



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 7

July 2017

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Dates For The Diary:

2017: July 5th/12th: UWA - 'A' on Turf 1, 'B' on Turf 2. Both from 1:00 pm. 'C' at Hale from 3:15 pm.

July 26th: Sausage sizzle - PHS.

August 19th to 27th: European Cup - Glasgow. } Southern Cross / Australian 75s

September 23rd - October 7th: Interstate Masters Championships; Hobart. No WHM 27/09 & 04/10.

October 11th / 18th: Combined 'A' 'B' and 'C' divisions on one turf 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

December 13th: WHM Christmas Party - PHS.

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

Teams for Hobart: Congratulations to all those from WHM selected for the 2017 tournament. The full lists can be found on the respective websites, which I hope you know how to locate. For those who do not, the WA Metro teams are on the Facebook page which is accessible from the web page you used to get to this newsletter by clicking "WA Vets Home." WA Country's web-site begins from www.wacmha.org.au. I have attempted to list the WHM attendees on Page 4.

North / South Divide: It is sometimes claimed that Perth is two cities, one on each side of the river. The one thing which can be said with certainty is that at times it can be difficult to transfer from the north to the south and vice versa. Hence this reaction to a couple of Wednesdays at McGillivray:

We like it at UWA

And think it's a great place to play

Going home is a breeze

Accomplished with ease

No Narrows Bridge Customs to pay.

It's claimed that UWA is closer to home for many of us than PHS. Hope my bias isn't showing. Ed.

Hobart Numbers Down?: At the time of closing off this edition of "Masters Matters" WA Country has not been able to field O/40, O/50, O/60 and O/75 sides. WA Metro extended the nomination period for the O/40s and O/45s - did they too have trouble filling the teams? The O/35s, O/40s and O/45s all finish on Sunday October 1st, while the O/55s are due to start their tournament on September 29th. This means that they all have to travel while the AFL Grand Final traffic is on the move - that match being due to be played on September 30th. Air fares have a bad habit of going up sharply at such times and there is a strong chance this is a contributing factor to the poor numbers. I believe that the difficulty of obtaining accommodation and its high cost is a deterrent too, as is the loss of our State rotation system and the ability to combine tournaments and tourism.

The final number of teams for Hobart will be most interesting when the fixtures emerge. I believe that the enthusiasm and interest from WA is down for both Metro and Country. If this is common around Australia it does not bode well for the future of our tournament.

Bereavement: Our commiserations and sympathy go to Jim Banks, whose father died during June.

Department of Health: Thanks to Jim Wright for an update on Ash Foster. The troublesome hip has been realigned & as at June 18th he's walking again and hopes to be back playing in the near future. No replacement was necessary. *Stop Press - Ash resumed on 28th June, and can still run.* Several players have suffered leg muscle injuries during June and have missed out on hockey for varying periods of time. Neil Patterson (calf), Peter Murray (niggle since O/70 trials) and Ken Watt have now resumed playing, while Paul Robinson (calf?) is still travelling with some difficulty and not playing, while Ron Venables is resting a niggling sore muscle or two. Bob Bowyer has updated us on his progress, and it is good to hear some good news. Being tied to a pair of crutches and unable to drive must be very hard to bear for someone who usually leads such an active lifestyle. Jim Banks has had a problem with one of the metal hips (no, not a loose screw) and is out of playing action for a while. He will certainly not be out of action as coach of the State O/65s who will be defending their title in Hobart. I saw Ross Lonnie on the 23rd and am pleased to report that Ellen is making a good recovery from her injuries. There is still a long way to go, but so far all is progressing as well as could be hoped. Best wishes to all for a speedy and complete recovery.

Department of Corrections: I should have known better than to boast about a lack of mistakes in the May issue. June has more than made up for that with some egregious errors. I mentioned the names of some WHM players who had toured with the late Rae Cherrington to Hobart in 1987, and forgot to include Brian Soares. You'd think my so-called memory would have functioned on that one, as Brian and I roomed together.

I also claimed that no answers had been received for John's 'Test Your Hockey Knowledge,' completely overlooking an email from Mal Horrigan with the correct answer. More details are to be found on Page 6, together with a serving of editorial humble pie. Worth a drink one Wednesday.

Letters To The Editor: Thanks to the respondents to the June issue: David Lester, Bill Baldwin, and John Milner. Mal Horrigan responded also, otherwise the error outlined above would not have been detected. I hope that this will not deter future answers to the quiz.

