



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 8

August 2017

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**Dates For The Diary:**

**2017:** August 19th to 27th: European Cup - Glasgow. } Southern Cross / Australian 75s.  
 August 30th: Sausage sizzle - PHS. Cancelled due to Glasgow tournament absentees.  
 September 23rd - October 7th: Interstate Masters Championships; Hobart. No WHM 27/09 & 04/10.  
 October 11th / 18th: Combined 'A' 'B' and 'C' divisions on one turf 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.  
 December 13th: WHM Christmas Party - PHS.  
**2018:** June 21st/July 1st. WGMA World Cup - Barcelona. } Australia and Southern Cross  
 July 27th / August 5th: IMHA World Cup - Terrassa. } Australia  
**2020:** World Cup - possibly Japan. } Australia and Southern Cross

**Fixture Changes - Including State Teams:** As from August 23rd the WA State O/65s will play in the 'B' Division in place of the Gold team (but not on September 20th). The 'A' Division will feature both the State O/70s and O/75s in lieu of the Gold and Red sides. The 'C' Division fixtures are unchanged as at the time of closing off this edition. I suggest that all members of WHM keep a close watch on their email in-box, and listen to their team captains (doesn't everyone?) to make sure that you know which team you will be playing in, and what colour shirt and socks will be required.

**Thoughts on the Fixture Changes:** I had quite a few doubts about this based on the way it operated in 2016. The State O/70s had a significant advantage over any possible opposition in 'A' division last year, and that gap will be even wider in 2017. The numbers support this. The current team has 6 players from 'B' Division, 1 from 'C' Division (John Harper) and 2 non-WHM players. Combining these outside players with 8 of the strongest in 'A' Division will produce very uneven games, and tend to reduce the rest of us to the status of training aids. In my opinion the timing is unfortunate too. The Glasgow tournament begins on 19th August, and a significant number from WHM will be over there. The Australian O/75s have 6 from 'A' Division and 1 from 'B' Division (Richard Osborne). Southern Cross O/75s includes 7 from the WHM 'A' Division (1 in WA O/70s); the O/70s has 2 from 'A' Division and one from 'B' Division (2 in WA O/70s); and the O/65s has 4 from 'B' Division (1 in WA O/70s). In addition to all this there are 2 'A' Division players in the Alliance squad for Glasgow. As the make-up of the State O/75s has yet to be announced I cannot estimate the impact of European absences on their Wednesday participation. There is bound to be some disruption.

Had it not been for the Glasgow tournament it appears that we would have had an excess of players in 'A' Division from the 23rd August onwards. As it is, I still think that we will find it difficult to provide satisfactory games for either the State sides or the remaining players.

**World Masters News:** A review of the websites (both of which can be accessed from the Southern Cross site) has revealed that the two organisations currently running World Masters Hockey have decided to merge. That's "International Masters Hockey Association" for the O/35s to O/55s age groups and "World Grand Masters Association" for the O/60s to O/75s. Approval will be sought at the next AGMs, due in August 2017, and the process is due to be completed in the second half of 2018. I note with relief that there does not seem to be a proposal to combine the tournaments too.

**Bereavement:** Commiserations and sympathy to Terry Gaston, whose father died on July 23rd.

**Department of Health:** Jim Banks problem with one of the metal hips has led to another operation to replace the replacement. At least the recovery process will be nothing new, and not too arduous, hopefully. Paul Robinson said that his calf / Achilles problem had cleared up but now he may require a shoulder operation. He's also planning a big Canadian trip for Christmas. Robin Bailey is hampered by some ongoing problems with a knee - prognosis uncertain. Bob Bowyer is down to using only one crutch and is able to wear a normal shoe again. All is progressing as well as possible, and a complete recovery is still targeted. It has been very good to see a healthy-looking Colin Sanders at PHS on Wednesdays - hope all is going OK. I'm told that Roger Partington has decided that his ongoing back problem would benefit from a rest, so he's going on a cruise to make sure he gets one. When I saw Ross Lonnie at lunch on the 14th July he was able to tell me that Ellen will be allowed to go home soon to continue the recuperation there. Good news indeed. Best recovery wishes to all.

**Department of Corrections:** Other than leaving Murray West out of the State O/50 (2) team the MM in-box has not been flooded with reader missives pointing out mistake after mistake. The staff have not spotted any either. We failed to include several reader contributions - see Letters to the Editor.

