



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 11

November 2015

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Have Hockey Stick Will Travel: *The Cairns results. I hope you all managed to find the web-site easily.*

O/35s: NSW (4) Victoria (3).

O/40s: WA (3) NSW (1).

O/45s: Victoria (0) Queensland (2).

O/45s (2): Queensland (1) NSW (2).

O/50s: WA (3), SA (0).

O/50s Div 2: NSW (2) NT (2). NSW won 5-4 after shoot out.

O/55s: WA (1) NSW (2).

O/55s Div 2: NSW (0) WA (5).

O/60s: NSW (2) Queensland (0).

O/65s: Queensland (1) ACT (2).

O/70s: Queensland (1) NSW (1). Queensland won 4-3 after strokes.

Cairns Tournament: Even though my team failed to win a match during the tournament and my own personal hockey was very poor (at best) I still thought it was a most enjoyable event. To my mind the smaller venues work better than a large capital city, and again the volunteer efforts of the local hockey community were at a very high level. I have included the grand final results and the players of the tournament for each age group (Page 4) as well as the WHM players selected for Australia.

Dates For The Diary:

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.

September 24th to October 8th 2016: Interstate Masters Championships - Adelaide.

2016: Possible Masters tournament - Rome. }

2017: European Cup - Glasgow. } All revealed at the Southern Cross AGM.

2018: World Cup - Spain. }

2020: World Cup - possibly Japan. }

Forthcoming Tournaments: I trust that you all managed to nominate for the Southern Cross teams for Newcastle by October 31st. The intention as stated at the AGM is to have 2 teams in O60s, O65s and O70s in the Tournament Trophy section. The Cairns national team announcements included an O/75 side, and it is hoped to make up 2 more Australian sides - an Eastern and a Western Masters. At the Adelaide tournament the hope is for 4 O75 sides made up by combining all states.

I'd venture to suggest that flexibility rules. Everybody who really wants to get to the World Cup has a good chance of being there. As usual, "Masters Matters" will try to keep you informed.

Punology One: Vegetarian vampires are killed with a steak to the heart.

Department of Health: I hope you all got through Cairns in good shape. Let me know if you didn't. Peter Ford told me first thing on Wednesday 21st that he had seen and spoken to Lionel David, who is in the process of making a good recovery. His wife has one more operation to go, but is also well on the road to recovery. Later that day I sighted a healthy looking Ian Pestana in the bar. It's great to have some better news here for once. Ken Walter nearly got through a tournament unscathed and Ken Watt is getting over a cataract operation. Neil Scaddan pinched a nerve in the back watching the big screen at the WAC dinner. His tournament ended there and he needed wheelchair assistance to fly home. Feedback is that he had no problems being wheeled around by attractive young ladies. Our best recovery wishes go to all of us who need them.

Letters To The Editor: There was not a lot of reaction following the October issue, possibly due to it being finished just as everybody departed for Cairns. Thanks to Jim Wright and John Milner.

Quotable Quote No 1: In this day and age, where the news from everywhere is appalling, this one reminded me that all is not yet lost (even though we're working on it). "You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean: if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty." Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948). *Though there is a tendency for the scum to rise to the top.*

Grumpy Old Men One: "Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy." Earnest Benn. *His full title was Sir Ernest John Pickstone Benn (2nd baronet), British publisher and writer and an uncle of politician Tony Benn.*

Department Of Limericks Part 1: Room sharing and TV - a possible bone of contention.

Quite often we all disagree

How loud should we have the TV

The deaf want it high

Others just heave a sigh

Most times it's the off switch for me.

Should this be a question on the tournament nomination form? And what about snoring? Ed.

From The Saturday O/65s: The summer competition is now underway again, and is proving to be as good as ever. Changes are minor only - provision of the food is no longer done by a roster but is the sole province of Jim Wright (complete with home help from Beth). So far the summer season menu has featured a great and tasty range. However, the team selection will be done on a rostered basis - George will try to give you 2 week's notice when he taps you on the shoulder. We intend to make sure that at least one of the two selectors knows us all and the many things that we can and cannot do. You need to be there by 2:15 when it's your turn.

