



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 8

September 2019

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Dates For The Diary:

2019: July 20th : September 27th/October 12th. Interstate Masters Tournament - South/West WA.
 O/35, O/40 and O/45 run from 27th September to 5th October.

October 2nd: Combined games on one PHS turf for those not in the tournament.

October 8th: Southern Cross AGM. Multi-Sports Pavilion, Hay Park Bunbury. 5:30 pm.

October 9th: Combined games at another turf - probably Warwick at this stage.

October 19th: Saturday Hockey winter season windup - Perry Lakes after hockey.

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

December 18th: WHM Christmas Party.

2020: World Cup (s) - See below.

} Australia & Southern Cross

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

O/45, O/50 and O/55 Men; O/45, O/50, O/55, O/60, O/65 Women; Spirit of Masters: Cape Town, South Africa - September 19th to 29th.

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

World Cup Player Nominations: Tokyo may seem like a very long time in the future, but it's only about 14 months off, and nominations have already opened for Australia, Southern Cross and Alliance. To assist, the links to the web-sites are included:

Australia: <http://www.australianmastershockey.com/news/>

This link will take you to the website news page, where you need to find the story headed "2020 Australian Men's Masters Nominations Now Open" and follow the prompts. These nominations close at 9:00 pm (WST) on 22nd September (this year).

Southern Cross: <http://www.southerncrosshockey.org/>

You can register and nominate via the Membership Register button on this page.

Those already registered nominate by updating their details via the SX Newsflash email which is sent out when nominations are opened for that tournament.

Alliance: <https://www.alliancehockey.net/tournaments>

Included on Page 11 is some more information about Southern Cross and Alliance.

World Cup Off-Field Roles: Southern Cross have already closed their nomination period for selectors and coaches for the 2020 Cup (on 23/08). The Australian sides EOIs for coaches, assistant coaches and team managers closed on 01/09. Hope nobody missed out on applying.

S/W Tournament: The final draw has now been released and may be accessed via this link:

<http://www.australianmastershockey.com/2019-bunbury-busselton-wa/>

PHS Turf One: FIH have decreed that the camber on the field must be reduced. This involves closure for about 8 weeks while the work is done, will have to happen during the off season, and necessitate moving 'A' Division (at least) to another venue for the duration. This may affect our Christmas Party, and revive the north / south debate. When the final schedule is known we can tell you more.

Poor Bar Attendance: The numbers at our bar match post-mortems have not been great in recent months, as those of you who do go will know. This generated a request for suggestions on how this might be improved and here are some of those received:

- Better quantity and quality of food, and more comfortable seating.
- 'A' Division joins 'B' Division at the larger tables with better seating to improve socialisation.
- Have a monthly speaker on topics of interest to members - e.g. the latest developments in joint replacements.

The Executive's review identified a problem in that 'A' Division finishing half an hour after 'B' Division meant that the younger players had to wait an extra half an hour for nibbles. This delay also meant that they were being caught up in Perth's traffic, as were and are the 'A' Division too.

So on a trial basis the start time for the 'A' Division matches has been advanced half an hour to 12:30 pm. This will enable the nibbles and raffle to be half an hour earlier too, and it is hoped will give players time to both socialise and beat the traffic too. MM's limericist has a facetious view:

There's many don't go to the bar
For post-hockey chat and a jar
The air con's too cold?
Your ears are too old?
And home's a long time in the car.

Poor Bar Attendance (Comment): I consider that our WHM is not as friendly and sociable as it was when I started in 2006. At that time almost all players stayed on afterwards (as still happens at Perry Lakes on Saturdays). I urge all of you to think about changing your post-hockey routine and come in and see what the bar is like these days. We enjoy good support from Hockey WA largely because we are a major component of the PHS bar revenue.

WHM in WA State Teams: The State O/50s Division 2 is announced, including these WHM players:

O/50s (2): Martin Hickey and Andrew (Nick) Hyde.

There has also been a change in the O/75s. In the interest of continuity Les Waldon is now the coach and Len Blyth is captain.

WHM in WA Country Teams: Thanks to Chris Morley for letting me know that WAC has announced a second O/60 team. This includes WHM players:

O/60(2): Adrian Gabriel, Graham Harper, Chris Morley, Geoff Riley, Andrew Robertson, John Rogers.

Representative Sides on Wednesdays: As from August 28th our Wednesday matches have included several sides who will compete later this in the South-West. 'A' Division have replaced the Blue team with the WA Metro O/75s and the White team by the WA Country O/75s. Gold will include those Blue players not in the tournament and similarly Red are to be bolstered by the non-travelling White team members. 'B' Division will feature the State O/70s and O/65s and 'C' Division are considering the options. This will be very good for the tournament teams, and this year I trust that we can make sure that all players still can have a competitive and enjoyable Wednesday afternoon.

