



A Blue

A Gold

A Green

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 Maroon

O/65 White

Masters Matters

Issue No 11

November 2021

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Hips / Knees: This event has turned into a fully fledged carnival day and all of us who play will be in action. Turfs 1 and 2 will feature all-star games (we're all stars, aren't we?) which will be selected from those who do not qualify for the feature matches. The times are not yet absolute, but the intention is that the last match on Turf 2 will finish at 6:15 pm, allowing time for the players to prepare to attend the party. At this stage Turf 1 will have a Cancer versus Heart game at 3:00 pm and the Hips versus Knees will begin at 4:30 pm. After these teams are selected the Divisional coordinators will be hard at work to set up even sides for all the other matches. You will hear a lot more about our big day in the next few weeks.

We now have some new Hip/Knee schemes
 We're adding more sides, so it seems
 There's Cancer and Heart
 But all can take part
 In very well matched all-star teams.

Christmas Party: Perth Hockey Stadium and President Simon have managed to keep the cost at the same level as last year. Players are up for a subsidised \$20 while partners pay \$35. The evening includes the consistently good buffet dinner, the presentation of the George Winning award and many raffle prizes with a limited amount of formalities. As it's usually held outside I'd suggest that all attendees should consider bringing an addition layer of warmer clothing, in case.

Vale Former Members: It was with much regret that I heard we had lost two ex players during the month of October. They were Nigel Evans and Ross Gerrans. I don't know a lot about Nigel, but have been informed by Colin Gee that he was a former member of the Gold team, which Colin is still running. Tennis was the main sport for Ross, who was a professional coach, but he was a hockey player also and made many trips away with WA teams. I remember him scoring two goals in the first Challenge Cup final that my team ever won. Our commiserations go to both families.

Dates For The Diary:

2021 December 15th: Hips versus Knees carnival day followed by WHM Christmas Party. PHS.

December 18th: Saturday hockey - Christmas pizzas at rooms.

December 22nd: PHS closed - no play.

December 25th: No play at Perry Lakes.

December 29th: PHS closed - no play.

2022 January 1st: No play at Perry Lakes.

April 23rd to 30th: Australian Masters Games - Perth. Postponed from October 2021.

June 25th to July 3rd. Wim van Noortwijk memorial tournament Barcelona.

September/October: Interstate championships (Men) - Gold Coast.

September/October (?): Interstate championships (Women) - Cairns.

2023 To be advised: Masters Interstate Championships for Men and Women. Home State WA.

Hockey WA O/65s: I have now received the survey from the WA Masters Committee, and completed it. The O/65s is just one of many topics included and it should provide an excellent overview of what Masters players in WA think about their competitions. The results will be most interesting. If you haven't responded yet then now is the time to do so.

The Saturday Masters Committee is trying to plan ahead, and would like to hear from you on the possible O/65 grade. If it becomes a reality and your club enters a team would you be more likely to play there than join us on Saturdays at Perry Lakes. That could have an impact on whether we need two grounds, more goalkeepers and more umpires in the future. Any feedback can be sent to John Mercer johnmercer@iinet.net.au.

A Division Umpiring Discussion: 20 members managed to attend this session, which was held before play on the 20th October. Red (9) and White (6) supplied the bulk of those present.

Many thanks from all who were there to Bob Claxton, who not only made the presentation, but also had obtained some very useful videos from the recent Olympics to provide actual examples as aids to the discussion. For the technically minded the instructions from Bob for viewing the videos on the Dropbox app appear below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/68m63cji9h2dqfjdxk1z/Masters-Umpiring.pptx?dl=0&rlkey=2wu88svaearl2sz4dtk742431>

Copy the above URL into your browser address line (Chrome etc) then hit return to access the dropbox file. You will get a message that the file is too large to preview so you need to find the download symbol (most likely at the top right) and download it to a folder. Once downloaded you can then go to the folder you have downloaded the file then open the presentation.

