



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 7

August 2018

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Dates For The Diary:

2018: July 27th / August 5th: IMHA World Cup - Terrassa. } Australia
 August 29th: WA O/75s replace Red team in 'A' Division - until Championships.
 September 21st / October 6th. Interstate Masters Championships - Lismore / Ballina NSW.
 September 26th and October 3rd: No play at PHS during nationals.
 October 10th: Combined games on one turf. A & B Div from 1:30 - 3:30 / B & C Div 3:30 - 5:30.
 December 19th: Annual Hips / Knees match followed by WHM Christmas Party.
 December 26th: No play at PHS.

2019: January 2nd: Combined games on one turf.
 June 19th / 29th: European Championships. Brasschaat Belgium. } Southern Cross.
The organisers hope that two teams from one organisation will be possible in Tournament Trophy.
 September 20th / October 5th. Interstate Masters Championships - Bunbury / Busselton WA.
2020: World Cup - possibly Japan. } Australia and Southern Cross

Barcelona Results: These may be old news, but some of you who were there (and those who were not there) may have found it difficult to access them. So here are the play off scores, and if no finals occurred then we have the medal winners.

World Cup

O/60s: Gold - Netherlands (1), England (0). Bronze - Spain (0), Germany (1). Australia 5th. Graham Miller scored 6 goals.

O/65s: Gold - England (4), Australia (1). Bronze - Wales (2), Spain (0).

O/70s: Gold - Australia (2), England (2). Shootout - Australia (0), England (2). Bronze - Netherlands (4), Germany (1). Tony Rogers and Simon Williams each scored 8 goals (top).

O/75s: Australia 1st, England 2nd, Netherlands 3rd. Ian Wright (3), Des Biddle (2) goals.

Tournament Trophy

O/60s: Gold - Scottish Thistles (1), Southern Cross (2). Bronze - England LX (1), Netherlands (0).

O/65s: Gold - England LX (4), Netherlands (0). Bronze - Southern Cross - no playoff for 3rd.

O/70s: Netherlands 1st, England LX 2nd, Southern Cross 3rd. Bruce Jacobs (2), Peter Andrews (1) and Terry Gaston (1) goals.

O/75s: Southern Cross 1st, England LX 2nd, Alliance 3rd. Bruce McBryde (6), Julian Gardner (3) goals.

Women

9 teams played in World Cup and Tournament Trophy O/60s and O/65s with a complete round robin occurring. Winners: England 60s & 65s (World Cup), England LX60, Alliance 65s (Tournament Trophy)

Vale Mike Black: It was with much regret that I heard while away the news of Mike's death, and so was unable to attend the funeral service. My memories go back to the time when he was captain of the Scarborough Cricket Club's 4ths and introduced a Club coach (Graham Fryer) to my Scarborough Hockey Club. We were also both at IBM for a brief period in addition to time away together with WA Country. Our deepest sympathies go to Lyn and all the extended family.

Department of Health: Brian Soares was unfortunately not able to have a stent inserted as planned and needed open heart surgery for a quadruple bypass. This duly took place on Tuesday 31st July and the recovery period means no hockey for three months. In late news the operation has been a success and Brian is out of intensive care, in his own room at the Mount Hospital. Bob Hotinski has been forced to retire from hockey due to spinal problems. We hope to see him occasionally socially and maybe with a whistle. Neil Scaddan has finally had his infected and ingrown toenail corrected, but will miss four weeks of hockey. And Peter Blockley will miss a few weeks while the scars following the removal of some BCCs heal. As can be seen, my information is in short supply. Best wishes to those named, and those not named for a speedy and complete recovery.

Letters To The Editor: June edition correspondence came from: Heath Tyrrell, John Harper, John Milner, Bill Baldwin and Phil Anderson. Always good to hear from readers - thank you.

John Milner: "... Thank you dealing with my 'public exposure' so diplomatically, and for your very flattering copy, most appreciated. Now if I can just live down the 'Today Tonight' thing, I'm hoping Bob B is going to leave me alone for a while." *At least you might not be asked to function as the front man for the Knees / Hips John, and neither will I as thankfully neither of us qualifies. Ed.*

Bill Baldwin: "... I was pleased to note your reference to 'respect', or lack thereof, which now seems to pervade many areas in the Australian community today - not just on the sporting fields, but also on the roads and footpaths; fostered by lazy journalism and the destructive and degrading behaviour of many of our politicians and 'leaders' of industry." *Thank you for that Bill, since penning the word I too have come to a similar conclusion, strongly reinforced by the banking Royal Commission. Ed.*

Barcelona Overview: I have now been able to attend 4 World Cups and they have had remarkably few similarities other than all being very enjoyable. One thing they all had in common was very good facilities for post-match drinks. This one (like Oxford in 2012) featured excellent public transport. My team found that we enjoyed playing on the 4th turf at Castelldefels which was about 20 kilometres down the coast. All the staff providing the food and drinks seemed to be volunteers from their club members, and their cheerful and cooperative attitude was appreciated. Their bar took cash, whereas the Club Real de Polo needed the pre-loading of a bracelet with a microchip. However, the quality of the food and drink at both venues was very good.

