

A Blue A Gold A White

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D Black D Blue D Gold D Red

O/65 Blue O/65 Gold O/65 Green O/65 White

Masters Matters

Issue No 4 April 2023

Regular Features:

Dates For The Diary: This Page.
Department of Health: Page 3.
Department of Corrections: Page 3.
Letters to the Editor: Pages 3 and 10.

A Division Blog: Page 5.

Saturday Hockey Masters: Page 6. The Balinese Bulletin: Page 7. B Division Report: Page 7.

Test Your Hockey Knowledge: Page 9.

Irregular Features:

Hockey WA Awards: This Page and Page 8.

Duty of Care: This Page. Respect: This Page.

Latest on Over 80s: Page 3. Raffle Update: Page 3.

Email from Hockey Australia: Page 4. Birthdays This Month: Page 4. Blast From The Past: Page 10.

Situation Vacant - Goalscorer: Page 10.

<u>Honour for WHM Members:</u> During a recent function at the WA Golf Club several members received awards. The evening was held to recognise people who had performed meritorious service to hockey and resulted in inductions to the Hall of Champions, the bestowal of Awards of Merit, and the granting of Life Memberships. Congratulations to David Horsley, Colin Howell and Stuart Lamont who all received an Award of Merit and to former Saturday member Don Smart who is now a Life Member. The individual citations have been taken from the Hockey WA website and are on Page 8.

<u>Player Responsibilities:</u> Some serious injuries have occurred this year and several members have discussed with me the idea of including an item to suggest that players in all Divisions realise that we have a duty of care to our opponents and team mates. As we age it becomes more difficult to take evasive action to an errant hockey stick or ball and things like blasting a hit through a pack of players or delivering hip and shoulder bumps should not be a normal part of our game. We are not playing for points - not even for sheep stations. I urge all members to remember that we play social hockey. PS: This paragraph was in MM well before the serious injury to Peter Andrews on Wednesday 22nd.

<u>Fixture Changes:</u> The latest I heard from Peter Trend is that B Division may be moving for one day during April. I suggest that B Div players keep a sharp eye on their in box.

<u>Respect:</u> The CEO of Hockey Australia recently sent an email to us (those who have registered with them, which should by now be everybody) which several members have drawn to my attention and made the suggestion that it should appear here. I am in total agreement as I've been letting my own personal woes take over on the field. I apologise to any umpire who has been on the receiving of any less than constructive criticism from me and will endeavour to keep it shut in future. Ed. *The email appears on Page 4.*

Dates For The Diary:

2023

April 15th: Saturday Hockey end of summer season dinner at Herdsman Lake Tavern.

April 29th: Hockey WA Junior fixtures begin.

May 2nd to 6th: Trans-Tasman. Christchurch New Zealand.

July 16th to 23rd: European Chanpionships Valencia. Southern Cross and Alliance.

Masters Interstate Championships for Men and Women. Home State WA.

September 21st to 30th: Women.

September 23rd to October 1st: Men O/34, O/40, O/45.] Venues to be confirmed September 28th to October 7th: Men O/50 plus.] PHS is primary location

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November 20th to 26th: Asian Continental Cup. Hong Kong.

2024 To be advised: Masters Interstate Championships for Men. Home State Tasmania. To be advised: World Cup M O/50, O/55 and O/60. Auckland. Plus Spirit Of Masters.

To be advised: World Cup M O/65 to O/80. Capetown. Plus Spirit Of Masters.

<u>Department of Health:</u> Les Waldon has had a terrible run of misfortune lately. No sooner was he back on the field after the thumb fracture than he partly tore a hamstring off the bone. Now he needs a wrist operation. In better news the back problem which was troubling <u>Jim Wright</u> has been resolved to the point where he's back playing again. It seems that the plantar fasciitis being endured by <u>Colin Murray-Smith</u> is going to keep him out for a while. <u>David Horsley</u> is still trying to get over a serious leg injury suffered in a boating accident. The latest news is that he's going to need a skin graft. <u>Peter Murray</u> is hoping to be back on the field soon but has some more medical happenings to experience first. <u>Eric Alcock</u> has had an ankle operation which put him in a wheelchair but as of Saturday 1st April he was back on the sideline at Perry Lakes. And I've heard that <u>John Ree</u> has been in hospital after a couple of seizures but is now back at home. Best wishes from MM to all, including those we do not know of, for a rapid and complete recovery.

