



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 3

March 2017

**Regular Features:**

Dates For The Diary: This Page.  
 Department of Health: Page 3.  
 'A' division blog: Page 5.  
 The French Letter: Page 7.  
 Test Your Hockey Knowledge: Page 7.  
 The Balinese Bulletin: Page 8.  
 'B' Division report: Pages 9/10.  
 From The Saturday 65s: Page 11.

**Irregular Features:**

WHM internationals: This Page.  
 Department of Corrections: Page 3.  
 Hiroshima Tournament: Page 3.  
 Vale Barry Angus: Page 3.  
 Rule Changes 2017: Page 4.  
 State Vets 1988: Page 6.  
 Editorial - Interstate Tournament: Page 10.  
 Editorial - Guest Players: Page 12.

**Dates For The Diary:**

**2017** March 4th: Barbecue - Perry Lakes.

March 29th: Sausage sizzle - PHS.

April 1st: Saturday Hockey dinner and AGM. Herdsman's Hotel. Bookings essential.

April 24th to 28th: Australian O/70s training camp - Perth.

May 2nd to 6th: Trans Tasman - Whangarei. } Australian 35s to 65s.

June: European Tour - 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

**International Tourists 2017:** Unfortunately Simon Thomson has had to pull out of the O/70s tour. Wife Carol is now scheduled for delicate back surgery at the time. Best wishes from all at WHM for a successful operation and a complete recovery.

Thanks to Peter Andrews for information on this trip. As mentioned above in "Dates For The Diary" there is a training camp here in Perth from April 24th to 28th. It is likely to feature a couple of games against local sides and also participation in Wednesday afternoon matches. Tour itinerary: June 3rd: Tour begins in Copenhagen - 2 matches played there.

By coach to Germany for 2 games in Hamburg.

By coach to The Netherlands for 4 matches at Leuden and Tilberg.

Then by plane and coach to Swansea for 4 matches including the Four Nations Tournament.

The tour finishes on July 3rd.

**PHS Bar Attendance:** On the 8th it was reported that the 'B' division was overstocked ("3 extras per team") and 'A' division also had good numbers. But by the time I got to the bar after playing in the last match on Turf 2 there were not many there from either division. Why are players staying away, and what could WHM do to bring you back? Please write and tell us.

Post hockey it's straight to the car

And bypass the PHS bar

No raffle of wine

Nor shooting a line

Our numbers are well below par. *Stop Press: Better on the 15th and the sausage sizzle on the 22nd.*

**Department of Health:** It was great to see Col Sanders at the Stadium on the 8th and thank you for the birthday beers. Stan Balding has now resumed playing and seems to be just as unpredictably mobile as ever. Ash Foster is playing with a hernia, but says the corrective operation has to wait on the removal of a few more possible skin cancers. Bob Stidwell returned to the game at Perry Lakes on the 18th and got through a couple of matches - in good shape? Peter Jones tweaked a muscle on the 22nd, and had to stop play for the day. That's all I've heard about, so our best wishes to all who need them for your recovery.

**More Health?** If you have yet to be tested for prostate cancer it is highly likely that you will be. So:

While aging we find that our ills

Can't be cured by a handful of pills

Some make ribald jests

About the weird tests (*... small Asian female proctologist*)

Then faint at the size of the bills.

**Whistle While You Work - With and Without Neil Mannolini:** Thanks to John Sanders for joining the ranks of the 'A' division umpires (hence the headline). The rumour mill indicated that Lionel David would be joining us too, but I see from Gordon Jeffery's report that the 'B' division have made an interception. Any time that any of you feel like a rest do not hesitate to ask for a relief, as we all need to take it a little easier during the hot and humid time of the year.

**Department of Corrections:** For a change no major back flips are required. I did say that rule books were available from Sue Cook, which will be the case again soon when the 2017 stock arrives.

**Hiroshima Tournament:** If you don't fancy another trip to Hobart then maybe Japan would have more appeal. There is a tournament in Hiroshima from October 23rd to 29th for O/65s and Alliance International is seeking players. Further information can be found in the Tournament Calendar on the website <http://alliancehockey.net/home.htm>. Email the secretary to express an interest.

