



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 2017

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Dates For The Diary:

2017 January 4th: Play re-starts at PHS.

January 7th: Play re-starts at Perry Lakes.

June: European Tour - possible 4 Countries. } Australian 70s

August 19th to 27th: European Cup - Glasgow. } Southern Cross / Australian 75s

September 23rd to October 7th: Interstate Masters Championships - Hobart.

2018: Masters World Cup - Madrid. } Australia

June 20th/30th. Grand Masters World Cup - Barcelona. } Australia and Southern Cross

2020: World Cup - possibly Japan. } Australia and Southern Cross

Inaugural Orthopaedic Challenge Match: The game has now happened in front of an appreciative crowd on PHS 2. The trophy was presented to the winners by the past president of the Orthopaedic Society Greg Witherow - so also was a framed certificate to each team. A lot of great publicity was obtained, with the match being mentioned on radio (6PR and 720), TV (Channel 7 Today Tonight) and the press (Community Newspapers and a late story in The West Australian). I believe that a live interview was done by Radio 720 before and after the game - with video.

Again congratulations go to the organisational team of Simon Thomson, Bob Bowyer, Les Waldon and Graham Wood. Gordon Jeffery has given us a full report on the match and there are one or two limericks on the topic scattered throughout this edition of 'Masters Matters.'

Next Year: A possibility that has been raised for 2017 is a Men's Health Challenge mini tournament. To assist with this we would like to establish how many Western Hockey Masters are survivors of cancer and how many have undergone heart procedures. If you fall into either of these categories please email Graham Wood on ezimoving@hotmail.com. The aim then would be a four team round robin. *I'm ineligible for all teams (at the moment), and would prefer to stay that way. Ed.*

We're off to a pretty good start

Great match for those missing a part

But won't it be grand

Next year we'll expand

And add teams for Cancer and Heart.

Bob Bowyer may have a problem here - which side of the three he's qualified for does he play with?

We Forgot Something: As has become glaringly apparent the last issue was completed in much haste. It was intended that the final words would be: "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers." I hope you have now had an enjoyable Christmas and are starting on the New Year.

Department of Health: My lack of news probably means that there are many sufferers who will not be mentioned here, undeservedly. The virus Colin Sanders had has left him with an auto-immune disease (polymyalgia rheumatica), which has caused significant muscle wastage. The treatment is steroid and related therapy over an extended time of two years. The loss of movement meant that Colin was unable to join us at PHS for all the events of 14th December. He hopes to attend the Stadium in 2017, and I am sure that there are plenty of volunteers to help with transport, if required. John Halley attended the Christmas Party with a splint on a leg following surgery. He said then that he's retiring from hockey, and will be greatly missed. Beth Wright is now on medication, will have an angiogram on January 16th & may also require stents. Beth and Jim have had to cancel their travel plans, unfortunately. Ham D'Souza went off the last Wednesday he played saying he'd done his back again - hopefully not too badly. Finally the shingles vaccination I mentioned last issue is available - free for those aged between 70 and 79 for the next five years. I've had mine already. Our best wishes to all for a speedy and complete recovery.

Letter To The Editor: *Thank you to Colin Gee for the following, which is a wake-up call to 'A' division.*

Where are we going? A question mostly asked by children, but really a question that many of us should consider, though it does need a thoughtful answer. So let's think about this!

Society is changing rapidly and mostly we struggle with rapid change in life and technology, so we really need to consider where we are going. I think this is of concern, as our culture is also changing, and our tolerance of other people and their complex diversity creates many prejudices within modern society.

Here at hockey each week we see the negativity of these prejudices manifest itself in the selfish way that many people seem to think about the most trivial matters or decisions and in other instances to control the actions of others. Together we have to be more tolerant, observe and be a good citizen, person or player who gets on with the game without criticism of others.

We must get back to the practices of honouring the umpires' decisions, congratulating other players on good play and foremost shaking hands on a game well played. These are only little things but they do impact in a positive manner on our enjoyment of the afternoon's exercise.

I personally hope that we can take note of these facts and get over our petty infractions and get back to where sportsmanship is the manner of the day.

Thanks for this Colin. I totally support your request for sportsmanship - our hockey would be much more enjoyable if we all tried to play within the rules instead of taking unfair advantage. Ed.

Department of Corrections: Having apologised on Page 3 to regular contributor Gordon Jeffery for my consistent mis-spelling of his name, I then got it wrong again on Page 11. Seniors' moments seem to be increasing at an alarming rate - possibly not assisted much by all the pre-Christmas tasks.

