



A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Gold

B White

B Blue

C Blue

C Gold

C Red

C White

O/65 Blue

O/65 Green

O/65 Maroon

Masters Matters

Issue No 3

March 2018

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Dates For The Diary:

2018: March 6th / 8th: Australian O/75 training camp in Perth.
March 7th: Sausage sizzle following play at PHS - with Australian team.
March 28th: Sausage sizzle following play at PHS.
April 7th: Saturday hockey self-catered dinner and A.G.M. Perry Lakes
June 20th / 30th. WGMA World Cup - Barcelona. } Australia and Southern Cross
July 27th / August 5th: IMHA World Cup - Terrassa. } Australia
September 21st / October 6th. Interstate Masters Championships - Lismore / Ballina NSW.
2020: World Cup - possibly Japan. } Australia and Southern Cross

Australian O/75s in Perth: There will be a training camp here from Tuesday March 6th through to Thursday the 8th. Tuesday and Thursday will feature matches against an invitational XI, both of which are due to take place at PHS from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. I understand the team is to play in 'A' Division on Wednesday 7th in place of the Red side & it might be helpful if all players in the Division were to bring a few different shirt colours with them.

Fees for 2018: If you have not paid yet it is time to have a talk to your captain before he has a talk to you. All details on how to pay were included in the two previous editions of "Masters Matters" but we will include them again, for the last time (*in 2018, for Wednesday hockey*).

If paying by bank transfer (the preferred option), please include your name, division and team in the reference (for example 'Mercer A White'). The BSB is 036-004 and the account number is 111511. Cheques are to be placed inside an envelope with your name, division and team written on the outside. Pass the envelope on to Treasurer Steve Farrar, either directly or via your team captain.

Interstate Tournament 2018 - Metro: No further information has reached me regarding the off-field appointments to off the field roles (coach, manager, selector and medical) in the WA State teams, nor is there news on the Masters web-site. Many thanks to Peter Andrews for letting me know that most have gone to Hockey WA for ratification and the rest are imminent. I believe that at least one coach has started sounding out players already.

Unsubscribe: Mike Sputore pointed out that there are several players receiving the link to "Masters Matters" who are no longer playing. It is quite possible that they no longer wish to be on the email list, but have never read as far as my last-page Unsubscribe information. So this issue I have included the 'Unsubscribe' in the covering email. Also please notify Colin Gee if any of your personal details change, especially the email address.

Retirement: Peter Gason has retired from Wednesday and Saturday, effective immediately.

Masters Interstate Tournament 2018: Thanks to Derek Jobe for suggesting another way to travel to northern NSW. Some airlines (such as Jetstar) have direct flights to Coolangatta. The drive from this airport to Ballina (also all on the M1) is only 88.5 kms and is estimated to take 58 minutes.

Department of Health: Bob Bowyer had his operation on February 2nd, for atrial flutter and was playing again the next Wednesday (7th). His captain claimed that Bob's surgeon had said that he could play hockey, and added that this was news to some of Bob's team-mates. Brian Soares has now had his operation and is making a good recovery. He has umpired during this time. Chip Challenor has progressed as far as slow jogging, but said that he has a long way to go still. It is very good to be able to report that Pat Mannolini has now had the checks following therapy and been declared cancer free. Unfortunately Les Waldon's repaired shoulder was not moving very well following his return to hockey on the 28th; hopefully only temporarily. And as of the 28th Ham D'Souza was going for back scans, and did not play. Best wishes to all for a rapid return to hockey.

Letters To The Editor: Those who corresponded following the February issue included Mike Sputore, Bill Campbell, Peter Murray, Bill Baldwin, Rusty Phillips, Eric Alcock and John Milner. Thanks to all.

Mike Sputore: In addition to a suggestion on 'Unsubscribe' Spike also sent MM a photograph of the 1971 State Schoolboys side. The picture and a full list of names can be found on Page 12.

