



A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Blue

B Gold

B Red

B White

C Black

C Blue

C Gold

C Green

C Red

C White

O/65 Blue

O/65 Green

O/65 White

Masters Matters

Issue No 1

January 2021

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President's Message 2020 As 2020 draws to a close, I look back and realize we have been very lucky to have been able to continue playing hockey for most of the year at a local level. Hopefully those that play State or International hockey will be able to play in Newcastle, and possibly a trans-Tasman competition. Our Wednesday and Saturday competitions were both cancelled from Monday 16th March till Monday 25th May, a 10 week period, which at the time seemed endless, but looking back, was a relatively short time. On resumption of playing our numbers were very strong, and we now have about 220 members which is our largest ever membership.

A lot of you participated in the Metro V Country weekend, which was a great success, with teams competing in 60, 65, 70, and 75 age groups. Thank you to Dave Horsley, my contact with Country, who took up the challenge. A return fixture is being planned for 2021.

The Christmas party was exceptionally well attended with 190 players, partners and guests enjoying dinner in the open air, on a beautiful night. Thank you Jason and his staff, for catering for the largest Christmas Party we have ever held. The annual Hips V Knees match preceded the party, and was a well fought battle, however Hips prevailed with a 2-1 win. Thank you Bob Bowyer, the organizer and Robin Bailey and Dan Hill who coordinated the uniforms.

The New Year will throw some new challenges at us, & there will be some changes made to the Divisions, such as who plays in which Division & how many teams each Division has. Be assured that your committees are at all times working for the best outcome for the benefit of all players.

I wish you all a Healthy and Hockey full 2021.

Simon Thomson - President

WHM in 2021: Whatever the year has in store for us we hope that it will be much less eventful than its immediate predecessor. It is a real credit to the strength of both our Wednesday and Saturday competitions and their administrations that we managed to bounce back from a three month hiatus as though almost nothing had happened. Ed.

Playing Fees for 2021: There has been a major change made in the way we will pay. See Page 3.

Dates For The Diary:

2021: January 2nd: Resumption of Saturday play at Perry Lakes.
January 6th: Resumption of normal Wednesday fixtures at PHS.
April 17th: Saturday hockey end of summer season WA Spit Roast dinner. Perry Lakes.
July 23rd to August 8th. Tokyo Olympics.

Masters World Cups: All the Masters World Cups scheduled for 2021 have been cancelled. Here is the link to the full statement from Masters Hockey Australia and WMH.

<http://www.hockeyaustraliamasters.org.au/mens/world-cups-in-2021-cancelled/>.

Mega Interstate Tournament:

Women: Newcastle September 23rd to October 2nd.

Men: Newcastle September 24th to October 9th.

How to Pay For 2021: *The following comes from Colin Gee, who has had the task of setting us up on the RevolutioniseSports platform. It duplicates the email from Neil Patterson. This year we are asking our members to pay using this means. Please note that the system allows for all our different categories of membership, including those who are over 80, new players and goalkeepers. Colin says:*

Western Hockey Masters WEDNESDAY COMPETITION Playing Fee Account

\$300.00 for season 2021 (Players must be Financial to play)

Hockey Australia Registration fee and Insurance (\$43.00) will be added to this amount.

Each year you'll pay HA Registration, no matter which club you sign up for, so if you pay it for WHM, you won't need to pay it if you pay other club membership fees, just take note of the member number it gives you

Final Payment taken will be \$343.00

If you wish to register as a Social Member \$25, Non-Playing Member (Free),

Note: Social and Non-Playing Members will not be charged the HA registration and Insurance Fee.

ALL Players must register to play please go to the link

<https://www.revolutionise.com.au/westernmasters/registration/>

and follow the registration requirements by using the registration button and following the process.

Thank you for joining us to play - Colin Gee

WHM Wednesday Christmas Party: I was told by one of the Hockey WA staff that about 190 were booked in. The outside paved area at PHS provided a great venue on a balmy night, even if it was a little breezy at times and a fine buffet meal was enjoyed by all. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the George Winning Award to Jim Wright, who does so much, so well, for our Saturday hockey. On Wednesday he's also captain of the A Division Red team.

