



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 4

April 2018

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Dates For The Diary:

2018: April 7th: Saturday hockey AGM and end of season dinner. Perry Lakes after hockey.
 April 8th: WA State selection trials at PHS 2 - O/50s, O/55s and O/60s. See below.
 April 15th: WA State selection second trial. PHS 1 / PHS 2 9:00 am to 12:00.
 April 18th: Wednesday hockey moves to Perry Lakes (for one day only).
 April 25th: Sausage sizzle following play at PHS.
 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

Interstate Tournament 2018 - Metro: Nominations for the WA State teams have now opened for all age groups. The form can be obtained through the WA Masters Facebook page which is accessible via the WA Vets home / WA Masters Hockey Facebook page buttons from the WHM web-page. You will need to complete the process before the close-off date of 6th April. The trials are starting very early this year on Sunday 8th April at PHS 2 and you must have nominated to attend. The details are:
 O/50s: 11:15 am to 1:00 pm.
 O/55s: 1: 00 pm to 2:45 pm.
 O/60s: 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm.
 A second trial is scheduled for PHS 1 / PHS 2 on Sunday 15th April between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm. Trials for O/65s, O/70s and O/75s will be held on Wednesday afternoons. The WA Masters web-site indicates that a further announcement will be made regarding these age groups.

Interstate Tournament 2018: An announcement has been made regarding the off the field roles (coach and manager) in the WA State teams. Congratulations to all who have taken on either role. From the WA Masters site they are:

O/50s: Player Coach Paul Armitage, Manager Paula Dick.
O/50s (2): Player Coach Ryan Gadsen, Player Manager Andy Rahim.
O/55s: Coach and Manager TBD.
O/55s (2): Player Coach TBD, Manager Naomi Noble.
O/60s: Coach Rob Lawson, Manager Astrid Miller.
O/65s: Player Coach Ian Pestana, Player Manager Bill Campbell.
O/70s: Coach Jim Banks, Player Manager TBD.
O/75s: Player Coach Les Waldon, Player Manager Brian Soares.

Appeals for O/75s: An all-out attempt is being made to have two sides from WA in Lismore/Ballina. If you are at or near the right age then please seriously consider nominating for Country or Metro.

Appeal for O/75s: Alliance O/75s has only 12 players for Barcelona. Contact Secretary Maarten van Oosterzee via the web-site. If you need help then talk to John Mercer or the Australian coordinator Colin Benporath. Emails are johnmercercer@iinet.net.au or cbenpora@iinet.net.au. Limerick Page 3.

Department of Health: Bob Bowyer is having a lot of trouble staying out of this section of MM lately. Following an accidental clash of heads with Keith Kessell (Col Gee has now moved them both to Red to prevent any recurrence), Howie Herbert drove him to a doctor's where multiple stitches were required. Despite the imposition of a temporary ban on alcohol (yet another) Bob returned to collect both his car and the wine raffle proceeds. Chip Challenor was reported to have made significant improvement in pain control - and hopefully will be smiling again soon. Jim Wright has a groin strain and is missing some hockey. Roger Partington has finally returned to Perth (according to rumour) but is immediately off for an arthroscopy and his return to playing again is scheduled for some time in June. Les Waldon's shoulder seemed to be much improved on the 24th; hopefully he will be able to return some time during April. Terry Gaston is missing for four weeks while undergoing a minor operation (details unknown). Ham D'Souza definitely has a couple of pinched nerves in the back, and is off for an MRI to determine what else is wrong. Meantime, he's in quite a lot of pain as well as the consequent immobility. A rapid recovery to all, including those not mentioned due to my ignorance.

Letters To The Editor: The March edition generated quite a lot of feedback. Thank you to Peter Fogels, John Sanders, Rusty Phillips, Ron Venables, Ken Beer, John Smith, John Milner and Richard Osborne. Topics were varied.

John Sanders: Replied to our 'Unsubscribe' suggestion to email the editor if you would like to stop receiving the MM emails with: "I love them 😊"

John Milner: Responded to the same suggestion with: "No, don't stop."

Ron Venables: Was kind enough to let us know that he and family had enjoyed the baton relay report in the previous issue. *Thanks Ron, WHM was honoured by two members' involvement. Ed.*

Richard Osborne: "In the 1971 State Schools U/16 photo there are at least two memorable juniors; Stephen Smith who became a Federal Labor Parliamentarian. (*And Foreign Minister - Ed.*) He came from Narrogin where his dad Les was a great hockey man. And then Craig Davies who became an Australian Captain. Of course John Charlick became very well known as did Wayne Cutler who still plays well and in the Wednesday Arvo 'Cs'. Several others made claims for hockey fame as well and the team was a happy and competitive group. We travelled to Sydney but did not have great success. A number of players (*from the subsequent team*) went on to higher honours partly because of that ever enthusiastic Butch Worth." *Thanks Speedie - I met Les when I had just started senior hockey and he was on his way down the grades. And drinks afterward at the Bassendean Hotel. Ed.*

John Smith: Re the 1971 State Schoolboys photo; "I note in the photo three boys from Fremantle YMCA. It shows the detrimental effect on hockey of the loss of the many small suburban clubs and the Saturday morning high school competitions. Soccer has been the main beneficiary" *I quite agree with you John - the advent of turfs has not been beneficial for everything. Ed.*

Alliance Need O/75s: As stated on Page 2, we have 12 players only. Can you help?