<u>Department of Health Part Two:</u> On 22nd March Peter (Archie) Andrews was hit in the face by the ball. Thanks to Colin Gee who gave him a lift to some immediate treatment near PHS where stitches were inserted above and below the eye. He is still under treatment for double vision and as of March 27th the options (via Charlie's Eye Clinic) appeared to be pills or surgery on the eye socket. Hope all goes as it should, Arch and that you manage to get back on the hockey horse soon.

<u>O/80s at the Perth Tournament:</u> Many thanks to David Horsley for this which he circulated to some potential players. I hear that the response has been very positive. If you have not contacted David yet to express an interest now is the time to do it. The same applies if you did not receive the email.

I'm writing to advise that I've received word that Hockey Australia has given the OK to include the over 80's at the Perth nationals in Sep/Oct 2023. They are working on a minimum of three teams, hopefully more. At this stage I believe, they would like two teams from WA and one from Victoria, with possibly a combined team or two from the other states.

It's very important that we do our best to get the competition under way this year as many of us who have previously played 75's in the championships will miss out this year as quite a few very fit players from the 70's will be moving up into the 75's.

My mailing list may not be entirely up to date, and I understand a few of you will remain playing in the 75's, but I do ask everyone to encourage all those you know from 78 years upwards to make themselves available whilst also being aware that anyone not selected in the over 75's teams may then be available for the over 80's.

There is a lot of water still to flow under the bridge but let's start things moving to ensure the 80's get underway this year in Perth. No doubt WA and WA Country will make official approaches for players not too far down the track, but I'd appreciate you letting me know if you are interested in playing in the over 80's competition in Perth. The actual dates for the 80's participation in the championships is from 28th September to 7th October.

I look forward to hearing back from you as to whether you'd like to be involved.

<u>Raffle Update:</u> Many thanks to chief raffle organiser Keith Platel who has done an excellent job in restarting our charity fund raiser despite the logistical difficulties. Thanks also to Peter Jones who is making sure the A Division can participate too even though we are not there at draw time.

I am fairly sure that my list of winners is incomplete but there have already been several dual winners. These were Bill Campbell, Graeme Harper, Leo Welten and Hector D'Rozario.

Letters To The Editor: From John Burt (Page 10), Eric Alcock, Michael Waite and Garry Jones.

<u>Department of Corrections</u>: Apologies are owed to the March birthday celebrants who were left out of the last MM due to the obsolete list I was using. A belated Happy Birthday to: **23rd** Gary Jones (1960) **19th** Michael Waite (1953). Both play in the C Division.

No other errors have been detected by our readers (if any) or the MM staff.

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

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

Happy April birthdays to all the following:

A Division: 1st Frank Williams (1954) 17th Ken Watt (1941) 20th Nev Brown (1947).

<u>B Division:</u> 4th Steve Powles (1950), Steve Farrar (1956), 6th Adrian Gabriel (1957) 8th Geoff Riley (1952) 12th Dudley Evans (1951) 27th Simon Williams (1946).

C Division: 6th Wayne Cutler (1955) 21st Martin Hickey (1966) 27th Peter Dawkins (1954).

D Division: 7th Chris Kennedy (1965) 12th Sean Pereira (1966).

Non Playing: 3rd John Stokes (1952) 13th Roy Grant (1948) 14th Roger Veary (1944).

Saturday: 30th Bruce Mercer (1944).

I hope that you're named in the correct WHM Division. And there are no non-preferred names. Ed.

Email From Hockey Australia: To the Australian hockey community

As the hockey sticks come out for another highly anticipated season across the country, it is a timely reminder about the importance of respect and courtesy we need to show our valued officials and umpires at all levels of our game.

Officials and umpires are as valuable and integral as players and coaches. Without them we do not have a game or a sport. Like players and coaches, umpires and officials devote time, energy and expertise into performing their duties on a weekly basis and we should appreciate all the time and effort they put in. Hockey Australia along with our Member Associations have a strong position of 'no tolerance' when it comes to criticising or verbally abusing officials and umpires.

If hockey is going to continue to thrive and maintain the amazing sense of community and inclusiveness it has, there needs to be respect for everyone in the game. This respect must come from those on and off the field. Officials and umpires make mistakes...as do players and coaches. Being an umpire or official is a tough and often thankless job. They give up their time to ensure players, coaches and spectators enjoy everything that is great about hockey.