Bill Campbell: "I think your umpires for 'A' Division included myself and Dudley Evans. We were umpiring the 'B' Division. I haven't needed to get a zimmer frame just yet and join the 'A' Division old people." *No words needed to be blacked out, as Bill thought correctly he might appear here. Ed.*

MM response: "The wording was imprecise, but it did add '(including combined games on the 3rd)' which is how you and Dudley managed to make the list of really old people." *Readers who would like to check the context should go to 'Well Dones' on Page 8 of the February issue. For those who came in late Bill used to walk past The O/60s (when we only had that and O/50s) and say "How are the old c.....s today." When the current divisions were set up at the end of 2013 we claimed that Bill had now become an old c... himself. So he changed our salutation to really old c.....s. There is some truth in it.*

Bill Baldwin: "Full marks to your O/75s scribe with whom one should be careful not to share sleeping quarters on any future tours." *I think you're safe Bill - two goalkeeping bags in one hotel room? Ed.*

Please feel free to send an email on any topic you desire to have included here, and subject to space limitations and editorial preference for accentuating the positive we'll do our best to accommodate you. So keeping them short would be a good idea.

Money for Hockey in SA: The latest newsletter from Hockey Australia revealed that the Government in South Australia is to provide funding for the creation of new hockey facilities and the upgrade of existing ones. This applies to quite a few country centres as well as the Gawler Hockey Centre. Those who went to the Adelaide tournament in 2016 may be interested to know that the \$1M to be spent there will provide change room facilities on Pitch Two, and upgrade the existing buildings. It seems that there is nothing quite like an election for assisting with a boost for hockey. The free spending of the SA government contrasts with our own State Government's dire situation, and generated:

SA has some good news, I see
 New turfs, to fill them with glee
 I don't really know
 From whence comes the dough
 It could be from our GST.

Quotable Quote One: "Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some hire public relations officers." *Daniel J. Boorstin (1914 - 2004). Distinguished US historian.*

And from the same source: "Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know."

Department of Corrections: I have not found factual errors in the February edition, nor have I been told about any other mistakes, other than a few missing words.

Rules of the Month: Last month we brought you Rule 9.10 regarding the playing of a raised ball, and claimed that raised balls were becoming a lot more common than they used to be. So this month "Masters Matters" includes two more rules about playing the ball in the air.

Rule 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 words needing emphasis are "in a controlled manner." A round-house swing or a tennis smash are quite clearly outside the scope of this rule, and should be penalised. Ed.

Rule 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.

Please note that a ball can be dangerous even if it does not strike a player. Also note that this rule applies to all players; goalkeepers, defenders, and forwards (particularly when shooting for goal). In all instances an umpire should make sure that a lofted ball is not dangerous. We in the 'A' Division need this more than ever, as we are not as quick at taking evasive action as we were. Ed.

Bionic Bar Highlight?



Trophy/Photo Display Case: The Hips/Knees matches have generated several pieces of memorabilia, including the actual trophy (as shown here) and the certificates from the Orthopaedic Society. The latest addition is a framed and signed print of the Alston cartoon which appeared in "Inside Cover" in the edition of "The West Australian" dated 22/12/2017. I believe that the Stadium cupboards also store the original Merrill-Lynch trophy and the George Winning trophy. When Jason returns to work we might have a discussion about possible ways to display all our WHM objects. Would there be any room for a display case? And are there any members with the ability to make one beside Ian Purdie? Also, should all our Orthopaedic Challenge material be displayed where we socialise on Wednesdays, Simon has suggested that it will need to be re-named the Bionic Bar.

Donations: I understand that Greg Allen has donated some wine for Bob's weekly fund raising - our thanks. And Ken Beer put a couple of Coronas into the stock at Perry Lakes - thanks Ken. This caused me to reflect - when was the last time I gave some wine or beer away? Memory seems to be fading, as I just can't recall.

'A' Division Blog: The month's dominant team was definitely White who did not lose in February.

February 7th: Blue did best on the numbers front and were able to transfer two players (Ken Watt to White and Jim Malcolm to Red) for the day, thus minimising the requirement for fill-ins. Our incivility to umpires seems to be getting worse, as is our frequent refusal to accept and obey their decisions. And our hockey was not great either, though there were occasional passages of very good individual and team play. All teams got the ball to the attacking circle often enough, but Red failed to score at all, and Gold got only one goal, which was sufficient for their second win in 2018. Red had only lost once this year, but now have lost four, dropping all three games (missing from their line-up were Mal Horrigan, Les Waldon, Roger Partington, Trevor Kerr and Bob Byers). Blue and White managed two wins each and four goals each, despite the good play of goalkeepers Barry, Colin and Tony. Goal of the day wound up a shared award between Colin Gee of Gold (good clout from left wing) and Terry Gaston from Blue (right half ghosting into the circle and slotting well from the edge). Col seems to make it into these pages every time he scores. And it was with much regret that I heard that John Milner has quit Wednesday hockey for family reasons (he may still make an occasional appearance). Hope we'll still see you on Saturdays John. Player numbers for the day were: White (9), Red (8), Blue (12) and Gold (9). The number of goals scored was (9).

