



A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Gold

B White

B Blue

C Blue

C Gold

C Red

C White

# Masters Matters

Issue No 1

January 2016

**Regular Features:**

Dates For The Diary: This page.  
 Department of Health: Page 3.  
 'A' division blog: Page 5.  
 From The Saturday 65s: Page 6.  
 The French Letter: Page 7.  
 The Balinese Bulletin: Page 8

**Irregular Features:**

Which Turf - temporary swap: This page.  
 2016 fees due now: This page.  
 'A' division reshuffle: Page 4.  
 Southern Cross corrections: Page 4.  
 'B' Division Report: Page 9.  
 World Cup With Alliance?: Page 10.

**Dates For The Diary:**

January 6th: Turf 2 only. 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm. Combined A/B. 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm. Combined B/C.  
 March 29th to April 9th 2016: Masters (O/40s to O/55s) and Women's World Cups - Canberra.  
 May 2nd to 13th 2016: Grand Masters (O/60s and higher) World Cup - Newcastle, Australia.  
 September 24th to October 8th 2016: Interstate Masters Championships - Adelaide.  
 2017: European Cup - Glasgow. } Southern Cross  
 2018: World Cup - Spain. } Australia and Southern Cross  
 2020: World Cup - possibly Japan. } Australia and Southern Cross

**Christmas Party:** Every one of these functions I have attended from 2007 onward has had a strong feel good factor and this one was no exception. Congratulations to Simon, Bob, Spider & Dave Evans for the work which went into making it all happen. Many thanks also to Jason and the Stadium staff for a very fine effort with the setting, facilities and especially the food. All the presentations to our charities being done offline shortened the formalities by no less than 14 speeches.

Bob Bowyer has already pre-empted the news that the inaugural George Winning Trophy for the individual who has performed exceptional service for Western Hockey Masters went to treasurer Brian Lester. This is well merited indeed as 'Spider' is our longest serving (since 1991) member of the WHM Committee - and has continued to provide meritorious service even after retiring as a player.

It was very pleasing to see our volunteer umpires recognised with informal awards. Thanks again to Lionel David, Vern Gooch, John Lindsay, Neil Mannolini and Nick Pereira.

Bob has already told us that all the various raffles on the night have put over \$1K into our charity account to start the year 2016. The amount of time and effort he puts into this fund raising activity is incredible - many thanks to Bob, Spider and all other helpers. *More Pages 9 and 10.*

**Which Turf:** Please note that all the games on January 6th will be on Turf 2. Turfs will be swapped for the period from January 13th to February 10th inclusive. The 'A' Division is on Turf 2 starting at 1:30 pm and 'B' Division is on Turf 1 starting at 1:00 pm. 'C' Division is also on Turf 1 starting at 3:30pm.

**2016 Fees:** All Wednesday players should be aware from Bob Bowyer's email that our fees are due now. As stated in the December "Masters Matters" the details of the amounts required are:

- 1) All players pay \$300. No exceptions for sabbaticals, holidays, cruise, etc.
- 2) All new players pay \$350 which includes a uniform of shirt and socks. **Except:**
  - a) Any player who has turned 80 as at 1st January 2016 will pay a 50% reduced annual fee.
  - b) All goalies will pay \$200 annual fee. Unless they are 80.

Bank account details: BSB - 036004. Ac - 111511. Western Hockey Masters. Please include name and division. If you do not have online banking please pay Brian Lester or David Evans on a Wednesday.

**Department of Health:** Here's what I know. There is more in the 'B' division report on Page 9.

I have heard that Steve Farrar and Heath Tyrell were diagnosed with prostate cancer, and have now undergone surgery. We all trust you are both well on the way to full recovery. A reminder to us all to be vigilant. PS: Heath returned to the field at Perry Lakes in December and confirmed the surgery. Rob Crofts and Terry Gaston have suffered very serious problems as per the emails from John Rogers and Kerry Gaston sent around by Bob. Bala is progressing slowly at the moment and faces a lengthy absence from hockey. Bob Stidwell has just finished 24 weeks of chemo-therapy and it was great to see him at the Christmas party. Sorry it went unreported, but I did not know that the chemo had resumed. The 'C' division injury list reads Blue: John Bestall, Stuart Lamont. White: Peter Fogels, Nick Pereira. Gold: Peter Westlund. Eric Alcock, George Bradbury and Neil Scaddan have all played again and it is hoped will continue to do so. Our best wishes to all for a quick and complete recovery.

