

**Wednesday
Hockey Masters
Perth
Est 1991**

Blue 60s

Electric Blue 60s

Gold 60s

Green 60s

Red 60s

White 60s

Masters Matters

Blue 50s

Gold 50s

Red 50s

White 50s

Highlights From The Committee Meeting: The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 9th May are incorporated in the newsletter (*see Page 7*). Congratulations to our secretary for his Masterly summary of the discussions. All items are significant – but in my opinion the most vital one is the process for new player recruitment. Hopefully we'll all read and follow it.

Wednesday Masters Family News: Congratulations to David Horsley (and family) whose grandson Kyal made his AFL debut for the Gold Coast Suns on 28th April against North Melbourne. Although named high up in the best player list (second in the Sunday Times) he seems to have slipped under the radar as far as our media are concerned – excepting for “Masters Matters” (*The West Australian managed an article on 5th May – Ed*). Actually he's been in my dream team since the start of the season – and scored 101 points for me in his first game, 123 in his second, and 95 in the third.

Blind Drunk At Melville?: That's the explanation offered for the assault perpetrated upon Ivan Wilson by the sunscreen on the Melville Turf grandstand. According to our reporter Ivan is not the man to take such a happening lying down (the intoxicated blind failed to gain a KO) and not only fought back with vigour but also had a word or two to say. See Limericks later in this issue.

My Card Mr Chairman: It has been reported to Masters Matters that our chairman was granted a 2 minute break by the umpire on 28th April. We have not been able to determine whether it was a verbal green card (for being too verbal) or a physical green card (for being too physical). I hope the umpire in question realised how severe a punishment a 2 minute rest during a game is for Simon.

Editorial Corner: I have been advocating that players should “own up” wherever possible – and am pleased to report that in a Saturday game at Richardson Park featuring several current and past Masters it was accomplished. The umpires refused to give any signals on the occasions when they did manage to blow the whistle saying that we were all old enough to know what the decision should be. They also attempted to change ends at half time! Despite this the Blades and Wasps O/50s (3) players were sufficiently honest and restrained to avoid injury and have a reasonably decent game – despite a complete lack of goals. This goes to show that it can be done.

As has happened several times already with this publication the previous paragraph had been in place for a while when a letter to the editor arrived which appears to me to accord perfectly.

Dear Editor

Re your comments on umpiring, it is significant to observe that the players most vocal about umpiring decisions either never volunteer themselves, or are not without criticism when they do. I agree with you that we should urge more strongly that we all play honestly and give up the play when we know with certainty that we have offended. This takes a lot of pressure off the umpires and makes for more enjoyable games, which is why we're there. Obviously many incidents are not so clear-cut and we just have to accept what the umpire sees. Personally I am going to do my best in this way and I stand to be criticised if I fail. I clearly remember a club game against Wasps years ago when the situation was so bad I went to the other captain and we agreed to own up. The rest of the game was great and we left it feeling good. It's not that hard to do.

Regards – Les Waldon (*Thanks very much Les. Could we all give it a go – me included?*)

Department Of Plagiarism: Quotable quotes are being stolen from me by the West Australian's "Inside Cover" at a great rate – but I am going to print this one regardless. Readers may have spotted the Bernard Shaw quote - "The power of accurate observation is commonly called cynicism by those who have not got it." I've wondered why some of my umpiring decisions are so cynically regarded.

Coaching Corner: I have no new tips for the 50s on how to win wine – but for the 60s it seems better to buy tickets from Bob Bowyer, not Gordon Thomas. On 9th May all four winners were bought from Bob – guess who sold me my three tickets. Never mind, it was great to see you back in the bar GT. By the way – your tickets did go into the draw didn't they?

Department Of Limericks:

At Melville a flapping sun blind
Gave Ivan a whack from behind
So he said "What bad luck
Why didn't I duck?"
Or something of much the same kind.

Reader Feedback: Ken Beer wasn't certain who had said "I never forget, but sometimes I can't remember" but "I'm a possibility". When was that Ken? On Neil Mannolini's "a different style of play" he was hopeful that one of the team captains would implement it so that he might understand it – the same goes for me. I've now played against it twice this year and am still none the wiser.

New Players: "Masters Matters" welcomes two new players to the O/60s. Mike O'Connell and Greg Black (who used to play 50s) have both been allocated to the White team who have just won their first match in the second quarter of 2012, but have several long-term injuries and absences to deal with. Does anyone else agree with me that the opposition seems to get younger on a weekly basis.

