



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 4

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Regular Features:

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

Irregular Features:

Fees for Casual Players: This Page.
 'A' division Start Time: Page 3.
 Department of Corrections: Page 3.
 Letters To The Editor: Page 3.
 Rule Changes 2017: Page 4.
 'C' Division Match Snippet: Page 7.
 Test Your Hockey Knowledge: Page 7.
 Animal Team Names: Page 11.

Dates For The Diary:

2017: April 15th: Easter Saturday. O/65s are playing at Perry Lakes as usual.
 April 19th: All hockey at UWA - 'A' div on Turf 1; 'B' and 'C' divs on Turf 2. Same start times.
 April 24th to 28th: Australian O/70s training camp - Perth.
 April 26th: Sausage sizzle - PHS.
 May 2nd to 6th: Trans Tasman - Whangarei. } Australian 35s to 65s.
 June **12th** to July 3rd: European Tour - 4 Countries. } Australian 70s
 August 19th to 27th: European Cup - Glasgow. } Southern Cross / Australian 75s
 September 23rd to October 7th: 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

Fees For Visiting Players: The cost of PHS turf hire has increased, and so must our charge for casual players. Effective immediately it's gone up to \$20, which not only includes the great pleasure of our company in the bar afterwards but also the nibbles too.

Currently on Wednesdays we have an excess of players in every team. So if you just turn up you might not get a game. We do appreciate having international, interstate and country visitors, and our Chairman would appreciate an email or a phone call beforehand (as many do now) so that he can organise a game for you.

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I mentioned last issue that our Wednesday games were founded on an invitation only basis. As the numbers have grown the word has spread far and wide, especially with the communications revolution which has occurred since 1991. It's not as easy to expand the competition as it used to be; shown by the resistance to an earlier start for 'A' division. It remains to be seen whether the current high attendance ratio will persist after the start of the Saturday winter season. Ed.

Department of Limericks: In the 'A' division we often produce low scores in the warmer weather. It's not unknown for "Can't buy a goal!" to be heard on Turf Two. This prompted the following:

The seniors who play forward roles
 When it's hot just cannot get goals
 If scores were for sale
 We'd see, without fail

"Goals, two for a tenner at Coles!" Then you'd have to persuade the umpire that it's legal tender.

Department of Health: Simon's wife Carol has now had the operation and begun the difficult and lengthy process of recovery. Graham 'Chip' Challoner has had a prostate operation, I understand. We hope all went well. Rusty Phillips now has a couple of stents, a no alcohol diet & some puzzling symptoms still under investigation. At least it did not stop him visiting family in Singapore at the end of March. Irene Simpson has often been there on Wednesdays during the month - and seems to be travelling well. Best wishes to all (including those not mentioned here) for a quick recovery.

'A' Division Start Time: Since the numbers have been through the roof this year an earlier start has been implemented. As from the 22nd March the matches have begun at 1:00 pm and now are of 25 minutes duration. The intention is to give everyone a little more hockey, and see whether the high numbers persist after the winter grass season begins. If this happens we will have to give thought to other ways of addressing the problem. At least the heat should not bother us for some time.

Department of Corrections: "All these things have now changed" on Page 10 should have read: "All these things have now changed." The starting date of the O/70s European tour is actually 12th June rather than the 3rd as stated on Page 2.

The worst mistake discovered so far involves the rule changes - specifically Rule 9.8. We claimed on Page 4: "Players must play the ball dangerously, or in a way which leads to dangerous play." Of course we meant: "Players must **not** play the ball dangerously..." I would suggest that such a Freudian slip was generated by spending too much time watching the 'A' division in action. Thanks to Steve Farrar for sending in a correction, which appears here on Page 4.

Letters To The Editor: March generated more feedback than we've had for a while - maybe because it contained more errors. Thank you to Peter Fogels, Kevin Burton, Heath Tyrrell, Mal Horrigan (with a correct answer to John's question), John Milner, Ken Watt (several topics, including an update to Glasgow numbers), Peter Brien and Steve Farrar (responses to 2017 rules).