**Letters To The Editor:** The July issue respondents included: Ric Denny, Murray West (obviously), Neil Mannolini and John Milner - thank you all. Readers' letters I have been tardy in including came from: Ric Denny: Has encountered Norm Stanton from the WAC O/70s. "Norm said he was flat out getting fit as apparently Rod (*Simms, team coach*) has set a testing training regime, he also said to pass on his regards to all the WAC players there on Wednesdays and Saturdays and is looking forward to September." *Good to hear from you Ric - hope the knee is doing everything it is supposed to. Ed.*  
Ken Watt: "... a small aside from the usual ... in Hobart there is an outlet called Foxhole Medals that supplies all and any manner of replica medals from any conflict. I contacted them when attempting to get replicas from my father's WW2 and my grandfather's WW1 service, with great success. They can be ordered there or online if any are interested, or it is interesting merely to wander through there, as I did on the last trip." *Thanks Ken, Google confirms the shop is at 164 Macquarie St Hobart.*  
Mal Jackaman: "Couple of Fremantle Hockey Club players (one who is editor of Club newsletter) have developed a website called 'thereversestick.net' which includes a podcast. There could be some news from the site which may of interest to Masters Matters." *If you can handle podcasts then please give it a try - and maybe let me know how you fare. Ed.*

**WHM Players and Hobart:** Now it's time to correct and update the lists from the July issue.

**WA Metro:**

**O/50 (2):** I omitted Murray West from our 'C' division White. Apparently he has waited two years to get into WHM, now he has had to wait two months to get into the newsletter.

**O/70:** Congratulations to Mal Horrigan, who has taken on the role of manager.

**O/75:** Congratulations to the announced team officials; Ian Hill (coach) and Lesley Rutter (manager).

**WA Country:**

**O/70:** Unfortunately Peter Dennis has had to withdraw from this side due to family reasons.

**WA Metro O/75:** The team has yet to be made public. Our limerick writer was not happy, as this is only the second year of this age group, which he hopes will still be there when he's old enough.

We don't know who's in our 'young' side  
The names should be spread far and wide  
And go down in history  
Hence quite a mystery  
Why listings have not been supplied.

**Grumpy Old Men (and Women) 1:** "A facility for quotation covers the absence of original thought."  
*Dorothy L. Sayers (1893 - 1957). From "Gaudy Night"*

**Masters 2018 World Cup News:** Observant readers will have noticed that the venue and dates for this event have now been added to “Dates For The Diary.” The web-site informed me that Terrassa is about 35 kms west of Barcelona, while Wikipedia has the distance as 20 kms. Wikipedia also states: “The most important sport in the city is field hockey. During the Barcelona Olympic Games in 1992 Terrassa was the city where the field hockey competition was played. The great number of hockey players from Terrassa who have participated in the Olympics over the years has led to Terrassa’s being referred to as ‘the most Olympic city in the world.’ Between 1928 and 2004 Terrassa sent 124 athletes to the Olympic Games, the majority of whom were hockey players.” The city’s population in 2016 was about 215,000, and it has a rich history dating back to Roman times.

**Grand Masters 2018 World Cup News:** The venue for this one is still Barcelona, and it’s to be played at the “Real Club de Polo de Barcelona.” This is a multi-sport venue which had about 9,000 members at the time of the Barcelona Olympics. Of most interest to us is that it has three hockey turfs. While a bar was not specifically mentioned there is a combined hockey / tennis club house, and I cannot imagine that there are too many hockey clubhouses in the world without one. Except for Pakistan, maybe. This will not be an important factor for most of us, of course. *See limericks this page.*

**The University Bar Saga:** On the day before our second Wednesday at UWA we heard that the bar was not going to be open due to strict oversight from the RLG gendarmes. It looked very much as though we needed a pub afterwards, and MM’s limerick writer produced this on Tuesday evening:

Watch both As and Bs disappear  
 The bar cannot serve them a beer  
     It may be well stocked  
     But both doors are locked  
 Some very strange liquor laws here.

**The University Bar Saga (continued):** Then on the actual day of the hockey (12th July):

We thought that there would be no bar  
 Play hockey, go straight to the car  
     But promptly at 4:00  
     Uni opened the door  
 We all wandered in for our jar.  
*With the exception of those who dashed in. Ed.*

**Relevant Flashback:** Before our first Wednesday games in January 2013 there was a strong rumour that the PHS bar would not be open. As this page is all about potentially closed bars and hockey in Spain the MM limerick from that time bears repetition:

I might need to call on my shrink  
 Or not go to hockey, I think  
     For I’ll play in the rain  
     In the heat, or in Spain  
 But I must have have an after-game drink.

**Happy Endings:** In both 2013 and 2017 all apprehension was allayed by the eventual opening of the bar in doubt. The only other time that our Wednesday post-hockey refreshments were in doubt was at Lemnos in 2014 when the bar did not open until 5:00 pm, celebrated in the “Masters Matters” of that time with a parody of “Pub With No Beer.”