Speaking of seniors' moments I also stated that I could not remember who did the cooking at Perry Lakes on 26th November. Jim Wright was good enough to let me know that the food that day had been sushi. As Mark Twain once said: "When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not" *It helps if you write notes in the notebook and read them later.*

The same unreliable memory tells me that George Mullins had already told me where Chris Gilders is, as I queried last issue. George has put it in writing this time - see Letters to the Editor. *For some reason the Quotable Quotes in this issue are mainly concerned with the topic of memory. Ed.*

Letters To The Editor: Following the December edition I heard from Jim Wright, George Mullins, Ken Dyer, Eric Alcock, Neil Mannolini, John Milner and Peter Fogels. As always any feedback is very much appreciated. Last issue we asked what had happened to Chris Gilders:

George Mullins (regular B division umpire): "Chris is now working as a prison guard at Acacia Prison and finds it difficult to attend Wednesday afternoon games. I can call him in to umpire if we find that John Lindsay or myself are unavailable. *Thanks George - umpires are too scarce to lose one. Ed.*

Whistle While You Work - Without Neil Mannolini: Neil has had family visiting (and staying), hence has been super busy. So I thought it might be useful to include some advice on Control from the Umpires part of the Rule Book. The whole Directions to Umpires section is well worth a read, for those of you who have a rule book, or can access the full FIH rules online.

- a) Decisions must be made promptly, positively, clearly and consistently.
- b) Strict action early in a match will usually discourage repetition of an offence.
- c) It is not acceptable for players to abuse opponents, umpires or other technical officials verbally or through body language and attitude. Umpires must deal firmly with abuse of this sort and in appropriate circumstances issue a caution, warning (green card), or a temporary (yellow card) or permanent (red card) suspension. Cautions, warnings and suspensions can be given in isolation or in conjunction with another penalty.
- d) Cautions can be given to players in close proximity without stopping the match.

Surely at our age we know how to behave properly, and it's high time we did.

Department of Limericks Part Two: Page 2 mentioned expansion of the Knees / Hips. Hence this:

We saw our two teams come to grips

A fine game between Knees and Hips

But last month we tried

To start a new side

Of those with a stitch in the lips.

Two in two weeks (Ken Beer and Simon Thomson) is enough for a limerick. Ed.

WA State Team Officials: The WA Masters Committee has called for expressions of interest for the Hobart tournament. Coaches, managers, selectors and medical positions are included. The necessary application form was circulated by Bob Bowyer during December, but does not seem to be available on the WA Masters web-site.

Grumpy Old Men Part One: "The people who are regarded as moral luminaries are those who forgo ordinary pleasures themselves and find compensation in interfering with the pleasures of others."

Bertrand Russell (1872 - 1970). English philosopher, logician, mathematician, historian, writer, social critic, political activist and Nobel laureate - according to Wikipedia. A man of many parts.

Dummy Spit Of The Month: In keeping with the spirit of the season (peace, goodwill, etc) we will not award the DS for December. It will probably make a return in 2017.

Punology 1: Did you hear about the bloke who distrusts staircases. They're always up to something.

A' Division Blog: This piece ends with a look ahead to 2017. The limerick version is on Page 7.

December 7th: The Blue side continue to dominate, with their passing game a feature (and for any doubters, this includes Bob Bowyer and Terry Gaston). Red were the only other team to win a match while a below strength Gold side found things difficult. White trailed in all three matches, but fought back to draw on each occasion. Red were able to lend a couple of players to Gold, and Blue loaned Jim Malcolm to White, while we welcomed Julian Gardner up from Esperance again. Players who did not complete the day included Peter Gason, Ham D'Souza and Ivan Wilson - for varying reasons. Our behaviour was rather like the standard of our play, and fell away later. There were many volunteer umpires resulting in a lesser workload for all. Plenty of goals were scored, including three to John Ree, but the two I thought were G.O.D contenders were Les Waldon's and Bob Byers (both Red). Approximate player numbers were Red (12), White (8), Gold (7) and Blue (11). Total goals scored 13.

December 14th: The dominant team for the quarter in Blue had a rare off day in the attacking circle. Their failure to score despite the customary midfield good passing resulted in three losses. Both the Red (won twice) and Gold (won once) sides were undefeated. Most of us found goalkeepers Tony & Colin difficult to pass - and where necessary their defenders helped them out with saves. The two I remember were Peter Stevens and Ken Watt. Though Graham Wood managed to get onto the turf in a Red shirt without being asked to display his birth certificate (where's Donald Trump when needed) and produced two candidates for goal of the day. Neither the standard of our play nor our behaviour seems to have improved and by the last game of the day everything was back to 'A' division normal. Ash Foster, Jim Banks, Rob Butler (welcome again) and Robin Bailey joined the Gold side for the day. Red employed a different strategy, using White players as fill-ins-to tire them out, then beating the White team in the curtain raiser to Knees versus Hips. Player numbers: Blue (11), Gold (6), Red (6) and White (11). Goals scored 7.