Having excitingly taken up playing the sport myself for the first time this year, it has given me a new appreciation of the skills and knowledge required, not only to play the game but also to those who officiate it.

Regardless of decisions made, whether right or wrong, there is no excuse or justification for verbally abusing or threatening officials and umpires. Next time you think about criticising an umpiring decision or witness someone hurling verbal abuse from over the fence, choose respect instead of criticism and ridicule.

We all have a responsibility to set an example through how we act and what we say. Just like acknowledging the opposition after a hard-fought game, officials and umpires deserve a 'thank you' for their participation regardless of the result.

Everyone has a responsibility to make hockey the best game it can be. We are blessed to have so many fantastic people involved in our sport and by retaining officials and umpires and attracting others to take up these important roles, hockey in Australia will continue to blossom. All the best for the season and thanks for choosing hockey.

Warm regards

David Pryles

CEO, Hockey Australia

What might be a possible idea is that the chief dissenter in a game is in control the next time that his team is rostered to umpire. Ed.

Quotable Quote 1: "Democracy is a process by which the people are free to choose the man who will get the blame." *Laurence J. Peter (1919 - 1988) - author of the Peter Principle.*

<u>'A' Division Blog:</u> Now that the new players have settled in it does appear that our numbers have stabilised. The pace and skill levels have markedly improved too.

March 8th: Many Blue players made a reappearance and all teams had the numbers to play the fixtures after Colin Gee (Gold captain) transferred himself to White for the day. If hockey had an equivalent of racing stewards the Gold team would be asked to appear before them, as indicated by the scores. I did not think that the matches showed a radical imbalance between sides, but a couple of the results were very unbalanced. Goalkeepers Barry, Graeme and John were frequently in the play and despite some good saves the pressure told eventually. The judges claim that due to other pressures they were unable to pick a goal of the day winner and decided that Nev Brown's three was enough to secure him the award. Martin Gullivan again umpired multiple matches for us and will be greatly missed when he returns to Wales. The day's details were:

Blue 0 White 1; Gold 3 White 0; Gold 0 Blue 1; White 0 Blue 1; White 0 Gold 0; Blue 0 Gold 4.

<u>Scorers:</u> **Blue:** Phil Metcalf (2). **Gold:** Scott Blackwell, Nev Brown (3), Ken Walter (2), Ricky Watts. **White:** Hector D'Rozario. Total goals 10.

Team numbers at absolute maximum were: Blue (11), Gold (12), White (9).

March 15th: This was possibly not one of our greatest days, though defenders and goalkeepers may think differently. The number of mishits was sky high from all types of player except keepers Barry, Graeme and John. After the first three matches produced one goal each the scoring totally dried up for the rest of the day. All sides rotated players except the Blue team and the midfield hockey was not too bad for at least some of the time. Goal of the day has to go to Peter Dennis for a composed finish after using his pace to get into space in the circle. It was good to see former players Ham D'Souza and Jim Banks on the sidelines and it was even better to hear that both still may be able to return to the turf eventually. It was also great to see Jim Balding back in the White side after having returned from his qualification for Hips/Knees. The results and scorers were:

Blue 0 Gold 1; White 0 Gold 1; White 0; Blue 1; Gold 0 Blue 0; Gold 0 White 0; Blue 0 White 0.

Scorers: Blue: Peter Dennis. Gold: Scott Blackwell, Frank Williams (PS).

Team numbers at maximum: Blue (10), Gold (12), White (12). Total goals 3.

March 22nd: The day's lowlight occurred very early when Archie Andrews received an elevated shot at goal full in the face. Colin Gee was there as a non-player and was able to provide transport to seek medical attention locally. Arch returned with several stitches but was then heading for Charlie's to check for a possible concussion. This led to Ivan Wilson transferring from Blue to Gold for the rest of the day but the hockey was somewhat subdued. Wins were very hard to come by, especially for the depleted Blue side. Gold's defence, led by Ricky Watts enabled them to eke out a couple of wins and White managed the only other result. Ricky was also awarded goal of the day by the judges for a pinpoint and rocket-like corner conversion. Keepers Barry, Graeme and John were generally very hard to pass but we were a little more successful than the previous week. The results and scorers:

Gold 1 White 1; Blue 1 White 1; Blue 0 Gold 1; White 0 Gold 0; White 1 Blue 0; Gold 1 Blue 0.

