



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 10

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Dates For The Diary:

2018: December 19th: 'A' Division commences at 12:30 pm.

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/75s.

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

September 27th / October 12th. Interstate Masters Championships - Bunbury / Busselton WA.

2020: World Cup (s) - To be determined. } Australia and Southern Cross

The Merger of WGMA / IMHA: In the September issue (No 8) a story with this heading appeared. Since then it appears that problems have delayed the project. The following is a direct quote from the IMHA website on the establishment of the proposed WMH (*World Masters Hockey*).

"The development of the WMH has been stalled following a number of negative communications between WGMA and FIH. IMHA was not involved or included in these, but has been affected by the outcome of decisions made without any attempt to determine IMHA's views regarding the project. FIH funding for WMH has been stopped and the 2 Masters organisations have been left to sort things out between them before 31st July 2019 when both organisations cease to be recognised by FIH. The IMHA is very disappointed with these outcomes but will continue to meet the timetables set out by the FIH, irrespective of what WGMA decide to do. IMHA will work with WGMA provided the views of the IMHA Board are respected & the WGMA demonstrates a willingness to compromise in some areas of contention. To date it has been the IMHA which has made all the compromises to keep the project alive." (*In very late news WGMA & IGMA are talking again on a friendly basis*)

For the benefit of newer readers the IMHA is the world body covering Masters hockey in the age range O/35 to O/55, and WGMA includes those from O/60 to O/75. The WGMA website has no comment about the time delay as yet, but does include an announcement on the 2020 World Cup. It appears that they have acted independently on that one. I suggest that interested readers should keep in touch by checking both websites, which can be accessed via these links:

IMHA: <http://internationalmastershockey.org>.

WGMA: <https://wgmahockey.org>.

See also Pages 11 and 12.

Tours for Australian O/70s and O/75s: The O/75s tour is confirmed. It will go to British Columbia in the last week of May/first week of June (2019) and may play the US O/60s (most of whom are said to be 65+) as well as a team organised locally by John McBryde. Costs, not including air fares are estimated to be less than \$3K, and I am advised that it is still possible to express interest in joining the touring party. Contact Ric Roberts (initially) via email ric.roberts@inet.net.au to do so.

The O/70s tour is still very much a work in progress. There are a few rumours in circulation and the last one I heard was that Fiji was in the mix as a possible destination.

Hips/Knees: The last I heard Knees have plenty of players, Hips need more. Contact Bob Bowyer.

Department of Health: Ian Hill is playing despite a problem knee while Stan Balding's problem knee has left him unable to play at all. I have not heard very much about Roger Partington, who I believe is also having knee problems (or a knees problem) and has not played for some considerable time. Ken Beer has become another long term absentee - reportedly suffering from an Achilles injury. It seems that Neil Scaddan may be over the worst having discovered that there quite a few problems in his ankle. Now it's a matter of giving it all time to heal, with as much assistance as treatment can provide. Colin Benporath's half knee replacement was delayed and will now occur during November. Bob Bowyer is having investigations done and is out of action at the moment. Our umpiring ranks seem to be losing their balance at an alarming rate as in addition to John Sanders, who is still getting over an escalator tumble Neil Mannolini has had a fall and will be out of action for some time. (In late news Manno has broken a couple of bones, was admitted to hospital, and an operation will be required). We hope you all return to normal as soon as possible.

Letters To The Editor: The delayed October edition generated responses from Kevin Burton, Richard Osborne and John Milner. Thank you all - selected extracts follow:

Kevin Burton: "Great to see the guys selected for Oz and a few are my team-mates at Mods. ... I was the player/coach of the NT 55/2s and we finished 5th. This was my ninth year in this role. We've done 1 gold & 1 silver in that time but it's always a challenge. *(You're obviously doing a lot right; Ed)*. I think there's a few WA 55s who wanted to play this 55/2s grade! ☺ I lived in Darwin for 5 years so that's why I play for NT and I think it's good that a smaller state provides some opposition for the bigger states." *Kevin also provided feedback on the tournament facilities, something which I forgot to include in the coverage last issue as we had most of our games at Ballina within easy walking distance of our motel. Also the home team's rooms in the Rugby league stand were acceptable.* "We felt Lismore and Ballina was below standard for dressing rooms and on site facilities. Surprising that dressing room upgrades were not done & you can't do a team talk in a tent next to your opponent." *I think you're right Kevin. I recall that the Cairns tournament successfully used portables. Ed.*

Richard Osborne: *Due to space limitations this correspondence appears on Page 9.*

Southern Cross Teams for Antwerp: These have recently been announced and congratulations to all those selected. Here are the WHM players named. Please tell me of any omissions and other errors.