February 14th: Blue put in their worst day for some time, managing to lose all their three matches. Their captain and I agreed that the backline is not the place to score from directly, while passing it square also makes it easy for experienced and competent goalkeepers like John Harper, Barry Rutter and Tony Marshall, who all played very well (Harps outstandingly so). Gold and Red only managed to score one goal apiece but that was enough for them both to beat Blue, while Blue's solitary score was the first of their game against White, who led by Ham D'Souza responded with three and were the dominant team on the day. White scored eight goals in total, with three to Ham D'Souza and two to Ron Venables - fitting reward for their fine play elsewhere on the turf. Ken Beer nearly scored several times from good rebounding, but John Harper managed to limit him to one goal. Pass of the day is a shared award between Ian Lyon (to Ash Foster for a goal) and Bob Maley (to Bill Williamson for a fine deflected goal). Goal of the day can only be given to goals seen by the judging panel, and for this week will be shared between Ham D'Souza (centimetre-perfect corner conversion) and Bill Williamson. Player numbers were: Blue (10), Gold (9), White (9), and Red (8). Total goals scored (11).

February 21st: The consensus was that goals had seldom been so difficult to score. Only two goal keepers played (Barry Rutter and John Harper), but both of them gave their best impersonations of mobile brick walls and were very hard to pass. Good team build-ups resulted in three of White's five goals, which also included fine break-away finishes by Ham D'Souza and Ron Venables. Red too built up well several times, but only one Bill Williamson goal resulted. Gold's scoring chances were mainly created by the indefatigable running of Peter Willett and Phil Metcalf, but again only one goal went in - a good corner conversion by Phil after the final whistle. Blue seemed to have lifted their game from the previous week, but continued to have trouble in converting until in the last game of the day Ian Hill drilled home a reverse stick shot from well out to secure not only a win over Gold, but also goal of the day. Phil Anderson (Blue) & Stan Balding (Gold) made comebacks from fairly lengthy non-injury absences. Player numbers were: Red (8), White (8) Gold (11), and Blue (13). Total goals (8).

February 28th: For most of the day the passing and hitting were well below our normal standard. There were some individual exceptions and the Gold and White teams combined quite well at times. Blue put in a bad game against White, and were under pressure for much of the time in a 3-0 loss. A few positional changes improved their play but not their scoring and they missed quite a few against Red before Bob Bowyer got their only score from a tap-in. Red did not score at all and appeared to be a little under-manned at times. Gold played well for two wins before the two game break proved too hard to handle and they went down 1-0 to White in a good even match. Les Waldon made a very fine goal-line save to prevent Stan Balding getting a hat trick and in a later match Len Blyth, George Bradbury and the goal post prevented a goal. The best one of the day was Stan's second, with a good finish at the end of a fine passing move. Team numbers were Blue (11), Gold (11), Red (9) and White (9). Bob Bowyer (Blue) played for Red and Ian Lyon (Gold) played for White. Goals scored (8).

Perry Lakes Action 2017

Photo Chris Whincop



Harvey Davies, Jim Malcolm, Peter Blockley and ??? Reader help requested

From The Saturday O/65s: February 3rd was a big day for our group. See next two paragraphs.

For the first time in a long while we needed four teams to accommodate the players, which meant that there were lots of games off. From a personal viewpoint this is no hardship as under the trees is a better place to watch the match than standing on the field.

On a day when the orange bibs were used many of us found it confusing to hear references to the Red side rather than Maroon or Orange. Why is it so - colour blindness?

Many thanks to Peter Andrews who did the nibbles on the 10th and promptly donated his entire reimbursement back to the club.

Sometimes I complain about the poor scoring. Then on the 17th five goals were scored in the first game of the day, with that 3-2 thriller immediately followed by another one.

