



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 White

Masters Matters

Issue No 6

June 2019

World Cup 2020 Dates: There has been a change in the timing of the Tokyo event. On May 28th the Australian Masters web-site carried the information that the tournament dates have been changed to November 5th to 15th instead of the original October. The reason is that the Olympics will have three turfs, and the third turf was unavailable in the original time slot due to post Olympic works. The revised list now reads:

O/35 and O/40: Men and Women. England - August 8th to 17th.

O/45 and O/50: Men and Women. South Africa - September 19th to 29th.

O/55 Men. O/55, O/60, O/65 Women. Spirit of Masters. South Africa - September 19th to 29th.

O/60, O/65, O/70, O/75 Men. Tournament Trophy. Japan November 5th to 15th.

Comment: Will three turfs be enough to run a full Tournament Trophy competition? Will Southern Cross and England LX be limited to one team? When will our 2020 interstate tournament happen? Any developments from the web-sites will be reported here.

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

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

Charity Milestone: Congratulations and well done to Bob Bowyer. The total sum raised through our weekly bar raffles has now passed \$50K. Last issue's article, "The Importance of Relationships", went through the benefits to us, both physical and social, of our weekly games, but it's good to know that we are also passing something on to the wider community, whether that be via a charity or giving support to junior hockey. Bob has been doing this since its inception in 2006.

WHM in WA State Teams: Last issue included the WHM players in those WA teams which had been announced. Since then the O/50s have been added to the Masters website, and includes several of our 'C' Division players. Congratulations.

O/50s: Robert Behets, Peter Bewick, Michael Starling, Glenn Strother.

Letters To The Editor: The delayed May edition generated a little feedback, and my thanks go to: Bill Baldwin, Ken Dyer, Peter Fogels, Keith Platel (see Page 11), Ken Watt (see below), John Milner and Robin Bailey (see Page 10).

Ken Watt: "I would appreciate mention being made of the (only now, occasional) berating and questioning the correctness of decisions of umpires. Do we really think that the decisions made will be altered by this behavior? 'We' do not always 'get it right' but all determinations are based upon what we see or what we think we see. As said, there are very few that adopt this attitude now however I will, in future, give the transgressors a 'rest'." *A lot of us will be playing in the South/West where questioning an umpire's decision will result in a card. It's time to start practicing. Ed.*

AGM Limerick: The settees in the meeting room did not face the front, which made it rather difficult for their occupants to address the meeting. What does our limerick writer suggest?

We just had our first annual meeting

Ear drums endured a real beating (*Not - meeting over before 6:00 pm*)

One thing came to light

Which was not quite right

Next time we'll need some more seating.

(If the attendance is as good)

Quotable Quote One: It is a paradoxical but profoundly true and important principle of life that the most likely way to reach a goal is to be aiming not at that goal itself but at some more ambitious goal beyond it." *Arnold Toynbee (1889 - 1975). English historian and philosopher. At last we have a mostly rational explanation of some of the recent goal-shooting in 'A' Division. This now also applies to Perry Lakes after our two games on Saturday the 8th June.*

Department of Health: Howie Herbert is due for some radio-therapy for a lingering problem - hope it all goes as it should with a successful outcome. Neil Scaddan had a cancer removed from the top of the head and has been sporting several staples for a while now. His return to play is still pending. Rob Andrew is out of action for a twelve week period to attempt a recovery from a leg injury. Even if his return is delayed for longer than this he will still coach the State O/75s, I'm told. Bill Baldwin was recuperating after his shoulder operation, then needed treatment for carpal tunnel syndrome. His return to play is still pending. Gordon Jeffery appeared to tweak a hamstring on 05/06 and has not returned, while I believe that Peter Eastlake has had a similar injury - which is not a good time for them both, as it has occurred in the lead-up to their games with Southern Cross in Belgium. Rod Spencer seems to have made a successful return to hockey (Wednesday and Saturday) following his knee surgery. I heard that Mal Horrigan's return to the Wednesday Reds is still very much a work in progress. Ken Beer tweaked a hamstring at Perry Lakes on the 15th, and his attempt to play the next Wednesday caused a recurrence. Doubtless there will be many more given the large number of WA people with influenza, so best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to all.