Bob Bowyer (and Janise) managed to get the hamper raffle into place again. Over to Bob: "We have received generous donations from C Division that ensure we will have excellent hampers again to raffle this year with some funds left over to boost our charities account balance. The C Division teams have donated a total of \$647 cash deposits plus 3 Doz wines from Rob Tincey. I would like this to be acknowledged as without this help we would only have been able to fund 2 hampers of lesser quality. In addition I have again been able to badger Coles and Woolworths into giving some vouchers and discounts of about \$150 value."

Well done to C Division, Rob Tincey, Bob and Janise. I could not hear the name of the first winner, but the others were won by Brian Soares, Les Waldon and Maxine Robinson. In addition to the hampers Peter Jones raffled off a lot of wine - in keeping with previous years I not only failed to win one, but also could only identify those who did if I could recognise them as they collected. It was notable that Brian Soares' table collected 4 or 5 bottles of wine as well as the hamper.

Many thanks to the Hockey WA staff who did all the setting up, meal preparation and cleaning up afterwards. Thanks to all those from WHM who helped in getting ready for the function with bookings and all the other clerical tasks that go with these events. It was great to see several past players in attendance, including Bala Chandran, Derek Jobe, Lloyd Jones and Ian Lyon.

I'm sure the night finished a lot earlier than they once did.

Christmas Party Comment: As usual MM's resident limericist wanted to say something:

To celebrate one more Noel

We partied and did very well

In this hockey club

We dine on great grub (*this applies to Saturdays also*)

And all from our fees, which is swell.

Stu Gilsenan Departs: The CEO of Hockey WA has recently resigned his post. Hereunder is the link to the story on the WA Hockey website. We thank Stu for his assistance to WHM and wish him well.

[News | Hockey Western Australia \(hockeywa.org.au\)](https://www.hockeywa.org.au/news)

Department of Health: Ken Walter has a sequence of operations coming up. They include treatment for a broken finger bone, a broken ankle bone and a knee replacement. We hope you can get down to Perry Lakes occasionally during the periods of convalescence, and make a return to the field in due course. Ron Venables was hit twice by the ball in two weeks, the second putting him out of action for 6 weeks and needing a crutch at times for mobility. The crutch has gone now but Ron is still a couple of weeks away from a return. Les Waldon is now having some spinal problems, which must be very hard to bear coming so soon after the drama of a successful return from a shoulder replacement. Lance Wood has managed to make a comeback after his hamstring tweak, which long-term does not appear to have slowed him down. Neil Patterson suffered a leg muscle injury, but is back now and covering as much ground as ever. Colin Benporath (right ear) and John Mercer (left ankle) had skin cancers removed from opposite ends of the anatomy, causing both to miss a few weeks hockey. Colin Gee also missed some hockey, due to a massive asthma attack; hope all good now. I heard that Keith Kessell has been making good progress in his recovery from spinal surgery and is aiming at a comeback early in 2021. The award for being optimistic must go to Bob Bowyer, who has paid his playing fees for 2021. Very pleased to see it. This is a terrible time of the year to be incapacitated. I'm certain that many of us will have endured something or other over the break and wish you all a very speedy and complete recovery.

Southern Cross News: Those of you who receive SX newsflashes will already know that Tony Cohen has stepped down as Chairman effective from 1st January 2021. The new Chairman will be former Secretary Peter Hayes, who will be succeeded as Secretary by Philip Retford. Tony will take up the new position of International Relations. The Southern Cross management assured their players that if and when overseas play becomes possible again they will be involved at the forefront.

Because of that Covid disease
This year we can't play overseas
But if there's no hitch
In crossing the ditch
Trans-Tasman sounds like a good wheeze.

The Trans-Tasman was mentioned by President Simon in his message on Page 2. Depending on the number of New Zealand Masters players in the right age groups might it be possible to arrange for some Southern Cross games in association with the elite competition? Ed.

Letters To The Editor: The December issue must have been too big for readers to digest, hopefully not like our Christmas dinners. For the first time in a long time, nobody responded. Maybe nobody managed to read it. The button to get to all the back issues ("Western Hockey Masters Newsletters") does not yet include December 2020, but if you click onto ("Current WHM Newsletter") you would have gained access to all its 16 pages. Including an unmissable piece from Dudley Evans.