O/75s: Peter Murray (c), Scott Blackwell, George Bradbury, Ian Hill, Dave Horsley, Neil Patterson, John Ree, Graeme Sansom and Brian Soares.

O/70s: Peter Eastlake, Gordon Jeffery, Keith Platel and Mike Robinson.

O/65s (Blue): Peter Fogels, John Ostaszewsky and Ian Pestana.

O/65s (Red): Len Collier, Glenn Mihala and Steve McEntee.

O/60s: Steve Farrar (vc) and George Naylor.

I'm sure you will all have a great time. Wish I was going. Ed.

Alliance Teams for Antwerp: These are still a work in progress. At the time of closing off this edition, nominations in the O/70s include Terry Gaston and Heath Tyrrell with Peter Stevens in the O/75s.

Southern Cross Executive: The website announced on 1st November that Ric Roberts was stepping down as Chairman due to ill health. Tony Cohen was co-opted back onto the committee and by a unanimous vote has been installed as the new Chairman. Our best wishes go to Tony for his term. From all of us at WHM who have ever played for Southern Cross our thanks go to Ric for a wonderful job and our hopes for a complete and speedy recovery.

Quotable Quote One: "Science can only ascertain what is, but not what should be, and outside of its domain value judgments of all kinds remain necessary." *Albert Einstein (1879 -1955). From "Out of my Later Years." Though judgement seems to be conspicuously lacking in many world leaders now.*

State Sides in WHM : I had expected this question to generate more interest. However, two late comments arrived - over to our contributors:

Keith Platel: "Further to your question and our brief discussion regarding state teams playing as a unit on Wednesday afternoons prior to the nationals. I can only comment in regards to the Bs but personally I think it is very worthwhile. Unlike the As, we train separately prior to playing so there are no holdups during the afternoon games to 'practice' any set plays or corners, etc. I don't believe the non-State players are disadvantaged as fortunately the Bs (& I expect the As) have a very broad base of experience & talent so not being part of the State team is mainly a case of non nomination! Also the State 70s is playing the rest which includes mainly those in the age group 60-70 so a competitive game is had regardless of who is playing.

I personally think the process in the Bs is valuable and should continue."

Peter Andrews: "I agree with Keith. By the time 60s and 70s took in a lot of B players there was really only enough for two more B teams. Everyone got plenty of playing time."

My thanks to Keith and Arch for taking the trouble to express their opinions. Based on the lack of response it would seem reasonable to assume that players are happy with the current situation. The MM limerick writer had his own slant:

We asked if you thought it OK
To have the State sides in the play
But just two replied
And both were onside
So what would the rest of you say?

Expressions of Interest - Hockey Australia Masters Committee (November 5th): Hockey Australia is now seeking expressions of interest from across the State and Territory Masters Community to nominate to what will be the newly formed Hockey Australia Masters Committee. This will replace the existing Hockey Australia Men's Hockey Committee and the Hockey Australia Women's Masters Committee. The close off date for EOIs is 24th November by 5:00 pm & the form can be accessed on the Australian Masters Hockey website News button via <http://www.australianmastershockey.com>.

Not In My Backyard: I'm sure that those of you in the area covered by the Post are fully in touch with the bid by Westside Wolves for a hockey turf and clubrooms at Mt Claremont Oval. Opposition to the project seems to be strong, but from what I hear is based on the usual exaggerations about the volume of traffic and the after-hours noise. I am reminded of the successful campaign to make sure that the first Perth Hockey Stadium was not built at Yokine Reserve. YMCA already appear to have lost their bid for a western suburbs turf, and although Wolves are pulling out all stops it will be a difficult task for them to combat the scare campaigns which will undoubtedly be waged.