Quotable Quote: "The most likely way for the world to be destroyed, most experts agree, is by accident. That's where we come in, we're computer professionals. We cause accidents." Nathaniel Borenstein. *Perhaps it's a good thing I quit work early.*

Quotable Quote No 2: "Editor: A person employed by a newspaper, whose function it is to separate the wheat from the chaff, and to see that the chaff gets printed." Elbert Hubbard. *Except for the "employed" part this would appear to be somewhat applicable to "Masters Matters."*

Impertinent Question: What happens if you forget to pay your exorcist? You run a severe risk of being re-possessed.

Best Wishes For A Speedy Recovery: Suburban's Saturday O/60s are missing players at the moment. These include Paul Robinson (calf), Peter Gason (operation) and Ric Denny that I know of. Jim Banks has some way to go still – further rest is required.

While on this topic 60s who appear to have increased their speed lately include Ivan Wilson, Phil Thunder, Peter Livingstone, and Nigel Thomas. Could I have what you're having?

Headline News: Congratulations to Neil Mannolini who re-joined the writers of published letters to the West Australian on 2nd May. I believe Ash Foster had one in as well, but I missed it.

Whistle While You Work – with Neil Mannolini:

John,

It is fairly obvious that most if not all Wednesday Masters have not read a Rules book for ages (if ever?). May I suggest that in each issue we supply extracts from the Official Rule Book (*Done – Ed*).

Here's a couple for you to use at your total discretion of course

Rule 9.3 Players must not touch, handle, or interfere with other players or their sticks or clothing.

Rule 9.11 Field players must not stop, kick, propel, pick up, throw or carry the ball with any part of their body. (The rule adds the following - It is not always an offence if the ball hits the foot, hand or body of a field player. The player only commits an offence if they voluntarily use their hand, foot or body to play the ball or if they position themselves with the intention of stopping the ball in this way.)

It is important to appreciate that in the section APPLYING THE RULES (pages 40 & 41) the following notes are addressed to the umpires:-

Apply the advantage rule as much as possible.

It is not necessary for every offence to be penalised when no benefit is gained by the offender.

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

Cheers – Neil

PS: These rules have applied for at least 2 years AND there will not be any changes considered to the Rule Book until after the London Olympics.

Thanks very much Neil for a very helpful piece. "Off the foot" is the one which we all tend to blow all the time – maybe because it's the only one we can see. Please keep them coming for future issues. The umpiring issue receives further mentions in the editorial, which also includes a very relevant letter to the editor. It must be time I blew the whistle again – but the volunteer queue is very long.

Letter To The Editor:

John

You may be interested to know that for the World Championship in Oxford or Canterbury a total of 40 players from Perth Metro will be playing for the Australian, Southern Cross and Alliance teams. To this number should be added 7 players from the WA Country Association. I'll bet that no other state can top that number.

Regards – Bob Stidwell. (*Thanks Bob – the airlines will be enjoying a hockey-led recovery*)

They Said It: Flashback to 1989 and in an R&I Cup match the umpire was apparently a bit nettled. "If you can't say something intelligent shut up!" John Nettleton. Still seems to be applicable today.

"I don't know if I'm out of form or not. I can't get close enough to the ball to find out." (Anonymous)

Picturesque Speech: The Narrows Bridge – that car-strangled spanner.

Department of Corrections: Apologies to the two White teams who may have thought that they were the only ones outside the box on our cover page. Close inspection will reveal that corrective action has been taken before the anti-discrimination forces take us to task.

A small alteration has been made to the introduction to new players guide printed in our last. Robin Bailey pointed out that the shirt and socks actually cost \$25 for the shirt and \$5 for the socks. The guide has been amended accordingly.

Strange But True: Did you know that three out of every four people make up 75% of the population? (*We owe this one to David Letterman*)

Thank You To: The Green team, who did the barbecuing at Melville on April 25th – with help from Gordon Thomas in getting things started Thanks again also to Melville – perfect prior preparation prevents piss-poor performance (except for my hockey). The drive home in the light traffic and dry conditions was also a very pleasant change from the week before.

Quotable Quote No 3: “Hangover – the Wrath of Grapes” From the Ginger Meggs comic strip.