The weather was fine and warm throughout with one important exception - the day of the outdoor Tournament Dinner when it rained heavily during the afternoon. I have expanded on this in the Tournament Impressions - see Page 11.

The hockey still managed to be enjoyable, despite my team's lamentable results. So was the post-match socialising over an Estrella or two which was even better as all games were played in the right spirit. The fixtures were a little severe for O/75s with three games in three days at one point. This told on any side which did not have its full complement on the bench. I thought that the umpiring was the best I have yet seen at any World Cup. The major complaint I had concerned the presentation of the medals in each age group. This was done in a secluded place on the grounds of the Polo club, and my team was not notified beforehand. So they went sight-seeing and only two of us were there to receive all our bronze medals.

I have (as mentioned above) included the usual column of "Tournament Impressions" which begins on Page 11. Reader opinions and contributions are welcome, but keep them short please.

Tournament Costs And Venues: My route to Ballina / Lismore is to be via Brisbane Airport and car down the M1. I have been staggered by the size of the airfares and have decided that I will not fly away during school holidays again. Even though it is very much in keeping with my opinion that non-capital city venues are better than this year's and next year's are both smaller venues.

Quotable Quote One: "Nobility of spirit has more to do with simplicity than ostentation, wisdom rather than wealth, commitment rather than ambition." *Eminent conductor Riccardo Muti.*

Interstate Tournament 2018: The latest news I have indicates that some teams are still battling to get reasonable numbers for Ballina / Lismore. So if you have the fitness to play through the demands that the tournament makes and the funds for a jaunt to one of the most appealing parts of Australia during the next school holidays then please give the idea some serious consideration. As has been mentioned in previous issues it is possible to fly into Ballina from Sydney. Or you could fly Perth to Brisbane directly and drive a hire car south (just over two hours). Or if you don't mind a budget airline there are some flights from Perth to Coolangatta from where the drive to Ballina only takes about 58 minutes. Of course air fares are at their most expensive at this time.

Teams needing more players are:

WA Country O/75s: Manager Harvey Davies at harveyldavies@gmail.com. Coach David Horsley.

WA State O/75s: Coach Les Waldon at lawdent@westnet.com.au. Manager Brian Soares.

ACT O/65s: Coach Graham Wood at GrahamWood_8@msn.com.

No W/S Turfs: Shortly after the previous issue of "Masters Matters" (back at the start of winter) Bob Bowyer sent round an email with a letter from Richard Charlesworth on the topic of proposed turfs for YMCA and Wolves. This had been published in the "Cambridge Post" dated 2nd June. Ric began by stating that he had to drive to Joondalup on a Sunday morning to coach his Westside Wolves years 9/10 team against Riverside Lions due to the unavailability of turfs in the area. To quote: "The only facilities in the area are on university and Education Department land & they were fully booked as they are every weekend in season. We get to play there sometimes and train at 6:00 am. After school training would be a dream.

In Melbourne (hardly a hockey hotspot) there is a synthetic pitch for every 200 players, in Perth the figure is one pitch for every 1900, and in the western suburbs where the game is very popular the figure would be even higher. As housing densities increase in these areas such facilities optimise the use of space for sport.

What a pity that Wolves in Nedlands & YMCC in Cambridge have recently been denied their proposals to develop home bases for their clubs. Do local councillors not understand what is needed in their communities? Already in Nedlands, and so it seems in Cambridge, there is a concerted push by some councillors to deny access to recreation space for sport.

Such anti-sports decisions should be resisted. All interests can be satisfied with the will to provide opportunities for our children."

To which I can only say hear, hear! When my youngest nephew took up the sport with Uni's juniors all his home games were at Joondalup, as the McGillivray Turf (for which he'd helped raise the funds) was not available for U/17s. It definitely does appear that YM's turf has been rejected but I was unable to find any confirmation in the Town of Cambridge Council minutes. It seemed from the submissions I was able to read in the consultant's report that the turf was both the most resisted and best supported proposal for development of Alderbury reserve. Something similar occurred years ago when it was likely that the Perth Hockey Stadium would be at Yokine reserve. The main issues then were the bright lights, the traffic and the noise. Scare campaigns still work now, as one did then. Ed.