It was with regret that we heard that Howard Read has retired from Saturday hockey. Past players often call in for a social drink and there were many on the 24th and 31st. I noted Eric Alcock, Bob Le Merle, Rusty Phillips, Paul Robinson (plus moon boot), Neil Scaddan (and folding chair), Ken Watt and Ken Walter (all only temporary past players). It was good to see Don Smart on the 24th, who seems to be recovering well from his knee replacements.

I also pass on a request from Peter Brien. Could the vocal umpiring critics bring a whistle so that they can show us all how it should be done after Peter has had enough of the comments.

Whistle While You Work - With Neil Mannolini : This one is a joint effort. Recently Neil and I have noticed that the last match of the day on Turf 1 has often not begun by 3:45, when it is supposed to start at 3:35. It has also been very noticeable on recent Wednesdays that the turf is required at 4:00 pm sharp - often by the Australian team. What has been happening is that umpires are allowing late starting matches to run for their full 20 minutes.

It's my belief that what we should be doing is to finish all matches at the official time, even if they start late. I know that organising fill-ins takes time, as does watering the turf. Could we try to keep to: **1)** 1:30 to 1:50 **2)** 1:55 to 2:15 **3)** 2:20 to 2:40 **4)** 2:45 to 3:05 **5)** 3:10 to 3:30 **6)** 3:35 to 3:55.

Cairns - Players of the Tournament: I have included all age groups this year

O/35s: Matthew Whitbread - Victoria.

O/40s: Steve Carter - ACT.

O/45s (1): Stuart Beltz - Tasmania.

O/45s (2): Glenn Turner - NSW.

O/50s (1): Paul Gasmier - Queensland.

O/50s (2): Carris Nicolaou - Queensland.

O/55s (1): Graham Body - NSW.

O/55s (2): Greg Mill - Queensland.

O/60s: Dale Thompson - SA.

O/65s: Rod Sims - WA Country.

O/70s: Bill Baldwin - WA Country (and WHM).

Congratulations to all - especially to Country pair Rod Simms and Bill Baldwin.

National Team Selections: I hope I have all WHM players, but due to our age range it is not as easy to know everybody as it was. Congratulations to all. Please let me know if anybody is not named:

O/50s: Cameron Fairbrother (coach), Rob Behets, Mike Hallam.

O/55s: Rob Lawson (coach), Brian Robinson, Craig Burgess, Graham Miller, Noel Morrison, Steve Pestana. And Jeremy Walsh was included in the shadow list.

O/60s: Geoff Robinson (vc), Wayne Cutler. Shadows Steve Farrar, Peter Westlund.

O/65s: Peter Morgan.

O/70s: Len Blyth (capt), Bill Baldwin, Graham Challenor, John Harper, Simon Thomson, Les Waldon. Shadows Peter Andrews, Ken Walter, John Jeffreys, Ian Hill, Julian Gardner, John Burt.

O/75s: Bill Williamson (manager), Peter Gason (vc), John Halley, Graham Harler, Richard Osborne, Barry Rutter, Colin Sanders, Brian Stewart, Ron Venables.

Players included here must be on a WHM team list. Also worthy of mention are O/40s coach Geoff Horsley (son of David) and O/45s Paul Armitage (son of Terry) and Dean Lomax (MM mailing list).

Well Done: I may not have all the October 'A' umpires. Thanks to those I saw: Adolphus Abrahams, George Bradbury, Bob Bowyer, Peter Evans, Graham Harler, Dave Horsley, Mal Jackaman, Roger Jewell, Neil Mannolini and John Mercer. Same for 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 umpires - Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Brian Glencross, Bob Le Merle, Ken Walter and Ken Watt. And thanks also to the Stadium staff for our Wednesday bar snacks.

Stan Salazaar: (as always) is looking for badges, team books, tournament programs and any hockey memorabilia. He can be contacted on Wednesdays in the 'A' division Gold team.

