



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 4

April 2019

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Dates For The Diary:

2019: April 7th: State team trials O/35s to O/60s. UWA Turfs 8:00 am.

April 10th (Wednesday): State team trials O/65 and O/70. PHS1 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

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 12th: Inaugural WHM AGM and function. PHS - Quorum essential.

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

September 27th / October 12th. Interstate Masters Championships - Bunbury / Busselton WA.
 O/35, O/40 and O/45 run from 27th September to 5th October.

December: Charity Day - 'Invictus Tournament.' Knees / Hips and many more.

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

Hockey Australia: Those of you who pay fees to your Saturday clubs already know that the method of payment of the Hockey Australia levy (\$30) and personal injury insurance (\$12) has changed, and is now up to the individual to pay before they can register with the club. This will apply to Western Hockey Masters Wednesday players too (we think), and the precise details and workings are yet to be confirmed. The status of Saturday only players in the O/65s at Perry Lakes is also still a work in progress. Further details will be advised by our executive when they are known.

PHS Parking: Thank you to Hockey WA, Simon Thomson and Neil Patterson for doing their best at finding a solution to our problems. On March 6th many parking tickets were issued to WHM players in the special hockey area at PHS. Now most of the fines have been cancelled, there are warnings to students in place at the entry to the hockey bays, and we have been issued with dashboard cards. Please contact Neil if you are an 'A' Division player or a goalkeeper and have not yet received a card. Hard luck to those who had parked in the disability bays and received a substantial fine. Curtin Uni has been adamant that they will not extend any clemency, and due to administrative rigidity are not able to reduce the amount owing. For future reference, please make sure that you only park in the ACROD bays if you can display the permit on your dashboard. If you have the "PHS Parking 2019" card (for 'A' Division and goalkeepers only) then you may park in the first two rows, and must display the card on your dash. Please do not park in any of the marked bays for Hockey WA, which includes all bays south of the PHS1 tunnel. All other players ('A' Division overflow, 'B' and 'C' Divisions) must register through CelloPark and follow the guidelines. The link below will explain how to register, and the various options for notifying them when you arrive (and depart, if before 4:30 pm). Finally, if you ignore these guidelines and receive a parking ticket then please do not ask our executive to fix it for you. They cannot.

Cello Park Link: Information and registration : <https://properties.curtin.edu.au/transport/payg.cfm>.

State Team Nominations: These have now opened, and can be accessed through the WA Masters web site. (*If you accessed this edition of MM online you are on the website*) The closing date for all nominations is the Friday before the relevant team trials, which will be Friday 5th April for all age groups excepting for O/75s. Their trials will be held during May.

State Team Appointments: Coaches and managers announced so far:

O/40: TBA.

O/45: Coach Alan Colthart, Manager Tanya Sly.

O/50: Coach Paul Armitage, Manager Paula Dick.

O/55: Coach Brian Saxby, Manager Craig Burgess.

O/60: Coach Rob Lawson, Manager Astrid Miller.

O/65: Coach Ian Pestana, Manager TBA.

O/70: Coach Jim Banks, Manager Bill Campbell.

O/75: Coach Don Smart, Manager Brian Soares.

Congratulations and best wishes to all those who have undertaken these demanding roles. It is good to see so many names from WHM.

WA Country Nominations: These are also now open for players in all age groups. The form can be found on the website via this link:

<https://wachockeymasters.wordpress.com/documents/player-nom-forms>.

The first trials are set down for 7th April on the Mandurah Turf. As host State WAC are hoping to get two teams in most age divisions early nomination and attendance at the trials would be very helpful. The Mandurah times for all WAC age groups can be found on the same website as the nomination form, and this will be the easiest one to get to from Perth of them all.

O/75s: The establishment of this age group is still a work in progress to some extent. Surely our WA scene would support three O/75 sides - so let's all make this section of the tournament successful by nominating early, attending the trials & being there in the South/West later in 2019. Peter Blockley has taken on the task of collecting numbers for these sides, so if you are interested, but do not feel that you want to fork out the nomination fee yet then please drop him a line and let him know. He can be contacted at peterabl@bigpond.