Changes to 'A' Division Fixtures: The voting on the length of our matches has resulted in a decisive majority wanting to return to the 25 minute games. This came into effect as from 28th August at the same time as the introduction of the representative sides. My personal view is that it is better than the alternative, even though one week in four we have the dreaded play two, miss two roster.

Quotable Quote One: "Perhaps there were low-carbohydrate saints, she thought, who would be examples to all those struggling with the temptation of gastronomy - thin, ascetic saints who believed in the mortification of the flesh and the denial of appetite." *This is from 'The Quiet Side of Passion' by Alexander McCall Smith. This quote does not apply to end-of-the-month sausage sizzles.*

Department of Health: Bob Bowyer has had a really tough time this year. In addition to the ongoing sciatica problem, the cataract operation and the gluten-free diet (and GF beer) he now has slipped in the shower and torn both shoulder tendons. Talking of sciatica, Paul Robinson has now had a spinal injection, but hopes to be playing again soon. We hope that Peter Dennis will be able to return to our Wednesday hockey a little later this year. Many of you will remember Brian Young, formerly of Perth and Raiders, whose Parkinson's Disease has now forced him into care. Jim Wright made a late bid to join the Prostates team in the December Charity Day, but much to his relief it turned out to only a temporary spike in the PSA reading. John Mercer's Prostates application is still very much a work in progress. Best wishes to all, including those I do not know about. (*probably a lot*)

Letters To The Editor: August's edition received responses from Peter Murray, Bob Bowyer and Chris Morley (WHM players in WAC O60s Division 2) - thank you. I had hoped to become more an editor than a writer, but the newsletter is not serving as a forum for public discussion as much as desired, prompting this comment from our limericist:

There weren't very many who wrote
Not even a good anecdote
If you've a firm view
Then please see it through
And drop Masters Matters a note.

The email address is: johnmercer@inet.net.au

Look forward to hearing from (some of) you. Ed. Thanks also to Pando (aka Phil Anderson) for some thoughts on the Saturday hockey name, and other issues. Space being tight the letter is on Page 6.

Department of Corrections: My apologies to 'B' Division correspondent Dudley Evans. His piece in the last issue was headed "June" which should have been "July." And I failed to realise that the Perry Lakes drinks celebrating significant birthday milestones had been bought by not only John Halley but also Bob Bowyer. A belated Happy Birthday (again) to both of you venerable gentlemen.

Grumpy Old Men and Women One: "Today's public figures can no longer write their own speeches or books, and there is some evidence that they can't read them either." *Gore Vidal (1925 - 2012). US author and dramatist.*

YMCA Junior Hockey: last year we donated some of our charity money (raffle proceeds) to YMCA for their program. It is pleasing to be able to include a 'YMCA 2019 Junior Hockey Report to WHM.'

To WHM a very big Thank You for the donation to our junior hockey development program.

The funds were exclusively used to support our Junior hockey player development.

In 2019 we had 89 players participant in development programs.

The measured improvement from start to finish was:

J5/6 girls +7%

J5/6 Boys +4%

J7/8 Girls +11%

J7/8 Boys +5%

This is based on pre and post skills assessment.

Additionally, YMCC has had a large number of WA state players this year which in part can be assessed as a result of historical development programs and ongoing coaching programs. In 2019 we had 21 juniors selected in WA representative teams and of those 3 were selected in the Australian under 16 State Schoolboys team.

Kind regards

Paul Hough 28th August 2019

Thanks to YM for providing us with this feedback. Ed.

'A' Division Blog: The representative sides are there until after the tournament. We must live with it.

August 7th: There were marked improvements in several areas: our numbers were much better, the hockey was greatly improved (most of the time) and with 3 goalkeepers normal matches could be played throughout. Blue began with 7 players and crashed 4-1 to White in the opener. More Blue players (four) arrived after this match and they did better, whereas White scored no more goals. The results were symmetrical again - Red (W2, L0, D2), Blue (W1, L1, D2), White (W1, L1, D2), Gold (W0, L2, D2). The trapping was generally good, the passing began well but fell away as the afternoon progressed (exemplified by White's inability to add to their goal tally), and the goal-shooting was at or near its usual standard. This list of scorers may be subject to change, as some of the goals needed off-field clarification of the scorer. **Blue:** Peter Eastlake, Neil Patterson, John Ree; **Gold:** Rod Spencer; **Red:** Col Murray-Smith; **White:** Ken Beer, Brian Soares, Peter Wallis (2). There were some very fine finishes, so the week's goal of the day is shared between Ken Beer, (good deflection after multiple-pass buildup), John Ree (beautiful pass from Jim Malcolm) and Rod Spencer (good hit). The peak team numbers were: White (13), Blue (11), Gold (10) and Red (9). Goals scored (10).

