



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 5

May 2016

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**Dates For The Diary:**

May 3rd to May 12th 2016: Grand Masters (O/60s and higher) World Cup - Newcastle, Australia.

July 6th and 13th: 'A' division UWA 1 at 1:30, 'B' division UWA 2 at 1:30, 'C' division Hale at 4:00.

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

2017: European Cup - Glasgow. } Southern Cross  
2018: World Cup - Spain. } Australia and Southern Cross  
2020: World Cup - possibly Japan. } Australia and Southern Cross

**Which Turf:** A reminder to all that from April 27th to the 29th June it's 'A' division on Turf 2 and 'B' / 'C' divisions on Turf 1. Usual start times apply ('B' - 1:00, 'A' - 1:30, 'C' - 3:30). We play elsewhere on the 6th and 13th July ('A' / 'B' at UWA and 'C' at Hale), then from July 20th it's back to 'A' division on PHS Turf 1 and 'B' and 'C' divisions on Turf 2. The fixtures are online - I suggest you check regularly.

**Canberra World Cup Results:** Quite a few of us heard Geoff Horsley being interviewed on ABC radio the morning after the grand finals. For those of you who did not know, Geoff was the coach of the Australian O/40s. I have picked up no other media acknowledgement of this tournament. G/F scores:

Men: O/40: England (3) - Australia (4).  
O/45: Australia (3) - England (1).  
O/50: Australia (1) - England (3).  
O/55: England (4) - Australia (1).

Women: O/40: Australia (4) - England (1).  
O/45: New Zealand (1) - Australia (1). *Shootout 3-4.*  
O/50: Ireland (2) - Australia (3).  
O/55: England (2) - New Zealand (0). *Australia 3rd.*

*Congratulations to all WHM attendees, who seem to have come back with a silver medal. Thank you also to Stuart Burnfield who provided directions to another web-site for these results. The official one for the tournament did not appear to have been updated at all.*

**Are You Going To Adelaide:** Reading between the lines (appeals for nominations) it seems that both WA and WA Country are short of the numbers they require for an O/70s & an O/75s. I know that it is overkill to follow a visit to the Hunter Valley (Newcastle World Cup) with a visit to the Barossa Valley (SA), but it is a very long time since the tournament was held in South Australia. This one might well be essential to get the 75s up and running in Australia so please be in it, if you can.

**Badges for Stan Salazaar:** A reminder to the Newcastle attendees - please bring some back with you.

**Department of Health:** Attendances in 'A' division have been good lately, and I have received very little information for this section of the newsletter. The team captains I asked about injuries did not have any major problems to report. So a couple of good news items were included with the bad. Anne Lester has had an accident over the Easter period, and suffered a very badly broken arm. Ian Hill has come off the field with arrhythmia (irregular heart rhythms) but seems to be able to play on after a rest. Jim Banks continued the comeback with some goals and may now be in training for the hips versus knees match. David Lester is now back and moving well. Paul Robinson tried his repaired Achilles tendon at UWA on the 20th and went very well in the 3 matches. Welcome back. Eric Alcock has scheduled the hip replacement for June. Finally, Gordon Jeffery limped over from the 'B' division at UWA - he managed to tear a calf muscle filling in for an O/60 team on the 16th, and is now out of the Newcastle tournament. I have tried to avoid bad language here (except where it is essential for bad puns), but the only way to comment on this is "What a \*#\*##\*! Speedy recovery to all.

**Letters To The Editor:** There was very little feedback from the April issue, which judging from a few comments has not been widely read. Thank you to Stuart Burnfield, John Milner and Neil Mannolini.

**Department of Limericks Part One:** What's it like to be an onlooker at WHM's 'A' Division?

The one thing my injury taught  
As I sat in the stands deep in thought (*that's my story, anyway*)  
And watched the mistakes  
That everyone makes  
We don't play a spectator sport.