Department of Corrections: That Barcelona WHM numbers story has been disastrous every time. I was told several times that John Harper was not going to Spain, including by Harps himself, but I still got it wrong. That reduces our numbers to 42. However, regular Wednesday umpires Shane Knapp and George Mullins were both in Spain on the umpiring panel.

Quotable Quote Two: "Music does not know the difference between people; it speaks only to their hearts. It is the only form of communication that can bring this terrible world together." *Conductor Riccardo Muti again. Though one man's music is another man's horrible noise.*

Grumpy Old Men One: "A healthy male adult bore consumes each year one and a half times his own weight in other people's patience" *John Updike. From 'Assorted Prose.'*

'A' Division Blog: I trust readers can forgive the five week gap. Did anything happen?

June 6th: There were two conspicuous absences - raindrops and goalkeepers. Thank you to all the acting custodians, with special mention to Dave Horsley for a couple of saves of the day. After only one goal went in during the first two games the flood-gates opened wide as defenders tired from filling in for other colours. 40% of the goals went to top-up players, and the stars who were in constant demand must have ended up quite tired. Despite the poor quality of much of our hockey some reasonable goals were posted, including a rare field goal to Len Blyth playing as the Red left wing. Though after much deliberation the judges have awarded goal of the day to Trevor Kerr, whose post-scoring comment was "follow the bouncing ball." An excellent description. I thought that the new umpiring roster worked well, though it's surely about time we stopped having an on-turf committee meeting to discuss decisions. To assist, could all umpires please give a decisive signal after blowing the whistle and could all players look at the umpire and take heed. If you do not know the signals they can be found in the latest Rule Book on pages 48-50. These numbers are maximum only as several players left early - Blue (10), Gold (8), White (10) and Red (10). Goals (15).

June 13th: The Australian teams had already departed for Europe, but judging from our numbers so had many other players. Not many turned up - just one goalkeeper (John Burt) and barely enough for two teams. A hasty check of the Barcelona numbers reveals that Red and White were the most affected with Gold only losing one player. After a few scratch games we adjourned to a very sparsely populated bar. Player numbers were: Red (2), White (3), Gold (10), and Blue (7).

June 20th to July 18th: As I was not there "Masters Matters" is unable to bring you coverage.

July 25th: The last two games of the day were not played due to rain, all sides needed at least one fill-in and Bill Baldwin was the only goalkeeper present. This meant that players who used to be described as kicking full backs were required, and Keith Kessell and Scott Blackwell had contrasting fortunes in this position. Keith (who has been known to don the pads on a Saturday afternoon) made the save of the day filling in for White while Scott was repeatedly left on his own to face several Red forwards. He said afterwards that he had a point to establish, and the three goals that went in serve as confirmation that the point has well and truly been made. Goal of the day goes to Brian Soares (filling in for Blue) after a great approach and set up by Peter Dennis. It was great to see Robin Bailey arrive ready to play (albeit late) and he got one game in before the rain ended proceedings. I hope that most of the Gold players got more than one game too. Player numbers were White (9), Red (7), Blue (9) and Gold (9). Goals (6).

August 1st: The weather was cold, wet and windy. This did not deter 9 members of the State O/70s from their usual noon training session, following which they all went to Turf Two. I heard that the 'B' Division mustered two teams and three goalkeepers. 'A' Division also had three goalkeepers on the walkway, but none of them got as far as the turf. So we began a scratch nine a side game without a goalkeeper, and demonstrated yet again that we are unable to select even sides at these times. The bar and sausage sizzle had to begin early, almost all of us had departed early, and there seemed to be no players from 'C' Division arriving for the scheduled 4:00 pm matches on Turf Two. The player numbers from Turf One were Blue (5), Gold (6), Red (6) and White (2). Though there were also two members of the White team and one Gold player down on Turf Two.

Punology One: The logging team made their preparations and started the chainsaw. At this point the tree screamed "Don't fell me, I'm a rare talking tree."

The foreman replied: "That may be true, but you will dialogue"

Good News: The Sunday Times on 5th August contained some of the best news I've heard in years. First off was the pronouncement that dark chocolate can improve mood and memory; which is a secret that all chocoholics have always known. Then a few pages later came the news that a study has found that middle-aged people who "drink the equivalent of 175 mls of wine a day are half as likely to develop dementia as those who abstain from alcohol. Researchers said that low amounts of alcohol can have a protective effect on the heart." So I do lead a healthy life-style.