Australian O/75 Canadian Tour: WHM players who were named in the original side were Jim Banks, John Burt, Julian Gardner, Richard Osborne and Ron Venables. We hope that the trip went well and that opposition teams weren't too young. A report and/or a photograph for MM would be welcome.

European Championships 2019: Contrary to usual practice "Masters Matters" has not featured a list of WHM players who are attending this event. Although by the time this goes public all of you will have departed Perth hereunder is some belated recognition:

Southern Cross:

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

O/65s Blue: Peter Fogels, Ian Pestana (coach).

O/65s Red: Steve McEntee, Glenn Mihala.

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

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

Alliance:

O/70s A: Simon Thomson and Heath Tyrrell.

O/70s B: Colin Benporath, Terry Gaston, Dave Mellor and Neil Miller.

O/75s: Peter Stevens.

Any post-tournament report for MM would be most welcome. Ed.

Department of Corrections: Peter Fogels loaded the first eighty-odd editions of "Masters Matters" to our former web-site, so its editor should have recognized his name in the State team listings. My apologies for leaving him out of the State O/65 team - at least the selectors didn't.

Welcome: To new player Gurdeep Singh, who has joined the 'C' Division.

Charity Day: This year the intention is to expand the Hips and Knees to include teams who could be tentatively described as survivors of cancer, cardiac dysfunction and prostate removal. I believe that there are insufficient nominations at the present moment to fill sides in all these categories, even though some members of WHM have recently qualified. If you have not expressed an interest yet then please contact Rod Bickers or Les Waldon personally or on these emails:

Rod: rod.bickers@outlook.com.

Les: lawdent@westnet.com.au.

Happy Birthday: Thank you for the beers to Ricky Watts, who celebrated his official qualification for the 'A' Division (on 05/05) by buying us a drink in the bar.

'A' Division Blog: It is noticeable how the results fluctuate depending on who's there (& who's not!)

May 22nd: The Red team would be dominating the competition, but they have a problem scoring against Gold and lost both games 1-0. Gold also beat Blue 1-0 and drew 0-0 with White to end up as the best performed team. Red beat both White and Blue in good style. Neither White nor Blue won a match, and drew twice with each other. Some very good hockey was played but not all the time. Perhaps some of the passing can be explained by the fact that we are still becoming accustomed to new team-mates, and the high player numbers mean that settled positions are a rarity in all sides. As a possible consequence goals were scarce all day. Gold's scorers were Ken Walter, Steve McEntee after a fine build-up and Bob Robinson from one of those "how did I do that" deflections. For Red the successful players were Mal Horrigan, Ron Venables and Rob Andrew. Blue went scoreless until Neil Miller tapped in the equaliser in the last against White to cancel out Ham D'Souza's superb run and strike from an angle. Earlier Paul Robinson had scored in White's 2-1 loss to Red. Goal of the day needs three winners, as Mal Horrigan's and Ham D'Souza's were class goals. Bob Robinson's also is worthy of the award, so it's shared three ways. Some late withdrawals seemed to have reduced the team numbers a little from the unmanageable levels they have been at, but still left the captains a lot of work to do. Numbers were: Red (12), Gold (12), White (11) and Blue (8). Blue's team included Ricky Watts, Julian Gardner and Chip Challenor to make the actual number 11. Total goals (9).

May 29th: Our standard seemed to have dropped, possibly explained by the many missing players:

Blue: Jim Banks, Peter Eastlake, Ian Hill, Neil Patterson and Neil Scaddan.

Gold: Steve McEntee, Rod Spencer, Ken Walter and Peter Willett.

Red: Rob Andrew, Mark Faithfull, Mal Horrigan, Keith Kessell, Colin Murray-Smith and Ron Venables.

White: Len Blyth and Ash Foster.

