

Wednesday Hockey Masters Perth Est 1991

Blue 70s

Gold 70s

White 70s

Gold 60s

White 60s

Blue 60s

Blue 50s

Red 50s

White 50s

Masters Matters

Guide To Important Stuff: We have decided to include a fast-find directory to the information:

Dates For The Diary - Page 2.

Christmas Party: It's on December 18th after hockey - don't miss it! More next issue.

Bunbury Trip No 2: Page 8.

George Winning Personal Invitation: Page 8.

Usual Verbiage: Everywhere.

Dates For The Diary:

November to January: Stadium turfs re-surfacing - **weekly email fixtures**. Flexible teams.

December 18th: WHM Christmas Party

December 25th / January 1st: No hockey.

May 31st to June 15th 2014: World Cup (Men and Women). Kyogera Stadium - The Hague.

June 5th to 13th 2014: World Cup (40s, 45s, 50s, and 55s) Rotterdam Hockey Club.

June 3rd to 13th 2014: World Cup (60s, 65s, 70s, 75s) Hockey Club Klein Switzerland - The Hague.

September 27th to October 11th 2014: Interstate Masters Championships in Perth.

New Age(s) Hockey: The 'Masters Matters' in box did not fill to overflowing with comments about the new age groups - not even one response. This could mean that on the whole players are satisfied with the new arrangements. My own personal impressions (after the first three weeks) were:

70s: Standard not great as players in new team groupings get acquainted. Better each week.

Sides need to be monitored for balance and adjusted as necessary. Many are away or injured.

The large variety of shirts and socks did not look very good.

60s: Speed of play and standard has improved markedly.

Play seemed fairly even in the games I was able to see - apparently not always the case.

Shirt and sock colours again provided an op-shop effect.

50s: Not observed by the newsletter editor - reader comments welcome.

Business (Not) As Usual During Alterations: During the time that both turfs are being replaced at the Stadium those of us who are ~~young and fit~~ accustomed to playing 3 games will have to make do with 2. 'Masters Matters' understands that we will not have access to both turfs simultaneously until the end of January. Our executive and captains are doing their best to maintain balance between the revised teams; a difficult task given the large number of absences and injuries. I am sure that all Wednesday Masters will exercise our usual patience and tolerance until fixtures can be drawn up for our new regular mode of operation - when we will again be using both turfs.

The Rainbow Collection?: The suggestion was made (in the bar, where else?) that we could organise a 'swap-meet' to enable all of us to acquire our new team shirts and socks. Good idea.

Department Of Health: Best wishes for a quick recovery to all WHMs who are having surgery at the moment. Sadly this includes Ham D'Souza, who now needs back surgery. Bob Bowyer is due for a knee replacement (despite his good form at Perry Lakes on the 19th & 26th), and Peter Livingstone is due for the same. Neil Patterson has had the other half of a double cataract procedure and returns soon with binocular vision. There are likely to be many more I have not heard from - get well soon. Other recovering (& recovered) players include Barry Rutter, Les Waldon and Paul Robinson.

Letters To The Editor: The feedback from the previous issue was most welcome - thank you Lloyd Jones, Peter Fogels, John Sanders, Bill Baldwin, Pam Herbert, Marty Greay, John Milner, Ken Dyer, Rusty Phillips (*right again!*), Bill Campbell, Derek Jobe and Phil Anderson .

Bill Baldwin: " ... hope to be down at Melville on the 16th as spectator (a potato with glasses) only." *Why not - potatoes have eyes. Ed.*

Ken Dyer: "I wonder if you could include my email in your newsletter ... it could provoke an interesting response/debate. I have been thinking of ways of improving veterans hockey, team performance, and the quality of hockey we enjoy.

One facet of our sport is the lack of feedback and dialogue between those who participate and those who make decisions. Too much of the communication is 'top-down' with the foot soldiers who pay a lot of money to participate locked out of decision making.

I suggest that the administrators of state teams circulate a questionnaire after each carnival. This 'survey of satisfaction' would be very simple, and short ... and anonymous. All team members should be asked to rate their satisfaction with the manager, captain, and coach of their team. A rating of 1 - 10, with 1 being poor and 10 being excellent.