Department Of Limericks Part Two: The original rhyme to “wine” in this limerick was “swine.” As Barry Rutter is a team-mate and I’m not (quite) really that miffed a late substitution has been made.

On the second of May it befell
That a goalkeeper let out a yell
Because Barry said “Mine!”
Then won both the wine
And the two person dinner as well

If you think this means I’m envious – you’re right. It should also be mentioned here that Ham D’Souza drew Barry’s raffle ticket, and Barry immediately reciprocated by drawing Ham’s raffle ticket. Should we be suspicious? Probably!

Comebacks: We obviously erred by giving Steve McEntee too much coverage in this section. He proceeded to score 3 goals against my team on the 12th May – only one of them when John Harper was hamstrung. Welcome back also to Eric McCauley.

Match Report: Photographs 2 – John Mercer 0 (no goals but lots of points).

News Anti-Gram: As opposed to news pro-gram we have it direct from the man who should know best - Ian Brown now tips the scales at 99,100 grams.

Letters To Another Editor: At half time during a Saturday 60s match a discussion took place about fracking, and its water supply effects between Bill Marmion, Roger Partington, and Ken Walter. A passer-by asked whether Bill’s YMCA team-mate Bob Bowyer should be included. Replied the Water Minister: “Bob and I only discuss water matters via the letter pages of the West Australian.” (*If you don’t know Ken & Roger are senior Water Board people & Bob is a retired ground water engineer*)

Where Are They Now?: Rather a long time ago four boys attended the same school in India (but not in the same year). Nothing too remarkable about that perhaps – but I believe that it is rather remarkable that they all became Wednesday Masters players in Perth. Some of you will be able to rattle off the names – but for those who can't they are Peter Ford, Stan Salazar, Ashley Foster, and Dudley Younger. I can suggest four Masters from the same Perth school – are there any others?

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: Here is the answer to last issue's question which was: The first team Australia played internationally toured WA in 1961. What were the results in the game versus WA and the Test? For a bonus point what were the scores?
The team was New Zealand and both games were draws – 3 all against WA and 1 all versus Australia. No reader submitted an answer.

This issue's question is: Australia played Pakistan in a 4 test series in 1975 preparing for the World Cup later that year. The 4th and last game was suspended twice & finally abandoned by the umpires due to the hosts walk-offs. Which edition of the FIH World Cup was it & where was it played?
Answer next issue.

Department Of Expectoration: This features a story from a couple of weeks ago and has not been subjected to authentication. However, as it's the first entry from the 50s, we've decided to go ahead and publish. According to our correspondent, John Nettleton and the match umpire were not seeing eye to eye about many of the decisions. To cut a long conversation short, the umpire went home, Netts took the whistle, and the Blue team played on with 10 men. Good enough for DS of the Day. *There have been a few occasions when we've had young umpires I've wanted to suggest a swap – on the grounds that both the umpiring and the hockey would be greatly improved.*

Another Past Master: So far 2012 has not featured Neil Mannolini as a player on Saturdays – and I believe only one token appearance on Wednesdays. The dreaded knee-monia has been preventing him from continuing his playing career – though not the umpiring. I have yet to hear that the operation has been scheduled - and hope that things may improve without one.

This is the first season since Neil started senior hockey in 1950 that he has not played in WAHA's Saturday competition – which by my maths makes 62 continuous years. During this time he has not only served at club level (Newman life member), but also edited the Hockey Bulletin for many years, and been an Executive Councillor. I don't know exactly how long he's been a regular on the umpiring panel – but he has done this often thankless and vital task for a good many years also.

All this was done with an amazingly positive attitude and it appeared also a great enjoyment of our great game. I hope that we will continue to see Neil on Wednesdays (and in my privileged case) on Saturdays too. I know that Manno does not like too much limelight, so I would like to quote Winston Churchill on General Montgomery: "They that render good service satisfy. Sir, you have rendered good service. Sir, we are satisfied."

Grumpy Old Men Department: This one is attributed to Oscar Wilde, who was not known as notably grumpy. "I am not young enough to know everything."

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer – O/60s Electric Blue team. Stadium bar. Email: johnmercercer@iinet.net.au

MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEDNESDAY HOCKEY MASTERS COMMITTEE

**HELD AT PERTH HOCKEY STADIUM ON WEDNESDAY 9th May 2012
COMMENCING AT 5:35PM for O/60's and 6:05PM FULL MEETING**

CHAIRMAN: Simon Thomson

SECRETARY: Bob Bowyer

TREASURER: Brian Lester

PRESENT: Bob Robinson, Ian Pestana, David Mellor, Mal Jackaman, Colin Gee, David Horsley, Gordon Thomas, John Mercer, David Evans, Roger Partington.