*This could have been titled "Grumpy Old Men Part Three" Ed.*

**Department of Corrections:** Thank you to Harvey Davies who let me know that the date for the end of summer dinner for Saturday hockey was shown as "September 2nd." I wish I could say that it was a deliberate error, but that would not be true. It's good to know that at least some people do read it. PS: Harvey ignored the wrong date & managed the arduous trip from his home (on foot) all the way to the Herdsman's Hotel on the 2nd April.

**Well Dones:** Thank you to the April 'A' division umpires: Len Blyth, Peter Evans, Ash Foster, Peter Gason, Colin Gee, Vern Gooch, Ian Hill, Dave Horsley, Neil Mannolini, Bob Robinson, Barry Rutter, Ken Watt and Ivan Wilson. Thanks also to all the unknown umpires from the younger age divisions - the 'B' division umpires included John Lindsay & George Mullins. The Saturday umpires list includes: Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Ken Edwards, Peter Gason, Brian Glencross, Mike Harris, John Mercer, Paul Robinson, Ken Walter and Ken Watt. The sausage sizzle cooks on the 6th at PHS were Graham (Chip) Challenor and Keith Platell. Thank you all. And our Wednesday bar snacks were courtesy of Jason who seems to be doing quite a lot these days without help from us.

**Grumpy Old Men 1:** "Genius may have its limitations, but stupidity is not thus handicapped." Elbert Hubbard (1856 - 1915). *US writer, publisher, artist and philosopher.*

**Did You See:** The Out & About pages of the Weekend West on the 16th April included attendees at the McCusker Alzheimer's Research Foundation Dinner. They included Melva and Peter Stevens.

**Rules Are Us - Without Neil Mannolini:**

The Dummy Spit of the Month is often awarded for a spectacular case of stick throwing. So I thought that it might be illuminating to include Rule 9.16 in full, which states: "*Players must not throw any object or piece of equipment on the field, at the ball, or at another player, umpire or person.*" It seems that all of us should take note, particularly Ed. The rule does not seem to mention the circumstances when the award of a green card is merited, but umpires can exercise discretion. I would think that the targeting of a player, umpire or other person would earn a yellow or red.

The ball became lodged in John Burt's pads during a match on April 13th and the usual 'A' division committee convened. I don't believe that they came to the correct conclusion as Rule 12.3 is all about the awarding of penalty corners and reads in part:

*Rule 12.3: A penalty corner is awarded:*

- a), b), c) and d) are all the well known breaches
- e) "When the ball becomes lodged in a player's clothing or equipment while in the circle they are defending." There does not seem to be any escape clause. Ed.

**World Cup Numbers:** Best wishes to all WHM attendees, and to those who will keep the PHS games going while we are away. Counts are always approximate, as the numbers are a movable feast. The latest I hear is that Brian Thomas and Peter Fogels are not going with Southern Cross, while it seems that Terry Gaston has not quite been able to recover sufficiently to play with Alliance. So the list of attendees as best as I can determine looks like:

**'C' Division:**

Australia: Bob Behet, John Harper, Peter Morgan, Noel Morrison, Rob Lawson, Steve Pestana, Brian Robinson, Wayne Cutler, Mike Hallam and Craig Burgess (10).

Southern Cross: Steve Farrar, John Chapman (2). *Total (12)*

**'B' Division:**

Australia: Graham Challoner, Simon Thomson, Richard Osborne (3).

Southern Cross: Steve McEntee, Dudley Evans, Ashley Challoner, Peter Andrews, Roger Davey,

~~Gordon Jeffrey~~, David Mellor, Mike Robinson and Heath Tyrell (8). *Gordon is a late withdrawal.*

Alliance: Neil Miller (1). *Total (12)*

**'A' Division:**

Australia: Len Blyth, Bill Baldwin, Les Waldon, Peter Gason, John Halley, Graham Harler, Barry Rutter, Colin Sanders and Ron Venables (9).

S/Cross: John Burt, Howie Herbert, George Bradbury, Dave Horsley, John Jeffreys & John Mercer (6).

Alliance: Colin Benporath (1).