You're off to play hockey in Spain?

Where tours can include a wet plain (*the rain in Spain stays mainly ...*)

Should that not be so

And you'd like to go

Alliance needs numbers again.

Quotable Quote One: "The creation of art is not the fulfilment of a need but the creation of a need. The world never needed Beethoven's Fifth Symphony until he created it. Now we could not live without it." *Louis I Kahn (1901 - 1974). Distinguished US architect.*

Department of Corrections: A long time ago I included a quote about an 'E' that had had enough of equalling mc^2 and was off to live in sin with the square of the hypotenuse. Last issue a similar aggro 'e' decided it would not stay in a paragraph about the rules and deserted its 'a' and 'r'. We have players in 'A' Division who do not like sticking to the rules too.

Rules of the Month: Some heated comments were heard in the north circle of PHS 1 on March 14th regarding the umpire's decision to allow a goal which went in above backboard height from the first shot in the play following a penalty corner. So this issue it might be helpful to detail when a corner is considered to be finished.

Rule 13.5: "The penalty corner is completed when:

- a) A goal is scored.
- b) A free hit is awarded to the defending team.
- c) The ball travels more than 5 metres outside the circle. (*Which is what occurred on the 14th*)
- d) The ball is played over the backline and a penalty corner is not awarded.
- e) A defender commits an offence which does not result in another penalty corner.
- f) A penalty stroke is awarded.
- g) A bully is awarded."

The Future of 'A' Division: Thanks to Colin Gee for these words on this topic. (See also Page 12)

My Observations

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who commented on a proposal to alter the format of Wednesdays hockey, your input is valuable. The consensus is such that there will be no change of our present system. However, I wish to drive this discussion a little further, hoping that we maintain the successful and competitive nature of the best aged Masters hockey competition in Australia and possibly the world.

A lot of talk happens among players about what is happening and where all this is heading and is continually heard around the field and in the bar after the games. My concern is that the age groups are becoming fragmented and a divide is growing within, and this does not promote integration of the differing age groups.

When established all hockey players played together and paid a weekly fee, and this was the basis for our successful establishment, but it also maintained that we socialised together as well and built a strong hockey family. The success and expansion of numbers of playing members has moved us away from this format to our present successful competition. Whilst I will not try to offer a definitive solution I would like to offer these points for discussion.

Most of this discussion stems from the number of players available on any given day, and this is a fact we cannot control, but a situation that is arising in all the divisions.

In the A division I feel the continual demand to restructure the teams is just tinkering around the edges but do accept the fact that most want to play or belong to a team. The result being that we will have to continually shift players to maintain a level or even structure within the teams and the competition, and this will be the job of the Captains. Who will also need to ensure that all players get equal playing time each day. This is a topic of continual conjecture, but we wish players to assist Captains in this goal, to the benefit of all.

Another point that is also controversial is the movement of players between the different divisions. This is a self-controlled or managed choice that I feel needs to be administered to the benefit of all the playing divisions and this now is helping to build the division between groups, by the lack of player movement. If we are to move forward I would you to think about the following.

Do our groups need to be integrated?

Should our Monthly sausage sizzle event be a day of combined teams from all grades enjoying the competition between all age groupings, with the aim of bringing more players back to the club for social interaction?

Should C Division offer a system for players to pay a weekly fee on a weekly basis, as a means of attracting more players? The modern demands of this group seem to be quite different to the older players, and this may be a way to attract players who may not be able to commit to playing on a weekly basis but wish to continue enjoy their hockey. This group needs to grow to ensure that the Western Hockey Masters is a large group of players who have an influence in Masters Hockey. Any constructive ideas or discussion most welcome, Colin Gee.

'A' Division Blog: Blue scored 20 goals in March, Red and White each 7 and Gold 4.