I have also heard a whisper that this year the selectors are all very closely in touch with the current O/75s player pool, and are very keen for all players to attend the trials.

O/75s Are No Longer Old? I continually am surprised that so many of us still play and enjoy our great game at our advanced years. Our limericist has an opinion on the matter.

At one time it was a great age

But now it's much harder to gauge

As seniors still play

Despite turning grey (*or white, or none*)

Their hockey has reached the world stage.

Many of our number have taken their hockey bags overseas, including me. Ed.

Letters To The Editor: Feedback from the March MM included: Ken Beer (resumption of play), Ken Dyer, Graham Wood, Mal Horrigan (correct answer to John's question) and Martin Ferrari. Thanks to you all. Any responses to this newsletter may not reach me until after I return home, unless I can get my new phone working, but please send them in anyway.

Quotable Quote One: "The wit makes fun of other persons; the satirist makes fun of the world; the humorist makes fun of himself." *James Thurber (1894 - 1961). This will serve as my response should accusations of a lack of wit ever be aimed at "Masters Matters."*

Department of Health: It is good to begin this section with some good news. Both John Milner and John Halley are home again following their respective stints in hospital. Thanks to Peter Brien and Harvey Davies for keeping us informed. Les Waldon said that his nerve deadening procedure seems to have worked well, and he hopes to resume play during April. Ken Beer says that his dodgy Achilles has recovered sufficiently for him to resume this month. Keith Kessell has had a back operation, which sounded quite complex. He is in the process of working his way back to playing fitness again. Eric Alcock still has a pending hip replacement operation, which he claims will equalize his hip joints. A speedy and complete recovery to all, and to those I do not know about.

World Cup(s) 2020: There have been very few changes to the websites since the previous "Masters Matters." The WMH board was due to hold another meeting on 5th March and the venues for the various World Cups in all the younger age groups were due to have been announced by now, but I can find no trace of either. The first combined General Assembly is still due to be held on Friday 2nd August and the venue is announced as the Wagner Stadium, Amstelveen, in The Netherlands.

In previous issues I mentioned that the younger ages were attempting to replicate our social Tournament Trophy competitions under the title of "Spirit of Masters." It is sad to report that for the 2019 European Championship there were no entries for the O/35, O/40 and O/45 tournament. The O/50 and O/55 tournament generated only two teams, who have been permitted to compete in the open competition, but will not be allowed to win any medals. Here are the website links again.

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

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

Tournament Trophy 2020? As mentioned in an earlier issue it appears that the Tokyo tournament will not include a social section. So MM's resident limericist wondered about alternatives:

No Tournament Trophy next year
So where might we all disappear?
A non-hockey trip
And cruise on a ship?
Or TV, the Games and a beer.

Department of Corrections: Last issue the story on the 2020 World Cups referred to our new ruling body as WHM. That actually is our own Western Hockey Masters TLA. The new world body should be entitled WMH for World Masters Hockey.

'A' Division / PHS Bar: Thanks to Greg Street for telling me that he also has trouble picking out just one conversational thread in the PHS bar on Wednesdays. I am sure that this is a contributing factor to the dearth of 'A' Division players. Of course there are other and stronger reasons, such as the current state of Perth's traffic.

Welcome: New players who have joined us this year include

Ian Tubbs ('C' Div Blue).

David Elliott ('C' Div Blue).

Paul Scicluna ('C' Div Red).

Fred Flanagan ('B' Blue). *I'm sure I announced his retirement last year. Prematurely?*

Alan Mallaby ('B' Blue).

Glenn Strother ('C' Div).

Welcome to Western Hockey Masters (or welcome back). Best wishes for a very long stay with us - perhaps if we keep going with our aging in place there might be an 'A+' Division waiting for you.

Good Understanding: Colin Gee tells me that his granddaughter says that K.F.C. stands for "Kids Fattening Company." *And it manages to do the same to adults.*

'A' Division Blog: Does 'Just Hockey' sell goals? We could do with a few.

