



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 9

October 2018

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Dates For The Diary:**2018:**

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.

April 30th / May 4th. Trans Tasman matches - Gold Coast. Australian O/35s to O/65s.

May/June: Canadian tour for Australian O/70s and O/75s. (*This is still a possibility only*)

June 19th / 29th: European Championships. Brasschaat Belgium. } Southern Cross.

Southern Cross is nominating only one team in each age group.

September 30th / October 12th. Interstate Masters Championships - Bunbury / Busselton WA.

2020: World Cup - Tokyo or Eindhoven. } Australia and Southern Cross

State Sides in WHM : A conversation with Simon Thomson revealed that Turf Two Wednesdays have featured no less than three State teams, with 'B' Division including the O/70s and O/65s and 'C' Division the O/60s. While up on Turf One the State O/75s played in 'A' Division from August 29th to September 19th. This led me to pose the question; does having State sides in the competition cause a drop in the satisfaction level for non-State players? The numbers in 'A' Division have certainly declined, but a detailed analysis by Colin Gee revealed that there have been many players who are on the long term injury list and many others on holidays. The bad August/September weather has not been helpful either. My own feeling would be that our intention when selecting the sides is to create even teams. The inclusion of a State side negates this principle, and it is far from enjoyable to be outclassed in every Wednesday match. I would be pleased to receive reader opinions from all Divisions, as well as the O/65s on Saturdays, where the concept has also been in use this year. From my experience of being in WA Country sides in the Wednesday competition it is undoubtedly of benefit to tournament teams, but that is not the primary goal of WHM. Opinions from within the State teams are just as welcome as those from players who did not tour.

Tours for Australian O/70s and O/75s: Many of you will already know that an international tour for these age groups is back on the agenda. Ric Roberts, Bill Baldwin and John McBryde have all been in discussion, and I heard that national team selectors were in action during the recent matches in Ballina / Lismore. I understand that the details and dates for the tour (probably to Western Canada) are yet to be finalised, though judging by the selected teams on the Australian Masters Hockey website (18 O/70s and 16 O/75s) there has been plenty of interest. Congratulations to all those who have been selected - see Page 4 for the WHM national representatives. And more on Page 9.

Department of Corrections: The fixtures for 10/10 were incorrect in our last. I should have known better than to believe what I read on the web-site; after all, the complete array of newsletters is up there too. And Richard Osborne of the Australian O/75s thought that our August edition had not mentioned their Barcelona gold medals. On checking, the word "Gold" was used in the case of a playoff, while the word "First" was used where the medals were determined by ladder positions. I probably should have quoted Norman May: "Gold, gold, gold for Australia!"

Department of Health: John Lindsay was reported last issue as having received a couple of stents. It turned out to have been only one; all went as it should, and John was back umpiring on the 5th. Paul Robinson was at Perry Lakes on October 13th and said that he is walking a couple of kilometres now and everything is going well. From last month Eric Alcock was a non-player at Perry Lakes on Saturday 8th September due to a newly removed cranial melanoma. Despite this he still managed to umpire. Les Waldon and Ivan Wilson have both had BCCs cut out during September. Peter Blockley suffered a severe hand gash (7 stitches) just after half time in our WAC O75s first tournament match and could not play again. And our goalkeeping ranks will be depleted for some time to come as Colin Benporath is due for a half knee replacement during October while Bill Baldwin will be having a shoulder fully repaired in November and expects to miss 4/5 months. Mike Gottschalk has had a knee replacement, and is now on the road to recovery. According to a family member the surgeon's comment was that he should have had it done some ago, as the knee was "completely f....d". In late news John Sanders, our compiler of 'Test Your Hockey Knowledge' and WHM umpire has a spinal injury from an escalator fall. Best wishes go to you all for a speedy recovery.

Letters To The Editor: The September edition generated responses from Bill Baldwin, John Milner and a correct answer to John's question from Mal Horrigan. My thanks to you all.

Ballina/Lismore Results: Most of you will have followed the matches on the tournament web-site, but for the remainder here are the medal winners and playoff scores in each age group.

O/75s: Gold; NSW (2) WA (1). Bronze; Vic (1) Qld (1). *Qld 3-1 in shootout.*

O/70s: Gold; SA (4) Vic (0). Bronze; Qld (1) WA (0).

O/65s: Gold; Qld (0) NSW (1). Bronze; WA (3) Vic (2).

O/60s (1): Gold; WA (1) NSW (2). Bronze; Qld (2) ACT (0).