It seems to me that this simple idea would give the administrators feedback on the performance of their officers. This feedback would be from the team members themselves.

For a long time I have been surprised at the passivity within our organisations. This initiative will provide positive or negative feedback and lead to better performance in the future.

One final thought - I believe the players should vote for their captain and their coach, and not have them imposed on us. Kind regards - Ken Dyer.

The appointment of coaches, managers, and captains appears to be different in most states. I know that WA seek nominations for coach & manager of the state teams- and would be happy to print details of these arrangements for both WA Metro and Country if a reader is willing and able to supply them. I think that the WA Country coaches and managers produce a report for the executive (who are part of one of the teams most years) so some feedback does currently exist.

'Masters Matters' would like to print more on this topic to enlighten readers and editor. Ed.

Sydney Tournament Lowlight: Last issue I noted that my direct opponent had been awarded best player by my team for two games in a row. In case readers think that this verges on paranoia a closer look at the wording on the terrific WA Country drink bottle which came home with me revealed that it reads "Sydney 2013 Australian Masters Hockey Championship MVP **versus** WA Country."

Sydney Tournament Highlight: Dean Lomax, WA Country's media and web-site man (check out WA Country TV on the web-site www.wacmha.au) was asked to do the team photos for the O/65s and O/70s. There was a small problem with the O/65s - the shot was to be taken on September 28th and Col Murray-Smith would be in Melbourne watching the Dockers. No problem; C M-S is prominent in the back row of the final print. Perhaps Dean has a very long-range lens, as well as a comprehensive photo-shop. (PS - Neil Scaddan's name is correctly spelled - there is a first time for everything.)

Did You See?: Stan Salazaar's caption to the photograph of Prince Harry & Colin Barnett in the West Australian's 'Inside Cover' - which read " I am very sorry Emperor Barnett, I had not heard of you until today." I hope that Stan and Prince Harry were not charged - with lese majeste.

Whistle While We Work - With Neil Mannolini:

The standard of our Wednesday Masters hockey has certainly improved over the last 12 months and we whistlers have less need to stop the flow (key requirement of our sport).

But you can all boost the standard much more by a few simple steps. How?

- 1) Accept the fact that 'flow' is more important than pedantry.
- 2) Don't stop because you feel the umpire may have missed something. (He may have but play on TILL he emphatically blows)
- 3) The self pass is here to stay (thank God) so immediately self pass. Don't stand and wait! But remember if the ball goes over the backline it is to be self passed in line with where it crossed the backline. Not anywhere in the circle (that was an OLD rule).
- 4) Do not anticipate a rule change that might not happen locally. Just because the European and other international are trialling a 'tennis shot' (above the shoulder in open play) provided that it is not dangerous, by the way! It may come to pass when it does and Australian hockey sanctions it then we will follow. *(This answers the question raised on Turf 1 30/10 - Ed.)*
- 5) The older we get, the slower our reflexes ... so if you cannot get the ball cleanly DO NOT CHOP the opponent's stick in frustration. Accept the fact ... and keep pressuring your opponent until you can act without breaching the rules.

We Whistle because We Love our Sport, so be good sports when you play!

Neil Mannolini

More Sydney Numbers: The previous issue made the point that WHM was very well represented - we claimed 83 attendees. Dave Horsley suggested that in the O/70s match between WA Metro and WA Country all 32 players on the team sheets had taken part in Wednesday Masters. The only one I needed to check with was Arthur McHugh, and found that Dave was quite right.

Grumpy Old Men (and Women) Department: "Bigamy is having one wife too many. Monogamy is the same." Oscar Wilde *(interesting comment, given that he had a wife and family, in addition to his other proclivities - Ed)*

Quotable Quote No 1: "Music is the voice that tells us that the human race is greater than it knows." Napoleon Bonaparte - quoted by Gerard Willems in "Limelight" magazine writing about the Southern Highlands International Piano Competition which was held in Bowral - just in time for Ric Denny.

Department Of Limericks: The pages of 'Masters Matters' have been full of the 2014 World Cups lately. I hope that most readers have no objection - as they have now taken over the limericks.

The numbers so far are quite vague

There's scores of us off to The Hague

A tournament virus

Is far from desirous

But we should not return with the plague.