March 6th: We need to establish an equitable method for dealing with excess numbers. What makes it difficult now is that the captains do not always know in advance how many players they will have. The new Code of Conduct in Point 10 states: 'If absent for any game, notify your Captain (or Vice Captain) at least 24 hours beforehand.' If all of us honour that requirement the captains and the Divisional Coordinator could make any temporary team re-allocations before the first match with the basis being to give everybody equal turf time in balanced teams. The first day of play under the new 18 minute format resulted in Gold and White both being undefeated, winning twice and drawing twice. Blue won once, lost twice and drew once, while Red opened their day with a 0-0 draw. From there it progressively worsened; a 1-0 loss was followed by a 3-1 loss and the day concluded with a 3-0 loss. Colin Murray-Smith's absence was apparent - also missing from the Red forward line were regular goal-scorers Trevor Kerr and Bob Maley. As is usual now, several excellent goals were scored, several fine saves were made and several opportunities of varying difficulty were missed. The goal of the day judging panel unanimously awarded goal of the day to Bob Robinson, though Peter Dennis must again get an honourable mention for two great goals. I counted 12 different umpires. Player number approximations were: White (11 - not all at the same time), Red (10), Blue (12) and Gold (14). 12 goals were scored in the eight matches, 7 of them in two games.

March 13th: Peter Dennis was obliged to attend an Army Museum board meeting, which had a huge impact on the Blue side's results. They went scoreless, Gold got only one goal, Red three, and of White's five, one match provided four. The low scoring was not solely due to lack of opportunity, just generally poor finishing and occasionally a lack of attacking combination in the circle. There were three 0-0 draws and one 1-1 draw, all involving Gold, who were thus undefeated but winless. The standard of passing to a team-mate was quite good in the first games, but fell away as the day progressed, best indicated by the last three matches all ending 0-0. Colin Benporath made a return after a long absence following a replacement, and may have lost a little mobility, but he has not lost his voice. Ash Foster also returned following a shoulder problem and played as though he had never been away. He played a large part in White's 4-0 demolition of Red which featured the best forward passing of the day. After George Bradbury had converted a corner well Ash put in a good one himself and then set up another one with a perfect pass. Roy Grant did likewise for the fourth. Earlier Peter Wallis converted well for White to beat Blue 1-0. Red beat Blue 2-0 in the opener, with Ron Venables finishing off a good team move for the first, and David Pandher adding the second. Ron has got at least one goal for five consecutive weeks now. Bob Bowyer got their goal against Gold, but Steve McEntee's deflection for the equalizer had to be adjudged as goal of the day. Player numbers were: Red (10 - Mal Horrigan did not complete the day), Blue (10), White (11) and Gold (12). David Evans transferred to Red for the day. The total of goals scored was only 9.

March 20th: Many of us blamed the weather for poor hockey. The warm and humid conditions did not help, but should not have impacted our mental processes as it appeared to have done. At our age we sometimes mis-hit and mis-push, but we consistently selected a wrong option or attempted the impossible pass. (*We includes me. Ed.*) The consequence was a very low-scoring day, and the goals for and against are significant. White scored twice, with all other teams getting one goal. Red and Blue conceded two goals each, Gold one, and White none. Not all the play was bad, and Blue's goal in the first minutes of the day's play was scored by John Ree after a great intercept trap and setup by Peter Dennis. Red's score came after a good shot from Bob Maley (welcome back) was brilliantly saved on the line by Peter Jones, only for an alert Ron Venables to pounce on the rebound. Gold's was a rocket-like corner hit from Steve McEntee, which after an unfortunate deflection injured Peter Stevens arm on the way in. White's two came from an excellent corner conversion by Peter Wallis and a fine push from an angle by Roy Grant after a good passing sequence. Rob Butler joined the Red team for the day, and Bob Robinson also played there having transferred from Gold. Goal of the day was shared between all the scorers, and goalkeeper of the day was also shared. Player numbers were Blue (12), Gold (12), White (12) and Red (10). Goals scored just 5. /7

From Saturday Hockey Masters: Perry Lakes 23rd March.



A belated Happy Birthday to Ron Venables for the 28th March. As can be seen, we could not have our Saturday Hockey Masters function for him on the day of our AGM as he was due to celebrate at his family party that night. Congratulations to Ron, who is still one of our faster players and gives us all a great example of fair play every time he takes to the field. *(Thanks Mary Clayton for the photo)*

Our request for naming suggestions has produced nothing worthwhile. After discussion during the AGM on the 30th March Les Waldon made a management decision that we'll call it Saturday Hockey Masters until such time as a better title is found.