**Quotable Quote 1:** “You can question somebody’s views and their judgement without questioning their motives or their patriotism.” *Barack Obama - University of Michigan Commencement 2010.*

**'A' Division Blog:** Our numbers will decline this month (Glasgow) until the advent of the State teams.

**July 5th:** Either the poor weather or the north of the river location kept players away. White had 10 players and Blue 9, but low numbers in Gold (6) and Red (4) meant that no fixtures could be played. We did have plenty of goalkeepers, so much so that Tony Marshall decided not to play as it was not a good day for sitting off. Bar opinion was unanimous that Col Gee should be awarded goal of the day (yes, another one). This is becoming a habit. Our scratch games managed to produce 8 goals.

**July 12th:** Despite advice that the bar would not open numbers were adequate in all teams except Blue, and we managed to play our fixtures. Gold beat Blue and Red before losing to White with all other matches ending in draws. The threatened rain did not eventuate and nor did the closed bar (*for more on this see Page 4*). The UWA turf is different to play on compared to PHS and for the second consecutive week many of us had difficulties hitting or pushing a moving ball. Fortunately not all the hockey was bad, otherwise the five goalkeepers (Bill, Colin, Tony, Barry and Bob) would not have had a touch. As it was they all played pretty well, with Tony Marshall making a series of outstanding saves at point-blank range in the White defence against Blue. Ken Walter made a re-appearance following the Australian O/70s tour, and was observed to pass the ball in the circle more than once. Both weeks the games were followed by a sausage sizzle. Many thanks to organisers Bob Bowyer and Mal Jackaman, 05/07 cooks Bob, Mal and Peter Blockley, 12/07 cooks Mal and Bob (again) and onion supplier Ivan Wilson. Goal of the day had several contenders, with very fine corner conversions from Peter Gason and Greg Black and a trademark finish from John Jeffreys, but Jim Malcolm's turn-in out of the middle of the stick got the vote. Player numbers were: Gold (11), Blue (5), Red (9) and White (10). Stan Balding transferred from Gold to free-lance between Blue and Red, while Eric Alcock (White) succumbed to injury before play began. 11 goals were scored.

**July 19th:** There was at least one absence due to the inclement weather, but we had enough there to play the fixtures with one or two fill-ins per team. The occasional shower not only dampened our spirits and our sticks but also had a damaging impact on our hockey (we had to blame something), with scoring at a premium. Blue drew 0-0 with everybody, while Gold, Red and White all won once and lost once in the other games. Not all the hockey was terrible with some of the clearances from defence going directly to a distant team mate. There were also some excellent traps of balls in the air, with Harvey Davies and Ash Foster conspicuous (sorry if I've left you out here). The goalkeepers refused to make a mistake all day - well played to Colin Benporath, Tony Marshall and Barry Rutter. This combined with the poor ball control by forwards and the weather helped to keep the scores low. It's not possible to go past Trevor Kerr for goal of the day, as his two fine finishes in the opening game ended up being 50% of the day's total. John Ree from the Blue team converted a good cross while filling in for Gold and John Mercer squandered many opportunities before one went in at last. Player numbers: White (10), Red (9), Blue (9), & Gold (8). Goals (4).

**July 26th:** The day began with a bang, as the first game produced some excellent hockey and some excellent goals. However, it ended with a whimper as the weather and the tiredness of most of us after extra games meant the last game was the customary 0-0 draw. Blue had their first win for the quarter, 4-1 over Gold, with both John Ree and fill-in Scott Blackwell bagging a couple. They then managed to lose their passing structure and lost 3-0 to White. Gold had their usual 1-0 win over Red before drawing 1-1 with White. Red managed to string five successful passes together and Brian Soares secured the 1-0 win over Blue with a tap-in. The last game saw a totally empty sideline as everybody had cleared off, not wanting to watch another 0-0 draw. Red needed several fill-ins for every game, while Graham Harler transferred from Gold to White for the day, and played very well at full back. Very good goals were scored by Scott Blackwell (2), Roy Grant, Phil Metcalf and Peter Willett (2), while Greg Black and Brian Soares finished off some fine team play with tap-ins. Goal of the day must go to John Ree, for first-timing a bouncing ball into the top corner. His other goal was pretty good, too. Player numbers were Blue (9), Gold (11), White (8) and Red (6). Goals scored 12.

**Punology One:** There once was a gentleman in Venice who was planning a party, and asked his wife whether they should invite Othello. Her reply was: "Certainly, the Moor, the merrier."

