



A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Gold

B White

B Blue

C Blue

C Gold

C Red

C White

O/65 Blue

O/65 Green

O/65 Maroon

Masters Matters

Issue No 3

March 2019

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Dates For The Diary:

2019: March 27th: Next sausage sizzle due after PHS games.
 March 30th: Saturday end of season dinner and A.G.M. - Perry Lakes.
 April 17th and 24th: 'A' and 'B' Division at Perry Lakes; 'C' Division at Hale.
 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 and Alliance.
 September 27th / October 12th. Interstate Masters Championships - Bunbury / Busselton WA.
 December: Charity Day - 'Invictus Tournament.' Knees / Hips and many more.
2020: World Cup (s) - To be determined. } Australia and Southern Cross

Vale Bob Stidwell and Bob Dare: In sad news 2 former WHM players died in the same week during February. Bob Stidwell had just re-joined our Saturday roster as a social member following a second round of chemotherapy. Many members of WHM attended his funeral service at the Holy Rosary Church in Woodlands, conducted by no less than Archbishop Barry Hickey (who is Pat's brother). His playing career included a World Cup Gold Medal as part of the inaugural Australian O/75s at The Hague in 2014 as well as Tournament Trophy medals for Southern Cross.

Bob Dare was in my first WHM team when I joined in 2006, but retired shortly thereafter. My thanks go to Bill Williamson for the following. Bob played for YMCA and was a member of the Vetroos side which played in London in 1986. He was in WA Veterans or Masters teams from 1991 to 1998 (excluding 1993) and also in 2002. His service was held in Fremantle on the same day as Bob Stidwell's and I hope that there was some representation from WHM ranks.

Our deepest sympathy to the widows and families.

Late News: John Halley has had an incident while cycling and is now in Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital having dismounted from the bike, fallen, then suffered a suspected heart attack or stroke. He has not regained consciousness, but is to have an operation on 02/03 for broken facial bones. Thank you to Harvey Davies for the information.

Proposed "Invictus Tournament" 2019: I hope you all received the email from Neil Patterson with the request for potential players in teams to comprise survivors of: Cancer, Cardiac dysfunction, Prostate removal. These are in addition to our current Hips and Knees and there is a rumour that one or two teams may be included in the category of "Nothing." Well done to Rod Bickers and Les Waldon for taking on this task - please contact them by email to express an interest. Emails are: Rod: rod.bickers@outlook.com. Les: lawdent@westnet.com.au.

PHS Parking: As per the email from Gerrit which was sent round by Neil Patterson WHM players are warned against parking in the Hockey Australia, HWA staff and visitor's bays. That includes every bay south of the tunnel. As from 27th February the Curtin parking staff will be issuing fines.

WHM Appointments: Since the first year (1991) what has become Western Hockey Masters was run on an informal basis by a very long-serving executive. We have only ever had two Chairmen, two Treasurers and our third Secretary has just started. Now that we are incorporated it's time to set up a more structured administration and Simon Thomson and Neil Patterson are working on it. As a beginning, an explicit job description of duties and responsibilities will be created for each of the positions. And the conduct of the hockey will be in the hands of:

'A' Division: Coordinator; George Bradbury.

Blue; Captain Neil Scaddan, Vice Captain Ivan Wilson.

Gold; Captain Colin Gee, Vice Captain Mal Jackaman.

Red; Captain Jim Wright, Vice Captain Les Waldon.

White; Captain Dave Horsley, Vice Captain Peter Evans.

'B' Division: Coordinator Adrian Gabriel.

Blue; Captain Dudley Evans, Vice Captain Graeme Nichols.

Gold; Captain Bill Campbell, Vice Captain Bob Le Merle.

White; Captain Peter Andrews, Vice Captain Jim Campbell.

'C' Division: Joint Coordinators Colin Howell and Tony Jones.

Blue; Captain Tony Jones, Vice Captain Dave Elliott.

Gold; Captain Mike Sputore, Vice Captain Bob Behets.

Red; Captain Kevin Burton, Vice Captain Steve Pestana.

White; Captain Wayne Cutler, Vice Captain Colin Howell.

WHM Office Bearers: For the benefit of our newer members, it might be helpful to include a list of the Western Hockey Masters (inc) executive.

President: Simon Thomson.

Secretary: Neil Patterson. {This is during the handover from Bob to Neil.

Assistant Secretary: Bob Bowyer. {

Treasurer: Steve Farrar.

Uniforms Officer: Robin Bailey.

Social Secretary: Peter Jones. (Ivan Wilson assists with the sausage sizzles on the last Wednesday).

Fixtures Secretary: Harvey Davies.

Data Base Administrator: Colin Gee.

Saturday O/65s: Les Waldon (Club Captain). (Saturday has its own sub-Committee)

WHM and Masters Matters: So what might be included in the job description for producing MM? Our limericist has given it some thought.

We're working on something brand new

To specify what people do

But for MM's Ed

No more need be said

He just has to print what is true.