Some days (23rd March, for instance) it appeared that not all of our players have the correct shirts, as there were several decidedly different colours and designs on the field. Please contact either Jim Wright or George Bradbury to make sure that you have all three colours in your size. Unless, of course, you are a once-off guest or casual player.

The AGM duly took place and started very near the scheduled 5:00 pm. Bob Bowyer will send out the minutes in due course, so I'll just include a few highlights here:

Les Waldon's Captain's Report:

- All members of the Committee received individual thanks.
- The basic aim of the Committee in running the Club is:
 - 1) Keep fees as low as possible.
 - 2) Keep the Club financially solvent.
 - 3) Return maximum value to members.
- People are having trouble picking up the maroon shirts due to colour blindness. We intend to investigate the purchase of another lighter colour and relegate the maroons to fourth.
- We are temporarily adopting the name "Saturday Hockey Masters."

The Committee all were re-elected.

Discussion took place on the Hockey Australia levy (\$30) and insurance cover (\$12). It was emphasized that the insurance cover only functions as a top-up to all other reimbursements, such as Medicare, private health insurance, and any personal coverage. However, it is still strongly advised that both Wednesday and Saturday-only players take out the coverage.

A fine dinner was served by WA Spit Roasts. Many thanks and well done to Jim Wright for his efforts in the organization. The night showed us again that we have a great little Club.

'A' Division Blog (continued):

March 27th: After the first three games produced only one goal it appeared that we had picked up where we left off last week; perhaps the shorter matches inhibit scoring. Red had another bad day, with results of 0-0, 0-1, 1-2 and 0-2, scoring once through Ron Venables (who got a goal for the seventh consecutive week). Gold got two goals (both to Ken Walter) for a win, loss and two draws, while White's two (a good one to Roy Grant) were enough for two wins, a loss and a draw. Blue were the only undefeated team - their two wins and two draws produced five goals for and only two against. Peter Dennis converted a corner with a good clout, Peter Eastlake got one from close in, and Nevelle Brown played in John Ree's customary position and got no less than three from John's usual range. We are getting better at adjusting team numbers - Phil Metcalf (Gold) and Ken Watt (Blue) played for Red who also fielded Julian Gardner (up from Esperance). Paul Robinson moved from White to Gold, and as can be seen from the player numbers very little was required in the way of filling in. Goal of the day contenders included Roy Grant, Ken Walter and Peter Dennis but the judges were unanimous in awarding Ron Venables for a very fine reflex effort. Thank you to the four keepers who made a lot of good saves between them - well done to John, Tony, Barry, and Ian. Player numbers (original teams) were: Gold (12), White (11), Red (7) and Blue (9). Goals scored (10).

'A' Division Comment: The voting on the length of our matches was comparatively evenly contested, and has resulted in the shorter matches being the winner. We had some initial difficulties with the 18 minute games, as we had relied on the scoreboard for the precise timings required. On the first day the clock disappeared a couple of times, but we are now assured by Hockey WA that it will not occur again. I think that the fixtures may be better for an adjustment, as at present the same teams play in both Game 6 and Game 8. But I am sure that by the time I return at the beginning of May all such minor problems will have been solved.

Shakespeare Said It: "... let not discontent daunt all your hopes ..." Titus Andronicus Act I Scene I. *In other words, just shut up and play hockey - let the umpire do his umpiring.*

"... without more speech, ... you must be gone from hence immediately." The Merchant of Venice Act II Scene IX. *A fairly good description of the awarding of a red card.*

"... they have committed false report, moreover, they have spoken untruths; secondarily, they are slanderers; sixth and lastly, they have belied a lady; thirdly, they have verified unjust things; and, to conclude, they are lying knaves." Much Ado About Nothing Act V Scene I. *In my view, this is a very accurate depiction of the whole 'Brexit' fiasco.*