Department of Corrections: The coverage of the City versus Country matches in the December MM credited Naomi Noble as being from Hockey WA. She's actually on the WA Masters Committee.

Quotable Quote One: "If a man insisted always on being serious, and never allowed himself a bit of fun and relaxation, he would go mad or become unstable without knowing it." Herodotus (484 BC - 430 BC). *The Histories of Herodotus. It is hoped that 'Masters Matters' contains sufficient levity to prevent editorial insanity. Readers have no doubt formed their own opinions.*

Impertinent Question: "When Carrie Symonds marries Boris Johnson will she be called Carrie Johnson? Or is that just a job description?" Panelist on TV show "Mock The Week."

'A' Division Blog: Perhaps to regain the services of our goalkeepers we need a helmet with a built in air conditioner and a vest capable of holding ice. Thanks to those who do manage to play, and I hope that our half time drinks break is long enough for you to keep hydrated.

December 2nd: Goalkeepers were in short supply again, and our two (thanks to Barry and Tony) only lasted 4 games before giving it away. Both played very well up to that point, with Tony in particular making some great saves. Numbers were down again, but Gold had plenty and actually transferred Jim Balding to Red for the day. Some good hockey stood out amidst plenty of turnovers by all sides - particularly White. Ron Venables was hit on the back of the leg two weeks ago, and his Wednesday ended with an almost identical whack on the other leg. Robin Bailey lasted only a few minutes before injuring a calf quite badly, making his subsequent uniform deliveries very difficult. The only goals scored by White players were for other sides. The goal of the day contenders include an angled shot and a terrific deflection by John Ree and a great run by Angelo Strano to secure Gold's win over Blue inside the last 30 seconds. The judges could not separate them. The results were:

Gold 0 Red 2; Blue 2 White 0; Blue 2 Red 0; White 0 Gold 0; Blue 1 Gold 2; White 0 Red 1.

Scorers: **Blue:** Peter Eastlake, John Ree (3), Angelo Strano. **Gold:** Phil Metcalf, Angelo Strano. **Red:** Ken Beer, Scott Blackwell, Steve McEntee. Team numbers, based on the total attendance at some point (many late comers) were: Gold (12), Red (6), Blue (7), White (11). 10 goals were scored.

December 9th: There were only two goalkeepers who played in Matches 1, 2, 3 and 5. Match 6 did not happen as the 5 Red players could not secure enough reinforcements. I hope that all Blue team members (who missed out on their third outing) had enough games in the warm weather (thanks to GKs Barry and Colin for fronting). Injuries continue to occur and both Angelo Strano (hamstring) and Neil Miller (whack on hand) were forced to stop playing. Neil Patterson and Jim Malcolm were both back for Blue, resulting in Nev Brown moving to Red for the day (yet again). Gold were well on top in all their games and Phil Metcalf took advantage of the opportunities which came his way as a result. Goal of the day contenders were Phil Metcalf (4 goals), John Ree (deflection) and Bob Claxton (a genuine tomahawk) and eventually the judges decided to split the award 3 ways. The day's results:

White 0 Blue 0; Gold 2 Red 2; Gold 1 Blue 0; Red 2 White 3; Gold 2 White 0; Red/Blue not played.

Scorers: **Gold:** Phil Metcalf (4), Angelo Strano. **Red:** Rob Ainsworth, Nev Brown (2), Bob Claxton. **White:** Steve McEntee, John Ree (2). Numbers: White (7), Blue (11), Gold (10), Red (5). 12 goals.

December 16th: Though we only lost four regular players to the Orthopaedic Challenge match our numbers were well down. Only one regular goalkeeper was available and it was eventually decided that B Division should use the three they had willing to play and Barry missed out on a game. The low numbers were anticipated and a three team set of fixtures had been drawn up in advance, even though we could not find enough starters to play the last match. Some of the hockey was quite good but some of it was not. The sideline experts consulted by 'Masters Matters' seemed to be in general agreement that many turnovers were caused by our attempts to hit the ball through impossible gaps. White welcomed Lance Wood who returned and added some pace to their forward line. Red was able to muster a whole two players and it is hoped that their long list of injuries will shrink over the Christmas/New year break. Goal of the day was not awarded due to the absence of goalkeepers rather than the MM editor being on the scoreboard rather than the turf. The results were:

White 0 Blue 1; Blue 2 Gold/Red 0; Gold/Red 1 White 3; White 3 Blue 0; Blue 0 Gold/Red 0.