Things You See: On the day that we were advised of the bid by Westside Wolves for a turf at Mount Claremont this car sticker was spotted on West Coast Highway: "Westside Wolves need a den."

Department of Corrections: Contrary to the last "Dates for the Diary" Southern Cross is nominating two O/65s teams for the European Championships. The error was mine.

The WHM Ballina attendees omitted Kevin Burton and Brian Soares - see "Letters to the Editor."

The Australian O/75s Barcelona gold medal has been updated by Richard Osborne - also in Letters.

I also failed to include a Ballina story and have belatedly written it up on Page 8.

Lack of Recognition: I must apologise to Brian Soares (WA O/75s team manager) for leaving him out of the report of the WHM Ballina attendees. We play in the same 'A' Division side, too.

Punology One: A man accosted a woman on the street and gave her a great big hug and a kiss, telling her how beautiful she was. He was charged with assault and flattery.

'A' Division Blog: We are playing the fixtures - just. Though numbers are improving.

October 17th: As anticipated the numbers were insufficient to play the scheduled fixtures so four scratch matches took place. Thankfully two goalkeepers arrived (thank you Barry and John) and the process of chipping off the rust began for most of us. After a 1-1 draw in the first game the flood gates opened and lots of goals went in, with both Roy Grant and visitor Nevelle Brown getting three in one match. Peter Eastlake also scored three times during the afternoon. I have not awarded goal of the day, as there were too many contenders. Unless the teams are re-drawn into three sides only (which we might be able to handle) I think all players need to arrive before 1:00 pm as it appears our numbers are going to be too low for four colours until some more of the long term injured return. Player numbers based on original teams were Blue (7), Gold (9), White (8) and Red (5). Though only four games were played 15 goals were scored.

October 24th: Contrary to dire prognostications here we actually were able to play the scheduled fixtures. Some teams even managed to play good hockey for most of the time. There were a few occasions when it looked like a tennis match warm-up too. My White team were well in front on the turnover scoreboard, and suffered a heavy defeat by Gold+ and also coughed up a 2 goal lead against Blue+ to lose 4-2. Red had the advantage in possession and territory against Blue+ but failed to create and convert chances, unlike their opposition who put two in for a 2-0 win. John Ree had another field day with 4 goals (3 Blue, 1 Gold) and Peter Eastlake got two. Comebacks were made by Roger Jewell, Bob Bowyer and Peter Blockley returned following his tournament injury and slotted the goal of the day from a good pass by Ham D'Souza, who also finished well after a quality run. Other scorers were Bob Maley, Nevelle Brown, Phil Metcalf and Bob Robinson. Goalkeepers Barry, Tony and John were kept busy and all did well. Player numbers were: Red (11), White (10), Gold (9), and Blue (7) - though these are maximum counts only as several players came and went throughout the day. Rob Andrew is sensibly limiting his game time. The goals scored total was 12.

October 31st: Despite all teams being below strength we played all the fixtures. The White side had a complete reversal of form following the previous week's three losses, and won all matches, thanks to a little goal scoring fortune as well as some good play. Gold had plenty of possession and created several good opportunities, but failed to score, while Red and Blue won once each. All of us had to fill in at least once, resulting in some very tired septuagenarians and octogenarians - I hope we all drove home safely. We welcomed Rob Butler and Nevelle Brown again. White did the bulk of the scoring, with three to Peter Blockley and singles to Rob Butler, Greg Street and Peter Eastlake. Bob Bowyer and Bob Maley scored for Red while Nevelle Brown and Jim Malcolm were successful for Blue. There were several surprising misses, but no names will be mentioned, as one of them might have to be mine. Goal of the day was a shared award between Bob Butler (flick from the back-line), and Greg Street (good corner conversion). Player numbers: Blue (9), Gold (7), Red (7) and White (9). These numbers do not include Rob Butler and Nevelle Brown and some players had to stop play early (Peter Jones due to ill health and Phil Anderson due to shoe malfunction). Goals scored (10).

