



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 10

December 2019

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**Dates For The Diary:**

**2019:** Early December to Late February 2020. Turf One replacement.

**Tuesday** November 26th, December 3rd, 10th, 17th: 'A' Division 1:00 to 4:00 pm on PHS Turf 2.

December 18th: Knees / Hips.

December 18th: WHM Christmas Party.

December 21st: Saturday Masters Christmas Party - Perry Lakes.

**2020:** Interstate tournament O45s to O75s. Gold Coast June 27th to July 12th.

Interstate tournament O35s to O40s. Gold Coast October 1st to October 10th.

**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.

**Sorry if I Missed You:** The last issue of MM was put together under several different difficulties and as a consequence a few things were not included. I need not include a complete list of the difficulties but the one with greatest impact was the temporary loss of my Sticky Notes. This issue includes one of our largest ever Department of Corrections.

**Interstate Tournament(s) 2020:** One of the worst-kept secrets I can recall has finally been made public. As can be seen in Dates for the Diary the venue will be the Gold Coast from June 27th to July 12th for age groups O45s to O75s inclusive. As expected this coincides precisely with the Queensland school holidays, much to the dismay of our limericist:

The tournament's Gold Coast next year

And in the school hols, as we hear

So somewhere to stay

That might be OK

Will probably be far too dear.

*As well as rather hard to find given the (relatively) short notice.*

**Turf One Replacement:** This work has necessitated changes to our fixtures, as previously advised. Up until Christmas 'A' Division will play on **Tuesdays** from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Turf 2 at PHS. The bar will be open from 3:30 pm as normal for Wednesdays. 'B' & 'C' Divisions should be able to continue using PHS Turf 2 on Wednesdays at the normal times. January is still something of a work in progress as the national teams may require the turf during the day. Keep an eye on your email Inbox.

**WHM Christmas Party (Wednesday):** The date for this popular event is Wednesday 18th December at PHS. The cost is \$20 for members of WHM and \$30 for non-members. The money should be paid directly into the WHM bank account - BSB 036-004 Account number 111511. Please make sure that your name and (if applicable) team are in the reference field. Payment by this means books you in.

**Department of Corrections:** Maybe my poor health caused the errors in the October issue. There were a few other pressures too, and I hope normal service will resume at some stage early next year.

- + Apologies to WHM player Peter Morgan, whose name was omitted from the Australian O70s reps.
- + The names in the WA Country stories were a figment of my imagination. Apologies to the real M/C at the combined WAC dinner - **Alan** Kidd. As he did such a great job, I regret the error even more. And the new WAC Secretary is **Glenn** Bashford. Thanks to those who told me about these howlers.
- + Eric Alcock is also owed an apology. He sent me the political correctness story in plenty of time for it to have made it into the previous issue. I keep a 'Sticky Note' of items for "Masters Matters" and a temporary loss of this facility caused me to rely on an increasingly unreliable memory.
- + The same goes for the email from Terry Parker sent on to me by Peter Andrews. (*see Letters*)
- + And the comment from Keith Platel on poor bar attendance. (*see Letters to the Editor*)
- + Dave Horsley let me know that son Geoff is a shadow for the Australian O55s. Our past policy has been that WHM sons are worthy of mention, and I had no intention of changing it - sorry, again. *But despite all, a thank you goes to all those who advise me about errors. I would much rather have incorrect information drawn to my attention. And I can use it to deny my proof-reader and typist a pay rise every time that they ask for one. Ed.*

**Southern Cross World Cup Teams:** These sides were also selected during the S/W tournament and our congratulations go to the following WHM players:

**O60s:** David Elliott, Steve Farrar (*subject to medical*). *Rod Bickers and Mike Sputore shadows.*

**O65s Blue:** Greg Allen, Tom Long, John Ostaszewskyj? (*Graham Wood is non-playing coach*).

**O65s Red:** Len Collier, Roger Davey, George Naylor, Ian Pestana (coach). *Shadows include Dudley Evans and Brian Thomas.*

**O70s Blue:** Peter Andrews, Ashley Challenor, Mike Robinson (vc) and Angelo Strano.

**O70s Red:** Graham Challenor, Gordon Jeffery, Keith Platel. *Shadows Dave Mellor, Neil Miller.*

**O75s:** John Burt, Julian Gardner, Dave Horsley Peter Murray (captain), Neil Patterson, John Ree. *Please let me know of any errors, exclusions and late inclusions. Ed.*

**Highlights from the WHM Committee Meeting:** The best place to find all the details is the minutes, which have now been circulated to all members. In brief:

- + The fees for 2020 have been set, and are unchanged from last year. In summary:
  - a) All players pay \$300 - no allowances for sabbaticals, travel, etc.
  - b) New players pay \$350, which includes a shirt and socks.
  - c) Players who are over 80 on 1st January 2020 will pay only 50% of the fee.
  - d) All goalkeepers pay \$200. Unless they are over 80.

