



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 12

December 2016

Regular Features:

Dates For The Diary: This Page.
 Department of Health: Page 3.
 'A' division blog: Page 5.
 From The Saturday 65s: Page 6.
 The French Letter: Page 7.
 The Balinese Bulletin: Page 8.
 'B' Division report: Pages 9/10.

Irregular Features:

Knees versus Hips: This Page.
 Poor Post Match turnout: Page 3.
 Department of Corrections: Page 3.
 Whistle While You Work: Page 4.
 Knees versus Hips team lists: Page 12.
 Knees versus Hips media release: Page 12.
 Christmas Party Bookings: Page 12.

Dates For The Diary:

December 7th: Sausage sizzle - PHS. (*Deferred from 30th November*).

December 10th: Saturday Hockey self catered dinner - Perry Lakes.

December 14th: Knees versus Hips match. PHS 2 - 3:30 to 4:40 pm.

December 14th: WHM Christmas Party. 6:30 pm outside at PHS. Book through team captains.

June 2017: European Tour - possible 4 Countries.	} Australian 70s
August 19th to 27th 2017: European Cup - Glasgow.	} Southern Cross / Australian 75s
2017: Interstate Masters Championships - Hobart.	
2018: Masters World Cup - Madrid.	} Australia
June 20th/30th. Grand Masters World Cup - Barcelona.	} Australia and Southern Cross
2020: World Cup - possibly Japan.	} Australia and Southern Cross

Knees versus Hips: The organisers of this match have accomplished much in a small time frame, and it is not only proceeding as suggested originally, but also is attracting media interest (which does not mean only "Masters Matters"). If the proposed media interviews take place we will try to keep you informed on the details. Playing gear has been arranged and teams selected. This is an opportunity to gain some much-needed publicity for our sport in WA, and will require us all to do whatever we can to showcase Masters Hockey on the 14th December.

Congratulations to the team who have done the work to get this off the ground. Those I am aware of are Simon Thomson, Bob Bowyer, Les Waldon and Graham Wood. If anybody can discover whether this is the first such sporting contest world-wide then please do. The media release and the team lists are included in this edition of "Masters Matters."

There has already been publicity generated. Simon Thomson was interviewed on Radio 6PR by Simon Beaumont on Tuesday 29th November. And while I was listening to Ric Charlesworth and Jenny Morris on the ABC later that same day caller Les (Waldon) phoned in and offered a run in the big match to Ric - as well as getting in a good plug. *Stop Press - Channel 7 at PHS 30/11. See Page 10.*

Bereavement: Our condolences go to Brian Soares, of the 'A' division White team, whose wife Carol passed away on the evening of Monday 28th November after a long illness. Our thoughts are with you Brian in your time of sorrow. The funeral is at Pinnaroo on Tuesday 6th December at 2:30 pm. The notice adds: "Carol has requested bright colours and no suits to be worn."

Barry Angus: I had noticed that he no longer attends Australian Chamber orchestra concerts in Row AA. This is because he's moved to a nursing home, and is now to be found in Peter Arney Hospital, at 1 Gentilli Place, Salter's Point. I'm told that visits are welcome - morning preferred.

Department of Health: It is pleasing to have some better news here. Colin Sanders has endured a tough time, but has responded to treatment and is now on a rather long way back to health. Despite his newly fitted pacemaker Peter Murray returned to hockey on the 16th and has lost nothing in skill and guile. Ron Venables has not needed surgery for his Achilles problem, and his comeback is going quite well, so far. Eric Alcock continues to come over to Perry Lakes to blow a whistle and attend a post-match discussion over a drink. His comeback may eventuate early next year. Rusty Phillips has undergone cardiological and neurological testing. So far this has meant two stents. Irene Simpson is now back at home for rest and recuperation. Bev Benporath underwent a knee replacement on the 22nd, but is doing well (one stick only now). I also heard that Mike Black is suffering from shingles in an eye. A vaccination is now available - worth further investigation. The Adelaide tournament virus lingers on for both Bill Williamson (has not played since) and Howie Herbert (playing with difficulty). And Stan Balding, Scott Blackwell and Neil Patterson have hamstring problems. Get well soon.