The team least affected by this was probably White, and after they overcame their numbers problem by lending Brian Soares to Red and Robin Bailey and Ken Beer to Blue they played some reasonable hockey in the first two matches, winning both 2-0 before the last two games were draws. Gold also won twice and drew twice. The other two sides (Blue and Red) both failed to score, ending with two losses and two draws. Many opportunities were missed by all teams, but as editorial selfies are not included few names will be mentioned, except for Bob Bowyer who saved a certain goal on the line. Ham D'Souza showed us all how it should be done, scoring well and repeatedly from field play and penalty corners and ending up with four. Phil Metcalf was a threat all day for Gold, & his persistence paid off with two goals, while Ian Purdie used his long reach to advantage for Gold's third. Only two goalkeepers appeared (thank you Colin and Ian) who only lasted five games before calling it a day. Goal of the day was any one of Ham D'Souza's four. Team numbers (based on original allocations) were: White (14), Red (9), Blue (9) and Gold (10). The Blue side had a couple of late arrivals and their nine players included Nevelle Brown (welcome back again) and Ricky Watts, plus the transfers from White already mentioned. Goals scored (8).

June 5th: White captain Dave Horsley had 15 field players at his disposal, and even after shedding three of them to other teams he still had plenty of firepower at his disposal. All matches were close with the exception of the last game of the day, in which White put four past Gold without reply. Results: White (W3, L0, D1), Gold (W1, L1, D2), Blue (W1, L2, D1) and a weakened Red (W0, L2, D2). Many of our good players were not there again (with the exception of the White team), which adversely affected the standard of the hockey. Red did not score, Blue got one only (Peter Dennis), Gold got two (Ken Walter and Peter Willett) & White scorers were Ken Beer (3 from good sea-gulling), Ham DSouza (2) Peter Blockley and Roy Grant (1). Goal of the day went to Peter Blockley after a great set-up by Ham D' Souza. At least there were three goalkeepers present, and the goals were occupied all day. Tony, Barry and Colin all proved difficult to pass, especially if the shot was aimed at their pads, which many were. Our numbers are not as good as they were, excepting for the White team, who are giving away several players each week. For today, the actual counts based on the allocated sides were: Red (8), Blue (9), Gold (11) and White (15). Total goals scored (10) and as can be seen from the scorers list White scored 70% of them.

/7

From Saturday Hockey Masters:

AGM 2014



This may have been five years ago but we've all hardly changed since then.

Our Saturday O/65 competition began at the beginning of the winter season of 2013, so is now just commencing its 7th year. From inception it has been very successful since it was initiated by several former members of Suburban in conjunction with the WHM executive. The venue is very good and our relations with host club YMCA and the Town of Cambridge are excellent (thanks Bob Bowyer).

Mike Gottschalk made it back to Saturday hockey on the 1st June after a full knee replacement. All seemed to have gone OK and we hope that was still the case on Sunday morning.

As per the limerick in the previous MM our Saturday afternoon competition still lacks anything in way of a decent title. Thank you to Bill Baldwin, who has suggested a few more. I am not 100% sure that we have a clear winner yet, but these may inspire readers to start thinking. Bill's possibilities:

Weekend Warriors.

Krockaburras or Krukaburras.

Social 65ers.

Saturday Knights.

Saturday Sundowners.

We thought it was necessary to cancel play on the 22nd due to the weather forecast. In retrospect I think we were right as the rain was heavy and persistent. MM's limericist decided that a drying out operation would not have been feasible:

The forecast was 'quite a few drops'

Which might have been good for the crops

All we got was pain

From such heavy rain

Can't take to the field armed with mops.