Beauty is said to lie in the eye of the beholder, and perhaps truth is decided by the preconceptions of the reader. But at least any fake news you read here will be inadvertent rather than intentional. Ed.

Letters To The Editor: Thanks to all who responded to the February MM. It was great to hear from all Divisions. Emails came from: Jim Wright (Mal Horrigan correction), Peter Fogels, Rob Ainsworth, Bill Baldwin, Phil Anderson and Lyle Kenny. There is more from Pando and Lyle on Page 10.

Quotable Quote One: "The opinions that are held with passion are always those for which no good ground exists; indeed the passion is the measure of the holder's lack of rational conviction. Opinions in politics and religion are almost always held passionately." *Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970).*

Department of Health: John Milner is receiving hospital treatment for a blood clot on the lungs as at the time this edition closed off. Thanks to Peter Brien, Les Waldon, Bob Bowyer and Neil Patterson for keeping us informed. Les Waldon is to undergo a nerve deadening procedure this month, which we all hope will enable him to play pain free again. John Lindsay is due for surgery on his torn meniscus, but it will be some time before he's back again. John told me that although Neil Mannolini is not very well he hopes that both of them might attend hockey on a Wednesday afternoon during March. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to all, including those I do not know about.

World Cup(s) 2020: The new WHM board held its first meeting on 25th January and those of you who followed the links will be up to date with the happenings. For everybody else, here is a precis:

Attendees: Glenn Paton, Sue Briggs, Wim van Noortwijk and Adrian Stephenson.

Responsibilities: Glenn - Commercial and Co-Chair. Wim - Member association liaison and Co-Chair. Adrian - World Cup Tokyo (2020). Sue - Secretarial.

New Board Members: This interim board decided to add Steve Curran (Events), Steve Winnall (IT) and Dave Ferguson (Treasurer). Ishbel Dickens was also added as Assistant Secretary.

First General Assembly: The date has been set for Friday 2nd August at a venue to be confirmed.

World Cup 2020: The decision has been taken to split this into four separate tournaments. Details: O/35 and O/40 for men and women.

O/45 and O/50 for men and women.

O/55 men and women + O/60 and O/65 for women. This tournament includes 'Spirit of Masters.'

O/50, O/65, O/70 and O/75 for men. This is the Tokyo event, and as best I can determine it does not include any 'Tournament Trophy' competitions. I hope that Southern Cross, England LX & all similar organizations are discussing possibilities. The latest news can be found on the websites.

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

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

New Rules in 2019: The link I gave you last issue was incorrect. If you would like your own copy of the new rule book this linkage has been tested and found to work. To access all the information use: www.fih.ch/inside-fih/our-official-documents/rules-of-hockey/.

This will allow you to download the 2019 rules, either to your iPhone from the App store or to your Android phone from Google Play. Or a PDF version is available.

Department of Corrections: Last issue I welcomed new players to 'A' Division, and managed to omit David Evans from the list. My apologies Dave - and welcome to the last stop on the WHM age ladder. That's the situation at the moment, though I believe some of us are looking forward to O/90s.

Mal Horrigan did not actually have an accident with an angle grinder. The protruding piece of metal which inflicted the wound would have needed one to repair.

And the link I gave to download the rules was incorrect. Nobody queried it, but maybe that was because everybody interested had already secured their copy. I've had another go above.

'A' Division / PHS Bar: Attempting to have a post game conversation in the bar during February led me to a possible explanation of so many of the more senior players not stopping on afterwards. I had great difficulty in hearing what was being said at a table with multiple conversations in progress and would be curious to know if this happens to others. I have experienced a newly built workplace cafeteria which had similar acoustic problems. In that case expert advice was sought and some sound baffles on the ceiling corrected the problem.

Punology One: A detective was very pleased with a new appointment heading a small task force to monitor all the cults around his city. Unfortunately, his work became his sole topic of conversation and his wife finally had enough and said: "All you ever think about is sects, sects, sects!"

'A' Division Blog: Good numbers, and even some good hockey. Will it last?

February 6th: Numbers were surprisingly good given the 36° forecast. During a 15 minute, scoreless opener the sea breeze arrived and we extended the remaining games to 20 minutes. Thank you to the four goalkeepers, (Barry, Tony, Ian and John) who only had to endure three games each. Gold had another bad day, losing three times by one goal, and are still trying to settle their team. Red and White each won twice and drew with one another, while Blue's only win came against Gold. Some of us (editorial selfies are banned) had difficulty finishing, but several really good goals went in. Steve McEntee got Gold's only score with a good hit, Peter Eastlake got a reverse stick one for Blue to beat Gold, Red's John Jeffreys winner against Gold was a hard hit into the corner while Colin Murray-Smith finished coolly after a good build-up to beat Blue. White were the scoring team on the day and their goals included two good breakaways to Peter Wallis and a great long ball out of defence from Peter Evans to Brian Soares who drew the sole defender and set up Greg Street for a fine finish. John Ree filled in for White after some unsuccessful goal-scoring practice with Blue and scored twice. The deflection from the post following a corner was unanimously awarded goal of the day by the judging panel. There were no less than 10 different umpires. Player numbers varied throughout the day due to the heat and sore muscles, but approximations were: White (10), Red (11), Blue (9) and Gold (11). With some help from the forwards the goalkeepers limited the tally to 9 goals.