Well Dones: Our list of 'A' division umpires has enlarged over the last six months. Once it was like a bowls triples, now it's more like an AFL list. March featured: Rob Andrew, Jim Balding, Jim Banks, Bob Bowyer, George Bradbury, Ham D'Souza, Peter Eastlake, Peter Evans, Colin Gee, Howie Herbert, Ian Hill, Dave Horsley, Gordon Jeffery, John Jeffreys, Steve McEntee, Bob Maley, Peter Murray, Neil Scaddan, Peter Stevens, Greg Street, Ron Venables, Ken Walter, Ken Watt, Ivan Wilson and Jim Wright. It's said that variety is the spice of life - thank you all. Thanks also to the 'B' and 'C' Division umpires, even though Vern Gooch is the only one I can name. Perry Lakes umpires: Rob Ainsworth, Eric Alcock, Rob Andrew, George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Dudley Burress, Colin Gee, Mal Jackaman, Roger Partington, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Don Smart, Greg Street, Les Waldon, Len Walker, Ken Walter, and Ken Watt. Thank you to all. The sausage cooking on the 27th was the province of Roger Davey and Warren Jackson but contrary to usual neither of them won a wine. Thanks from "Masters Matters" will have to do instead. Thanks also to Ivan Wilson and Peter Jones. And thanks to Jim Wright again for the AGM dinner at Perry Lakes, as well as all the volunteer caterers.

Grumpy Old Men and Women One: "Compromise used to mean that half a loaf was better than no bread. Among modern statesmen it really seems to mean that half a loaf is better than a whole loaf." G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936). From 'What's Wrong With The World' 1910. For example, Brexit.

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

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.

"John, in response to John Sanders question, I believe the answer is "all of them" - although Barry Dancer was also included in the team as coach."

Mal Horrigan. *Right answer - John, does Mal get extra credit for Barry Dancer?*

April's question is: A total of 5 Pearce brothers have played for the Australian Men's Hockey Team. They were Cec, Mel, Eric, Gordon and Julian. Which 3 played together in the 1956 Olympic Games?



- a. Cec, Mel and Eric
- b. Julian, Eric and Cec
- c. Julian, Gordon and Cec
- d. Eric, Gordon and Mel

.Answer next issue.

Balinese Bulletin No 41: *The latest news on the health front.*

UMALAS REHAB. UPDATE 28/03/19.

I continue to show improvement albeit in "Baby Steps". I am able to now sleep for long periods at night & generally feeling more comfortable in movements (Willy Walker) around the house. I suspect that it is still quite a long journey but I am lucky the nursing staff here in Umalas are very understanding & caring.

John, there is really not a lot more to add at this stage but will keep you up to date.

Peter Hammond. *Thanks again, Peter. It sounds as though you've gone into rehab and are still having a problem or two. I hope that there is still a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel.*

Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players: I think the Perth traffic has been too much for many of our former players. The MM notebook has recorded nobody at PHS during March except for George Winning (Bicton) and Bill Baldwin (South Perth), who both are almost locals. Perry Lakes was a lot more popular again - those who made it into the notebook were: Eric Alcock, Keith Kessell, Richard Osborne, John Pierce, John Sanders, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Les Waldon, Len Walker, and Ken Walter. Paul Robinson does not appear as he is a player again; welcome back.

Quotable Quote Two: "The line of 'Make America Great Again!', the phrase, that was mine. I came up with it about a year ago, and I kept using it, and everybody's using it, they are all loving it. I don't know, I guess I should copyright it, maybe I have copyrighted it." *Donald Trump on Fox TV in March 2015. The only problem is that 'Make America Great Again' was one of Ronald Reagan's most well known campaign slogans.*

Grumpy Old Men Two: "As one grows older one becomes wiser, and more foolish." *Francois de la Rochefoucauld (1613 - 1680).New technology manages to do both for me - simultaneously. Ed.*

'B' Division March 2019:

The improved quality of play and effort evident in January and February has continued with all games very competitive and only the odd blowout in results. A big part of this is due to the new admin positions filled around Xmas/new Year and long may it continue. White continued to set the benchmark while Blue struggled for numbers in early March (some guys were out injured and some went on holidays, how inconsiderate!!). A great part of Wednesday Masters is that the other teams jump in and help with numbers to make sure the games continue. Blues numbers were back up by the end of March and April is looking good for all teams as players prepare themselves for the Winter season.