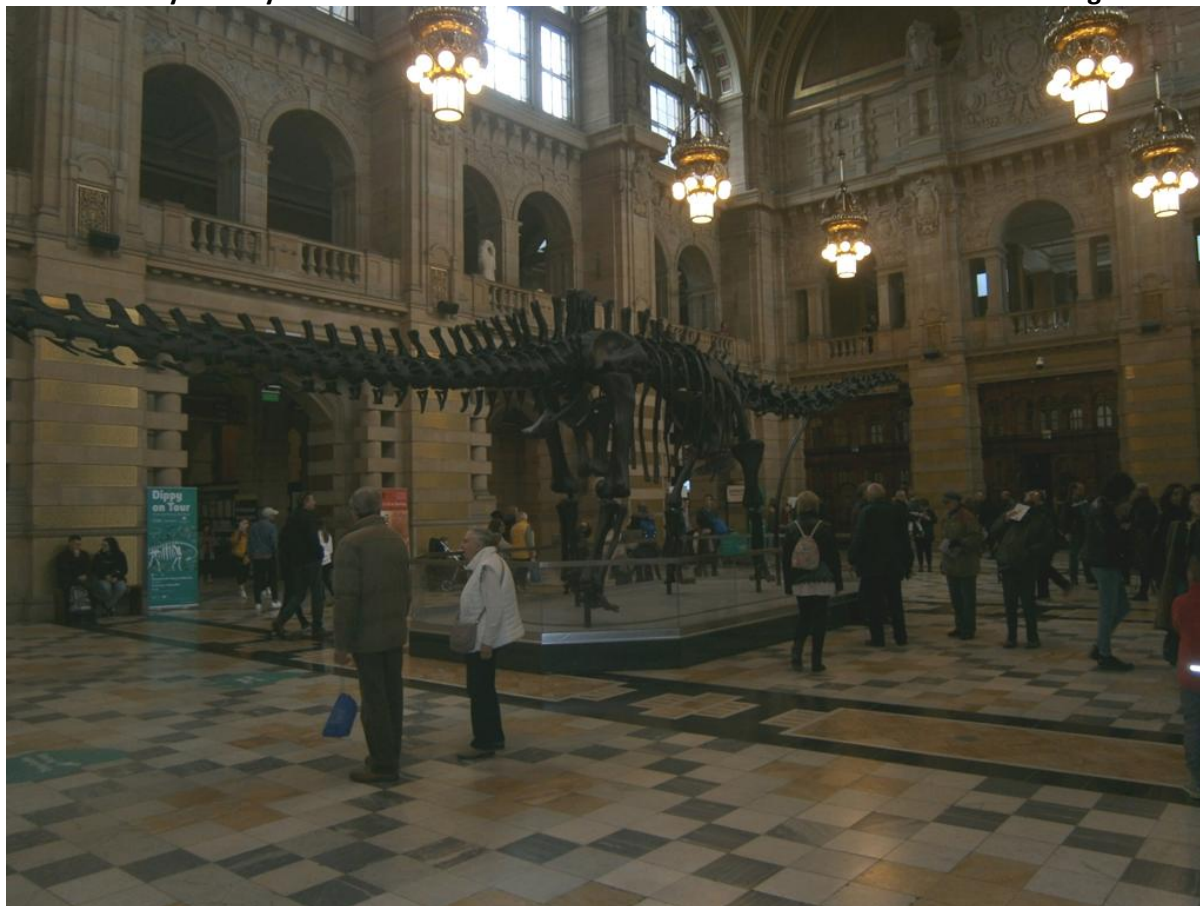
August 14th: We have not seen Colin Sanders on a Wednesday since he was forced to pull out of the State O/75s (as playing coach) before the Adelaide tournament in 2016. It was great to see him back, and he played as though he'd never been away. Steve McEntee also resumed, after a long holiday. Goalkeepers Barry and Ian were all we had at the outset, and Ian was restarting after hamstringing tightness. So John Harper came up from Turf Two after a request and between them we had keepers all day (thank you GKs). The day's results in summary were: White (W3, L1, D0), Red (W2, L0, D2), Gold (W1, L2, D1) and the depleted Blue (W0, L3, D1). Red (Col Murray-Smith [3], Ron Venables) and White (Ham D'Souza, Greg Street, Robin Bailey) each scored 4 goals while Blue (Neil Patterson) and Gold (Ian Purdie) only managed 1 each. The hockey was again quite good for most of the day, though there were many times when our passing was very average. At times so were our tempers and there are far too many bad tackles occurring. We are not playing for sheep stations (not even for points) and it is high time that we returned to Wednesdays being a day for social hockey played in the right spirit. The judges decided that sheer quantity was enough to earn goal of the day for Col Murray-Smith. Red are still struggling for numbers and Col Sanders played with them, while Bob Robinson transferred from Gold for the day. Team numbers based on maximums (some arrived late, some departed early) were roughly: Red (9), Gold (11), White (11) and Blue (12). Goals scored (10).