February 13th: Red were the dominant side, winning their 3 games; quite easily against Blue (2-0) and White (3-1). Gold gave them an even match, decided only by a great pass from Mal Horrigan to Ron Venables on the post. Ron ended up with a hat trick, as did Colin Murray-Smith. Gold managed to have another bad day and for the second consecutive week lost their 3 matches by a goal. Even the return of Ken Walter created chances but not goals (for once). Just possibly having three extra players did not help much, though it was generous of them to transfer Rod Spencer to White for the day. Blue and White both won once, lost once and drew once. Humidity levels were high & a major factor in the progressive degeneration of the hockey - by the last game passing to a team-mate had almost become a lost art. There were exceptions, including a defence-splitter from George Bradbury to create a goal. In addition to the serial scorers already mentioned doubles went to Ham D'Souza and John Ree, while Steve McEntee and Peter Eastlake both got on the board. The judging panel were repeatedly caught at the ice machine when goals were scored, so have decided not to award an outright winner this week. The short list includes Ron Venables, Steve McEntee, Peter Eastlake and John Ree. Thank you to goalkeepers Barry, Ian and John for turning out in the temperature and playing well. Trevor Kerr was there for the first time in 2019 but seems to have gone on the road again. Player numbers were: Red (10), Blue (10), Gold (13), and White (10). Goals 13.

February 20th: Three wins for Red last week, three losses this week. No Mal Horrigan, no Red? Their defence leaked 9 goals, while the forward line could only get 2 in response (both to Ron Venables). Gold should have been the team of the day, but despite some excellent mid-field play and good build-ups (Ken Walter can pass a hockey ball well) they did not score in a couple of their games; prevented by some great defensive work (with Barry Rutter conspicuous) and some misses. Steve McEntee's 3 against Red were their only scores. Blue also failed to score in two matches, but goals to Peter Eastlake and John Ree saw them come from behind to beat Red 2-1. They held Gold to a scoreless draw, but managed to lose 1-0 to White. White also held Gold to 0-0 and beat Blue 1-0 thanks to a goal-scoring pass from Scott Blackwell after a rehearsal or two (or three). Then in the last game of the day Red scored first through Ron Venables which sparked the White players into passing to one another and dominating the rest of the match. Goals to Mal Jackaman (a backhand volley), Peter Wallis (who had a great day), John Ree (filling in) and the goal of the day in the last few seconds from Scott Blackwell saw them record a 4-1 scoreline. Scott's goal came from the impossible angle out near the right hand edge of the circle and from my viewpoint it bent like Beckham. Player numbers were Blue (11), Gold (13), White (9) and Red (8). Gold transferred Mal Jackaman to White, and Rod Spencer and Graham Harler to Red, so the only fill-ins necessary were for players who had to depart early. The five goals in the last match took the day's tally up to 13. /7

From The Saturday O/65s: This was PHS on the 16th while most of us played at Perry Lakes.



Thanks to John Sanders for the photograph. It's not too often that a crowd like that appears at the stadium these days. If the matches had been on Sunday I would have thought that several more from our Saturday crew would have been there.

The request for naming suggestions has generated a zero response. The only other suggestions I have heard are Reabold Retirees, which is not accurate in all cases and Saturday Superannuants, which is on a similar theme. Neither name is really descriptive of the good quality hockey which is sometimes played. Please keep thinking, and let "Masters Matters" have your ideas.

The decision to cancel play on Saturday 9th February was only made after extensive discussion at Committee level. We hope that nobody was inconvenienced too much. Greg Street unfortunately did not pick up the cancellation email and was not pleased to find himself the only one there. For future reference we have decided that Jim Wright's idea is a good one. If the weather forecast is not favourable we will send a general email on Thursday asking everybody to check their emails early on Saturday morning, which will enable us to make the decision as late as possible.

Thank you to all players who took the trouble to send us an email in support of our decision. There is a duty of care which applies to all organised sport, and it seems to have caused Hockey WA to do a lot of serious policy development. Those who would like to read their 'Extreme Weather Policy' can see it all via <http://www.hockeywa.org.au/Hockey-WA/Governance>.

Ken Walter appears here, and gets a favourable mention again - what's going on? Seriously, many thanks for the marron on 16/02, even though it had all disappeared before I managed to arrive from my Winthrop Hall concert.

Does anybody remember failing to pay \$5 for drinks on the 23rd? We were short by that amount.