Lies, Damn Lies and Statistics: Hopefully any fake news which appears here will be clearly labelled as such. The one guarantee I can give about such matters is that all statistics will be based on real data. So the stats in this issue about the 'A' division goal scoring and the wine raffle winners are not made up, as their intention is to provide information rather than persuade people to a course of action.

Filling Masters Matters: In the preparation of this edition there have been several minor and major panics in the "Masters Matters" office. On the morning of 30th June no input had been received from anybody, including several of the usual editorial segments. Hence the lateness of this issue, as we do not have a Rupert Murdoch sized budget to deploy under such circumstances. MM's resident limerick writer was asked to help and managed to produce:

The Editor's sure he's a fraud
There being no words from abroad
Most media choose
To pad with fake news
It's more than MM can afford.

Grumpy Old Men One: "If there were in the world today any large number of people who desired their own happiness more than they desired the unhappiness of others, we could have paradise in a few years." *Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970).*

Who's A Grumpy Old Man? This appellation could have been correctly applied to me during June. I can only offer my apologies for my bad temper, brought on by what seems like a permanent winter cold and my customary winter depression. I will endeavour to mend my ways during July.

Tasmanian Tourists: As best I can determine these are the WHM players included in the State and Country WA teams. Please advise me of any errors and updates. When this issue was finalised the O/75s final line-up had not yet been made public.

WA Metro:

O/50: Robert Behets, Anthony Brittain, Peter Chisholm, Michael Hallam.

O/55: Craig Burgess, David Elliott, Graham Miller, Noel Morrison, John Pestana, Brian Robinson (c), Jeremy Walsh.

O/60: Wayne Cutler (manager), Stephen Farrar, Fred Flanagan, Keith Gilbride, Colin Howell, Peter Kontor, George Naylor, Stephen Pestana (coach), Geoff Robinson, Russell Scanlon, Peter Westlund and Shane Williams.

O/65: Bill Campbell (manager), John Chapman, Roger Davey, Dudley Evans, Peter Fogels, Geoff Hudson, Ian Kealley, David Kerslake, Rudy Keswick, Peter Komysan, Alan Ledger, Tom Long, Peter Morgan, Ian Pestana, Richard Staynor. Coach Jim Banks.

O/70: Peter Andrews, James Balding, Scott Blackwell, Len Blyth, Ashley Challenor, Graham Challenor, John Harper (GK), Malcolm Horrigan, John Jeffreys, Neil Patterson, Brian Soares, Simon Thomson, Heath Tyrell, Peter Wallis, Ken Walter. Coach Don Smart.

O/75: Still a work in progress. More next issue, hopefully.

O/50(2): Tim Reynolds.

O/55(2): Steven Adams (GK), Eddie Biggs, Kevin Dempster, Cameron Fairbrother (coach), Mitch Law, Norm Morrison, Michael Sputore, Geoff Reynolds.

WA Country:

O/55: Stuart Amphlett, Stuart Burnfield, Tony Jones.

O/65: Phil Hewton, Gordon Jeffery, Steve McEntee, Glenn Mihala, Richard Osborne, Mike Robinson, Bill Rochester.

O/70: Ken Beer, Alan Bryce (MM recipient), Harvey Davies, Peter Dennis, Julian Gardner, Mike Harris (Saturday), John Mercer, Neil Scaddan and Bill Baldwin.

Disclaimer: These Hobart attendees were ascertained by a comparison of the announced State and Country teams against the WHM team lists. Wherever possible the spelling has been taken from the team announcement. In addition to errors and omissions I would also like to know how many of us are playing for other states - several of our goalkeepers have been regulars.

WA Tassie Tourists: Best wishes to all the WHM attendees, including those playing for other states. Except perhaps for when you play WA State or WA Country.

You'll play for a West Aussie team?

I think you're entitled to beam

Now book all your flights

And check on the sights

It's time for that gold medal dream.

Quotable Quote One: "My doctor told me to stop having intimate dinners for four. Unless there are three other people." *Orson Welles (1915 - 1985) actor and director well known for a radio broadcast of "The War of the Worlds" which sent people fleeing from their homes in panic. He became very big in Hollywood in his later years, in more ways than one.*

Page Filler: Here are some movie plots, rather badly summarised.

"The Lord of the Rings": Group spends nine hours returning jewellery.

"Titanic": Everybody tries the ice bucket challenge.

"The Chronicles of Narnia": Kid comes out of the closet.

'A' Division Blog: Believe it or not, I do try to accentuate the positive. Sometimes there isn't a lot.