I picked up a couple of points, which I think are relevant to current A Division matches:

- The only signals which require two arms are to indicate a penalty corner, penalty stroke, or a goal. All others should be one only, even a long corner, which is one arm after the other.
- Both umpires should be involved in the game at all times. If the ball is at your colleague's end that does not mean that you can switch off and relax. You provide another line of sight which might be able to help your partner if he becomes unsighted by a mass of players. It is also your responsibility to control your entire sideline.

Thanks to George Bradbury for arranging the event. It is good to see that there are quite a few of us in A Division who are prepared to take an interest in the rules. Some correspondence has arrived from one of our regular umpires on the subject of several of the rules recently prominent in our A Division matches. The "Rules 'R Us" section can be found on Page 8.

To A Division Umpires: We've recently talked about the use of cards in our games, if warranted. If any of our Turf 1 umpires would like to be properly equipped for this purpose George has acquired a set of umpiring cards and they can be obtained from John Mercer in the technical dugout.

City versus Country: In the last issue we thanked the principal organisers for the City teams but did not include the Country off-field people. Thanks to Mike Jenkins we have now learned that the work on the Country sides was done by Peter Eastlake, Dave Horsley, Mick Rae, Ros Gould, Graham Ryan and Paul Murray (in addition to Mike himself, of course). Thank you all. Let us hope that the next such matches will be played on the turfs during the Gold Coast tournament in 2022.

Quotable Quote One: "Patience serves as a protection against wrongs as clothes do against cold. For if you put on more clothes as the cold increases, it will have no power to hurt you. So in like manner you must grow in patience when you meet with great wrongs, and they will then be powerless to vex your mind" *Leonardo da Vinci (1452 - 1519)*. Sound advice to all of us who react very badly to any umpiring decision against us - this applies to me too. Ed.

Department of Health: Mal Jackaman has had a touch of vertigo and is out of action for a while. David Evans is still receiving medical treatment and his resumption is also uncertain. The A Green team is missing Simon Williams owing to a long term hamstring problem but Mark Faithfull has managed to resume. Ham D'Souza was at the Stadium on November 3rd but he's not in great shape. He won't be playing for at least 3 months due to the back problem, and will see how things are going then. Best wishes go to the sufferers in all three Divisions for a speedy and complete recovery.

Letters To The Editor: Thank you to all who responded to October's MM - Alan Bryce (all the way from Scotland), Ken Watt (on umpiring) and Simon Williams (the inside story of the Wales/Japan shootout). Ken and Simon can be found on Pages 8, 9 and 10.

Department of Corrections: The story about the raffle winners did not make it clear that the figures were for the third quarter only. Other than that no other obvious errors seem to have crept in. After the debacle of the previous issue our proof reader was incautious enough to ask for a pay rise. The Editor was not happy - his usual state nowadays.

Player Birthdays: If you do not want to have your birthday included in Masters Matters then please contact the editor at the email address johnmercer@iinet.net.au.

Please let me (and Colin Gee) know if there are any errors or misspellings. We stress again that there is no compunction to buy drinks for the bar on either a Wednesday or a Saturday.

Happy November birthdays to all the following:

A Division: **2nd** Angelo Strano (1947) **12th** Peter Eastlake (1946) **19th** Graham Challenor (1945) **30th** Sukdev Pandher (1946).

B Division: **2nd** Peter Aylmore (1952) **17th** Geoff Robinson.

C Division: **5th** Carlo Sorci (1970) **9th** Ian Kealley (1949) **10th** Ian Simes (1954) **13th** Michael Jensen (1960) **14th** Anton Brown (1970) Warren Noddings (1963) **15th** Thomas Vince (1959) **22nd** George Naylor (1955) **25th** Michael Starling (1966) **30th** Nick Hyde (1966).

Saturday: **21st** Howie Herbert.

Former Players: **10th** Bill Baldwin(1942).

'A' Division Blog: Readers of this section (if any) are reminded that the views expressed here are the personal opinions of the Editor. Any of you who think differently are welcome to send in a dissenting piece which I'd be happy to include as long as it contains no personal attacks.