Apologies from the bar to Brian Thomas. We actually ran out of red wine on the 23rd and it is the first time I can recall such a happening. We will be making sure that it does not happen again.

Comebacks were the order of the day on the 23rd. Steve Powles returned after the installation of a pacemaker and Bruce Mercer had his first run for quite a while. Ken Watt also returned for the first time in 2019. Hope next morning was as good as the Saturday afternoon appeared to have been.

Don't forget that our end of summer season dinner and AGM are on after hockey on March 30th. I have had a preview of the menu and it is a function not to be missed. The catering will be done by WA Spit Roasts and include a fine variety of roast meats, hot vegetables and salads - with bread rolls. And after the main course we will have a choice of desserts, tea and coffee and chocolate.

'A' Division Blog (continued):

February 27th: Another warm and humid day of fluctuating fortunes. White beat Blue 3-1, Red beat White 1-0 and then Blue beat Red 3-0. In other matches Gold lost 1-0 to both White and Blue, but did manage to snatch a 1-1 draw against Red. As can be seen Gold only scored once, through Phil Metcalf who reappeared after quite a long time away. Red's two came courtesy of Ron Venables (the last touch) and a good one to Colin Murray-Smith for the winner against White. White's corner battery was the deciding factor versus Blue with two fine direct strikes from Ham D'Souza and a variation from Peter Wallis all counting. Blue's first two scorers were John Ree and Nevelle Brown, then came the last match of the day. The standard of this fixture has traditionally been poor, due to the amount of energy players expended by players filling in, but now our numbers are good again the hockey in Game 6 is improving. Play went from end to end, but a goal-scoring clinic was provided by Peter Dennis who put in three excellent goals, and must be awarded goal of the day. That is the second consecutive week that Red lost the last game of the day by 3 goals, probably not due to their opponents' superior levels of youth and fitness. Bob Bowyer returned after a Denmark (south coast) sojourn and trapped everything within reach initially. Thanks to the four keepers who padded up in the oppressive conditions; John, Barry, Tony and Ian, who between them prevented a lot more goals being scored. In this they often had the assistance of the forwards from all sides. It's getting increasingly difficult to count the numbers due to the high tally, but an approximation would be: Gold (12), White (11), Red (10) and Blue (13). Goals scored (12).

'A' Division Comment: Once it was required of any player who scored three goals in a game that he bought a round in the bar. That was not difficult when WHM began in 1991 with 2 teams, and much lower bar prices. It's not so easy nowadays, and MM's limericist has commented:

One time you would merit some fame
By scoring three goals in a game
They'd call you a star
You'd go to the bar

And hope someone else did the same.

The only time it happened to me there were no goalkeepers, which was said to grant exemption.

Shakespeare Said It: "To business that we love we rise betime, and go to't with delight." Antony and Cleopatra Act IV Scene IV. *At least that's so until we encounter the traffic on the way to PHS.*

"That I have positively said, 'Tis so,' when it proved otherwise." Hamlet Act II Scene II. *Hence the necessity for a Department of Corrections in each edition of "Masters Matters."*

"Let me play the fool; with mirth and laughter let old wrinkles come." The Merchant of Venice Act I Scene I. *Though this is supposed to be the guiding principle of "Masters Matters" recent issues have become a little too serious and gloomy in the opinion of the Editor. That was prompted by proof-reading this issue, and we'll aim at less gravity about our hockey - after all, it's only a game.*

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

The 2018 HockeyRoos have just competed in the last Champions Trophy. This was held in November in Beijing, and they lost 5-1 to The Netherlands in the final. True or False: They won their first Champions Trophy in Berlin in 1991.

Nobody attempted an answer, which was 'True.'

March's question is: Which Kookaburras were named in the World All-Star team of 2006:

Jamie Dwyer. Brent Livermore. Bevan George. Stephen Mowlam. None of them. All of them

.Answer next issue.

Grumpy Old Men and Women One: "It will, I believe, be everywhere found, that as the clergy are, or are not as they ought to be, so is the rest of the nation." *Jane Austen (1785-1815). Mansfield Park.*

Balinese Bulletin No 40: *The latest news on the health front.***INDEFINITE JOURNEY DESTINATION UNKNOWN**

This frustrating journey is now into its 11 week & I can report that these last 2 days I feel progress is being made. The severe pain, when I do something stupid & or move too quickly persists but sleeping has become more comfortable for longer periods. I have already had a CTScan some 2 weeks back but do not yet have results only because we have not yet picked them up. We were meant to collect them immediately prior to seeing Dr. Gusti Lanang but 2 appointments were cancelled because he was unavailable. Hopefully we will get to see him next weekbut being Bali ..who knows!! Getting around is still with the assistance of "Willy Walker" albeit with some pain.

I can report I am still in good hands with both Erin & Putu taking excellent care of me.

We had John Heath & his Wife Cindy out here to the house for lunch yesterday & enjoyed their company over several hours. New replacement cards are now in hand & will await the subsequent PINs.