November 7th: The standout feature of the day was the number of goals missed rather than the number of goals scored. Red and Blue both failed to score, despite both creating a lot of very good chances. Gold and White also had misses, but at least managed some conversions. Only two goalkeepers were present (John and Tony) and only three goals were scored in the first four games before Tony had to leave. The lack of scoring was also attributable to good goalkeeping. The last two matches produced four goals, two each against the GK and non-GK. John Burt had a blinder in the last of the day to keep Blue scoreless and generate an against the play win to Gold. There were so few scorers that they all deserve a mention: for Gold Peter Eastlake, Rod Spencer and Phil Metcalf, while for White Peter Blockley continued his great form with another double, with singles to Brian Soares and Ian Hill. It was great to see Brian Soares back on the turf again after heart surgery, and Rod Spencer made a debut appearance. In summary White and Gold won twice each, while Blue drew twice and red once. Player numbers: White (9), Red (9), Blue (9) and Gold (6). Total goals (7).

25 minute matches impose a heavy load on fill in players, as they mean a minimum of four games.

From The Saturday O/65s

Action Aplenty in the Old Shirts

Photo Chris Wincop



Summer numbers have been good so far, though we have not needed to go to four teams.

It pays to advertise in "Masters Matters." Readers who have good memories (anybody still in that category) may remember that Bob Bowyer had lost a pair of track suit trousers. They were returned to him the Saturday after the last MM went out into the world. No names will be revealed, as we like to look after our readers.

Thank you to Jim Wright for a couple of good pizza afternoons. Jim has located a new supplier in Pizza on Cambridge, who seem to be much more reliable on delivery than their predecessor. And as an added benefit the young lady who does the delivering has caused quite a stir among our players. It has been suggested that we should make sure our defibrillator is readily available.

Len Walker followed up his initial misfortunes with another muscle injury, and is yet to make a proper summer season debut. That's three setbacks now - enough for several years.

It has been good to welcome back Eric Alcock as a player. Eric usually is a serious contender for the best on ground - some Saturdays he finds it hard to remain vertical. So far this season is shaping as the one which is going to be different.

Injury. Fortunately, these have been comparatively rare since the inception of the Saturday O/65s. Ken Walter received a stick in the eye on the 20th October and has not played since. Fortunately, he has said that having one eye qualifies him for umpiring, and has been good enough to blow a whistle during his convalescence.

Thank you to all those who have been so prompt in paying their summer fees. There are hardly any people currently playing who are still unfinancial. If you are in this category then it's time for your \$100 to reach our account. 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. Social members pay \$50 and goalkeepers pay \$25.

Grumpy Old Men One: "If you have to keep something secret it's because you shouldn't be doing it in the first place!" *David Nicholls (1966 -) English novelist and screenwriter.*

The French Letter: As mentioned in the previous edition, Ian and Joelle have returned to Perth and we are due for no more belle lettres. Many thanks to Ian for his contributions spanning several years of "Masters Matters." I enjoy them even more as it's great to have a part of the newsletter which is news to me, too. I understand from one of Ian's previous 'Letters' that he is hoping to return to hockey in Perth and would welcome one final article on how much our hockey has changed. Maybe nothing has changed, but I strongly suspect that we are not as good as we were when he first left these shores. This applies to both Wednesdays and Saturdays.

'B' Division Report: I believe that our regular correspondent Gordon Jeffery is still wending his long way home from the tournament. So all the heroic deeds on Turf Two will have to stay secret.

Shakespeare Said It: "True is it that we have seen better days." As You Like It Act II Scene VII. *Is this an accurate description of the current state of play in 'A' Division?*

"I cannot tell what the dickens his name is." The Merry Wives of Windsor Act III Scene II. *I trust that I am not the only WHM member whose memory for names is not what it was.*

"I am a man more sinned against than sinning." King Lear Act III Scene II. *So why is it that every time the umpires always give the hit against me?*

WHM Ballina Numbers: The table below was included in the previous issue. It's now been updated and shows what I believe to be our final totals. I think we can better these numbers next year in the wonderful South/West of WA. As a reminder to assist forward planning the dates for the tournament in 2019 are now confirmed to be Friday 27th September to Saturday 12th October. Probably this will mean that the O/35s, O/40s and O/45s play from 27th September to 6th October, while the other age groups play from 30th September to 12th October, dependent on the number of teams entered.