Welcome to Ash Challenor and Barry Rutter, who signed up this month.

We needed four teams again on the 24th. This really makes life difficult for the duty selector, and I thought Marty Greay did well in picking teams who were fairly even for most matches. Time is very limited, and the tendency of a few players to arrive late does not help. MM's limerick writer was ready to offer an opinion on one possible cause of the four team Saturdays:

On most days our teams number three
Which is right, I think you'll agree
Last month twice saw
Our team count reach four
And both days the drinks were all free.

Of course players are getting ready for the winter Hockey WA season too. Ed.

Though he played on the 24th Ron Venables was not originally selected in any of the four teams. The rumour was that Ruth had phoned to request that Ron be spared any running on the eve of his Commonwealth Games baton relay. The story and photograph can be found on Page 13.

The French Letter No 39:

France has certainly copped it weatherwise with large parts being flooded or snowbound and now the "le grand froid" is coming. Apparently a large cold front is sweeping across Europe from Russia (Moscow is minus 25) so our temperatures are going to be between minus 4 to minus 6 for the next few days. Fortunately, it is accompanied with sunny weather.

Yesterday I was somewhat mystified to see Joelle in a slightly crouched position and doing movements which suggested she was practising drawing a weapon. I enquired, ever so gently, "what do you think you are doing?" She confirmed that she was indeed practising her fast draw and went on to explain that she had just read the online story about Donald Trump wanting to arm teachers with guns to better combat school shootings. As an ex-school principal she was trying to put herself in the teacher's position if Trump's ideas ever came to fruition and she came to the conclusion that the semi-automatic assault rifle would already have wiped her out.

Seriously though, is this guy for real? Unfortunately, the answer is probably yes! America has a huge problem on its hands. Trying to focus just on mental health isn't going to cut it. I read an interesting article recently which postulated that there were three key factors which contributed to such violent acts - social isolation, mental health and guns. Only a coordinated approach to these factors is going to work and even then it will take a long time and cost a heap of money.

Moving on to a less depressing subject, we have enjoyed watching the winter Olympics and I was particularly impressed with the performance of a French biathlon skier, Martin Fourcade, who won two individual golds and a third gold when he anchored his team in the mixed (guys and girls) biathlon relay. On a lighter note, I noticed that the Korean ice hockey team got walloped by the Swiss 8-0. However, the North Korean press reported it as a win 134-0. Now there's an idea. I notice frequent references in Masters Matters to the inability of some teams to score goals. Now all you need to do is have a word with our esteemed editor and you can give the weekly results a different twist. *To persuade "Masters Matters" into reporting fake news would require some very powerful arguments. Like quantities of good quality red wine. Ed.*

That's all from me - best wishes to all.

Ian Purdie (*Thank you Ian. Strange weather everywhere lately. Ed.*)

Shakespeare Said It: "What's gone and what's past help should be past grief." The Winter's Tale Act III Scene II. *Did the umpire give a decision against you? Bad luck, keep playing.*

"... thou hast spoken no word all this while."

"Nor understood none neither, sir." Love's Labours Lost Act V Scene I. *There is usually one at a team meeting isn't there? It was me once - before a Tournament Trophy match the speaker forgot to write my name on the board. So I went to the bench instead of up high and was duly chastised.*

"The brain may devise laws for the blood, but a hot temper leaps over a cold decree." The Merchant of Venice Act I Scene II. *Despite the absolute best of intentions white line fever triumphs again. Any resemblance to any Editor, living or dead, is just a coincidence.*

Interstate Tournament 2018 - Country: The training program for WA Country included in the last issue has been amended and the new confirmed dates are shown below. We will keep you informed.

- April 22nd: Mandurah.
- May 20th: Bunbury (selection trials).
- June 17th: Narrogin.
- July 15th: Collie.
- August 12th Busselton.
- September 9th: Bunbury.

Grumpy Old Men One: "When they call the roll in the Senate, the Senators do not know whether to answer 'Present' or 'Not guilty'." *Theodore Roosevelt (1858 -1919). 26th POTUS. No change?*

Balinese Bulletin No 32:**A DAY OF SILENCE: NYEPI**

Nyepi is a traditional "Day of Silence." It marks the Balinese New Year in the Hindu calendar. This is the Hindu New Year and like the Christian Easter, the date changes annually – though it usually falls during March and April. The fundamental nature of Nyepi is to rid the Island of evil spirits, and renew both the environment and your individual philosophy.