August 21st: The weather was beautiful, there were three goalkeepers and all teams had reasonable numbers. But in the first few matches our good hockey was lacking, possibly due to very cursory or non-existent warm-ups (and Ivan was not watering the turf). Robin Bailey scrambled a goal for White in the first game, and it was not until the last couple of minutes in Game 4 that Bob Maley of the Red team got the day's second. Another scoreless draw followed in Game 5, but then the last three matches (both for the day and the 18 minute format) produced quite a lot of better hockey and 5 more goals, with some excellent finishes among them. The day's results were White (W2, L0, D2), Blue (W1, L1, D2), Red (W1, L2, D1), Gold (W0, L1, D3). Scorers: **Blue** Neil Patterson (did John Ree get a touch on the line?) and Jim Malcolm; **Gold** Peter Willett; **Red:** Bob Maley; **White** Robin Bailey, Rob Butler and George Bradbury. The goal of the day award is shared 4 ways, between Jim M, Peter W, Rob B and George B. Well done to the umpires who did their best to penalise bad tackles and stick checks, and overall did not make anywhere near the same amount of mistakes as the players. This led to a much more enjoyable afternoon, despite the hockey quality (or lack of it). We welcomed Alan Chapman (ACT) for one game, after which he was needed for numbers on Turf 2. New players Ray Domingo (making a comeback) and Hector D'Rozario helped increase our numbers, as did the return of Colin Sanders and Rob Butler. This week was our last under the current team lists and match times before the interstate tournament, following which George intends to have a review of our current team lists - though the dreaded reallocation / reshuffle words have not been used (yet). Player numbers were: White (10), Red (11) Blue (10) and Gold (11). Goals scored (7). /7

Punology One: What did the cheese say to the mirror? "Haloumi."

From Saturday Hockey Masters:

Glasgow 2019



I've heard the term 'hockey dinosaurs' applied to our Saturday games, and so have included the above photograph (from the Kelvingrove Museum) to demonstrate that there is a difference. Even if they may have been faster than we are.

Numbers were so great on August 31st that we were looking at four teams. Then we realised that this left only Peter Brien to umpire the two matches, with no spare players to assist. So it was back to three teams, and the maroon shirts got another outing. Perhaps it might be a good idea to bring all four shirts, if you have them, for the next few weeks.

A situation where all sides have multiple reserves makes it just as difficult for the day's captains as one where several recruits from other teams are needed for each game. Well done to the jugglers on the day, who did fairly well at giving everybody a decent run.

A reminder that our winter season windup will be held at Perry Lakes after our later-starting hockey on 19th October, with catering by WA Spit Roasts. Numbers will be called for shortly.

Thanks to Phil Anderson, for some thoughtful comments on the name issue, and other matters.

"In respect of the June edition, I see that no agreement has been reached on a new name for Saturday Hockey. With respect, the question is, does it really matter? Everyone **in** WHM knows what Saturday Hockey means to them. Wednesday Hockey is still Wednesday Hockey as far as I know, unless I've missed something. If Saturday Hockey ends up with a new name, then so be it, but what about a new name for Wednesday Hockey? It really begs the question. For what it's worth, that's just my observation from somewhat afar you could say (not being a Saturday player). It all seems too hard to reach an agreement on a new name for Saturday Hockey after, without doubt, countless well thought up suggestions and maybe it should just be left known as Saturday Hockey.

Incidentally, it was great to read the well written personal articles (by other hockey tragics) in the last edition on, for want of a title, 'How I graduated to becoming a WHM hockey player.'"

'A' Division Blog Continued:

August 28th: The first day of the representative sides and the return of the 25 minute matches meant that all four teams were getting to know one another, and possibly as a consequence goals were very hard to get. A couple of miraculous saves (Jim Wright conspicuous) and dogged defence kept the scores down, as did quite a lot of very inept passing (with WA Country leading the way). The goalkeepers (Barry, Colin, Ian & John) generally played very well too. The WA Metro team produced the best hockey on the day, and deservedly dominated territory and possession, but were not quite as good at converting this into scoreboard pressure. Gold/Blue put together some good moves but only scored once through a fine finish by Steve McEntee. Red/White benefited from two opportunist goals by Ray Domingo, while the Metro team's three conversions came from Brian Soares (2) and Don Smart. The results and the for and against in summary: WA Metro 75s (W2, L0, D1, F3, A1); Red/White (W1, L1, D1, F2, A2); Gold/Blue (W1, L1, D1, F1, A1); WAC 75s (W0, L2, D1, F0, A2). Goal of the day is shared again this week between Steve McEntee and Ray Domingo. Team numbers: Red/White (8), WAC (12), WA Metro (13) and Gold/Blue (11). Goals scored (6).