<u>Scorers:</u> **Blue:** Peter Blockley. **Gold:** Nev Brown, John Mercer, Ricky Watts. **White:** Nev Brown, Jeff Kozak, Ron Venables. Total goals 7.

Team numbers at maximum: Blue (11), Gold (10), White (10).

<u>March 29th:</u> This was another peculiar day, as shown by the first three games. Blue defeated White 3-0, Gold defeated Blue 2-0 and Gold and White drew 0-0. Perennial Bruce Rock visitor Rob Butler added plenty of zip to Gold's forward line and Blue needed to recruit one player for each game. Goalkeepers Barry and Tony handled the pressure very well in the scoreless games (with some help from opposing forwards). Goal of the day had to go to Peter Wallis for a well struck and well placed tomahawk. The results, scorers and team numbers present were:

White 0 Blue 3; Gold 2 Blue 0; Gold 0 White 0; Blue 0 White 0; Blue 0 Gold 0; White 0 Gold 2.

<u>Scorers:</u> **Blue:** Peter Dennis, Colin Sanders, Peter Wallis. **Gold:** Rob Butler (2), John Mercer, Frank Williams. The total number of goals scored on the day was 7.

Team numbers: Blue (9), Gold (9 plus Rob B), White (10).

From Saturday Masters:

The latest I've heard about our end of summer season function at the Herdsman Lake Tavern is that no less than 45 members are booked in. Thanks are due to the principal organiser Jim Wright and Les Waldon for not only coming up with the idea of an alternative venue when the YMCA clubrooms became unavailable but also for all the legwork of arranging it.

While thanking Jim Wright we are also in his debt for making sure that our defibrillator and first aid kit are fully stocked and in good working order. The defib needed not only a new battery but also new pads. We hope that members do not need either of them but they are there in case.

It appears that our rostered duty selectors are continually having to make several late changes to their sides due to a few players who just turn up for a game without any notification. This can often lead to unbalanced teams which is not our aim. Also while on the subject of booking in to play could players please refrain from doing a "Reply All."

Recent emails from Michael Gottschalk and Keith Platel have done the rounds. I have thought for quite a long time that our Saturdays are exceptional and Gorby has expressed it beautifully:

: the sheer enjoyment of spending afternoons in such a beautiful setting, the wonderful camaraderie and the very special "after game" socializing. In WHM Saturday we have something very special, some would even say "unique." See photograph below. Ed.

The winter season will officially begin for us on Saturday 15th April. The fees have been maintained at \$120 which is extremely cheap for the amount of hockey it provides (23 weeks). We will send an email when the time is right to start paying and let you know how to do it.

The stubby holders donated by Ken Watt are available on our tables. Please help yourself from the green Woolworths bag and return them to the bag when you leave.

Make sure that you book in to play by responding to the "are you playing" email before the time requested by Bruce. And if you've booked in and can't make it, then please notify us about that too.



<u>Grumpy Old Men And Women One:</u> "Drugs have taught an entire generation of Americans the metric system." P. J. O'Rourke(1947 -) US humorist and political commentator.

Balinese Bulletin No 79:

I am aware you are expecting something from here today but I am sorry to say there is nothing new to report. Erin & I are in good health & enjoying the start of the AFL season. The Wet has begun to ease only to return again later this year.

We are looking at the possibility of going into surgery up here on the fracture to my upper femur. I will let you how we go.

Peter Hammond

Thank you Peter - please keep us in touch. The surgery possibility sounds promising. Ed.

B Division March 2023:

The new improved format has now settled down to become the new norm with one notable exception and that is the improvement in the after game experience. With the wine raffle reinstated and the wider variety and better quality of the food offered the post-game drinks has become a more convivial and much patronized event. Keith Platel is doing a fine job running the raffles and the bar staff have upped the ante as far as the food goes. Obviously a lot of work has gone into this behind the scenes for which we show our appreciation by joining in & supporting whenever we can. March has also seen the reassembly of all four regular goalkeepers. All of the four have played in many previous Masters State Teams and bring years (and years!) of skill and experience. This is one of the main reasons why teams find it very difficult to score goals on a Wednesday afternoon! There are other reasons as well!

To make it even more difficult Johnny Harper has decided not to play Saturday hockey this year so he will be concentrating even more on a Wednesday.