Poor Turnout: This is not actually about the American elections, but rather is a reflection on the low numbers in the Stadium bar after Wednesday hockey. On the 16th there were 37 'A' division players at PHS, plus 3 teams from the 'B' division. Yet the socialising after our hockey included very few from either of these groups and the ticket sales for our charity wine raffle were so low that only 2 prizes were awarded. 'C' division are usually starting to arrive as I'm leaving - any feedback?

As Julius Sumner Miller used to say: "Why is it so?" Is the traffic in Perth so bad these days that everybody has to depart as soon as they can? Is the bar experience so bad that there are plenty of much better things to do elsewhere? Is there anything we could do which would assist in more WHM members staying on after playing? One possibility is to start 'A' division matches at the same time as the 'B' division - 1:00 pm, so that we all arrive in the bar together. About a year ago Simon attempted to find a volunteer to take on a Social Secretary's role and try to liven up this aspect of our Wednesdays (amongst other things) - without success.

I would be happy to publish suggestions next issue.

Department of Corrections: The list of Australian teams last issue mentioned that I did not know if the O/75s were playing in the Glasgow European Cup or the Tournament Trophy. I'm told it will be the Cup - but not in the finals. Many thanks to Stuart Burnfield for updating my information about the Australian O/55s team - who include Tony Jones(WAC) as captain, and Brian Robinson (shown as Robertson online) and Jeremy Walsh were selected as shadows in this side also.

Peter Murray let me know that he had not been the recipient of a new heart valve during the Adelaide tournament - just the pacemaker we did mention last time.

My apologies go to regular contributor Gordon Jeffery, for my consistent mis-spelling of his name as 'Jeffrey.' You'd think I'd have it right by now.

Our November list of medal-winning WA goalkeepers omitted Richard Osborne who filled in for Bill Baldwin in the WAC / NSW O/75s while Bill was delayed at a family funeral in Perth. So 2 WA keepers shared gold in this age group & Barry Rutter received the silver. The resulting limerick reads:

The West Aussie goalkeeping breed
Think medals are what they all need
In the senior brigade (O/70s and O/75)
We said five made the grade
The man we omitted was Speed.

Letters To The Editor: The November edition brought responses from Bill Baldwin, Stuart Burnfield, Peter Murray, Gordon Jeffery and Kevin Burton - my thanks to you all. Peter, Stuart and Gordon all provided essential corrections (see Department of Corrections) but Stuart also sent this in response to my paragraph last issue about less pedantry from the Adelaide umpires:

“Some of that pedantry still surfaced off field. I saw or heard of a few instances of the mindless application of Not Very Important rules:

- Determination to force shin pads onto players who choose not to wear them.
- Announcement that all sticks would be inspected (rumoured but did not eventuate).
- Surprise announcement that playing managers would not be permitted (later overturned).
- Tech bench deciding 20 minutes into a game that a goalie had to change his shirt to avoid possible confusion with opposition players, then agonising over the logical impossibility of allowing anybody to leave or enter the sacred dugout during a game to bring a new shirt.”

Stuart added: “ ... I don't want this to sound like a criticism of the tournament organisers who did a mighty job under the most difficult circumstances.” *Whether correctly or not many of us will blame this on the Hockey Australia takeover. We do not know enough yet, hence the speculation. Ed.*

Whistle While You Work - With Neil Mannolini: “To Blow or not to Blow?”

Our Wednesday excursions with stick in hand have generally been enjoyable and necessary for our well-being. However the aging process has produced an increasing number of incidents of body contacts, stick checks, and such.

We umpires have generally been lenient in the interest of flow (even the rule book states that not all breaches need to be blown) and in the section of the Rule Book (Section 2.2) it states ... “it is not necessary for every offence to be penalised when no benefit is gained by the offender; unnecessary interruptions to the flow of the match cause undue delay and irritation.”

Yesterday we started issuing green cards. It surprised many, but we are sure all got the message! Especially those offending!!

So guys, take on board with the right spirit and self improve. We umpires will do so, carry cards, and when necessary ‘ping’ with the appropriate one! Neil.

Thanks very much for this piece Neil. I think that the 30th November showed us all that the umpires are making a real effort to lift the standard. It's up to us to remember that we are playing the game for enjoyment, not because we have to. Let's all lighten up, eliminate bad tackles, body contact, stick checks and all the back chat and ill-mannered dissent. Above all, let's bring back the Wednesday sportsmanship which was a strong point of the competition when I started in 2006. Ed.