October 6th: The move to Melville and the school holidays may have caused a drop in numbers but after Hector D'Rozario transferred from Gold to Blue fill-ins were minimal. The four goalkeepers Dick, Graeme, John and Tony were in the play quite a lot as plenty of goals went in and there were plenty of misses too, though as editorial selfies are banned no names will be mentioned. Many thanks to Melville Hockey Club for the efficient way in which they provided a ground controller (who also handled the scoreboard for us) and opened and ran the bar. The judges conferred at length over goal of the day and eventually settled on a short list of three. Joint winners were Gordon Jeffery (filling in for White) for a centimetre perfect shot, Arch Andrews for Green after a fine centre from Neil Miller, and Steve McEntee with a rocket-like shot during a penalty corner while filling in for White. Blue missed Len Blyth and Jeff Kozak and had a bad day, while Green and Red were undefeated. The day's results were:

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

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

Goal Scorers: **Blue:** Peter Eastlake. **Gold:** Nev Brown, Phil Metcalf, Angelo Strano. **Green:** Peter Andrews (2), Steve McEntee, Neil Miller, Simon Thomson. **Red:** Bob Bowyer, Brian Soares (2). **White:** Gordon Jeffery, Steve McEntee, John Mercer (4). The team numbers at maximum were: Blue (9), Gold (12), Green (10), Red (10), White (10). 18 goals were scored.

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'A' Division Blog (continued):

October 13th: The outstanding feature of the day was the hard work of our 2 goalkeepers (Graeme Sansom and John Harper) who played all the games so that everybody else could have a proper afternoon's hockey. Many thanks to you both for the three hours of action. Another point of interest was the very spasmodic good hockey played by Gold (who also had two really poor games) and White (who had one good one). Red had a good day and managed to inflict a rare defeat on the generally all-conquering Green side, while Blue's stalwart defence was sufficient for them to be undefeated. The one goal they managed to put in was their winner against Red. Frank Williams had a rare run in the forward line for Green and as can be seen from the scorers list it is fortunate for opposing sides that he does not spend more time there. Ken Beer's reverse stick finish to a bouncing ball was the stand-out for goal of the day, with an honourable mention to Bob Le Merle's rocket-like corner and the Frank Williams hat trick. The day's results were:

**White 0 Blue 0; Red 1 White 0; Gold 0 Blue 0; Green 0 Red 1; White 3 Gold 0; Blue 1 Red 0;
Green 2 White 0; Red 0 Gold 0; Blue 0 Green 0; Gold 0 Green 3.**

Scorers: **Blue:** John Ree. **Gold:** None. **Green:** Arch Andrews, Neil Miller, Frank Williams (3). **Red:** Ken Beer Ron Venables. **White:** Scott Blackwell (2), Bob Le Merle. The player numbers in their original sides were: Blue (12), Gold (12), Green (8), Red (8), White (13). To rectify the imbalances Peter Willett went from Gold to Red, Bob Maley Blue to Red and Robin Bailey to Green. 11 goals scored.

October 20th: Again two goalkeepers played every A Division game. Thanks this week go to Graeme Sansom and John Burt for the 180 minutes of constant hockey. Both played very well and at times they seemed to be wearing magnetic pads. Green suffered another loss (to Blue), but took it out on Red and Gold in those matches. Blue were the team of the day with three wins and a draw. White, often against the run of play, were also undefeated due to stout defence, good goalkeeping and some poor finishing by opposition forwards. Red and Gold both had bad days. Stan Balding transferred from Blue to White and Hector D'Rozario from Gold to Green, where he was joined for the last two games by Rob Ainsworth. The rain was kind enough to confine itself to brief showers. Goal of the day is again a shared award between Rob Butler for a superbly placed shot and reverse stick finishes from Ken Beer and Stan Balding. The day's results were:

**Gold 0 White 1; Blue 1 Gold 0; Green 0 White 0; Red 1 Blue 2; Gold 0 Green 2; White 0 Blue 0;
Red 0 Gold 1; Blue 1 Green 0; White 1 Red 1; Green 3 Red 0.**

Scorers: **Blue:** Peter Eastlake (2), Neil Scaddan, Ivan Wilson. **Gold:** Phil Metcalf. **Green:** Neil Miller, Ken Walter (2), Frank Williams (2). **Red:** Ken Beer, Rob Butler. **White:** Stan Balding, Peter Wallis. Team numbers: Blue (11), Gold (12), Green (8), Red (9), White (9). 14 goals were scored.