Kevin Burton: "I like the gravy ladle joke. (*Gordon Jeffery's column. Me too - Ed.*) Agree re the inter-state masters comments. Having played last 8 years the best ones have been at smaller locations. Costs could reduce as you say if not held in the holidays. I also think Masters players like places where the local clubs get something out of it."

Heath Tyrrell: "My visit back to Ireland was to try out for the Irish O/65 team to compete in the European Cup in August. I have now been selected to play in the Celtic Cup (France, Scotland, Wales and Ireland) at the end of April. Hopefully I will play well enough to gain selection for the European Cup." *Thanks for the correction Heath - best wishes and let us know how you go. Ed.*

Ken Watt: "Patronizing the bar would be more enjoyable for many if there was more seating. Now with respect to the success of the 'knees versus hips' game I thought that we could perhaps have a game(s) for the 'mentally unstable' where one is obliged to nominate themselves, however I then realized we may not get enough starters. I then thought that perhaps we could nominate others that 'we' considered qualified but soon realised we would have at least 4 teams, just from the 'A' division." *So Ken went along with the Cancer survivors' team. Though on self-nominations I think that some of us have already done this by turning up to play in extreme weather conditions. Ed.*

Quotable Quote One: "There is much pleasure to be gained from useless knowledge." *Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970). The Masters Matters editor hopes that a few readers agree.*

Rule Changes 2017: The last issue was meant to have included information on raising the stick above the shoulder to play the ball, but this was overlooked by an editor who messed up the dangerous play rule also. Fortunately, Steve Farrar spotted the errors and sent us this: "From the FIH rule book:

9.8: "Players **must not** play the ball dangerously or in a way which leads to dangerous play. A ball is also considered dangerous when it causes legitimate evasive action by players. The penalty is awarded where the action causing the danger took place."

This is particularly important when considering Rule 9.7 which states:

9.7: "Players may stop, receive and deflect or play the ball in a controlled manner in any part of the field when the ball is at any height including above the shoulder unless this is dangerous or leads to danger."

The key words for me are 'play the ball in a controlled manner.' This does not mean a wild swing at the ball as some people think they can do now."

Thanks very much Steve. My proof reading for "Masters Matters" needs to improve. Ed.

Saturday umpire Peter Brien had a comment about Rule 11.8 which states that play must go on if the ball strikes an umpire. "I feel if I was hit the player involved would find it difficult to continue after he received his RED card." *You're in no danger from malice Peter, but maybe Incompetence is more of a risk. Though you're safe from me - I don't get hits. Ed.*

No 2017 Rule Books: Neil Mannolini has informed me that no rule books are to be printed. The rules may only be accessed online via the Hockey WA site (verified by 'Masters Matters'), and presumably also FIH. In late news FIH have just released a phone app, which can be downloaded to either iOS or android devices. I managed to access the prompts for loading the app via a Google on "FIH rules app" for those who want to try and would like to include a review next issue. *(Or print a reader one)*

'C' Division Surpass Elders: On the 22nd neither the 'A' nor the 'B' division seemed to have gone to the bar afterwards in large numbers. Though as I was departing the 'C's had arrived in force. We have a reputation to maintain in this bar - thanks to the younger blokes for doing their bit.

Grumpy Old Men Part One: "The future, according to some scientists, will be exactly like the past, only far more expensive." *John Sladek (1937 - 2000). US science fiction author.*

Ken Walter Update: KW requested a correction to our last month's DS. He stated that he had not thrown his stick as claimed; but placed it carefully on the turf. I'm starting to envy players whose backs are sufficiently flexible to allow them to pick up discarded sticks with ease.

Kenny's attendances on Wednesdays are likely to be less frequent. He's gone back to work, taking up a contract on a project up near Rob Butler's Bruce Rock location.

'A' Division Depletions (corrected): I left Alliance out of the Glasgow numbers. Col Benporath (GK) & Terry Gaston (Blue) are both going and my correspondent (Ken Watt) informed me that another Blue player has nominated for Southern Cross too (Ken Watt). Glasgow 'A' division counts are now: Blue (4), Gold (5), Red (1) and White (3). As far as I can tell goalkeepers named in Australian and Southern Cross teams are: Bill Baldwin (Aust), John Burt (SC) and Bob Stidwell (SC). 'B' div will also be without players, including Richard Osborne, but I'm not sure how many.