Department of Limericks Part Two: The previous paragraph had to be expanded a little further. So: Our ‘A’ div had never yet seen (*until 30/11*)

The award of a card that is green

We now must be good

Perform as we should

Not play in a manner unclean.

This is facetious treatment of a serious message, in keeping with the request to lighten up. Ed.

Grumpy Old Men Part One: “The chief obstacle to the progress of the human race is the human race.” *Don Marquis - Author of “Archie and Mehitabel.” And no, this is not about Peter Andrews.*

A' Division Blog: This has not been a great month. Hopefully we can do better in December.

November 2nd: All four sides won one game each. Blue did not lose a game, while Red lost twice. As usual the standard of the hockey varied wildly, except for the 3 goalkeepers (Bill, Colin & Tony) who were consistently good, with Bill saving a penalty stroke. Not all the finishing was good (1 wide open goal was missed), though enough chances were created for a high-scoring day. Peter Gason & Ham D'Souza each converted a penalty corner in contrasting styles. Ken Walter made one of the greatest comebacks since Lazarus (refer to previous MM) and became a goal of the day contender with a classic one-on-one. Others included Dave Horsley (cricket on-side shot to a bouncing ball) and Terry Gason, who would have had another good one had fill-in team mate John Mercer not put his knee in the way. Player numbers were Blue (8), Gold (10), White (11) and Red (7). Total goals scored 13.

November 9th: The standout performances came from goalkeepers Bill and Graeme, Ham D'Souza and the White team. The only goal not scored by White came from one of their players filling in for Blue. White won twice (3-0 and 2-0) and Blue won once (1-0) with all other games being 0-0 draws. The standard varied, and declined markedly through the day as the extra games needed to maintain team numbers took effect. Stringing consecutive passes together seemed to be too hard for us most times, though on the few occasions it was achieved good attacks ensued. Only three players scored, so goal of the day contenders were limited to Paul Robinson (good hit from the top of the circle) and Ham D'Souza; a centimetre-perfect penalty corner conversion and a fine solo effort were included in his 3 goals. Player numbers: Red (9), White (9), Gold (8) and Blue (7) and goals scored 6.

November 16th: It is customary for this time of the year to be our low point & 2016 is no exception. As usual the standard of the hockey, the umpiring and the numbers are all down - this year so is the temperature. Our goalkeeping ranks were depleted to the point where John Burt on a comeback was the only one present. All the hockey was not bad, and the Red side had their best day for some time. The super-versatile Ash Foster spent time as goalkeeper and full back, in addition to his usual roles & is still distributing very well. Mal Horrigan, Les Waldon and Roger Partington all were in form, while a long, flat hit from Jim Wright to David Pandher which led directly to a goal was the pass of the day. Good goals were scored by Peter Dennis, Ham D'Souza, Les Waldon and David Pandher, but a team attack ending in a very good deflected goal by Ken Beer took the goal of the day honours. Our player numbers on the day were: Blue (11), Gold (8), Red (7) and White (9). Goals scored 8.

November 23rd: Red regained John Jeffreys, Adolphus Abrahams and Trevor Kerr. Trevor and Jim Banks played for Gold, who only had 6 regulars. Absentees included Stan Balding, Roger Jewell, John Milner, Bob Robinson, Ken Walter and Ian Lyon. John Burt was again the only goalkeeper, and White needed him against Blue, who dominated but could not score. White performed quite well in the other games, with the return of Ron Venables helping to offset the absence of Scott Blackwell, Len Blyth and Ham D'Souza. Once more maintaining possession proved to be very difficult. Crunching tackles and stick checks were frequent again, with Ken Beer suffering a nasty injury (badly cut lip). No goal of the day was awarded due to the lack of GKs, miss of the day had far too many contenders, and save of the day goes to fill-in goalkeeper (i.e. KFB) Roger Partington for two good stops. Player numbers were White (10), Red (12), Blue (11) and Gold (6). Goals scored 12.