Next issue will include all the details on how to pay, and the banking details.

*Note: This only applies to mid-week play at PHS. Saturday's fees are separate.*

- + As in 2019 the fees for 2020 do **not** include **player insurance**, which is covered by the Hockey Australia levy. The Committee strongly encourages members to acquire appropriate insurance.

- + Casual rates also are unchanged and remain at \$20 for a day's play. The Divisional Coordinators have some discretion to vary them for multiple weeks or a single week for an overseas visitor. It was made clear that it is not our intention to **encourage** casuals.

- + Charity fund donations will be made to YMCC Junior Hockey (\$2,000), Salvation Army (\$2,000) and bushfire relief (\$2,000). It was advised out that Kalamunda juniors have obtained other funding.

- + Representative sides in WHM. It was decided that this practice can continue. It will be restricted to a maximum of four weeks. Team managers will be asked to pay \$50 for every non-WHM player.

- + A process has been established for the regular election / re-election of captains. This will be done during January each year. I suggest that those interested should check the meeting minutes.

- + The approach of summer has led to the adoption of a formal heat policy for our PHS fixtures. We will not run formal play when the forecast maximum temperature for Perth exceeds 37°. Players will be notified, and we will still conduct informal play but at players' own risk. Saturday's is on Page 6.

**Letters To The Editor:** The October MM generated more response than usual. My thanks to Phil Anderson, Ken Dyer, KY Lee, Eric Alcock, Bill Baldwin, Mark Faithfull, David Lester & Stuart Burnfield, for another 'Whistle While You Work'. Phil Anderson provided a late entry on shootouts.

**Mark Faithfull:** "I'm in Alice Springs, having been to the tip of Cape York and now on our way home - 4WDing with our camper trailer!" *Mark has definitely added a new location for receiving MM. Ed.*

**Good Advice:** My apologies to Peter Andrews, who sent the following on to me some time ago, and also to the writer of the piece, Terry Parker. As I keep hearing about more cases of cancer, including my own, this story demanded to be in 'Masters Matters.'

".....the reason for my email is that I have just had a bladder cancer removed. It was 6 cm in diameter. I had very few symptoms other than a few issues peeing. I thought it was a typical enlarged prostate. I only went to the doctor on the off chance. I had an ultrasound which found the (large) tumour.

There's a 1% chance of men getting bladder tumours between age 65 and 85, prognosis depends on the cancer stage. I felt very fit and do a lot of walking, so it was a bit of a shock. I mention this because even being fit and healthy, it can be a silent killer (bit like bowel cancer).

My message is if anyone has the slightest doubt, get it checked. The ultrasound is very quick, diagnostic and relatively cheap."

*As I've discovered too, that 'get it checked' message is so relevant. Ed.*

**Poor Bar Attendance:** Keith Platel had a comment on this, and I managed to leave this one out of the October MM too. Even though belated, it still is well worth including;

"Perhaps some topless 20 year olds to place the morsels in our mouths as we lounge on the sofas?? (noting of course that until the C's arrive they are likely to be perfectly safe!!!)

When the "crowds" were coming my recollection is we had chips only - and people seemed perfectly happy, so I'm not sure the food has a lot to do with it.

As discussed at the last meeting - perhaps whatever food is served could be a little earlier as once served people do seem to hang around a little longer."

*Thanks Keith; I think you have a point about the timing of the food. Though it is difficult for the same person to serve the drinks to the initial rush of players & start cooking too. Any more reader views?*

**Department of Health:** This month seems to have generated a rush of pre-Christmas operations. The first week's patients include Paul Robinson (spinal surgery 02/12), Ken Walter (knee replacement subject to other issues 02/12), John Mercer (prostate removal 06/12). And I also heard that former WHM Treasurer Brian ('Spider') Lester is/was in Charlie's with a blocked bile duct. Those who have had their surgery and are now in recovery mode are Nevelle Brown (spinal operation, all on track), Peter Eastlake (knee replacement, been to PHS, all good), Peter Stevens (ankle replacement - long time in a moon boot due, but OK so far). Best wishes from Masters Matters to all for a speedy recovery and a successful return to hockey, thereby breaking my own rule regarding editorial selfies.