October 27th: Today was one of our most even for some time, with all sides winning and losing at least once. Blue, Gold and Green ended up square for the day. Three goalkeepers (Graeme, Tony and John) meant that they could at least have a game off occasionally. Possibly due to the weather forecast numbers were well down, but the rain held off and we completed all the games without a drop of rain. Red were possibly the most depleted side, but managed an unlikely win against Gold totally against the run of play. The White team did all their scoring in the first game and a half, after which almost all good passing hockey disappeared, requiring desperate defence for the remainder. The short list for goal of the day included Bob Le Merle's corner, Phil Metcalf's deflection, and Angelo Strano's angled shot, but the judges decided that the award went to the centimeter perfect tomahawk from Peter Wallis. The day's results were:

**White 3 Red 0; Gold 1 White 2; Blue 2 Red 0; Green 1 Gold 2; White 0 Blue 1; Red 1 Gold 0;
Green 0 White 0; Gold 1 Blue 0; Red 0 Green 0; Blue 0 Green 1.**

Scorers: **Blue:** Peter Eastlake (2), Ken Walter. **Gold:** Neville Brown, Phil Metcalf. **Green:** Steve McEntee, Frank Williams. **Red:** Bob Bowyer. **White:** Scott Blackwell, Bob Le Merle, John Mercer (2), Peter Wallis. Team numbers were Blue (7), Gold (8), Green (8), Red (9), White (10). 15 goals went in.

Quotable Quote Two: "The only alternative to co-existence is co-destruction." *Jawaharlal Nehru (1889 - 1964). First Prime Minister of India - from 1947 to 1964.*

From Saturday Masters:**At The AGM Dinner**

The AGM and winter season windup are now history. Well done to Jim Wright on another great piece of organization. Thanks must also go to Ken Walter for another donation of Red Gully wines. The WA Spit Roast dinner fully lived up to their previous high standards and anybody who went home hungry must have been on a diet.

Our meeting resulted in no change to the Committee except that Bob Bowyer has decided to step down from his support role. Many thanks to you Bob, from us all and me personally for your tireless and effective service since you were instrumental in getting us started back in 2013.

No momentous decisions were taken during the meeting, and it appeared that our members are generally happy about the running of the club. The point was made that as the youngest Committee member will be 77 in January that we might need to attempt some renewal.

The Revo Sports system is causing some of our members a few problems, but most do not appear to be having any trouble signing up. As at 1st November our totals were:

Full playing members: 47

Casual players: 2

Goalkeepers: 3

Social members: 4

Life members: 1

Mailing list members: 1

Please sign up now if you're one of the handful of members yet to do so.

Make sure that you book in to play by responding to Jim Wright's email before 12:00 noon on Fridays. And if you've booked in and can't make it, then please let him know that too.

Punology One: A bra is a uniquely democratic garment. It empowers the small, supports the big, and keeps the masses together.

No Balinese Bulletin: Peter has not managed a piece for us again this issue. He is now feeling the after effects of 18 months in continual lockdown, almost 3 years on a walker since his accident, and an 80th birthday and has endured a lot more than us. I have been in contact and if any of you would like to touch base with him please contact me for his email address at johnmercer@iinet.net.au. We hope he will be back with another bulletin in our Christmas issue.

Committee Meeting Highlights: Our efficient Secretary Neil Patterson has circulated the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October. Here are a couple of interesting points:

- Investigations continue into further expansion of our competition. The various options include playing on another day, using UWA, and Hockey Australia adjusting their times. Another change under consideration is the splitting of the A Division into two, with three O/75 teams and three O/70s. I am sure that we will all be kept fully informed.
- A proposal to purchase protective masks for defending corners was considered. As players need to buy any other gear, such as shin pads it was thought that the same should apply for face masks. Robin Bailey will investigate the possibility of obtaining a discount.