**From The Saturday O/65s:** Next time MM should be able to include details of summer hockey plans.

# Colin Gee goals are no longer counted as rarities, as he added another Saturday one during July in addition to getting on the Wednesday tally. There is actually no unofficial tally for Saturdays except for an increasingly unreliable editorial memory. (*see next paragraph - Ed.*)

# Prominent scoring feats from the past include Rusty Phillips bagging six one afternoon and John Milner getting no less than four - all in the first quarter. A lot of us find it much simpler when there are no goalkeepers present. (*which did not apply to Messrs Phillips and Milner*)

# It's always good to see people who aren't playing on the day arrive for the social aspect of our Saturday hockey. On July 8th this number included Marty Greay, Tony Marshall and Ken Walter. And on the 22nd we saw Peter Gason (cortisone injection), Paul Robinson and Howard Read.

# Many thanks (again, I hope) to Jim Wright (organiser) and all the providers of the nibbles we enjoy after hockey each week. Our post-game bar attendance percentage would be very high. It's certainly been assisted by the quality of the food, and the drinks provided by YMCA or our bar Purchasing duo of Howie and Jim.

# July 22nd saw a new player in his first matches with our O/65s group. It's appropriate that they should have occurred not from where he scored the winner for WA against Pakistan in the 1964 match at the main Perry Lakes Stadium. All of us who were there in the crowd would remember the roar as a brilliant passing move broke the deadlock. It's worth noting that Pakistan would become the Olympic champions later that year (1964). Welcome to Bob Andrew, who showed during the day that he still knows where the goals are, especially the corners.

# The dreadful weather forecast for the 29th July caused us to cancel the hockey on the day before. It was going to be a free day, too, as it was the last time during the winter season of 2017 that we knew we would be doing our own bar. That still may occur during the Hockey WA finals.

PS: It appeared that not a drop of rain fell during our playing period, and the sun shone for much of the afternoon. Put not thy trust in weather forecasts.

PPS: There is no truth in the rumour that the cancellation was done to avoid listening to Peter Brien and Paul Robinson telling us all about Collingwood's win over the Eagles.

**Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders:** July's question was: Which of the statements is true about the Australian players Lachlan Dreher (Vic) and Paul Lewis (SA)? a) They both played over 200 games for Australia. b) Neither of them scored a goal. c) They both made their debut on 11th June 1989. d) They both finished playing in the 1998 season. John gives the answer to this one as c) - they both made their debut on 11th June 1989. No-one attempted an answer.

August's question is: In the 1952 Test Tour of New Zealand three West Australians scored 82 of the 130 goals for Australia. Ian Dick and the late (*very recently*) Cec Pearce scored 18 goals each. Who was the other player? *Answer next issue.* John adds: "Perhaps we should remind punters that there is a bottle of wine for the first to respond to you. I will underwrite the bottle if we can't get one from Bob." *I'll go you halves John - Ed.*

**Dummy Spit Of The Month:** This one is going to all members of the Saturday Committee who made the decision to cancel play on 29th July. The afternoon turned out to be fine and even sunny, for the most part. Though it may need to be shared with any Saturday players who realised that they had been deprived of a free drink. People our age would not react in that way, would we?

**Quotable Quote Two:** "Don't knock the weather. If it didn't change every once in a while, nine out of ten people couldn't start a conversation." *Kin Hubbard (1868 - 1930). Full name 'Frank McKinney Hubbard - American cartoonist, humorist and journalist.*

**Punology Two:** "Another name for a tyre factory could be a tread mill."  
"If the judge likes the sound of his own voice, expect a long sentence."  
"For a while Houdini used trap doors in his acts, but he was just passing through a stage."

**The French Letter No 33:**

We are five weeks into the official summer and the hottest it has been was in the last week of spring. Summer has been very mild with a fair bit of rain in Normandy. Mind you, other parts of France in the South are drought stricken and experiencing horrendous bush fires.

My vegie patch has gone really mad this year and we are having some great produce. Joelle has been busy bottling the cornichons, courgettes and concombres and we have been enjoying loads of laitue, pois and haricot vert. (If you can't work it out then Google it). The potiron are still developing as are the poireau, melon and tomatoes.

President Macron's popularity has taken a huge nosedive as some of his announced policies are being pursued. It will get a whole lot worse yet, particularly once his labour law reforms are announced. There will be street riots as the French are strongly resistant to changes in their way of life and protests, often violent, seem to be part of the French DNA. Things are quiet at the moment as it's the holiday season. Come September and the fun will begin!