General Comment: I have heard that some players are not happy about the inclusion of the Bunbury sides in the Wednesday competition. Please make your views known to your team captain or to the 'A' Division coordinator George; though perhaps wait another week or two to see how competitive (or otherwise) this year is going to be. There have been times in past years where I have felt like a human training cone, and I have no desire to repeat the experience. MM's limericist has his say:

I've heard that there's some stay away
Now rep teams are part of the play
So don't sit and whine
Just drop us a line
And say why you're not there today.

Balinese Bulletin (Not this month): *Peter H. has requested a month off reporting duties, as nothing much has changed up there. We all hope that you will have some better news next month, and in the meantime, the light at the end of the Carlton tunnel is no longer the rapidly approaching train.*

Well Dones: 'A' division umpires during August included: Jim Balding, George Bradbury, Peter Eastlake, Peter Evans, Colin Gee, Roy Hansen, Mal Horrigan, David Horsley, Mal Jackaman, Gordon Jeffery, John Jeffreys, Bob Maley, Steve McEntee, John Mercer, Peter Murray, Bob Robinson, Colin Sanders, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Greg Street, Ron Venables, Les Waldon, Ken Walter, Ken Watt, and Ivan Wilson. Thanks to all. Vern Gooch is still doing some 'B' Division games (comes to the bar afterwards) and Steve Farrar appears to be a volunteer umpire (in 'C' Division?) during his therapy – thanks to both gentlemen. Perry Lakes umpires recorded were: George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Dudley Burrell, Col Gee, Ian Hill, Mal Jackaman, Peter Jones, Murray Matthews, John Mercer, Peter Murray, Neil Scaddan, Don Smart, Brian Soares, Rod Spencer, Greg Street, Ron Venables, Les Waldon, Ken Walter, Ken Watt and Ivan Wilson - thanks gents. Thanks also to the sausage cooks on the 28th - Ivan Wilson, Ken Beer and Robin Bailey. Finally, a special thank you to Harvey Davies, who has now re-done our fixtures several times due to changes. The Technicolor is great.

Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players: PHS brought us not only our regular attendee George Winning (who it's always great to see), but also Bob Bowyer, who is in need of a medical miracle or two before he plays again. And Wasps also sent us Stu and Nick Calder. Perry Lakes seems to be the social centre; those who came for a chat and a drink but not a game were Eric Alcock, John Halley, David Lester, John Mercer, John Milner, Roger Partington, Paul Robinson and Ken Walter. Plus intrepid cyclist Mary Clayton, who went for a ride along the coast while George enjoyed his hockey.

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

In 1969 which of these momentous events occurred:

- a . Concorde flew for the first time b . Man stepped on the moon
c . Old Mods won their first A1 Premiership d . All of the above

No answers were received, though I'm sure many of you remember the year.

The correct answer was d, though I nearly added another event - John Mercer joined IBM. This was just in time to watch the moon pictures on the in-house video screen in the lunchroom.

September's question is: Who is this player?



Clue: He played for Queensland.

Answer next issue.

Thailand Tales: *It seems that Woody is back to good health again. Does anybody remember the regular 'Hockey Bulletin' article "Hockey, the Game That Grows?" Here's a new country.*

I have just returned from a 7 a side hockey tournament in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. There were 8 teams participating, 2 from Phnom Penh, 2 from our club Bangkok Inter, 2 Islam teams from Hong Kong, and a kids team from a Cambodian school and the Cambodian national side. I was so impressed with the way it was organized, and was a fantastic experience.

The kids team is coached by one of the parents, a guy from Pakistan and the skills of these kids is fantastic. Unfortunately there is not much competition so they enter tournaments like this to gain experience. There is one girl who is quite tall (about 6 feet), you watch her play, you beat her with stick work and think "that was easy" then all of a sudden this long arm comes from nowhere and she pinches the ball from under your nose. Absolutely amazing to watch.

Hockey is a relatively new sport in Cambodia, mostly introduced there by ex-pats. The Phnom Penh teams consisted of some teachers, British Embassy staff, and general business people who played hockey in their home country (even some K1W1's.)