Statistics for 2016: In this WHM division (and probably the others also) the performance of a team is dependent upon its core players regular attendance. In 2016 all 'A' division sides have gone through one or more lean periods. Gold suffered most from this, and after a promising start to the year fell away in the second half. The current team list has 12 names, not counting Ian Lyon. Right now Stan Balding, Roger Jewell (long term), and John Milner are injured, while Gordon Thomas is absent. Red are formidable when their midfield includes Mal Horrigan, John Jeffreys and Les Waldon, but have been without at least one these players for much of the year. White did not do well until they picked up Ham D'Souza, while perhaps Blue have been the most even and consistent side all year, with Ivan Wilson the general at centre half. They also have several of the quicker players in this age group.

The goal scoring has been different this year. Only six players achieved double figures. The list reads: Blue - Peter Dennis, John Ree. Gold - Ken Walter. Red - Bob Byers. White - Ham D'Souza, (who got 43) and John Mercer. 5 players scored 9 goals and 8 goals were achieved by 4 players. In total 315 goals went in during 2016 - 29 of which were during the pre-tournament phase.

Where to in 2017? I believe that a small number of players may be moving up from 'B' division. This may help to raise the standard of our hockey and lessen the number of mistakes, which would make for a more enjoyable Wednesday experience. If there are fewer errors the umpires do not have to intervene as often, as shown in the Knees versus Hips match.

I think it is not very helpful when a team ravaged by injury continues for week after week with a maximum of 6, 7 or 8 available players - even if they all turn up. Perhaps a temporary transfer or two would be of assistance. But that depends on other teams having spare players.

Our whole attitude to umpiring needs to improve. I commented on this in the November 2016 edition, Colin Gee handed out a sheet from the 'A' division captains, and now has submitted an article, which can be found on Page 3 (read it now, if you have not done so). My personal view is that asking the same two umpires to do all six games is too much and the introduction of a small umpires panel, including competent player umpires, is a must. The last word goes to Shakespeare who has some advice to players who appeal for free hits:

"There is no need of any such redress. Or if there were it not belongs to you." Henry IV Part Two Act IV Scene I. (PS: I know this applies to me too. My New Year resolution is to do better. Ed.)

Inaugural Orthopaedic Trophy

Photo John Mercer



Some Classy Joints Here

From The Saturday O/65s: December featured our self catered meal after hockey on the 10th. Well done (again) to social director George Bradbury who organised a fine buffet spread of three meats, roast vegetables, salads and bread rolls - followed by an ice cream snack. I mentioned last issue that there are always plenty of helpers on Saturdays, and a thank you goes to all players who helped out with the setting up - and the clearing up afterwards. Thanks also to Ash Foster for contributing to the cost of the drinks, to Bob Bowyer for a wine raffle, and to all the wine prize winners for immediately opening their prizes and sharing with those whose tickets were not successful.

Our drinking habits certainly have changed, judging by the amount of ginger beers consumed this summer. No less than 18 went off on the 10th, and 29 soft drinks of all kind in total. Perhaps we are all trying to make sure we can pass any random breath testing we encounter.

Thanks to the goalkeepers who have been turning out each Saturday in the warm weather. There must be times where conditions inside the padding feel like the inside of a sauna.

The term left overs has acquired a new meaning. It still means the surplus Christmas dinner food which I hear was enjoyed by a few WHM canines. Now (thanks to Archie Andrews) it also applies to the later arrivals who usually end up in the third team, now known as the Lime Greens.

Quotable Quote One: "Why is it that our memory is good enough to retain the least triviality that happens to us, and yet not good enough to recollect how often we have told it to the same person?" *Duc de La Rochefoucauld (1613 -1680) - noted French author of maxims & memoirs.*

The French letter No 26:

Another year begins and not very well for those unfortunate citizens of Berlin and the passengers of the Russian plane which recently crashed soon after take-off. France has been largely tragedy-free, for a change. Let's hope it continues that way.

You guys have certainly copped some hot weather right at the start of summer. Not sure whether any hockey was affected but you certainly wouldn't have wanted to be running around in 42 degree heat.

We had a quiet Christmas day. Joelle & I and her brother Patrick lunched at the casino in Dieppe. We had tried to book a restaurant but they were all closed – every single one. However, it was a great meal in pleasant surroundings with a panoramic view of the ocean. To top it all off we went into the games area and spent an hour or so on the pokies and both Joelle and I won in excess of 100 euros. So lunch was well and truly paid for and some money in the wallet. Our main Christmas celebrations with family were on the 27th and went very well.