A' Division Blog: I think something like this happened in March. What do you think?

March 1st: The forecast 36° was amended to 38° before 9:00 am, correctly. Mt Lawley's BOM site got to 37.7, while Perth Airport was 38.1° at 1:45 pm. In spite of this two teams had surplus players.

Mostly the hockey was a dour affair befitting the weather, but Blue and Red provided a goal feast with the former winning 3-2. The only other win occurred when White prevailed 1-0 over Blue, with all other games being draws (0-0 twice). White had so many players that they could manage to lend Eric Alcock and Ken Beer to Blue for the day, and still needed regular substitutions. Good goals were scored by George Bradbury (corner conversion), Phil Metcalf (2) and Trevor Kerr (2), but goal of the day was awarded by the judging panel (*i.e. Ed.*) to Peter Dennis and Adolphus Abrahams.

We welcomed a guest from Scotland in Peter Gordon, who has played with Ken Walter and Len Collier. We hope that acclimatisation was not too difficult. By the way, Peter is a little underage for us, so played with the Red team, whose birth certificate inspection is not as stringent as other sides. Three goalkeepers (Bill Baldwin, John Burt & Barry Rutter) began the day, with Bill in particular in great comeback form, but by the last game only John could be located. (*No wonder at 38°! Ed.*) Approximate player numbers were White (13), Red (10), Blue (8) and Gold (11). Goals scored (10).

March 8th: Maximum temperatures around Perth were in the vicinity of 35° with humidity well up. This had the customary effect on the hockey and goals were again at a premium. Keepers Barry, Bill and John all played well, and several out of character misses also kept scores low. Stick saves on the line by John Burt and Jim Wright were quality hockey. White got some lucky goals in a couple of matches (*see limerick Page 12*) before running out of puff in the last game of the day. Blue were the only other scorers, putting two past Red with Jim Banks corner conversion goal of the day. A green card was awarded for a bad tackle in the first game and perhaps more could have been shown. We welcomed both Rob Butler and Nevelle Brown again, even though it was very difficult to include them in a team due to our numbers. Bob Byers is back from holiday and Roy Grant was welcomed to the 'A' division. Ken Beer and David Pandher both played very well for their respective sides. Very approximate player numbers were: Gold (10), Blue (11), White (13) and Red (12). Only 5 goals were scored in total - perhaps everybody was saving it for the pizzas.

March 15th: Cooler weather did not have much impact on our hockey, which was still consistently inconsistent. Gold and Red continue to get the ball to their attacking circles in good style, but the last successful touch continues to be elusive, though Gold usually seem to be able to get one when the sides play each other. White's team list includes 15 players and all of them were there. As Blue and Gold each had a spare player and Red began the day with 7 Rob Butler joined them and Scott Blackwell and Brian Soares switched to red shirts. The arrival of two more Red players made this a short term arrangement only, and many White players ended up with reduced game time. *More elsewhere on this.* Goal of the day would have gone to Jim Malcolm, but his rocket of a shot from the angle hit the post. Ian Lyon got the award for a good collection of a bouncing rebound. Blue and White again did not lose a game - both defences are not easy to score against. White's inside forward trio of Ham D'Souza, Paul Robinson and Ron Venables are in fine touch. Approximate (very) player numbers were; Red (9), White (15), Gold (11) and Blue (11). Goals scored (8).

March 22nd: This was a rather strange day, with no draws, all teams winning at least one match, and only White remaining undefeated. Bar comment was that three consecutive passes to a team mate had been rare, hence the scrappy nature of much of the hockey. Bob Bowyer transferred from Blue to Red and Rob Butler played for Red also. This meant that Blue and Red had no spares, Gold had one extra, and White had five surplus players. The goalkeepers carried a heavier load with only three there (Bob Stidwell, John Burt and Bill Baldwin). Bob is making his return after two years out - form and fitness are too. Another card was awarded for a bad tackle (time we learnt). Good goals were scored by Peter Dennis (2), Peter Gason, Ron Venables and George Bradbury, but goal of the day is a shared award between Roy Grant's double, and Rob Butler's reverse stick effort for Red (their first since March 1st). The White defence did not concede a goal again. A few had to depart early but full numbers were: Blue (11), Gold (11), Red (9) and White (15). Goals scored - 8. /6

Russell Falls

Photo John Mercer



In case you were unsure about nominating for Hobart, this spot is within easy driving distance.