March 7th: The captains had decided that due to our good numbers the previous week the national O/75s would be an additional team rather than replace the Red side. Of course numbers were down. We started at 12:00 to accommodate the 4 extra games and reduced the playing time to 20 minutes. The national side were more intent on establishing combinations rather than winning at all costs, but their defence proved to be a stumbling block for most of the day, only conceding one goal to Trevor Kerr. White's defence also only conceded one goal, to the O/75s. Players came and went throughout the day, and Red and Gold eventually set up a composite side. This did not work too well initially, going down 3-0 to Blue, but then Red/Gold achieved a 1-1 draw against the Australian side. Blue also managed a 0-0 draw, while Red and White both lost 1-0. Arthur Rowe, Keith Ellis and David Sinclair scored for Australia, John Ree, Neil Scaddan and Bob Bowyer got goals for Blue, Trevor Kerr (2) and Phil Metcalf were on the board for Red/Gold and Len Blyth, George Bradbury and Dave Horsley were successful for White. Goal of the day was shared between Trevor's first and Len Blyth and George Bradbury's corner conversions. On the whole the standard of the hockey was not bad (for us lately, at least) and though it's invidious to single out players I thought that Peter Willett was the player of the day. John Burt made a welcome re-appearance in goal, and played very well, as did Barry, Bill (when he got a touch) and Tony. Thank you to the Red side, who did the cooking for the sausage sizzle which followed, though our hospitality did not extend as far as allowing any of our visitors to win a wine in the raffle. The maximum player numbers in each side were: Gold (8), White (10), Blue (12) and Red (7). The number of goals scored was (11).

March 14th: The day began with a good game between Blue and Gold featuring 3 fine goals. Then the wheels fell off with 3 consecutive 0-0 draws and some very indifferent hockey. Not all of us had bad days (just most of us), with my White team conspicuous in this area. Both Gold and Red were very low on numbers and in their third game against Red, the Blues passing improved sufficiently for them to dominate and score four goals. Red then recruited 5 players from Blue (having lost Jim Wright too) and took a 2-1 lead against White in the last game of the day before Bob Bowyer and Keith Kessell had a bad clash of heads and the match was abandoned (quite rightly) at that point. Peter Dennis and Phil Metcalf each scored twice, while Bill Williamson continues to be in the right place at the right time and is now Red's leading scorer. Pass of the day goes to Ash Foster for a good approach to the circle and a perfectly timed lay-off to Phil Metcalf. Goal of the day is shared this week between Jim Malcolm's great deflection and Phil Metcalf's first time conversion of a bouncing rebound from the top of the circle. White was the only side not to win one game. Player numbers were: Blue (12), Gold (7), White (10), and Red (6). Total goals scored (10).

March 21st: Despite earlier dire predictions on team numbers all sides had at least 7 players (for most of the day) and some semblance of the fixtures was played. Blue had 13 players (at max) and were not only able to lend Bob Bowyer and Ian Hill to Red; they were also able to have the majority of territory and possession in their three games. This despite a 1-0 loss to Red in a match featuring a lot of missed opportunities. This match served as practice for the last of the day, when four went in against a very depleted Gold side. So Blue won twice, Red once (with two draws) and White once. Multiple goal scorers were Bob Maley (R), John Ree (B), Terry Gaston (B) and Roy Grant (W), who each got two. Single goals went to Neil Patterson (B) & Jim Balding (G), with Jim's corner conversion getting the nod for goal of the day. Save of the day goes to George Bradbury for scraping one off the line while filling in for Red. Overall the standard of our passing was better than the previous week, which does not mean that most of it was any good. Player numbers were: Red (7), White (10) Gold (7), and Blue (13). Total goals (10).

March 28th: Blue dominated with 3 easy wins, 7 goals for & none against. Red & Gold both managed to lose 1-0 to White, despite having much the better of the play, but being foiled by good defence. Scott Blackwell (W) scored well himself and set up Brian Soares for the other. A fine deflection to Jim Banks (B) from a Phil Anderson pass and a good corner variation for one of the 3 to Peter Dennis (B) were the goals of the day. Ash Foster (G) got a deflection off a defender's stick which looped over Colin and went in. Team numbers Blue (12), Gold (8), Red (8) and White (10). Goals scored (11).

From The Saturday O/65s: The summer season is almost over. Winter fees are now due.

Ken Walter was not able to play on the 3rd, but managed to send a quality substitute in brother Graeme (commonly known as Cec). I believe that when Walter G returns from a holiday he hopes to join us for the winter season (*as long as everything was still OK on the 4th*). We hope so too.

Another returnee after a long absence has been Stan Salazaar. He suffered an arm injury early on, but since then has even attended as a non-player (all the way from Waikiki) and will be back soon. Good to see you on a hockey field again Stan.

Some time since we last saw Stan S

Two years is a pretty fair guess

But armed with a stick

He's still rather quick

And the skills do not seem to be less.

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

Ash Challenor has played a couple of games in the lead-up to the winter season, but does not have our three WHM Saturday shirts. So on the 24th he appeared in a hot pink shirt, with a folding chair to match. I'm not convinced that that is the ideal colour for our next Saturday playing shirt.