June 7th: The weather was very good, but mostly the hockey was not. All teams had some trouble in maintaining possession and the procession of turnovers made the creation of scoring chances very difficult. After five games only four goals had gone in, then in a reversal of the usual scrappiness of the last game of the day Blue's passing improved and they put three past Bob Stidwell in the Gold goal. All keepers had played very well all day, and Bob just found himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. Gold (Phil Metcalf) and White (Paul Robinson) only scored once, Red got two (Rob Butler and Bob Byers) while Blue's three (Julian Gardner and Ian Hill) in the last put them on top of the scoring for the day. Gold were the only team not to win and there were three draws (two 0-0). Despite a well-struck and well-placed shot from Robbo the goal of the day went to Julian Gardner for two good finishes in the final game. Guests on the day included Julian Gardner (regular Esperance visitor) Rod Spencer and Bruce Mercer, while Trevor Kerr made a most welcome re-appearance. Player numbers were Red (12), White (13), Gold (11) and Blue (7). As a result of these numbers all the guests plus Robin Bailey (White) played for Blue. Total goals scored (7).

June 14th: Numbers varied throughout due to some late arrivals and an early departure; John Milner after a nasty fall. Peter Stevens (Red) played for Gold and Robin Bailey (White) played for Blue. The scoring was evenly spread (Blue and Red 2 each, Gold and White 3 each), but the goals against told the story of the day (Blue and Gold 4, Red 2 and White 0). White won twice and Gold once with all other games being draws, though only the last game of the day was a 0-0 result. Gold responded to a fine early Ian Hill strike with a breakaway goal to fill-in Ron Venables and a winner to Ian Lyon in the last few seconds from a corner rebound. A good corner conversion to Peter Gason gave Gold the lead in the next game, but after an early range finder went astray Trevor Kerr equalised well for Red. A terrific goal line save by Mark Faithfull (newly returned from England) ensured Red got a share of the (non-existent) points. A good build-up by White led to a team goal and a win over Blue. Blue and Red drew 1-1 with John Ree's early goal cancelled out by a great penalty corner strike from Trevor Kerr. Gold then suffered from the effects of the two game break and sustained pressure from White resulted in many chances and slightly scrappy goals to Ken Beer and John Mercer. Well played to all those in the White defence, who did not concede a goal. Also well played to the indefatigable Ron Venables, who not only had an extra game but also ran all day to cover the absence of Ham D'Souza & Paul Robinson. Goal of the day was shared between Peter Gason and Trevor Kerr. Player numbers were: Blue (9), Gold (9), Red (11) and White (12). 10 goals were scored.

June 21st: Due to injuries and travel White needed to recruit for once, and struggled to cope with the absence of Paul Robinson and Ron Venables from the forward line. Having Ham D'Souza back from plantar fasciitis helped, but failure to convert chances (and corners) resulted in a 2-0 loss to Red and a 0-0 draw with Blue. (Red and Blue failed to convert chances too). Gold and Red drew 1-1 in a good contest, followed by the best match of the day between Blue and Red. Two successful corner variations to Ian Hill as opposed to a great lunging score by Peter Stevens saw Blue up 2-1. Gold then played an unusual forward line against White with normal full backs Jim Balding and Colin Gee as inners plus fill-ins Mal Horrigan and Les Waldon on the wings. They had the majority of midfield possession, circle entries and scoring chances but failed to convert any, while White picked up 2 goals to Ken Beer and Ham D'Souza from limited opportunities. Blue's passing had been steadily improving all day and they employed the triangle to good effect against Gold in the last game of the day to win 2-0 with another corner variation to Ian Hill and a tap-in to Jim Malcolm following a great set-up by John Ree. Ivan Wilson seems to have regained his best traffic direction form. I could not split Mal Horrigan (centimetre perfect from the top) Peter Stevens (as described above) and Ian Hill (hat trick) for goal of the day. Player numbers: White (9), Red (10), Blue (10), & Gold (8). Goals (11).

Where's June 28th? The 'A' Division correspondent has reported at excessive length this month, and the last week can be found on Page 12.

Punology One: Proper punctuation can make the difference between a sentence that's well written and a sentence that's, well, written.