Another One From That Birthday

Photo John Mercer



From The Saturday O/65s: I hope John will forgive me for putting another one in.

Despite being a forward myself I find that I agree with Les Waldon's request made on 2nd June on behalf of all full-backs that forwards who miss goals should fetch the ball themselves. I can assure you of one thing thing Les - that it's not done deliberately to tire the backs out. Not very many of us are good enough to miss the goal deliberately, even though we are not bad at accidental misses.

My notes indicate that several players made comebacks on 16th June. Usually my memory is good enough to second guess the notes, but not on this occasion. So those listed were two goalkeepers in Graeme Sansom and Peter Pittendrigh, David Lester, Harvey Davies, Ken Walter, Rob Andrew and Ken Beer. My apologies to anybody who should not have been in this paragraph.

The committee are planning a club day with pizzas as a farewell to those going to the interstate tournament in Lismore/Ballina. 15th September is the favoured date, subject to the availability of the rooms. We will be keeping you informed.

It is also planned to hold a dinner as a wind-up for the winter season. Again this depends on being to use the rooms, but at this stage we are looking at late October / early November for a variety of roasts, vegetables, salads and apple pies similar to previous functions.

It is always good when current and former players call in to socialise. Saturday the 28th included not only current players Peter Murray (just back from Europe) and Roger Veary but also past players in Ross Lonnie and Trevor Gallagher.

Partly due to my extended absence the Saturday report this month is a lot smaller than the usual. There is another reason, which is the continued refusal of the editor to include any fake news.

Finally, as mentioned on Page 4 earlier in this edition it appears that YMCA's request for a turf at Alderbury Reserve has been rejected. If any readers of "Masters Matters" are better informed than I am (Town of Cambridge residents?) please send me an email and we'll expand further in the next month's issue of the newsletter.

The French Letter No 43:

Well it has certainly been quite a dramatic couple of months here in France. So I'll focus on the key events.

The victory of France in the football World Cup in Russia was a stirring event. I must admit I was quite riveted to the screen during many of the matches. The French started slowly and actually struggled a bit against Australia in their first match. They also struggled against Denmark, the only side who took a point off France during the tournament. However they progressed well and once they reached the quarter finals they really found form. Their grand final victory against Croatia was a great exhibition of both defensive and attacking skills. The 19 year old striker, Kyllian Mbappe has it all, - blistering speed, enormous skills and a cool head. A prodigious talent who will make his mark in the football world. It is worth noting that the French coach, Didier Deschamps, was captain of the last French side to win the cup in 1998. I think that will give him a place in history that will be hard to equal.

Of course we also had the Tour de France, It began with controversy, the previous multiple winner Chris Froome being under a cloud for a positive dope test and only cleared to ride a couple of days before the Tour began. It was a puzzling case - he tested positive (beyond the permitted level) to salbutamol - a drug used to alleviate asthma symptoms and taken through an inhaler. The issue dragged on for seven months before the cycling body gave him an all clear. The public reaction in France was pretty negative and he copped a lot of abuse during the Tour. It's hard to understand all the issues involved – apparently there is some debate about how the levels can fluctuate in the body – some cyclist have been previously suspended after positive tests for the same substance and others cleared. Overall I think he was harshly treated by the public. The win by Geraint Thomas from the same team was a good one. The cyclists generally in the Tour are elite athletes – you just have to watch and see the distance covered (3,351 kms) and the terrain experienced. However, compared with sports like football, tennis and golf these guys are poorly rewarded. I would add, however, that the money dished out in sports like football, for example, is simply obscene. Kyllian Mbappe at 19 is on 17.5 million euros per year!

I will finish this piece with our heatwave – the French call it a “canicule”. June was OK but July has really heated up and it is predicted to go on into August and we are expecting 34-35 degrees this coming weekend.. The heat has been all over Europe. Enough said and I had better finish before the editor rejects me,

I look forward to reading about the overseas tournaments in MM.

Ian Purdie (*Thanks Ian - hope the hot weather has not been too much for the vegies. Ed.*)

Shakespeare Said It: “I must excuse myself” The Merry Wives of Windsor Act III Scene II. *A few drops of rain on a Wednesday or Saturday seem to generate quite a few emails of this nature.*

“There is scarce truth enough alive to make societies secure....” Measure for Measure Act III Scene II. *The immortal Bard anticipates the rise in fake news.*

“Is all our company here? You were best to call them generally, man by man.” A Midsummer Night's Dream Act I Scene I. *'A' Division - any team, any Wednesday.*

Balinese Bulletin No 35: “I will not have anything to offer this time 'round ... cause .. I will be down in Perth for two weeks from 17th August and will catch up with you all on a Wednesday and a Friday. Will be happy to answer any questions ... should anybody have one.