One of the Christmas gifts I received was a book about the late Richie Benaud – the doyen of Australian and world cricket. It's a great publication and if you haven't already seen it then I recommend you get a copy. It contains some wonderful material from both his cricket and commentating days. One of my favourites was when he was commentating with Richard Hadlee and the batsman was struck a painful blow in the unmentionables. Hadlee said "and that ball did bounce Richie" and Benaud replied "which one Richard?"

Well, that's all from me and a happy new year to everyone.

Ian Purdie. *Thanks again Ian. Good luck with the presidential election. Can France match Donald? Ed.*

Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders: Our question setter seems to have been distracted by too much cricket on TV or at the WACA (I know I was). So we'll repeat December's question, which was: One of these players made their Australian debut in 1997. Was it? a) 293 Bodimeade Lee Qld fwd. b) 290 Carruthers Stuart Vic def. c) 318 Choppy Baeden Qld fwd. d) 321 Commens Adam NSW mid. e) Corbitt Greg WA fwd. f) 288 Davies Stephen NSW fwd.

Answer next issue.

Department of Limericks Part Three: What may eventuate in 2017? Is soreness the only certainty?

To forecast events for next year

Is hard when I've proved I'm no seer

We'll use turf and bar

Some will travel far

Let's hope all our aches disappear.

Of course performance enabling drugs, fisio crem(TM), and the like are a great help also. Ed.

Orthopaedic Action Everywhere: The day after our inaugural challenge (15th December) ABC Online had a story about a shearing team. Their average age is 75, and their members include two double knee reconstructions. Everybody wants to get into the act?

Past Players & Non Players: Good to see Jim Boyce, Jeff Godfrey, Derek Jobe, Brian Lester, David Munt, Barry Rutter, John Sanders, Bob Stidwell, Ricky Watts and George Winning at the Stadium.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "The difference between a moral man and a man of honour is that the latter regrets a dishonourable act, even if it has worked and he has not been caught." *H. L. Menken (1880 - 1956). From 'Prejudices, Fourth Series,' 1924. US journalist, satirist, cultural critic and scholar.*

Balinese Bulletin No 19:

ALEPOBALI STYLE ..

Now that the “tumult & shouting” has wound down to only a whisper we can tentatively edge our way outside & venture a look to see what devastation took place last night. Having friends staying with us from Perth we considered (for a moment only) on going out to eat & enjoy the New Year festivities here in Bali. A moment was all that was needed to decide to remain at home & enjoy a wonderful home cooked Indonesian meal together with the “odd drink”.

The gunfire & mortar bomb attacks began at around 8.00 pm & continued, unabated until approximately 2.30 am. Along the way there was the very occasional relief giving themselves sufficient time only to “reload” & then to begin the onslaught. We have yet to count the casualties outside but will get to it when I am sufficiently refreshed having caught up on my sleep from last night.

Funny thing is Fireworks are meant to be illegal here in Balibut then this is Bali & some rules do not always apply. Oh ..& in addition, some distance away but nevertheless still audible was a “Disco” party going on in some unknown Expat Villathis party continued on until around 7.00 am. Obviously they were not under attack as we were ...pity!!

2017 ..NEW YEAR.

Wishing you all down there a Very Happy, Healthy & Peaceful New Year from us up ‘ere.

P.S. here’s hoping our life here in Bali thru 2017 is sufficiently interesting enough to provide me with more exhilarating material than has been the case in more recent times.

Even if there is nothing to write about then please tell us just that Peter. Fireworks are optional. Ed.

Household Names: I believe that this select group now include Ivan Wilson and Harvey Davies. The rumour mill reckoned that Ivan had accepted an offer on his Daglish residence and block, but could not inform ‘Masters Matters’ on Ivan and Kirsty’s new location. Harvey has sold his Wembley home and is now a neighbour of John Halley and Janet in City Beach.

Fees for 2017: These are due now for all Wednesday players. Details are:

- a) All players pay \$300 - no allowances for sabbaticals, travel, etc.
- b) New players pay \$350, which includes a shirt and socks.
- c) Players who are over 80 on 1st January 2017 will pay only 50% of the fee.
- d) All goalkeepers pay \$200. Unless they are over 80.

If you are paying by bank transfer please include your name, division and team in the reference field (for example ‘Mercer A Div White’). The BSB is 036-004 and the account number is 115111. Or if you are paying directly cheques can be given to Brian (‘Spider’) Lester or David Evans on a Wednesday.

Team Movements: The ‘A’ division will largely keep the current teams. Some permanent allocations have been made, and three players have been promoted from ‘B’ division. The changes are:

Blue: Have been allocated Jim Banks. (*Refer to match report Knees / Hips on Page 11*).

Gold: Ash Foster has moved across from Red, and Jim Balding and Phil Metcalf have been added.