Shakespeare Said It: "We have made inquiry of you; and we hear such goodness of your justice" Measure For Measure Act V, Scene I. *A Division player about the umpiring? Not bloody likely.*

"If seriously I may convey my thoughts in this my light deliverance" All's Well That Ends Well Act II, Scene I. *The Bard encapsulates the 'Masters Matters' editorial policy.*

"Where were you bred? And how achieved you these endowments ..." Pericles, Prince of Tyre Act V, Scene I. *The tale told by most of our auto-biographers in 'Masters Matters.'*

Wine Winners: As a follow on from last issue's story, we should have known better than to claim that Bill Campbell is not doing well this year. He promptly won for two consecutive weeks. However John Mercer is still conspicuous by his absence from the weekly winners.

A Glassy Stare? Our rostered score board operators on Turf 1 are still having trouble detecting when a goal has been scored (or anything else) due to the occasional group of players having a chat right in front of the dugout. Could everybody please keep this in mind?

Well Dones for October: Wednesday's 'A' Division umpires were: Rob Ainsworth, Jim Balding, Ken Beer, Bob Bowyer, George Bradbury, Dudley Burress, Bob Claxton, Peter Eastlake, Peter Evans, Peter Galbraith, Terry Gaston, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Mal Horrigan, Dave Horsley, Mal Jackaman, Gordon Jeffery, John Jeffries, Bob Maley, Bob Le Merle, Steve McEntee, Peter Murray, Colin Murray-Smith, Colin Sanders, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Greg Street, Peter Trend, Ron Venables, Les Waldon, Ken Walter, Ken Watt, Ricky Watts, Frank Williams, Ivan Wilson. Saturday's umpires were: Rob Ainsworth, Eric Alcock, Jim Balding, George Bradbury, Dudley Burress, Terry Gaston, Michael Gottschalk, Ian Hill, Ken Beer, Murray Matthews, Peter Murray, Colin Murray-Smith, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Greg Street, Les Waldon, Len Walker, Ken Watt. Well done again to Ivan Wilson for the preparation and clean-up of the 27th October sausage sizzle and well done also to cook George Bradbury. Thanks also to Colin Gee, for his help on the Revosports implementation for our Saturday hockey. Well done to all.

Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players June: Noted at PHS: Robin Bailey, Bob Bowyer, David Evans, David Horsley, Neil Scaddan. At Perry Lakes: Eric Alcock, Bob Bowyer, Scott Blackwell, Peter Blockley, Chip Challenor, Marty Greay, Ian Hill, David Lester, John Mercer, Roger Partington, Neil Scaddan, Ken Walter.

Grumpy Old Men and Women One: "Whenever you hear a man speak of his love for his country, it is a sign that he expects to be paid for it." *H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956).*

'B' Division October 2021:

Wow, what a difference a month makes! With the injection of some new and returning players all of the teams are now very strong and October has seen a marked improvement in play and participation.

The White side has added Wayne Cutler from the Over 50's and Stephan from Rockingham. Fred Flanagan has returned and Peter Selfe is back from his wanderings up North. With their existing core group including "Zorba", Brian Thomas, "Gorby", Jimbo Campbell, Greg Allen, Steve Farrar, Morgs and Heath Tyrrell they are now a much improved and competitive unit.

Red has new recruits in Carlo from Hale and Maurie Giles, another from down Rockingham way. With Rudi Keswick, Gabes, Kalamunda Kevin, Simon Walsh and Leo all in top form their forward line is scoring plenty of goals. Strong support and delivery from their halves Willow and Steve Powles and other backs in Broms and Peter, is making them the current form team of the competition!