O/60s (2): Gold; NSW (4) Qld 1 (1). Bronze; Vic (2) Qld 2 (0).

O/55s (1): Gold; Qld (2) WA (1). Bronze; NSW 1 (0) WAC (2).

O/55s (2): Gold; Vic (1) NSW (1). *Vic 4-3 in shootout.* Bronze; Tas (1) Qld (2).

O/50s (1): Gold; Qld (1) WA (3). Bronze; NSW (0) Vic (5).

O/50s (2): Gold; Qld 1 (2) NSW (0). Bronze; Vic (2) Qld 2 (0).

O/45s (1): Gold; NSW (1) Tas (2). Bronze; Qld (0) WA (2).

O/45s (2): Gold; NSW (5) Qld (2). Bronze; Vic (2) SA (1).

O/40s (1): Gold; NSW (2) Vic (3). Bronze; Qld (4) ACT (1).

O/40s (2): Gold; Qld 1 (5) NSW 1 (1). Bronze Qld 2 (0) NSW 2 (1).

O/35s: Gold; Qld (3) NSW (1). Bronze; ACT (0) Vic (1).

Congratulations: Well done to all medal winners from "Masters Matters."

Southern Cross AGM: The disturbing news at this meeting was the information that Ric Roberts was in hospital. In his absence Tony Cohen presided (very well) over the brief meeting. Attendees were informed that nominations for the European Championships were open until October 20th, and that the O/60s and O/75s in particular were not up to strength yet. If you are interested the form can be accessed from the Southern Cross web-site at www.southerncrosshockey.org/news. If anybody can bring me up to date about Ric please do so, and we'll pass it on through these pages.

Quotable Quote One: "Normal is getting dressed in clothes that you buy for work and driving through traffic in a car that you are still paying for - in order to get to the job you need to pay for the clothes and the car, and the house you leave vacant all day so you can afford to live in it." *Ellen Goodman (1941 -). US journalist and syndicated columnist. Leaving all that behind is one of the rare compensations for growing old, though there are many who still refuse to retire.*

WHM Ballina/Lismore Attendees: These numbers have been derived from a visual comparison of the tournament programme against the WHM data base. Hence it is highly probable that I may have overlooked one or more of our number - please let me know of any omissions.

O/50s:

WA: Robert Behets, Peter Bewick, Anthony Brittain.

O/55s:

WA (1): Lyle Kenny, John Pestana, Jeremy Walsh.

WA (2): Eddie Biggs, Marcus Frayne.

WAC: Stuart Burnfield, Noel Morrison.

O/60s:

WA: Stephen Farrar, Colin Howell, Peter Kontor, Graham Miller, George Naylor, Russell Scanlon, Ian Simes, Peter Westlund, Russell Wood.

WAC: Adrian Gabriel, Graham Harper

ACT: Rod Bickers.

O/65s:

WA: Greg Allen, Peter Aylmore, Ian Brown, Bill Campbell (man), John Chapman, Dudley Evans, Peter Fogels, Keith Gilbride, Ian Kealley, David Kerlake, Tom Long, Ron Mitchell, Ian Pestana (coach).

WAC: Phil Chalmer, Roger Davey, Phil Hewton, Gordon Jeffery, Steve McEntee, Glenn Mihala, Mike Robinson, Andrew Robertson.

ACT: Graham Wood (coach).

O/70s:

WA: Peter Andrews, Jim Balding, Jim Banks (coach), Len Blyth, Ash Challenor, Graham Challenor, John Harper, Alan Ledger, Keith Platel, Simon Thomson, Heath Tyrrell, Peter Wallis (manager).

WAC: Ken Beer, Rob Butler, Peter Eastlake, Bob le Merle, Richard Osborne.

O/75s:

WA: Rob Andrew, Scott Blackwell, George Bradbury, Graham Harler, Howard Herbert, Ian Hill, Peter Murray, Neil Patterson, Graeme Sansom, Don Smart, Ron Venables, Les Waldon (coach).

WAC: Robin Bailey, Bill Baldwin, Peter Blockley, Harvey Davies (manager), Julian Gardner, David Horsley (coach), Robert Maley, John Mercer, John Ree, Neil Scaddan, Peter Stevens.

Vic: John Burt.

Australian Honours for WHM: Our congratulations to all those who have been selected following the Lismore/Ballina tournament. Please let me know of any omissions.