Red: Have been allocated Peter Stevens.

White: Roy Grant has been added.

This will improve the Gold team numbers. Welcome to the new players, and let’s have a good 2017.

'B' Division Report - December:

INJURIES: Apart from a few broken hearts and torn heartstrings, no further additions to the injury list have been advised. Peter Fogels returned for his first game in 6 months after his knee replacement and was showing evidence of having completed some form of training regime.

VISITORS: Peter Morgan played his first game for the B Division and his first game since the National championships. Something to do with knee soreness. I believe Morgs will be a fulltime addition to the B Division in 2017.

LIFES LINGERING MOMENTS:

A thief in Paris planned to steal some paintings from the Louvre. After careful planning, he got past security, stole the paintings and made it safely to his van. However, he was captured only two blocks away when his van ran out of gas.

When asked how he could mastermind such a crime & then make such an obvious error, he replied, "Monsieur that is the reason I stole the paintings. I had no Monet to buy Degas to make the Van Gogh." (See if you have De Gaulle to pass this on to someone else. I wrote this for you because I figured I had nothing Toulouse).

THIS MONTH'S HOCKEY: December is the quiet month, made all the more quiet with the addition of the Knees v Hips challenge match. With only 2 days of hockey for the month and the team's strength reduced on the second week as the orthopaedics rested for their big game, it gave an opportunity for others to be more involved in the game. Numbers for the first week were good with all teams having 2 extra players, whilst numbers for the second week were reduced to such an extent that the last game was abandoned. C grade players arriving for their warm ups were surprised to see no games in progress and disappointed that they would be unable to watch the Orthopaedics.

It has been evident from umpiring decisions that players are suffering from lack of concentration in the defensive area resulting in a significant increase in the number of short corners and penalty strokes for stupid and/or deliberate acts. The umpires have indicated that they will award the penalties as and when they occur without fear of favour.

Week one saw each team have a win with Blue with 2 wins the best performing team whilst White won twice and Gold once. Blue and Gold also played a nil all draw. With 6 goals scored for the day it was the defences that held sway, perhaps the appearance of the TV cameras also influenced some of the forwards as they combed their hair, ensured their sox were straight and were turning their bodies to ensure their best side was on show. White and Gold were disadvantaged as neither Simon T nor Graham Wood saw much ground time as they were busy displaying old X rays, getting their speeches ready and trying to dazzle the collective news audiences.

Week 2 saw 4 games end in draws with Gold being the only winner out of the 5 games played. Blue were unlucky not to have won 2 games as they twice raced to a 2 goal lead against White only to have White peg back the score in the dying minutes of each game. Special mention must go to Arch from White who scored 3 of those goals and 4 for the afternoon with deft deflections from the left post. Dudley Burress also scored a significant goal for Gold, an unusual site for Dudley, to give Gold the only win for the day. We all then tracked across to stadium 2 to grab our seats for the Knees v Hips match, and so ended the 2016 year.

Many thanks to the goalies and umpires for their efforts throughout the year, you know it's true but the games would not progress without those dedicated individuals attending. Thanks to Dick Osborne, Ross Easton, George Mullins, Graeme Sansom, Andrew Robertson, John Lindsay, Vern Gooch and John Harper.

To one and all I hope you have enjoyed the 2016 season and look forward to our adventures in 2017. *Thanks again to Gordon Jeffery. We've certainly enjoyed reading the saga of 'B' division. Ed.*

Punology Two: There was a diocese which ran a contest between all their church choirs. They called it the Battle of the Choral See.

Well Dones: There were only two playing dates in December but there were a lot of 'A' division umpires. Noted were: Len Blyth, George Bradbury, Ash Foster, Colin Gee, John Jeffreys, Neil Mannolini, Ian Pestana, John Sanders, Neil Scaddan and Graham Wood. Thanks to you all, and thanks also to the 'B' division (John Lindsay and George Mullins) and 'C' division whistle blowers. Thank you also to December's Saturday umpires, who were: Rob Ainsworth, Eric Alcock, George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Dudley Burress, Colin Gee, Brian Glencross, Ian Hill, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Heath Tyrell and Ken Watt. All the cooking seems to have been very well done (this does not mean over-cooked) by the PHS and IGA (Wembley) kitchens.

Shakespeare Said It: "O time, thou must untangle this, not I. It is too hard a knot for me to untie."

Twelfth Night Act II Scene II. *Hockey umpire wonders what just happened on the turf.*

"... let it be booked with the rest of this day's deeds ..." King Henry IV Part Two Act IV Scene III. *We have done our best in 'Masters Matters' to report on the bionic Hips / Knees match.*

Quotable Quote Two: "The palest ink is better than the best memory." *Chinese Proverb.* As the huge Department of Corrections in this issue confirms, this is all too true.