Scorers: **Blue:** John Ree (2). **Gold/Red:** Phil Metcalf. **White:** Steve McEntee (2), Brian Soares (2), Greg Street, Lance Wood. These team numbers are based on the players' original sides and are the maximum numbers who were there: White (11), Blue (9), Gold (7), Red (2). 10 goals were scored.

Next Year: A count based on Colin Gee's team lists of those players who can be expected to play on a semi-regular basis produced the following totals: Blue (13), Gold (11), Red (10) and White (11). As goalkeepers are not included it would appear that we should be able to continue with four teams. In addition to those numbers there are several players on the long term injured list who might be able to return during 2021. I am not aware of any members from B Division who are contemplating a move to Turf 1, which would add further to the lists. I would urge all players to make sure that your captain knows if you are going to be there, so that the day can be planned before the first match.

From Saturday Masters: During 2021 the change-rooms at Perry Lakes are due to be replaced with a new building. Fortunately for us we don't have anything stored in the current one, which will have to be cleared completely by 15th April. Construction may happen any time between May 2021 and June 2022. Temporary toilets are to be installed at the reserve and the Town of Cambridge is consulting stakeholders about the possibility of temporary change rooms. I doubt that it's feasible to install a temporary toilet near our usual field adjacent to the skate park.

During December we welcomed Colin Murray-Smith, who has just joined us and Ash Challoner who has just re-joined us for another summer. We now have 11 social members, only 2 playing.

Our Saturday Christmas Party was held as an alfresco barbecue at the YMCA clubrooms at Perry Lakes. Many thanks to Ivan Wilson, Rod Spencer and Bruce Mercer who manned the barbecues. Thanks also to Jim and Beth Wright for some great salads. The cleaning up afterwards looked like a very large task, but thanks to a whole host of our members many hands made light work of it. A special thank you to all our volunteers - I was a little too busy to take notes.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the first honorary Saturday life membership to Bob Bowyer, who has just handed over the reins after doing a marvelous job as our Secretary/Treasurer since the competition began in the winter season of 2013. Bob was also instrumental in getting the whole thing started. The shirt features our Western Hockey Masters logo and both shirt and cap have the words "Saturday Hockey Masters Inaugural Life Member."



Les Waldon, Bob Bowyer and Jim Wright during the presentation

Could members please check in with the contact register before entering the YM Clubrooms. If you have the phone app then use it, otherwise there is a pad just inside the door.

Punology One: Man injured in bizarre Peek-A-Boo accident. He's now in ICU." Thanks to Ken Watt for this one, from the Indians Hills Community Centre.

Balinese Bulletin No 58:

BALI MUSINGS JANUARY 2021.

Bali ..Wednesday ..30th Dec ..2020 ...11.50 am. I find myself sitting at the computer, having been delivered here by a team of 'Wild Horses'. These same horses have now been taken away to be watered and fed and then set freemaybe at some time in the future they may be called upon to repeat the task.

A little time back Erin's 12 -15yr computer just up & died so she has been using mine ...this has contributed to my "silence" in the back end of this year. The more serious factor, however, has been my sense of "drifting" away, not made any easier, I must say due to our "lockdown" here in Bali. Since the 1st week of Feb. this year we have only ventured outside our front gate to visit the Immigration Dept. on Visa business. This Bastard Virus Thing (BVT) has thrown the entire World into chaos so I know we are not on our own with this & will need to learn to live with it.

Our Putu & Family, including 3 girls, are also doing it tough. Nyoman runs a small building contracting business & as long as we've known them has always had a project on the go. Now, that has all but dried up & Putu's modest income is all they have. We obviously help in any way we are able to, but that is limited. We are more than happy to do what we can to help out as life here right now would be a misery without Putu.

It will probably have escaped many of you down there but the 27th of December, just gone, marked the 2nd Anniversary of my "fall" which resulted in the fracture of my Femur. While we saw continuing progress over the first 12 months any further progress has somewhat stalled, which is very frustrating. Not to complain though as I am pretty much in good health, as is Erin, which is good given my immobility. I have come to terms with the fact that I will need surgery to be able to walk freely again, without assistance. Unfortunately, any prospect of surgery is a long way off so be it!