From The Saturday O/65s: The complaints department was asked for better weather. Can you help?
June 10th featured something of a rarity in a good goal from Colin Gee. I asked how long it had been since his previous one, and he reckoned it was too long ago to remember. I'm starting to know how that feels. Col had some good chances on the ensuing Wednesdays too without success.
More scoring worth reporting occurred on June 24th with selector for the day Roy Grant banging in no less than five goals in the first three games. Fortunately for the goalkeepers he called it a day after that. There was no undue imbalance in the teams - any team with me in it is by definition the weakest on the day. Roy just finished very well, and his Wednesday team is hoping for an encore.
It was alleged that on the same day (June 24th) Ken Beer was so unhappy with his hockey that he went home without having a drink or a feed. As this was a Club day and Jim Wright had prepared a sumptuous repast the catering was a little too much for the diners. If I went home without a drink if I was unhappy with my hockey the annual PHS and Perry Lakes bar takings would fall significantly.
It was good to see John Halley and Ross Lonnie at the games on June 3rd. The recent weather has not been great for spectators, but it would be good to see you again next month.
June 24th was the wettest Saturday afternoon for a long time and tested our organisational skills. Duty selector Marty Greay's report of the day is worth including here:
Came to play: Eric Alcock, George Bradbury, Bob Byers, Colin Gee, Mike Harris, Howie Herbert, John Mercer, John Milner, Neil Scaddan, Les Waldon, Jim Wright.
Came as goalie: Peter Pittendrigh (and from Glen Forrest).
Came but left gear in car: Ken Beer, John Mercer (shoes on but both shirts in car), Peter Murray.
Came to watch: David Lester.
Came to umpire: Peter Brien.
Came with medical equipment only: Harvey Davies. (Thought he might have had too much work to do if play occurred).
Came to do selections: Ken Beer (on time) and Martin Greay. Both back next week for same chore.
Coming, but rang to say car had broken down, so changed his mind: Colin Benporath.
Raining when I got there and still raining when I left. Has stopped raining as I write. Cheers - Marty.
We voted, and play was called off. By the time the rain had stopped most of us were on our second drinks. Marty's cold was so bad he returned home instead of joining us. Many thanks for the report.

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: I have to begin this segment with a correction for May's question, which was: Who scored the most goals for Australia of these great forwards? (All exceeded 50 goals) a) Richard Charlesworth b) Terry Walsh c) Craig Davies d) Colin Batch. I received an email from Mal Horrigan which read: "After much research I will opt for Charlesworth - 85 goals." The actual counts are: Charlesworth (85), Walsh (70), Davies (63), Batch (61). My apologies go to Mal for the breakdown in MM's methodology - emails requiring action are supposed to be recorded.
June's question is: N Mott (2), K Powell, J Haslam, R Hawkes, A Annan, K Towers and M Andrews all scored in an 8-1 win in the final of the Commonwealth Games hockey. Was the match against: a) New Zealand. b) Jamaica. c) England. d) India? For a change I knew the answer to this one myself as the match against England was televised live.
July's question is: Which of the statements is true about the Australian players Lachlan Dreher (Vic) and Paul Lewis (SA)? a) They both played over 200 games for Australia. b) Neither of them scored a goal. c) They both made their debut on 11th June 1989. d) They both finished playing in the 1998 season. *Answer next issue.*

Dummy Spit Of The Month: Despite the best efforts of the 'A' division (me included) it is impossible to ignore the President of the United States of America, and his recent spectacular efforts in this field of endeavour. I hope Donald Trump will continue to spit dummies rather than nuclear bombs.

Quotable Quote Two: "The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken." *Samuel Johnson (1709 - 1784). He of the dictionary.*

The French Letter No 32:

Well folks, the French elections are over and the hard work now begins. Macron pulled off an amazing result, winning an absolute majority and giving him the necessary base to enact his desired reforms. The composition of the new parliament is without precedent in France, and I suspect, in many other countries as well.. It is young – average age 48 years and is made up of 38 percent women. Of the 577 members, 424 are new members and many of them are political novices. There is strong representation from the private sector and across a wide range of occupations. The future promises to be full of exciting developments as Macron presses ahead with his reform of the labour market. He has put the unions on notice that the reforms will not be debated in parliament, but enacted by Presidential decree. That alone will guarantee many “manifestations” - the French term for street protests.

Printemps (spring) weather really heated up and the last week of spring saw a heatwave all over France with temperatures in the range of 35-39, However the first few days of summer have cooled off a little. Large areas of France have received no rain for some time and water restrictions have been imposed in some regions.

Summer is the time for harvesting of the various crops and I thought I would tell you a little about the flax crop. Flax is widely grown in Normandy and is a very profitable crop for the farmers. There is a phenomenon associated with this crop as the flowers first appear before developing into seeds, – namely the whole crop turns a wonderful blue colour. It only lasts three to four days and is a photographer’s delight. A photo is attached to illustrate the point. Also, a photo of yours truly sitting in the drinks area alongside our garden shed.