O/50s: Robert Behets. Peter Connolly (WA) and Dean Lomax (WAC) are in this team also. Shadows include Peter Bewick (WHM) and Darran Wilson, Scott McDonald, Matthew Needham (WA).

O/55s: No WHM players. WA reps include Cam Fairbrother (coach), Michael Hallam, Brian Saxby and Paul Scicluna while Jeremy Walsh of WHM is in the shadows.

O/60s: Colin Howell, Lyle Kenny, Graham Miller. Others in this team are Martin Ferrari (WA), Geoff Robinson (WA) & Paul Murray (WAC) captain. Rob Lawson (WA) is coach & Noel Morrison a shadow.

O/65s: Neil (Drifty) Waywood (WAC) is in the team while Peter Fogels (WHM) is a shadow.

O/70s: Len Blyth (captain), Bill Campbell, Ash Challenor, Heath Tyrrell. Also in the side are Angelo Strano (WAC) and Simon Williams (WA).

O/75s: Jim Banks, John Burt, Julian Gardner, Richard Osborne, Ron Venables.

Punology One: A farmer went to see his neighbourhood vet seeking advice on what he should do about his ram, which he said was continually banging its head against the barn. The vet suggested that this was due its nerves being jittery and recommended the playing of some soothing music. A few weeks later they met in the main street. Said the vet, "How's that ram of yours?" "No good," replied the farmer; "he died last Wednesday." "Did you play him that music?" asked the vet. "Certainly, I'm a great fan of Frank Sinatra and I gave him lots." "Oh no," said the vet; "then you surely played him 'There Will Never Be Another You.'"

'A' Division Blog: 'A' Division needs you between now and Christmas. Numbers may be very low.

September 5th: Again the State O/75s were the only team who had the numbers. Consequently all other teams were very hastily organised and many players took to the turf for the first four games. So the last match was called off again this week. At least there were plenty of goalkeepers, with Barry Rutter, John Burt and Tony Marshall joining State custodian Graeme Sansom (who let nothing past). The goalkeepers had one advantage over the rest of us in being better protected from the freezing weather. Bob Bowyer returned from moving house and in his first game received a ball in the face from a goalkeeping clearance. The first aid from the Hockey WA office must have been good, as he managed to return to the turf for one of the subsequent matches; and run the wine raffle later. Also making a welcome return was umpire John Lindsay. In five matches we averaged one goal per game with the State side doing the bulk of the scoring. Two went to Don Smart with a top of the circle scoop goal of the day and one to Howie Herbert from a good pass to the post. Bob Maley and Peter Eastlake were on target for the Rest. Player numbers based on original teams (except for the State) were O/75s (13), White (6), Red (5), Gold (6) and Blue (4). It appears that Mal Horrigan and Scott Blackwell have joined the O/75s now. Total goals (5).

September 12th: Any semblance of the scheduled fixtures was impossible to realise, as there were barely enough 'Rest' players for two teams. The State O/75s played three times, and two scratch sides of 'Rest' teams played each other twice. The State side did not have it all their own way for once and their defence was breached several times, including two to Terry Gaston and a good one to Bob Bowyer. They seemed to miss the scoring power of Don Smart, though Graham Harler spent time in attack for a game or two and gave them a good target as well as scoring twice. Ron Venables and Mal Horrigan (PC) were the other O/75s scorers. Ian Hill also converted a corner, but this occurred while he was filling in during a 'Rest' versus 'Rest' derby. Good goals included all those who scored, including fine corner conversions by Ian H and Mal H but the panel finally awarded goal of the day to Graham Harler who received a pinpoint pass from Scott Blackwell and converted well from just forward of the penalty spot. On the goalkeeping front John Burt and Tony Marshall joined Graeme Sansom and all saw plenty of action. We appeared to have trouble finding player umpires again (none from the O/75s) so John and Neil did the bulk of the games. Player numbers are based on the original teams, as I am not in touch with the re-allocations, and were: O/75s (12), Blue (7), Gold (6), Red (4) and White (3). These do not include the State team. 8 goals were scored.

September 19th: Our numbers were so low that we could not have a game unless the State team was in it. Consequently only three matches were played, and these did not appear to have given the WA side a lot of benefit. Quite possibly they were just tapering off before the start of their title defence, which might have been the reason Ian Hill did not play. They also had the only goalkeeper present in Graeme Sansom, who played against them after the first match in order to get some more involvement in the play. Though the save of the day was made by Terry Gaston at the other end. Goals went to Bob Bowyer, Scott Blackwell and David Pandher. The player numbers based on the old allocations were at maximum: O/75s (11), Gold (6), Red (5), Blue (4) and White (4). These numbers were seldom all there at the same time as we had both late arrivals (including Len Blyth from Turf 2) and early departures. Total goals scored (3).