Our own Southern Cross group were also seeking expressions of interest as at 12th February.

**Letters To The Editor:** My thanks to Roger Partington, Neil Mannolini and Ric Denny for responding to the February edition. Ric was good enough to let us know that his knee replacement is doing all the right things as his recovery progresses.

**Quotable Quote One:** "Eat a third and drink a third and leave the remaining third of your stomach empty. Then, when you get angry, there will be sufficient room for your rage." *Babylonian Talmud.* This indicates that a few Saturday and Wednesday players need a smaller pre-hockey lunch. Names will not be mentioned on the grounds that they might have to include mine.

**Vale Barry Angus:** In December we reported that Barry had moved to a nursing home. With regret we now acknowledge his passing on February 2nd. He was well known to all our Wesley players, as a long-time chaplain of the college, and a player for the Old Wesley club. The inaugural teams for our Wednesday competition were included in the "Masters Matters" edition for May 2014, and Barry was part of our White side. Our condolences go to his wife Molly, family and friends.

**Rule Changes 2017:** A new version of the rule book has been issued and it is already accessible from the Hockey WA web-site (well done). Sue Cook has ordered 30 printed copies from Hockey Australia but they may take time to arrive here. Sue also told me the FIH are intending to release a phone app of the rules - which will suit all the Cello-parkers. Until then we will have to read and remember.

The changes are either minor revisions, or refer to equipment. A brief overview:

**Rule 1.10:** "... No equipment or items, such as helmets, face masks, hand protectors, towels, water bottles etc. may be placed inside the goals."

**Rule 4.2:** States that any hand protection used by field players (in field play and defending penalty corners) must not increase the natural size of the hands significantly. Maximum sizes are specified. Field players may now wear knee pads for defending penalty corners, but they must be the same colour as the socks.

**Rule 9.8:** This deals with dangerous play ("Players must play the ball dangerously, or in a way which leads to dangerous play"), and the explanatory note now states: "*A ball is also considered dangerous when it causes legitimate evasion action by players.*"

**Rule 9.16:** "... Following a penalty corner, if the ball hits any discarded equipment, such as a hand protector, knee pads or a face mask a free hit should be awarded if this occurs outside the circle, and a penalty corner awarded if this occurs inside the circle."

**Rule 11.8:** If the ball strikes an umpire, unauthorised person or any loose object on the field play continues (except as specified in the guidance to Rule 9.16).

The above should be a starting point only, as there are several other revised rules which have undergone cosmetic changes, and were not included here due to space restrictions.

**'C' Division Uniformity:** Last issue I commented that the teams are mainly playing in the correct WHM shirt now. From the vantage point of the bar again it appears that the socks are starting to match the shirts in most cases. Well done to Robin Bailey, Ian Pestana and the team captains. It helps if no fill-ins are necessary. Is there anybody out there who could send me an occasional report on the state of the hockey in 'C' division? At present only the 'A' and 'B' divisions are covered here.

**Grumpy Old Men Part One:** "The trouble with America is that there are too many wide-open spaces surrounded by teeth." *Charles Luckman (1909 - 1999). US architect and businessman.*

**Dummy Spit Of The Month:** Ivan Wilson and Ken Walter have had some very interesting tussles this month. But the day Ken played for Red (22nd) both threw the stick, at separate times. I've given up doing that - no, not for Lent. It hurts too much to bend down and pick it up again.

**'A' Division Depletions:** During the Glasgow tournament some teams will lose quite a lot of players. I count: Blue (2), Gold (5), Red (1) and White (3), not including GKs John Burt and Bob Stidwell. Some equalisation of numbers may be helpful at this time.

**Fees For 2017:** A reminder to those who have not yet paid their dues to get it done now. Treasurer Brian ('Spider') Lester can be found in the bar on Wednesdays if you cannot do a bank transfer.

**Thank You:** To recently retired John Halley, who attended PHS on the 22nd and bought us a farewell beer. Hopefully we will still see you occasionally post hockey at PHS or Perry Lakes.