WHM Ballina Numbers

| State | O75 | O70 | O65 | O60 | O55 1 | O55 2 | O50 1 | Total |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| WA | 13 | 12 | 13 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 55 |
| WAC | 11 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 2 | - | - | 28 |
| Other | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 4 |
| Total | 25 | 17 | 22 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 87 |

Well Done: Those recorded as having umpired 'A' division since the last MM are: George Bradbury, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Mal Jackaman, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Greg Street, Ken Walter and Ken Watt - thank you. Thanks also to the unknown 'B' and 'C' Division umpires. Perry Lakes umpires in the notebook since 13/10: Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Ian Hill, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Greg Street, Brian Soares and Ken Watt - thanks all. Well done to David Evans (cooking) and Ivan Wilson (organisation) for the sausage sizzle on 31st October. And the Perry Lakes Saturday rostered caterers are turning on a consistently fine spread.

Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players: PHS visitors since the previous MM have included: Stan Balding, John Sanders Neil Scaddan, George Winning (according to my unreliable notebook). At Perry Lakes the numbers have been better, including Colin Benporath, Ian Hill, David Lester, Ian Lyon, Bruce Mercer, John Mercer, Peter Murray, Paul Robinson, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Les Waldon, Ken Walter and Len Walker. Good to see that the social side of our Saturdays is a drawcard.

Quotable Quote Two: "We must not forget that when radium was first discovered no one knew that it would prove useful in hospitals. The work was one of pure science. And this is a proof that scientific work must not be considered from the direct usefulness of it. It must be done for itself, for the beauty of science, and then there is always the chance that a scientific discovery may become like the radium a benefit for humanity." *Marie Curie (1867 -1934). Lecture at Vassar College 1921.*

Balinese Bulletin No 37:**RANDOM BALI MUSINGS**

Almost 3 months have passed since we were down in a cold & wintery Perth Seems like only last week! I am currently sitting looking out on our lush tropical Bali garden I say "lush" because I can announce our longer than usual "Dry" has transformed itself into our long awaited "WET". This, almost daily rain, is expected to carry through until March/April next year. It is amazing how different the garden looks Hand watering has now come to an end for the time being.

Liking a meal of seafood , as we do, we have at long last found a friendly & reliable local source of fresh fish, prawns, small lobster & squid. A lovely local woman named Ketut (yes another Ketut) rides around our local area (Umalas) on her motor bike with "cold box" on the back & drops in at our house almost weekly. Yesterday I was returning from having a Bintang at my local watering hole when I came across her having just left a kilo of squid with Erin. She said that next Monday she was coming back with a whole fresh fish & that I could pay her then. I guess that is a sign of acceptance!

While I was relating the above "musing" one our Bali Family was here attending to a problem with our toilet cistern. Having made it right again he left with a Rp50,000 note ...mumbling, with a smile, that it was too much. I told him I couldn't do it & it was OKoh, incidentally Rp50,000 is a little under \$5.00.

While we were in Perth recently I couldn't help but notice than everyone seemed to be constantly on the move doing "something or the other", unlike our lifestyle here in Bali where we find ourselves mostly with nothing to do & all day to do it!! Mind you the Balinese very often also find themselves busy doing "something or the other" ...they just allow themselves more time to do it.

Peter Hammond (*Thanks very much Peter - a little more time to produce MM would be good. Ed.*)

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: November's question is:

The 2018 Hockeyroos are currently preparing for the Champions Trophy in China. They won their first Champions Trophy in Berlin in 1991: a) True b) False. *Answer next issue.*

Many thanks to John for managing to send MM some great new questions while (allegedly) disabled: "only from the neck up." Ed.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men." *Martin Luther King Jr (1929 - 1968). Strength to Love 1963.*

Punology Two: This issue will feature several short ones. Warning - the groan factor is very high. If Shakespeare had written a song for the mermaids living in the Italian Grand Canal, what would he have called it? The Merchant of Venice.

What would you call 100 rabbits walking backwards? A receding hare line.

What do you write in your diary to describe a day where you ran into your former spouse? Excited.