October 10th: Despite the absence of all goalkeepers play began on Turf One only ten minutes after the scheduled 1:30 pm start with 2 combined teams (drawn from 'A', 'B' and 'C' Divisions) in action. After the first 25 minutes proved to be one-sided the equalisation process (swapping of players) worked well and the second 25 was very even. In the third (and last) repeated sensational goal line saves in the White deep defence tilted the score in their favour. The bar was very sparsely populated post match, as is becoming customary .

Post-Tournament: An analysis of our 'A' Division team lists done by Colin Gee shows that there are two primary causes of our player shortage. These are long-term injuries and holidays. We have been unable to play many scheduled fixtures in the 4th quarter of either 2016 or 2017 & it seems certain that it will be the same for 2018. I would urge 'A' Division captains to give serious consideration to the idea of redrafting the teams until Christmas. We may struggle to fill even three sides.

From The Saturday O/65s

Committee in Action (George B)

PhotoChris Wincop



The summer season is now under way - could somebody please inform the weather.

Congratulations to all who organised the very successful winter season closing dinner. George and Jim between them arranged for the food (from IGA Wembley), the plates, cutlery, table cloths and (very importantly) the wines. Beers and soft drinks were provided by bar maestro Howie while the rest of the Committee also pitched in. And as so frequently occurs the setting up and the cleaning up were done with the assistance of many members of our playing and non-playing group.

I heard that responses to the call for anybody interested in playing during the tournament were not enough for a game (only 8). As next year's is in the South/West I would expect that many of our Saturday playing group will be involved. I suggest that the request should be made quite early in the winter season, which will also allow for sufficient time to make the arrangements.

Many of you will already know Len Walker, who has just joined our playing ranks - welcome. I hope that his fortunes improve following a hamstring injury during his winter try-out and a recurrence of a cardiac problem on the first day of summer (atrial fibrillation).

It was suggested on the first day that we should not rely on the club's defibrillator too much. Even though it issues detailed verbal instructions there are many players who would not be able to hear them. Though I think we should look for a volume control.

Lost property. Bob Bowyer lost a pair of track suit trousers on 15th September. He was fairly sure that somebody had taken the wrong ones. Could everybody who played that day please check.

If you haven't paid yet the summer fees are now due. The amount has been set at \$100 again, and the bank details are: Account name: Western Hockey Masters. BSB 036-069. Account no 548917. Do please make sure that you include your name in the reference field. If you are a goalkeeper you only have to pay \$25.

Grumpy Old Men One: "Anyone who is capable of getting themselves made President should on no account be allowed to do the job." *Douglas Adams (1952 - 2001), from 'The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy.'* He was describing the President of the Galaxy, not the USA.

The French Letter No 45:

Well, as mentioned in my last note, we are returning to Perth. We have actually booked to fly out of Paris on Nov 8th, arriving in Perth on Nov 9th.

We have been extremely busy with planning for the big move and in the midst of it all we received 24 hours notice from an agent wishing to bring clients to visit the property. This duly took place and the couple concerned were looking to purchase a property to run a bed and breakfast (Chambre d'hote in France). Many of you may remember that we originally did that. Anyway, to keep the story short, the couple expressed great interest and went away to seek bank finance. If that goes OK they will make a formal offer. We expect to hear something this coming week, beginning 15/10.

We have experienced so many disappointments over the years that we try not to let ourselves get over excited about such developments. If a sale does eventuate it will be a wonderful outcome, but come November 8th we will still be getting on that plane.

It is now four years and three months since I was last in Perth and in Joelle's case, ten years and nine months. We are looking forward to it and in particular we are looking forward to meeting our one month old great grandchild.

I want to say how much I have appreciated Masters Matters as it has helped me stay in touch with hockey people and hockey happenings. I have also enjoyed contributing.