See you soon - Peter Hammond (*Thanks Peter - look forward to a personal Bulletin. Ed.*)

'B' Division Report - July:

INJURIES: After complaining of knee soreness for some time, Michael Gottschalk decided to consult a higher authority and is now preparing for next years Hips v Knees match (well he will after he has his operation). As reported in May Greg Allen had knee cap and lung issues, has returned to playing on grass without setting the world on fire. Is now on a couple of weeks holiday preparing for the finals and Nationals. The wily veteran Graham Challoner back injury has improved and he tried out at a gentle pace in the A division with no obvious distress and then headed to Karratha for the FeNACL festivities to aid his recovery. A few rumours of injuries and soreness resulting from the World Cup in Barcelona but most haven't returned to Wed hockey at this stage.

VISITORS: Phil Chalmer visited from Esperance. Was happy to report rain had arrived at the South Eastern farming area, a bit later than elsewhere. Welcome to Peter Alymore. Peter harks back to the old Bassendean and Blades days but now plies his trade with YM. Peter has come down to play a bit with the other State 65's, unfortunately he can't find too many.

LIFE'S LINGERING MOMENTS:

1. **Hospitals and Efficiencies:** Some Hospital regulations require a wheelchair for older patients being discharged. An elderly gentleman was sitting on the end of the hospital bed dressed and ready to go with a suitcase at his feet when the nurse entered. Despite his insistence he didn't need any help the nurse bundled him into the wheelchair and headed for the elevator. On the way down the nurse asked if his wife was meeting him. "I don't know" he replied "she's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown"!!!!
2. **Mathematics:** Did you know that (try it)
 $111,111,111 \text{ times } 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$
3. **Birthdays:** Birthdays are good for you, the more you have the longer you live.

THIS MONTHS HOCKEY:

A quiet month of hockey (especially in numbers) started with two weeks of combined A and B Divisions at the Perry Lakes Grounds. Numbers have been affected by the threat of inclement weather, a number of players attending Barcelona and a few seeking warmth in the Northern parts of the state. On the first week we had sufficient numbers for 2 combined teams. The second week saw 4 teams playing. A bit of good natured age related bantering and "I haven't seen you for a while" was heard to echo across the rain drenched playing grounds. After 2 games of 20 mins on day 1 the rain set in, the sausages were nearly cooked and play stopped with the scores level at 3 goals each. Everyone said that was enough. With better weather forecast on week 2 numbers were expected to be up.

Week 2 saw the participants enjoy the best Wed weather of the month and enough players turned up for 4 teams. Each team played each other once and a fourth game was played for those that wanted.

Week 3 saw play return to Curtin with headlines "BOM issues a severe weather warning for Perth. Torrential rain to fall during the afternoon....". As it happen Gold players didn't read the headlines (apart from Capt Bill) as enough turned up to form a team to play the rest (Blue and White combined). Despite the warnings the weather held off until we headed for the car park. Four games were played 2 draws (0-0 and 1-1) and a win for each side indicating that the teams were of similar strength. Many thanks to John Harper for the solo umpiring efforts. John used his goal keeping skills to great effect standing in the middle of the field and only making decisions when the ball got too far away or it hit the backboard. Goal scorers were Greg Allen, Jim Campbell, Peter Fogels and Geoff Riley(after an easy intercept from a fullbacks errant clearance).

Week 4 weather again reared its ugly head "Twice a Year weather to hit Perth Severe Cold front with heavy rain, flooding and hail...." was the morning papers forecast for this Wed. Again enough

players for 2 teams turned up. This time the rain did arrive and allowed only 3 games to be completed for the day. Harps again umpired whilst the goalies Ross and Graeme were happy to be rugged up in the warmer gear. Again a win each and a draw saw the teams fairly even. Graham Harper showed his class in scoring a double whilst single goals were scored by Keith Platel, Damian Cooper, Graeme Nicholls, Rod Bickers and Peter Andrews (from the wealth of knowledge gained at Barcelona). The rain came, we left.

Gordon Jeffery. *Thanks very much for the coverage GJ. Is there a volunteer to fill-in as 'B' Division correspondent while Gordon takes a three month break from near the end of August?*

Post-Tournament Cruise: My original intention was to spare readers any detailed account of my post tournament holiday. But the 'B' Division report is smaller than anticipated, possibly due to the weather having been poor for much of the time. I did discover that Steve Farrar was making the same journey with a different tour company at about the same time. So when I boarded the plane at Budapest to return we sat in the same row. Small world. And what follows is a potted description of the food I encountered along the way.