**Spirit of Masters:** Some readers (all readers?) may be familiar with this term. It refers to what was known as the 'Tournament Trophy' section of our WGMA World Cups, which was a secondary grade for organisations such as Australia's Southern Cross and the UK's England LX. The WMH has adopted the concept under this name and their policy can be accessed via the link below:

<https://wgmahockey.org/content/spirit-masters>

**Quotable Quote One:** This one was attributed to his wife by ABC Classic presenter Martin Buzzacott and is alleged to have been said as he went off to work to interview a musical celebrity: "Don't try to be charming, intellectual or witty. Just be yourself." *There are times I wonder if all married men have feet of clay when at home.*

**'A' Division Blog:** I am considering a reduction to this size of this piece. It's getting too hard to write.

**October 30th:** The White team was the only side to lose a match, going down 1-0 to Blue and 2-0 to Gold. All other games were draws with the 2-2 between Gold and Red providing a goal to each side in the last couple of minutes. Some of the hockey was not too bad, due to a few of our leading players returning - and we also had three goalkeepers. John Ree had a tangle with Barry and his head hit a goal post, causing alarm, as he is the paramedic we usually rely upon in such cases. Fortunately Scott Blackwell was also available and he and John not only decided that JR was not concussed, but returned him to the turf with a large bandage. The results in summary: **Gold** (W1, L0, D2, F5, A3), **Blue** (W1, L0, D2, F2, A1), **Red** (W0, L0, D3, F2, A2), **White** (W0, L2, D1, F0, A3). The day's scorers were: **Gold** Steve McEntee (2), Phil Metcalf (2), Rod Spencer **Blue** Peter Dennis, John Ree **Red** Ray Domingo, Ron Venables. The goal of the day judges did not meet for some time and eventually decided that the corner conversions by Peter Dennis and Steve McEntee were joint winners. Gold were sometimes able to assist other sides with spare players - the team numbers counted on the day were: Red (8), Blue (9), Gold (12) and White (9). Goals (9).

**November 6th:** Most sides had reasonable numbers, with Gold having extra players again. White only started the day with six and after two (Peter Blockley and John Mercer) suffered incapacitating finger injuries were down to four. Thanks to John Ree for the prompt first aid, and thank you to all the players who filled in so that the day's fixtures could be completed. Gold had the numbers again, and until Jim Malcolm arrived Bob Robinson and Mal Jackaman transferred to Blue. Colin Sanders played very well for Blue, who were still without Ivan Wilson but they lost three close games while Gold and Red were undefeated. The results in summary: **Gold** (W2, L0, D1, F3, A1), **Red** (W1, L0, D2, F5, A4), **White** (W1, L1, D1, F3, A3), Blue (W0, L3, D0, F1, A4). The scorers were **Blue** Bob Robinson **Gold** Steve McEntee, Rod Spencer, Ken Walter **Red** Ray Domingo (2), Bob Maley (1), Colin Murray-Smith (2) **White** George Bradbury, Steve McEntee, Rod Spencer. Total goals (12).

**November 13th:** From my vantage point as a spectator the hockey quality seemed to be better than usual, then I realized that my absence was one possible cause. A pleasing aspect of the day was the use of short passes rather than repeated running with the ball; a style of play much better suited to the heat (36°+). Red were the team of the day, generating many opportunities for their forwards. White began with only five players, as most of their list is currently injured, suffering long term ailments, or absent for other reasons. The standard fell away as the afternoon progressed, with players tiring from the weather and the necessity to fill in repeatedly. The last match ended 0-0 but that was not due to a lack of easy scoring chances. The results in summary: **Red** (W2, L0, D1, F5, A3), Blue (W1, L1, D1, F1, A1), **White** (W1, L1, D1, F4, A4), **Gold** (W0, L2, D1, F2, A4). The scorers were **Blue** John Ree **Gold** Phil Metcalf, Ian Purdie **Red** Peter Dennis, Bob Maley, Col Murray-Smith (3) **White** Terry Gaston, Steve McEntee, Peter Wallis (2). The judges conferred for a long time but eventually awarded goal of the day jointly to Col Murray-Smith and Steve McEntee. Player numbers were not too bad given the conditions and approximated: Gold (11), White (5), Red (8), Blue (10). The total number of goals scored was (12).