The 24th was not a Club day (free drinks and pizzas) but we were one short of four full teams. It's good to know that they don't only come for the beer.

Though perhaps the large crowd at the selection announcement meant that not all players could hear properly (or perhaps our age was a factor). When the first game of the day was due to start both teams were short of players, who were still enjoying the shade of the trees.

I noticed that Mike Gotttschalk only ever plays in the Blue team. Enquiry revealed that we have not yet managed to supply him with the club shirts, so he is using his own in the SM size (says Scads).

SM is the size for Mike G

Who's tall as an average tree

That shirt measurement

Is based on a tent

I'm told that it means Small Marquee.

We remind all Saturday players that the AGM and self-catered end of season dinner are on at Perry Lakes following the hockey on 7th April. Please confirm your attendance with Bob Bowyer as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.

Easter at Perry Lakes: We decided to have a game on Easter Saturday following a show of hands on March 17th. The turnout was very good (three full teams) and so was a lot of the hockey.

Correction regarding Geoff Roberts: Some time ago MM reported that Geoff's wife had suffered a stroke. The victim was actually her sister, and Gail has returned to Sydney to be her carer. Geoff has made more final appearances than Dame Nellie Melba while he tries to sell the house, but says that he is definitely going back to Sydney on April 14th.

Punology One: Four dons were strolling along an Oxford street one evening discussing collective nouns; a covey of quail, an exaltation of larks, etc. As they conversed, they passed four ladies of the evening. One of the dons asked, "How would you describe a group like that?"

One suggested, "A jam of tarts?"

A second offered, "A flourish of strumpets?"

A third chimed in with, "An essay of Trollope's?"

The first countered with, "A frost of hoars?"

Then the dean, the eldest and most scholarly of the four, apparently closed the discussion with "I wish that you gentlemen would consider "An anthology of pros."

Whereupon a voice behind broke in: "Surely you have overlooked the obvious; 'a pride of loins.'"

The French Letter No 40:

Well winter definitely had the last laugh - on the very last day - 20th March - it snowed in our neck of the woods! Only a light covering as you can see from the attached photo. We are currently doing a lot of the winter clean up work in the grounds. Leaves and branches galore and it's pretty time consuming but another week or so should see it straightened out.

Have planted some seeds in pots which will be later planted out in the vegie garden. Peas, beans, tomatoes, courgettes, cucumbers, lettuce, leeks & pumpkins.

In mid-April we are going away for two days into the Loire valley region – specifically, we are staying in a hotel in the town of Saint-Gervais-le-Forêt. I had purchased a one night package for Joelle last Christmas and she has since added a night to it. We are looking forward to it as there are a lot of things to see and do.

The last couple of days seem to have been taken over by the Aussie cricket debacle. I still can't get my head around it. Absolutely mind-blowing. One can only hope that Cricket Australia will take the necessary action to punish those responsible and then engage in the long term task of rebuilding Australia's cricket reputation.

That's all from me - enjoy your hockey.

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

Shakespeare Said It: “Away with him, I say! Hang him with his pen and inkhorn about his neck.” King Henry VI Part II Act IV Scene II. *Disgruntled MM reader wants a replacement Editor.*

“Look, what is done cannot be now amended: men shall deal unadvisedly sometimes, which after hours give leisure to repent.” King Richard III Act IV Scene IV. *White line fever explained - yet again.*

“An honest tale speeds best being plainly told.” King Richard III Act IV Scene IV. *Perhaps this helps to explain why the language in the ‘A’ Division Blog is becoming increasingly flowery.*

Grumpy Old Men One: “To disagree with three fourths of the British public is one of the first requisites of sanity.” *Oscar Wilde (1858 -1919).*

Balinese Bulletin No 32:**AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY.**

We were returning from a regular “food” shopping adventure, driving along a busy Seminyak route & there he was. An Australian Suburban Gentleman, resplendent in white panama hat out for a quiet stroll along one of the busier Seminyak shopping stretches. We were stopped in traffic at this stage & noticed him, almost alongside us, look up in disbelief at a long line of motorbikes riding straight at him along the footpath. Quickly realising they were in the wrong he quickly blocked the first of the bikes in this long line & felt obliged to “set them straight” complete with a series of gesticulations. As he clearly did not speak a word of Indonesian he was unable to impress upon the Balinese bike rider that he (the bike rider) & all those behind him were riding illegally & should return to the road like everyone else. The poor man realised he had no other option but to move to one side & allow the procession of motor bikes to continue on their way. Full marks to this Gentleman for at least trying!! Yes, riding motorbikes on the footpath here is “illegal” but then in all fairness it does lead to the often heavy traffic move along somewhat more freely So I guess it does work in that respect.