**Letters To The Editor:** The December issue produced quite a lot of feedback - not all for publication. Thank you to all respondents; Mike Gottschalk, Keith Kessell, Ken Dyer, Bill Baldwin, Alan Chapman, Daryl Richards, Neil Mannolini and John Milner.

**Grumpy Old Men (and Women) 1:** "If you want to know what God thinks of money, just look at the people he gave it to." Dorothy Parker (1851 - 1967). *US poet, short story writer, critic and satirist.*

**Department Of Limericks Part 1:** The first spell of hot weather prompted this. Then winter returned.

It's tough when we play in the heat

A turf with air con would be neat

But here's a real task

To keep goal in a mask

And yet they return a clean sheet.

*Of course we forwards have been very helpful too. Seriously, thanks to all summer goalkeepers. Ed.*

**Department of Corrections:** December's "Masters Matters" gave Richard Sheridan's dates as 1756 - 1856. This should have been 1756 - 1816. I may have given the impression with sloppy wording that Eric Kjekstat (Page 9) had left his Alliance number 47 shirt behind. He was actually wearing it as he departed the bar. Finally, Ken Watt was included in the Saturday 65s honour roll because it covered the whole of 2015, and Ken ran the bar on his own right up to the end of our summer season.

**Have Hockey Stick Will Travel:** The Southern Cross teams for Newcastle as printed in the last issue were guesswork from surnames. Complete lists are not yet on the S/Cross website whose server has had problems. I'll print the complete WHM list when I can. Meantime, these corrections:

O/60 Red: *I left out Darryl Richards.*

O/65 Red: Alan Chapman (*recent ACT visitor*) with apologies to John Chapman. *My original email did not include Gordon Jeffrey and Dave Mellor, who are also part of this team.*

I have also heard that Bob Robinson has now been included in the Australian O/75s squad for Newcastle, having replaced David Webster.

**Punology One:** Did you hear about the bloke who drove his expensive car into a tree? He found out how the Mercedes bends.

**Rules Are Us - Without Neil Mannolini:**

Neil is in holiday mode this issue. I was going to seek his comments on the rule changes for 2016 but they all seem to apply only to indoor hockey. So our regular umpiring correspondent can take a well-merited rest.

In 2016 if any WHM member would like clarification of a rule please contact the editor. I am sure that we have access to enough expertise to oblige, failing which there's always umpire Google.

**'A' Division Re-shuffle:** Some brief comments. There are very few on the lists who are not currently active. All sides have equal numbers (13) and there is a reserve pool of recovering players. It was a major exercise - counting the players retained in each team produced: White (5), Blue (9), Gold (6) and Red (4). General opinions established a clear favourite, but the proof of the pudding lies in the eating. As so often happens, the team which combines best will do best.

**'A' Division Re-Shuffle Flow On Effects:** The official word (bar announcement 09/12) is that players who are in a new team are entitled to a shirt and socks in their new colours without charge.

**Department of Limericks Part 2:** I heard that the Newcastle tournament is struggling to attract a lot of players from overseas. Some possible explanations occurred.

It isn't Newcastle-On-Tyne

This one is quite close to good wine (*Why would that deter anyone*)

They can't come by car

Perhaps it's too far

Or else it's a bloody coal mine.

**Quotable Quote No 1:** For some reason this one seemed appropriate for the New Year. "Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; but remember that what you have now was once among the things you only hoped for." Epicurus (341 BC -270 BC). *Ancient Greek philosopher. I have trouble remembering, but I think old age was one of the things I hoped for.*

**Well Dones:** Thank you as always to the December umpires. I noted for 'A' division Bob Bowyer, Ash Foster, Peter Gason, Vern Gooch, Neil Mannolini, Neil Scaddan and Ivan Wilson. The bar attendance indicated that John Lindsay and George Mullins have again been regulars for the 'B' division. The 'C' division remain not known to me - but you know who you were. Well done all. Thanks also go to the Saturday umpires - Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Brian Glencross, Ian Hill and Rod Spencer. The sausages on 2nd December seem like a very long time ago, but their cooks Adolphus Abrahams and Howie Herbert did a fine job. And thank you also to the Stadium staff for our Wednesday bar snacks.

**Practice Makes Perfect:** It's been some time since Eric Alcock had to prepare for Wednesday hockey and his routine needs work. On the way to make his long awaited comeback he realised half-way to the Stadium that he'd forgotten his hockey shoes. Having gone back home for these he then bogged the car at PHS (very thoroughly apparently). When I arrived late it was strongly suggested that an in-depth interview with Eric would be a good idea, which elicited all this tragedy. Though what saved it from being a truly tragic story was that Eric's hockey was pretty good for a bloke making a return to the game after a long absence - especially after such an eventful pre-game preparation.