**November 20th:** The numbers were not great and neither was the goal-scoring at the start with the first two games both being 0-0 draws. The Gold side managed to lose each of their three matches by one goal, despite having a territorial advantage most of the time. The games they played in were the only ones where goals were scored; two 2-1 results and one 1-0. It was good to see four goalkeepers again, and I think the keepers appreciate being able to play behind the same defence in each match. The summary results: Red (W1, L0, D2, F2, A1); Blue (W1, L0, D2, F2, A1); White (W1, L0, D2, F1, A0); Gold (W0, L3, D0, F2, A5). Scorers: **Blue** Jim Malcolm, Colin Sanders **Gold** Phil Metcalf, Angelo Strano **Red** Colin Murray-Smith, Ron Venables **White** Peter Wallis. The judges had another difficult week and awarded a joint goal of the day award to Colin Sanders and Peter Wallis. Total goals scored (7).

**Player Movements:** Welcome to Angelo Strano, who has just joined our ranks and been allocated to the Gold team. Ray Domingo and Hector D'Rozario have now found permanent homes, Ray in Red and Hector in White, while Steve McEntee has transferred to White from Gold to help cover for several long-term injuries and absences.

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**From Saturday Hockey Masters:** With much regret the Committee cancelled play on 9th November. Swanbourne reached a maximum of 40° at 1:43 pm and under those circumstances we preferred not to expose our members to such extremes.

# John Milner's comeback has finally occurred - he made a brief appearance on 23rd November and appears to be none the worse for his time out of the game except for being a little out of practice. It might not be too long before he starts popping them in again.

# Due to the differing locations, with the sea breeze being a major consideration at Perry Lakes, we have adopted a different heat policy. Thanks to Les Waldon for leading on this one. In summary: If the Swanbourne forecast early on Saturday morning is for the afternoon temperature to be 38° or above we will cancel play. I'd suggest that the allocated caterer monitors the weather forecasts in the lead-up to Saturday, and tries to make sure that their purchases can survive another week if that becomes necessitated by a cancellation of play. MM's limericist says:

We have not prepared for the sleet  
But now have a plan for the heat  
We'll let you all know  
If play's a no go

As fast as a Donald Trump tweet. *(by email early on Saturday morning)*

# I hear from Jim Wright that the numbers for our Christmas party on 21st December are looking very good. If you have not booked in yet then please do so immediately. *(if you intend to go)*

# The bar staff have not been in great shape, with both of them having prostate and other problems. I am assured by my medical advisors that there is absolutely no connection.

#### **'A' Division Blog Continued:**

**November 26th:** Our new heat policy did not come into effect - just. Many players were not present, for a variety of reasons, but I doubt that the heat was amongst them. Red were the only side to have the numbers with just three missing from their list and they dominated with three wins, while Blue managed to lose three times after leading. Blue, Gold and White were depleted and by the last game of the day so many players had filled in that neither Gold nor White could raise a side. Well done to the goalkeepers, as four of them played, and played well, despite the high goal tally. If my eyes did not deceive me, in the Blue versus White match the ball bounced off the post into Tony's pads and back into the goal - twice. It is rare in 'A' Division to see so many forwards on target when presented with an opportunity and some excellent goals were scored. The very long list for goal of the day includes Ray Domingo, Colin Sanders (twice) Colin Murray-Smith, John Jeffreys, Ken Beer and Peter Wallis. The judges could not split Col M-S, with a rocket-like shot from an acute angle (centimeter perfect) and Peter Wallis with a great running deflection from a fine pass by Steve McEntee. Results: **Red** (W3, L0, D0, F10, A2); **Gold** (W1, L1, D1, F3, A4); **White** (W1, L1, D1, F3, A5); **Blue** (W0, L3, D0, F4, A9). Goalscorers: **Blue** Colin Sanders (2), Ian Hill, Greg Street; **Gold** Ken Beer, Scott Blackwell, Angelo Strano; **Red** Ray Domingo (3), John Jeffreys, Bob Maley (3), Col Murray Smith (3); **White** Ken Beer, Peter Wallis (2). Team numbers: Red (10), Blue (7), Gold (7) and White (7). Goals scored (20).

**December 3rd:** Perth's maximum temperature was 42°, my broken down air conditioner was being replaced (the new one works beautifully), and I had to attend a family funeral (my cousin used to play for Suburban - Bob Mercer). So I did not get to PHS at all. I heard via the email grapevine, before my internet connection disappeared for hours, that the Red team had decided not to play. Surely any temperature at that level should see our heat policy coming into effect.