A' Division Blog: I had hoped that something along these lines would have emerged by now from the 'B' and / or the 'C' division. Perhaps nobody finds this type of thing interesting.

Cairns Tournament: Thank you to the players who gave me a little feedback on the Wednesdays while most of us were away. I hear that Colin Gee deserves a vote of thanks for organising the teams as does Neil Mannolini who umpired every week. A well done should also go to those who kept up a WHM presence on the turf, making sure that we were not forgotten.

October 21st: The warm weather should have been familiar to the Cairns tourists, though at times it seemed that we had just now met our team-mates. Thanks to the three goalkeepers who donned their gear in their heat. Due to the absence of some captains and a general shortage of numbers in all except the Gold team it took far too long to get the sides organised and as a result the last game had to be cut short. More on this elsewhere. Player numbers were Gold (11), White (4), Red (8) and Blue (8). Gold lent Stan Balding to White for the day. Total goals scored (9).

October 28th: We are still struggling for numbers, but again just managed to complete the fixtures. Gold conceded their first goals for the quarter, but remain undefeated. Many easy chances did not become goals (*I'm guilty on multiple counts and apologise to all teammates - Ed.*) but John Milner and Ash Foster converted twice each, though both of them creatively avoided a hat trick. Everybody who was not involved in the last game of the day had hidden (to avoid another run) and when Neil Patterson was injured Blue played on 1 short. An early shower apparently meant an early bar entry and departure, as it was nearly empty by 5:30. Approximate player numbers were Red (8), White (8), Blue (6) and Gold (11). Good to see Rob Butler, and Peter Stevens is playing again. Total goals (10).

Punology Two: Dangerous levels of precipitation are forecast. It looks like a rain of terror.

Department of Corrections: October's "Masters Matters" resulted in no complaints from either its readers or its staff. This is a very rare occurrence and may lead to the opening of a bottle of red.

Past Players: The strong social element of our competition is demonstrated by the number of retired players who regularly join us in the bar on Wednesdays. Having been away for most of October I still was able to note George Winning, Jeff Godfrey, Stuart Calder, John Sanders, and Brian Lester.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: A possible contender for this can be found in the Cairns Diary further on.

Quotable Quote No 2: "Under democracy one party always devotes its chief energies into trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule - and both commonly succeed, and are proved right." H.L. Mencken (1880 - 1956). *Readers can decide for themselves whether this is cynical or accurate.*

Poet's Corner:

Little Joan, answered her phone
And spoke so all could hear
We now know she's broke
Her love life's a joke
And the rash that she had is all clear.

Thanks to Janet Purdy for this one - said to be a Transperth train poster.

WA Country O/70s Day Off

Photo Kuranda Skyrail



A Great Trip: John Halley, Dave and Jan Horsley, Janet Purdy and John Mercer. This is the first ever editorial selfie I've included - as I'm not keen on being photographed. There was no choice with this one, taken as we arrived at the Kuranda terminal and photo-shopped a little. It produced this:

Department of Limericks Part 2:

We sailed through the air on the breeze
Looking down on the tops of the trees
At the end of the ride
Some just wanted to hide
When they asked all of us to say "cheese."

The French Letter No 14:

Well the nationals are done and dusted and I guess everyone is now nursing their aches and pains. Everything I have read to date indicates that it was a great tournament in a great location. I have had trouble in finding the results (*so did a few of us - Ed.*) as the National Masters site, which was supposed to contain them, has no data that I could find up to the time of writing this. So I will wait for John to enlighten me in this edition of MM.

While many of you were enjoying yourselves in Cairns I was busy shovelling gravel. Our earthen driveways require a covering of gravel every five years or so (it slowly sinks in). We got a truckload amounting to fifteen cubic metres. It was a very forbidding pile once dumped. However, armed with shovel, trusty wheelbarrow and rake I began the work of spreading it over our extensive driveway which circles the house. It was bloody hard work but got there in the end.