Christmas Party 2016: I hope you did not miss this function. This year the weather was good to us and the outdoor arrangements worked well. Thank you Jason de Wynd and the PHS staff for another tasty buffet meal providing good value for money - especially as WHM provided a subsidy and any partners were free. Formalities now are kept to a minimum, and this year included only the George Winning Trophy, Simon's 'state of the nation' address and Bob's raffles. Perhaps the prize collection could have been streamlined , but there seemed to be no elves available to assist Bob.

As Robin Bailey was unable to attend the dinner, the George Winning Trophy was presented during our pre dinner drinks. Congratulations on a job well done to RB - the turnout on the turfs is a great credit to you. I hope that another complete rollout of new shirts and socks is not due for 2017. In my opinion the change to the George Winning award has to be considered a great success, having now produced two outstanding winners.

Our support in 2016 went to these charities:

Salvation Army (Ron Venables): \$1,000.

Palmerston Association (Eric Alcock): \$1,000.

Edmund Rice Camps (Rob Behets): \$1,000.

Pets of Older Persons (Jim Wright): \$500.

Spirit of the Streets Choir (Bob Maley): \$500.

We also supported Hockey WA's H.E.A. T. Program with \$2,500.

These numbers are indicative of another great year from Bob in regularly conducting the wine raffle, which is the source of all these funds. You also will have noted that the raffles on the night have raised more than \$500 to get 2017 off to a great start. Bob tells me that the IGA store at Canning Bridge have donated a hamper for five years now. Thank you to them, the other stores in the area (Coles and Woolworths) who helped, and especially to Bob and Janise who assembled the prizes. Hamper winners were Ric Roberts, John Ree and Alan Chellew.

By the way, Edmund Rice Camps were most appreciative of the support. So they delivered a framed certificate of appreciation to PHS on the day of the Knees / Hips match - and the Christmas party. This meant that Bob and Simon were otherwise engaged at the time, so a very informal hand over was made to the newsletter editor. With the certificates from the Orthopaedic Society it seems that we may need a real trophy cabinet and a location to display it. There are plenty of people in our ranks with the talent to make one - any suggestions about where to put it?

It's worth including a figure or two about WHM, which emerged during Simon's address. We now have 11 Wednesday teams in three divisions as well as 3 Saturday sides. There are 184 players registered for Wednesdays & 50 for Saturdays. We were represented in Adelaide by 116 attendees.

ORTHOPAEDIC CHALLENGE MATCH - HIP HIP HOORAY

"In celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Australian Orthopaedic Association of Surgeons WA Masters Hockey are proud to present the Inaugural Artificial Hips v Artificial Knees Challenge Hockey Match.... This match proves that what was once seen as a mobility impairment can now be a mobility improvement that gives us all a longer quality of life. We have players aged from 54 to 79 with an average age of 69 years, extraordinary."(Blurb from the official programme for the Challenge Match as edited by Graham Wood)

"Use your health even to the point of wearing it out. That is what it is for. Spend all before you die. Do not outlive yourself." (George Bernard Shaw)

And so it came to pass. After significant fanfare (for a Masters Hockey match), interviews, TV, radio and newspaper appearances the hockey slugfest between the Knee Knockers and the Hip Swiveller's was held at Perth Hockey Stadium # 2 in front of one of the largest crowds to ever watch a Masters Hockey Game. Woody estimated the crowd at 500 whilst the more conservative amongst us thought that the 125+ (mind you 125 is not to be taken lightly) who attended were well treated to a significant game of hockey. The Hips won the contest 3-1.

Given that the teams had not practiced together, the opening term allowed both sides to look at their players and try and establish their best combinations. Errant passes, fumbling stick work, crude tackles and a lot of dry running allowed the crowd to add their comments and therefore increase the pressure on the playing individuals. The Hips had been strengthened by the importation of Ric Roberts (Southern Cross Hockey supremo) and Bob Claxton both from South Australia both of whom showed a great deal of endeavour and were certainly worth the financial cost and effort of including imports in their team.

Knees opened the scoring after a strong move by Tom Long through the midfield onto the stick of the evergreen Masters Secretary Bob Bowyer, who tapped in for a goal past goalie Andrew Robertson, who had been forced out of position. This goal certainly gave the Knees a significant boost and they continued attacking toward their end of the ground. Hips not to be denied in the second term and were able to force a number of short corners. A well worked move by Jim Campbell passed the ball to Simon Thomson for the second goal of the match. Lo and behold first the Hockey Masters Secretary gets a goal and then the Hockey Masters President. (Perhaps this was set up by the bookies in Pakistan, one should check the movement of monies after this). The teams go to half time locked at 1-1 with neither team gaining control of the game. Perhaps the third quarter, the premiership quarter will give an indication of who will win.