I do hope I pass this TEST with a high score!!!

More will follow from us up 'ere.

Peter Hammond. *Thanks again. Please keep on keeping on, including keeping us all down here in touch. We hope to hear about further improvement in the next bulletin.*

Also, thank you very much to all the terrific WHM people who volunteered to transport the cards to Bali. John Heath, Greg Allen and Nick Hyde, well done all.

Well Dones: February's long list of 'A' division umpires included: Jim Balding, Ham D'Souza, Peter Evans, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Mal Horrigan, Mal Jackaman, Gordon Jeffery, Steve McEntee, John Mercer, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Greg Street, Ron Venables, Ken Walter, Ken Watt, Ivan Wilson and Jim Wright. It's said that variety is the spice of life. The 'B' division list (those known to me) is much shorter - Vern Gooch. Perry Lakes umpires: Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Bob Hotinski, Roger Partington, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Greg Street, Les Waldon, Len Walker, Ken Walter, and Ken Watt. *(Sorry if I missed you, I was not there on the 16th and we cancelled on the 9th)* Thank you to all. Ivan tells me that John Chapman did the bulk of the sausage cooking on the 27th, as the assigned 'A' Division team were playing in the last game. Thanks John and thanks Ivan. And thanks to Jim Wright and the Perry Lakes caterers for all the nibbles and / or pizzas following our games.

Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players: It has been very good to see Bill Williamson at PHS in addition to regular visitor George Winning. In the stands the notebook picked up Bill Baldwin and Bob Maley - who we trust will eventually be back playing. Perry Lakes again seems to be the social centre - those who made it into the notebook were: Eric Alcock, David Lester, Bruce Mercer, John Mercer, Paul Robinson, John Sanders, Neil Scaddan, Les Waldon, Len Walker, Ken Walter and Ken Watt. No wonder the bar does quite well.

Quotable Quote Two: The recent spate of suicides in the Kimberley led me to investigate a book on my shelves entitled: 'Bulls and Boabs - Kimberley people and places.' It includes this quote from then Kununurra Presbyterian minister Gordon Ewin; "What we hope to do is to help Aboriginals build something worthwhile on what little is left of their tribal society. We have found that health care is not enough. We are saving children's lives, but unless we can give them something more, their lives are not going to be worth living." *Author Athol Thomas published his work in 1977, but it would seem that not a lot has altered since then. As French critic, journalist and novelist Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr (1808 - 1890) said "Plus ca change, plus c'est la meme chose." Generally this is translated into "The more things change, the more they remain the same." More from the same book on Page 12.*

Grumpy Old Men Two: "There are several good protections against temptations, but the surest is cowardice." *Mark Twain (1835 - 1910).*

'B' Division February 2019:

Hot days and very hot days, water bottles and lashings of sun screen! This is normal February hockey and this year was no exception. February is always met with vigour and enthusiasm as players put into practise their New Year resolutions and goals. Obviously most have made these up with a Christmas ham in one hand and a beer in the other! As the year progresses most will fall short but its early days and injury and overconfidence have not yet surfaced. Maybe it's the effect of the heat or maybe it's just plain delusional for most but aiming high is not yet a criminal offence; actually that's quite lucky otherwise we all might be locked up!

The improved quality of play evident in January has continued with all games very competitive and only the odd error at the wrong time has been the difference in the final results. Great to see Fred Flanagan turn up after 5 or 6 months off and score a lazy 4 or 5 goals in 4 games showing he still has "it".

This month we start our news section where we introduce a featured player who is asked to give a brief synopsis of how he ended up miraculously promoted to Wednesday Masters. Today's player is Ric Staynor, currently playing with poise, precision and a good sprinkling of skill, for the White side. I am reliably informed that if he continues at this level he will need to be drug tested and also traded to one of the other sides in order to keep the competition on an even keel!!

Ric Staynor

Mum and Dad took me to Calcutta, their birthplace, when I was just turned 8. It must have been winter because Dad bought me a hockey stick to take to school in the New Year. I had to choose between continuing to play marbles or actually do some running around – I know, you are all thinking I should have stuck to marbles.

I was back in England before turning 11 and, of course, there was no school hockey, at least not until my 3rd year in the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe. I turned up to a practice because I wanted to play sport for the school and they played rugby while my favourite sport was (no, not marbles) soccer. I was immediately selected for the Junior Colts Hockey and went on to play for and captain the school.

Much to my surprise, there was a level above school hockey – county hockey – and I played for Buckinghamshire schoolboys. There was even a level above that and I played for South Western Schools and eventually got a trial for England. I didn't make the cut but 2 years later was selected for England at under 22 level and played alongside Jim Campbell (in those days, we both had long hair and Jim was quick).

Winning an Oxford Blue meant playing cricket twice at Lords (I later also played a one off match at the Kennington Oval – I reckon that I am the worst cricketer ever to play at both grounds!).