In France the system of administration eventually filters down to local communes. These are the equivalent of local government. Communes can be large in the bigger cities and towns but ours caters for only about 300 inhabitants. Anyway, one of the many responsibilities our commune has is to host a lunch for senior citizens. I have been to a few and they are incredible affairs which start at mid-day and end anywhere between 6-7 pm. This year, last Sunday, I opted out at 5 pm, having first to apologise to the Mayor for leaving early so that I could race home to watch the Wallabies play Scotland. The Wallabies were very lucky to fall over the line, will need to improve to beat Argentina.

In the course of the aforementioned lunch the Mayor got me to pose for a photo alongside an elderly lady. I enquired as to what it was about and he said it was for the local newspaper as we were the two oldest people attending. Me - old - I refuse to believe it.

On that note cheers to you all.

Ian Purdie (*Thanks again Ian - we're only old for a short time after the game. Ed.*)

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: October's question was: 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. *Rusty Phillips sent in yet another correct answer. a). They each played in 4 World Cups.* November's question is: Which Australian Hockey goal keeper has played in the most Champions Trophy Tournaments? a) Damon Diletti b) Lachlan Dreher c) Neil Snowden d) Robert Proctor. *Answer next issue.*

Shakespeare Said It: "We have seen better days." Timon of Athens Act IV Scene II. *A comment on our Wednesday afternoons since Cairns perhaps.*

"And do as adversaries do in law, strive mightily but eat and drink as friends." The Taming of the Shrew Act I Scene II. *Some of us still have to win at all costs on Wednesday afternoons.*

Play For Wales: There might be another way to Newcastle. Harvey Davies sent me the following: "I have just been accepted as a member of the Welsh O/70 team for Newcastle. They still need more players and have asked me to do some recruiting. The web page is <http://waleshocimasters.co.uk/>. This states that you need a Welsh grandparent (*A Welsh great-great-great-grandfather? Ed.*) to be eligible but in my case a Welsh great-grandfather was enough. Anyone interested should contact Eric Evans at eric.evans@evantec.co.uk.

Balinese Bulletin No 8:

SOUNDS ALONG OUR GANG (Lane) ...

Sitting here, as I am, I am reminded that Life in Kerobokan Bali, is set against a backdrop of non-stop sounds of one kind or another. Prior to the Sun signaling another day we have the nightly chorus provided by the "Barberdog Quartet" ...sometime the Quartet becomes a Quintet when an, as yet to be identified, Anjing (dog) joins in. Other times we are entertained by the "3 Dog Night" group, which comprises Bambu, Koli & Morti. They have become such a part of our night & day life that we often "don't hear" them ...if you know what I mean.

Then we have the constant birdlife that chat amongst themselves in the trees. Probably discussing the strange white folk that live here ...not that we intend them any harm. Larger birdlife, in the shape of "Roosters" also announce their presence ..albeit all day. As I may have said in an earlier Musing they seem to crow because they can!!!

Street vendors are very much a part of life here, as indeed they are all throughout Bali. They wander up & down our Gang each day providing all sorts of foodstuff, announcing their arrival with a wide ranging sound of musical accompaniment. Some have their own Bali version of the "Mister Whippy" theme while others may simply call out or tap a stick against an empty bottle. Another individual, who sells plastic tubs & bins walks along banging a large "thing" on a black plastic bin.

UNINVITED GUESTS ...

We have recently gone through a period of nightly visits by large rats & or large mice. Very unsettling, especially for our Bali dog, Eddie. For 4 – 6 weeks I was called from my place of sleep by said Eddie who had discovered these "guests" in the kitchen area & simply didn't want them there. I should add that this sleep disturbance sometimes happened 4-5 time a nightvery tiring!! On 2 occasions Eddie was able to pounce on these bloody pests & instinctively killed them instantly ...must be in the genes. Problem then was to retrieve the dead beast from Eddie, who just wanted to play with it ..dead or not!! I should point out that these "killings" happened at a time when I should have been sound asleep!!!