Furthermore, nothing is wasted. The stems are cut off right down to ground level. The quality seeds are used for linseed oil, the quality stems are used in textiles (linen tea towels, bed linen etc) and the lesser stems and seeds are used in farm animal fodder.

Best wishes to you all

Ian Purdie



Rule(s) of the Month: Things can be very different in the 'A' division. It's not unknown for players to award themselves a penalty corner without reference to the umpire. It's also not totally unknown for players to appeal for a penalty stroke. So what do the rules say?

Rule 12.3: A penalty corner is awarded:

- a) For an offence by a defender in the circle which does not prevent the probable scoring of a goal.
- b) For an intentional offence in the circle by a defender against an opponent who does not have possession of the ball or an opportunity to play the ball. (*I'd suggest a card to the defender too. Ed.*)
- c) For an intentional offence by a defender outside the circle but within the 23 metres area they are defending.
- d) For intentionally playing the ball over the backline by a defender.

Goalkeepers or players with goalkeeping privileges are permitted to deflect the ball with their stick, protective equipment, or any part of their body in any direction including over the back line.

- e) When the ball becomes lodged in a player's clothing or equipment in the circle they are defending.

Rule 12.4: A penalty stroke is awarded:

- a) For an offence by a defender in the circle which prevents the probable scoring of a goal.
- b) For an intentional offence in the circle by a defender against an opponent who has possession of the ball or an opportunity to play the ball.

Also relevant here is

Rule 12.5: If there is another offence or misconduct before the awarded penalty has been taken:

- a) A more severe penalty may be awarded.
- b) A personal penalty may be awarded.
- c) The penalty may be reversed if the subsequent offence was committed by the team first awarded the penalty.

Personally I think that these rules are very clear. A point of interest is the applicable penalty for an intentional offence by a defender in the circle, which is not automatically a penalty stroke. It would seem that the stroke can only be awarded if the player who is offended against is in possession or has an opportunity to play the ball. Reader correspondence welcome.

Wine Winners Quarter Two:

'A' Division: Blue (6), Gold (8), Red (11), and White (5). Total 30. Red have lifted their game, while it seems that the White team is dependent on Ham D'Souza for off-field scoring too.

'B' Division: Blue (4), Gold (8), White (4), Goalkeepers (2). Unallocated players Ash Challenor and Brian Thomas won one each, while visitor Greg Wood won twice. Total 22.

Other Winners: Past Players (3), Jason (2), Australian O/70s (3). Total 8.

Both Peter Gason ('A' Gold) and Phil Hewton ('B' Gold) won four times during the quarter. Though it looks as though Ham D'Souza's five consecutive successes will take a lot of catching.

The luck has deserted the White teams and moved to the Gold sides. At least there were 42 individual winners, so a lot of WHM people scored. The third quarter's results will be interesting.

Balinese Bulletin No 24: In my opinion this deserves to count as a bulletin from Peter Hammond.

"I am sorry for not getting back to you earlier but, as you can imagine, I have been so busy up here ... doing absolutely nothing. I have been racking my tiny brain to find something illuminating to contribute ... but alas I cannot find anything. Funny how time up here seems to slip by unnoticed without anything of consequence happening Please pass on my best wishes to all."

Thanks again Peter - one of my favourite quotes is along the lines of: "If there is nothing to write about please write and tell us that there is nothing to write about." Those of you who are regular readers of "Masters Matters" will be well aware that this one of its guiding principles. Ed.

Punology Two: Fake news has been mentioned in this issue, but not the other modern day scourge. So: "Alternative facts are aversion of the truth." From Owen McMahon NZ in "Pun of the Day."

'B' Division Report - June:

INJURIES: Great to see Graham Harper down at the ground each week, he keeps threatening to play but hasn't taken the step onto the cauldron yet. Shane Williams returned after a couple months break to rest his weary body and has returned in good form.

VISITORS: Allan Chapman from the ACT (Captain of their 2015 winning O65's team in Cairns) escaped the low temperatures of home and headed for Perth for 5 weeks for our barmy winters days and to see his grandchildren. Graham Wood has disappeared off to China where his teaching has taken him for a few months.