FOOTY RETURNS.

Shortly after the AFL Grand Final each year we see the onset of the “WET” season which continues through to the commencement of the Pre-Season Footy & eventually the “Real” Footy. We are now enjoying the start of the 2018 Footy Season & generally get to see 6 of the 9 games each round “live”. For those of you that know my AFL allegiance I can sense an improvement this year in the Blues ...well let’s hope so!!

On this sporting theme let’s not go into the Cricket drama ...there is enough already on this mess in the media without me adding to it.

CULTURAL BALI.

For all you down there interested in the Balinese Culture here is yet another spiritual day in the life of the Balinese.

Tumpek Landep is a ceremonial day at which offerings are made for objects that are made of metal. The ceremonies start in the morning hours at the village temple when people gather for special prayers and blessings. Afterwards, at the home compounds, additional ceremonies and blessings follow at which offerings are made for the holy family keris that most families own, but also for cars and motorbikes. In these modern times, also other objects that contain metal, such as computers, may be subject to these ceremonies. Most Balinese people truly believe that these ceremonies and blessings will bring them luck and keep them safe in traffic.

Tumpek Landep takes place every 210 days according to the ceremonial Pawukon calendar, which is always on the Saturday of its second week, Landep. This day is also referred to as Saniscara Keliwon Tegeh.

In closing, I hope you all enjoyed a quiet, happy & peaceful Easter period.

Peter Hammond (*Thanks for the Easter wishes Peter - at least mine was quiet. Ed.*)

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: March’s question was: 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. This month nobody attempted an answer. John tells us that the Gold medal was won in Dublin 1994. April’s question is: Which of these statements about Olympian Dennis Kemp is NOT true: 1). He captained, and managed the 1952 Colts side to Brisbane aged 20. 2). He made history when he, Eric Pearce and Ted Brindal were chosen for the WA senior team in 1952. 3). He played in the half back line for the Old Modernians club. 4). He represented Australia at the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. *Answer next issue.*

Quotable Quote Two: “Never face facts; if you do, you’ll never get up in the morning.” *Marlo Thomas (1937 -). American actress, producer author, and social activist.*

'B' Division Report - March:

INJURIES: After 8 months away with injuries and others, Dave Evans has returned to bolster Blue's defence. Ian Brown has also made a return after 12 months of testing the tides.

VISITORS: Phil Chalmers from Esperance, was in town for the day and had a run with White.

LIFE'S LINGERING MOMENTS:

1. **Cyclones:** Unless you have been through a cyclone it is really hard to understand what it can be like. I can remember my husband's first cyclone, he did not know what to expect. When the wind started and trees began bending, losing leaves and breaking and the house shuddering as the wind speed and noise increased, I noticed him staring through the glass door. That look of fear on his face will always stay with me. I couldn't help but feel sorry for him. The wind worsened and the rain and noise intensified. He stared through the door for hours until the eye came over and all went calm. When the wind stopped I was able to unlock the door and let him in.
2. **War** does not determine who is right, War determines who is left.
3. **Tea:** Tea is an evil substance. Tea is more dangerous than drinking alcohol. Please avoid drinking tea.

I discovered this last weekend. On the Saturday night I went out with my mates, had quite a few alcoholic drinks and arrived home just after 2.00am. My wife had stayed at home drinking tea and was still awake when I arrived home. You should have seen how angry and hurtful she was, whilst I was peaceful, humorous and very amiable. I went to bed whilst she was still shouting at me. This even continued into the next morning. Please if you can't handle your tea, don't drink it.

THIS MONTHS HOCKEY:

An interesting month's hockey very much influenced by the weather. When the temperature reduced and the humidity dropped off the, numbers turned up. Blue were the dominant team for the month with 8 wins out of their 16 games followed by White with 4 wins and Gold 3 wins. Blue's performance was all the more extraordinary as they maxed out at 8 players until week 4. Obviously judicious selection policy enabled them to recruit quality players from the pool available and in doing so did not give the opposition teams time to rest. This fell apart on week 4 when all teams had full numbers and Blue won only one game. Many thanks to Vern Gooch who was available to umpire each week.

Week 1: Electric Blue maintained their winning form from the end of the previous month, White dipped a bit and Gold failed to score on this warmish and humid Wed arvo. Team numbers were similar to recent weeks White and Gold with full teams whilst Blue was again short. Crafty buggers they use White and Gold players as substitutes and wear them out. Only 5 goals scored for the day (and Blue scored 4 of them), a bit of a let down after last weeks 14. Most goals were scored by hits from the 25 to top of the circle then tap into goal. Ash Challenor scored first receiving a pass on the left post, Alan Ledger followed soon after receiving a pass on the left post (both against White), Keith Platel, liked the right post better and tapped it in against Gold. Graeme Nicholls changed the game plan by running into the circle and shooting again, and again and again and eventually found the net & Roger Davey (the only non blue scorer) was on the end of a nifty short corner manoeuvre to tap in a goal from the left post. The dominant backlines were led by strong displays from Jeff Kozak, Bill Rochester, Bob le Merle, Shane Williams, Dave Mellor and Ron Mitchell. Blue won 2 games, the other 4 games were draws, 3 (0-0) and 1 (1-1).