So far I appear to have missed the Sydney virus, and trust that most readers have too.

Picturesque Speech: Several Wednesday Masters have been heard to say that PEDs are essential for our hockey to continue. Not performance enhancing drugs, but performance enabling drugs.

Department Of Viticulture: The wine raffle has been in abeyance since the Sydney tournament and Ham D Souza's cellar is becoming seriously depleted. Perhaps now that all the minor matches have been completed (such as the 9 A Side Internationals) we can return to the random distribution of fermented grape juice, and the newsletter editor can decide on how to keep the score with the new age groups of teams. The other question is at what time(s) will the raffle(s) be conducted?

Strange But True: Like our Perth trains, the Sydney ones have seats reserved for the elderly AND disabled. It was amazing how many times my WA Country team-mates headed straight to them, despite being injury-free. Only pedants like the "Masters Matters" editor would point out that if the sign was meant to apply to us it would have read "elderly OR disabled."

Punology One: Did you hear about the two Indian junkies who accidentally snorted curry powder instead of cocaine? Both ended up in hospital, one's in a korma and the other's got a dodgy tikka. *Thanks to Marty Gray for this one.*

Answer to Pertinent Question: Last issue we asked: "What is the right word to describe the written equivalent of verbal diarrhoea?" Our answer is "fingerrhea", which has plenty of definitions. My own choice would be: "A condition which develops when typing a quick thought turns into a spewing of disorganised spontaneous words that quickly deteriorates into written chaos."

Department Of Aged Care: Happy birthday to all those who have celebrated recently - we believe that there are some significant milestones coming up between now and Christmas.

Department Of Limericks Part 2: For a short time the Saturday 65s were worried that our post-match beers had been locked in the Perry Lakes rooms. All's well that ends well.

Bob Bowyer's laid up, but no fears
The keys to the rooms are Ken Beer's
He's mislaid the master?
Potential disaster
But all drinks are outside, so say cheers!

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: Herewith the answer to last issue's question which was: What do Eric Pearce and Jay Stacy's hockey careers have in common? An answer arrived by return email from Rusty - "they both played in 4 Olympics." Correct (again!).

This issue's question is: Who has scored the most goals for Australia at the Olympic Games so far?

(a) Jamie Dwyer (b) Ron Riley (c) Eric Pearce (d) Jay Stacy.

Answer next issue.

Shakespeare Said It: "I would challenge you to a battle of wits but I see you are unarmed." Well, maybe - this one has no known source in either the plays or poetry. 'There is nothing either good or bad but thinking makes it so.' Hamlet Act II Scene II. Good to know that he had some advice on how to deal with the turf re-surfacing and our new team groupings.

Compliments To The Chefs: Thank you to all the October cooks - those I have been able to identify were Bob Bowyer (16th) and John Ree (23rd). If you helped at any time our thanks to you also.

Sydney Presentations: Our State O/70s kindly gave permission for 'Masters Matters' to publish the following information about their end-of-tournament. Thanks to all involved, and congratulations to the creative team behind this piece (*an exception to what goes on tour stays on tour - Ed*).

W A Over/70s Hockey Awards Night - Straight from Olympic Park, Homebush Bay Sydney

These awards arise from the observation and careful assessment of the personalities and playing performance of the Western Australian O/70s team *playing with honour for their State* at Olympic Park, and at an adjacent venue, in September 2013. The Awards are presented by Eleanor Sanders and Dee Briscoe.

Citation: - Sometimes watching hockey (at least of this age group) is like watching grass grow. However, occasionally it's colourful, if not haphazard, surprisingly somewhat like a cottage garden. For the uninitiated 'cottage gardens' are of mixed species mostly vegetable varieties, some herbs, fruits, many weeds - like some players, and a colourful spritely flower or two and of course the occasional prickly rose.

So we (your evaluators and presenters) have decided to base this year's awards on a garden theme, in which careful planning, despite the occasional drought, flood or pestilence, ultimately leads to a bountiful harvest. Or, in this year's case a modest crop.

For each award a certificate of congratulations and achievement is presented. They go to (come on Down):

Barry Rutter (coach) - Jarrah Award always resists termites and forwards.