Wales: Harvey Davies (1). *Total (17)*

*Grand total for Newcastle (41). Total for Canberra (9). Overall total (50).*

According to the edition of "Masters Matters" which came out at the time we had 57 members of WHM in The Netherlands in 2014 at the Masters and Grand Masters Cups. The best information I can find for the 2012 tournament in Oxford came from a "Letter to the Editor" from Bob Stidwell, who said that we had 40 WHM players in Oxford and Canterbury, plus another 7 from WA Country. *Apparently even Australians prefer World Cups in other countries. Ed.*

**Punology One:** What do you call a woman who stands between two goalposts? Annette.

**A' Division Blog:** Here's what I think. What do you think?

**April 6th:** The numbers were up a lot, assisted by some successful comebacks. The list included Bill Baldwin, John Halley, Jim Banks (second week), Mal Horrigan and Peter Willett. Blue were the only team to lose, going down by one goal in all three matches, with all other games being draws. Three out of four teams finished the day having had one win and two draws with goals for (2) and goals against (1). The quality of the hockey was again variable - parts of it were OK. Goal of the day goes to Ham D'Souza, who fought through several crunching tackles (each time being given the advantage by umpire Vern) to slam one in from an angle. We welcomed Alan Chapman (ACT) & Rob Butler (Bruce Rock). Player numbers Blue (11), Gold (11), Red (8), and White (12). Goals scored (7).

**April 13th:** The Blue and White teams both had extra players, but neither won a match. Blue were not aided by losing Ian Hill during the afternoon and White were not aided by very poor finishing in front of goal - I refuse to mention names on the ground that it might tend to incriminate me. Quality goals were scored by Mal Horrigan, Peter Gason (PC x 2), Ham D'Souza (2) but goal of the day should go to Jim Banks for a fine aerial deflection (his second). Quite a lot of the hockey was good - even the last two games. Robin Bailey and Peter Stevens played for Gold, while Rob Butler stayed with Red all day. Player numbers: White (12), Red (9), Blue (11), and Gold (6). Goals scored (10).

**April 20th:** It was good to play at UWA, and have no interruptions from security alarms inadvertently triggered, or sprinklers starting up during a match. The security officer who passed by to perform a routine check said that he had altered the alarm settings - knowing that we were turning up again. A rare day of hockey produced no draws, with Gold and Red winning twice & strugglers Blue & White winning once. Good goals were scored by Ken Walter (3), Peter Dennis and Mal Horrigan (2), but the goal of the day goes to Les Waldon for a cracking shot from the top right of the circle. It's been some time since we saw Ian Lyon, David Lester and especially Paul Robinson on a Wednesday and it was good to welcome them back. Peter Stevens is becoming such a regular that it seems he needs to be allocated to a team to make sure of a game. A sausage sizzle followed - thanks to all the workers. Numbers were Blue (11), Gold (9), White (11), and Red (7). Total goals scored (10).

**New Look WHM:** For the second time since I started on Wednesdays we are to re-equip completely. Some of the new blue shirts have already been on display, and it is hoped that the full supply will be available shortly. Looking at the 'C' division on Turf 1 this month they appear to need the new shirts and socks, as the rainbow range of colours on view must make life difficult for umpires and players.

The walk-out shirts have been on display too. Jason wears his behind the bar, while George Winning has decided that he does not want a second career as a model, and leaves his at home. It's been good to see a couple of WHM members in them too.

**Wine Ladders:** Other events have conspired to keep these out of "Masters Matters" The first quarter has now been decided and here are the results:

'A' division - Blue (10), White (8), Gold (6), Red (4). And the goalkeepers have 2.

'B' division - Gold (6), Blue (4), White (1). Goalkeepers won 2 and unlisted A Robertson won once. The past players and umpires were solely reliant upon Vern Gooch who won twice.

In the second quarter it seems that many of the usual suspects have been winning (that's not George) again. Bill Campbell and Phil Hewton have already succeeded twice. Numbers are:

'A' division - Blue (2), White (2), Red (1).

'B' division - Gold (5), Blue (1), White (1). Ross Easton has won 1 for the GKs, and Vern has won also.