Cheers, Ian Purdie (*Thanks once more Ian. We trust your name will soon be a house-sold word - Ed.*)

Shakespeare Said It: "Nothing but sit & sit, and eat & eat." The Taming of The Shrew Act V Scene II. *One of the perils of age. Hockey players should be safe, though drinking is not mentioned.*

"Be plainer with me; let me know my trespass by its own visage." The Winter's Tale Act I Scene II. *What was that hit for please umpire? Any chance of a signal?*

"And let us once again assail your ears, that are so fortified against our story." Hamlet Act I Scene I. *I am suggesting that we have another attempt at getting the interstate tournament (or part thereof) moved away from the school holidays, with their sky high plane fares and accommodation costs.*

Quotable Quote Two: "There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered." Nelson Mandela (1918 - 2013). *I last saw Byron Bay in 1973 which is what prompted the choice of this quote before the tournament. But in 45 years Byron Bay has changed considerably, even though the basic landscape is as scenic as ever. I of course, have hardly changed at all, as evidenced by my 2017 primary school reunion at which I was recognised by several people I had not seen since 1957.*

European Championships: If you wanted to go to Belgium, and missed out on nominating for any of the Southern Cross teams, then you should consider having a game with Alliance. The nominations can be viewed on the web-site, and here is a link: <http://alliancehockey.net>

Missing This Month: Due to my tournament absence and subsequent virus the publishing schedule for "Masters Matters" has been disrupted (yet again). This issue we are without a "Thailand Tales" and John Sanders is out of action for a while. In addition, Gordon Jeffery is still on his homeward journey from northern NSW (the long way, I think) and so we will have no 'B' Division reports until he resumes. Are there any volunteers to fill in for a month or two? Hopefully the remainder of our usual correspondents will return next month.

Wine Raffle: This too has gone missing temporarily. I believe that both the raffle and our Secretary will be back shortly, and I'm sure that Bill Campbell is looking forward to more cellar additions.

'B' Division Report: I have heard that the numbers were quite good on 17th October with nearly 2 ½ teams in attendance. I also hear that regular Turf Two umpire Vern Gooch is off to Forster/Tuncurry for a family birthday. He then intends to hire a car and go and have a look at Ballina and Byron Bay. I'm sure that they will have nearly recovered from the hockey tournament.

Welcome To New Players: We extend a warm welcome to Warren Jackson, who has now started in 'B' Division and I'm told is already scoring goals. And Nevelle Brown (from Victoria) will play in the 'A' Division until Christmas during a fairly extended family visit to the West. He also is scoring goals.

WHM Ballina Numbers: The table below is intended to summarise the complete (hopefully) list on Page 4 of the WHM tournament attendees. We are a very significant presence, particularly in the slightly more senior brackets, and have led the way in adding new age groups at the top end.

WHM Ballina Numbers

State	O75	O70	O65	O60	O55 1	O55 2	O50 1	Total
WA	12	12	13	9	3	2	3	54
WAC	11	5	8	2	2	-	-	28
Other	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	3
Total	24	17	22	12	5	2	3	85

Comparison: According to the "Masters Matters" following the Hobart tournament last year there were 99 players from WHM there. Are the higher school holiday costs having an impact?

Punology Two: When Martina Navratilova defected to the USA it's said that she approached the US State Department and enquired, "Do you cache Czechs here?"

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: September's question was:

When did the Kookaburras first win a gold medal at the Champion's Trophy tournament?

- a) 1980 at Karachi. b) 1981 at Karachi. c) 1982 at Amstelveen. d) 1983 at Karachi.

Thank you to Mal Horrigan who replied: "In regards to the quiz I will opt for Karachi, 1983." *Correct. We hope that John will be back with a new question in the November edition. Ed.*

Well Dones: Those recorded as having umpired 'A' division since the last MM are: Peter Evans, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, Neil Scaddan, Don Smart, Brian Soares, Greg Street, and Ken Watt - thank you. Thanks also to the unknown 'B' and 'C' Division umpires. Perry Lakes umpires in the notebook up to 13/10 are: Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Bob Hotinski, Neil Scaddan, Don Smart, Brian Soares, Brian Thomas, Les Waldon and Ken Watt - thanks all. There was a sausage sizzle on 5th September and well done to Jim Campbell, who appeared to be the principal chef. And a special mention goes to all the Perry Lakes Saturday rostered caterers for a job very well done.

Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players: Social PHS visitors have included: George Bradbury, Stuart Calder (and Nick), John Mercer, Ian Pestana, Neil Scaddan, Brian Thomas, Simon Thomson, George Winning. At Perry Lakes our visitors have included Eric Alcock, Colin Benporath, John Mercer, Paul Robinson, Don Smart and Brian Soares.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "Politics is perhaps the only profession for which no preparation is thought necessary." *Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 - 1894). Author of 'Treasure Island.'*

All I Want For Christmas: Umpire Vern Gooch would like to benefit from the latest developments in AI. If we can make a smart refrigerator, then why can't we manage a whistle which knows all the hockey rules. Though every game has 22 players who know more than either of the umpires.