Great to see Butch Worth turn up for a run. Butch hasn't been seen on a hockey field for a few years but brings great skill, experience and assurance back to the game.

This month's featured player is Bill Campbell currently Captain of the gold side, you know the guy with the skinny legs known sometimes as "The Cougar". Bill is also currently in the Australian O70 side. Here is a brief synopsis of how Bill ended up at the top of the tree at Wednesday Masters.

Bill "The Cougar" Campbell

My hockey life started when I was 14 in my first year at Swanbourne High School which was the school for those living in the Graylands area including the Graylands Migrant Hostel. Like those living in the hostel my sport was football (soccer?) and I expected to play that at school. In primary school I was not able to make the first team in the Australian Rules team so when the phys ed teacher Rod Pedder decided that only Aussie rules or hockey would be available as winter sports, hockey was the only option. My father found a second hand hockey stick for me with a hook about a foot long, probably a pre First World War model, and my career in hockey started. The first coach at Swannie was Bob Andrew I think but I didn't see much of him. I only played in the Saturday morning schools competition and shared the number 11 slot in the team with a friend and on alternate weeks was the reserve. This gives you an idea of my skill level which some say has not improved greatly!

When I was 15 I left school and joined a bank where my boss on extending my probation, told me to take up a sport. I am not certain how that was going to help my relatively useless performance as a clerk in a job I did not want but I told my father who said there was a club playing where he worked at Lemnos Hospital. That club was the fairly infamous Graylands Hockey Club, red shirt with a white diagonal stripe whose main claim to fame was a player who in later years wore a shirt with a number .08 and who looked very feral. I started my career there in seniors as there was no under 16 team and then moved to the under 18 side where I finished as goal keeper. On moving back into senior ranks I moved back onto the field. When I was 19, I became secretary of the club and remained as secretary until I moved to Northam and then to Carnarvon for work.

On my return to Perth in the mid seventies, I moved to Willetton and joined the local sports club hockey division which was in its third year, the second as a men's club and I stayed with them for around 480 games. As I was attending WAIT at night I did little more than play and train occasionally as I did not have the time to do much else. On my graduation, I was asked to audit the club books which were prepared by a real estate agent. These were perhaps the worst set of books I have ever seen in a club or society and I have audited quite a number of clubs over the subsequent years. I made the mistake of saying just how bad the accounts were and was dragooned into being treasurer. I did this for a few years including when we made Premier League for one season. The next season the Chairman of our division of the sports club resigned and I somehow made the mistake of agreeing to do the job which I did for a couple of years before passing the baton on. I still audited the accounts through my accounting practice and took on the treasurer's job again after problems with the accounts. I also managed a time as vice chairman in charge of the men's side of Willetton Hockey. My final stay on the committee was as Chairman around the time we left the Willetton Sports Club and moved the club to Bull Creek. We also did not have a secretary for a

season or two and I seemed to be typing minutes for some reason. My interest in computer data bases meant I also was kept the junior playing games records for a number of years.

I had played in the state over 50 side in 1999 and subsequent years and was disappointed with the selection process for the Masters Championships in Bunbury in 2004(?). So I decided I had had enough of the Willetton club committee after around 20 years and the following year was elected to the WA Hockey Masters Committee with an initial objective of changing the selection process to make it fairer and to ensure playing coaches and managers were also subject to the same selection process as other players. While on the committee I ended up being chairman of the organising committee for the 2006 and 2014 Masters Championships. After 12 years on the committee I did not seek re-election and am now being lazy and doing nothing.

Bill is a retired accountant, has 2 daughters with wife Verna and 2 grandkids. He spends his spare time going on cruises, drinking wine and studying higher mathematics online sometimes all at the same time!

Thank you to both Dudley and Bill. The one thing missing from the story was the origin of 'Cougar' - or does this term apply to both sexes? Ed.

Thailand Tales:

Firstly Gents, I must say it was great to catch up with a lot of guys on my swift and recent visit to Perth. Now back in the land of smiles and ten million stray dogs. Ever wondered why there are no stray dogs in China?