Ian Purdie (*Thanks Ian - I note that you are yet to mention a successful property sale. Ed.*)

**Ian's Vegie Patch**



**Quotable Quote Three:** “The French are a logical people, which is one reason the English dislike them so intensely. The other is that they own France, a country we have always judged to be far too good for them.” *Robert Morley (1908 - 1992). English actor, director and playwright.*

**Quotable Quote Four:** “If it were not for the government, we should have nothing to laugh at in France.” *Nicolas de Chamfort (1741 - 1794). French writer and wit.*

**Balinese Bulletin No 25:** The former Red and Blue team captains continue to build a partnership.

I KNOW MAN ....IT'S NYOMAN !!

For anyone who has spent some time in Bali you may have found the Balinese names to be, at times, repetitive. You would have come across names like Made, Wayan, Ketut, Putu Nyoman etc etc. The names, as shown, put simply, refer to the order in which they are born into the Family. For example, our Balinese "Daughter" Putu is known to many as just Putu. To her Family & the Authorities she is known as Dewa Ayu Darmiyanti. Naturally enough we know her as Putu.

Our life here sometimes takes on a confusing tone. The third Balinese child born is named Nyoman & it is Nyoman that at times send us into a spin. Putu's Husband is Nyoman ...while his Mother & Father are both also Nyoman. Then we have a Family member of said Nyoman who is another Nyoman, who incidentally carries out electrical work. Then we have another helper for carpentry work ...you guessed it ...Nyoman. It's funny I know but somehow it sorts itself out.

TRY THIS IN PERTH ...!!

For those of you who remember from earlier musings that my local "watering hole" ..Warung Dua ..is a leisurely walk of some 10 min from where we live. Well a few weeks back there I was sitting with a cold Bintang & watching the passing parade. Finishing my beer I ordered some small servings of several salads to take home for lunch ...this I do on a regular/irregular basis. Located next door to Warung Dua is a local shop where we buy household food items including local spirits Gin/Whisky etc. Having bought what was required of me (Erin gives me a list) I made my way back home, which includes a walk up a relatively steep road. Laden down with several bags I made it to within 100 m from home when ....Shit, I left the Warung Dua food down at the shop next to it. Faced with having to walk all the way back in moderate heat & feeling a little "tired" ...what was I going to do, after all the food was for lunch. Directly opposite where I was standing ..deliberating ...there was our local Laundry, run by a lovely couple named ..Nyoman & his Wife Nyoman ..yeah I know. Knowing him on speaking terms I asked him kindly if he would mind "scooting" back to the shop on his motorbike to collect the food for me. Seeing my obvious distress he quickly agreed to help & was about to jump on his bike when down the road came the girl from the shop on her motorbike carrying our food. This is another illustration of the kind of people we live amongst; try that in Perth! IN CLOSING ... If any of you Lot down there plan to be in our part of the world please feel free to look us up. We would enjoy sharing a cold Bintang or two with you.

P.S. Here is a recent pic ...just goes to prove that Bali life has been kind to us ...don't look a day older!



*Thank you Peter, I'm sure a lot of us down here are very envious of your weather as our city does an impression of Adelaide during the last tournament. A cold Bintang in the tropics sounds very inviting. And quite obviously it slows the aging process. Ed.*



**'B' Division Report - July:**

**INJURIES:** Arch returned from the O'70's world trip with more than 15 games, played one game in Perth and broke his finger. Will be out until the start of the Southern Cross trip to Glasgow. Graham Harper returned for a game or 2 in the month and has pulled up ok. (*& cooked on the 26th too. Ed.*)

**VISITORS:** Phil Chalmers from Esperance (and WAC) travelled to Perth to brush up on his skills prior to the next National Championships in Hobart. Likely to be around for a few more weeks.

**LIFES LINGERING MOMENTS:**

1. As she laid her pet duck on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away." The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?" "Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet. "How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something." The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head. The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room. The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck." The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.. The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "\$850!" she cried, "\$850!!!! just to tell me my duck is dead!" The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been \$75, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now \$850."
2. Budget Airline Inflight Safety Announcement: "...and in case of emergency, swipe your credit card and for a \$10 fee an oxygen mask will drop".
3. Advert: Parachute for sale, used once, never opened.

**THIS MONTH'S HOCKEY:**

Top team in a very enthralling month of hockey was white with 2 wins and 7 draws followed closely by Blue and Gold. Draws were the flavour of the month, with Gold not winning any games in the round robins played.