Two Islam teams came from Hong Kong, consisting of a mixture of Indians, Paki's and Hong Kong residents. Their manager was 82 years old and played in Hong Kong's only Olympic hockey team back in 1964. He very proudly carries his team photo around with him wherever he goes.

It was a fun weekend 6 games on Saturday and 3 on Sunday morning. The hospitality included a dinner cruise on the Mekong River, a very pleasant function with non-stop Cambodian beer (good stuff). We then went to a nearby sports bar and painfully watch Australia lose the cricket to the Poms, so we were given absolute shit all night and the next day.

Our next adventure is the Vietnam Hockey Festival in November, provided I survive Bunbury and Korea. I am very much looking forward to playing against my own age bracket. No fun chasing 20 and 30 year olds.

See you next month in Bunbury, looking forward to seeing you all and having a beer.

Cheers - Woody

Thank you Woody - hope to catch up in the S/W. Ed.

Quotable Quote Two: "Sport is imposing order on what was chaos." Anthony Starr - television actor. *Would he have still said that after watching the last game of the day in 'A' Division?*

'B' Division August 2019: *From Dudley Evans*

After a solid start to the month the State 65's and 70's joined the party! Players suddenly come out of the woodwork looking for a game as they hurriedly prepare for the upcoming State Champs. This year being just down the road in Bunbury/Busselton players are doubly keen to get a gig! This always brings a subtly different dynamic to Wednesday afternoon hockey and adds to the rich tapestry of our Masters experience. I know this is true because I now have a sore ankle!!

This month's featured player is Peter Fogels currently running in the forwards for the Gold side. After a lengthy and in depth analysis I asked Peter to **put it in writing** so the committee could have a chance to respond! This is what he told me and how and why he ended up at WHM.

Peter Fogels

My hockey history, as far as I can remember anyway:

Primary school - Newtown Primary in Hobart somewhere between 1956 and 1960.

I was in the school team but remember nothing about it except that my parents had a photo of me with a hockey stick bigger than me! Didn't play hockey again for many years as we moved with my father's work as an engineer between Melbourne and Tasmania. I finished school at Wynyard High School (North-West coast of Tasmania) in 1967 and started work at the Bank of New South Wales in Burnie, Tas.

In 1969-1970 I transferred to Victoria in the bank and worked on relief staff throughout Victoria for a few years but didn't play hockey at all. It was a great experience though, travelling the length and breadth of Victoria from the dry, hot country around Mildura to the edge of the Snowy Mountains hydro scheme, all in my trusty Austin A50 and later the Falcon XY - best car I ever owned.

Being the curious type in the Bank I eventually ended up in the very first data processing centre for Bank of NSW (later Westpac) in the heart of the CBD in Melbourne and my first job was to be a member of the team converting bank branches onto computer from manual ledgers. My job was to teach branch staff how to write with pencil in font which could later be read by an IBM computer - one pre-printed form for each customer with all the information, including account balance and overdraft limit and so on, and then, on the night of conversion, to take that pile of forms down to IBM processing centre in St Kilda for processing through a reader machine which put the data onto magnetic tape. I then took the tape to the new data centre and the data was loaded onto computer.

Well, I must have done alright at that because I was offered a transfer to Western Australia to help set up the new data centre in Subiaco where the same processing would be done for WA customers. It was in WA that I got the urge to play hockey again and that was in 1976.

I joined Bayswater-Morley but after buying a block of land in Wanneroo moved to become an inaugural member of Whitford Hockey Club, based then at McDonald Reserve in Padbury. I was only in the club for a short time before being transferred again in 1979, this time to Sydney as a computer programmer after training on the job in the Subiaco centre.

I think young folks these days have it much tougher than we did but I do remember all sorts of resistance to my promotion because of my lack of formal school and university qualifications but I still remember my old boss at Subiaco, Tom Suters, who saw something in me and pushed my case, with success. I did ok in Sydney and was involved in major changes to Westpac's trading bank system before moving into the emerging technology of ATMs and EFTPOS. During that time I played hockey at Cumberland which became Parramatta, and after moving from Toongabbie in Sydney's West to Maraylya (further West and North) I played for Glenorie.

In 1986 I had an opportunity to bring Chris and our two boys home to WA to work at Bankwest as they embarked on the ATMs and EFTPOS adventure. I returned to Whitford hockey club.

I am very vague about the next chapter as I simply don't remember the dates but at some stage the WA Government asked both Whitford Hockey Club, being the northernmost club in the metro area affiliated with WAHA and Wanneroo Hockey Club (then and still I think independent) to 'donate' some committee members to form the new club in the North, based at Arena Joondalup. I was one of 2 or 3 from the Whitford committee to make the move. I think that may have been 1994.