On the eve of Nyepi, spectacular ceremonies, parades of great bamboo monsters and fireworks occur. It is a wonderful celebration! The following day is Nyepi and is a day of silence and seclusion. It is a time for self-reflection.

From 6am until 6am the following day, the island simply stops. Lights must be kept low; no-one works so businesses are closed; there is no entertainment; no travelling; and even lovemaking is not supposed to occur. The belief is that by doing this, the Gods will be fooled into believing the island is uninhabited and no evil spirits exist. Everything can then start afresh.

A quiet peace reigns over Bali where the usually busy streets are empty, all is quiet and there are few signs of activity – even in homes.

This is our 6th successive Nyepi Day here in Bali & we look forward to simply soaking up the silent ambience & submit to the peace & relaxation but then our normal life here is pretty much "Peace & Relaxation".

UNWELCOME VISITOR.

A few weeks back now our Bali Dog "Eddie" alerted me to a very unwelcome visitor. I looked into the garden & there he was "eyeballing" a meter long snake. I immediately assumed my Indiana Jones look-alikelong bamboo stick in one hand & Eddie's leash in the other. I'm not sure what I was going to do with either. Following a little prodding with the stick in the snake's general direction it quickly realised I was not somebody to be fooling with & turned & sped off deeper into our lush tropical garden & made its way up the nearest tree. This was only our 2nd snake encounter here in Bali fortunately!!

I apologise if this somewhat brief contribution is not more riveting but then life here on the Island of Bali is often quite pedestrian but then that can't be all bad!!!

Peter Hammond (*Thanks again Peter - I could use some pedestrian life for a while. Ed.*)

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: February's question was: The Kookaburras finished 8th in their first World Cup in 1971 but 15 years later finished a) First b) Second c) Third d) Fourth. "We finished FIRST for our first ever World Cup captained by our own WA boy ... David Bell." So wrote Rusty Phillips, quite correctly. Gold star John? March's question is: The Hockeyroos finished fourth in their first World Cup in Buenos Aires in 1981, but where did they finish thirteen years later? a) First b) Second c) Third d) Fourth. *Answer next issue.*

Well Dones: In February 'A' division was umpired by: Peter Evans, Ash Foster, Peter Gason, Colin Gee, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, John Sanders, Brian Soares and Ron Venables. As is usual the 'B' and 'C' division umpires are unknown but obviously include Vern Gooch. Saturdays were controlled by: Rob Ainsworth, Jim Balding, Peter Brien, Dudley Burress, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Steve Powles, Geoff Roberts, Barry Rutter, Neil Scaddan, Don Smart, Greg Street, Les Waldon and Ken Watt. The 'A' Division Blue team cooked for the sausage sizzle on February 28th - thank you. (The previous MM confirms that Blue cooked for the January one also - it is Bob Bowyer's team). And a thank you goes to the rostered caterers at Perry Lakes and nibbles organiser Jim Wright.

Punology One: A struggling stage magician decided to develop a truly unique trick. He succeeded, but it didn't save his career - he made the audience disappear.

'B' Division Report - February:

INJURIES: Ross Easton did some damage to a hamstring and will miss a couple of weeks.

Chip Challenor undergoing pain relief management in an effort to get control back from his back. A kind of wait and see.

VISITORS: Mal Poole was welcomed to the Wed Masters this month. It appears Mal has a little more time on his hands and is interested in maintaining his contact with hockey. Peter Havlin (London) continued his holiday in Perth. Nice to see Ash Challenor back on the field after 5 months.

LIFE'S LINGERING MOMENTS:

1. Weddings: It was a typical middle winter wedding with the nuptials set for Saturday at noon. The lovely bride was escorted down the aisle by her proud father and when she reached the altar, the groom was standing there with his hockey stick and playing gear at his side. She said, "What is your hockey gear doing here?" He looked her right in the eye and said "This isn't going to take all day, is it?"
2. Cremations: "I realise, Madam, that we all grieve in our own way, but the crematorium staff did not appreciate the fireworks you put in your late husband's pocket."
3. Life: Never make a woman mad. They can remember stuff that hasn't happened yet.

