. I would have to say from my point of observation that I think it's been of benefit for the 70s teams, and would welcome any input from coaches, managers, and players.

A' Division Blog: I'm still expecting a flood of dissenting opinions. Surely everybody does not agree with me on everything expressed here. Or must we be controversial? That's not my style.

September 2nd: The day resulted in only two wins, with four draws. WA State was undefeated, but also winless, and will welcome back their London contingent. Bill Williamson made up their numbers and acquitted himself well in defence. WAC again were pleased to have Bob Claxton at centre half. Some of our hockey could have been a little better - though it is very difficult to play decent hockey with chilblains, which are hard to avoid in the cold weather. Approximate player numbers were White (8), WA (11), Blue (13) and WAC (10). Total goals scored (7).

September 9th: The warm weather seemed to assist in producing some hot hockey from the State team, who put five goals past Blue (three to the Phantom) in the first game of the day. They did not concede a goal until the final seconds of their last match - against White, who also had a good day. WA Country certainly did not, frequent turnovers meaning that our opponents had the lion's share of possession of the ball. No attacking corners indicate that we hardly ever reached the circle. Ken Beer lurked around the post and popped in all three goals for the Whites. Player numbers were WA (15), Blue (13), WA Country (13) and White (9). Total goals scored (12).

September 16th: The State team were at full strength for the first time; both numerically and on the turf. They dominated the day with 11 goals for and none against. Only one other goal was scored (a good effort from Peter Blockley) indicating that much of the hockey was not as good as we would have liked. Stan Salazaar showed that he can pass the ball in the circle (I do mean the attacking one) but none of his gift-wrapped offerings were accepted. Perhaps we all need a break - or a trip away. Approximate player numbers were Blue (10), WAC (11), White (10) and WA (16). Total goals (12).

September 23rd: The WA team were not supposed to be playing but actually provided a major part of the total numbers present. The scratch matches would not have been of much help to a severely depleted WA Country side, and probably not much good for the WA State team who took advantage of a great opportunity to execute skills while not under pressure. Only two goalkeepers had a run - Barry R has a cold, while Bill B has managed to avoid a repeat of last year's hamstring. Four games in a row on a 30 degree day is too much for me, and judging by our lack of run in the last, too much for most of my team mates. See everybody again after Cairns.

Well Dones: As usual, we offer thanks to the September 'A' umpires Adolphus Abrahams, George Bradbury, Peter Evans, Peter Gason, Ian Hill, Neil Mannolini, Bob Robinson, Neil Scaddan, Ken Watt and Ivan Wilson. Thanks also to the 'B' and 'C' division volunteers - I have sighted Vern Gooch and John Lindsay, but as usual know no more. Well done to the Saturday umps - Eric Alcock, Ken Beer, Peter Brien, and Ken Watt. Thanks also to the Stadium staff and Gordon for our Wednesday bar snacks. Finally, a tribute goes to the coaches and managers who have worked to get their sides to Cairns, into accommodation, and ready to take to the turf and play. Good luck to you all.

Punology Two: On a hot and sunny day a line of blokes was spotted outside a hairdresser's shop. It was a great day for a barber queue. *I did warn that they might worsen - how are we doing?*

Grumpy Old Men Part Two: "The covers of this book are too far apart." Ambrose Bierce (1842 - 1914) from "The Devil's Dictionary."

One to fill the page: A clear conscience is frequently a sign of a bad memory.

Approach to World Cup Hockey Turfs 2014

Photo John Mercer



Go And Get It Yourself?: It was my intention to publish a photograph of the Newcastle (Australia) Hockey centre, with a plug for the next World Cup. Time and my skills have both been in very short supply, so I searched my Netherlands pictures. I hope the approach to the Newcastle turfs will not be as long as the one above was, though it is very unlikely that it will match the scenery.

Department of Corrections: September's "Masters Matters" managed to recruit Alistair McNab who usually plays for Victoria and Scotland into WA Country. This wasn't even wishful thinking, just a case of editorial crossed wires.

Past Players: I am sorry to say that again I've failed to record everybody. It may have been caused by the excitement of winning a bottle of wine for the first time this quarter. I did manage to note a few of our former opponents and team mates, among them George Winning, Jeff Godfrey (who is now enjoying a holiday), Stuart Calder, John Sanders, Brian Lester, and Dudley Younger. Talking of having a holiday - it must be about my turn. One is coming up after Cairns

Dummy Spit Of The Day: I thought seriously about becoming a contender during the fourth game on the 23 rd when everything started to hurt and I feared that I'd miss the tournament. Having failed to take note of any excesses during September we'll let this go through to next month.

Quotable Quote No 2: "Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more." Mark Twain (1835 - 1910). *Does it work on umpires?*

The French Letter No 13:

I must start with warmest congratulations to Les and the lads from Southern Cross on bringing home the gold in the over 70s at the European championships in London. Just wish I had been able to go over and play for the Alliance and catch up with you all but unfortunately the tournament coincided with a visit from family in Australia which obviously had to take precedence.

The visit of oldest daughter and husband was great fun and they were joined by our middle daughter (who lives in France) and our two grand-daughters, so we had a houseful. We went on several day trips to show them around and also went down to St Malo & visited Saint Mont Michel. Le Mont-Saint-Michel is an island community in Normandy, France. It is located approximately one kilometre off the country's north-western coast, at the mouth of the Couesnon River near Avranches. It is one of France's most stunning tourist attractions. If you come to France and have not seen it before, then make it a "must see."