Cometh the time cometh the man. The third quarter belonged to Jim Banks (the mastermind of the WA O'65's winning the National Championships in Adelaide in Oct). Two good moves down the right hand side, commencing from the strong work of Bob Claxton, Simon Thomson and Jim Campbell saw the ball passed to Jim Banks on top of the circle who responded by scoring two well hit goals (emulating his protege's Dudley Evan's efforts in the final of the National Champs) Despite the good work of Bill Rochester, Stephen Adams and Bob Le Merle the Knees were unable to stop the scoring machine. At three quarter time the score saw the Hips leading 3-1. /12

The last quarter was a case of last man standing. The knees threw everything they had into scoring more goals. Shane Williams and Bob Le Merle continued to force the ball forward to Graham Wood, Peter Gabriel, Peter Fogels and Trevor Kerr trying to get that ball in the net. Strong defence by Shane Knapp, Rob Tincey continued to hold sway. Gabes had a couple of good moves that came to nought when he ran out of space or ran into an opponent. At the other end Peter Evans was providing good trapping and passing skills to grab cleared balls from the defence and send them deeper into the Hips forward line. The midfielders on both sides provided the run and the ball movement throughout the game Jim Campbell and Simon Thomson for Hips and Shane Williams and Bob Le Merle for knees. Overall the game was an even contest with both sides having opportunities to score. Hips with their striker Jim Banks in good form taking advantage of their opportunities and as a result were able to hold the scoreline at 3-1 when the final whistle was blown.

Thanks to Gordon Jeffery for this comprehensive report. I missed the third quarter. Ed.

Do They Play Hockey? Congratulations go to Steve Pestana, who has been appointed the next head master of Ellenbrook Senior High School. Best wishes for your time there.

Do-It-Yourself: Rob Butler has informed 'Masters Matters' that Bruce Rock has raised the funds for a hockey turf, and construction will begin shortly. The funds came from seven years of participating farmers donating the proceeds from one load during the harvest season. Congratulations and well done to all concerned. It would be a sign of something amiss if WHM were not able to send a team or two to the wheat belt for a game at some stage when the turf becomes a going concern.

Anything To Help: I have heard that some obliging vigneron have addressed the difficulties older people can face in repeatedly getting up throughout the night to go to the toilet. The new wine is made from a grape variety they have developed, called Pinot More.

'Masters Matters' Christmas Party: We were again unable to hold this event, due to differing views on the best location. France, Indonesia and Australia all nominated. The editor eventually settled the matter by decreeing that if anybody was going to waste the travel budget it would be him.

And Yet More on Knees / Hips: The whole day went off very well, and was definitely all done in true WHM spirit. This was captured very well by our match reporter Gordon Jeffery and by the official program on the day. I would have liked to publish this in its entirety, but have decided that only the team lists should appear here. Any necessary corrections will be included in our February issue.

A Final Question: How do our Knees / Hips team members pass through airport metal detectors?

If you are encyclopaedic

Clear up a point orthopaedic

When knees and hips fly

I cannot tell why

The scanner still gives them a tick.

All news and other contributions to:

John Mercer - 'A' Division White team. Email: johnmercer@iinet.net.au.

Knees Versus Hips - Program

Western Hockey Masters (Perth) presents the inaugural challenge match artificial hips versus artificial knees. Wednesday 14th December 2016. 3:30 pm. Perth Hockey Stadium.

Hips:

Andrew Robertson: 64 Fremantle (GK) THR 2014. Another player suffering dementia moving from forward to goalkeeper. Can't move any further back

Bob Claxton: 71 Burnside South Australia (Midfield) THR 2007. Plays in a team full of doctors who convinced him to have the recalled hip. They no longer play while fearing they will need the same after Bob finishes with them

Ian Lyon: 79 Melville City (Striker / Forward) THR 2006/2011. The elder statesman. Has suffered from cancer, heart and kidney problems. A true Aussie battler.

Ivan Wilson: 75 Aquinas (Midfield / Forward) THP 2007. Always willing to assist umpires during the game. Renowned javelin thrower.

Jim Banks: 72 Fremantle (Left wing) THR 2012/2014. Long serving coach in WA. Was a renowned speedster but alas time catches up.

Jim Campbell: 65 Wasps (Half back) THR 2011. Another POM who saw the light. Recipe for longevity is Guinness.

Mal Skinner: 63 Wasps (Full back) THR 2015. Another former striker now very comfortable defender.

Peter Evans: 66 Kalamunda (Full back) Both hips 2013 and 2 porcelain balls inserted. This man is truly a medical miracle. We now have another category for replacements.