After a number of years in Masters at Joondalup it became untenable to field a team because of players commitments to their children's sports and so on and the decision was made by the remaining Masters at Joondalup, to form a merged team with Whitford. That lasted for one year I think and then became simply Whitford.

Since 2001 I have played in WA Masters State teams under the excellent guidance of great coaches such as Robbie Lawson, Graham Ryan, Ian Pestana and probably others I can't remember just now. I missed only two Nationals I think since then - Cairns and Adelaide (knee replacement). In 2013 I represented WA Country in Sydney.

I was fortunate enough to be selected for Australia representation in 55's at Birmingham, England in 2006 and again in 2010 (South Africa), 2011 (Singapore), 2015 (Trans-Tasman in Melbourne) and 2018 (Barcelona, Spain). I have also represented Southern Cross Masters Hockey since it's re-birth in 2012 at Oxford, England, playing most years but not all, the most recent being in the 65s Blue team at Brasschaat, Belgium in June 2019 where we won Gold from England LX Red team in the Tournament Trophy division of the European Cup.

After 20 years working at Water Corporation (for Tandem Computers which became Compaq which became Hewlett-Packard which became DXC) following my 30 years in financial institutions I retired in 2018 and for the past two years have been the 'groundsman' at Warwick Hockey Centre, marking the grass fields each week and cleaning the turf whenever required.

I love my hockey but the most enjoyable part is the camaraderie - the human interchange both during the stress of a close game and afterwards over an amber ale or two.

Long may we all keep running around on top of the turf instead of pushing up the daisies from underneath.

I'll drink to that!!

And so would a lot of us. Thank you to Pete and Dud. Ed.

Whistle While You Work

Advantage: The Rule Book includes a section on umpiring, which should be required reading for any of us who blow a whistle on either Wednesday or Saturday. As promised last edition of MM, here is Section 2.2 (Advantage) in full.

a: It is not necessary for every offence to be penalized when no advantage is gained by the offender: unnecessary interruptions to the flow of the match cause undue delay and irritation.

b: When the rules have been broken an umpire must apply advantage if this is the most severe penalty. *For example, a ball is touched by an attacker inside the circle and then kicked into the goal by a defender. The umpire should award a goal, not a penalty corner.*

c: Possession of the ball does not necessarily mean there is an advantage; for advantage to apply the player/team with the ball must be able to develop their play.

d: Having decided to pay advantage, a second opportunity must not be given by reverting to the original penalty. *If the shot at goal which resulted from the umpire paying advantage is missed, he should not then award the penalty corner for which he waved play on.*

e: It is important to anticipate the flow of the match, to look beyond the action of the moment and to be aware of potential developments in the match.

Receiving a Raised Ball: I think that we have not been enforcing this properly. Here is the rule:

Rule 9.10: Players must not approach within 5 metres of an opponent receiving a falling raised ball until it has been received, controlled and is on the ground.

The initial receiver has a right to the ball. If it is not clear which player is the initial receiver, the player of the team which raised the ball must allow the opponent to receive it.

(This is fairly clear, and means that would be tacklers must keep their distance until the ball is fully under control and on the ground. Reader opinions are welcome. Ed)

Grumpy Old Men Two: "The only reason I wouldn't go to some parts of New York is the very real risk of meeting Donald Trump." *Boris Johnson - undated.*

Southern Cross: *Many of us who are past the age of 60 have played with SX. For those who are not familiar with them, or are too young they have distributed a press release:*

Southern Cross Masters Hockey (SCMH) is an Australian-based organisation promoting international hockey for Masters players in the O60s, O65s, O70s and O75s age groups. SCMH receives invitations to compete in competitions sanctioned by the Federation of International Hockey (FIH) - which endorsed the newly formed World Masters Hockey (WMH) after it was incorporated on 24th October, 2018.

Note: The WMH was formed by combining two organisations - the International Masters Hockey Association (IMHA) and World Grand Masters Hockey (WGMA).

How does it work? At an international tournament – eg a World Cup event – two competitions are run in parallel, at the same venue, at the same time. One is recognised as a “National Teams” competition and the other is known as the “Tournament Trophy” which caters for national 2nd teams and non-national teams. Currently there are three non-national groups, one of which is SCMH, and the other two are Alliance & England LX. At the recent European Cup Tournament Trophy Southern Cross entered five teams (2 in O65s) & won either Gold, Silver or Gold in all 4 age groups.

How do I get involved in SCMH?