'A' Division Blog Continued:

June 12th: Like the previous week the day was totally dominated by White. They are at nearly full strength (to the extent that I could not get a game for the second consecutive week). For the first time in quite a while there were no draws and the day's results were totally symmetrical - White won four times, Blue and Gold twice each with two losses, and the sadly depleted Red team lost four times. White scored eight without reply and Red conceded ten and failed to score themselves. The scorers were: White Ham D'Souza (4) Ken Beer (2) Greg Street / Peter Wallis (1); Blue Ken Beer (2), Peter Wallis (1); Gold Dave Evans (2), Terry Gaston / Bob Robinson (1). With so many goals scored despite the best efforts of goalkeepers Tony, Barry and Ian there were several contenders for goal of the day. These included a tomahawk by Peter Wallis, a fine deflection by Ham D'Souza, and some great goal-front scavenging by Ken Beer who had enough chances to have scored at least twice as many as he put in. But we had a new name on the 'A' Division score-sheet this week, as David Evans went up to the circle twice during an attacking penalty corner and scored well both times, entitling him to this week's award. Team numbers Blue (7), Gold (8), White (13) and Red (8). Goals scored 16.

June 19th: The weather was good but the hockey was not. Despite the European absentees at the Belgian tournament numbers were adequate, excepting for goalkeepers. Blue were bolstered by Ash Challenor in addition to Chip and Bob Claxton paid us another visit and was immediately recruited for White. The mis-directed, mis-hit passes were almost outnumbered by missed goals, including several absolute sitters, by all teams. A list of the errant forwards will not be included, due to the ban on editorial selfies and lack of space. The two goalkeepers (Barry and Tony) must have been happy with the decision of so many of the forwards that the best path to goal was through the pads, and showed repeatedly that this was not the case. On one occasion in the first game Paul Robinson collected the third rebound in a passage of play, and scored. The next five matches were 0-0 draws, even after the goalkeepers called it a day after Game 5. On another occasion, after Tony had saved well a couple of times Jim Wright assisted with the save of the day from point-blank range on the goal-line. White improved their passing in Game 7 and Peter Wallis showed how it should be done with good leading and finishing. Then in the last game Ian Hill took the ball down and scored the goal of the day with the reverse stick from the left hand edge of the circle. Thank you to all the volunteers to be the third full-back after the goalkeepers departed: Ken Walter, Jim Balding, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, David Evans and Len Blyth. Comebacks included: John Jeffreys, Colin Murray-Smith, Ash Challenor, Rod Spencer, Phil Metcalf, Mark Faithfull and umpire John Lindsay. Team numbers: White (10), Gold (11), Red (9) and Blue (8). These numbers include Bob Claxton in White and Ash Challenor in Blue, while Col Gee transferred to Blue for the day. Total goals scored (5), only 1 against a goalkeeper.

Comment on 19/06: This was one of the worse days I can remember in WHM.

The hockey it was rather poor

And playing became a real chore

The play was so bad

That what was most sad (*for forwards, at least*)

For five games there wasn't a score.

Comment: In recent weeks there have been some marked imbalances between teams, due to injury and absences. This has been a semi-regular occurrence ever since I joined WHM just a little while ago (13 years). Hopefully the 12th June will be the worst day, and we will start to return to equity when the Southern Cross and Alliance players return from Antwerp. Looking through the team lists I consider that the full squads are quite well balanced. Reader opinions are welcome.

Grumpy Old Men and Women One: "America believes in education: the average professor earns more money in a year than a professional athlete earns in a whole week." *Evan Esar (1899 -1995). American humorist and author of 'Esar's Comic Dictionary.'*

Balinese Bulletin No 43: *Despite a few difficulties Peter has managed to keep us in touch.*

I wish I had a lot more to say that is more positive since my last report. Sadly, although I can report no reversal in my condition there is not a lot to report on the improvement, albeit there is improvement, just not at any great speed.

I believe I can see a "light at the end of the tunnel" even though that end of the tunnel is still some way off. I intend to have another Xray in a couple of weeks or so to gauge any improvement with the self healing of the fracture to the femur. With this Xray in hand we will return to the Specialist.

Please say hello to everyone out there on a Wednesday.

Peter Hammond.

Thanks again Peter. Even if progress is steady rather than meteoric at least there is some. Ed.