3 SCORE YEARS & TEN ...

Erin recently celebrated a notable Birthday & we enjoyed a surprise visit from our very good Friends, Ian & Janine George. A evening telephone call a week before Erin's Birthday brought Erin to tears. Well they spoilt us rotten over a week & was a very special time for us both. For those who do not know the Georges, they are "non hockey" people but became very close Friends within days of us returning to Australia early in 1980, following some 5 years living & working in Jakarta.

Well my Friends I must retrieve a cold Bintang from the freezer compartment & share it with Erin along with a small bowl of Bali peanuts.

I hope everyone down there is well & enjoying the onset of another hot summer. We are awaiting the onset of the Wet seasonnot a drop of rain now for many months!!

Grumpy Old Men Part 2: "The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary." H.L. Menken (1880 - 1956) from "Women As Outlaws."

"Masters Matters" Distribution: There are four present and past players on my distribution lists who are not receiving the newsletter through a variety of causes, the main one being an incorrect email address. If anybody out there can give me a current email for: Peter Sinclair, David Lockett, Eric McCauley or Zac Dalnish it would be much appreciated by the editor.

Cairns Diary: As has become customary since the inception of "Masters Matters" here is my take on the tournament and Queensland. This one has caused the newsletter to expand a little.

Perth Airport: Seemed to be full of black and gold on September 26th. I later discovered that a lot of junior soccer players were also making a trip east.

Australian desert landscape: Looked incredible from 40,000 feet. Driest I've seen it.

Good advice from Masters Matters: It's possible that Kenny Walter read here the suggestion: "If the cap fits, wear it." One of his Akubras went to Cairns, on his head.

Sunset: Was quite spectacular from the Brisbane to Cairns flight. The red glow in the west persisted for one and a half to two hours.

Tournament umpiring: The general consensus seemed to be that much of it was over-officious and too pedantic - particularly about taking free hits on the exact spot. This did not apply to all umpires and there seemed to be some relaxation as the tournament progressed. I hasten to point out that it is not just my opinion here as I may be biased due to a green card received in the second game.

Kuranda Skyway / Scenic Railway: I hope that any of you who had not yet taken this excursion made the trip this time. In addition to the aerial travel up and the rail travel back (with champagne) some of us also visited the butterfly aviary and took the Barron River cruise. I'm also told that the diners at both Frog's Cafe and the Barron Falls Hotel enjoyed a good lunch. The whole day definitely ranks as a highlight of the entire trip.

Kuranda purchase: Dave Horsley must have searched the shops very thoroughly. He returned from the trip with a t-shirt reading: "I never have to use Google, my wife knows everything."

Tourism: Cairns is very dependent on tourism, and does it very well.

Daintree: An intrepid group from WA Country went on a tour which included morning and afternoon tea, a great barbecue lunch in the rain forest, a Daintree River cruise (with live crocodiles), a visit to Cape Tribulation and a walk up Mossman Gorge. A very good time was had by all.

George Bradbury: Many of you have heard by now that George tried to take an early flight home for a family function. We duly farewelled him on Friday 8th October, and he departed for the airport. A few hours later we were enjoying another fine evening meal at the Cairns Queenslander when one of my fellow diners asked: "What's George doing here?" His Jetstar direct flight to Perth had taken off but lost an engine 10 minutes after takeoff (possibly due to bird strike) and had to dump fuel and make an emergency landing back in Cairns. According to GB the captain's announcement was: "The aircraft is reasonably safe." After landing George was able to return to the room he was sharing with Neil Patterson, unlike the other 200 passengers who were queued up before one airline staffer who had the task of finding accommodation for them all. George later said that Jetstar had offered to get him home on Tuesday 13th October but as he had not cancelled his original Qantas ticket for Sunday 11th he managed to return home on time. A red wine was prescribed (for medicinal purposes only) after he arrived back at our hotel and several repetitions of the dose were necessary.