**A' Division Blog:** So ends 2015. It was very even in 'A' division, which is one of our main objectives.

**December 2nd:** Numbers were surprisingly good considering the weather, which hit 36° at Perth Airport. Lloyd Jones, Roger Partington and Neil Scaddan all thought it was a good day for a comeback while thanks must go to the two goalkeepers who played all games - very well. They were too good for my Red team, who failed to score at all. Some very good hockey was played early on, but this fell away as some players (justifiably) departed due to the heat and the rest of us tired. Farewell to Alan Chapman who finished his stay here today. Player numbers were Blue (10), Gold (12), Red (11) and White (8). White included Alan Chapman, Ken Walter and Lloyd Jones. Total goals scored (6).

**December 9th:** The same two goalkeepers (Barry R and John B) dominated play again, possibly aided by a slight lack of team work when attacks were being mounted. Goals were scored from sustained pressure or by individual brilliance - Stan Balding and Scott Blackwell sharing goal of the day. It was good to see Trevor Kerr back on the turf. The Red team did best with Graham Harler scoring twice. Player numbers were Blue (11), Red (11), White (7) and Gold (10). Total goals scored (6).

**December 16th:** Thanks to Roger Partington who kept the records for me until my belated arrival from a funeral. A lot of us apparently had Christmas parties on our minds rather than hockey and the standard of play suffered. Eric Alcock made a long anticipated comeback and despite some strange events on the way to the Stadium (see Page 4) must have been quite happy with his form. It was a day without a draw and dominated by Gold who won all their games. Every other side lost twice. I heard Stan Balding goaled on the reverse stick side again (left-handers have an advantage here) but goal of the day has to go to Mal Horrigan who responded to a Blue goal by running the centre pass-back right through the defence & slamming it in from an angle. A few rare lapses from perfection in the goalkeeping ranks (no names) assisted some of our forwards to a higher goal tally than usual. It was the last day together for all sides before the re-shuffle takes effect when normal fixtures resume on January 13th. My thanks to all Red team-mates (particularly captain Roger) over the last 3 years for making up a congenial group on and off the turf - which could play some reasonable hockey on occasions. Good luck to you all in your new teams. Approximate player numbers were White (10), Gold (10), Red (10) and Blue (7). Total goals (11).

**Goals:** Observant players will have noticed that goal tallies were kept in 2015. The intention was to try to isolate any instance of star fill-ins doing the bulk of a team's scoring. This did not happen but the goals scored by players filling in indicate that we were having trouble with numbers. The actual totals were Quarter 1 (13), Quarter 2 (19), Quarter 3 (5), Quarter 4 (5). I do not believe in making too much ado about individual tallies, though at times it is merited. 4 players scored more than 20 goals and it was remarkable that all missed a lot of hockey. Those who got into double figures were Blue: Ian Hill, John Ree, Brian Soares. Gold: Stan Balding, Ken Beer, Trevor Kerr, John Milner, Stan Salazaar. Red: Bob Byers, Graham Harler, Mal Horrigan, John Mercer, Ron Venables. White: Scott Blackwell, Peter Gason, Dave Horsley, Gordon Thomas. Ken Walter has to get a mention here after scoring 12 goals for the State in the pre-tournament competition.

Goals for the year totalled 350 - 67 of them during the pre-Cairns tournament.

**Fill-In Players:** As can be seen from the numbers above (16th) the Blue team were short. Well done to captain Neil Scaddan, who enlisted different fill-ins each game to comply with the decision taken at the Committee meeting last May that no 'A' division player should play more than four games in an afternoon. Scads also complied with the spirit of the competition by not recruiting only stars, as is indicated by the fact that I got a game.

## Volunteer Umpire Honoured

Photo John Mercer



**Thanks Peter:** Club Captain Les Waldon presents Peter Brien with a token of our appreciation.

**From The Saturday O/65s:** Thank you to Bob Bowyer for the lengthy negotiations with the Town of Cambridge. These began with a request for a temporary sun shelter near our ground and ended up with the field being moved closer to the trees (to provide shade for resting players). This was done effective December 5th and the trees came in very handy - to keep the rain off.