November 30th: This was a rather strange day. The two teams which played better had contrasting fortunes. Blue were undefeated and scored 5 goals, Red failed to win and scored 1. Many goals were missed, with all teams included in this tally. Red, however, topped the count, with the ball crossing the goal mouth repeatedly. The addition of a third umpire and the occasional use of the green card had some effect on our bad behaviour, but older people are notoriously slow to learn, and this will need to be repeated. Thanks to Ian Pestana, Vern, Neil and John Sanders (warm up for Hips/Knees). I think a rotation of umpires is better than asking the same two to do all the games - especially after the weather heats up. Occasional moments of good hockey (particularly from Blue and Red midfield) were interspersed with plenty of turnovers. Good to have three goalkeepers again. Goal of the day contenders included Ivan Wilson and Bob Maley, but Graham Harler's deflection gets the nod. Player numbers were Blue (10), Gold (6), White (9) and Red (11). Goals scored 9.

Autumn in Europe

Photo from Ian Purdie



Ian and Joelle's Normandy back yard

From The Saturday O/65s: After such an eventful (behind the scenes at least) start to the summer season we are beginning to settle. We are still enjoying one of the best places in Perth to spend a summer afternoon exercising, though the sea breeze on the 26th needed a booster.

Thank you to all players who have assisted with the tasks entailed in setting up for the post match food and drinks - and also in the clearing up afterwards. Many hands really do make light work.

It appears that our drinking habits have changed. Less full and mid strength beers are required, but more soft drinks and light beers are being consumed. This may not last of course.

It has been good to have two goalkeepers each Saturday. We welcomed back Peter Pittendrigh but it seems that the comeback was too arduous, as he only lasted one week.

A reminder that the drinks prices are: all beers \$3, all soft drinks \$2. One player did forget to pay for his last drink one week when we were \$3 short, but otherwise we are ending up with a very small surplus most weeks - perhaps people are not taking all their change. *PS: Player confessed and paid.*

If you are coming to the function on 10th December please make sure you are booked in. This will help in catering so that everybody is fed properly.

Quotable Quote Number One: "During my eighty-seven years I have witnessed a whole series of technological revolutions. But none of them have done away with the need for character in the individual or the ability to think." *Bernard M Baruch (1870 -1965) - Jewish-American financier, stock investor, philanthropist, statesman and political consultant (according to Wikipedia).*

The French letter No 25:

Well guys, hoping this finds you all well, with due deference to age of course.

Autumn is almost gone and another three weeks will see Winter upon us. It has been a relatively mild autumn but the cold has begun this morning, 29th November, being -1. The autumn colours have been particularly beautiful this year and I attach a backyard photo to illustrate the point. (*see Page 6*)

The media here has been dominated by politics for the past six weeks or so. First we had the Clinton – Trump battles ending in Trump's election and all the subsequent comments from all around the world. At the same time we've endured the French Republicans selecting their candidate for next year's Presidential election. They have selected a very conservative Republican who was previously Prime Minister during the Sarkozy Presidency. Given, the present high level of dissatisfaction with the current Socialist President, the Republicans may stand a good chance of having the next President. Now, of course we will be exposed to the Socialists selecting their candidate.

Actually I celebrated a significant birthday a couple of weeks ago, 80 years no less. It was a quiet celebration with Joelle taking me out for a lovely lunch. A good friend sent me a card which included the question, "Ian, where have all the years gone?" It's a good question but I can't remember!!

Take care guys, enjoy your hockey and best Christmas wishes to you and your families.

Ian Purdie. *Thanks Purds. A belated Happy Birthday from us all down here. Ed.*

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: November's question eventually was: These Hockeyroos made their Australia debuts for on the same day of the week. Rachel Lynch (No 419), Casey Eastham (No 420), Georgia Nanscawen (No 431), Jodie Kenny (No 449). Was it on a) Monday b) Tuesday c) Wednesday d) Thursday? *My mistake with the first version of the question must have put everybody off, as no answers were received. The correct day is Thursday.* December's question is: One of these players made their Australian debut in 1997. Was it? a) 293 Bodimeade Lee Qld forward. b) 290 Carruthers Stuart Vic defender. c) 318 Choppy Baeden Qld forward. d) 321 Commens Adam NSW midfield. e) Corbitt Greg WA forward.

Answer next issue.

Department of Limericks Part Three: Our annual thanks this year are on Page 11. The short version:

To summarise 2016

We need to survey the whole scene

While most parts were great

Some just didn't rate

Let's call it betwixt and between.

In keeping with the spirit of the season the parts which didn't rate will not feature much at all. Ed.

Past Players & Non Players: Noted were Phil Anderson, Jeff Godfrey, Brian Lester, Peter Murray, Barry Rutter, John Sanders and George Winning at the Stadium and Eric Alcock at Perry Lakes.