Balinese Bulletin No 36:**RETURN TO BALI**

Back in Bali & have been for around 6 weeks & guess what ... not a lot has happened!!! Well almost nothing. After just arriving back we were playing host to Geoff Whyte who was here to spend 7 days with us, staying at our place. I'm sure many of you down there will recall Geoff Probably the greatest proponent of the "Penalty Flick" during his long umpiring career.

After a somewhat exhausting 2 weeks in Perth I was pretty much "down for the count" but I managed to find "another gear" & guided Geoff around "our" Bali & skirted around the ever present Bali Bogans. Geoff, for those who remember him, must have sought out company other than me because he spoke to every Bule (Westerner) he came across ...particularly Bule's of the feminine breed ...now I think back on it ..Only the feminine breed!!! An example of this was on the day before he departed, when due to extreme tiredness I let him out on his own. He made his way down to a local Warung for lunch & then managed to cadge a lift home to our place with a lady who like ourselves has chosen Bali as her new home.

TIMMY TOKAY

For those of you who are wondering what a Tokay is it is a of the lizard variety ...Can grow up to around 10 inches in length & generally feeds only on insects. When searching for a Mate it will produce a loud call which sounds like "Fuck You" ... I kid you not. In fact the American troops when in Vietnam referred to it as the "Fuck You Lizard"!!

Where was Ioh yes .. well Timmy has taken up residence in our outdoor bathroom, secreting himself mostly behind the mirror which sits above the hand basin. On 2 occasions, however, he has managed to make his way into our bedroom, something that Erin strangely objects to. Encouraging him to remove himself was certainly not an easy thing to do.

EDDY V ALU

While on the subject of lizards there is a much larger variety of lizard in Bali than the aforementioned Timmy Tokay. It is the Alu, a near cousin to the Monitor lizard. The Alu, here in Bali can grow up to a metre in length & can give quite a "nip" if cornered. Our best friend here Eddy (Bali dog) sensed that an Alu was moving quietly through our garden & sought to engage it in conversation. The Alu, however would have nothing to do with Eddy. Eddy was not to be put off & continued to shout at it. Eventually the Alu managed to seek refuge under a small stack of roof tiles at the back of our house ...this infuriated Eddy & he nosed his way in & removed the Alu, shaking it violently until the poor bastard just up & died. To end this silly story I removed it to the rubbish bin inside a plastic bag. Unfortunately, after the rubbish had been picked up I learnt that Alu's are regarded as a delicacy so our Balu Family were denied a delicious meal of Alu.

In closing let me say it was really great to catch up with many of our friends while in Perth & we look forward to catching up with many you Lot down there when next in our part of the world.

Peter Hammond (*Thanks very much Peter - your effort is really appreciated. Ed.*)

O/70s and O/75s Tours: The latest news I hear is that nothing is finalised as yet, either destinations or timings. The unfortunate illness of Ric Roberts has probably made things difficult also. The first announcement was that the matches for both age groups would be in Canada on the west coast. That is when our resident limerick writer produced this:

No senior Trans Tasman's a shame
Left two teams in search of a game
 Fly cross-Pacific
 Should be terrific
And Canada's next in the frame.
Or is it?

Ballina/Lismore Tournament Impressions: Anybody who has been reading “Masters Matters” for a few years will either be looking forward to reading this, or hoping that their name will not appear this time, or did not go to the tournament and will skip this. As usual, contributions from members of other teams are welcome (fairly short please), who will have seen different aspects of the hockey to me, and whose touring will have been more extensive than mine.

Departure: Virgin Airlines Flight VA467 to Brisbane left right on time with plenty of geriatric hockey players as passengers (6 of them WA Country O/75s). There were also some not so geriatric players, with two members of the WA O/50s side in my seat row, including Paul Armitage.

Brisbane Airport: Eventually several hire cars were collected and headed south to the NSW border via the excellent M1. In my opinion this was a better way to travel than attempting to fly into Ballina.

Situation Vacant: One member of the WA O/75s was looking for a navigator. Those of us from WA Country played WA in our first game. We all noticed that Ian Hill was missing in the first half, only appearing in the second. According to the information which reached me he had taken a small detour between Byron Bay and Ballina and found himself well on the way to Coffs Harbour.