LIFES LINGERING MOMENTS:

1. A doctor who had been seeing an 80-year-old woman for most of her life finally retired. At her next check-up, the new doctor told her to bring a list of all the medicines that had been prescribed for her. As the doctor was looking through these his eyes grew wide as he realized Grandma had a prescription for birth control pills. "Mrs. Smith, do you realize these are birth control pills?" "Yes" she said, "they help me sleep at night." "Mrs. Smith, I assure you there is absolutely nothing in these that could possibly help you sleep!" She reached out and patted the young doctor's knee and said, "Yes, dear, I know that. But every morning, I grind one up and mix it in the glass of orange juice that my 16-year-old grand-daughter drinks. And believe me it definitely helps me sleep at night."
2. The executive was interviewing a young blonde for a position in his company. He wanted to find out something about her personality so he asked, "If you could have a conversation with any person, living or dead, who would you choose?" The blonde quickly responded, "The living one."
3. Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, "How old was your husband?" "98," she replied: "Two years older than me" "So you're 96," the undertaker commented. She responded, "It's hardly worth going home, is it?"

THIS MONTH'S HOCKEY:

This month was a close month with all teams having wins draws and losses in roughly equal numbers and that's the way it should be in our world of equalisation.

Week 1: Oh what an exciting week. A perfect hockey day, a gentle chill in the air as the temp reached 24°C and a slight zephyr of wind. The National O'70's are heading off on the weekend so goodbyes were expressed for Arch and Chip and new team managers (Michael Robinson for White and Dudley Evans for Blue) were appointed, Heath is heading off to Ireland this weekend for his national hockey duty, back in September and to top the emotion off Graham Harper made a visit to the game. Graham has just been released from hospital following his recent brain bleeds. It was great to see him at the game and good to see him in good vocal form although he did say he tires easy but expects to return to hockey sometime in the not too distant future. With the sides selected for the Hobart State Championships it appears the forwards have started resting on their laurels, with only 3 goals scored for the day. Congratulations to Heath Tyrell (his last hurrah), Ray Domingo and Adrian Gabriel. Each team won one game, but white came out on top for the day with more draws than the others. Obviously a day of defence and good work was completed by Bob Le Merle, Glen Mihala, Rod Bickers, Chris Morley, Michael Gottschalk and Dave Mellor strongly supported by those ever dominating goalkeepers Graeme Sansom, Richard Osborne and Andrew Robertson. Thanks to umpires Vern Gooch and John Lindsay.

Week 2: Again the sun was shining as the capacity crowd of 3 was whipped into a frenzy with the thought of another day of scintillating hockey. Gold opened the day with a win over blue with the only goal scored by the hard running Geoff Riley as he used his pace to make position, receive the pass and tap in. White short on numbers again due to injury and absentees and Blue then completed a thoroughly entertaining 0-0 draw in which the ball was moved from end to end but strong defensive work by both sides and adept goalkeeping by Richard Osborne and Andrew Robertson kept the ball out of the net. In the next 3 games 4 goals were scored, each from a short corner using direct shots and variations to good effect. Bob Le Merle got the ball rolling as his strong shot on goal

resulted in a 1-0 win for gold over White. Then Colin Murray-Smith on loan from Gold pushed the ball passed the defence and the goalie to record a 1-0 win for Blue over Gold and then Colin repeated the effort in the next game for Blue against White, with Michael Robinson (White) responding in similar manner for the game to be tied at 1-1 at full time. Then came the Leo show as Leo Welten and the other Gold forwards Peter Fogels, Adrian Gabriel , Geoff Riley and Phil Hewton gave White a lesson as Gold dominated the play. Although Leo smashed 2 goals the team really was unable to convert the large number of opportunities available giving Michael Gottschalk and Ian Pestana nightmares as their 16 yard hits were quickly returned. Gold was the top team of the day with 3 wins, Blue had 1 win whilst White managed 2 draws. The day was well umpired by an inspired John Lindsay with support from players.

Week 3: Oh my God, the sun wasn't shining, anyone would think that winter is upon us. A brief shower crossed the field at the end of the 3rd game and the players found "extra" to jog back into the covered area. If last week was the short corner show, this week was the tap in show. Blue were a couple players short but able substitutes were found for each game. Vern Gooch was our sole umpire assisted by resting players including Ian Pestana, Dudley Burress and John Harper. All goals were result of great passes to individuals standing near the keeper who were able to tap in the goal past the keeper. The Goalies had no chance with these tactics. Dave Mellor commenced the scoring playing for White with a goal mid game for a 1-0 victory over Gold. He then absconded to Blue and claims all 3 goals they scored for the day commenced with his passes from right half. Gold and Blue played a hard fought game with the deadlock broken by Adrian Gabriel on the receiving end of a great pass from Bob Le Merle. Roger Davey showed a bit of form with his goal, a receival from Michael Robinson and a tap in past the Goalie in their 1-0 defeat of Blue. After the little rain storm Gold and White played between the 25 yard lines, neither side troubling the scorers for a 0-0 draw. The Blues scored the last 3 goals with goals to Colin Murray-Smith and Keith Platel in their 2-0 win over Gold and Dudley Evans was the seagull for their 1-0 victory over White. Goalkeepers for the day were Dick Osborne, Andrew Patterson and Graeme Sansom.