Grumpy Old Men 2: "Progress might have been all right once, but it has gone on too long." Ogden Nash (1902 - 1971). American poet who produced very funny light verse.

Punology One: The past, the present and the future walked into a bar. It was tense.

Balinese Bulletin No 18: Prior to you reading this I should point out that I have NOT begun to “Go Troppo” & ramble on about insects & creepy crawlies. As I have said previously sometimes life here in Bali can be somewhat pedestrian & I felt I had to offer up something ..anything in order to hold my job as Bali Correspondent. (*not a long queue Peter - might be the low pay. Ed.)*

Bali Critters ...Inside & Out.

We sit nightly in our “Bali Open” living area ...generally watching TV ..or alternatively discussing the World’s geo political & financial problems ..without, I daresay, managing to find any solution. Generally, on cue, at around 8.00 pm we have a small garden frog that appears from where we do not know & calmly make its way across the floor in the direction of the garden. It seems to sense that our Bali dog, Eddie, is either asleep or oblivious to his presence & is unconcerned. I suspect that this frog is only one of a much larger family of frogs that move around the large garden, mainly at night.

Then there are some 8 – 10 small Geckos that scurry around the walls & ceiling each night in search of a meal of insect. They have become increasingly less intimidated by us & seem totally at ease in their environment.

We were recently paid a visit by a large green & yellow spotted beetle-like “thing”. I happened to be sitting at my computer one night & was “assaulted” by the sound of a small chainsaw very close by. A search of the garden proved fruitless. The sound stopped so I ignored it. Fortunately, in getting ready for bed, I noticed this “thing” attached to one of the bed pillows. Removing it became a problem as it had very strong claw-like “feet” & refused to budge. Finally, after taking the pillow, itself, outside, I managed, with some difficulty, to send it on its way ..unharmd. Had the “chainsaw” sound opened up while we were asleep I would felt we were under an “Aleppo” style attack. Eddie recently discovered a new “playmate” in a large striped lizard at the side of the house. Fortunately, for the lizard, it was able to find safety behind & under a collection of plastic rubbish bags. Knowing Eddie would not accept the fact that his new found friend would not “come out to play” I managed to move the bags so that the lizard was exposed. It was funny to watch the lizard transform itself from being attacked to become the attacker ...quite a spunky little fella. Eddie finally managed to take the lizard in his mouth & deliver it to where we were. The Lizard, at this stage was playing dead. I gathered the “dead” lizard in a towel & deposited it into the drain that runs outside the walls of our garden. On checking on it sometime later I was relieved to find that it had gone on its way, obviously not dead at all.

Our Bali garden that in which our house sits serves as a giant Aviary for many birds that have settled here. They chat amongst themselves all thru the day. In the evening while most take to sleep there are a few that continue their chatter until sleep, for them takes over also.

Who You Gunna Call???

We recently had an electrical problem. An electrical wall plug with adaptor supplied power to a number of devices, including a small electric oven. An overload occurred bringing with it black smoke issuing from said plug. Managed to cut the power & call our Bali friend Putu who spends part of almost every day with us. Putu then immediately rang her relation Nyoman, our friendly electrician/handyman. The two of them then appeared at our house some 10 minutes later to attend to the problem. I should point that this occurred on a Sunday, which even here is meant to be a day of “rest”. Problem fixed very quickly delivering much relief to us. I questioned Nyoman as to his labour cost & was told that his time, on this occasion was part of his “guarantee” resulting from work done on a similar problem a few days earlier. I shudder to think what would have happened if this was back in Perth.

In closing we would like to wish all the Wednesday Masters Hockey friends a Very Happy Xmas & a Healthy & Peaceful New Year.

Thank you for the year’s bulletins Peter. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and Erin from us all down here. I hope you can continue in 2017. Ed.

Welcome to New Players: I have been remiss in recent months in not acknowledging additions to our Wednesday teams. Best wishes for your time in Western Masters Hockey to: Andrew Spittle (Mods), Bruce Porter (Melville), Glenn Christiansen (Newman), Gerald Tai (Curtin Uni), Kevin Burton (Mods), Mike Oosterhof (Wasps), Geoff Riley (Melville), Leo Welten (Melville). Whether you are in 'B' or 'C' division you know that you have a long future in WHM while we can keep the 'A' division in action. I have also been notified that some of you are not receiving the link to 'Masters Matters' and trust that this has now been rectified for Jim Campbell and Shane Williams.