'A' Division Blog (continued): These months with five Wednesdays need a lot of space.

March 29th: Play began badly on an unwatered Turf 2, and even after the arrival of Ivan Wilson and the addition of some H₂O neither the turf nor the play got much better. Blue were by far the best side, and not only did the bulk of the scoring but also did not concede a goal. Red have struggled to score all quarter, and again had to rely on an import (Ken Beer borrowed from White) for their goal, while John Milner got the goal of the day for Gold. White could not buy a goal (see Page 2) in their first two games, but improved in their last against Gold. Play of the day must go to Peter Willet, who has missed a lot of 2017 hockey but still managed an incredible goal line save in his first game back. Only Red were short, so Ken Beer transferred from White and Bob Bowyer transferred from Blue. Jim Banks still knows where to go in the circle and put in a couple. In my view the longer games were helpful. Player numbers: White (13), Red (7), Blue (12) and Gold (11). Goals scored (9).

Good News: The recent 'Go Hockey' newsletter included one story which really caught my eye. A study at London's Kingston University has found that dark chocolate can have a beneficial effect on a player's work rate. This is genuinely not an April 1st yarn - but does leave me very worried. If ever I can no longer afford Tim Tams my hockey will suffer as a consequence. It's bad enough now.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "The great thing about democracy is that it gives every voter a chance to do something stupid." *Art Spander - US sports writer and columnist for the San Francisco Examiner.*

The French Letter No 29:

Having commenced my career as a political commentator in my last letter, I'm now not so sure that it would earn me any money. Although I must say that keeping up with the vagaries of French politics requires luck as well as skill. However it is great entertainment.

Fillon continues to stagger and has steadfastly refused to back down despite now being under formal investigation for a range of offences. He has blamed the media and now the government and in particular the current President for deliberately torpedoing his campaign. The polls say that with four weeks to go Macron and Le Pen will lead the voting and become the final two candidates to progress into round two. However, polls also say forty per cent of the French voters are undecided. If they roll up in numbers to vote that could change things but it is more likely that they will stay away (voting is not compulsory in France) as they are so disillusioned with politicians and the political processes.

Fortunately, spring is now here and giving us the opportunity to dwell on more interesting things. I have been busy preparing the 'potager' for planting out my veggie plants at a later date. I purchased a new greenhouse – metal frame and plastic cover and currently have seeds germinating in seed trays for peas, beans, beetroot, leeks, peppers, parsley, lettuce, aubergines, courgettes, cornichons and tomatoes.

I recently purchased a four-in-one machine with a two stroke motor that cuts low scrub, border grasses, trims hedges and cuts tree branches. You simply attach the relevant tool to the drive shaft. This will make my maintenance jobs a little easier as we not only have extensive grassed areas but also many trees and large shrubs that require regular pruning.

I must say that playing hockey now seems like a distant memory, albeit a very pleasant one. It is now 32 months since I returned to France and my hockey sticks are still in the bag I transported on the plane. I still live in hope, although the passing years may end up dictating otherwise.

Best wishes to you all. Ian Purdie.

Thank you again Purds. Let's hope there is not another French Revolution on the way. Ed.

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: March's question was: In the 2014 Champion's Trophy in Mendoza which Hockeyroo top scored with 5 goals? Was it? a) Emily Smith b) Jodie Kenny c) Kathryn Slattery d) Georgia Nanscawen. *Answer is Jody Kenny. Mal Horrigan sent in a correct answer, and as I promised during the election campaign has now received a bottle from Doubleview Cleanskins.*

April's question is: Which of these players played the most hockey internationals for Australia? a) Ray Evans. b) Julian Pearce. c) Pat Nilan. c) Don Smart. *Answer next issue.*

Dummy Spit Of The Month: In March there have been several possible contenders. But after much careful consideration the judging panel has decided not to mention names. The award goes to all the members of the 'A' division who walked off Turf 2, for either a self-imposed or umpire imposed rest.