LAST MONTHS PHOTO: (no new photos this month) The 1981 photo showed our local Wed stalwarts Jim Banks and Tom Long with Mark Weber from Northam.

THIS MONTHS HOCKEY:

Goalies for the month were Ross Easton (3 weeks) , Richard Osborne (2 weeks) and Graeme Sansom (4 weeks) and John Harper (1 week), whilst Vern Gooch has maintained his umpiring presence along with regular players adding support. The Gooch and Gottschalk (father and son) show has been a regular feature.

White were the team of the month with 9 wins in their 16 games followed by Blue and Gold. Generally numbers have been ok although Blue has been short for most of Feb. The ongoing cooler weather has not been a concern for us B Graders

Week 1. February opened up with a cool day for the months first day of hockey. Bill Campbell , welcomed back by Gold, was playing his first game for several months after elbow and back problems, whilst Greg Allen (White) played his first game since early last year following his knee replacement surgery. Numbers were good with Whites 14 players filling in for Blue whilst Gold had a team plus 1. Competition again was fierce and tempers flared on occasions. Blue and White won 3 games each whilst Gold welcomed back leader Bill Campbell and lost all four games and didn't score a goal. A number of promising moves by Gold's Adrian Gabriel were lost at the top of the circle. Goalscorers for the day were Simon Thompson (off a short), Arch Andrews (received pass at the post - off Morgs), Peter Morgan (drove into the circle from the 25 yard line), Roger Davey and Alan Ledger (both tapped in from circle scrimmages) and Keith Platell (drove in from the wing passed off, re-received and slotted a nice goal)

Week 2. Different week, different results. Gold turned its form around from last week, 2 wins, with a much improved defensive effort and actually scoring up front. Last week Gold let 6 goals through whilst not scoring at all, this week no goals against and they scored 2 giving them 2 wins and 2 draws for the week, whilst Electric Blue and White had 1 win, 2 losses and a draw each. 7 goals were scored on the day, the least amount on a Wed this season. The improved defensive efforts were aided by some inept forward movements and poor shot selection and some great efforts by the regular goalies. Blue were aided by the addition of Mal Poole with great help from Dudley Evans and an occasionally lost in defence Alan Ledger. Gold's defensive efforts were on the back of good efforts from Bob le Merle, Geoff Riley and Ron Mitchell. White's defensive effort was the worst this season letting 4 goals through. Changing personnel throughout the day let the team cohesion drift away.

Week 3. White one week, Blue the next. Defensive efforts allowed too many goals to be scored. Overall 10 goals scored for the day, 5 of those let in by Blue (Blues were again short of numbers and had to accept what was offered by the opposition). Despite the number of goals great goalkeeping efforts were made by Ross (tipping the ball over the top of the goal from a strong lofted hit) and Graeme (showing great anticipation by trapping the ball on the post from a Fogels deflection). Both strong efforts and they both had good days. White (was having a good day until an errant Heath Tyrell pass left his team mates stranded and set up a Gold goal) and Gold both had 2 wins and a draw for the day, with Gold having the better of the goalscoring. Double goals were scored by Tom Long (faded after a strong first game), Peter Andrews (2 great deflections, off Morgan in the 5th game) and Keith Platell (maintaining good position down the right wing). Special mention to strong efforts by Phil Hewton (assisting Gold through the midfield), Shane Williams (strong over the ball at Centre half and forward as required) and Peter Fogels (showing great run down the right wing and feeding the seagulls in the forward line). Greg Allen has shown good pace on the ball, after returning from his knee replacement but hasn't worried the goalkeepers as yet. A spectator noticed this situation and commented that the operation had not affected his voice even if it had restricted his goal scoring.

Week 4. Oh what a day, 10 goals last week, 14 goals this week. Mike Robinson decided to desert ship leaving White to develop teamwork with his fellow Barcelona participants in Gold and White put on a goal scoring bonanza (perhaps because). Peter Wallis set himself up in front of goals and made them his own with 5 deft touches for goals (including one Ted was just about to claim and break his drought) while Fred Flanagan relegated to the over 50's last week for re-education and retraining, used his nine iron to great effect with 3 forceful elevated goals and one off a short corner. White's first three winning games lost their lustre when Blue closed them down and then played through the vacant midfield to score a hard fought 2-1 win in the last. Altogether White (Wallis and Flanagan really) scored 9 goals whilst letting through 3. Blue scored 4 goals (2 from White Captain Arch on loan - who couldn't get a look in at White). Gold had another miserable day drawing 1 game and losing 3 with their lone goalscorer Leo Welten off a brilliant pass from Peter Fogels. John Harper made a welcome guest appearance in goals.