Well Done: 'A' division umpires from 22nd May to 19th June were: Rob Andrew, Jim Balding, Bob Bowyer, George Bradbury, Ham D'Souza, David Evans, Peter Evans, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Dave Horsley, Mal Jackaman, Gordon Jeffery, John Jeffreys, John Lindsay, Peter Murray, Brian Soares, Peter Stevens, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Greg Street, Ken Walter, Ken Watt, Ron Venables, Les Waldon, Ricky Watts, Ivan Wilson and Jim Wright. Variety is the spice of life, and thank you to all the variety of umpires listed. Thanks also to the 'B' and 'C' Division umpires, even though Vern Gooch is the only one I can name. Perry Lakes umpires recorded were: Rob Ainsworth, Peter Brien, Mike Gottschalk, Ian Hill, Mal Jackaman, Roger Partington, Neil Scaddan, Don Smart, Greg Street, Les Waldon, Ken Watt and Ivan Wilson - thank you to all. The cooking at the stadium on the 29th appeared to have been a solo effort from Roger Davey, while on the AGM Wednesday (12th June) the cooks I sighted were Dudley Burress and Tom Long. Thanks from all the sausage consumers.

Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players: The PHS list according to the MM notebook only includes George Winning and John Lindsay, who seemed to be the only ones capable of braving the weather and traffic. At Perry Lakes we saw: Eric Alcock (with a replaced hip & some other problems), Rob Andrew, John Milner, Roger Partington, Neil Scaddan, Ron Venables, and Ken Walter. Perhaps it is easier to drive outside peak periods, and an easier destination to reach than PHS.

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

Jamie Dwyer scored a goal in his first of 365 games for Australia. The match was in Melbourne on May 10, 2001 against:

- a. New Zealand
- b. India
- c. Pakistan
- d. Netherlands

Nobody attempted an answer, which was a) New Zealand.

June's question is: Jay Stacy scored the first of his goals for Australia in a match against Soviet Union during the 10th Champion's Trophy in Lahore. He scored a total of:

- a. 27
- b. 72
- c. 172
- d. 227 goals.

Answer next issue.

Shakespeare Said It: "Who says it was, he lies, I say 'twas not." King John Act I Scene I. *That sounds like a most accurate description of 'A' Division disputing an umpiring decision.*

".. I speak as my understanding instructs me, and as mine honesty puts it to utterance." The Winter's Tale Act I Scene I. *That is intended to be the "Masters Matters" editorial policy.*

"... we may outrun, by violent swiftness, that which we run at, and lose by over-running." King Henry VIII Act I Scene I. *Possibly not applicable to 'A' Division and hockey balls except in our dreams. But of course this does not include Ron Venables.*

'B' Division June 2019: From Dudley Evans

With approximately 10 players away in Antwerp playing hockey at the European Championships and generally having a good time and the annual exodus of players up North to get warm and others in Europe on holiday B Division numbers have been down but the spirit of those left has been admirable. Getting sorted into 2 teams and playing until the body says enough has been the order of the day. Nothing has been diminished in the standard or enjoyment which just goes to show that all you need is a couple of teams, a park and some umpires!!

This month's featured player is Rod Bickers currently playing in the half line for the Blue side. After a lengthy and in depth interview I asked Rod to elucidate his view of the world and the meaning of life from the end of a hockey stick. This is what he told me and how he ended up running around the hockey field at Wednesday Masters.

Rod Bickers

Clearly not the same pedigree as some of the other elite players that have appeared here before me, but maybe it is not only about that? Some of us are here through perseverance (both personally and by thanks to those around us) and a touch of luck along the way. Most of all I'm here because it is a great game, it's great for our health, and I love the friendships that I have developed over a lifetime through the game.

Until the last couple of years I have played all of my hockey in WA. I started with Redcliffe Rovers in U/13s and eventually made their 1C team. In those days I was not so smart and played Goal Keeper (just kidding, I did enjoy the position at the time and it gave you a great perspective of the game and its strategies). My work then took me to regional WA, and over the next 10 years lived in Harvey, Manjimup and Karratha. In Harvey we played in the Bunbury competition, and I transitioned to the field, and (ha ha) picked up 'most improved' for that first year - I think that was code for how bad I was at the start! Moving to Manjimup was fun, I had my first taste of my favourite position in the midfield, got to play hockey with Jim Balding for the first time, got to play country week for many years, learned to play in ankle deep mud and puddles, and met and married my beautiful wife. Then came Karratha, no rain in the two years we were there, the season opener for both years was played in 42C heat, and you didn't dare fall over or do a sliding tackle because the field was watered from the local sewerage farm and any cut would take many weeks to heal.