I played for Reading in the London Hockey League (and eventually in division 2 then division 1 of the new National League). I won the County Championship with Kent and captained the South for 3 years but, after being cut from the 21 man England squad for the 1973 World Cup, I never again received an invitation to a training weekend until some England players went on strike trying to persuade England to hand over its invitation to the Esanda Tournament in Melbourne to Great Britain.

This led to being on the bench for England against France and Spain before making my debut at the age of 30 (!) against West Germany – a 0-0 draw in Hamburg. I then made the trip to Melbourne even after the striking players gave up their strike but only featured in the 1-2 defeat to Pakistan in a tournament in which England was the only team to hold the Kookaburras (who went on to beat India 6-0 in the final).

I finally lost my place in the Reading side in division 1 of the National League at the age of 37 and have only played sporadically in the last 30 years. However, the quality of the Wednesday hockey – and the chance to play representative hockey again - has drawn me back like a bee to honey and only injury has limited my participation in the last few years. A bronze and 2 silvers for WA in the Nationals has been followed by a silver for Australia in the Barcelona World Cup.

Another interesting fact from Ric is that while in Calcutta he attended Xavier College Junior School. By coincidence, later, Rudy Keswick (Wednesday Masters O50 Red) went to Xavier College Senior School. I don't know what this says about their education but they both can play hockey and both work professionally. Perhaps it says more about the schools here?

Thanks to both Dudley and Ric for a very interesting contribution. I look forward to more. Ed.

Letters to the Editor (continued): *Thank you to Lyle Kenny for this response to the constitutional change suggested in the previous edition. It's great to hear from one of the players who would suffer if it went through - and it's also a contribution from the 'C' Division.*

My first contribution to the Masters Matters and from my observations you don't get much input from the "C" boys. Well done on the publication which I do read but must confess not cover to cover. One item caught my eye was concerning the Constitutional Amendment along with the "considered response" that followed which I write to endorse.

As a "C" player for a number of years I am approaching that 60 yr milestone this year so fall right into the category you wrote about. I play in the Red team which means we start at 4.30 pm. That is the only reason I can play as I work full time but can stretch to getting there at 4 pm to play at 4.30. Applied strictly, as a 60 yr old and if forced to move to the "B" grade would see me cease playing. I have come to enjoy my Wednesday game and is important to my overall fitness and touch albeit the intensity usually sits one notch below a Saturday for points game during the winter season. The after game catch up is enjoyable as well.

So I strongly support the important discretion that provides for the captains to allow players of an older age to keep playing in the younger category as long as they are good enough. Happy for my peers to make that call.

Every competition needs rules and a structure but the primary issue for me is it is good thing that old blokes (and women) keep playing hockey. Multiple benefits from that. Unless a result or competition is being distorted then structure and run the comp to assist that aim as much as possible and don't lose sight of the wood for the trees which sometimes can happen.

The various competitions around Perth for Masters hockey are certainly the best in Australia (a casual conversation with other state players at the Nationals carnival confirms that) and it is no coincidence that such a broad offering of regular Masters games in Perth feeds into WA's very competitive results at the Nationals and selections in Aussie teams. So I fully support the constitutional amendments including the discretion aspect of allowing players to play out of their age bracket to suit their skills. However a general word of caution in such circumstances is to make sure "unintended consequences" of rule/competition changes is do not force guys out of the game.

Lyle Kenny

Thanks Lyle. My own belief is that with the appointment of the Division Coordinators we are achieving the necessary communication to make the movement between Divisions more responsive to requirements. As long as we talk to one another, and make full use of modern technology. Ed.

And this one from Pando should have been in the January edition.

Firstly, best wishes to you **all** for a healthy and happy 2019

I've had a long think about continuing on with hockey on Wednesday afternoons and have made the decision to take a break for the foreseeable future. These days I'm finding lawn bowls particularly is increasingly taking up more of my time, along with family commitments, and quite possibly some local part time work I'm considering.

It's my intention to pay the \$25 for Non playing Social Membership. I may play again after July undecided at present.

Not wanting to cut my ties completely, I'll probably try to get along on a Wednesday afternoon from time to time to keep in touch with everyone.

Good luck for the coming season.' *(Thanks Phil - hope to see you soon. Ed.)*

Thailand Tales: *Have hockey stick, will travel? Make sure you read this.*

This month's report comes from Newcastle, New South Wales where I attended the annual "Alan Richardson Memorial" over 60's Carnival. This is a fantastic innovation by the Newcastle Masters Hockey Association. There were 10 teams competing and all teams were named after gemstones. Namely: Diamonds, Sapphires, Emeralds, Topaz, Rubys etc.

This year 120 players nominated from most of the Eastern States, Victoria, Queensland and of course NSW. I was WA's sole representative. It's run by putting in your nomination and paying the \$95 fee. You nominate your playing position and teams are then announced at the dinner held on the Friday night. Three games of 1 hour (4 x 12min quarters plus breaks) are played on Saturday and one game Sunday morning finishing at midday.