Week 4: Another Wednesday another day's hockey. Rod Bickers (Electric Blue) opened the show with 2 penalty corner goals in the first game against White (there were discussions between the goalie and a fullback as to who was at blame here for both the goals!!!!). White fought back with a tap in goal to Brian Thomas, but ran out of time to score the equaliser. White showed the benefit of being thoroughly warmed up by defeating Gold in the second game 1-0 courtesy of a Dave Mellor strong tap in goal. Gold then reciprocated and beat Blue 2-0. A running tap in goal to Geoff Reilly started proceedings while Bob Le Merle claims the short corner hit goal was his not a deflection off the keeper's pads by Tom Long. Three games and three different winners, you can't get much more competitive than that. White and Blue then played out an entertaining draw, good ball movement, long hits interspersed with deft touches and solid defences and resolute goalies saw neither team able to break the deadlock. White was starting to get ready for the sausage sizzle and it showed in their last game as they allowed Gold to score an easy goal as they threaded the ball through White's high defence which allowed Peter Fogels, Geoff Riley and Leo Welten room to attack the lonely goalie, Peter Fogels scoring the goal. Ray Domingo continued to run well all day, with Dudley Evans encouragement and it resulted in an excellent goal by him to let Blue run out the winners 1-0 in the last game against Gold. And off to the sausage sizzle we went.

Thanks again to Gordon Jeffery for keeping us in up to date with the 'B' Division. Ed.

A Touch Of This is written for just a few people - 'A' Division spectators.

It's said that we should play on grass

Since 'A' Div has no hockey class

Our games can be vile

But watch for a while

You might see a really good pass. *(Of course you might not too).*

Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players: The 14th June saw a good contingent of temporarily absent players including Peter Murray, Neil Patterson, Paul Robinson and Colin Sanders. While as usual we welcomed the company of Jeff Godfrey, Brian Lester, and George Winning. I have a strong feeling that I've missed a few this month due to wine raffle pressures. My apologies if you're one of them - I can assure you it was not done intentionally.

Well Dones: Thank you to the June 'A' division umpires. Those I recorded are: Adolphus Abrahams, Eric Alcock, Jim Balding, Greg Black, George Bradbury, Peter Evans, Peter Gason, Col Gee, Ian Hill, Neil Mannolini, Peter Murray, John Sanders, Neil Scaddan, Les Waldon, Ken Watt and Ivan Wilson. Gordon Jeffery has mentioned the 'B' division umpires in his report while 'C' division are still prophets without honour in their own newsletter. Thank you to both sets of umpires. The Saturday umpires during June included: Rob Ainsworth, Eric Alcock, George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Dudley Burress, Ken Edwards, Ian Hill, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, and Ken Watt. The PHS sausage sizzle was handled by the 'B' Division White team - thank you to all the cooks. Our Secretary has remained as hands-on as is possible when locomotion is only possible using one foot, two crutches and no car. Many thanks to Mal Jackaman for his assistance to Bob with the barbecues, raffles and transport. Thanks to Graham Harler & Brian Lester for assistance with the raffles & Ivan Wilson for the onions.

Grumpy Old Men 2: "The pursuit of happiness is a most ridiculous phrase; if you pursue happiness you'll never find it." *C. P. Snow (1905 - 1980).*

Health Challenge Match: Graham Wood has emailed from overseas with a few ideas about possible formats for the next event. Not all of you received it, so here it is:

Hi all,

I am overseas at present but still working on this concept. As many of us have experienced in our life the effects of cancer and heart problems, part of WHM's vision is to hold this day (a Wednesday) next year in an effort to raise funds for research into these shocking diseases. This will be held one day NEXT season (2018). I have two major sponsors on board, and am just waiting to cross the t's and dot the i's, once done I will proudly announce.

I have some ideas which I would like you to consider and give me your feedback.

I want to involve as many participants as possible, our current playing group, our Country cousins and possibly our female Masters associates. It would be a fun carnival day, playing the game we all love and enjoying each other's company. It will take a fair bit of organising, and I would need some assistance with volunteers for this one event.