Dummy Spit Of The Month: Some time ago Ivan Wilson featured here for a self administered yellow card (July 2016). He managed to go one better on November 16th - a self administered red card. The offence which led to this penalty was not readily apparent from the sidelines.

Well Done: The honour roll of November 'A' division umpires reads: Vern Gooch, Neil Mannolini, Ian Pestana, John Sanders and Ken Walter. Thank you all. I am uncertain who blew the whistles for the 'B' division (John Lindsay and George Mullins?) and 'C' division - but thanks to you all. Saturday umpires during November included: Rob Ainsworth, Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Dudley Burress, Brian Glencross, Ian Hill, John Mercer, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer and Ken Watt. Thanks umps. At Perry Lakes on 26/11 the barbecue must have been operated by some of us. My notebook has failed to remind me of the identity of the cooks - but thank you anyway. There have been plenty of workers for WHM during November, as befits a team sport.

Shakespeare Said It: "What's here? The portrait of a blinking idiot presenting me a schedule. I will read it." The Merchant of Venice Act II Scene IX. *MM reader encounters Dates for the Diary.* "Have you any levers to lift me up again, being down?" King Henry IV Part One Act II Scene II. *Despite rumours to the contrary, most 'A' division players can regain their feet after a tumble.*

Newcastle Update: If you've been reading all year (or are a regular attendee at Newcastle) you'll be fully aware that the facility there has three good turfs but the clubhouse is not quite up to the same standard, despite lots of politicians' promises. In Adelaide I heard from some of my Southern Cross team mates who were Newcastle residents that funding of \$10.5M has been secured for a new clubhouse and parking which they will not have to share with the adjacent rugby league stadium. Very well done to all involved in this, now all we need is some action over here in Perth.

Quotable Quote No Two: "The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter." *Attributed to Winston Churchill (1879 - 1955). There had to be one reference to the election in the USA.*

Punology Two: Labyrinths are amazing.

'B' Division Report - November:

Injuries: Good to see Don Sanders at the stadium, walking well and almost running 7 weeks after his hip replacement. Bill Rochester returned to playing duties after having knee replacement surgery in July (couldn't miss out on the upcoming game knees versus hips). White have lost a few forwards to injury: Greg Allen, knee, Roger Davey broken leg (and cardiac problems - Ed.), Terry Parker, knee and Brian Thomas, knee - since the national championships and then lost our stalwart Simon Thomson to a split lip (no, not a dropped lip) and Peter Sinclair to a muscle tear. /10

Visitors: New players for the month have included Leo Welten from Melville and Canberra and Geoff Riley also from Melville both having an impact on the competition and in their respective teams. Also good to see Stephen Powles making a regular appearance.

Life's Lingering Moments:

1. Self definition:" I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best." (Describes someone we all know)
2. Sometimes people are beautiful. Not in looks. Not what they say. Just in what they are.
3. Last year I joined a support group for procrastination. We haven't met yet.

This Month's Hockey: With the excitement for the month concentrating on the upcoming knees v hips game life on the field has been quite competitive. Numbers have been solid in all weeks except for a certain warm day (36C) when each team had spaces. In the 30 matches played in November 16 were draws. We had winners in 14 matches made up of Gold (6), Blue (5) & White (3). The closeness of the scores can also be shown with 44 goals being scored in the 30 games, at an average of just under 1.5 goals per game. November's last game was a blow-out with Blue munching White 4-1.

It has been good to see the Gold team being the top team for the month. This has been partially due to the ongoing determined defence led by their manager Bill Campbell with able assistance from Glenn Mihala, Ron Mitchell and the return of Bill Rochester (from knee surgery) with Bob le Merle masterminding the attacking moves from centre half following on the excellent carnival he had in Adelaide. This has allowed creative forwards Graham Wood & Adrian Gabriel to mesmerise the opposition and allow hard hitting forwards Colin Murray-Smith & Phil Metcalf to take advantage of the scoring opportunities created. The creativity has been helped by the return of Phil Hewton and the ongoing irrepressible Dudley Burress.