No points are involved, just a best player, best trier trophies are award, and a special umpires award for the person who knows all the rules and appropriately tells the umpires appropriately. This trophy is most prestigious and is highly sought after.

It is a very enjoyable event to play in as you play with people you would never get the opportunity to play with in local or state competitions. The standard was excellent and a great pre-season hit out for all players. It was beneficial to me as I played with some players who will be in my 65 Blue team in Antwerp, and I had never seen before.

So gents, mark it in your diary, if you are in Newcastle in February, go and play, you will have a great time. I have given the organisers the WHM email address so next year you will all be notified of the event details. It also gave the Southern Cross Committee an opportunity to meet and put the final touches to the upcoming European and Asian Cup events this year.

I might add after flying in from Bangkok (9.5 hours) playing 4 games and umpiring 3 and then flying to Perth all in 3 days, I was pretty stuffed but when I breathed the beautiful WA air , I felt refreshed.

Look forward to seeing you all this week.

Cheers - Woody

Uniform Change: This is not another complete roll-out - as Robin Bailey explains.

The uniform change is for white team members to change from maroon socks to black socks. The reason for the change is that maroon socks are the least favourite colour stocked by Just Hockey, affecting their availability, and black is the most popular colour, Note that all our playing shirts (including white) now have a black trim.

I had intended it to be a gradual transition and to use up my old stock of maroon first. specifically for the 11 - 14 size. You will note that the maroon socks are quite dark and don't look too different to the black socks anyway. Also, I intended that all replacement socks would be charged at \$10 each. and that there would not be a wholesale free change for everyone to the new colour - that would cost the Club in the order of \$400 and possibly affect our fees. As you can see I have been caught out by not being able to lay out to the captains of the white teams the procedure described above for the change in sock colour before it became general knowledge.

I know Arch has requested (directed) all of his team (B white) to fully change and I advised him I did not have sufficient stock on hand to do this anyway and I am not confident that his team would be prepared to pay for new socks and may have state black socks anyway. We obviously would prefer players in the Gold and White teams to not wear the current State socks. Note that I understand that the State Masters committee has recommended that in future State Masters teams will go to plain Gold and plain Black socks which will be the same socks we use.

Thanks Robin - my maroon socks are wearing out (like the rest of me). Ed.

Anybody heard From? It's been a long time since we saw Bala Chandran and now Stan Balding also seems to have faded out of WHM, and we hope that you are both still OK. Please drop us a line or come and visit us on either a Wednesday or a Saturday.

A message and invitation from Keith Platel:

BRIDGE TO 2030



Breast cancer can impact every family. Our family is one of the thousands who experienced the ups and downs, the treatment, the side effects and eventually the tragic loss of our wife, mother and grandmother. If I can help even one family from having to go through this it will be worthwhile - but how much better if we can all assist with no family having to experience it!!

That is the aim of the research supported by the National Breast Cancer Foundation - zero deaths by 2030! This is not pie in the sky stuff - real progress is being made. So, if possible, I would like you to help achieve zero deaths by 2030 (while also encouraging me to overcome my fear of heights!)

On 23 May I will be flying to Sydney, attempting to climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge and then flying home that night. With the help of family, friends, colleagues and associates I want to smash my fund raising goal of \$10,000.

To donate, simply click on this link - <https://fundraise.nbcf.org.au/fundraisers/keithplatel>

Please don't feel obligated in any way but all donations (tax deductible of course) will be gratefully accepted.

Together let's try to make ZERO DEATHS BY 2030 a reality!

Thank you

Keith Platel

Bulls And Boabs: I mentioned this book on Page 8. I've found it a good picture of the Kimberleys I drove through on the way back from Darwin in 1969 - author Athol Thomas published in 1977. This section comes from a chapter on Kimberley nicknames:

Brown sugar: Coarse and unrefined.

Castor Oil: Very hard to take.

U-Boat: Always sinking schooners.

The Whisperer: Never shouted.

Cole Porter: Worked night and day.

Fred Astaire: Never did a tap.

The Shark: A savage biter.

The Untouchable: Never gave a loan.

The Blue Heeler: Never bit anyone.

The Fruit Fly: A serial pest.

Webster: Used big words.

Blisters: Showed up only when the job was finished.

Unfortunately, the Australian vernacular seems to be on the way out. Surely we can come up with some decent names for the decimal coins, if not the decimal notes.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON HOCKEY - C DIVISION

Aim: To provide all players with the competitive hockey we can, in games that are well umpired, played by teams as evenly balanced as is possible.

Format: Teams to play a different side each week in games of 50 minute duration, played in halves of 25 minutes, with a 5 minute half time break. The half time break to be used to rehydrate and also for Captains, or their nominated appointee, to discuss tactics for the 2nd half.