Ballina/Lismore Tournament Impressions: Old age seems to be fast approaching, as despite many opportunities this story did not reach the MM notebook. Before a WAC/Victoria match the teams were approached by local ABC radio with a request to interview their most senior players following the game. This duly occurred, and Gordon Smith from Victoria and Peter Blockley from WA Country had their moments in the spotlight. Unfortunately, our team did not find out when it was due to be broadcast, but I believe Peter managed to hear the result on air.

Happy Birthday: From all of us to Irene Simpson, who has recently passed another milestone. I hope that John managed to not be on call for the evening.

Barcelona O/75s World Cup

Photo John Mercer



Letters to the Editor (cont): Here is the definitive account from within the team on the O/75s Gold.
Richard Osborne: “Thanks for responding to my question of the O/75s winning the Gold medal and World Cup in Barcelona. I note your distinction between teams that won a final to then collect a gold whereas we had no finals. But the achievement was the same i.e. a Gold and holder of the fantastic World Cup. No other national O/75 team has won it. I felt that should be advertised as it was an achievement especially as the O/75s won it in The Hague in 2014. The Gold in 2016 in Newcastle when the O/75s had no other competitor and played in the O/70s competition, losing only once to the Australian O/70s (gold medallists) and drawing with England 0-0 (silver medallists). So this last Gold Medal in Barcelona continued the winning of the World Cup with Gold. A run of Golds: Gold, Gold & Gold as Norman did say. Is that some record to be proud of?”

I believe the Cup is in circulation in WA and could be brought to Perth Stadium soon. We did have a significant number in the team including Bill Baldwin, Howie Herbert, Ian Hill, myself (Richard Osborne) and Ron Venables with Bill Williamson as manager.”

I agree that it's a proud record. Hereunder are the teams in full from the relevant programs:

Netherlands 2014: Bob Coverdale, Charlie Rasmussen, Gordon Smith, Bob Stidwell, Ron Venables, Bill Baldwin, Kevin Connor, Bill Williamson, John McBryde, Ken Dyer, Bala Chandran, Bruce McBryde, Bob Robinson, Ken Walker, Errol Weston, Michael Balint, David Whitbread. Coach John McBryde, Manager Irene Simpson, Assistant Manager Errol Green, Medical Lynn Dunnet.

Newcastle 2016: Peter Gason, Barry Mott (coach), Des Biddle, John Halley, Brian Stewart, Barry Eager, Graham Harler, Bob Bruce, Ron Todero, Dick Osborne, Col Sanders, Gordon Smith, Ron Venables, Kevin Connor, John and Bruce McBryde, Bob Robinson, Barry Rutter. Bill Williamson (m).

Barcelona 2018: Des Biddle, Keith Ellis, Max Blakiston, Arthur Rowe, Howie Herbert, Ian Hill, Ron Todero, Dick Osborne, Ian Wright, Ron Venables, Bill Baldwin, John Watts (coach), John McBryde, Dick Cummins, David Sinclair, Mike Martin, David Webster, Colin Whitaker, Bill Williamson (m).

Conratulations to John McBryde and Ron Venables; members of all three O/75s gold medal teams.

A Physio's Tournament: Many thanks to Dick Osborne for sending in the following story which is from a publication entitled "Medical Forum", a monthly journal for doctors and health professionals. Adam Smith was our WAC physio in Hobart (2017) and Ballina (2018) and was also in Barcelona with the Australian O/75s.

"This Sporting Life - At Any Age: *When you're the physio on the road with a squad of Over 75s at an international hockey tournament, you have to be prepared to keep up.*

Dunsborough physio Adam Smith was something of a hockey novice before he accompanied the Australian Men's Grand Masters hockey team at the recent world championships in Barcelona but he came away with new insight into what a fitter older body could do.

'It was a great trip and a wonderful opportunity to do something a little different so when it was offered I wasn't going to say 'no'," said Adam. "They might be Over 75s but they're young in heart and mind and it's quite inspiring to see them playing so competitively at that age."