As can be seen there are some very effective operators running this competition shown by our Christmas party on 19th December. The Committee all assisted and George Bradbury was the liaison man with IGA Wembley who provided steak, sausages and satays (and ice cream magnums for desserts). Jim Wright organised the salads and Howie and Jim made sure between them that we had enough in the way of beer, soft drinks & wine for the night. All the rest was done by volunteers who arrived early to help set up tables and chairs, butter bread rolls (an all Mercer team) and all the other small details to make the night a success. As well as this, Rusty Phillips put his hand up to do the cooking and was aided on the night by other non-players (at the moment, we hope) Marty Greay and Neil Scaddan. Top effort, blokes.

The clean-up squad afterwards included many attendees and I did not note all the workers, though Paul Robinson (also unable to play now) was conspicuous at the washing up. The manner in which the whole night was arranged speaks volumes for the quality of the Saturday competition and the people who play in it.

A general discussion was held about the future of the competition. Consensus was that we should remain at 3 teams due to the overheads of expanding further. These included finding 2 more GKs and umpires, as well as the cost to mark out an extra field. Downward extension of the age was not popular, as the competition was formed because the WAHA O/60s had become too young.

**The French Letter No 16:**

Well the weather has been the major talking point in France for the last month or more – after the terrorist tragedy – because it has been so warm. Temperatures in November were 5 degrees above average and are 9 degrees above in December. Each day in December in Normandy has been about 8 – 14 degrees and even warmer in the South- almost unheard of.

The majority of ski resorts in France are without snow and those that have some snow only have it on a few of their runs, Of course people flock to these resorts in their thousands, come the holidays, and so they have to resort to walking or participating in some other activities arranged by the resorts. A couple of the resorts have flown in artificial snow by helicopter – imagine the cost of doing that! Climate change is certainly on the agenda.

Talking about climate change, I think it was remarkable that Paris was able to host the G20 conference for 150 heads of state (the biggest turnout ever) only two weeks after the terrorist bloodbath. It takes a pretty resilient city to do that.

We enjoyed Christmas with our daughter and two granddaughters as they came from Chartres to stay with us for a few days.

You probably know that I am a keen woodworker and I have always had the ambition to build a grandfather clock. Well I have decided that 2016 is going to be the year and I hope to have it completed in time for my 80<sup>th</sup>. I have chosen a design and am currently researching possible timbers and also sources for the mechanical works. I'll keep you posted on progress.

Well done “Spider” on being given the Winning Award. I certainly think it was a great choice. Best wishes to you all and great hockey as you begin 2016.

Ian Purdie (*Thanks again Ian - and happy house selling in 2016? Ed.*)

**Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders:** December's question was: Which of these statements is true? a) Jim McDowell umpired in 4 Olympic Games. b) Don Prior umpired in 4 Olympic Games. c) They both umpired in a single Games. d) They both umpired in 4 Olympic Games. *Phil Anderson sent in an answer of b) Don Prior “one of the all time best umpires.” Poor editing on my part, as three of the answers are correct - a) b) and d).* January's question is: Jamie Dwyer's possible selection for Rio has prompted speculation about who is the oldest hockey player to have represented Australia at the Olympic Games. If Jamie D is selected will it be: a) Jamie Dwyer b) Eric Pearce c) Ric Charlesworth or d) Jim Irvine. *Answer next issue.*

**Shakespeare Said It:** “I earn that I eat, get that I wear; owe no man hate, envy no man's happiness; glad of other men's good, content with my harm.” As You Like It Act III Scene II. *And I accept every umpiring decision without comment or criticism.*

“Hast thou read truth? Ay, my lord, even so as it is here set down.” The Winter's Tale Act III Scene II. *Masters Matters reader - most of the time.*

**Past Players:** There were many retired or injured players to mention for December. Wednesday's list has Jeff Godfrey, Brian Lester, Ian Lyon, Rusty Phillips, Bob Robinson John Sanders, Neil Scaddan and George Winning. Saturdays included Eric Alcock, Marty Greay, Tony Marshall, Paul Robinson, Neil Scaddan, Peter Stevens and Ken Walter. While the Christmas Party at PHS included many regulars it was terrific to welcome Ian Lyon, Bill McIntosh, David Munt, Colin Nicholas and Bob Stidwell too. All this serves to demonstrate the strength of the WA Masters Hockey community.

**Balinese Bulletin No 10:**

Another year has just flashed by ..almost unnoticed, while we all launch ourselves into yet another 12 months. Erin & I would like to wish everyone down there & indeed everywhere a Happy & Healthy 2016.