The Trip

I went on a long river cruise
And sampled some very fine booze
 The sights all were great
 The food was first rate
Both red and white wine were good brews. *(Top marks to APT for excellent organisation)*

Amsterdam

Again it was good to keep touch
With things gastronomic and Dutch
 The food still tastes great
 And wines are first rate
Once more I enjoyed it so much

River Town Dining

I found that I liked German food
Quite simple, but nowhere near crude
 Sausage and sauerkraut
 Will not make you stout *(as long as you don't eat too much)*
Add beer and you're right in the mood.

Terrible Personal Hockey: My team had a hard time being competitive against the 2 national O/75 sides we played, who scored a combined total of 17 goals against us. Always look on the bright side.

Our hockey results were not great
We scored once, gave up 28
 When all's said and done
 It was lots of fun
Although it is sad to relate.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "A good novel tells us the truth about its hero; but a bad novel tells us the truth about its author." *G.K. Chesterton (1874 - 1936).*

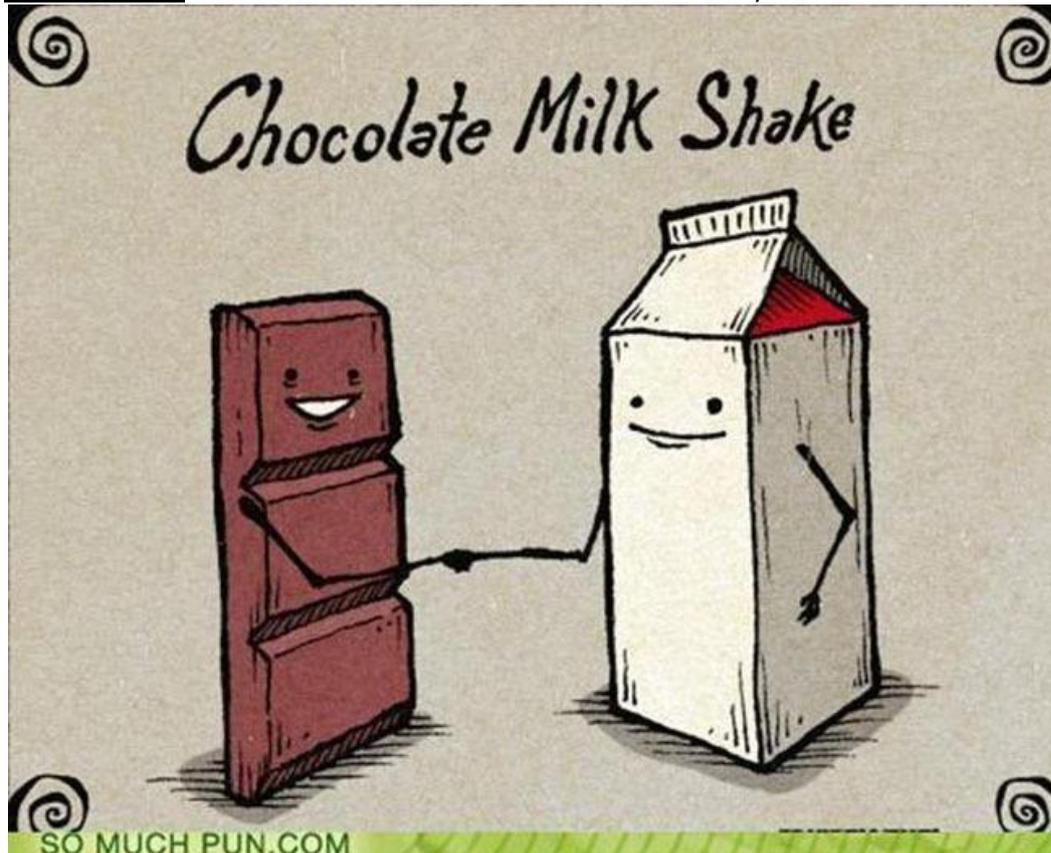
Welcome to New Players: The only new player I have been advised of is Peter Aylmore. As I had not taken him off the “Masters Matters” mailing list welcome back.