I also want to throw this at you. A black and white tie Gala Ball. Years ago we used to attend many hockey functions and it is time we Masters re-invented a formal social gathering. It would be kept to a minimum cost as a lot of us are on pensions, but a one off event like this would be fun. We would have a meal, dancing, guest speaker(s) and raise some valuable funds for our charity. How many of you have a "penguin suit sitting in your wardrobe and your partner's beautiful ball gown waiting to be worn again. No segregation here, if some of you guys have a special dress hidden now is the time.

It would also provide an opportunity for our ex players unable to play any more to be involved in this activity and catch up with old mates. As we have some great actors on the hockey field, maybe a "Players Review." That would be a great adventure and laugh??? This is our special opportunity to do something worthwhile as a "Masters Hockey Community."

I welcome your feedback, the only way forward is to get out of our comfort zone.

Comments please.

Graham Wood

A lot of big ideas here, and I'm sure they will provoke discussion and comments. I'd suggest that these go to Woody via email on GrahamWood_8@msn.com. Ed.

Quarter Two 'A' Division Goals: Three players have managed to score double figure tallies for the quarter just completed after only one did it for the first quarter. Despite a lengthy break Trevor Kerr topped the table with 12 goals, closely followed by another player who missed a significant number of Wednesdays in Ham D'Souza on 11. Ken Beer also achieved 11, with 9 for his normal team White and 2 more while filling in for other teams. On fill-ins it is interesting to note that only White players managed to score while helping out with numbers. This demonstrates that the White side had good numbers almost every week, while Blue were so short that 6 of their goals went to White players. Ron Venables managed to score for all the 'A' Division sides in addition to his own, and Ken Beer and Scott Blackwell scored for two others. The tallies by team were White (43), Red (36), Blue (31) and Gold (23). By the way, goals scored by White fill-in players are not included in their home team total.

Shakespeare Said It: "Madness in great ones must not unwatch'd go." Hamlet Act III Scene I. *The thought occurs that this is why the White House has such a large staff.*
"We are arrant knaves, all; believe none of us." Hamlet Act III Scene I. *For those of you remember the limerick about Peter Brien in the last issue. Shakespeare's advice seems to be to trust nobody.*

'A' Division Blog (continued): Too many words from our correspondent. The Editor was lenient.
June 28th: Gold and White did best on the day with one win and two draws each; Blue drew three times and only Red lost a match (twice). Some sideline opinion attributed Red's poor results to their having 13 players and being unsettled by the substitutions. My own opinion was that their fluent midfield buildups usually broke down approaching the circle. Stan Balding transferred from Gold to Blue for the day which was rather generous as sideline opinion held that he became the player of the day. He certainly produced the pass of the day; a flat hit from left inner to Jim Malcolm in space on the right wing. The goals tended to be a bit scrambly and many chances were missed. Successful scramblers included Ken Beer (three times), Phil Metcalf (twice), John Ree and Peter Stevens. Neil Scaddan scored a well-controlled goal for Blue but still trails his grandsons on the family table (kept by the boys). Goal of the day went to George Bradbury for a fine second shot during a White penalty corner. Ham D'Souza unselfishly set up his team mates several times, but not all his proffered chances were accepted. No names will be mentioned due to the editorial selfies policy. Ash Foster and Greg Black returned to the Gold side, who played and competed well. Player numbers were Blue (9), Gold (11), White (10) and Red (13). 9 goals were scored.

Finished At Last: An apology goes to all readers who have been awaiting the arrival of the July issue. There have been a number of different difficulties; all of which meant that it was not possible to finish and send the link out before now. We'll try to do better next month.

No Fake Lunatics Here: In this day and age it appears that world politics has gone completely insane. To demonstrate that this is not really new, the Monster Raving Loony Party contested the recent general election in the UK. Here are some extracts from their official manifesto of A-Z policies.

- A. Air bags will be fitted to the Stock Exchange immediately, ready for the next crash.
- B. Britain will exit Europe and join the Duchy of Cornwall to benefit from tax exemptions.
- C. Capital punishment will be opposed on the grounds that it is unfair to Londoners.
- H. Half the grey squirrels will be painted red to increase the red squirrel population.
- J. Jobseekers will be made to stand two abreast in order to halve dole queues.
- K. Kids will be made to sit closer together on smaller desks in order to reduce school class sizes.
- N. National debt will be cleared by putting it all on our credit card.
- T. Terrorists will be made to wear bells and horns so we know where they are.
- Z. Zebra crossings will be made permissible to all animals wishing to cross the road.

All news and other contributions to:

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