To become a member (free to join) of Southern Cross Masters Hockey (free to join), visit the website and click the Membership Registration link on the top right of the home page, and complete your details. The weblink for SCMH is <http://www.southerncrosshockey.org>

When registering online, you can nominate yourself as a **Player** and/or **OFT** (Off-Field Team) member, such as Umpire, Manager, Coach, Physio, Strapper, Supporter, etc. When registered, you will receive via email, the **SX NEWSFLASH** which will contain a link for you to nominate for tournaments – as they become available to do so.

Here are the upcoming and some of the recent tournaments SX will attend / has attended.

- World Cup and TT - Nov 2020 Tokyo.
- Asian Cup and TT - Oct 2019 Korea.
- European Cup and TT - Belgium June 2019.
- World Cup and TT - Barcelona, Spain June 2019.
- Asian Cup and TT - Hiroshima, Japan Oct/Nov 2017.
- European Cup and TT - Glasgow, Scotland August 2017.
- World Cup and TT - Newcastle, Australia May 2016.

More information: Email the Southern Cross Masters Hockey Secretary via scmh@nonstop.com.au Or chat with one of the many WHM SX players; or SX committeeman Peter Fogels.

The Southern Cross AGM will be held on 8th October at the Multi-Sports Pavilion, Bunbury.

Alliance International Hockey Club:

“We have an unique position in the international hockey world, since we are a non-national member of the World Grand Master Association (WGMA).

The WGMA is the body recognised by the International Hockey Federation FIH to promote hockey for persons of 60 years and older.

The WGMA for that purpose organizes all over the world Grand Master tournaments, like World Cups, European Cups, Asian Cups, etc. *(WGMA has merged with the 35 to 55 aged IMHA as WMH)*

In those tournaments Alliance teams compete in categories 60+ (Grand Masters), 65+ (Great Grand Masters), 70+ (Senior Grand Masters) and 75+ (Vintage Grand Masters). “

Alliance welcomes members from any country; today has about 326 members from 32 countries.

As for Southern Cross, many of our WHM members have played for Alliance. Bob Bowyer is a former country coordinator for Australia, and Colin Benporath is the current one.

In Summary: A World Cup is a wonderful experience, and if you are hesitant then have a chat to any of our many players who have attended one. I have enjoyed playing for both Southern Cross and Alliance, and am happy to expound further if anybody is interested. Ed.

Shakespeare Said It: “ ‘Give me the paper, let me read the same; And to the strictest decrees I’ll write my name.” Love’s Labour’s Lost Act I Scene I. *Tournament team managers wish that all their players would sign the tournament Code of Conduct so readily.*

“And sometimes we are devils to ourselves, when we will tempt the frailty of our powers, presuming on their changeable potency.” Troilus And Cressida Act IV Scene IV. *That explains why so many of our attempted big hits end up with the opposition after a dreadful mis-hit.*

“O judgment, thou art fled to brutish beasts, and men have lost their reason.” Julius Caesar Act III Scene II. *Still true today, any drive on Perth’s roads will prove it.*

Welcome to New Players: There have been several recent enrolments and we extend a very warm welcome to these players:

Hector D’Rozario (A Division)

Angelo Strano (A Division?)

David Graham (C Division? Club - Curtin)

Greg Wood (B Division. Club - Raiders)

Best wishes for your stay with WHM, which could be a lengthy one if we manage to start the O/80s.

WHM Fixtures During Tournament: Until this year we normally do not play at tournament time. But apparently this year there are enough from the three divisions who want a game. So at the time we closed off this edition of “Masters Matters” the intention is that on the 2nd October we are to play combined matches on just one of the PHS turfs; probably from 2:00 pm. On the 9th October it will again be combined matches (for all three Divisions) probably at the Warwick turf from 2:00 pm.

English Humour: Commuters going to Lords for the first day of the Second Test heard this as they alighted at the station “Welcome to St John’s Wood. If anyone has any idea how to get Steve Smith out please report to the English dressing room.” *In later news Jofra Archer seems to have found a way round the problem - you don’t have to get him out, just knock him out.*

Punology Two: I am sorry if there are any readers who do not appreciate these plays on words. As long as the internet still works you will continue to be punished.

New Country: In Woody’s Thailand Tale we heard about hockey in Cambodia. At PHS on August 28th I discovered that hockey seems to be doing well in Sri Lanka. Two Women’s masters teams from that country (O35s and O40s) were having a training session before our games were due to start.

A Brief Page Filler: A few snippets from my trip earlier this year.

Irish signs: ‘The Abra Kebabra’ fast food shop.

‘Bake My Day’ on a baker’s shop.

Touring the UK by ABC: Another Bloody Church

Another Bloody Cathedral

Another Bloody Castle.

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: I will be attempting to get the September issue out before departing for the South/West around September 29th. Correspondents please note.

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:

John Mercer - ‘A’ Division White team. Email: johnmercercer@iinet.net.au.