**A' Division Blog:** February's topsy-turvy weather was matched by our topsy-turvy form.

**February 1st:** After the hot weather decided to take a break, numbers climbed to the point where bar discussion mentioned both a 5th team and the addition of a 'D' division. At this stage it's only bar speculation, and it's probable that injuries, weather and holidays will have an impact.

The hockey did not feature a single draw. Blue did not concede a goal in their three wins, but the Gold team had a bad day. Despite being competitive the goals refused to go in for them while a poor last 5 minutes against White saw them concede three goals for a 1-4 loss. Red also had trouble with the final touch, but their one goal for the day saw them defeat Gold 1-0. The standard of play was not great at the outset, with Red and White frequently passing the ball to their opposition. This improved once we warmed up and due to the numbers did not drop away in the later games.

Comebacks were made by Mark Faithfull, Len Blyth (in great touch - does the farm have a turf?) and Stan Balding. Eric Alcock, Mal Horrigan, Peter Murray, Phil Anderson and Peter Willett are all regaining some good form while Peter Dennis and Ham D'Souza continue to give defences a hard time. John Ree scored a hat trick, but goal of the day has to be shared by Peter Stevens (an absolute rocket of a shot from the right wing) and Bob Bowyer (a deceptive, angled, somewhat slower shot). A fine approach and lay-off to Ken Beer from Ham D'Souza is also worthy of mention. Approximate player numbers were White (13), Red (11), Blue (13) and Gold (13). Goals scored (11).

**February 8th:** The Blue and White high flyers came back to earth with a bump, each losing twice. Both Gold (2 draws) and Red (1 draw) were undefeated. It would be easy to attribute the losses to absent star players, but all sides were affected in this area. The Red team again featured an under-age guest in John O'Donohue, who's over from Queensland visiting family and is on our mailing list. Welcome from "Masters Matters" and WHM. As usual, some of the hockey was very good and some was not. Hat tricks were scored by Ken Walter and John O'Donohue, but goal of the day was a joint award again with Peter Gason's penalty corner conversion and Ivan Wilson's reverse stick from the backline sharing the honours. There was some improvement in our attitude to umpires and one another, but we still have a lot more improving to do. Player numbers: Blue (11), Gold (10), White (11) and Red (10). The total goals scored were 11 again, despite the best efforts of the GKs.

**February 15th:** The weather produced a great impression of tropical humidity, but our good hockey still managed to evaporate very rapidly. This meant that goals were at a premium, and the obstinate refusal of the goalkeepers to make a mistake combined with some poor finishing resulted in one of our lowest scoring days since 'A' division began. Red and White failed to score, Ian Lyon got one for Gold from a fine Peter Gason pass to the post, and Ken Watt used his pace and skills to bag a couple close in from the right wing (he was immediately subbed off). Red were the unfortunate conceders of all three goals, despite their midfield short passing being as good as or better than all their rivals. Barry Rutter has to get a special mention for his fine game against White. At least the weather may have helped to increase the numbers in the air conditioned PHS bar. Visitors included Brian Stewart up from Busselton to test his fitness before Glasgow and Nevelle Brown who has played for Victoria, and Alliance in The Hague and Newcastle. In spite of the weather player numbers were good, the actual figures being; Red (11), White (13), Gold (12) and Blue (12). The 3 goals scored were not the lowest ever, just the equal lowest. We matched it on 17/06/2015, 25/03/2015, 04/03/2015, and just possibly a few times in 2014 before this section of the newsletter was started.

**February 22nd:** White did not dominate play but due to better finishing did the bulk of the scoring. Blue and Red were depleted while Gold and White had spare players, so Ken Walter was transferred from Gold to Red for the day (very generous of captain Colin) and Robin Bailey went from White to Blue (as he could find a blue shirt). Red also included visitor Julian Gardner and Blue included Nevelle Brown. The return of Ham D'Souza and Len Blyth meant that White were pretty well at full strength, and the spare players helped to keep them fresh right up to and including the last game. Blue's five absentees included both usual inside forwards, and their passing game suffered as a consequence. Red, Gold and White all moved the ball well midfield and coming out of defence, but goals were hard to get due to fine play by keepers Barry and John. Good goals were scored by Ron Venables (2) and Ham D'Souza. Player numbers: Gold (14), Blue (10), Red (9), White (13). Goals scored - 8.