"They tweak the rules slightly to accommodate the age group but it's still compliant with the regulations set down by the World Hockey Board. The team ended up with the gold medal and when England is involved that's always a nice feeling. The Dutch were there too and they're always a strong side. I've only done one of these tours before and that was a national championships in Hobart for Country WA Hockey. I'm heavily involved in sports physio so these trips are great, and travelling to somewhere like Barcelona was a real bonus."

"But I've never played hockey in my life, so it was a steep learning curve."

The Australian Men's Grand Masters team has players ranging in age from mid-70s to men in their 80s. "On tour we were exposed to a wide range of aches and pains that we might only see once or twice a week at my clinic in Dunsborough. So I can take that experience back into the practice and build it into our rehab programs. Although having said that, given the age of these older players and the amount of running they were doing I was expecting a lot more injuries than we actually had in Barcelona. We had a few joint issues and the heat was a factor, predictably."

"We were lucky to have a week in Lyon so that was a good way to acclimatise and we had a few scratch matches in Geneva, too. It turned out to be a lot of fun and a vital part of the team's success. We also had access to a team doctor who was there with a younger group and it was nice to be able to speak with him when we needed that next level of advice."

It's just so impressive the way these guys maintain such an active lifestyle, it's a good lesson for life, actually and I try to convey that to some of my older patients who need to move a bit more than they do."

Adam describes a typical team day in Barcelona: "There'd be a team walk at 7:00 am, a good chance to look at the stunning architecture and have a coffee or two. I'd do some pre-game strapping & rub-downs, watch how the game progressed from the bench, think about any rotations across the four quarters and manage any obvious aches and pains."

One day Barcelona, the next Ballina on the far North Coast of NSW. "I'm off to Ballina in a month's time with the WA Country Hockey Team for the national championships. We've got seven teams with three physiotherapists and they'll select the next batch of physios to travel for upcoming international tours from there."

"But the take-home message from Barcelona was that, when it comes to being fit and active, age really isn't a factor."

By Peter McClelland (who is a neighbour of Dick Osborne's).

I'm sure that all of us who have ever used and appreciated the services of the wonderful medical staff available to us at tournaments are interested in this perspective from the other side. At least it seems that we are doing something right. Ed.

Thailand Tales:

Hi All,

Well the Nationals are over and we can now look forward to next year's championships in WA and at least save on the trek east. Congratulations to all the players who gained National selection, another opportunity for Hockey Australia to rip off the pensioners.

To those who gained selection in the Southern Cross group to play in the European Cup in Belgium, well done guys. The 65's was particularly competitive with over 55 nominations, I was one of 6 selectors, I didn't see eye to eye with quite a few of them, but we live in a democratic system.

I will be coaching the 65 Blue team, so I look forward to leading this group into battle. The Red squad will be very competitive, quite a few players were very unlucky to miss blue selection, which will make our clash in Braaschaat very competitive and challenging. We owe the Poms and Dutch big time after this year's World Cup, it should be a fantastic tournament.

The wet season has finally come to an end here. So now we can get some hockey played. My club side trekked to Bali in September to play in the Bali Hockey festival, a 6 a side tournament. We defended our title successfully, I was disappointed it was on the first weekend of the Nationals, so I could not participate. This tournament is unique, as your entry fee includes an all day and night buffet of beer and food, so you can end up "cactus" very quickly. I look forward to next year's event.

Our comp gets under way with the King's Cup in December then full swing in January.

I hope to see you all soon, I am hoping to make it for the Knees v Hips next month.

Cheers from Thailand

Woody

Thanks Woody - as always good to hear from you. Ed.

Committee Decisions: There will be a full committee meeting of the WHM management body on the 28th November after play. The agenda items include a decision on our donations to be made from the proceeds of the weekly wine raffles. In recent years we have been making a contribution toward junior hockey as well as charity donations, and the proposal this year is that we continue this. Other items to be discussed include 'A' Division umpiring and the inclusion of State teams on Wednesdays. Look out for the minutes in your in-box once they have been confirmed by the attendees.