Thanks again Gordon - even though I knew Tom Long and Mark Weber at Scarborough I never would have picked them. Jim Banks I did recognise. How did the rest of the readership get on? Ed.

Hockey in Thailand: Thanks to Woody for adding another country to the "Masters Matters" list. Just giving you an idea of what hockey is like here in Thailand. Hockey is mostly taught through the International school system here, as football (soccer) is the main sport. It then progresses to the University system where there are 8 provincial sides which meet in a tournament from which the National squad is chosen. There is a Korean coach appointed as the national coach and the standard is surprisingly good. I am on the umpiring panel here, and am surprised at that standard as well.

We have a hockey league in Bangkok in which there is 8 teams. There are 2 university teams, Police, Air Force and 4 teams made up of ex-pats living in Bangkok. The Taai Elephants is a team of Dutch ex-pats with 2 ex Olympians and a very well drilled team. I play with the Bangkok Hooters club, a team from everywhere, Belgium, 6 poms, Irish, a Singaporean, a couple of yanks and myself the only Aussie, the average age is about 32 so I fit in quite well at 66. I play mostly a sweeper role as they are way too quick for me, but a good test with Barcelona coming up soon. It is a very competitive competition played at the Bangkok Sports Club every week on grass but immaculately maintained and like carpet, so with the time available we play about every 10 days on a Tuesday and Thursday night. It is very hot and humid so dehydration is a big factor.

I will be back in Perth on March 17 for 16 days and looking forward to catching up with all my hockey friends.

Cheers from Thailand - Woody. *(Thanks Woody, see you after PHS hockey. Ed.)*

'A' Division Imbalance? On the great majority of Wednesdays the 'A' Division matches are very even contests. There are times when a tight contest produces an uneven scoreline, due to better finishing or better luck. So an outcome like that we had on February 14th when one side won three times and scored eight goals is very unusual, and suggests that the teams are out of balance. This caused me to examine the players missing from all the sides that day:

Blue: Phil Anderson, Jim Banks, Jim Malcolm, and Ken Watt. *(Plus Colin Sanders long term).*

Gold: Jim Balding, Stan Balding, Greg Black, Peter Blockley, John Milner and Ken Walter.

Red: Bob Byers, Mal Horrigan, John Jeffreys, Roger Partington, Peter Stevens and Les Waldon.

White: Eric Alcock, Robin Bailey, Scott Blackwell, Len Blyth, Roy Grant and Brian Soares.

This perusal, in conjunction with a look at the full team lists, led to the following conclusions:

- Gold and Red are the most affected by the missing players listed above.
- Gold have most of our octogenarians. But all of them are playing good competitive hockey.
- The main reason for Blue's lack of success on the 14th was their failure to use their normal cohesive passing and teamwork to get the ball into good scoring positions in the circle.
- White have the greatest depth in their playing list, with approximately ten players who could all play in the forward line. The defenders on the roster are also strong, and are very capable of turning defence into attack. They also had a very good day on the 14th. And again on the 21st. And a reasonable one on the 28th, without Ham D'Souza.
- All sides are struggling for numbers at most times, so a temporary transfer should only be effective for one day (if teams have extra players on a Wednesday).

Reader opinions are very welcome. Please keep them fairly short. Ed.

New Rules For Revised AHL: The latest newsletter from Hockey Australia contained a story about the proposed new rules for the latest version of the AHL. Testing is under way for these proposed changes to the rules for the new AHL, which I think combines men's, women's and mixed hockey. For those who can manage it I believe the test games are being streamed live.

Men's: Four x 10 minute quarters with extra time.

Mixed: 9's 2 x 10 minute quarters (that's what the email said - Ed.) with extra time. Minimum of four field players of each gender on the pitch at any time).

Women's: Four x 10 minute quarters with extra time.