Delft City Scene

Photo John Mercer



**World Cup:** I trust that you can see why we liked the old town part of Delft. Newcastle will be quite different, but I am sure will be just as good in its own unique way.

**From The Saturday O/65s:** The summer season came to an official conclusion with our AGM & three course dinner at the Herdsman's Hotel on 2nd April. Thanks to George Bradbury, who conceived the idea and brought it to fruition. A very pleasant evening was had by all. The minutes indicated that all the retiring Committee have renominated - well done to all for summer 2015/16.

A few more brief items:

# The current points table reads Blue (0), Orange (0), White (0). The selectors are obviously doing an outstanding job in producing even teams. All joking aside, that is quite true (most Saturdays).

# Our AGM dinner also featured a unique wine raffle. The prizes came from a Committee purchase of a dozen fund raising wines for a State junior team (through Roger Partington) and a very generous donation from Ken Walter. Thanks must go to Jim Wright for the organisation from one of the many (twenty four) winners. Nobody could win more than once, and every financial player from the group who play on Saturdays was included in the draw.

# We can usually buy post match drinks at YMCA's bar, but there are exceptions. The 30th April will be one (the YM bar will not be operating as they have no home games), and it occurs while 4 of the Committee members are in Newcastle, and 1 has a family event. So:

We looked up YM's fixtures link

And there were no games, so we think

Our bar staff's not here

To serve us our beer

So what do we do for a drink?

*(Never fear - Jim Wright intends to provide before attending his family event)*

**The French Letter No 19:**

*Last month's was not actually shot down over the Ukraine. It went to the wrong WHM recipient, and I did not send a follow up request to Ian - just jumped to a wrong conclusion. Normal service has resumed - Ed.*

Well it's certainly a time of change - winter has passed into spring although the sunshine is a bit lacking to date. All the signs of spring are everywhere - always a welcome thing to see. Yesterday I planted all my vegie seeds in small pots and put them in a sheltered enclosure.

On top of that the terrorists have struck again with devastating effect in Brussels. As said by the French Prime Minister at the time of the Paris attacks - "we are at war" - never were truer words spoken. It's a different kind of war to those of the past & much more difficult to counter. The people of Belgium are shocked and the international community is left scratching its collective head on how to best combat this insidious threat to innocent citizens.

And my feelings about change were heightened still further on reading the recent directive from our Chairman. I never thought I'd see that. One can only concur with Simon's thoughts and his proposed actions. It seems like some people need to understand that PR stands for public relations and not parking rage. That said, the parking issues seem like a festering sore, but I am sure that the Committee will continue to work with the appropriate authorities to find the best solution.

I guess the excitement is starting to build towards the World Cup in Newcastle. I only wish I could be there to be a part of it, but that is not to be. I wish all those participating the very best; may you have good hockey and enjoyable fellowship with hockey players from other countries

Ian Purdie

*Thanks Ian- as usual it's great to hear from "La Belle France."*

**Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders:** April's question: Mark Hager scored a total of 181 goals for Australia! His first goal was scored on: a) 29/04/84 v West Germany Pre-Olympic Tournament in Berlin b) 11/08/84 v Great Britain, XXIII Olympic Games, Los Angeles c) 21/07/85 v England, Test 2, Canberra d) 28/11/85 v Spain, Azlan Shah II, Ipoh. *No answer was received again - two straight for JS, who has c) as the correct answer here.* May's new question is: In 1986 Australia won the World Cup in London, coached by Richard Aggiss. He tells me that the top goal scorer in that tournament was: a) Grant Mitton. b) Richard Charlesworth. c) John Bestall. d) Colin Batch. *Answer next issue.*

**Shakespeare Said It:** "I promise you, your kindred hath made my eyes water ere now." A Midsummer Night's Dream Act III Scene I. *Forward to full back. Or possibly goalkeeper to Kenny Walter.*

"Nothing, that can be, can come between me and the full prospect of my hopes." Twelfth Night Act III Scene IV. *A dearth of goalkeepers at Perry Lakes can result in forwards seeing an open goal.*

**Grumpy Old Men Part 2:** "Statistics: The only science that enables different experts using the same figures to draw different conclusions." Evan Esar (1899 - 1995) *From "Esar's Comic Dictionary."*

**Dummy Spit Of The Month:** Anybody in Gordon Jeffery's situation (late withdrawal from Newcastle) must have given consideration to becoming a contender. If not, sainthood awaits.