**Situation Vacant:** I would like a volunteer to take over writing the regular 'A' Division match reports. The blog has been in the newsletter since March 2015, so it might be time for some new and different opinions. Besides, I am finding it an increasingly onerous task during my health issue.

**Grumpy Old Men and Women One:** "When I hear someone sigh 'Life is hard' I am always tempted to ask, 'Compared to what?'" *Sydney J Harris (1917 - 1986). US journalist, columnist and writer.*

**Balinese Bulletin No 46:** Peter was a little late with his email this month. Here's why.

"No excuse, just exhibiting a typical Bali attitude to life up here ...everything happens ...eventually ...don't worry!! There is not a lot to add to my most recent report other than there is progress, albeit at an ever so slow pace. But progress nevertheless.

One step at a time .....I stand, supported by my frame ...lead forward with my left leg & then taking my weight on my left leg step forward on my right leg (unsupported) & then regain balance unsupported. I can repeat this, pretty much unsupported for another 1 or 2 times. It doesn't look pretty but f\*\*\* it ..it is what it is.

I have just entered the 12th month since fall ....Boy, where has that time gone ....? My two Girls here continue to look after me ...don't know why!

Heading rapidly, as we are, toward another Xmas I would like to offer a VERY MERRY XMAS & A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR to the WHM Hockey Community which includes a great number of our very personal friends down there."

Peter Hammond

*Thanks again Peter - and our best wishes to you and Erin for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The 'Masters Matters' editor is looking forward to your half century bulletin next year. Ed.*

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

December already and after most have had a break for the State Champs or recovery from injury, or just plain recovery, numbers have picked up and have been steady throughout November. With global warming now an obvious reality (thanks for the heads up Greta!) most Wednesdays have been on the hot to hotter side. Play has generally been of a very high standard despite players dripping with sweat and soldiering on in the high temperatures. Rehydration in the bar after play has been a necessity and I urge all to partake of this essential activity to look after your health and to maintain a well-balanced lifestyle! It is also a well known fact that social interaction is very important for your mental well-being. Obviously a few more attendees at these post-match gatherings would not go amiss!

Unfortunately due to technical issues we do not have a featured player this month but rest assured all stops are out for players to express themselves via this column.

Shortly, a general invitation to all players who haven't already supplied a synopsis of their hockey life will be sent out. Please don't be shy as high achievement is not a pre requisite!

*I must admit that I had hoped that Dudley would step into the breach himself. One day? Ed.*

**Well Dones:** 'A' division umpires for October 30th to November 26th were: Rob Ainsworth, Jim Balding, George Bradbury, Peter Evans, Ian Hill, Gordon Jeffery, John Lindsay, Bob Maley, Steve McEntee, Colin Murray-Smith, Peter Murray, Coin Sanders, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Greg Street, Ron Venables, Les Waldon, Ken Walter, Ken Watt, Ricky Watts and Ivan Wilson. Thanks to all, and to Vern Gooch for his 'B' Division games. Perry Lakes umpires were: Rob Ainsworth, Eric Alcock, George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Dudley Burrell, John Mercer, Roger Partington, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Don Smart, Brian Soares, Greg Street, Les Waldon, Len Walker and Ken Watt - thanks gents. And thank you to the sausage cooks on the 30th October - Neil Miller and Ricky Watts.

**Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players:** On 30th October PHS saw Eric Alcock, Clyde Evans and a crew from Narrogin. Clyde told me that it was a team reunion and they had been coached by Eric to a Country week win. Also at PHS during November (and not playing) were Bob Bowyer, Ric Denny, Peter Eastlake, Gordon Jeffery, John Mercer, Neil Scaddan, Len Walker, Ivan Wilson and George Winning. Perry Lakes always does quite well here; those noted were Howie Herbert, John Mercer, Peter Murray, Roger Partington, Paul Robinson, Ken Walter, Len Walker and Ivan Wilson.

**Quotable Quote Two:** Thanks to Bill Baldwin, for a couple of short ones from Benjamin Franklin: "I am in the prime of senility" and, "Creditors have better memories than Debtors."

**More Letters to The Editor:** Readers may remember the item in last month's MM complaining about the time allowed in a shootout being the same for O75s as for Olympic players. Here's a response:

"I have a comment on the penalty shootouts in interstate veterans carnivals. For O75s it's ridiculous to expect persons of that age to be able to score goals in the 8 seconds time allotment at present. The same applies to other "aged persons" groups. It's very difficult for internationals to score in that time, but they are super fit athletes. However, they are surprisingly able to do so.