Moving back to Perth, I had a bit of time playing in the Northern districts comp, before moving to Mods to start playing in the O/40 masters grades. I discovered the summer comps and then the mid-weeks comps and loved playing a couple of games a week, year round. During this time I started bumping into some of my old friends from Redcliffe Rovers who had moved to Kalamunda, it was only a matter of time before the lure of these friendships saw me moving to Kalamunda (and driving past almost every other club in Perth to get there each week).

Retirement planning led me to seek out Wednesday Masters, I was advised that the teams in C grade were overflowing (maybe more code for how bad I was), and with Simon's permission was promoted to B grade. Hearing how much fun hockey tourism was, I put my name down for the Hobart nationals with WA Country, when they couldn't raise a team I joined ACT (my daughter lives there, and I was thankful for a good reference from Woody). I love how much fun these tournaments are and how great it is bumping into friends wherever you go. Staying in Ballina with the Jimmy Bank's caravan troupe was a highlight. I have loved my time with WHM, the hockey is as good as you can get on a weekly basis, and is so well organised. We have an amazing bunch of blokes who I feel privileged to play alongside and I love having a beer with after the games.

Rod is now retired but in his working life was the Chief Information Officer for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I think this means he was a spin doctor! In his spare time he goes running with various groups. I didn't ask him why!!

Many thanks Dudley and Rod. Hope readers are enjoying these background stories too. Ed.

Thailand Tales: Readers may remember that Woody was not too well the last issue with a nasty case of Dengue fever. He's still managed to send a piece for MM, despite a few ongoing problems.

I've had a relapse, been in hospital for a few days, but getting better.

Our hockey here is in limbo at present.

We had the 6 a side carnival in Hua Hin, our club won the ladies comp, our men won the drinking comp. (I didn't go)

And we have the 7 a side carnival in Cambodia in August.

That's about it.

Cheers - Woody

Thanks again Woody - hope your successful recovery is under way soon. Ed.

European Championships: Play has begun in Antwerp and as at 23/06 several members of WHM have appeared on the goal-scorers tally (and one has appeared on the green card list). Scorers were: Southern Cross O/75s: Scott Blackwell (2), John Ree (2) Neil Patterson (1).

Southern Cross O/70s: Mike Robinson (1).

Southern Cross O/65s Blue: Ian Pestana (1).

Southern Cross O/65s Red: Steve McEntee (1).

Southern Cross O/60s: Steve Farrar (2).

Readers who would like to check on the matches in progress can use this link to access the page on the WGMA web-site which enables you to access all competitions and all age groups.

<https://wgmahockey.org/content/grand-masters-hockey-european-cup-2019>.

From our Uniforms Officer: Robin Bailey almost had a misadventure recently, and was good enough to put fingers to keyboard and tell us about it. No significance should be attached to the location of this piece right next to the Jane Austen quote below it.

"Recently I was handing out new uniforms in all Divisions. After I got home from handing out uniforms to the C Division players, I noticed that I did not have my money tin, and as it contained a fair sum of money (your money) I immediately arranged for the C team captains to be contacted to ask if the container had been found, with no success. I re-imbursed the money as I keep a record of all the cash I receive, so your money was not lost. Next Wednesday, Phil Wilson (a goalkeeper in the C's) came up to me and said "I believe you lost your money container" and promptly brought it out as he had noticed that I had left it behind. I am extremely grateful to Phil and thanked him. Hockey is a team sport and it is good to know that team spirit can also apply in our daily living."

Well done to Phil and Robin for this one. Robin is almost certainly one of our better known members as he delivers uniforms to all our Divisions. And I hope Phil is enjoying the support from 'C' Division defences after helping us out in 'A' Division on his first day with us. Ed.