The Gold side have always been a strong side with a fast forward line led by Buck Rogers, Pete Fogels, Tommy Long, Donny Sanders and Dan Hill. Throw in the tenacious pair of Geoff Riley and Chris Morley, Bob Woodrow, Woody and the sometimes big Buff Brownie at the back alongside halves Billy the Cougar Campbell, John Chapman and/or Glenn Mihala and suddenly things look decidedly daunting for any opposition. With Geoff Robinson controlling play at centre half and adding a touch of class to proceedings most spectators agree Gold have been the top side for the last 6 months!

The Blue team have been bolstered with the return of Tony Davey at centre half. With Razor Ray, Pesty, Graeme Harper, Damo, Keith Platel and Alan Oldfield in the forwards attack and opportunity is not a problem! With Keith Gilbride, Rod Bickers and Nick cruising through the halves and any other position required Blue have plenty of options. Having Butch Worth at the back with Graeme Newson or Rick Rodereda ensures they are always competitive!

With all teams quite strong most results come down to the central pool of goalies. During October Johnny Harper, Tony Freeman and Mick Waite have made some spectacular saves and turned games in a flash! The competition is very lucky to have such high quality goalies who some say should be paid for their exploits!

With the injection, return and addition of better players and the improvement in umpiring that Shane Knapp has brought to the competition generally games are now of a very high standard for this age group. The challenge is to keep it evolving and improving!

Dudley Evans

Thank you Dudley. It must be time for a few more hockey autobiographies. Ed.

Rules 'R Us: Many thanks to Ken Watt for taking the trouble to highlight a few rules which have caused some discussion in our A Division matches during recent weeks. Any of our readers who want to join the discussion are welcome.

Windy Woof: " in response to the concern of Terry Gaston (and possibly others) regarding when and if a penalty should be ascribed.

F I H Rules of Hockey 9.1 states: 'Players must not intimidate or impede another player', is (in my opinion) applicable. If a player in possession of the ball feints or gives the impression that he is about to strike the ball but does not and the defender takes evasive action by either ducking, turning away or any other matter of evasion to avoid being struck , he has been intimidated into so doing and a penalty is applied.

This is distinct from a player intending to strike the ball and either topping or missing the ball completely which must be viewed as accidental and not intentionally intimidating, therefore in this case players should proceed with caution.

This is my interpretation and some may disagree."

/9

I am in total agreement with Ken here. Ed.

Breaking at Penalty Corners: Hi John, if you would not mind would you please include these in the next edition of MM. I certainly do not present myself as any manner of authority on the rules but these two have been highlighted lately.

Rule 13.7 b states: "The player taking the push or hit feints at playing the ball. The offending player is required to go beyond the centre line but is replaced by another attacker; the penalty corner is taken again. If this feinting leads to what otherwise would have been a breach of this rule by a defender, only the attacker is required to go beyond the centre line."

Rule 13.7 c: "If a defender other than the GK crosses the back line before permitted, the offending player is required to go beyond the centre line and cannot be replaced by another defender."

Something we all know, however, if two or more players break it is only the first player to break that is penalized. (We seem to need to know about this one. Ed.)

Thanks and regards, Ken.

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders:

October's question was: The Australian hockey community was saddened when respected hockey player, educator and coach, Dr Kathleen Partridge passed away recently.

Which of these statements about Kath are true?

- a) Goalkeeper Kath enjoyed her finest moment in sport when she won a gold medal with the Hockeyroos in Seoul.
- b) Kath was a fast, skilled keeper with excellent technical skills
- c) Kath was a respected leader, serving as vice-captain in Barcelona when the team placed 5th.
- d) Kath was part of the coaching staff of the Hockeyroos' gold medal teams in 1996 and 2000
- e) Kath wrote a popular book about playing hockey as keeper.
- f) All of the above.

No answers were received. The solution is f) - all of the above.

November's question is: Eddie Ockenden, Fergus Kavanagh & Kiel Brown played many international matches for their country. They were selected in the Australian kookaburras Hockey team in the same decade. Which of these statements is true.