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: June’s question was: Place these teams in order of the number of substitutions made at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, Women’s Competition: Australia, Canada, Malaysia, and India. *Nobody tried - answer: Australia (568), India (442), Canada (364) and Malaysia (203).* August’s question is: Australia’s goal scorers at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics were: 1) Robin Hodder, Des Piper, Don Smart. 2) Ray Evans, Pat Nilan. 6) ?? and 7) ??. Please provide the missing names. *Answer next issue.*

Well Dones: ‘A’ division umpires since the last MM: George Bradbury, Peter Evans, Col Gee, Graham Harler, Ian Hill, Mal Jackaman, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, Neil Scaddan, Greg Street, and Ken Watt - thanks to all. The ‘B’ division umpires have been acknowledged by Gordon in his report and the ‘C’ Division umpires remain elusive. Perry Lakes umpires since then have included: Eric Alcock, George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Bob Hotinski, John Mercer, Roger Partington, Neil Scaddan, Greg Street, Les Waldon, Ken Walter, Ken Watt and Jim Wright. Thanks also to the PHS cooks on the 1st, - Robin Bailey and Bob Robinson. I hope there were not too many surplus sausages. And a very well done to all the Perry Lakes Saturday rostered caterers.

Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players: This headline vanished from the June issue, with all the names I had appended. My apologies if you were one of them. There have been very few in this category since then and not many actual players either. George Winning is the only one I noted at PHS, while Perry Lakes has seen Trevor Gallagher, Ross Lonnie, John Mercer, Peter Murray, Roger Veary and Ken Watt (who was kind enough to umpire).

Punology Two: This one came from a site called “Pun of the day.”



Barcelona Tournament Diary: As has become standard practice in “Masters Matters” these are my personal impressions only. We all had our own perspective, and reader contributions are welcome.

Technology: Discovered that my ancient phone could not download several apps that I wanted - too late to go and buy a more recent model. Old phone refused to connect with hotel wifi in Barcelona, but worked fine in Amsterdam and on the river ships.

Departure: I was informed (by SMS and email) that the A380 would be late arriving in Perth. To my surprise Qatar Airways gave me an envelope containing \$15 for sustenance during the longer wait.

Connection: The plane eventually landed in Doha 50 minutes before my Barcelona flight was due to depart. I made it by grabbing the last place on the terminal train, sprinting on travelators, and was the last person to board the plane with my belt still in my hand from the security check.

Baggage: My suitcase made it onto the Barcelona plane too but my over-sized hockey bag did not. Nevelle Brown (also Alliance) was in the same predicament, though he had all his possessions in the hockey bag. We submitted lost luggage forms and went to the hotel arriving late afternoon. Both bags were in the hotel foyer early next morning.

Airline: I gave Qatar Airways top marks for the luggage. All else was good too.

Attributing Blame: Of course I held one of my Wednesday team-mates responsible. Hence:

Late for my Doha connection

Could it have been misdirection

One day before me

Same airline, George B (*who played for Southern Cross*)

The plane promptly failed its inspection.

Hotel: I hope that all attendees had the same positive experience with their accommodation as the bulk of my team, who stayed at the Hesperion Sant-Just. The staff was very good, and so was the food and drinks (for example, the bar ‘snacks’ included a sea bass wrapped in ham). Special mention should be made of the breakfasts too. The rooms were not bad either.

Getting Around: The best way to go to the main hockey facility was to catch the tram from the nearest stop - about three minutes walk from the hotel. This route also had a stop right next to an underground station for catching the train into the city centre, or to and from Castelldefels. Once we worked out how to purchase a ten-trip ticket from the machines at all the stops it was quite simple. Though we generally used taxis for the Castelldefels trip to save time. In addition to all this, of course we did a lot of walking which has been known to help a bit in maintaining fitness levels.

Tourism: Hockey generally got in the way of some decent sight-seeing, though we did quite well on our days off. Montjuic Castle on the cable car was a highlight - this was the location for many of the 1992 Olympic venues. The cathedral on the hill (the one with the communications tower) was also rather special (there actually were two altars - one over the other), though the fun fair rides were rather anachronistic. I did not make it to Montserrat as my team-mates decided to visit on the last day of the tournament and due to my departure the next day being at 4:00 am I decided to go to the last day of the hockey to see who had won all the medals. There I was one of the only two members of my team to make our own medal presentation.

La Sagrada Familia: Despite advice to the contrary no tickets were pre-purchased. So all we saw of this spectacular construction was the outside. As was known in the hotel, it was necessary to buy tickets three days in advance of the desired date to visit the interior.

Barcelona Opera House: I had pre-booked from Australia and found the building to be another one of Europe’s impressive venues for staging operas. Six levels of seating add to the imposing internal décor. The production, singing and orchestra were all excellent, and for those few of you who might be interested the opera was Puccini’s “Manon Lescaut.”