## State Vets of Bygone Days

Photo from Graham Sims



**Back:** John Halley, Peter Gardner (\*), Bill McIntosh, Bill Price.  
**Centre:** Ron Bindemann (manager), Bevan Gurney (\*), Phil Thunder, Ross Lonnie, Ray Cherrington, Graham Sims (coach). (\* ) deceased  
**Front:** Wally Daly, John Zimdahl (\*), Lauder Coomber, Peter Gason, Grahame Belle, Ham D'Souza.  
 I hope all the spelling is correct - no doubt I will be informed of any errors.

Graham attached a message to the picture, which reads:

Proposed Reunion for those players involved in the 1988 Vets team to Adelaide

For those interested could you kindly contact Graham Sims or John Halley with a view to catching up some time next year to celebrate 30 years since that great team evolved.

Contact details: Graham Sims - 0408 606 550 email [simsygg@bigpond.com](mailto:simsygg@bigpond.com).

John Halley - 9205 1939 email [jackhalley@bigpond.com](mailto:jackhalley@bigpond.com).

*I believe that this team won the competition, so there is certainly something to celebrate, both then and now. I was interested to see that the stand in the background is in place there now, and worked well during the 2016 tournament as a refuge from the extreme weather.*

*Peter Gason and Ham D'Souza are still playing now, while several of those pictured are on the "Masters Matters" mailing list. A photograph from next year's party would look good here. Ed.*

**Grumpy Old Men Two:** "The United States is a nation of laws: badly written & randomly enforced."  
 Frank Zappa (1940 - 1993).



**The French Letter No 28:**

Well guys, it's news time from me again and the last month has been dominated by two things, "la grippe" and French politics. So I'll rave on a bit about both.

The flu was a major epidemic throughout France as mentioned in the last letter. The major problem though was how long it lasted. Both Joelle and myself had it for three weeks and our doctor said that this was par for the course. It had a major impact on businesses and services as so many people were off work for extended periods.

As for French politics it has been a showcase of entertainment and intrigue. First, the Socialists are in complete disarray, deeply divided amongst themselves. Francois Hollande, the current President, had the lowest approval rating in French history and decided not to contest another term. His Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, offered himself but although the popular favourite to win the Socialist nomination, was knocked off by a guy from the far left. The Republicans were also divided but the favourite to win their nomination was Alain Juppe, the Mayor of Bordeaux. However, he was surprisingly knocked off by the former Prime Minister in the Sarkozy regime, Francois Fillon.

Fillon is a true conservative, also a staunch Roman Catholic and always playing the religious card with hand on heart. Portrayed himself as squeaky clean and offered a platform akin to Thatcherism.

However, his image was somewhat tarnished when allegations were published in a newspaper that he had committed financial fraud. He had supposedly paid his Welsh born wife, Penelope, as a parliamentary assistant but for work that she had never done. There was damning video evidence from a journalistic interview where she actually said to the journalist, "I have never been his assistant or anything like that." So "Penelopegate" was born and a fraud investigation began and is still continuing. In financial terms there is close to one million euros involved. Having originally said that he would step down if he was formally charged he has now backtracked and said he will stand no matter what. He says he has done nothing wrong.

The Presidential contest is now only about seven weeks away and it will be a fascinating contest. My prediction is that Fillon will survive unless he is formally charged. Marine le Pen will win round one which narrows it down to two candidates. In the first round I think Fillon will just pip Macron whom I tip as a future President. Then Fillon will beat Le Pen in the run-off.

Having just set myself up as a political analyst, it's time to sign off.

Best wishes to you all.

Ian Purdie. Thanks Purds. *Latest we hear is that Macron is doing quite well recently. Ed.*

**Test Your Knowledge With John Sanders:** Thank you to John for doing the research to pose some more questions. Now what we could use are a few more answers - correct or incorrect. So, March's question is: In the 2014 Champion's Trophy in Mendoza which Hockeyroo top scored with 5 goals? Was it? a) Emily Smith b) Jodie Kenny c) Kathryn Slattery d) Georgia Nanscawen

Answer next issue. Perhaps I should pay a visit to Doubleview Cleanskins and offer a reward for the first correct answer of 2017. Is red or white more popular?