Cairns Dining: No doubt you found your own favourite places. We found our hotel restaurant to be consistently very good. Honourable mentions go to the over the road Holiday Inn (also the venue for our team dinner) and the Lyara Thai restaurant overlooking the Esplanade.

Cairns Turfs: The organisers managed to confuse some of us by not using the customary names Turf 1 and Turf 2. Instead they were called Rain Forest and Reef.

Australian Team Selectors: Well done to all who served in this capacity. Team mate Brian Stewart was on one panel and the extra hours were considerable. Judging by the age groups and players I have some knowledge of I thought they seemed to have done a pretty good job.

Cairns Volunteers: All those who worked at the Perth tournament know that it takes a lot of unpaid work for a successful event. Many thanks to all the North Queensland workers, special mention to the ladies at the tea and coffee stall (who also offered ice cream!).

Cairns to Brisbane: Following the tournament Gordon Thomas and John Mercer took a hire car all the way down to the Queensland capital. Our first lunch stop was at Petronella Park (near Australia's wettest town Tully) and the weather provided a real downpour. Who should we encounter but John Halley and Janet Purdy, followed in a short time later by Len Blyth and Jennifer. Following this break it was incredible how the vegetation changed from tropical to Australian scrub. Townsville's season for rain is about to begin and apparently they really need a lot more this year.

Townsville dining: We enjoyed a couple of good meals at the Australian Hotel. We also enjoyed their signs: "Soup of the day - cold beer." Also: "Today's special: Buy two drinks and pay for them both."

Morning tea in Mackay: We stopped at a convenient shopping mall. The overwhelming impression of the locals was beer guts and tats - and that was just the women.

Road sign: Much further north than I would have expected we came across a sign reading: "You are now crossing the Mexican border." The old chestnut is that Queenslanders refer to all New South Welshmen as Mexicans, but I had not realised that it also applies within their own state.

Queensland Islands: Our drive was pre-planned to allow for full day trips and for me Magnetic Island, the Whitsundays and Fraser Island did not disappoint. Highlights included the first wild koala I've seen, a swim at Whitehaven Beach and 80 kph in a 4WD bus along the beach at Fraser Island with the Pacific Ocean providing breaking surf alongside.

Queensland: My experience as a tourist was overwhelmingly positive. Much of the state's coastline is reliant on tourism for a large part of its income and they do it very well. The staff I encountered were not only efficient and knowledgeable but also friendly, informal and laid back. I liked that the rules (such as deposits on beach towels) were frequently made to be bent. Everywhere we stayed deserves favourable mention - Cairns Queenslander, Ibis Townsville, Club Crocodile Airlie Beach, Albert Court Motor Inn Rockhampton, Ramada Resort Hervey Bay and the Novotel Brisbane Airport. It should be mentioned that two teammates stayed at another establishment for their first 3 nights in Cairns. They described it as "Fawltly Towers"

Too True: *Thanks to Bill Baldwin for the original. I've only used the blue pencil for scansion. Ed.*

Eat Your Heart Out Ivan

Our hockey in Cairns was the best

'Til John gave the umpire a 'test'

Away went his stick

The ump was a prick (*No comment - Ed.*)

Sent John to the chair for a rest.

The event described here did happen. I got sympathy from the tech bench for the 2 poor decisions within 60 seconds (both penalty corners) in the prelude. Deservedly I got no sympathy at all for the show of discontent. Perhaps in future years we could introduce cards on Wednesday afternoons in the tournament lead-up so that we are ready for any kind of umpiring we may receive once all the action starts. By the way, it was the first card of any kind I've ever received.

Editorial Corner: It's very noticeable how flat our Wednesdays have been since the tournament. This seems to worsen over the years as more of us travel. Other than turning back the clock 10 years it is not easy to suggest a way to put the fizz back into Wednesday afternoons. A pre-match champagne lunch does not appear to be ideal - any other suggestions from readers are welcome.

To Finish (at last): I hope you all returned less tired and grumpy than I did. Next issue it's Christmas!

All news and other contributions to:

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