Player Restrictions: Two field players must remain in the attacking 50 yards at all times. These two players must be nominated at all times (identified through an arm band). When mixed periods are being played there must be one male and one female in the attacking 50 yards. In addition to this there will be no penalty corners during the mixed periods. Breaches inside the circle result in a one-on-one with a goalkeeper.

Field Goal Bonus Point: If a field goal is scored the team which scored will have an automatic one-on-one with a goalkeeper to gain an additional point.

Powerplay: Each team has a five minute "powerplay" which can be called on at any time by the coach. During the five minute period the following rules shall apply to the team which activates the **Powerplay:** Aggregate double points (2) for a goal. Automatic one-on-one awarded for a breach in the attacking circle (instead of a corner).

I am just an old never-was (not even a has-been) but my personal preference as a spectator always has been for sports where the action is continuous rather than repeatedly interrupted by a coach calling a time out. Watching international hockey has become more than a little disjointed with the video reviews, and all the protective equipment for penalty corners (though both are essential). I would be very interested in readers' views on these suggestions, and particularly from goalkeepers, who would definitely be in the action a lot more. And surely our current method for scoring works quite well without adding complications. Ed.

Blast From the Past

Photo supplied by Mike Spatore

Western Australian State Schoolboys Hockey Team — 1971



Back Row: R. Hearndon, S. Smith, B. Kazakoff, M. Smith, G. Robinson.
 Middle Row: Mr G. Worth (Coach), S. Brown, K. Knuckey, W. Cutler, K. Nolan, Mr R. Osborne (Manager).
 Front Row: C. Davics, P. Stokes (Vice Captain), R. Halbert, C. Stacey (Captain), J. Charlick.

LANGHAM

Many thanks to Mike for this photo of the 1971 team, which would have to count as a 'young' photo with a vengeance. We decided that cropping names and having a guessing contest would have made it too difficult to identify the two current 'C' Division players. The team manager is a current 'B' Division goalkeeper and coach Butch Worth has played with WHM. Mike also said that there are many famous names in the side - and readers may like to work out how many of them played in 1As and how many went on to even higher honours.

Quotable Quote Two: "There is nothing so absurd but some philosopher has said it." *Cicero* (106 BC - 43 BC). Roman author, orator and politician. From 'De Divinatione.'

Baton Relay in North Beach

Photo Venables Family



Ron has the baton and looks to be well guarded by the yellow clad police. Isn't that Colin Gee?

WHM Baton Bearers: The Commonwealth Games baton relay passed through Perth recently and two of our 'A' Division players were honoured by being chosen to participate. John Ree ran his leg in Rockingham on Thursday 22nd and Ron Venables did his run at North Beach on Sunday 25th. Ron was nominated by his grandson, who managed to include five grounds for selection in 100 words. Our congratulations on this well-deserved accolade go to both gentlemen.

It takes men of uncommon clay
 To run in the baton relay
 So Rocky got John
 And North Beach had Ron
 The large crowds all shouted olé

As both John and Ron are going to Barcelona later this year the Spanish seemed appropriate. I have included another photograph on the next page, this time you can see it's Ron.

Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players: Those I manage to note at PHS included Robin Bailey, Graham Challenor, Jeff Godfrey, Brian Lester, Brian Soares, Ken Walter (who'd dropped in for a social visit) and George Winning. At Perry Lakes the list has included Eric Alcock, Dudley Burress, John Mercer, Heath Tyrell and Les Waldon on the 24th, who did not quite make it onto the field.

Punology Two: This one is just a few rather different definitions.

Indecision: Under the whether.

Sarcasm: Quip lash.

Praise: Letting off esteem.

Baton Relay in North Beach

Photo Venables Family



I understand there were several spectators from WHM - some live close by.

Grumpy Old Men Two: *"If you believe everything you read, better not read." Japanese proverb. Of course this does not apply to "Masters Matters."*

Page Filler: There have been quite a few last minute changes to this edition. So the services of our limerick writer were called upon to fill a hole on the final page. He picked up on our predictions:

This year I have a new motto
 First off to win on the Lotto
 Not for a new car
 Nor to travel afar
 Just for a fortnight on Rotto.

Seriously, I have not set foot on Rottnest since the 1980s.

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:
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