Captn Peter Gason - Laurel Award wears his crown with a ray of sunshine.

Peter Murray - Sage Award as our learned friend always keeps his briefs in defence.

Peter Willett - Clover Burr Award for continually sticking to PC-R (Peter Cramer-Roberts Vic) and needling him.

Les Waldon - Oil of Cloves Award for trying 101 ways to stop the pain.

V. Captn Colin Sanders - Nasturtium Award - here, there and everywhere.

Bob Bowyer - Kangaroo Paw Award bounding and bouncing across the paddock.

David Lester - Pineapple Award for going well with a spare rib.

Bill Williamson - Hollylock(ey) Award for being the tallest in the field.

Ash Foster - Sequoia Award for wisely being the team elder.

Stan Salazaar - Rocket Award, showing a tendency to run wild.

Neil Patterson - Mint Award as a fresh breath of life in the (otherwise unremarkable) team.

Paul Robinson - Sword Grass Award for fearlessly cutting through the opposition.

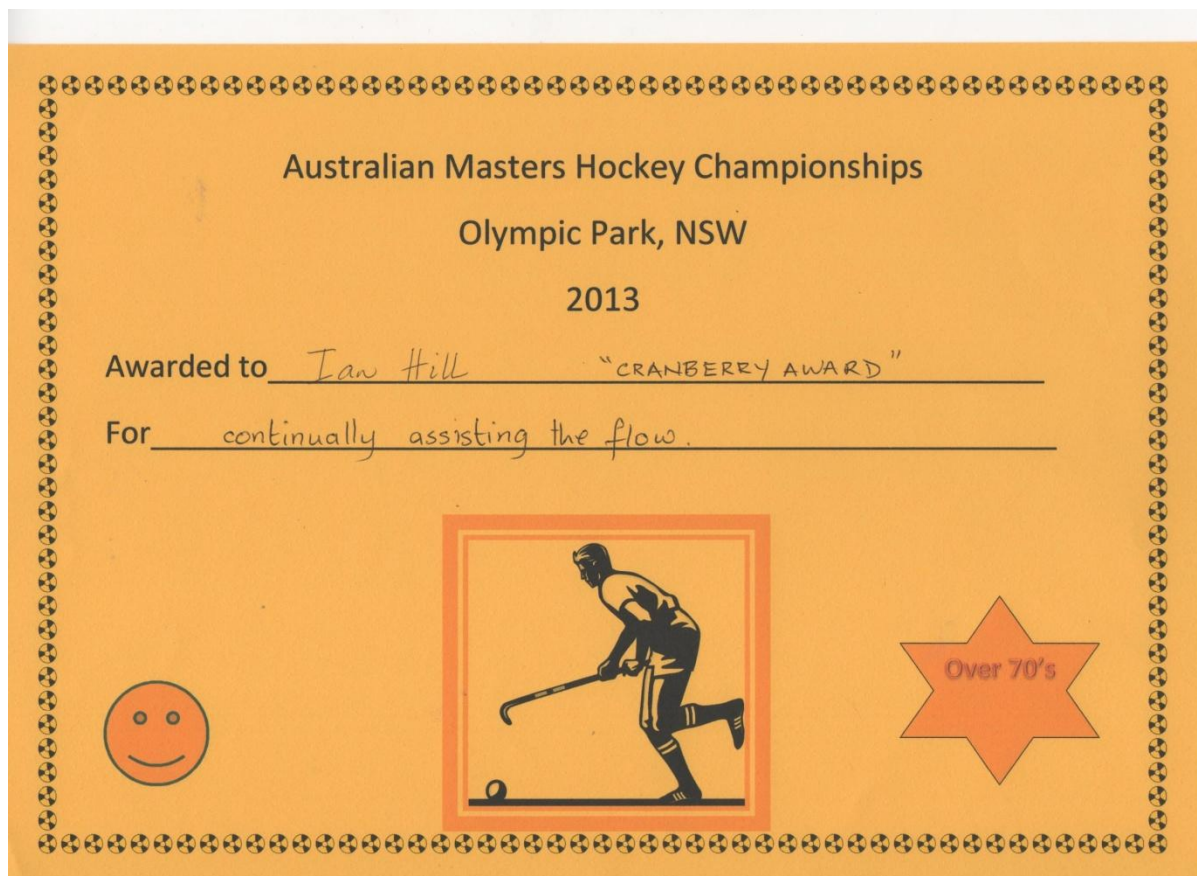
Ian Hill - Cranberry Award for continually assisting the flow. (*see next page*)

Ron Venables - Salvation Jane Award (?Patterson's Curse) - pops up all over the field, to the benefit of some and to the curse of others.