Here in Bali we are some 1 month into our Wet Season. Rainfall has become a daily event with temperatures ranging from around 24-25 min to some 29-30 max. Our tropical Bali garden has taken on a very different look & is a reminder of one of the many reasons we fell in love with Bali all those years ago.

To all of you down there who gather on a Wednesday to enjoy your hockey I wish you a Very Happy & Healthy 2021.

Peter Hammond *Thanks again Peter, and good luck with the surgery. Ed.*

Ivan Wilson Rod Spencer and Bruce Mercer in action at Perry Lakes



Match Report Hips Vs Knees 2020: Many thanks to Dudley Evans for this report of a great game.

Sponsored by the Orthopaedic Association the annual Hips vs Knees game is a great initiative and advertisement for joint replacement and what is achievable after surgery. With new uniforms and a pregame build up that seemed to last forever the game was shaping up to be a cracker! The enthusiastic crowd weren't disappointed. The first quarter was all Knees as they attacked relentlessly including forcing 4 or 5 penalty corners. Only some fine goalkeeping from Andrew Robertson along with strong defence plus a large element of luck kept the score 0-0 at quarter time.

The second quarter began with more of the same except the Hips were now battling hard to at least gain midfield parity. The centre halves for each team, Dave Lockett for the Knees and Ash Knapp for the Hips were locked in a battle royale! For the Knees Tommy Long, Pete Fogels and Normie Same were creating havoc up front with good midfield supply especially from Dave Lockett and Shane Williams. It was halfway through the quarter that the Knees were awarded a penalty stroke after another one of their many forward attacks. Somehow Andrew Robertson again saved the day when he managed to get a hand to Dave Lockett's stroke. This seemed to galvanise the Hips into action and they were unlucky themselves not to score leading into halftime.

They say the third quarter is the championship quarter and so it was in this game. Soon after the restart the Knees were awarded another penalty stroke and this time Nick Pereira calmly slotted it past the Hips keeper for a well-deserved lead in the game. The game was now extremely even and hard fought with The Hips finally getting on the board with a well-rehearsed move ending in a goal to right wing Simon Walsh. Don Sanders and then Rudi Keswick up front for the Hips were now getting good supply from Ash Knapp, Chris Buchan and Bob La Merle. Remarkably only 4-5 months after surgery Rudi Keswick was moving like a gazelle. Throw in some fancy stickwork and the Knees defence were finding him very hard to stop. Near the end of the quarter after some excellent build up from the Hips midfield he cut through the defence with a withering run and smashed the ball high into the Knees goal! The end of the quarter came with the Hips finding themselves in front 2-1.

The fourth quarter was more of the same with Dave Lockett and Ashley Knapp continuing their running battle of wills and skills right up to the final whistle. Watching this alone was worth the cost of admission! With no side able to score again despite close shaves at both ends the final score ended up Hips 2-Knees 1.

Simon Thompson at left half for the Hips was outstanding and along with Chris Buchan, Ash Knapp, Andrew Robertson, Rudi Keswick and Don Sanders were the Hips best players in what was a very even performance. Bob Claxton and Brian Thomas on the left flank also played a significant part in maintaining width and therefore space for their centre striker to operate.

For the Knees Dave Lockett, Peter Selfe, Shane Williams and Michael Gottschalk dominated the middle of the field and were among their best players. Also prominent were Peter Fogels, Tommy Long, Normie Same and goalie Stephen Adams.

And so the big game was over for another year, the Orthopaedic Association was happy, the standard of play had been exceptional, the trophy was presented, we had more photographs, we had a shower and a few beers, plus a few more beers then settled in for the Wednesday Masters wind up dinner. After all WHM deserves many congratulations as this contest was their initiative in order to impart the message that after replacement surgery the sky is the limit!!

Great report Dudley. That battle of the centre halves was a standout. See Pages 11/12 for more. Ed.

Quotable Quote Two: "When dealing with people, let us remember we are not dealing with creatures of logic. We are dealing with creatures of emotion, creatures bustling with prejudices and motivated by pride and vanity." *Dale Carnegie (1888 - 1955). As known by each and every interstate tournament coach and WHM team captain. Ed.*

'B' Division December 2020: December was another successful month of Wednesday Hockey Masters with some great hockey, finishing up on the 16th December. The day's hockey including the Hips vs Knees game was followed up in the evening with the annual wind-up dinner.