**Welcome to New Players:** Several new enrolments were received in February. Best wishes for your time in WHM to Murray West, Michael Starling and Andrew Campion. It's also welcome back to Ray Norton and Cameron Fairbrother, who never actually left the "Masters Matters" mailing list, but are presumably resuming play again. How many of the Health Challenge teams are you both eligible for? To remind readers these were Hips, Knees, Heart and Cancer.

**Punology 1:** Claustrophobic people are much more productive when they think outside the box. *Does this work for goalkeepers too?*

**Balinese Bulletin No 21:**

## SEPTEMBER ARRIVAL.

As many of you are already aware we have “adopted” a Balinese Family up here that take care of us & we, in turn, also take care of them as we are all Family. Putu & her Husband Nyoman have two daughters aged around 9 & 11. However, being Balinese, Nyoman’s parents, particularly his Mother, is at times rather “put out” that Putu has not yet delivered them a Grandson. A Male child in a Balinese Family is considered all important. Well, we are all keeping our fingers crossed that Putu, who has just announced she is around 6 – 7 weeks pregnant, will finally present a Baby Boy sometime in or around September.

Meanwhile of course Erin & I have to share the housekeeping chores for a time as Putu, like many in their early pregnancy is having a bit of a rough time. We are lucky that one of Putu’s friends comes in 3 times a week to assist this “Elderly” pair of Westerners.

## 2017 FOOTY SEASON.

We are both looking forward the 2017 AFL Season “kicking off” toward the end of March. The “hiatus” we have to endure each year will finally come to an end with the Mighty Blues taking on the Tigers in the opening game. Can I be bold enough to predict a victory to my Lot in this one. The ABC out of Australia present us with 6 “live” games each weekend so we get to see a lot of Footy. May all the teams that you all support have a great year in 2017. Can I say that the Women’s version of AFL has yet to win us over. I know it is only early & I’m sure it will improve greatly but for now we will watch the games fleetingly.

## UK VISITORS.

Late March & then again early April we will be sharing our Bali home with friends from the UK. We will first play host to a UK friend who is flying in for a “Family” reunion ...no, not ours ..his Family. He will be staying with us & his arrival will be a “surprise” as he is not expected by his other Family members. Bob did visit with us a few years back & look forward to his arrival for a second time.

Early April we see the arrival of our second lot of UK visitors. For those of you who don’t know, Erin & I earlier spent some 5 years working & living in Jakarta from 1975 -1980. We became close friends with an English couple employed within the Oil Industry & naturally spent many, many late nights together in the company of another close couple of “Poms”. Over the subsequent years with Adrian & Jane O’Dell returning to the UK & us returning to Australia we lost contact. This contact was re-established courtesy of Facebook around 12 months ago & now we face a reunion back in Indonesia almost 40 years in the making. Dare I say it may result in some rather emotional moments.

## THINK THE “WET” IS OVER ...

I think the wet season may have finally drawn to an end. Following a recent period of continuous rain accompanied by strong winds, something quite unusual for Bali, the rain seems to have dried up ...for the present. Don’t get me wrong ...we love the rain here, but the wind, at times, was a little unsettling.

*Thanks again Peter. When I joined WHM in 2006 both Ian Purdie (Blue) and Peter Hammond (Red) were team captains in the Over 60s. Others included Colin Gee and Dave Horsley, so it seems to be a job which lasts for a long time. Memory fails me on the White team captain - Bob Robinson? Ed.*

**Health Challenge (again):** I have heard that there is a grass-roots movement (not based on Perry Lakes) to form another team for this event. Qualifications are that players must be ineligible for any of the other sides (Hips, Knees, Heart and Cancer) and not be on any significant medication. Yet to be decided is an appropriate name - “Nothings” does not seem right. Reader suggestions?