- a) Eddie and Kiel were selected in the same year.
- b) Eddie was selected the year before Kiel and Fergus.
- c) Eddie was selected after Kiel had been selected.
- d) Fergus was the first of the trio to represent Australia.
- e) None of these statements is true.

Answer next issue.

Letter to The Editor: Last issue included a complaint and a limerick about the length of time given to Over 75s in a shootout, and mentioned the bronze medal match between Wales and Japan in the Newcastle World Cup in 2016. Here is the inside story:

Sir,

I enjoyed the contribution in the most recent Newsletter from MM's limericist concerning the topic of Hockey Shoot-Outs.

I have long recognised the extreme disadvantage that us geriatric hockey players have to contend with in respect of the 8-second time frame that we are given to make a score – the same time as the elite Olympians, as you say.

You mention that your limericist was a spectator at the Wales v. Japan Bronze Medal shootout in World Masters 2016 in Newcastle. However, I can go one better as I was on the field of play bedecked in Welsh colours, as was our now departed hockey friend Harvey Davies. You have noted that a score was made by the first Welshman and that the next nine players from the two sides failed to convert, which is quite correct. However, I can add to the story, being the second 'Welshman' to try to convert.

/10

The first Welshman was mollydooker Martin who continued to mesmerise all his opponents as well as his own team as nobody knew what he was going to do next, including Martin himself, of course. And so when it came to the 'shoot-out' he completely bamboozled the Japanese goalie who was still convinced that Martin was going to dribble round him on the backhand, when in fact Martin had lost complete control of the ball which went in a straight line and on and on, under the goalie's feet, into the goal for the opening score.

I was the second in line for Wales and, in inimitable Lunger fashion, I sprinted flat out towards the left post, did a 270 degree turn, took off again crossfield to wide of the right post leaving the goalie stranded, dived for the ball and pulled it back across the line. The only problem was that the ref had the temerity to blow his whistle about one tenth of a millisecond **before** the ball crossed the goal line. So I would be the first to support a change from the 8 second rule to a 10 second for us septuagenarians.

I do not recall any of the remaining 3 Welsh players getting anywhere near making a score but the Japanese players certainly did, and the Welsh hero that day was unquestionably goalie Glyn whose dazzling footwork was reminiscent of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, as he stepped up to the plate to repel one Japanese invader after another in the shootout.

Now this was a historic game and a momentous win for Wales, giving them the Bronze Medal. I was reliably informed that this was the very first medal ever won by any Welsh hockey team at any level in an International Hockey competition. These players were just over the moon with this victory, making Harvey and me feel like national heroes overnight. Furthermore, this team had arrived on the plane from Wales with only 9 players as 2 had dropped out at the last minute due to illness. Harvey was already lined up to play and was given the key role of playing in the unaccustomed position for him at centre-half, and I was asked to be the 11th player so we started with a bench of zero for the opening game, then managing to recruit one more local hockey player for the remaining games. They're still singing about this Welsh victory down in the valleys !!!

Simon Williams, South Perth

Thanks very much Simon. It all accords perfectly with my memories of being part of the large and very appreciative crowd who looked on. Ed.

Punology Two: I should apologise in advance for this one. Continue at your own risk. "Do you know what happens to nitrogen when the sun comes up? It becomes dayrogen."

Thanks to Hockey Australia: It is not uncommon to hear criticism of HA, so I feel that we also need to give them thanks when they are due. A couple of our Saturday members managed to sign up to the Revosport platform in their wife's name. Hayley sorted out the duplicate registrations and arranged the levy refunds in a very short time - thanks and well done.

Grumpy Old Men and Women Two: "One cannot conceive of anything so strange and so implausible that it has not already been said by one philosopher or another." *Rene Descartes (1596 - 1650). French mathematician and philosopher.*

Another Final Word From The Editor: There is a shortage of limericks this issue. The major problem has been the lack of topics, as well as our unfortunate limeriscist's dire shortage of composition time. He has assured me that he'll try to do much better in our forthcoming Christmas edition. Ed.

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.

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:

John Mercer: A Division White team. Email: johnmercer@iinet.net.au.