And so ended the year of Covid 19 with minimal disruption to our hockey for which we are extremely fortunate! All our B Division organisers and participants are to be congratulated for such an outcome. All the signs are there that 2021 can be even better but let's not second guess the cunning Covid 19. We need to stay vigilant as more twists and turns may be just around the corner!

This month's featured player is Chris Morley currently playing for the Gold side. His story again shows the rich diversity of experience playing hockey on a Wednesday afternoon.

Dudley Evans *Thanks again Dudley - hope you can keep them coming throughout 2021. Ed.*

Chris Morley

Growing up in the UK (Isle of Man, actually), the default sport at school was the world game – soccer (more correctly, Association Football) – for which I displayed a singular ineptitude. Remember the poor kid who was always chosen last in team selection? – then shoved on the left wing where he could do least damage? Yep, that was me, every winter Wednesday arvo.

Mid-teens and school introduced some choice – soccer, rugby (union), hockey. First week, soccer – same old same old. Second week, rugby – even less aptitude than for soccer if that were possible. WTF is 'offside' anyway!? Third week, hockey – and, finally, something I could make a decent fist of. Nothing too flash, but passable, and I went on to gain full school colours in my final year. Also joined the local club and so got into the traditional pattern of sport on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

1968, and off to uni in Manchester, where I joined the hall-of-residence team. Continued my hockey 'growth' and captained our hall team to the coveted inter-hall trophy in my final year. But too busy to also play for the university...

1971 and off to Zambia to start my professional career in Chingola on the Copperbelt. Immediately joined the hockey and golf clubs but had to give up one or the other as the 'sticks' rule was then still applicable, and the constrained hockey swing interfered with my golf swing, and vice versa. Hockey won.

All expatriates were given a vernacular nickname by the locals that generally reflected a facet of their personalities. You might never discover it, as they would never use it to your face – but it existed. Mine was 'Bambazonke', meaning 'to take/bring everything'. In my case this wasn't a reflection of an acquisitive nature but of my inclination to take on a lot of responsibility, perhaps then not yet having developed much of an ability to delegate. Whatever, the description was apt for my involvement with the hockey club – chairman, team manager, captain, coach, trainer, social secretary – I did the lot. (I even got my umpire's ticket, although these days you wouldn't thank me for my whistle-blowing efforts.) This was my first real exposure to 'being in charge' – I was in my element and thoroughly enjoyed the experience (which, however, was evidently sufficient to satisfy the alpha-male instinct as I've never since felt the urge to pursue any position of leadership or authority). By my final full season in Chingola, we had recruited enough players to field an 'A' and a 'B' team (the only club on the Copperbelt to achieve this) and we finally overcame our arch-rivals and good mates from Kitwe (50 clicks down the road) to win the Copperbelt championship for the first time – at least in recent years. For the cherry on the top, the Chingola Ladies team also won their competition that year. Happy days...

1977 and I met my wife-to-be, heading off to South Africa in mid-1978. Big change in agenda, from bachelor and sport (and beer) to husband/father and nest building (and beer) – so I stopped playing hockey. I initially thought it would be temporary, but somehow didn't get around to restarting and never played a game in my four years in RSA. /10

Grumpy Old Men One: "Since a politician never believes what he says, he is quite surprised to be taken at his word." Charles De Gaulle (1890 - 1970). *Readers can do their own "Insert Name Here."*

Transferred to Perth in 1983, on assignment to the Argyle Diamonds project – and of course never went back to RSA. At a barbie one Sunday arvo I met Dick ‘Speedie’ Osborne, and the subject of hockey came up. I mentioned that I used to play, and Speedie looked astonished that I’d stopped (I was only 33) and kinda insisted that I get down to training at Cricketers the following Tuesday.

So, back into it, with a mostly successful comeback. Cricketers became Wolves, where we continued in our middle-of-the-road status with some successes and the odd flag but nothing stand-out as I recall. I moved progressively through O40s to O50s and then O55s, where we started having some better results. This was enhanced when the O55s division was scrapped after only a few years – we were too old to go back to O50s so got dispensation for quite a few of our younger members to play O60s, and our relatively low average age I think contributed to our very successful run starting in 2006 – fifteen years, twelve grand finals, eleven flags – and counting...