Week 2: It was forecast to be hot but only managed 30C but the humidity was very apparent. This week was the super 8 week as each of the 3 teams only had 8 players. By the last game Blue v White, Blue had 3 players left and White had 6. The humidity and shortness of numbers took a toll on everyone. The last game was played with top ups from Gold and the C graders. The C graders made it look easy amongst the sagging 60's. Another unusual spectacle was the goal keepers umpiring. With 3 umpires available and all teams short the umpires volunteered themselves (even though

their knowledge of the rules was limited) and assisted Vern Gooch to enable the day to progress. Congratulations to Dudley Evans who was lining up to play C grade until their numbers arrived. Given the humidity that would have been a big day and a testament to his staying ability along with undoubtable skills. Again Blue were the dominant team of the day with 3 wins, White had 1 win and there were 2 draws. 3 (2 to Adrian Gabriel) of Blues 5 goals were scored by substitute players and the other 2 by Dudley Evans. Peter Wallis and Fred Flanagan both got a double for White whilst Bob le Merle broke a long personal drought with a goal for Gold. All were happy when the day ended and numbers were seen slowly wending their way to the bar and the car park glad it was all over for the week. Beware the Ides of March.

Week 3: Boy was it hot. The temperature maxed out above 38C at 2.30pm, the goalkeepers were hot (Harper and Sansom), the hockey was hot and the umpires were hot (or contentious at least but no allegations of ball tampering). Altogether a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. Blue by virtue of winning 2 games were the most successful team of the day followed by Gold and White 1 win each. Driving force for the Blues for the day was a commanding performance by Alan Ledger with 2 tap in goals and showing intensity around the field as he cajoled his teammates to run and have an impact. Shane Williams (White) was the day's top goalscorer with 3 goals. Whilst Colin Murray-Smith opened the scoring for the day in Gold's winning first game and was then relegated to the back line for the rest of the day. Good to see goals from Roger Davey (strong shot from the top of the circle), Leo Welten (another forceful running goal), Adrian Gabriel, Keith Platel, Graham (one leg) Harper. Greg Allen continues to put in but still hasn't scored (and showing a bit of frustration) since returning from a knee replacement. A number of queries were raised by players in response to umpires decisions. This is ok until it becomes intimidatory or over the top. Please maintain an even keel.

Week 4: The temperature cools off (24.5C) and the boys come out to play. All teams had extra players for the first time this year. Instead of each player playing 4-6 games each players were lucky to play 3 full games. Everyone celebrated the cooler weather in fine style with proliferation of goals (17 for the day) and goal scorers, spearheaded by revamped Greg Allen (who broke his 2018 drought in fine style and released his performance anxiety) and another cameo from Fred Flanagan, 3 goals each whilst Ash Challenor, Alan Ledger and Adrian Gabriel chimed in with 2 goals apiece. Singles were achieved by Peter Wallis, Graham Harper, Keith Platel, Dudley Burrell and Tom Long. White and Gold shared the honours for the day with 2 wins and a draw each ably assisted by the venerable umpire Vern Gooch with resting players assisting. Blues performance dropped off (1 win and 3 losses) after a stellar first 3 weeks in March. Goalies for the day were Ross Easton, John Harper and Graeme Sansom.

There is a possibility that Gordon's comprehensive report may not appear in the next edition as he is due for another working trip to the country. If this should eventuate, is there anybody else in the 'B' Division capable of keeping 'Masters Matters' informed? Even if it's just a couple of highlights. Ed.

Well Done: The March list of 'A' division umpires: Peter Evans, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, John Lindsay, Bob Maley, Neil Mannolini, Roger Partington, John Sanders, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares and Ken Watt. The 'B' and 'C' division umpires are again unknown but Vern Gooch is still there. Our Saturday play was controlled by: Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Ash Foster, Colin Gee, Mike Gottschalk, Ian Hill, Bob Hotinski, Roger Jewell, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Rod Spencer and Ken Watt. I believe that Ivan Wilson and the 'A' Division Blue team did the hard yards for the sausage sizzle on March 28th - thank you. Ivan also provides the onions every time we have one. And a special thank you goes to Jim Wright who has been organising the Perry Lakes post-game food for a very long time now. He is going to have a rest for the winter season. Thanks also to all the rostered providers at Perry Lakes who have done well during the entire summer season.