Who Was That Masked Man? Watching 'C' division through the bar window on the 22nd provided the interesting sight of three White forwards (with the ball) and one goalkeeper as the only players inside the 23 metre line. Somehow the White side failed to score. Very well done to the goalkeeper (who I believe was Marcus Frayne). Have the White team been watching the 'A' division?

This is the first match report of the 'C' division for some time. "Masters Matters" would be improved in the opinion of its editor if we could include a match report (or two) from the 'C' division. At least some news, such as injuries, health problems. Or even who umpired. Ed.

Punology One: Did you hear about the rower who crashed into a pylon? He broke his skull.

No Balinese Bulletin This Month:

Both Peter and Erin have succumbed to symptoms described as extreme tiredness, fever, Bali belly, etc. Best wishes for a speedy recovery from all at WHM. Hopefully PH will return next month Ed.

From The Saturday O/65s: It's a big report this month. It's been a big month.

Bob Bowyer attended a meeting (on our behalf) about the future of the Alderbury Reserve. There have been many submissions from interested organisations. These include a hockey turf and eight grass fields (from YMCA), two drop in cricket pitches, baseball and T-ball fields and a brand new clubrooms instead of the current one (in a different location) with facilities for all sports, though these are all dependent on obtaining funding (or raising the money). We will try to keep you posted.

An alarming tendency recently has been for players to be selected for the team in whose shirt they arrived. I thought standard operating procedure was to make sure that the Blue team was solely composed of those who arrived in White shirts - and vice versa.

The first day of the revised system for late arrivals was a success as only one arrived after we had gone out to the grounds. Well done to the Committee member responsible, i.e. George Bradbury.

Thank you to all who contributed to the barbecue on the 25th. Those I have been able to note are Ash Foster (sponsorship), Ron Venables (set up/barbecue cleaner), Jim Wright (organiser and cook), Howie Herbert (cook) and also Bob Bowyer and Les Waldon (barbecue cleaners). The barbecue had to be cleaned before and after the event.

Eric Alcock reminded me recently that it has been some time since we published a points table. Happy to oblige: Blue (0), Lime (0), Orange (0) and White (0). The selectors seem to be achieving the aim of making it an even competition, especially as players are not permanently allocated to teams.

The end of summer season dinner and AGM was held at the Herdsman's Hotel on Saturday April 1st. Congratulations to George Bradbury for the organisation of the venue and the fine three course menu. The only disappointing aspect of the evening was the low attendance, as the subsidised meal is intended to be for the benefit of all Saturday players.

The AGM was held immediately before and during our meal. Highlights included:

- 1) Thanks to Ash Foster for his generous sponsorship of our shirts and several other activities.
- 2) Club captain Les Waldon thanked all members of the committee for their work during the past year. Jim Wright thanked Les for his guidance and leadership in keeping us all together.
- 3) All retiring committee members have been re-elected. Best wishes from "Masters Matters" go to the volunteers who will guide Saturday hockey for the next 12 months. They are: Les Waldon, Jim Wright, Bob Bowyer, George Bradbury, Howie Herbert and John Mercer.
- 4) Some changes to fees and nibbles were approved. Basically these are a small increase in fees and a reimbursement for the rostered provider of the nibbles.
- 5) A general discussion on incorporation closed the meeting. Many thanks to Peter Murray for providing a lot of enlightenment on the topic.

It was suggested during the AGM that the Herdsman's dinner be discontinued due to the very low numbers present. My thoughts are that it should not be necessary to go to a tournament in another state to have a meal with our hockey mates, and it might be possible to have the function as a paid attendance night, and make it pleasure only without any business.

We hope that we have another enjoyable winter season coming up, and look forward to resuming our cordial relationship with YMCA.

Some Like It Hot? Despite the weather attendances in March were very good. So:

Though in a Perth summer we fry

Team numbers have all been sky high

We play in the heat

Until we're dead beat

The question unanswered is why?