APOLOGIES: George Naylor, Greg Allen, Robin Bailey.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th November 2011 were confirmed as a true & correct record.

FINANCE REPORT

Treasurer advised total accounts balance total of \$31,195.62.

Expects about \$29,000 expenditure but second half subs still to be received.

In addition, Bob Bowyer has \$912.20 (Raffle BBQ & caps money) on hand and yet to be banked.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) Recruitment – procedures that must be followed:
Moved Bob Robinson, Seconded Roger Partington.
New players who want to play on a regular basis and pay the subs will be eligible for allocation to a team by the President and Secretary. Where a team on a day has a surplus of players, excess players shall be attached to another team short on that day, rather than have players playing more than 3 games.
New players must not be invited to play without first consulting the President for O/60's or Ian Pestana for O/50's.
To improve communications between 50's and President and Secretary, Dave Evans was appointed as communications officer responsible for keeping the President and Secretary informed of all changes and chasing up registrations and payments for the O/50's. He will copy all communications to Secretary and President.
- b) Numbers of team members: 50's teams have sufficient numbers. 60's teams have some capacity, however, there are several players in the process of seeking registration.
- c) Formation of a reserve team. Currently effective for 50's. Not currently required for 60's.
- d) Players must advise captains if not available the next week.
- e) Congrats to John Mercer for "Masters Matters"
Any new decisions from Committee Meetings to be publicised in "Masters Matters"

GENERAL BUSINESS

- a) Quarterly Results – John Mercer report. Circulated.
- b) Uniforms status – Robin Bailey report & purchase of additional 28 new player shirts. Circulated.
- c) Redraw of 60's. Satisfactory
- d) Casual \$10 weekly payments to be replaced by negotiated subs.
- e) Secretary invited to recoup expenses such as paper and printing cartridges costs.

OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Restructuring of 60's to include O/70's??
Decided a bit premature at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.45 pm.

What's In A Name: While trying to establish a name for this journal my mind kept on thinking of names and titles for other possible publications. Here are those which came up before John Halley ended the uncertainty with "Masters Matters." Any additional entries from our readers (if any still remain) would be welcome and are likely inclusions in Issue #7.

Jazz club (blues letter) "Nocturnal Notes"
Wine store (booze letter) "Tippling Times"
Gourmet society (chews letter) "Gustation Gazette"
Dating agency (choose letter) "Pickwhich Paper"
Crossword society (clues letter) "Words Weekly"
Rowing club (crews letter) "Moving Backward"
P & O (cruise letter) "Saily News"
Billiards club (cues letter) "Cannons Chronicle"
Sheep farmers (ewes letter) "Ovine Observer"
Chimney sweeps (flues letter) "Bring Back Smoking"
Electricians (fuse letter) "Weekly Wire"
Log choppers (hews letter) "The Cutting Edge"
Artists (hues letter) "Masters Pieces"
Hangmen (noose letter) "Good Noose Weekly"
Church (pews letter) "The Holy Herald"
Skunk breeders (phews letter) "Black And White Rag"
Scammers (ruse letter) "Cons Chronicle"
Prison warders union (screws letter) "The Inside Story"
Gina Rinehart diary (sues letter) "Memoirs of an Ironing Lady" (*"Iron Lady" already under copyright*)
Body builders (thews letter) "Muscles Mail"
Travel agents (views letter) "Tourism Times"
Marriage agency (woos letter) "Match Reports"

Department Of The Olympics: Thanks to Stan Salazar for providing an interesting set of Olympic Hockey Facts. During the countdown to the London games I'll include a few of these each issue.

- ❖ In Antwerp 1920 Great Britain defeated Belgium 12-1 to become the first team to score more than 10 goals in a single game.
- ❖ The men's teams of England (London 1908) and West Germany (Munich 1972) have won Olympic Gold on home soil.
- ❖ Ivan Laing (Scotland) became the first goal scorer at the Games when he scored the opening goal in Scotland's 4-0 win over Germany at the White City Stadium on Thursday October 29, 1908.

To close this issue I include a favourite of Phillip Adams.

Data is not information
Information is not knowledge
Knowledge is not wisdom