**Quotable Quote No 1:** "If the car had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls-Royce would today cost \$100, get a million miles per gallon, and explode once a year, killing everyone inside." *Robert X Cringely - pen name for Mark Stephens, Infoworld magazine journalist.*

**No Balinese Bulletin:** Peter has requested a month off, and I hope will return in June with another slice of life from the island of the gods. To fill the space I have revived the long dormant:

**Poet's Corner:** Those of you who know your G & S (Gilbert and Sullivan for those who don't) will be aware that "A Policeman's Lot Is Not A Happy One" is sung by a Sergeant of Police with a bass chorus of constables who repeat the last few words of each line. A close study of my text might reveal that centre halves do not have a verse: they are often too busy to chat to umpires. Or as in Ivan Wilson's case they prefer to communicate non-verbally.

#### An Umpire's Lot is not a Happy One

*Tune is "A Policeman's Lot Is Not A Happy One" from The Pirates of Penzance.*

When a player's not engaged in breaking rules, breaking rules

Or looking for an easy tap-in goal, tap-in goal

He says the umpires are both bloody fools, bloody fools

Who really don't deserve to have the role, have the role.

When there's whistle blowing duties to be done, to be done

An umpire's lot is not a happy one, happy one.

When the full back's finished bumping into forwards

He likes to call the umpires dirty names

Then he searches far and wide to find some more words

To tell them "You are spoiling all my games."

When there's whistle blowing duties to be done, to be done

An umpire's lot is not a happy one, happy one.

When the half back's done with running up and down

Making certain that his winger gets no hits

He describes the nearest umpire as a clown

And claims that he has only half his wits.

When there's whistle blowing duties to be done, to be done

An umpire's lot is not a happy one, happy one.

When a forward's through with missing goals he shouldn't

He really ought to call upon the sub

Instead he claims the stupid umpire couldn't

Organise a decent piss-up in a pub.

When there's whistle blowing duties to be done, to be done

An umpire's lot is not a happy one, happy one.

When the keeper has a goal against his name

He needs to find someone to call a dolt

And if there's no defender he can blame

He's insistent that it's all the umpire's fault.

When there's whistle blowing duties to be done, to be done

An umpire's lot is not a happy one, happy one.

**'B' Division Report:** *Gordon Jeffery again provides coverage of April's events.*

**INJURIES:** Good to see Terry Gaston up and about at Sat grass hockey and the opening game of the winter grass season. Terry says he is recovering well, has done some light running but has a long way to go to replenish the lost muscle tone. Also good to see both Bob Le Merle and Jim Banks back playing after replacement surgery. Brian Thomas continues to with rehab with his knee injury (and has attempted to umpire - as if!!!), whilst Peter Fogels is considering a knee replacement as other endeavours have not improved his knee. Adrian Gabriel hopes the latest treatment has improved his back, initial results are promising.

**VISITORS:** Alan Chapman (from Qld), continued his visit into April. Eric Kjekstad from Canada renewed his acquaintances with Gold with a flying visit prior to his Alliance commitment in Newcastle and Chris Butler from Bruce Rock joined up again with Blue. They have had a bit of rain around Bruce Rock bringing a promising start to the grain season and all farmers have now commenced the seeding ritual. The wet start has seen some tractors being bogged in the paddocks, including Chris's 30 year old son, who Chris said has never seen such a wet start to the season and was having difficulty handling the machinery in the sometimes boggy conditions.