Other good players for the month have been the livewires Leo Welten and Graham Harper from Blue and Jim Campbell and Michael Robinson from Gold. Good solid goals have been scored by Ray Domingo, Colin Murray-Smith, Phil Metcalf and Dudley Evans whilst organisers of the month go to Dudley Evans and Graeme Nicholls.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the efforts of Simon Thomson in promoting the knees v hips game to be held as our last game of the year. Simon had his operation more than a decade ago - must just about be wearing out. But praise for Simon this time must be given for the way he has been leading with the lip. A 10-15 minute interview on 6PR, which I missed but have been informed he was able to give a bit of self-praise in the process. Then being full frontal when visited by Channel 7 at our game this Wednesday last. Simon was unable to concentrate on the game given the demands this televiewer made on his time. Give them their due Channel 7's camera crew took every opportunity to create vision for their program as well as taking shots of the action on the field. His lip was so prominent during the game that an opposition player made an attempt to remove it (and this before the interviews had been completed). He removed himself from the last game to have the lip dressed and to stop the blood flowing, the damaged lip was still evident at the Committee meeting that night and at last report he was seen heading East the next day with three sutures holding the bottom lip together. The vision from Channel 7 on Friday night will be interesting to watch, many of us have never seen ourselves play. By the time this goes to the members the vision will have been played and reputations will have been made and/or destroyed.

The games this year have seen a strong competitive year. The re-jigging of teams at the end of last year aimed at increasing the strength of Blue who had been the previous year's laggards. With a few changes this was accomplished and Blue was a stronger team this year. White and Gold round out what I thought was a well structured even competition. I would presume any changes this year would be minimal.

To those who read this epistle I wish you one & all a Merry Xmas & a Happy New Year, look forward to seeing you at our windup on the 14th & then back in the New Year when all starts again.

Thanks for some great reporting for 2016 Gordon. Same again next year? Ed.

Overview of 2016: *As has become customary for "Masters Matters" in the Christmas edition we thank as many of the people who keep WHM going as we can.*

Executive: We may not all realise that quite a lot of work is required to keep our competition going. Chairman Simon remains in touch with everything that happens, and has now been providing good leadership for 12 years. Bob Bowyer took over as Secretary in 2007 following the retirement of John Dunstan, and does so many tasks that it would take several people to replace him should he decide to quit. Brian ('Spider') Lester was last year's winner of the George Winning Trophy, and despite no longer playing continues to handle our finances and attend PHS. Those from the northern suburbs know what the traffic is like on the Wednesday trip home. Well done, and thank you gentlemen.

Off Field Roles: Roger Partington continues to provide equitable fixtures. Peter Fogels continues to be the WA Masters web-master and has assisted you to link to this edition of "Masters Matters." Colin Gee is our data base administrator, with aid from David Evans for 'B' and 'C' divisions, and any change to your details should be passed on to Colin. Robin Bailey is our efficient and indefatigable uniforms officer, who has been on the receiving end of another complete re-equipment of shirts in 2016. I mentioned him earlier this year as the bloke travelling between turfs with armloads of WHM gear. Robin has won this year's George Winning award. Thanks to all of you for another good year.

Team Captains: These are the miracle workers who manage to play us all in our favourite positions, pass on our complaints to the appropriate quarter, negotiate appropriate fill-ins when teams are short of numbers, and keep Wednesdays enjoyable for everybody. In 2016 our thanks go to:

'A' Division: Blue - Neil Scaddan (vc Ivan Wilson). Gold - Colin Gee (vc Peter Gason).

Red - Roger Partington (vc Jim Wright). White - David Horsley (vc George Bradbury).

'B' Division: Blue - Graham Challoner. Gold - Bill Campbell. White - Peter Andrews.

'C' Division: Blue - Tony Jones. Gold - Mike Sputore. Red - Steve Pestana. White - Wayne Cutler.

Sponsorship: Thanks to Greg Allen for the continued support from Greg's Discount Chemist.

Umpires: Throughout the year the umpires are named in the monthly editions of "Masters Matters." However, the non-playing volunteers need to be thanked again here. Who would want to officiate for a lot of grumpy old men? Our thanks to the regulars in each division, who were:

'A' division: Vern Gooch and Neil Mannolini. (And Chris Gilders early in 2016. Where did he go?).

'B' division: John Lindsay and George Mullins.

'C' division: Steve Farrar and Nick Pereira have been mentioned as non-playing umpires.

Saturday: Peter Brien has been a stalwart, and for the first few months Ken Edwards was a regular.