Punology Two: Overheard during a conversational lull at a gathering of ravens:
"Have you bred any good rooks lately?"

Masters Hockey in Sydney (or lack of it): Thanks to Graham Newson who responded to a request made at the 7th March sausage sizzle with this survey of the Sydney scene. We are well off here.

I was asked to pen some words of my experiences of hockey in Sydney since I moved there last April. I come back to Perth every 4-6 weeks or so to make sure the kids haven't wrecked the house; but also to play a little more Masters hockey.

There is a Masters competition in Sydney governed by the Sydney Masters Hockey Association (SMHA) which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. The competition is on a Tuesday/Wednesday on turf at Olympic Park. There are four divisions:

1. Premier League (over 35's open competition)
2. Sydney Cup (over 40's B grade competition)
3. Masters League (over 40's C grade competition)
4. Legends (over 40's D grade competition)

So I arrived in Sydney and sought a club with enough Masters players to see some games. Clubs like Briars, UTS and Ryde looked promising. I sent an email off to Briars and heard nothing. I contacted Ryde and Hunters Hill Panthers and made contact. Ryde run a team in each of the Sydney Masters Competition, but because I arrived well into the season, places were very limited (I was also an unknown quantity). So I ended up in their Legends team, which then promptly had a long gap of over 4 weeks between matches! So, I joined one of the Grade teams on a Saturday playing against and with youngsters. At least in the team I was in, there were a few Masters players, including Geoff Davenport, formerly of Fremantle and WA O55 Div 2.

The Grade team did well, winning most matches, becoming minor Premiers, and getting through to the Grand Final. However, we lost on the penalty shoot out. The Legends team just missed out on a play off place, but I was elevated to the Masters League team for the last few games as players were away. We got through to the Grand Final and won, so yet another trophy adorns the mantelpiece!

In between times, I made it back to WA a few times, mainly playing for Raiders on a Saturday. After the season finished, I found that the only Summer hockey in Sydney was at Grade level and fairly minimal, so I decided not to do that. There was therefore a long gap before I came back to WA at Christmas for 3 weeks and managed to play in a couple of Wednesday sessions; a Thursday night over 50s and a Monday night over 60s – the most hockey I played in 3 months!

This year, to encourage Sydney Masters Hockey Players, and to make the competition fairer for over 55's, the Legend D division will be split into two mini-divisions this year. Whilst ALL teams will still play each other throughout the year, the competition will see the over 55's teams (4) play each other more often than the under 55 teams.

SMHA select representative teams from above to represent Sydney at the NSW State Championships held annually, from which players can be selected to play for NSW (and Australia) in their respective age division. So I'm off to Tamworth with one of the two Sydney Over 55s team at the end of March. There isn't an Over 60s competition – it's an Over 63s!!!

I've been trying to manage my work to make it back to WA on a Tuesday night and work from Perth for the best part of a week to enable me to guest on a Wednesday. This does involve some 5.30 a.m. meetings, but at least I can finish early! So hopefully will see some of you guys around on a Wednesday in the future.

Graham Newson (Thanks very much for squeezing the writing time into the travel. Ed.)

The Future of 'A' Division: This piece was not only inspired by the low quality of our hockey on March 14th. A much stronger factor was the way we went about it.

Very little happens nowadays in the way of pre-game warm-ups before the first match. This applies to both physical and hockey warm-ups. Given the 5 minute break between games (if we're lucky) there is little or no chance to make amends later. Also, many players are arriving just before they are due to go on. I consider that this indicates a distinct lack of interest, which is reflected in the poor quality of much of our hockey.

The recent player transfers may assist to produce full Wednesday teams. Movements were:
Ron Venables and Keith Kessell from White to Red.
Bob Bowyer from Blue to Red.
Peter Blockley from Gold to White.
Terry Gaston from Blue to Gold.

Numbers have been down also - compared to the first quarter of 2017 when they were so good that we extended the games to 25 minutes to give all the substitutes a good run too. Long term injuries have had an impact, and an analysis of the current numbers by team shows:

Blue: Have only 12 on their list, but all are regular attendees.

Gold: Have only 12 on the list. This includes Ken Walter (DNP), and Terry Gaston (out for 4 weeks).

Red: Have 17 named players, including long term absentees Bob Byers, Mal Horrigan, Les Waldon, and Roger Partington. There are others who cannot attend every week, including John Jeffreys, Trevor Kerr and Bob Maley, while Jim Wright is working through an injury.

White: The list shows fourteen. But this includes Eric Alcock and Robin Bailey who have not played in 2018. Plus Ham D'Souza has an ongoing back problem, and Len Blyth quite rightly puts the farm first.