I would suggest any aged group in the O/60's bracket and above should have the old penalty flick system reinstated. That could even apply to some lower aged groups too. It is a much fairer arrangement but, personally, I think extra time should apply first of all with a golden goal deciding the outcome of a match ..... penalty flicks to apply thereafter if no result.

It has to be taken into consideration that aged persons have played a full game prior to penalty shootouts and the stamina is just not there anymore to run quickly from the 23 yard line, try to outwit the goalkeeper in the circle (who would've moved forward from the goal line, lessening the scoring angle and opportunity) and then try to score a goal from that more acute angle.

I think the whole thing needs to be reviewed for older players. I speak from personal experience in 2016 (Adelaide) when the WA O//75's were beaten by the new system. It's just not fair by a long shot to win or lose out on a gold medal with international rules (designed specifically for young, agile and elite players) determining an outcome for old players.

OK, that's it from me. It's something that hasn't sat well with me since it was introduced.

Incidentally, I'm not a great fan of the tomahawk shot at goal either. It's a very dangerous shot if not executed properly and, to my mind, is still a hit partially with the back of the stick."

Pando (*otherwise known as Phil Anderson*)

*Thanks Pando - let's hope we manage to start something. Perhaps a submission to WMH?*

**Another Letter to The Editor:** One dedicated reader has planted his tongue firmly in his cheek:

"Our organisation should be cognisant of the needs of the general community by being politically correct in our practices and outlook.

With this in mind I propose

1. Records of goals scored and games won or lost should no longer be kept as this diminishes the self-respect of some players. (*Note: We have already done this on Wednesdays. Ed*)
2. When tackling, a player is to be using the terms "Please" and "Thank you."
3. A player should recognise the anguish caused when a player mis-traps a ball or mishits it by placing his arm around the opponent's shoulder and preferably offering a handkerchief at the same time. (*For this one 'A' Division would require a very large handkerchief box. Ed.*)
4. Players who are speed-challenged should have some yardage allowance granted when chasing a player or running out on short corners.
5. Players should be allowed to wear skirts if they so choose.
6. Terms such as "Tackle", "Ball" and "Sticks" have masculine connotations and should not be used.
7. The term "veterans" can be regarded by some as a negative stereotype and should be replaced. (*And it has been - by the more complimentary word "Masters." Ed.*)
8. "Opponents" and "Opposition" are terms that have unfriendly nuances and are disharmonious. Similarly "Bully" should not be used
9. After scoring a goal, there should be no cheering, whooping or punching the air as this adds discomfort to some players
10. "Competitions" be replaced with a gentler term such as "Gatherings"

These are suggestions worthy of serious consideration and should be adopted forthwith. By so doing, our organisation will earn the support and respect of the men, women and other members of our community." Eric Alcock

*Many thanks Eric. Of course, I may have been wrong about the tongue in cheek bit, and when next Eric and I are on the same field I could be proffered a handkerchief, multiple times. Ed.*



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

Thinking about the Australian Hockey Team at the 1960 Olympic Games, and these players in particular, **Kevin Carton, Eric Pearce, Gordon Pearce and Ray Evans**, which of these statements is NOT true? a) They all represented WA. b) They all played every game. c) They all played in the final game against NZ on 11/09/60. d) They all played in the 1st game v Pakistan on 26/08/60.



John gives the answer as "Eric Pearce missed first game v NZ on 9 Sep 1960. So b) is not true. Due to a tardy editor, who failed to gain clarification from John on December's proposed question we have been unable to include one this issue. I'm sure John will be back next year.

**Thailand Tales:** *Nothing has come through from Woody again this month.*

**Busselton Dining:** The list of places we'd enjoyed in the last issue had one omission. This may have been because the photo would have been difficult to fit in, or it may have been because this was our last meal in the S/W before heading home. This mural adorns the wall of the Pan & Grill in Queen St.



**An Acute Observer:** On November 13th Peter Eastlake's very small granddaughter was an interested spectator at the 'A' Division. Her comment on the play was that the players were not sharing the ball prompting an immediate remark "except with the opposition."

**Whistle While You Work**

**Rule 9.10 (receiving a raised ball) continued:** Stuart Burnfield raised this point initially and has been good enough to follow up the story included in the last MM and consulted John McGuckin. I have had a look at the video from the link below, which explains it all very well. So does Stuart in his piece below. Thanks to Stuart and John McGuckin for the enlightenment.