Red to always play the last game each week to enable their players to arrive at the ground in time for a 4.30pm start. The other 3 teams will rotate between 3.30pm and 4.30pm starts depending on their fixtures for the week.

GAME TIMES

GAME 1 - 3.30pm field available for a 5 minute warm up
3.35-4.00pm – 1st half
4.00-4.05pm – half time break
4.05-4.30pm- 2nd half

GAME 2 4.30pm field available for a 5 minute warm up
4.35-5.00pm- 1st half
5.00-5.05pm- half time break
5.05-5.30pm- 2nd half

NB – Time for games will start at the designated times regardless of whether teams are ready or not. It is your job to be on the field and ready to go.

Umpires: As we must self umpire each team except Red will be given responsibility each week to provide umpires for matches other than their own. It is acknowledged this will be difficult for Red so they are not rostered, however they are encouraged to have players come to the ground as early as possible so they may be able to relieve those umpiring the 1st match.

The umpiring roster will operate as follows.

Game 1 – 2 players from Red's opponent in Game 2.

Game 2 – 1 player from each team who played in Game 1

PLAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY

Enjoy their hockey!

Play fairly and under the Players Code of Conduct

Ensure they advise their Captain as early as possible each week if they are going to be unavailable

Ensure they arrive at the ground in ample time to be prepared & ready to play by 3.30 pm if playing Game 1 or 4.30 pm if playing Game 2

If rostered to umpire arrive in time with your own whistle

CAPTAIN'S RESPONSIBILITY

Organise team positions and tactics for each game

Address team before each game and at half time, or organise someone else to do it for you

Be available for your team to contact you if they are going to be unavailable

Be able to provide player contact details to other Captains if they are in need of additional players

Organise additional players if your team is going to be short

Organise umpiring roster for your team from fixtures provided

Players Code of Conduct Management

Communicate with players as to their financial status (if required)

My congratulations to Colin and Tony for the way they've begun their tenure as Coordinators. Ed.

'A' Division Fixture Changes: *Thank you to Coordinator George Bradbury.*

Division A is planning to trial a changed playing schedule during March 2019. The three 25 minute sessions we have been using for some time have served us well and are relatively easy to organise but may not be the basis for the best quality play and enjoyment.

We plan to trial a schedule that is based on eight, eighteen minute games separated by five minute breaks to allow for watering and team set up. This means that each team will be playing four games during the afternoon sometimes with a two game break and the playing of another team twice during the afternoon. The new schedule is up on the web-site now.

Not surprising with this A group, there are a number of views as to the "best schedule to use". We will review the trial after four weeks and change it, fine tune it or continue on with it during April. *(Please give George your support during this testing period. Ed.)*

Editorial Comment: Both 'C' and 'A' Divisions have changed the way their fixtures operate. 'C' made the games longer, while 'A' have shortened them. I suggest that all of us keep our minds, eyes and ears open when our trials begin and make all our comments constructive. I look forward to receiving a lot of feedback from both Divisions for 'Masters Matters.'

I commend the 'C' Division Coordinators for the thoughtful work they have done on their 'Player's Responsibility' and 'Captain's Responsibility' documents. The 1st point "Enjoy your hockey!" served as a reminder to me how good I found WHM when I first joined. If there is anything like it in Australia I have yet to hear of it.

As part of the formalizing of the job descriptions a Players Code of Conduct is in the course of preparation. It will do many of us in 'A' Division no harm to be reminded of the obligations we all have to our fellow players, and all who are involved in our Wednesday and Saturday matches.

Punology Two: The first year university student had really enjoyed the social life on campus and dozed off during his English Literature lecture. When he started to snore the professor threw a book at him, and proved to be a deadly accurate shot. The sleeper awoke in a hurry and asked "What hit me?" "That, young man", roared the professor, "was a flying Chaucer."

Not WHM: The recent deaths of two former WHM and YMCA players caused a lot of us to be quite concerned when the name 'John Crute' appeared in the notices during the following week. I have been assured that the deceased is not our former WHM member and YM top grade goalkeeper.

Fees for 2019 PHS Season: If you are still not financial it's time to pay - now.

Change of Details: Could all members of WHM, past and present, remember that in the event of any change to your email address you should notify Colin Gee. Colin is our data base administrator and his email address is gee.colin@gmail.com.

"Masters Matters" Schedule: The edition for April will hopefully be coming out just before I take off for a month. I leave on Tuesday 2nd April and do not return until Friday 3rd May. Colin Gee has kindly agreed to record the 'A' Division match scores and the goal scorers during this time. We do not yet know what the match format will be, but please give Colin your support.

A Last Word: It has been really difficult to put this issue together. So much is happening lately that news has arrived in my in-box faster than I can transfer it to the newsletter. I again remind readers that if you wish to comment on the items and opinions here you should email a 'Letter to the Editor.' Personal abuse will not be included in MM, but feel free to disagree with the Editor at any time.

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:
John Mercer - 'A' Division White team. Email: johnmercer@iinet.net.au.