O/70s Upsets: Last year’s grand finalists both had big losses to begin the 2018 event. Gold medallists Victoria went down to newcomers South Australia 1-5 while runners-up ACT were beaten by WA 1-4. It was reported that SA had recruited two former NZ internationals in addition to obtaining Bob Claxton and Chris O’Dempsey from Queensland.

Mistaken Identity: A party from WA Country O/75s entered the Ballina RSL Club, and were promptly told by the staff “Your table is over there.” As we had not made a booking the situation required to be clarified, and it turned out that the reservation had been made by the WAC O/55s. It seems that continuing to play hockey keeps us looking youthful. Or maybe there were hidden cameras filming a television commercial for SpecSavers.

Cross-Talk: Alan Bryce of the WAC O/70s suffered a badly swollen knee when Gerin Hingee managed to fall at pace, and clattered directly into him. This dialogue is said to have ensued next day:

Alastair McNab: “How are you today?”

Alan Bryce: “I’m hors de combat.”

Alastair McNab: “What!”

The term is French not Scottish and is said to define a woman of easy virtue attached to an army.

Hockey Facilities: Lismore’s two turfs were adjacent on the eastern edge of the city. The second one was very newly installed, and the main turf had just been re-laid. All the bars and food stalls were manned by volunteers, and the quality of the food and service could not be questioned. Ballina’s was within easy walking distance of my team’s accommodation in the Ballina Homestead Motel and also provided a good playing surface. On the first day we saw it there was a drainage problem due to the heavy rain, but that did not recur. As for Lismore, the hockey club took care of the food and drinks - I heard no complaints about either.

Location: The general verdict in my team was that Ballina was a very pleasant small city. Almost all of the local people we met knew who we were, why we were there, and went out of their way to be friendly. It’s also in a beautiful part of Australia. I did not spend time in the Lismore CBD, and the one time we drove through the traffic was quite heavy in the afternoon rush. And I was disappointed to find that Byron Bay now has traffic and parking problems. However, we were lucky enough to secure a parking place up on the headland at the lighthouse, where the views were just as spectacular as I remembered, and there were whales breaching in the ocean.

Ballina Beach

Photo John Mercer



Where Was This? Not all of you may have been aware that this placid beach was very near the turf at Ballina. Did anybody manage to have a dip there?

Any New Jokes? Howie Herbert probably heard all the old ones during the tournament while he was sporting a most conspicuous black eye. He wasn't watching the ball too closely, just got a little too adjacent to an opponent's (Mick Martin) hockey stick.

Fin Everding Paragraph: We WAC O/75s enjoyed the company (and on-field play) of Fin Everding and Bob Edmonds from the ACT. Readers who remember the Barcelona story (see Newsletter No 8) will be relieved to hear that Fin avoided the Ballina pickpockets. What did happen?

Call One: Jan Horsley's phone rang: "Your phone number is in this phone, which we have just found in our shop. The owner can reclaim it here." That was the Lismore Camera Shop, with Fin's phone.

Call Two: Peter Steven's phone rang: "Nikita here. I've just found a credit card and some other cards, including yours. Does Mr Everding want his credit card back?" And that was the Ballina Bookshop.

Hockey Results: This is not a topic which any of us want to discuss at any length. The ABC actually named a programme after my side, and entitled it "Pointless." MM's limerick writer says:

No fault of ace goalkeeper Bill
Our total points score ended nil
 One must not forget
 We'd only just met
And sadly we're lacking in skill. (*I speak for myself here*)

Entrance to Ballina Turf

Photo John Mercer



Greetings: Perhaps it's a good thing that the sign did not read the same on the back, as many senior hockey players would have smuggled alcohol past it - internally.

Who'd Be A Coach: The word round the WAC O/75s was that our coach thought that his pre-match addresses were failing to reach his players. This was because many of us could not hear them, and the rest could not remember them. MM's writer of limericks thought there was another factor:

A Ballina coach did confess
 I can't give a pre-match address
 As half cannot hear
 The rest think of beer
 Our hockey thus fails to impress.
Alternative last line: The game plan is anyone's guess.

WAC Combined Dinner: The venue was the Cherry St Bowls Club, and as has become customary it was an excellent night in all respects. Good food, good wine and brief and to-the-point speeches all contributed. As did a bravura M/C performance from Alan Kidd who I have to thank for these:

WAC Words: Destinesia: Getting to where you were going, and forgetting why you went there.