Saturday O/65s: This is a most enjoyable afternoon, thanks to the dedicated and effective work of the Committee. Well done Les Waldon, Jim Wright, Bob Bowyer, George Bradbury & Howie Herbert. Thanks are also due to the rostered team selectors and food providers, who have done well in 2016. And the spirit of this competition is exemplified by the band of volunteers who are always prepared to lend a hand in all the set up and clean up tasks - thanks to you all.

WHM Cooks: Talking of volunteers, the list of preparers of food is a long one. I have tried to credit all those who assisted at the barbecues at our various venues, and thank you once again.

Stadium Staff: Thanks and well done to Jason and the bar team for the hot food and cold drinks. The occasional bottle of wine is a bonus. Thanks also to the ground staff for ensuring all is in readiness for us to strut our stuff on the turfs each Wednesday.

UWA and Hale: During the 2016 year we went to these alternative venues several times. Thank you to both clubs for providing their facilities and (most times) opening their bars.

Wine Raffle: Thanks to Bob and his cast of thousands for continuing to raise the funds for our charity and sporting donations. Bob has distributed the Committee minutes listing all the recipient charities.

Regular Contributors: It's been great to receive regular items which I do not write. My thanks go to Peter Hammond, Neil Mannolini, Ian Purdie, John Sanders and Gordon Jeffrey for the regular reports from our 'B' division. Are there any scribes in 'C' division?

Masters Matters Readers: Thank you all for the feedback and occasional kind words throughout the year. This makes it all seem worthwhile, and we'll all do our best to keep going in 2017.

Teams For Knees versus Hips: According to my latest information the sides are:

Hip Replacements: Andrew Robertson (GK), Bob Claxton, Don Sanders, Ian Lyon, Ivan Wilson, Jim Banks, Jim Campbell, Mal Skinner, Peter Evans, Ric Roberts, Rob Tinney, Shane Knapp, and Simon Thomson (Captain). **Unavailable:** Dudley Evans.

Knee Replacements: Adrian Gabriel, Bill Rochester, Bob Bowyer (Captain), Bob Le Merle, Geoff Roberts, Graham Wood, Peter Fogels, Peter Murray, Shane Williams, Stephen Adams (GK), Trevor Kerr, Tom Long and Jeff Godfrey. **Unavailable:** Nick Pereira, Roger Davey and Gordon Thomas.

Umpire: John Sanders (unbiased - has had both).

Coaches: Peter Hammond (*by remote control from Bali*), Don Smart.

Media Release: Earlier this issue we have praised the team working on the organisation of the knees versus hips match. Included below is the public relations release for the event.

**ARTIFICIAL HIPS V KNEES
PERTH HOCKEY STADIUM,
WEDNESDAY 14 DECEMBER AT 3.30PM**

Western Hockey Masters is a Perth based Social Hockey Club with approximately 200 members, all over 50 years of age. Competitions are played at Perth Hockey Stadium and Perry Lakes throughout the year.

Amongst members there are thirteen players with at least one artificial hip and fourteen players with at least one knee replacement. On Wednesday, 14 December 2016, at 3.30pm at Perth Hockey Stadium, a match will be played between a team of players with hip replacements versus a team with knee replacements.

Hip replacements need nine months of rehabilitation including walking, swimming, gym and physiotherapy a daily basis. Similarly knee replacements require dedicated exercises, and specific physiotherapy in order to become mobile, and strengthen the leg muscles around the knee. A number of players with joint replacements are also Masters State Representatives, and one player is in the Australian Masters Team.

As an Australian and probably World first, this Hockey Match shows what is possible with modern medicine and celebrates the orthopaedic technology that is available.

Our congratulations go to both the organising and playing teams. Ed.

Wasps Current & Former: Graham ('Chip') Challoner is also now eligible for the Australian O/70s. Thanks for the beers at the PHS bar, and Happy Birthday from "Masters Matters."

It was good to see Rob Crofts at PHS during November. I hope that the visit can be repeated, and that a few more of us can say hello.

Earlier this year we took a shot at George Winning for not wearing his WHM walk out shirt. It has now been sighted in the bar, and not only fitted properly but looked smart.

Christmas Party Bookings: These are to be made through your team captains this Wednesday 7th. Players \$20, partners free. Payment to team captain / manager with the booking please.

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - 'A' Division White team. Email: johnmercera@iinet.net.au.