**'B' Division Report - February:**

**INJURIES:** It's good to see that Neil Miller hasn't suffered too much after his holiday off the North West coast plus his recovery from a shoulder injury. Has been about 6 months since he played. Ross Easton is off to the knee surgeon after a few weeks holiday. Brian Thomas is taking an injection into the knee to see if that can get him going, we will find out soon. Of the returnees Peter Fogels, Don Sanders and Roger Davey (Peter is the only one of the three not to score a goal in Feb) appear to be regaining fitness and mobility ready to make significant impacts in the future.

**VISITORS:** Welcome John O'Donohue from Queensland O'65's was a visitor during Feb. Came over to see grandchildren living in Perth. John played for 2 weeks and has headed back home. Ray Norton made a welcome return to hockey, after a couple of years break. His work for Electric Blue on the half back line has been exquisite and it's great to see him directing traffic on the field again. I do believe a transfer fee is being negotiated and Ray could be playing with another team in the near future. Heath Tyrell has decided on a change of tack, has gone to Ireland to play hockey to see if he can make Ireland's World Cup hockey team (although at times it looks like Hurling may have been his sport in his youth), we wish him well and look forward to his return and a few more Irish jokes.

**LIFES LINGERING MOMENTS:**

John invited his mother over for dinner. During the meal she couldn't help noticing how beautiful John's flatmate, Julie, was. She had long been suspicious of a relationship between John and Julie and this made her more curious. Over the course of the evening, while watching the two interact she started to wonder if there was more between the two than met the eye.

Reading his mum's thoughts, John volunteered, " I know what you must be thinking, but I assure you, Julie and I are just flatmates".

About a week later Julie came to John and said, "Ever since your mother came to dinner, I've been unable to find the beautiful silver gravy ladle, you don't suppose she took it do you? John said "Well I doubt but I'll send her an email just to be sure."

So he sat down and wrote, "Dear Mum, I'm not saying you did take the gravy ladle from my house and I'm not saying you did not take the gravy ladle. The fact remains that one has been missing since you were here for dinner."

John soon received a response from his mother which read, "Dear Son, I'm not saying that you do sleep with Julie and I'm not saying you do not sleep with Julie, but the fact remains that if she was sleeping in her own bed, she would have found the gravy ladle by now.....Love Mum.

**THIS MONTH'S HOCKEY:**

Ah! the last month of summer, the grandkids are back at school, the heat has been horrendous and we can look forward to cooler days in the near future. Well that is what it should have been and has been on the Eastern seaboard but not here in little old Perth. Without resorting to facts it has appeared to be one of the most delightful Feb's weather ever, with Wed maximum averaging 28°C somewhat cooler than Jan's effort and not to mention 135mm of rain in our normally parched landscape. The weather will be delightful for those older caravanners who have left the hockey fields (especially Electric Blue) to enjoy the extra room available in the caravan parks and free camping sites.

The hockey for February has been extremely hard fought, with goals hard to come by as the backs shore up their defences. Margins of more than one goal are becoming rare. In week 2 of Feb only 4 goals were scored, 3 in one game as Gold beat Electric Blue 2-1. Adrian Gabriel scored from a set shot at the top of the circle whilst Colin Murray-Smith hammered in a goal from the inners position,

whilst Ray Domingo responded in familiar style with a run down the left wing and a back stick goal. In fact Ray has been the goalscorer of the month with 7 goals. Luckily he has Dudley on his team to offer advice as well as pass the ball to his advantage. The only other goal on that day was also scored by Ray as Electric Blue defeated White whilst the other 4 games were nil all draws. Another feature of week 2 was an excellent display of goalkeeping by the grand old veteran Richard Osborne as he parried numerous forward thrusts with deft positioning in goals, culminating on a magnificent twisting save of a high ball in a game against Blue. Speedy's continuing efforts in goal are a credit to his ongoing preparation.

The umpiring for the month has been in the reliable hands of Lionel with support from John Lindsay, Ian Pestana (someone thought a whistle might keep him quiet but no....) and players Gorby, Woody, Bill, Steve etc. So far the games haven't erupted into slanging matches, it's good to see the players supporting the changes in umpiring and concentrating on the game. Goalies for the month have been Graeme Sansom, Richard Osborne and Andrew Robertson. Many thanks.