Andrew Robertson has now recovered from his second hip replacement and is completely rebalanced! Andrew is playing Saturday hockey for Fremantle 60's.

Max Viner is in top form and again playing for Mods 60's on Saturday's.

Rounding out our goalies is Tony Freeman who is also in good form and is fronting up for Blades again each Saturday this year.

We are very lucky to have such dedicated and skillful (and ruthless) exponents of this dark art! So B Division continues with strong numbers and a strong social scene. A comment from the bar last week was, "Excellent, as good as it gets"!

Dudley Evans

Thanks Dudley. I fully concur with your comments on the bar. I stayed around for a while on 5th April and the general vibe was as it was back in the days when we only had two age groups. Ed.

<u>Shakespeare Said It:</u> "Dispose of them as thou knowest their deserts." Two Gentlemen of Verona Act V, Scene IV. Standing instruction to Wednesday team captains. Even if it sometimes can mean that it's necessary to place a few square pegs in round holes.

"Alack, thou dost usurp authority." King John Act II, Scene I. *Umpire finds that the game is being run by the players who are making their own decisions.*

"O, answer me! Let me not burst in ignorance" Hamlet Act I, Scene IV. *Please umpire, what was that hit for. I did nothing wrong.*

<u>Well Dones for March:</u> Wednesday's A Division umpires: Rob Ainsworth, Jim Balding, George Bradbury, Bob Claxton, Peter Evans, Peter Galbraith, Colin Gee, Martin Gullivan, Ian Hill, Mal Horrigan, Mal Jackaman, KY Lee, Colin Sanders, Neil Scaddan, Peter Trend, Ken Walter, Ken Watt and Frank Williams. Saturday's umpires were: Rob Ainsworth, George Bradbury, Dudley Burress, Michael Gottschalk, Ian Hill, Peter Jones, Tom Long, Murray Matthews, Chris North, Alan Oldfield, Keith Platel, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Les Waldon, Len Walker and Ken Watt. Our thanks to all.

<u>Grumpy Old Men Two:</u> I loathe people who keep dogs. They are cowards who haven't got the guts to bite people themselves." *August Strindberg (1849 - 1912). From 'A Madman's Diary.'*

Honour for WHM Members (continued):

David Horsley

David has a long-standing association with hockey. Whilst living in Bunbury, he served on multiple committees. He received the South West Sportsman of the Year Award for his contribution to hockey and cricket. This talent saw David represent his state in both sports. David had a stint in Port Hedland on committees and umpiring, before moving to Kalgoorlie. David played a key role in the formation of Pegasus Hockey Club, which is now a large and successful club. He was President and held other executive positions in the Goldfields Hockey Association. David's contribution in Kalgoorlie saw him receive Life Membership of Pegasus Hockey Club and Goldfields Hockey Association. David continues his involvement with hockey to this day, particularly in the Masters community - he is a Life Member of Australian Masters Hockey and WA Country Masters Hockey.

Colin Howell

Colin has been collating data from the Hockey WA archives and the Beattie Library for Hockey in Western Australia. His commitment to research and data has this library full of rich information, collating results and goal scorers for each game - some dating back to 1950s. Colin's research extends to the men's and women's first division teams of YMCC and he is a YMCC life member. Colin in the past has been a Hockey WA Board Member, YMCC Board Member, as well as sitting on the Hockey WA Masters and Elite Performance Committees. Colin is an administrator, player and coach. His playing experience includes Junior State Representative Teams, Seniors, and now Masters.

Stuart Lamont

Stuart was the founder of Xavier Hockey Club in 1980 and was the first President for the club, continuing in this role for four years. Stuart remained on the Executive Committee until the club amalgamated in 1987 with Victoria Park Hockey Club. During his tenure, he fulfilled the role of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer over an impressive 30 years. Stuart has been an active Life Member of Victoria Park Xavier Hockey Club since 2000. He was presented the Town of Victoria Park Australia Day Award in 2016 and the Hockey WA Gold Service Award in 2015. Stuart's contribution to hockey has seen him take on Hockey WA Committee roles, as well as many subcommittee roles for WAHA and HWA. Not only a strong administrator and club stalwart, Stuart received his first-grade umpire badge, attending six National Championships between 1984 - 1993.