And finally in absentia:

Graham Harler - Forget-me-not Award (goes without saying).

Really Old?: Bill Campbell has modified his usual greeting to senior citizens now that he has himself become one of the O.C.s. He refers to players like those above as R.O.C.s.



O/65s Good News: The hockey continues on into the warmer weather, and we are currently getting two full teams, plus a few spares, plus injured players who come for a drink. In addition Bob Le Merle has become a regular umpire, joining regular umpire Peter Brien, and Bala a semi-regular umpire, when he's not playing. Office bearers have now been elected and installed (see Limerick 2). It is a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon - and still currently starts at 14:00 (that's 2:00 pm). We will be playing at a later time when the summer heat begins in earnest. Contact Les Waldon or Jim Wright to express an interest - perhaps we will be able to add Gold to the current Blue & White.

They Said It: Subs again this issue - this one may strike a chord with readers who found the Sydney pre-game warm-ups a little too strenuous.

Team captain to Nev Gandy: "Have you had a proper warm-up?"

Nev's response: "Yes, I had a smoke in the car and turned the heater on high."

Department of Corrections: No complaints again - or was it just a case of 'don't mention it'.

Poets' Corner: A small contribution from that prolific writer Anon:

If all be true that I do think
 There are five reasons that we drink
 Good wine, a friend, or being dry
 Or lest we should be by and by
 Or any other reason why.

WHM To Tour Again: Robin Bailey and Rob McNab are working on a possible O/60 game in similar style to the successful one we had in March this year. The venue may be Bunbury or Mandurah and the proposed timing is mid March 2014. Robin tells me that he has had several expressions of interest already, so a selection policy may be required after nominations are called.

Gone But Not Forgotten: Teams which have disappeared are the Electric Blue, Green, and Red 60s - and the Gold 50s. I find that fellow Masters are appreciated more once they have been team mates - and thank all members of the former 60s Electric Blues for their tolerance and patience with my many failings, as well as provision of the occasional hit.

Dummy Spit Of The Day: Since the Sydney tournament the clamour which follows every umpiring decision seems to have redoubled, at least in my own age group. This award goes to all WHM O/70s. *Perhaps this should have been headed Grumpy Old Men - Ed.*

Quotable Quote #2: "Government of the people, by the focus groups, for the politicians." David Hardaker, ABC Drum. Abe Lincoln's characterisation of representative democracy - up to date.

A Musical Joke: Viola players so often seem to be the target - and from the November issue of the ABC's 'Limelight' magazine comes this one from conductor Simon Murphy. Posted on a backstage Job Opportunities noticeboard:

World famous string quartet seeks

First violinist

Second violinist

Cellist

Punology Two: An Englishman has started his own business in Afghanistan. He is making land mines which look like prayer mats. It's doing well - prophets are going through the roof. (*Marty Greay*)

Comebacks: George Winning has been heard to state that the only reason he's no longer playing is that he has not been invited. We have now introduced the O/70s - and George, you are invited.

Stop Press: It is probable that these thanks to the October umpires do not include several of our volunteer whistlers. I can only offer my apologies if I missed you - and regret that I cannot report on every match played on a Wednesday afternoon. Those I was able to note included Dudley Burress, Bill Campbell, Peter Fogels, Bob Le Merle, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini, Ian Pestana, & Ivan Wilson. By the way, if we must query decisions (rather than owning up) please be polite.

PS: It has been noticeable that Bob Le Merle and Dudley Burress have decided to do a lot more umpiring lately. Well done, and thank you.

Late News: The turf works started on time with the rapid disappearance of the Turf 2 surface, then I heard that a levelling problem has now put the project 2 weeks behind. Not good!

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - O/70s Gold team. Stadium bar. Email: johnmerc@inet.net.au