For the rest of the month White has had the most wins with 6 wins out of their 16 matches, whilst Blue and Gold are not far behind with 5 and 4 wins respectively. Whilst Gold scored the least number of goals for the month, they also had the least number of goals scored against them. Welcome back Bill Campbell. Good performers in deep defence for Gold have included Glen Mihala, Ron Mitchell, Bill Rochester and Chris Morley whilst Blues deep defence has been marshalled by a variety of players as they shuffled the team behind Ray Norton (and those going on holidays) and included Graham Challenor, Alan Ledger, Jeff Kozak, Ted Allen, Rick Rodoreda and Dudley Evans. General Michael Gottschalk (aka Gorby) has been running a stringent defence for White making sure that the likes of George Burcher, Peter Sinclair, Gordon Jeffery and Dave Mellor stick to the team plan (whatever that may be).

Player numbers for the month were generally excessive especially weeks 1 and 2, by week 3 Blue (the holiday team of the month) was looking for subs and by week 4 were looking for several subs, whilst White averaged 13 attendees each week.

*Thank you again to Gordon Jeffery. I think it's great to read a hockey report that I did not write. Ed.*

**Interstate Tournament:** As there is some space to fill, I will again question the necessity to continue holding this event during the school holidays. I also question the need to run one tournament for all age groups when it has become quite clear that the event is now unwieldy at its current size.

At the time the tournament began it was for O/40s only, and as many players had children of school age it made sense to travel during the school holidays, which were also the only time for school teachers to join the touring parties. At this stage the airlines and hotels had not yet begun the process of greatly increasing their prices during school vacations, and there were not as many people travelling. All these things have now changed, and the points I would make are:

- Lower travel and accommodation prices outside of school holidays.
- Splitting the tournament would permit more venues to conduct one.
- A smaller tournament would result in less matches at extreme times of the day. It would also mean that the tournament venue was still available for local play at some times of the day.
- The World Cups are very successful as separate events for O/40s to O/55s, and O/60s to O/75s. I can see no reasons why ours should not be successful also.

Finally, the reasons behind the loss of the rotation system have not been explained to rank and file regular players at the tournament. I fear that some may stop attending the event.

**From The Saturday O/65s:** We are still having a good time despite difficulties with the weather.

# Play was cancelled on the 25th for only the second time since we started in the winter of 2013. The sea breeze arrived too late to prevent the Swanbourne temperature climbing to the high 30s.

# For a while now we have been concerned that all the registered players would turn up on the same day. February saw us go to four teams twice, which appears to extend play by another half an hour and result in lower bar sales (not necessarily a bad thing). Our Wednesday fixtures can cater for four teams, but are more suitable for stable sides. The selection of four even elevens & the fixturing adds another level of complexity to what is becoming an increasingly difficult task.

# The selection of teams is made even more difficult when players do not arrive until we have all gone out to the ground for the announcement of who is playing where and in what colours. Late arrivals often make the sides unequal, which helps to make the afternoon much less enjoyable for most of us. I'd like to publish some of the reasons for lateness ("the dog ate my watch?") if anybody can come up with an original excuse.

# Thank you to all the selectors and caterers for February. Especially Eric Alcock, who nominated as team captain a player who was not good enough to be selected in it. Non-playing captains works OK for the Davis Cup, and may be the way of the future to accommodate excess player numbers.

# There are just four more weekends in March before the summer season officially comes to an end on April 1st, which is the last day of hockey & will be followed by the AGM dinner at the Herdsman's Hotel. Bookings will be essential for this - more details later.

# Following this the winter season begins and we ask you for more money. We also lose some of our younger players to club hockey, and Howie and John get the chance for a day off. This does not apply to other members of the Committee, especially Jim, who will be busy feeding us.

**Signs of the Times:** Doubleview Cleanskins chalk board is always worth a read, and this month's was no exception. Teetotallers do enter our weekly raffle, so I'm sure I do not need to explain cleanskins. "I refuse to be impressed by technology until I can download wine."