Askholes: Always posing unnecessary questions. Despite our Perry Lakes price signs the most common question is "How much is a beer?" (*It's been the same since 2013*)

Player Nickname: "Cinderella" because he always runs away from the ball.

Coach to umpire: "Does your wife know you're screwing us?" (*Win friends and influence umpires*)
And many of us could walk back to the Ballina Homestead Motel in less than 5 minutes, though rumour has it that only those who could still walk a straight line accomplished this.

WAC Dinner: Congratulations to the new Life Members who received their presentations on the night. WAC O/75 team member John Ree and co-manager Irene Simpson now each have one.

They Said It: “Look at the ball, don’t turn your back on it.” Stuart Moane (NSW) during the game for the gold medal. I’m sure you can guess what happened next - on the back of the heel.

Good Food Guide: We were very happy with the meals everywhere we tried. Special mentions to:

The Proper Café: This was part of our accommodation in the Ballina Homestead Motel, and was very good for breakfast or a lighter lunch. Evening meals were by special arrangement and we had both a fine once-off lasagne night and our final team dinner there, getting great value. Thanks to Peter Blockley who organised both.

Cherry St Bowls Club: As mentioned this was in easy walking distance of our accommodation. They provided good quality club/pub style meals and had a reasonable wine list. Our room keys were enough to gain 7 day memberships and discounts.

Ballina RSL Club: Situated in the heart of the city, on the river, the meal and wine standards were also decent quality. Bill Baldwin nearly became totally hooked on the roast lamb (so did I).

Red Wok Thai Restaurant: This was another venue that was pretty good on our first visit there so we went back again for David Horsley’s birthday (Happy Birthday again).

Hoi Shing Chinese Restaurant: Fine food and good service.

Everywhere we went seemed to be well patronised by tournament players from all states. Readers no doubt will have found their own favourite venues.

Tournament Organisation: From my perspective, this was more informal than in some previous years which was very welcome. My side managed to get a match changed from Lismore to Ballina so that we could attend the combined WAC dinner. We were also able to add a player for the last match. I heard that all sides were asked to provide a volunteer to man the technical bench for the match following theirs. Congratulations to Tournament Director Graham Napier and his crew.

Umpiring: In keeping with the general spirit of the tournament this seemed to be more laid-back than the previous few years. Cards were used when they should have been, but in my observation not to excess. Not all our umpires got everything correct (we players didn’t either) but in the general spirit of tolerance nobody minded unduly. Relations between players and umpires were excellent in all the matches I played in.

Overall Verdict: In my opinion the tournament was an unqualified success, again confirming my firm view that the smaller venues are better. The local hockey clubs did a great job in keeping the food and drinks flowing, and merit thanks from all of us who attended.

To Conclude: The above has been written under the general proviso that what goes on tour stays on tour. I’d suggest that the 2019 tournament is not to be missed. And if the organisers need any help then we need to be available to make our WA event as good as the one just completed. I will allow MM’s limerick writer to have the final word on Lismore / Ballina.

We went to the hills and the dales
Of scenic far north NSW
 And saw all the sights
 Plus had some great nights
Returned with some very tall tales.
For example, all of the above.

How The Internet Started According To The Bible

In ancient Israel it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy. And Dot Com was a comely woman, large of breast, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without even leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you who has the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS).

Abraham thought long and hard and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price without even having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighbouring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed a language to transmit ideas and pictures -Hebrew to the People (HTTP).

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomad Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drum heads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea they named it YAHOO Dot Com.

Abraham's cousin Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE). That is how it all began.

(Thanks to John Sanders, who sent me this piece)

Communication Problem: As can occur when essential people are away, the online information about the fixtures for 10th October differed from the version which was circulated. Difficulties are being experienced in getting the new WA Masters Hockey website updated while both websites (old and new) as well as the September edition of "Masters Matters" all had the incorrect fixtures. In the case of MM they were taken from the web-site, which we must ensure is up to date at all times. My apologies go to those who were inconvenienced.

Masters Matters Publishing Schedule: This October "Masters Matters" is late. The primary reason was the virus which accompanied me home from the tournament, but there were several secondary causes -refrigerator problems, computer problems (new one required) and phone problems. As a consequence the November edition will also be delayed, but I will be starting work on it as soon as this one is finalised. As stated earlier, reader contribution on the tournament, the 'B' Division, the 'C' Division, or anything else you would like are welcome. Editorial (in)discretion applies.

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:
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