The month's hockey started with 2 weeks at UWA. Must have caught a few people off guard. Not enough players turned up for 3 teams so the games were played between the Gold (they must be advantaged by the move to UWA) and a combined Blue and White. The highlight of the day was the return of Chip and Arch from their world tour. Of the four games played Gold won 2 games 1-0 and White/Blue won one game 3-0 with the fourth game a scoreless draw. Goalscorers for the day were Jim Campbell (2), Rod Bickers, Leo Welten and Adrian Gabriel. As they retired to the bar early, the bar wasn't opened and the sausages weren't cooked. They solved the second problem first and left before the bar opened. Week 2 at UWA was better attended with nearly enough players for the three teams. The first three games were dour struggles, nil all draws, as the ball was moved around the field as the teams attempted to break the deadlock. Some of the moves weren't so promising and a few wayward passes caught the forwards off balance (as if that's not hard to do). Finally George Burcher (White) decided to break the deadlock after receiving a strong pass from Jim Campbell and deftly passed the goalie for the day's opening goal. Game 4 saw Gold and Blue play out a 1-1 draw with goals to Peter Fogels and Alan Ledger. The final game was another 0-0 draw between Blue and White with the backlines again dominating play. Goalies Graeme Sansom and Dick Osborne were having a great afternoon with several fine saves during the day whilst umpiring stalwarts John Lindsay and Vern Gooch allowed play to flow.

Week 3 saw White and Blue both record a win and three draws, thus both being undefeated on the day. After a 2 week lay-off, reminiscent of teams managing their players, Peter Wallis returned in

blistering form and was the proud scorer of 2 goals both deft opportunities passed the goalies, whilst Ray Domingo continues to use his pace to upset the opposition by creating fast breaks also scored 2 goals. Perennial pest and goalscorer Leo Welten was the only scorer for Gold as he threaded his way through the pack with a solid hit on goal.

Week 4 of July again saw a shortage of numbers and 2 teams bashed the ball from one end of the field to the other until the bar opened and that was the best thing that happened on that day (apparently).

*Thank you to Gordon Jeffery again. GJ was a defender when we played in the same Southern Cross side during the 2014 World Cup, and would still appear to be one, judging by the comment on Leo Welten above. It is a well known fact (according to defenders) that when a forward misses a goal it's due to bad luck, and when he scores one it's due to bad (defender) play. Ed.*

**Have Hockey Stick, Will Travel:** These 'B' division players were photographed showing the flag on the recent Australian O/70s tour of Europe. Peter Andrews is off to Glasgow with Southern Cross during August for the European Championships, then in September both he and Graham 'Chip' Challoner are due in Hobart with the WA State O/70s. The next destination could be interesting, but may depend on where the frequent flyer points are leading.

**WHM Australians Abroad**

**Photo from Simon Williams**



**Peter Andrews and Graham Challenor**

**Full Tour Report:** Those who want to know more about this tour merely need to read on. Simon Williams has provided "Masters Matters" with a comprehensive report, which begins next page. Ed.

**Foreign Correspondent:** “Masters Matters” thought that an account of the Australian 70s recent overseas venture would be a good inclusion here. So we approached a well-known tournament reporter, and thank Simon Williams for the following.

**Australian Masters Hockey O/70s Europe Tour (as seen by a West Australian):**

This fine band of gentlemen included seven West Australians which might have been close to some sort of record until Simon Thomson withdrew for family reasons. First port of call was Copenhagen, home of Tuborg, Carlsberg and Princess Mary, where the purpose was to promote hockey in Denmark, both at Great Grand Masters level as well our team “heavies” providing a coaching class for Danish schoolchildren. For our first hockey game the Danish opposition was made up mostly of fifty year olds which made for challenging hockey. For those who thought that was a tough gig, the Danes brought in several twenty year old females in the second game who were even quicker, but coach Bob Claxton was pleased to find that we were cured of ball watching!

We head for Germany by coach and ferry and arrive in Hamburg for two hockey games against Germany. We gather for the warm up for game one, but the team manager has somehow forgotten the practice balls so we scout the undergrowth on the perimeter and come up with half a dozen, which could have been more but for the stinging nettles!! Goalies John Burt and NSW’s Mossy both play blinders to keep the Germans scoreless and we win by a couple. But the next day is a disaster with the Germans up by four at the main break, shortly followed by another break, a bigger one involving Anton Deken’s clavicle, and enough to end his hockey career. Graham “Chip” Challenor’s ankle also takes a hammering, as did the team, with a late goal to Simon “Lunger” Williams being the only consolation. The next challenge was to keep straying geriatric hockey players away from the Reeperbahn before exiting Hamburg for Holland the next morning. Injuries take their toll with Victorian John Hamilton out with a hammy as well as Anton and Chip, so the Coach is forced to restructure the team to take on the Dutch in Leusden but they outplay us by four goals to two.