**POTONG RAMBUT: (Haircut)**

Following some many months of avoiding the Bali Barber, I was poked & prodded by the better half to "do something about it". I must admit I had taken on the appearance of a refugee from some obscure Hemingway Appreciation Society ...not that that was necessarily bad. Anyway, not wanting to pay almost as much as in Perth for a haircut from the "Expat" salons I had previously gone to I walked some 7 minutes down the road from where we live to present myself to Zaelen. Now Zaelen comes originally from the Island of Madura, which is located a few miles of the coast of Java & adjacent to the city of Surabaya. He has been in business for 5 years & I have been driving by his "Barber Shop" as long as we've been here. Well I can tell you he has now become my Barber of choice. Finished my "cut" & asked for the princely sum of Rp15,000 (AU\$1.50), I was embarrassed & gave him Rp20,000 (AU\$2.00). Oh & I should mention his work was awarded the seal of approval by Erin.

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH:**

We have just celebrated our 3<sup>rd</sup> Xmas here in Bali. The previous 2 Xmas's we had booked into a modestly priced restaurant & sat amongst total strangers. This year we decided to go DIY & eat at home with Eddy. We "blew the budget" a little & purchased some items we would normally avoid. I know some of you down there will find this hard to believe, but we also took the tops off a bottle of Aust. White & red wine that we have accumulated from visiting friends. What is unusual about that is that we just do not drink wine here in Bali ....have you seen the prices? All in all a very pleasant & relaxed Christmas & Boxing Day.

**WEATHER REPORT:**

For all of you who may have been following my reports of the lack of rain in Bali .....the WET has finally arrived & we & some 3 million other Balinese are so happy to see it!!!

Well, I've got to admit that "Bali Inertia" is beginning to set in, along with the fact that I don't really have anything more to say.

*Peter actually did have more to say, but the photograph he sent of a very small Balinese girl giving a thumb up signal has played havoc with the newsletter text whenever I tried to include it. The intent was to show us what the year 2016 was likely to have in store. Ed.*

**Grumpy Old Men Part 2:** "Who is rich? He that is content. Who is that? Nobody." Benjamin Franklin (1706 - 1790) Author, printer, political theorist, politician, freemason, postmaster, scientist, inventor, civic activist, statesman and diplomat. I wonder what he did in his spare time.

**Thank You All:** On 5th December all Perry Lakes drinks were bought by three birthday celebrants. A belated Happy Birthday and thank you to George Bradbury, Howie Herbert and Roger Partington.

**Dummy Spit Of The Day:** Ken Beer requested that I leave him out of this section. OK - this time. I Did we all make a New Year resolution to stay out of it for the whole of 2016?

**Quotable Quote No Two:** "The gambling known as business looks with austere disfavour upon the business known as gambling." Ambrose Bierce (1842 - 1914). *The Devil's Dictionary*.



**WEDNESDAY MASTERS HOCKEY B GRADE MONTHLY REPORT: DECEMBER 2015**

**INJURIES:** Arch, Michael Robinson and Brian Thomas missed a few games with leg and muscle injuries. Ian Pestana has returned to playing after serious virus. Bob le Merle (umpiring) showing he is fit and running and nearly ready to return to playing. Heath Tyrell recovering from an operation should return in the New Year. Best wishes to Terry Gaston and family, as Terry recovers from a spinal abscess.

**New Players:** Graeme Wood (Woody) ex Cricketers and ACT and currently Melville has shown a bit of form in his two Wednesday appearances. Said he pulled up a bit short after game one.

**Visiting players:** Eric Kjekstad (looks like "kick start") from Vancouver and Alliance is in Perth for 3 months staying with immediate family and should be available until Feb. The warmer summer weather may find him out.

**December Games:** Numbers have allowed the three teams to field near full sides on most occasions however the 35C on the 2<sup>nd</sup> certainly affected player numbers and efforts. White has remained the strongest team but margins have been close. Pesty provided a cameo performance, with a hand in all 5 goals in one 17 minutes of play, beautifully setting up the white forwards 3 times and then letting all watch his direct opponent net 2 goals at the other end. Regular goal scoring has been achieved by Ted, Roy, Adrian (and a few goal assists), Roger and Phil. Highlights have included strong passing by Roger and Ted which prompted some wag in the crowd to applaud as they hadn't seen either striker do it too often. Dudley Evans is showing a strong return to form with improvement in his across ground movement after returning from injury, Glen continues with good form at half back. White signed off for the Christmas break with a strong 5-1 win in their last game. Well coached by Arch from the sidelines, with goals to Ted (2), Peter, Roger and Jim. The white goalie (Speedy) quit after letting the one goal through.