On that particular visit we stayed overnight in a Best Western Hotel in the town of Pontorson. The hotel dated back to the fifteenth century and still had the original floorboards and central staircase. It had been beautifully refurbished and was an absolute steal at 85 Euros per night.

You will probably have seen on the news channels some reference to the migrant crisis which is dominating Europe at present. Thousands of people, predominantly from Syria and Iraq, are fleeing their countries and seeking refuge in Europe. In the face of the bombs and senseless slaughter carried out by the Jihadists these people are wanting out and who can blame them. It's a major headache for Europe though, as they struggle to share the load across countries. France is taking 25,000 and the implications are huge. To illustrate, amongst that number are 5,000 school age kids and places have to be found to give them education and of course there is the overall need for accommodation, employment and health care.

Well that's all from me except to offer best wishes & good hockey to all those off to Cairns.
Ian Purdie (*Thanks again Ian - best wishes for a sale before you reach number 20. Ed.*)

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: September's question was: Jay Stacy & Craig Davies each played in a number of Champions Trophy Tournaments. Was it: a) 7. b) 9. c) 11. d) 13. *Answer is d). They each played in 13 tournaments, a record number for Australian players.* Rusty is away again, as indicated by no answers being received. September's question is: What do Greg Browning, Trevor Smith and David Bell have in common? a) They each played in 4 World Cups. b) They each missed a World Cup through injury. c) They all played in the first World Cup. d) The World Cup started after they had all finished playing hockey.

Answer next issue.

Shakespeare Said It: "..... good company, good wine, good welcome can make good people." Henry VIII Act 1 Scene IV. *We will all be good people in Cairns as long as they have a drop or two for sale.* "If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do chapels had been churches and poor men's cottages princes' palaces." The Merchant of Venice Act I Scene II. *Occasional WHM response when a poor disposal is badly reviewed by coaches or team mates.*

WHM Trophies: I did promise some information on past winners this issue. Since then I have been assailed from all sides with extra little tasks and must now devote all my remaining time to Cairns preparation. Hopefully the omission can be corrected in the next issue. I will make no commitment as to when this might appear, as its preparation will not begin until October 19th, at the earliest.

Balinese Bulletin: *I do not know what happened to Peter Hammond's piece this month - perhaps Windows 10 blocked it at his end or mine. Fortunately Dick Osborne sent this in.*

Southern Cross O/70s: Here is a brief rundown on our matches in London in the Tournament games. I have forgotten all the goal scorers, probably as I was too far away. My apologies. Also these are my own observations and biases. *(I have added all goal scorers, from the web-site - Ed)*

Game one Saturday 22nd August we beat the Netherlands team 4-0 in a convincing display of strong midfield mastery by Victorians David Sinclair, John Hamilton and David Webster (NSW). Notable performances were also put in by Pedro Hearne, Neil Patterson and George Bradbury. *The scorers were David Sinclair (PC), David Webster, Neil Patterson and Tony Cohen.*

Game two Sunday we played Alliance and won 3-0 at the alternative ground, a superior sand fill at a nearby school. The Vic pair and David Webster were once again outstanding as were Pedro and Les Waldon. We had issues with the umpire / officials who had ordered that no players wear caps where the peaks faced forward. Some wore them a la Leighton Hewitt but as the sun was so low in the late evening Les remarked he was playing against silhouettes when we went into the low setting sun. Colin Benporath played creditably against us and saved several goals. *The scorers were Pater Hearne (PC) and David Webster (2).*

Game three we played on Monday morning at 9:00, our 3rd game in a row but won well 1-0 against a determined England LX. This was a really competent team effort. Coach Ric Roberts was impressed and played significantly himself, having only played in patches from the first game. *The scorer was David Sinclair (PC).*

Wednesday we played the Dutch in the semi-final and they were a different team to that of our 1st encounter. Their tactics were direct; rough. They targeted all our players in an uncomfortably spiteful game and scored first then retreated to defending with eight players behind the twenty-three. Our goalkeeper just padded past the post a second potential goal with five minutes to go, then our Tony Cohen (NSW) scored from a lovely pass from Peter Murray who had played reliably well every game. So we went to one-on-ones. Four saved, we won 2-1 only clinching the game with the last shot by David Sinclair. Ric Roberts had scored the first threading one through a narrow gap.

Friday saw us play in the G.F. which we won 1-0 against a determined England LX team. Five wins, 10 goals for, one against (and one one-on-one). *Scorer was David Webster.*

Hard worked team, well coached, calmly captained by Les. Notable WA players were Pedro, Peter Murray (ever reliable), Les who played his best in the tough games especially the last, and George Bradbury who developed new understandings as the games continued. Neil P ran constantly and scored one goal. *(I've heard that the goalkeeper had a great tournament also - Ed.)*

I must salute the eastern staters who contributed so well, David Webster, David Sinclair, John Hamilton, Tony Cohen (our Chef-de-Mission), Van Richards-Smith (tireless and gutsy), Henry Barrie (75 and most positive), Bruce Fuller and the newly married Maurie Dobbin who still had plenty of dash each day. Wow.

The tournament was well organised, weather and locals friendly most of the time. A memorable carnival. Especial thanks to Marj Hamilton our manager. No doubt I've overlooked some, but not intentionally.

Dick Osborne *(thanks very much for this expansion of the bare results - Ed).*

Stop Press: Next "Masters Matters" preparation begins October 19th - my Cairns return date.

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - WA Country O/70s Cairns. Email: johnmercer@inet.net.au - after the tournament.