Ric Roberts: 70 South Australia (Midfielder) THR 2008. Our beloved leader of Southern Cross Hockey. His hockey potential and expectations are still in their infancy.

Rob Tincey: 54 Curtin / Trinity (Full back) LHR 2013. The youngster of the match and dark horse.

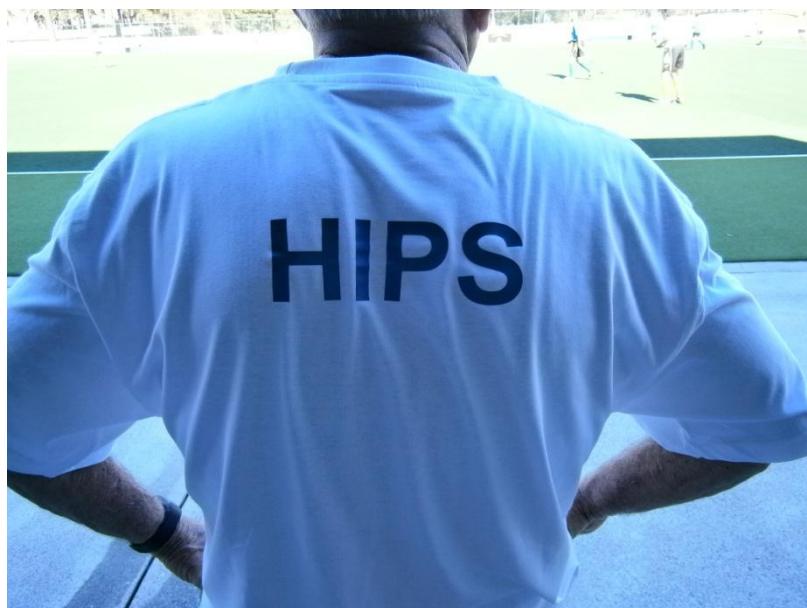
Shane Knapp: 62 Wasps (Full back) RHR 2012. Umpire just had cataract op. Forward moved slowly back to full back, striving to reach his full potential.

Simon Thomson(captain): 70 North Coast Raiders (Midfield) RHR 2004. Has inspired many players to have joint replacements, still waddles like a duck. Captain Australian O/70s. Brain child of this event.

Ashley Knapp: 55 Wasps (Midfield) THR 2014. Ambition to be as good as his brother.

Unavailable:

Dudley Evans: 65 Wasps (Midfield) THR 2014. Reads the play so well. Runs 10kms per game and gets the ball twice. Wonderful off ball skills.



Knees:

Stephen Adams: Wolves (GK) TKR 2015. Another ex striker. Must be recognised as having had more ops on himself than he has performed on patients.

Bill Rochester: 65 Vic Park (Full back) TKR 2016. Well known for pushing broken down buses to country carnivals.

Bob Bowyer(captain): 77 YMCA TKR 2013. Amazing Secretary of Western Hockey Masters. Our wisest and most elusive forward - beware everyone.

Bob Le Merle: 70 Harlies/Mods (Half back) Double KR 2015. A perfect example of life after prosthesis. Skilful and reliable centre half.

Geoff Roberts: 68 NSW Glebe (Forward) RKR 2008 and 2016 LKR 2016. 3 TKRs? Must have 3 legs. Our secret weapon (Jake the Peg).

Graham Wood: 65 Melville City (Midfield) TKR 2000. Permanently occupies and pays rent for one square metre of the field.

Peter Fogels: 66 Whitfords (Forward / Striker) Double TKR 2016. Transformed from speedy to cunning and devious player.

Peter Murray: 73 North Coast Raiders (Half back) TKR 2016. Intellect and guile will overcome decline of youthfulness .

Shane Williams: 60 Vic Park (Full back) Double Knee 2013. Hoping his new knees will elevate him to a dashing half back.

Trevor Kerr: 74 Suburban (Forward) TKR 2012. Realised defenders get blamed for goals against, became a forward where missed goals are bad luck.

Thomas Long: 64 North Coast Raiders (Forward) LKR 2015 RKR 2016. Hockey career spiralled down from Classic league to Hips versus Knees.

Adrian Gabriel: 60 Vic Park (Midfield) TKR 2008. Played everywhere including goals. Talented right side skilled player with blinkers.

Peter Livingstone: 76 YMCA (Half back) TKR 2014. Wife threw all his gear away. Average player now looking to find his true hockey potential.

Jones Peter: 65 Harlies. Both knees 2015. 1 game since op. Good luck Pete.

Unavailable:

Roger Davey, Nick Pereira, Gordon Thomas, Jeff Godfrey:

Unfortunately Roger injured himself in Adelaide (broken fibula) and then pulled a heartstring.