Flamenco: This was a most intriguing night out at the Palau de la Musica. The performance did not begin until 9:30 pm and in addition to the flamenco singing and dancing (backed by a chamber music group) a few operatic arias and duets were included too. The “VIP” seats I had booked from Australia were not too good - but I doubt that it would be possible to see anything like this here.

Local Brew: Almost everybody I spoke to had no trouble with the Estrella. Me too.



Real Club de Polo: This covered a large area of land, as there needed to be room for a polo ground. So it was quite a long walk from the front gate (above) past Turf One to Turfs Two and Three (which were adjacent). The bar and food facilities were just above those, and I found the products on offer were very palatable. So much so for the beer that it was always necessary to have another sample in case the first one was unrepresentative. See also picture next page.

Hockey: (*About time*) Due to the travelling required to reach the main venue, and as half our games were at the alternative venue of Castelldefels I did not see many other age groups in action except for my own O/75s. The last day was an exception - more on this later.

Personal Results: The O/75s had only three teams per section (World Cup and Tournament Trophy). As a consequence there were two crossover matches, and my Alliance side conceded 10 goals to the English national team and 7 goals to the Australians. It was just 11 in the other 4 matches. Our only score came against England from a corner shot which crossed the goal-line high, but dipped enough to clip the top of the backboard. We were not going to argue with the umpire.

Castelldefels Benefits: Peter Stevens and Fin Everding said that it was just a short train ride to the beach after a game. We followed them onto a train, which did not stop for at least 30 kms. So we went to the beach at Stiges and had a dip in the Mediterranean. The process was so pleasant that we had another swim following our next game on Turf 4 too - at the local beach this time.

Barcelona Pickpockets: I heard of several players who had fallen victim, and while five members of my team were enjoying a stroll down Las Ramblas two running people nearly knocked me over. The first one was the thief who had just stolen Fin Everding's wallet and the second was the plain-clothes policeman who had seen him do it. As a consequence Fin got to keep his money and we all saw the inside of a Catalan police station while the paper work was done. For those who know Fin:

Our team has a most friendly Fin
Even after the police ran him in
 He tells some tall tales
 Does not read emails
And usually wears a big grin.

Club Real de Polo - Hockey Bar



Tournament Dinner: This was held as an alfresco event at the Polo Club. Unfortunately, heavy rain during the afternoon produced sodden serviettes, table cloths and place settings. The rain stopped, the benches and everything else was dried as much as possible and the three course meal was duly served. While it was good I could not help comparing the €68 cost with the €30 buffet dinner we had enjoyed the night before at the Alliance Grand Assembly.

He's From Barcelona? My experience was that the food service was universally excellent. I very much doubt that Manuel from Fawlty Towers would have lasted long as a waiter in his home city.

More Hockey: My team lost a player just before the tournament began, then lost one more during the games, reducing our numbers to 12, not all of who could run. Nevertheless our hockey improved once we had our playing positions properly sorted out and got to know one another. And of course, with only three teams in the Tournament Trophy section of the O/75s (like the World Cup) it seemed that we were on course for a medal. MM's limerick writer saw it this way:

In TT the teams numbered three
And my side reacted with glee
We'd not win the cup
Just had to turn up
And get our bronze medals for free.

Medal in World Cup O/75s: The gold medal in this was not decided until the very last match, when England was due to play the Netherlands. A win for England would mean that Australia would get the gold, and one member of the Australian side decided to give the Poms some encouragement. Ian 'Nelson' Hill used his best operatic voice: "Australia expects this day that every Englishman will do his duty." It worked, as England won 5-1. The medal presentation photo is on the next page.

O/75s World Cup Medal Presentation

Australia Dominates O/75s Medals: In addition to the national team's World Cup gold the Southern Cross team came out well on top in the Tournament Trophy. As well as this they also defeated both England and the Netherlands in the crossover matches (2-1 and 1-0). I will make a note to include a photograph in the next edition of "Masters Matters."

The Ante-Penultimate Word: So was the tournament a success? Of course it was; when 77 teams of Grand Masters hockey players are determined to have a good time they are almost unstoppable. I'll do my best to let you know the venue for the 2020 event, once it is determined.

The Penultimate Word - Masters Matters Publishing Schedule: Why no July "Masters Matters?"

Our target's twelve issues a year
This time we won't make it, I fear
It might sound absurd
In Spain I'd no "Word"
No MM July could appear.

The Ultimate Word: This issue has been produced with some difficulty, as despite getting on the plane at Budapest in a healthy state I was not at all well by the time I reached Perth. The stomach upset was only temporary but the virus and cough are still with me. I hope that all readers came home in much better condition, and look forward to receiving your news and views.

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