These numbers indicate that a four team competition is barely viable, and as I have stated before (often!) neither are the 25 minute games. These were originally introduced when we had big numbers in every team, to give all players adequate turf time and have outlived their usefulness.

I think that our options are limited. We are not going to recruit a lot of outside players from this age group now. As soon as we shrink the competition to three teams everybody will decide to turn up. Promotions from 'B' Division are not possible, as they cannot be replaced from 'C' Division, who are still working in most cases. Another suggestion is detailed below, but I understand that this one has already been rejected. So we'll have to do our best to be flexible (*tough at our age*).

The Future of 'A' Division: This is an analysis of another possibility.

Bar conversation at Perry Lakes on the 17th resulted in a suggestion that the Wednesday 'A' Division should adopt the same method of team selection used at Perry Lakes on Saturdays. That methodology would work along these lines:

- 1). All players must arrive at least half an hour before the first game.
- 2). The duty selectors try to select even teams for the day. The numbers determine if we have three or four teams.
- 3). All players change to the shirt colour they have been selected in.
- 4). Fixtures are played depending on whether it's three or four teams.
- 5). The selectors could be a panel of the current captains or a roster of all players.

This idea has several advantages. These are:

- 1). It is flexible. The absence of several star players should not unduly unbalance the games.
- 2). It may spark some interest again, which is sadly lacking at the moment.
- 3). It will provide a variety of team mates and opponents, which is not there now.

There are also quite a few disadvantages. Those I can see are:

- 1). The requirement for all players to have four shirts.
- 2). The socks will be non-standard.
- 3). The necessity for all players to arrive early.
- 4). It could put the team captains out of a job - but not necessarily so.

Reader opinions are very welcome. Ed.

Barcelona Cathedral

Tourist Photo



Team Numbers For Barcelona: Compared to Newcastle's 42 teams there are currently 77 sides heading for Spain (not counting the younger brigade in Terrassa later in the year). This includes 9 Women's sides. It is now quite understandable why the social organisations, such as England LX, were limited to only one team in each division of the Tournament Trophy. There are 18 nations in the Men's O/60s, 14 in the O/65s and 11 in the O/70s. Noteworthy here is that Argentina (O/60s and O/70s) and Canada (O/60s) will both be present. The Men's Tournament Trophy is not as popular - 10 O/60s, 5 O/65s and 4 O/70s. The O/75s still seem to be a work in progress, with only 3 countries in the World Cup and 3 sides in the Tournament Trophy. This will necessitate two crossover matches for each team and I note with interest that in these Australia does not encounter Southern Cross and England does not play against England LX.

It is more than a little disappointing to see that Australia will not be fielding any sides in the Women's competition. I remember encountering players from an Australian Women's team at the beach party in the Netherlands during the 2014 World Cup, and would welcome any information one of our readers is able to supply.

Next issue I hope to bring you a report on the WHM players going to the Cup. We have been very well represented at past events.

Masters Matters In Barcelona: Contrary to a story dating back quite some time "Masters Matters" is going to the World Cup. The budget for the next few years has been blown to enable our scribe to get there. The schedule from July onwards may be disrupted until things in the MM office return to a semblance of normality (see below). Then maybe Lismore / Ballina will have a similar impact.

Conversation in the MM Office: "How are the Divisional reports for the April edition going?"

"A, B,"

"Long time no C."

"Exactly!"

Have Hockey Stick, Will Travel: The previous page was all about travelling to Barcelona for the World Cup. In other parts of the newsletter I have been urging players to think about going to the interstate championships in Lismore / Ballina. Have I put my money on the line too? The answer is a definite "Yes" as getting the O/75s going is a worthwhile enterprise. And just possibly so is spending enough to get back on the age pension.

Since hockey was keeping me poor
I came home from Hobart and swore
No more will I roam
I'll just stay at home
So now I'm all set for Lismore.

Hockey Ball Tampering

Picture John Sanders



Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players: It's always good when the crowd at PHS is enlarged by players in this category, who add to the bar takings, raffle proceeds and conversation. This month we saw Robin Bailey, Graham Challenor, Jeff Godfrey, John Halley, Peter Hearne, Roger Jewell, John Sanders, Gordon Thomas, Bill Williamson and George Winning. At Perry Lakes the list has included Eric Alcock, Roger Jewell, David Lester, Tony Marshall, John Mercer, Stan Salazaar, Bob Stidwell, Les Waldon and Jim Wright. And Bob Bowyer changed categories on the 31st, having suffered a moment (or two) of vertigo on the field during the first game.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "Good advice is something a man gives when he is too old to set a bad example." *Francois de La Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680). Though I'm not certain this is totally correct. You may read plenty of good advice in "Masters Matters" about being polite to umpires.*

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