Quotable Quote Two: "If any one faculty of our nature may be called more wonderful than the rest, I do think it is memory. There seems something more speakingly incomprehensible in the powers, the failures, the inequalities of memory than in any other of our intelligences. The memory is sometimes so retentive, so serviceable, so obedient, at others so bewildered and so weak; and at others again, so tyrannic, so beyond control! We are, to be sure, a miracle in every way; but our powers of recollecting and of forgetting do seem peculiarly past finding out." *Jane Austen (1775 - 1816). From Mansfield Park. How's your memory? Mine is increasingly turning into a forgettory. Ed.*

Grumpy Old Men 2: "If the English language made any sense a catastrophe would be an apostrophe with fur." *Doug Larson (1926 - 2017) US journalist and newspaper columnist.*

Punology One: Did you hear about the man who went to his GP and complained that his toes had gone to sleep. He was said to be in a coma-toes condition.

Reader Contribution: *Keith Platel appealed for breast cancer funds in the March MM. The result:*

I just want to thank the hockey community for your generous support of the National Breast Cancer Foundation and of me personally in our endeavours to achieve Zero Deaths from Breast Cancer by 2030. Will it be achieved? I have no idea but I do know you have helped some very bright and dedicated researchers in their endeavours to give it a chance and, at the very least, to improve outcomes of the huge numbers who will be affected by the disease over that time.

I had no idea when I decided to participate what a journey it would be and how emotionally draining it would be. But throughout I have been encouraged and strengthened by your support and by the many comments on how some of your lives have also been impacted by this disease. In the past few days I received many wonderful emails, SMS's and phone calls of support for me and the climb. Quite frankly, I wished they would stop because each one made me a little more emotional, remembering why I had decided to support the cause. But I appreciated each and every one of them - reinforced by the thought of so many people not just donating important cash, but investing themselves in the occasion.

So - yes - I did make it and did climb the bridge with help from each and every one of you. I was made to feel like royalty by both the staff of the Foundation and of Bridge Climb. With your help I did overcome any previous fear of height. By the time I started I think I was so emotionally drained I just climbed - and appreciated the experience. I was really pleased to have about 20 minutes "quiet time" at the top to reflect on why I was there and how lucky I was to have **186 supporters like you contributing a total of \$27,355!!!!**

Perhaps the highlight for me was after we had finished and "disrobed" and everyone had been given the standard group photo and certificate. A young girl from the Bridge Climb organisation came from behind the counter and gave me a special mounted photo of me at the top. She then said her grandmother had been a victim of breast cancer and started to cry - which started me off and then our climb guide - which led to genuine hugs of affection and support all around. It was a really special moment when I knew what we had just done was important.

So - thank you for your support. Proof of performance is attached.

Best wishes to you all - Keith.



Thanks for the piece Keith, and very well done to you. Ed.

Page Filler: I was intending to spare readers any of my trip photos. But as both of our regular foreign correspondents are incapacitated they have not sent as many words as usual. The part of the world depicted here has been on my bucket list for a very long time. At last I can tick off the Cliffs of Moher on the west coast of Ireland. They are even more stunning when you're there.



Lost and Found? My umpiring whistle has mysteriously vanished from the blue box in the technical dugout on Turf 1. I doubt that it was an attempt to prevent any more officiating by me, though many 'A' Division players might differ. Its return would be welcome - it was a pretty good whistle which equally oddly replaced its predecessor in the same location.

Punology Two: Did you hear about the office manager who purchased a robotic spittoon for his work place? Unfortunately, despite its speed and efficiency, it failed to meet his expectations.

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: It is now so close to July that unless there is a really major story I will abandon the July issue and aim at an August one in the normal first week of the month. This one has taken a lot longer to prepare than it should have as the Perth winter viruses seem to have a lingering after-effect of extreme tiredness. As Peter Seeger sang (a very long time ago) "my get up and go has got up and went." Hope none of you are in the same position.

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