The Merger of WGMA/IMHA: The WGMA website includes a most informative article by Adrian Stephenson entitled "WGMA and IMHA - the Way Ahead." This will provide the background to our current situation, even though it was written in 2012. The final 2 paragraphs are quite illuminating: "As regards a merger or a formation of one mega organisation to cover all Masters and Grand Masters age groups, the present members of the WGMA board would certainly not wish to take on the organisation of the IMHA age groups and we feel that our members would think it a retrograde step to abandon the management structure that they have helped to develop within WGMA. We feel that the tournaments for both groups are already stretching the existing management resources and a tournament of over 100 teams would be a bridge too far for any organisation - or host club.

The only reason for FIH to take a more active management role in Masters hockey would be if the profile of Masters hockey reached a level where it became a cash-generating arm of the game but we doubt that that is likely in the foreseeable future. Big money sponsors, television rights and payment for the players are still some way off, certainly for the Grand Masters."

Go Hockey Newsletter September / October 2018: This interesting and knowledgeable publication has two items of great relevance. The first one bemoans the lack of funding for hockey, at a time when the participation rates are declining. Hockey Australia CEO Matt Favier is quoted as saying that nearly every scarce high-performance dollar goes to funding men's and women's national teams, leaving none to develop up and coming talent.

The issue also features an article on Masters Hockey & these quotes stood out. "In Western Australia there are many divisions of Masters Hockey playing at the weekends on grass as well as

competitions that are held on turf on the week evenings. Reputedly there are now over 300 players who gather mid-week during the day to play in a competition.” (*that’s too high - Ed.*) “These events now bring valuable tourist dollars to the host centre location. To hold a championship is now a result of tendering, which has resulted in Hockey Australia adding much needed additional income to run hockey in this country where sporting income for non-professional sports is scarce to find outside of player registration fees.”

This attracted a comment from “WC” who says: “This article paints a rosy glow over Hockey Australia’s participation in the organisation of national Masters hockey. This is far from the truth. The avarice and incompetence shown by them is astounding. We had the women not knowing until a few months before their championships this year that they were to be in Bunbury/Busselton causing problems with accommodation access. As for the men, the Master’s championship rules say that the venue is to be decided two years prior to the event, but this was known only 8 months before in 2018. Why? Because HA wanted money from the states to give them the events. Does this money help Masters hockey? No. The men especially are self-funding and pay their own way. Most players wish the event to go back to the rotation around the states as was the case in past years. Instead we are faced with NSW for the second time in three years. HA see Masters Hockey as a cash cow and do little to promote it. What happens in WA is because the masters organise things themselves despite the national and state administrators.”

Editorial Comment: I would suggest that one of the reasons participation in hockey is declining is due to the concentration of all resources at the elite level. I think WC has a good point regarding general lack of support for masters hockey from state and national administrations, as the struggle to get the original veterans competition established shows (See “Masters Matters” Nos 3, 4 and 5 in 2014). I also totally support WC in his complaint about the loss of the state rotation system, which I consider has cost us a lot of goodwill.

Links: Readers who would like to peruse the original of the quotations above can use these linkages:
Adrian Stephenson: <https://www.wgmahockey.org>. Blog Post, ‘WGMA & IMHA The Way Ahead.’
Go Hockey newsletter: <http://www.gohockeynews.com/features>.
WGMA / IMHA: The links to the websites for both bodies can be found on Page 2.

More Comment: Hockey is a sport which does not have a spectator base capable of supporting any kind of professional organisation. So it must either draw on its declining number of participants, or obtain outside funding from corporate sponsorship and governments. I can understand the seizure of the Masters Hockey interstate tournaments as a means to this end, but that does not mean that I have to like it. It is possible that the move from FIH on IMHA and WGMA is a similar strategy to that of Hockey Australia, as a tournament of 127 competing teams (Terrassa, 2018) would generate a lot of economic benefit to the host destination. I consider that both FIH and Hockey Australia should heed the proverb about killing the goose that lays the golden eggs - hockey must look outward for its future rather than continuing to feed on itself. My suggestion would be that world Masters Hockey has organised itself very successfully, and that within its ranks are many experienced and capable people, who could be the nucleus of a committee charged with studying world hockey funding. The disagreement on our World Cup venue for 2020 shows that something is not right at the moment.

Next Cup is a rather strange beast

It’s either the West or the East

But where it might be

We are yet to see

The place is a movable feast.

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:

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