**LIFES LINGERING MOMENTS:**

1. A woman's mind is cleaner than a man's. She changes it more often.
2. Attributed to some famous coach/commentator "Anytime the Dockers score more than 100 points and holds the other team below 100 points, they almost always win". (*Must have been last year and no it was not Ross*).
3. All hockey players are bilingual. They know English and Profanity

**THIS MONTHS HOCKEY:**

April is the start of the grass season, with fixtures commencing April 16th. The season started on the mid week of the school holidays and caught a couple of the teams short of players. Victoria Park forfeited to WASP 4 whilst Whitfords scrambled for players to take on Westside Wolves. The over 60's competition consists of nine (9) teams with Kalamunda finally recognising that they have aged a bit in the last few years and have joined the existing eight teams from last year. WASPS 4, Westside Wolves and Mods appear to be the strongest teams with Vic Park depending upon player availability, WASPS 3 and Melville have received an injection of talent and should be more competitive than previous years, Kalamunda come from the dark side and look pretty good, Old Aquinians and Whitfords round out the competition.

When is North not really North but South?. For those from the old country North is when you head through Scotland to the North Pole and South you head to the equator. For us in Australia heading North means going to the equator first and then to the North Pole, quite easy for a young bloke to mix his directions. This explains the large number of BMW's, Audis, Landcruisers, Tap Doctors, Jaguars, doing laps in the Curtin carpark (apparently one university Don thought Malcolm Turnbull was making a surprise visit). (*verbatim: Keep heading south to the roundabout and head North back up Kent St, access on left - is not quite true*)

April Wednesday hockey has been most competitive. Aided by improved weather conditions all teams have been able to muster suitable numbers to get their teams onto the hockey field. The month started spectacularly with Ray Domingo and Ash Challenor from Electric Blue completing perfect deflection goals to bypass the keeper and beat White 2-1 and got further confusing when Bill Campbell from Gold drove into the circle, mishit the ball and scored an excellent goal (actually I use the term mishit ill advisedly). Some hockey veterans could not remember Bill scoring before.

White continued to be the most successful team winning nine (9) of their twelve (12) games in the 3 weeks of April (included in this report) and scoring seventeen (17) goals with Electric Blue winning five (5) times and Gold winning just one (1) game. Leading goalscorers for the month were Greg Allen, Peter Wallace, Don Sanders, Arch, Ash Challoner, Dudley Evans, Alan Ledger and Bill Campbell. Jim Campbell, Dudley Evans, Graeme Nicholls, Glenn Mihala and Phil Hewton continue to be the drivers of their teams continuing to send the ball into attack whilst Michael Robinson, Michael Gottschalk, Dudley Burress, Bob le Merle Rod Bickers and Chris Morley ably support their attacking efforts by controlling the ball in defence.

And so we look to the World Cup. More than 30 players are heading off to Newcastle to play for Australia, Southern Cross and Alliance in the World Cup Masters Tournament starting next Mon. I wish them all well and look forward to the stories on return.

*Thank you Gordon - all done while injured too. See you after Newcastle. Ed.*

**Department Of Limericks Part 2:** David Horsley's good eye needed a service:

Dave Horsley has one eye for sight

A cataract blocked out his light

His surgeon did say

"You ought not to play

Umpiring would be quite all right."

*So Dave blew the whistle on 6th April, and did well at unbiased, one-eyed match adjudication. Ed.*

**Quotable Quote No 2:** "Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it." Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784). Quoted in Boswell's "Life Of Johnson." *Though thanks to the internet the first kind of knowledge is disappearing very fast - Ed.*

**Past Players:** I went to consult my notes and found again that were none. Memory tells me that all the regulars were there in the PHS bar during April - good to see you all. Perry Lakes on April 23rd featured non-players Eric Alcock, David Lester and Nick and Stuart Calder.

**Punology Two:** Shakespeare walked into a bar and asked for a beer. "I can't serve you" said the bar-man. "You're Bard."

**A Last Word:** I'm away from Friday 29th April to Saturday 14th May. See you all then.

**That's All Until Winter:** The June issue will probably have coverage of the Newcastle World Cup. Any reports of Perth happenings while I'm at the tournament would be appreciated.

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - Southern Cross O/70 Reds. Email: [\(not while away\)](mailto:johnmercer@iinet.net.au)