We move on to Tilborg, stopping off en route at the Trappist monks brewery. A sign outside says ‘La Trappe’ and thirty hockey players / partners have been well and truly snared. But we are assured that this has nothing to do with the beer, just to work on our trapping skills. Coach Claxton’s wife Anne-Marie peels off to Brussels to watch some other hockey. Can’t imagine why, but maybe something to do with daughter Jane captaining some other hockey team called the Hockeyroos. We play eight thirty minute games in three days in an over 68 year old regional competition in Tilborg that includes a team from Germany and Belgium. Don’t ask me why 68 as I’m sure 69 would usually win the popular vote.

Of the play by the West Aussies in the eight games I seem to recall Johnny Burt becoming a dual international when he played for Scotland one day and Australia the next. Peter ‘Arch’ Andrews scored his debut goal for Australia in Game 4, with Kenny ‘the Seagull’ Walter making goals in Games 4 and 6. Graham “Chip” Challenor was relentless in defence, chasing opponents down and cleaning up at the back with his traditional sweeping clearances off the backstick low to the ground. Well of course it would be low as Chip is very low to the ground already! Simon Williams was trying to emulate Usain Bolt as he ran into a very large Dutchman at high speed, bouncing off him and lucky not to fracture a rib. Len Blyth hit the skids on some wet turf and finished on the deck, leaving Jen to wonder if it was time to collect on the life insurance - but it was just bulldust with Len milking the clock. Arch calculated that we had covered four point something kilometres of running in between games which he has measured on his mobile phone - which makes one wonder whether he keeps his phone in his pocket all game just in case he needs to make a call or check the footy score. We didn’t finish on top so we won’t dwell on the minutiae, other than to report that we were the inaugural winners of the Friendship Trophy which was a big surprise to the Belgians following a feisty game with a player from each team earning a yellow card - oh, and Robbie Ray has since been known as “Sugar Ray Robbie.” Coach Clacko had us at training that night practicing our footwork doing the waltz and foxtrot at the evening’s dinner dance, after honing our skills the previous night with the Jazzband.

Then on to UK via Easyjet and coach to South Swansea in South Wales where the team variously enhanced their poetic minds with Dylan Thomas or had another training session climbing up and down the steps of Welsh castles. The warm-up game in Wales in fact turned out to be in England, a point not lost on Johnnie Burt who had had a considerable wager with Tony Cohen as to whether Newent lay in England or Wales. We won't mention the hockey apart from John Hamilton's first goal for Australia, the game being played against a highly polished S-W England sixty-something side who ran rings around us to soften us for the England 70s in the first game of the Four-Nations tournament in Swansea.

The slick England 70s were just too good for us on Day 1 at the 4-Nations, having all the answers in defence and attack and might have scored a fourth but for Simon Williams taking out the Pommie striker and earning himself the umpire's displeasure and a two minute green card! We make a strong comeback on Day 2 against the host team Wales with the irrepressible Arch nabbing two good goals, one on either post, in the opening quarter, and Australia winning 3-0 when Arch made an impossible deflection across goal off a Len Blyth penalty corner shot too far outside the right post, allowing Barry Paice to provide the finishing touch. We go into the last day hoping that Wales might produce the impossible and beat England which was never a likely scenario, so the best we can do is dismantle the Scots. With Simon "Lunger" Williams restored to the strikers line for the second successive game, he makes some penetrating forays and runs the baseline. Big Don Richards scores off the short corner, before Lunger wins another short corner and deflects the shot off the right post for number two. The Scots keep us out in the second quarter, but the floodgates open after halftime with goals to Billy Osborn and Barry Paice, with Kenny "Seagull" Walter combining with Arch for the finishing touch giving Australia an impressive 5-0 win.

*Many thanks to Simon Williams for this fine piece on the Australian 70s. All that goes on tour need not stay on tour. It is interesting that this tour included chasing twenty year old females in Denmark, which may generate a lot of nominations for the national 70s to be selected in Hobart. Ed.*



**Rule(s) of the Month:** Last issue covered the awarding of penalty corners and strokes by printing the relevant rules in full. The rule on the conduct of a penalty corner is even more extensive & I suggest that readers who want to know more should look up Rule 13.3. To avoid a 16 page Masters Matters only a few highlights are included in this issue.