At Speedie’s suggestion, I joined WA Country in 2010 and toured a few times for the Interstate Championships, missing a few more due to business and other commitments, but winding up with a bronze at the 2019 tournament in Bunbury, playing in the newly formed O60/2 division.

I played with the Wolves team in the Monday evening comp at Hale turf for several years. Mondays then provided a most enjoyable start to the working week as the hockey was followed by Match of the Day and Pot Black on telly from UK. Time moves on and things change – Hale hockey was moved to Tuesdays (which was okay) then Thursdays (which was not) and the Match of the Day and Pot Black programmes were scrapped (ABC funding cuts?). So, hockey became winter league only – until WHM.

Can’t remember the exact date, but a few years back Brian Thomas (B – White) suggested I come along to WHM – which I didn’t even know existed – and this added another element to my hockey activities. The non-affiliated structure means that players who are in opposition on Saturdays are your team-mates on Wednesdays (and vice versa) – and you suddenly find that guys you’ve always been wary of are actually pretty good blokes. This I feel is a major part of the successful WHM formula as it promotes the development of a much wider and more inclusive social network in the hockey community.

I’ve never reckoned to be blessed with much in the way of stick skills or ability to read the game and am often in awe of the abilities of more talented players in both the WHM and club competitions. To compensate for these shortcomings, I offer a bit of road speed and plenty of – some might say ‘unbridled’ – enthusiasm. With only one exception, my team-mates are generous with their support and on-field coaching tips, and I hope I receive this advice in the spirit in which it’s offered – even if I don’t always manage to implement the suggestions. Old dogs and all that...

I’d like to acknowledge all my team-mates and opposition players (who with WHM can, as noted, end up being one and the same) for many years of sporting enjoyment, and, in particular, Speedie for getting me back into hockey back in 1983 and later recruiting me to WA Country, his brother Alan (as Wolves O55/O60 captain/coach) for his sustained support and encouragement, and Brian Thomas for introducing me to WHM – best (hockey) move I ever made.

Today I still can’t play soccer or rugby, but I do enjoy watching – and at least I now understand the offside rule – I think...

Many thanks Chris for another outline of the differing journeys we took to reach WHM. Ed.

Shakespeare Said It: “... His reasons are as two grains of wheat hid in two bushels of chaff: you shall seek all day ere you find them, and when you have them, they are not worth the search.” The Merchant of Venice Act I, Scene I. *Erudite player disputes umpire’s reasons for decision against him.* “... What a god’s gold, that he is worshipped in a baser temple than where swine feed!” Timon of Athens Act V, Scene I. *True in ancient Greece where the play is set, true in Shakespeare’s day, and still very true now. Though I don’t think Athens knew a lot about derivatives.* “Wilt thou show the whole worth of thy wit in an instant.” The Merchant Of Venice Act III, Scene V. *Some of us are yet to see any sign of wit from Donald Trump.*

Hips take 2020 Bionic Cup crown: This report comes from the Hockey WA website.



In its fifth year, the Hips vs Knees 'Bionic Cup' proved, yet again, to be a fantastic spectacle that spreads such a positive message. The 'Bionic Cup' is a hockey match that pits West Australians who have undergone knee replacements against their hip -replacement counterparts, and looks to spread the message that you shouldn't be limited from joint replacement surgery, which is the negative stigma that many people fear.

The match proved to be a thriller, with a 0-0 score at half time catapulting to a 2-1 win to the Hips, edging them in front of the Knees team overall, with three wins to two.

With some cracking goals on offer, the key messages behind the game were definitely proven to be true, with no limitations at hand for all players.

Founder of the 'Bionic Cup' and fellow Knee participant in previous years, Bob Bowyer, stated his delight on the event, saying "I think this event is absolutely terrific, but we still need to get the message through.

"Many orthopaedic surgeons still don't recommend hip or knee replacement surgeries and the message of this game is to show that we can go out there and still live our life and enjoy sport without being hindered," Bowyer said.