Back here the pollution is as good as ever, lately it has even rated high than China, an outstanding achievement. Songkran (water festival) is next week. Oh the joys of riding your motorbike and get a bucket of water or hose sprayed all over you. And of course the road Kill, we relate wild life to that, but this year Thailand is on track to beat all records. Only 3 months in and already nearly 20,000 killed on the roads here, very scary.

Last week we had the first "democratic" election since the Junta took power in May 2014, they didn't get a majority but still declared themselves the winners, so the next few weeks will be very interesting here, rioting is expected.

On the hockey front, this is our last week of the main season, our club finished 5th an outstanding effort considering the Army, Police and Air Force play and train full time. Most of the Thai national squad comes from these 3 teams. One of the university teams has 5 girls playing (all Thai national reps) and all are fearless and very talented, they do some tackles against the men that I would never try, and they hip and shoulder you out of the way very skillfully.

A couple of carnivals coming up in Hua Hin, Cambodia and Vietnam and the Bali Hockey Festival in September, can't wait for that one.

All the best for the new season to those club players, and look forward to seeing all the SX boys and girls in Antwerp.

Cheers - Woody

Thank you Woody - please keep them coming. Ed.

Punology Two: Dorothy Parker really had a way with a word (or two). Here's another good example: "You may lead a horticulture, but you can't make her think."

Which WHM? There has been some confusion recently over whether an email applies to Wednesday or Saturday players. Our Secretaries have decided to include an indication of the playing day in their email footers, so please make sure that you check before paying into our bank accounts.

Solidarity Across The Tasman: Recent events have been traumatic and tragic. My thanks go to John Sanders for this photograph, which demonstrates that the terrorists will never win as long as the rest of us do not open our minds to their messages of hate.



IMHA Website, March: "To our New Zealand friends and colleagues. The heart-breaking news from Christchurch has cast a shadow over the land of the long white cloud. On behalf of all the members of the IMHA, our thoughts and prayers are with you on this dark day. Be strong, heal quickly - we are your brothers and sisters."

Player Code of Conduct: Hopefully, you will all have seen, read and digested this document.

"This Code of Conduct applies to all members of Western Hockey Masters (WHM) who participate in Wednesday and / or Saturday hockey organized by WHM. You are required to meet the following standards with regard to your conduct.

- 1) Behave in a sporting manner at all times to all players, officials, spectators and Hockey WA personnel.
- 2) Play by the rules at all times and ensure that that the game of hockey is not brought into disrepute by your actions.
- 3) Do not show unnecessary obvious dissension, displeasure or disapproval (by action or verbal abuse) towards an umpire or match official as a consequence of his or her decision or generally.
- 4) Do not make detrimental statements in respect of the performance of any umpire or match official.
- 5) Do not engage in inappropriate and/or physical contact with players or officials during the course of play.
- 6) Accept responsibility for all actions taken. Exercise reasonable care to prevent injury by ensuring that you play within the rules. Reasonable care consists of showing due diligence in abiding by the rules and adhering to the officials' decisions.
- 7) Don't do anything which adversely affects or reflects the game of hockey, WHM, teams, competition, tournament sponsor, official supplier or licensee, including, but not limited to, any illegal act or any act of dishonesty or fraud.
- 8) Refrain from using obscene, offensive or insulting language and/or making obscene gestures which may insult other players, officials or spectators.
- 9) Refrain from making any comments or undertaking any actions that might be of a racist and/or sexual vilification nature.
- 10) If absent for any game notify your Captain (or Vice-Captain) at least 24 hours beforehand.

The Division coordinators are responsible for ensuring that this Player Code of Conduct is met at all times.

'A' Division Talents: Howie Herbert returned from Barcelona with a World Cup Gold medal. In his spare time from hockey he runs our bar at Perry Lakes, & produces different varieties of decorative objects which add to the aesthetic s of the outdoors. Here's an example:



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: As previous advised, I will not be here again until early May. I request that the wine winners be recorded, as I would usually include the biggest winner here. No selfies! Please keep your eyes and ears open for any WHM news during April:

I'm going away for a while
And travelling for many a mile
So please be alert
For all the news dirt
MM can come back in good style.

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