"I can make wine disappear. What's your superpower?" *Apparently they have been eavesdropping on Barry Rutter, who has a multi-faceted talent in this area.*

**Past Players & Non Players:** For some time now there has been a temptation to reduce this item to a simple: "The usual suspects were there again." This would be totally unfair to Jeff Godfrey, Brian Lester, and George Winning, whose company we enjoy each week. John Sanders has transferred from this list to the umpires - I always used to find that blowing a whistle worked up a mean thirst.

**Well Dones:** Thank you to all the 'A' division whistlers for February. My notes recorded only: Vern Gooch, Neil Mannolini, Roger Partington, John Sanders, and Neil Scaddan. Thank you also to all who umpired at PHS in the 'B' and 'C' divisions. The Saturday umpires were many and various, but all deserve our thanks. They were: Eric Alcock, George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Dudley Burrell, Brian Glencross, Marty Greay, Ian Hill, Roger Partington, Geoff Roberts, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Ken Watt and Graham Wood. When our February bar snacks were served Graham Challoner often did all the work of carrying them out to the tables from the kitchen - did you cook them too Chip? In any event, thank you. It appears that the cooks at the sausage sizzle on the 22nd believed that many hands make light work- our thanks to Peter Andrews, Jim Campbell, Don Sanders and Simon Thomson. Though something must have gone amiss in the wine raffle and not one of our cooks was a winner. Then again Bob Bowyer and I both missed out too.

**Guest Players:** While our numbers are large it would seem to be timely to issue a reminder on the guidelines for guests. These have been in place for a while and were formalised at the end of 2015. "Guest players pay \$10 per day. Guest means an invited player, usually from interstate, overseas, or the country, and includes invited players for state team training."

I think in 'A' division we may need to set up a process for payment of the \$10, as it seems to be a little hit or miss at the moment. It does appear that we are approaching prospective permanent players quickly, and getting them to register and become financial - well done to Colin Gee and crew.

What is now WHM began as an invitation only competition, and it is quite clear from reading the surviving documentation that a win-at-all-costs attitude was to be discouraged. The newsletter of the day was called "Vintage Voice" and these extracts from the May 1998 edition are illuminating:

- a. All regular players should be given equal time on the field.
- b. Captains to emphasise equal involvement of all players during the game.
- c. Any member inviting a new member is to introduce them to the Captain.
- d. New players will not be guaranteed a run (unless host offers his place). Regulars have priority.

*The message seems fairly clear - invite players carefully and check beforehand.*

**Shakespeare Said It:** "... We grieve at chances here." Cymbeline Act IV Scene III. *Wednesday on Turf 2 when the 'A' division are having a bad goal scoring day. Such as the 15th.*

"Cease to lament for that thou canst not help, and study help for that which thou lament'st." Two Gentlemen of Verona Act III Scene I. *If you stop making those bad tackles the umpire will stop giving all those free hits against you. And if you stop complaining you might be given a few more free hits.*

**Quotable Quote Two:** "Ninety eight per cent of the adults in this country are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. It's the other lousy two per cent that get all the publicity. But then --- we elected them." *Lily Tomlin (1939 - ). The rest of the world would not do anything as silly as that, and neither would Australia. Wait a moment; last time we elected \_\_\_\_\_, didn't we?*

**Punology Two:** I mixed up the cardiac resuscitation equipment with the lie detector but don't worry, I'll de-fib you later.

**WA State:** Are actively seeking coaches and managers for the Hobart sides. The required form can be obtained online from the Masters section of the Hockey WA website.

**No Entry:** During the roof renovations at PHS all players are requested to honour the "No Entry" signs, and not to walk through tape barriers. I'm told that this reminder is necessary.

**Late News:** We mentioned the interstate Vets cricket carnival last year and some of the troubles Dave Horsley encountered while organising it. I am very pleased to be able to inform you that Dave has been named WACA Volunteer of the Year for services to the development and promotion of O60/70s cricket in WA and for running the National Championships. Dave reckons that he is going to make this his "Swan Song" - we shall see. Congratulations mate from all at WHM.

All news and other contributions to:

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