“Thanks Gucks, that makes sense now. It's much easier to see it demonstrated in a video than to puzzle it out from the written rules. It seems to boil down to these decision points for the umpire:

1. Take-off: Is an opposition player in danger? Free hit to defender on the spot.
2. In-flight: Is it likely to land in a contest? Blow it immediately in favour of the defending team.
3. Landing: The player who is in the best position to receive the ball must be allowed to bring it under control.
4. After landing, the first player to run on to the ball must be given space to control and play it.
5. If it's a 50-50 contest, blow it immediately in favour of the defending team.

In effect, 1, 2 & 5 boil down to 'danger'. 3 & 4 are almost like a free hit situation: until the player is able to play the ball from the ground, opposition players must give them 5 metres.

My question in the newsletter was about a player who is 3-4 metres from the receiver.

- A smart attacker should back away outside the 5 metres to avoid giving away the free hit.
- A ruthless defender might run *towards* the receiver to force the free hit for lifting into a contest.
- A wise WHM player might just lean on his stick or visibly back off a little, which signals to the umpire that it's safe to let play continue.

Cheers, Stuart

Stuart's consulted expert says:

“It is fairly simple - however it is made complicated by umpire interpretation/misinterpretation

Here is a link where it is explained very succinctly

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW08\\_ZkcCJI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW08_ZkcCJI) “

*I recommend a look at the video accessed from the link above. It is very clear. Ed.*

**Punology One:** Since the inception of 'Masters Matters' in 2012 John Sanders has contributed a lot of its content. That now includes the following - another visual pun.

**World Peas**

No groaning aloud allowed p(l) ease.

**Roll of Honour 2019:** This year has seen a 'changing of the guard' to some extent with a new Secretary, changes to 'A', 'B' and 'C' Division coordinators, a new Social secretary and a change to the fixtures secretary. However, the competition continues to thrive, and as has become our custom the Christmas edition of "Masters Matters" will thank everybody (*I hope*) who helps to keep it going.

**Executive:** Simon Thomson has been in the top job continuously since I first joined what was then Wednesday Masters in 2006. Many things about the job have changed (even the title) but Simon's dedication to the role has not and he still keeps in touch with everything (as MM said last year). Neil Patterson (Secretary) and Bob Bowyer (Assistant Secretary) have between them made sure that all requirements are not only done, but also done well. Neil has continued to travel (and should be in the Amazon basin as you read this) while Bob has continued to work for WHM through another variety of medical ailments (and still does a lot for Saturday Masters and the weekly wine raffle). But one of them is always available for any administrative task which needs to be done. Treasurer Steve Farrar has worked through treatment for advanced prostate cancer, but despite this is still doing a great job, as shown by the Finance report tabled at the recent Committee meeting. Thank you and very well done to Simon, Neil, Bob and Steve.

**Off-Field Roles:** Harvey Davies has faced some challenges in drawing up our fixtures and making turf bookings due to the number of alterations to the length of matches (in 'A' and 'C' Divisions), the changes in starting time for 'A' Division and the number of times the turf has not been available. He's done pretty well at keeping up with developments. Peter Connolly has been of invaluable assistance in getting the fixtures (Harvey has mastered that) & newsletters (I haven't) onto the WHM page on the WA Masters web-site. Robin Bailey keeps on going as uniforms officer, having been in the role for quite a few years now. He won the George Winning trophy in 2016 and has performed at that level every year. Peter Jones has taken on the role of Social Secretary and has tackled the task with enthusiasm. Unlike some previous holders of this role, he has not departed overseas soon after starting. He and Ivan Wilson prepare and organise our monthly sausage sizzles, and Peter is handling the wine raffles too. Colin Gee maintains our membership data base (a requirement for incorporation) and keeps it right up to date. Thank you to all for another good year.

**Divisional Coordinators:** Instead of one of the team captains representing the Division at Committee meetings these separate roles have been created this year and appear to have worked very well. In particular 'C' Division has been given something of a make-over, but it is good for our competition to receive a different perspective occasionally. Thank you to George Bradbury ('A'), Adrian Gabriel ('B') and Colin Howell and Tony Jones ('C').

**Team Captains:** I may not have all those who skippered a team in 2019, as I lack knowledge of the vice captains in all divisions. Many thanks to all who did, even if you are not mentioned below.

**'A' Division:** Colin Gee, David Horsley, Neil Scaddan and Jim Wright have been the usual captains in 2019. Vice captains have included Mal Jackaman, Peter Evans, Ivan Wilson and Les Waldon.