Many thanks to the managers of each of the teams, Arch, Chip and Bill for the effort they have made throughout the year and a special thanks to the Masters organisers, especially Simon for undertaking the task of organising and controlling the weekly matches. To the umpires and goalies, we can't play without you, your efforts are appreciated. Hope you all enjoyed the Xmas break.

Look forward to restarting in January.

**A Couple of Puns:**

1. England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool
2. All the toilets in Fremantle Police stations have been stolen. Police have nothing to go on.
3. Cartoonist found dead at home. Details are sketchy.

*Thank you to our first correspondent from the younger age groups. He has requested anonymity and if that is what it takes for "Masters Matters" to receive copy such as this then we'll begin the 'B' division reports without a by-line. It's good to keep in touch - when I first joined WHM ten years ago everybody knew everybody. This is not always the case now - due to numbers? See Page 10. Ed.*

**Wine Winners For 2016:** In former years "Masters Matters" used to publish team ladders in order of the number of raffle wines won. This has been difficult recently due to the volatility of player moves. Now that this is more settled we will attempt to reinstate the tables this year.

Meantime, the bar flies who were the leading individual winners in 2015 were: 8 - Graeme Samson. 7 - Graham Challoner, Peter Gason, John Mercer, Paul Robinson and Brian Thomas. 6 - Ken Beer and Brian Lester. I should mention that these are just a rapid back of the envelope calculation. I should also point out that the Christmas party wines are not included - this is because I cannot keep track of all the winners due to advancing age, fading hearing and the dim light.

**Christmas Party Hampers:** These are quite substantial, and might pose a real challenge to a one man household. This year's winners were Bob Robinson, Peter Morgan and Sue Waldon. Many thanks to Bob and Janise Bowyer for all the work which went into assembling these - and all done in the same month they celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Thanks also to IGA Canning Bridge for the generous donation of one of the prizes.

**Welcome back:** Recent weeks have seen the return of some long term retirees. John Crute began his comeback as a goalkeeper as mentioned in previous editions. Ian Lyon had a hip replacement a few years ago and has not been sighted much (a few times only) on a field since - although he has been a welcome social visitor to our post match post mortems. Both John and Ian were back in the action at Perry Lakes during December reminding me of the days when the three of us played in the O60 Blue team forward line. It would be good to see you both again in 2016.

Those of you who played in the Monday / Thursday competition on the L.R. Connell Super-Grass may remember Graham Wood- known as "Woody" in those days. He's back in WA after a few years in the eastern states and Thailand, about 20 of them and has wasted no time getting back into the WA senior hockey scene. I believe this means having played twice in our 'B' division and being an inclusion in the Southern Cross O/65 Red team for Newcastle. Good to have you back.

**Southern Cross Social Function:** Woody suggested a pre-Christmas barbecue for the WA members of the Southern Cross teams for Newcastle. This did not happen, but the idea is still a good one. Where I think we might have difficulty is in identifying all the invitees. It also needs someone to take on the role of the organiser. Possibly we should talk about it with Peter Fogels and Peter Hayes.

**WHM Player Numbers:** At the November Committee meeting the question was raised. So Colin Gee followed it up and produced the actual totals of registered players. They are:

'C' Division: Playing - 58. Unallocated - 8. Total 66.

'B' Division: Playing - 46. Unallocated - 11. Total 57.

'A' Division: Playing - 57.

Total Playing members: 180.

Goalkeepers: 13. (don't goalkeepers play Colin?)

Umpires: 5.

Past Players Listing: 170. *Further comment probably not required - impressive figures. Ed.*

**World Cup:** I have been in correspondence with Colin Benporath (Australian coordinator) & Maarten van Oosterzee (Secretary) from Alliance International Hockey Club. Their O/60s for Newcastle were short of players, and I offered to advertise for them. As of 31st December the website indicates that they have 39 nominations spread across the three teams they have nominated for the Tournament Trophy section. If you feel like a hockey trip to Newcastle between May 2nd and 14th to play for the Alliance then contact Colin & Maarten - ask me for their emails or look them up on the Alliance website at [www.alliancehockey.net](http://www.alliancehockey.net). This applies to all age groups - 60s, 65s and 70s.

**Punology Two:** Did you hear about the bloke who held the door open for a clown - because he thought it was a nice jester.

**Another One Finishes At Last:** A Happy New Year to all readers who have come this distance.

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - 'A' Division White team. Email: [johnmerc@iinet.net.au](mailto:johnmerc@iinet.net.au).