'B' Division Report - March:

INJURIES: Don Sanders is suffering from knee tendon issues and has decided to take a couple of months break from hockey, Brian Thomas returned after having a knee jab and hasn't set the world on fire but has not felt uncomfortable after playing. Signs are looking good. Good to see former State and National player Tom Long (NCR) down to play. Tom hasn't played much in the last 2 years after knee replacements and shoulder surgery. From initial looks, he is travelling pretty well. Graham Challenor, Bill Campbell and Colin Murray-Smith have all recently had prostate treatments varying from removal to rebore. Viewing the prostate cancer website they give the following facts:

1. In Australia, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men.
2. More than 3,000 men die of prostate cancer in Australia every year.
3. More men die of prostate cancer than women die of breast cancer.

Maybe it's about time for those finely honed athletic hockey bodies to be tested.

VISITORS:

Keith Chay Queensland and Australian full back spent a week or so in Perth, spending time with family and attended week 4 of the March season. Welcome to Ian Brommel from NCR for his first Wed run during week 5. Dudley Evans returned to New Zealand earlier this year to try out for the NZ team for the Trans Tasman and it appears he has been selected to represent the Kiwis.

Congratulations to Dudley. Heath Tyrell travelled to Ireland to try out for the Irish team at the European Championships in August. Although he hasn't been selected yet he has been selected to play for Ireland in the Celtic Four Nation tournament that is coming up in May and from that they will select the National team. Best wishes Heath. And he did tell me that he doesn't have a background in Hurling.

LIFES LINGERING MOMENTS:

1. Animals have these advantages over Man: They have no theologians to instruct them, their funerals cost them nothing, they don't have to vote for politicians and no one starts lawsuits over their wills. (Voltaire)
2. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
3. If you can't afford a doctor go to an airport- you will get a free X-Ray and a breast exam and if you mention drugs in the process you will get a free colonoscopy.

THIS MONTH'S HOCKEY:

Week 1 of March was a hot humid day, resulting in intense early effort which gradually reduced as the day wore on. Games were reduced to 15 mins to allow for pitch watering and duty of care rehydration. Games went with serve. All teams had a win with Blue and White sharing the honours with 2 wins, a draw and a loss each. A total of 6 goals were scored on the day again showing the strength of the respective defences. All goals are special but seeing Heath Tyrell the Irish Terror (on his return from his attempt to win a team place in Ireland) score one was nearly unbelievable with a strong hit from the right inner position at the top of the circle. Peter Fogels showed his new bits are working ok with a strong hit, through Gorby's hip, that was allowed as a goal, Ray Domingo accepted another pass from Graham Harper (who got it from Peter (nice haircut) Komysan) and tapped it into the net in trademark style. Keith Platel opened the scoring for the day with a tap in from the post and Greg Allen was responsible for a number of strong forward moves but only resulted in one goal for the day. For some reason a couple of players decided to tap the ball away after having a free hit given against them resulting in an umpire warning. All teams had sufficient numbers. Everyone was glad when the day ended.

Umpire: Lionel David, Goalies: Richard Osborne and Graeme Sansom.

Week 2: Another warm humid day, again making it difficult conditions for playing and goals were hard to come by. Only 5 goals scored for the day, of which 3 were in the last game. Best goal of the day went to Jim Campbell, picked up the ball from outside the 25, ran toward the circle with defenders falling off him, into the circle and struck it truly past the goalie. As a defender Jim follows the backman's rule "if you want something done you have got to do it yourself". Ray Domingo was the only person to score more than one goal with 2 tap in goals. Firstly after receiving a perfect pass from Graham Harper who had spread eagled the field with his dash into the circle dummied the keeper and passed to Ray on his own in the open. The second after Dudley Evans received the ball at the top of the circle and hammered it at the goalie, Andrew Robertson, who just managed to get a pad to it, but it deflected to Ray who was under pressure but bunted it in. First goal of the day went to Geoff Riley, Gold's only goal scorer, after a scrimmage in the circle saw Geoff pounce on the ball and get it home. All teams had sufficient numbers.

Umpires: Lionel David, John Lindsay, Ian Pestana. Goalies: Andrew Robertson, Richard Osborne and Graeme Sansom.