Don Smart

A left-winger or left-side striker, Don ranks with Australia's most skillful players - a fact confirmed early in his career when he made an auspicious international debut by scoring a goal in the first 20 seconds of play against New Zealand in 1961. Smart appeared in almost 100 international matches and three Olympic hockey tournaments, winning a bronze medal in 1964 in Tokyo and a silver medal in Mexico City in 1968. He also played in the inaugural World Cup tournament in Barcelona in 1971. The compactly built Smart had exceptional pace over the first five meters. He was also able to weave a path through opposing defences with deft stick work, and finish off attacking moves with powerful shots at goal. At Western Australian level, Smart represented the State in the Schoolboy Teams of 1956 and 1957, the Colts in 1960 and then the Seniors from 1961-68 and again in 1970 and 1975. National commitments kept him out of the WA side in the other years. He was instrumental in helping WA win seven of the nine Senior Australian Championship Carnivals in which he played. WA were runners-up in the other two.

<u>Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players March:</u> Noted at PHS: Jim Balding, Chip Challenor and Colin Gee. At Perry Lakes: Rob Ainsworth, Colin Benporath, George Bradbury, Terry Gaston, Colin Gee, Marty Greay, Ian Hill, John Milner, John Mercer, Peter Murray, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Les Waldon, Ken Watt, Ken Walter and Jim Wright.

<u>Punology One:</u> The appointment reminder card I got from my current dentist poses the question: "What do you call a dentist that doesn't like tea? You call him Denis."

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders:

March's question was:

Brian Glencross has been in all our thoughts recently with his passing.

Who did Brian (BAGs) play his first international match against?

Was it:

a) Pakistan in Tokyo? b) Pakistan in Melbourne

c) India in Tokyo? Or d) Spain in Tokyo?

For an extra point: Here is Brian tossing with rival captain Prithipal Singh. When and where was it?



John tells us that the answer is b) Pakistan in Melbourne.

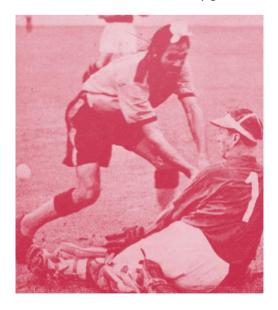
"Australia played a pre-Olympic two match Test series there and in Sydney on 19 September 1964 on the way to Tokyo. Spider Lester's 'mate' Tom Bedells was one of the umpires.

A Bonus point for you if you identified the match as the semi-final against India during the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City."

April's question is:

Indian hockey player Balbir Singh Sr. was in the winning team, India, scoring many goals, in the 1952 Helsinki Olympic hockey Tournament.

Here in the final against the Netherlands he scored how many goals?



Was it: a) 2 b) 3 c) 4 or d) 5 goals? For an extra point: Did India play Australia in these Games? Yes / No? Answers next issue.

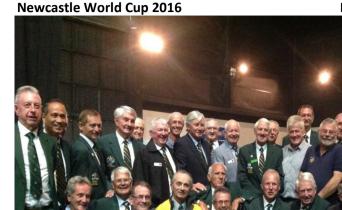


Photo Simon Thomson

Letter to the Editor: As mentioned earlier in Letters John Burt has sent us the following.

"I do not become an OBE until October 27th this year, but if you include my age as 9 months at birth then I am already an OBE. My only March birthday milestone is that I reach 29,000 days on March 21st this month.

Following his scoop on February 8th, goalies have informed George that they would be pleased if he would not have another 'Bradbury moment' until next year.

Attendance was poor on March 1st because we were previously told that there would be no official hockey if temperatures reach 37 degrees Celsius or higher. Does this still apply?"

Thank you John. For those who missed it George's scoop was goal of the day. And those of us at the Adelaide tournament in 2016 might remember that Olympic speed skating gold medalist Steven Bradbury was the guest speaker at the combined dinner.

On the heat policy maybe somebody more in the know could give us the latest position. Ed.

<u>Punology Two:</u> Conserve water or the country may go from one ex-stream to another.

<u>Wanted - Goals:</u> One of our A Division teams has failed to score for two weeks now:

So what is amiss with A White
Their scoring is in a real plight
It's God bless my soul
We can't buy a goal
And stealing one would not feel right.

<u>Change of Details:</u> In the event of any change to your email address and other details you should notify Colin Gee, our membership administrator, whose email address is gee.colin@gmail.com.

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to: John Mercer: A Division Gold team. Email: johnmercer@iinet.net.au