**'B' Division:** Peter Andrews, Bill Campbell and Dudley Evans.

**'C' Division:** Kevin Burton, Wayne Cutler, Tony Jones, and Mike Sputore.

**Goalkeepers:** Tony Marshall and John Harper have coordinated again this year and it's been noticeable that we have managed to have goalkeepers at every day's play, even if not quite for all our games. Thanks Tony and John.

**Umpires:** Our game cannot function without them, even though there have been many times in 'A' Division where we seemed to have 24 umpires controlling a match. Player umpires ('A' Division) have been listed throughout the year. Those non-playing volunteers who made it into the MM book are listed here, including some players who blew a whistle when they could not play:

**'A' Division:** John Lindsay, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Ken Walter and Ken Watt.

**'B' Division:** The only name known to me is Vern Gooch.

**'C' Division:** No information.

**Perry Lakes:** Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Neil Scaddan, Len Walker, Ken Walter Ken Watt  
Thank you to all who umpired during 2019.

/11

**Saturday O/65s:** This competition's unique features continue to work very well. That is that the teams are selected afresh each Saturday and the rostered selectors generally manage to come up with equally balanced sides. Thus we get a variety of team-mates and opponents, even though it is rare for our gun centre halves and full backs to play in the same side. The other rostered task is the provision and serving of post-hockey nibbles and so our members are heavily involved with the work required to keep our Saturdays going. They provide a good afternoon of hockey played in the right spirit and everybody who can stops on afterwards. Usually several non-players are there too. Well done to Committee members Les Waldon, Bob Bowyer, Jim Wright, George Bradbury and Howie Herbert and thank you to all the team selectors and caterers. And everybody even makes sure that their chairs are put away when they depart the clubrooms (usually).

**Other Clubs:** Games were played at Perry Lakes while I was away, so I hope all went OK. In July we went to the Warwick Hockey centre on two occasions - the combined matches on turf and grass all went well. Thanks to Trid Woodhouse and the Whitfords Hockey Club.

**Stadium Staff:** Thanks again to Jason de Wind and the bar staff for our post-hockey refreshments. Also thanks to the Hockey WA staff for their cooperation in keeping our competition functioning.

**First Aid:** Over the years there have been many times where injuries have occurred. It is customary to call upon the services of John Ree, Scott Blackwell, or Ian Hill. Having been a patient myself this year, on behalf of all patients our thanks to the providers of the timely and competent treatment.

**Wine Raffle:** Many thanks to Bob Bowyer and Peter Jones, who between them have kept this going all year. How Bon has kept going with two torn shoulder tendons I don't know - perhaps nor does he.

**Contributors:** As always, my thanks go to all regular contributors, irregular contributors, and all of you who responded to any one of our 2019 issues. Special mention to Peter Hammond (Bali) and Graham Wood (Thailand), John Sanders (Test Your Hockey Knowledge), Dudley Evans ('B' Division), Please keep going in 2020.

**Readers:** Our thanks to all who read MM, and especially to those who respond. Same again in 2020?

**Shakespeare Said It:** "... I trust I may have leave to speak; and speak I will." The Taming of the Shrew Act IV Scene III. *But if you're an 'A' Division player going to abuse the umpire, why not just shut up?*

"..... but let it rest; other affairs must now be managed." King Henry VI Part I Act IV Scene I. *Instead of abusing the umpires just go and get the ball again.*

"It hath happened all as I would have had it ...." All's Well That Ends Well Act III Scene I. *Another editorial selfie - I hope this what my surgeon says at the conclusion of my little operation.*

**Grumpy Old Men and Women Two:** "Mainstream economists nowadays might not be particularly good at predicting financial crashes, facilitating general prosperity, or coming up with models for preventing climate change, but when it comes to establishing themselves in positions of intellectual authority, unaffected by such failings, their success is unparalleled. One would have to look at the history of religions to find anything like it." *From Robert Skidelsky's work Money and Government: The Past and Future of Economics.*

**Punology 2:** Is photography of internal organs the wave of the future or just a flash in the pancreas.

**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](mailto:gee.colin@gmail.com).

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:  
John Mercer - 'A' Division White team. Email: [johnmercer@iinet.net.au](mailto:johnmercer@iinet.net.au).

**A Last Word:** I have missed two months this year, and am starting to think that after eight years I may be slowing down. I'll attempt to continue into 2020, and see how it goes. Ed.