Week 3: The sun was shining but the day was a cool 24°C, making it an enjoyable day for hockey. The games continued to be a strong play between forward and defence, with the first 5 games of the day ending in 0-0 or 1-1 draws. Gold then surprised everyone by defeating an undermanned Electric Blue by 4-0 (running a bit short of the electric). Leo Welten started the rout with an early goal, followed by a brace from Peter Fogels and finished off with a strong drive from left inner on top of the circle by Adrian Gabriel. Tom Long broke his virginity back in this competition to score the opening goal for Blue, with Adrian Gabriel responding to complete the draw. White was looking for its first defeat for 3 weeks when Keith Platel got one underneath the keepers stick, however latecomer Roger Davey restored order nearing the end of the 20 minutes with a strong hit in the circle, for a draw. The other 3 games were nil all draws.

Umpires: Lionel David & John Lindsay. Goalkeepers: Graeme Sansom & Andrew Robertson.

Week 4: Another good day for hockey. Blue recruited well over the last week. Picked up Aust player Keith Chay from Qld, Simon Thomson and Dave Mellor from White and Graham Harper and Ray Domingo returned and immediately beat Gold 3-0 in the first game. That set the standard for the day. Blue won all 4 games scoring 7 goals for the day with goalscorers Ray Domingo (2), Graham Harper (2), Tom Long (2) and the Kiwi champ Dudley Evans with 1. White and Gold played two scoreless draws. Gold scored one goal for the day and White didn't score. The goal of the day was scored by Gold's Phil Hewton when he received the ball near the top of the circle, left inner position and lobbed a backstick shot over the head of the keeper and under the goal cross bar.

Umpires: Lionel David, John Lindsay, Ian Pestana. Goalkeepers: Graeme Sansom, Andrew Robertson & Richard Osborne.

Week 5: Another cool day promising strong competitive hockey. Last week Blue couldn't lose, this week they couldn't win. Gold were the team of the day with two wins and two draws shading White and Blue. Adrian Gabriel returned to goal scoring form with 3 goals for the day, the only multiple goal scorer. White after scoring only one goal in two weeks scored 3 goals in the last game through Roger Davey (had been having a lean trot), Peter Andrews and Jim Campbell but the duck had been broken in the previous game by resolute defender come forward Dave Mellor, scoring his goal for the year. Other scorers included Dudley Evans, Dudley Burress and the Canberra Cannon Leo Welten

Umpires: Lionel David plus players. GKs: Richard Osborne, Graeme Sansom and Andrew Robertson.
Thanks Gordon. Perhaps it's a good thing that April has only four Wednesdays. Ed.

No Name Nothings: Last issue we suggested another team for the Health Challenge. Qualifications were to be that players must be ineligible for any of the other sides (Hips, Knees, Heart and Cancer) and not be on any significant medication. As no reader names came in I'll inflict my own possibility on our readership. How about the "Grey Nomeds?"

Another Letter to the Editor: Eric Alcock has picked up on the team names debate, and adds this: "One Saturday afternoon after the hockey, four old, wise players (well, old anyway) were discussing how teams took on the names of animals and spoke of Panthers, Wolves, Tigers, Eagles and the like. It was suggested that we Masters could heighten our exposure by following suit and all were nodding their heads in agreement until one of those present suggested that "Snails", Sloths" and "Tortoises" might be relevant whereby the party broke up and went home to bed."

So the MM limerick writer took this on board, and came up with:

Emerging from hockey tall tales
Team names "Tortoises", "Sloths" and the "Snails."
But would it cause mirth
If those large of girth
All played in a side called the "Whales."

The last word goes to Shakespeare: "But old folks, many feign as they were dead; unwieldy, slow heavy and pale as lead." Romeo and Juliet Act II Scene V. Juliet impatiently awaits the arrival of her old nurse. I hope 'A' division does not look that bad from the stands, but will not ask for comments.

Past Players & Non Players: Last month saw the return of one of our foreign residents. In addition to Jeff Godfrey, Brian Lester, and George Winning, Nigel Thomas was in the PHS bar. Thanks for the gourmet \$80 truffles which featured in the raffle, and were won by Eric Alcock, I believe.