Hips captain Dudley Evans shared the same thought, saying "This game's played with a lot of passion, and we're out there to show that just because you've had a hip or knee replacement, it doesn't mean you can't get out there and have a crack and feel as though you can't partake in things you want to do."

The message is certainly being reinforced, with the crowd at Perth Hockey Stadium getting behind the Masters players for a fifth year in a row and sharing the fun with them while spreading the positives behind it.

Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players December: There were not many at PHS in December excepting for the Hips/Knees day, when the MM notebook malfunctioned. Those recorded on other days included: Hector D'Rozario, John Mercer, Neil Patterson, Ken Watt, and George Winning. Saturday's list is: Colin Benporath, Ash Challenor, Ian Hill, Keith Kessell, David Lester, John Mercer, Roger Partington, John Pierce, Neil Scaddan, Ron Venables, Len Walker, Ken Walter and Ken Watt.

Grumpy Old Men and Women Two: "Man invented language to satisfy his deep need to complain." Lily Tomlin (1939 -). Do you remember Rowan and Martin's 'Laugh-In.'

From the Hips/Knees Program: Congratulations to Coordinator Bob Bowyer, Dan Hill, Robin Bailey and all involved with organising the game. The match program was a top quality production, and here is the text of the foreword.

“The Australian Orthopaedic Association is a proud sponsor of the annual Bionic Cup Hockey Challenge. The event provides an opportunity to celebrate the wonder of movement and is a chance for all of us to reflect on the success that hip and knee operations provide Australians.

Being able to enjoy better quality of life, let alone play such a physical sport like field hockey just wouldn't be possible for these payers without significant advances in prosthetic technology and the improvement of surgical technique that has happened over the last 80 years.

Looking to the future we would love to see the expansion of the competition into eastern states and welcome the introduction of a female event. The success of the hockey match to date and the diverse opportunities that can be created moving forward are a testament to the event organisers and WA Hockey.

The AOA is proud to be associated with such a wonderful event and wishes all competitors good luck in the 2020 game.”

Dr Michael Gillespie - President of the Australian Orthopaedic Association

Well Dones for December: Wednesday's 'A' Division umpires: Rob Ainsworth, Jim Balding, George Bradbury, Bob Claxton, Ham D'Souza, Peter Eastlake, David Evans, Peter Evans, Paul Huisman, Mal Jackaman, Gordon Jeffery, Steve McEntee, Colin Murray-Smith, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Greg Street, Ken Watt, Ricky Watts and Jim Wright. Saturday's umpires were: Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Michael Gottschalk, Roger Partington, Don Sanders, Neil Scaddan, Greg Street, Len Walker and Ken Watt. Those deserving of mention after the sausage sizzle on December 2nd include organiser (and cleaner-up) Ivan Wilson as well as cooks Colin Gee and David Evans. Thank you all. Well done.

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders:

December's question was: May Campbell (nee Pearce) played for Australia between 1935 and 1948. Which of these statements are true about May's hockey career?

- She was captain of Australia in NZ in 1948.
 - She played alongside two sisters in NZ in 1948.
 - She scored 12 goals in only 9 international games.
 - She grew up in the WA wheat belt town of Moulyinning.
- a) All statements are true.
b) All statements are false.
c) Only some statements are true. *The correct answer is a)*

January's question is: Who played 58 games for the Hockeyroos and scored 9 goals. This player was captain in 1982 and 1983 and retired after the 1984 Olympic Games. Was it?

a) Sandra Pisani b) Sharon Buchanan c) Pam Glossop d) Marian Aylmore. *Answer next issue.*

2020 A Division scorers: 10 or more goals - **Blue:** Nev Brown, Peter Eastlake, Neil Miller, John Ree. **Gold:** Terry Gaston, Phil Metcalf, Rod Spencer, Angelo Strand, Ken Walter. **Red:** Ray Domingo, Colin Murray-Smith, Ron Venables. **White:** Ray Domingo, Ham D'Souza, Steve McEntee, Brian Soares, Peter Wallis. Top scorers John Ree (37), Phil Metcalf (34), Ray Domingo (33), Steve McEntee (29).

Punology Two: A perfectionist walked into a bar. Apparently it wasn't set high enough.

Change of Details: In the event of any change to your email address and other details you should notify Colin Gee. Colin is our data base administrator and his email address is gee.colin@gmail.com.

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