Well Dones: The 'A' division umpires' honour roll for March includes: Jim Balding, Len Blyth, George Bradbury, Peter Evans, Peter Gordon, Vern Gooch, Neil Mannolini, Roger Partington, John Sanders, Neil Scaddan and Ken Walter. Thanks to all and to those who umpired at PHS in the 'B' and 'C' divisions. Gordon Jeffery has named the 'B' division umps in his report. Thanks to the Saturday umpires too: Rob Ainsworth, Eric Alcock, George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Dudley Burress, Colin Gee, Brian Glencross, Marty Greay, Ian Hill, Roger Partington, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Ken Watt, Ken Walter and Graham Wood. Thanks also to the cooks at the sausage sizzle on the 29th, who appeared to be only Glen Mihala and Leo Welten.

Shakespeare Said It: "... Mine eyes are not o' the best - I'll tell you straight." King Lear Act V Scene III. *Mis-trapping 'A' division player. "Masters Matters" would never attribute such a remark to an umpire. None of the staff would ever get a free hit again.*

Wife to "Masters Matters" reader: "How now! Art thou mad?" Response: "No, madam, I do but read madness." Twelfth Night Act V Scene I. *Hopefully only when the proof reader has a bad month.*

Punology Two: A couple were walking in St Petersburg Square on Christmas Eve and felt a slight precipitation. "I think it's raining", he said. "No, it's snowing, she said. "How about we ask this Communist officer here? He is always right" he said. "Officer Rudolph, is it raining or snowing?"

"Definitely raining" Officer Rudolph replied before walking off. So he turned to his wife with a smile and said: "See! Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."

Suggested Rule Change: Ever since I watched the O/75s in Adelaide decided by a shoot-out the thought keeps recurring that this is one area where the rules need to be tweaked for older players. If Olympic players are allowed 8 seconds from the 23 metre line then surely O/75s should receive a little more time. Generally I am a firm believer in keeping the rules the same at all levels, but in this case I do think that an exception is warranted. Reader opinions are welcome, especially goalkeepers.

Quotable Quote Number Two: "The function of science fiction is not always to predict the future but sometimes to prevent it." *Frank Herbert (1920 - 1986). US Science fiction author of "Dune."*

Nominations for Hobart: WA Country have opened nominations for players via the web-site, while WA Metro have not yet (I hear) appointed all their coaches and managers for the Hobart sides. The player nominations will open after this has been finalised. Though I believe that potential O/75s are being actively sought by both Country and Metro already.

Welcome to New Players: Welcome back to Tom Long, who has now re-registered to play again. The Orthopaedic Challenge Match seems to have provided a boost to our numbers.

Absence From Turf Two: The defibrillator from Turf Two has been missing for several weeks now. I have heard that it was used (we all hope it served the purpose) and following that needs a makeover before it can be regarded as operational again. Until it returns to action again we need to remember that the closest de-fib to our 'A' division games is up on Turf One.

Sign Him Up? It was with much regret that I read the news of Jamie Dwyer being refused permission to play in the Premier League. No further news has reached me, so presumably this was the final outcome. I'm surprised that Pesty has not offered to get him into 'C' division, or is he still too young?

Happy Birthday: To Ivan Wilson, and thank you for the beers on the 22nd.

Goal of the Day: It has become obligatory in my 'A' division reporting to award a G.O.D. each week. This was split two thirds/one third last month when only three goals were scored; two to Ken Watt and one to Ian Lyon. On the 8th March it looked as though no award would be made, due to:

Each Wednesday there's Goal of the Day

The 8th nearly caused some dismay

As at the fifth game

There was only one name

A selfie's not right, so I say.

And as the Editor, my judgement is final and no correspondence will be entered into, etc.

Health Challenge: Simon Thomson told me that the 'B' division has a small epidemic in progress. On the sidelines on the 29th were Bill Campbell, Chip Challoner, Peter Galbraith and Col Murray-Smith, all having recently received treatment for prostate problems. Two Health Challenge Cancer teams?

All news and other contributions to:

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