**Rule 13.3:** Taking a penalty corner:

*Rules a) to h) cover the positions of the ball, the player inserting, the defenders and the attackers. It is worth mentioning that defenders must have their feet, hands and sticks behind the goal-line. The same applies to attackers and the circle. And the attacker inserting the ball has to have at least one foot outside the field of play and "must push or hit the ball without intentionally raising it."*

i) After playing the ball, the attacker taking the push or hit from the back-line must not play the ball again or approach within playing distance of it until it has been played by another player. *It is clear that the self-pass does not apply here.*

j) A goal cannot be scored until the ball has travelled outside the circle. *It seems to me that this rule could present difficulties for umpires as having a shot at goal before the ball has left the circle is not defined as an offence. So if the ball goes straight in the decision would be a free hit to the defence, as the ball has gone over the backline off an attacker's stick. But what if it touches a defender's stick on the way in? Is it then a long corner? Any reader who can provide enlightenment is most welcome. Ed.*

k) If the first shot at goal is a hit (as opposed to a push, flick or scoop), the ball must cross the goal-line, or be on a path which would have resulted in it crossing the goal-line, at a height not more than 460 mm (the height of the backboard), before any deflection, for a goal to be scored. *This applies even if a defender has made contact with the ball before the first shot. All first shots at goal which are hit must be penalised if they are too high.*

l) For second and subsequent hits at the goal and for flicks, deflections and scoops it is permissible to raise the ball to any height but this must not be dangerous. *The wording in the explanatory note adds: "Otherwise, if a defender is within five metres of the first shot at goal during the taking of a penalty corner and is struck by the ball below the knee, another penalty corner must be awarded or is struck on or above the knee in a normal stance, the shot is judged to be dangerous and a free hit must be awarded to the defending team."*

m) The penalty corner rules no longer apply if the ball travels more than 5 metres from the circle.

**Rule 13.4:** The match is prolonged at half-time and full-time to allow completion of a penalty corner or any subsequent penalty corner or penalty stroke.

*There is a whole lot more on the conduct of penalty corners in Rules 13.5 13.6 and 13.7. The intention is to continue the series in the next issue.*

**Rule Book Queries:** Each Wednesday the PHS1 dugout contains a copy of the 2017 Rule Book for any players (or umpires) who would like to confirm whether their understanding of a point in the play was correct. There is also a set of cards, if any player umpires think they need them.

**Well Done:** The honour roll of July 'A' division umpires reads: Adolphus Abrahams, Robin Bailey, Jim Balding, Greg Black, Lionel David, Peter Evans, Col Gee, Ian Hill, Mal Horigan, Mal Jackaman, Neil Mannolini, John Mercer, Neil Scaddan, Ken Watt and Ivan Wilson. We may have omitted to say "thank you" after the games, so we'll say it now. Ken Watt deserves a special mention for doing a lot of games while injured; thanks for the effort. The 'B' division and 'C' division umpires are not known to me at the time of writing - thank you to both sets of umpires. Saturday umpires during July included: Stan Balding, Peter Brien, Ken Edwards, Colin Gee, Marty Greay, Neil Scaddan, and Ken Watt. The PHS sausage sizzle was handled by the 'B' Division Blue team - thank you to all the cooks. Those still in action when I finally arrived after the last game in 'A' division were Graham Harper (a big welcome back!) and Steve McEntee. In keeping with tradition, Graham won the first wine of the raffle. Well done to all the UWA caterers also - cooks Peter Blockley, Bob Bowyer and Mal Jackaman as well as supplier of fine onions Ivan Wilson.

**Shakespeare Said It:** "... this was well asked, 'twas so well performed." Pericles, Prince of Tyre Act II Scene III. *The coach and players form a mutual admiration society after a tournament win.*

"Thanks, gentlemen, to all; all have done well, but you the best." Pericles, Prince of Tyre Act II Scene III. *And following the win the best player trophy is presented.*

**Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players:** Again the "Masters Matters" notebook has almost come up blank on this topic. At PHS it managed to record Peter Murray, George Winning and John Sanders on a day when he did not umpire (July 26th). For the rest of the month the wine raffle took over - and although we all claim to be deserving cases it was good to see Bob Bowyer win a couple in July. Despite what was an almost career-ending injury he has continued to organise the raffle with the assistance of another injured player in Mal Jackaman. The Perry Lakes social attendees had their mention in "From The Saturday O/65s" on Page 6.

**Grumpy Old Men 2:** "After all, all he did was to string together a lot of old, well known quotations." *H. L. Mencken (1880 - 1956) on Shakespeare.*

**Age Wearies Me:** The original reason we extended our 'A' division games to 25 minutes and moved the starting time to 1:00 pm was that all teams had excess numbers. When 15 field players have to share 10 positions over 60 minutes of hockey that works out to 40 minutes each. During July this was very different. On the 5th we did not have enough players to attempt the scheduled fixtures, while the 12th saw only Gold with one spare player and all other sides needing at least one fill-in. The 19th saw all sides just below full strength, and the 26th again saw Gold as the only team with more than a bare minimum pf players. Most weeks one team has been very short (3 or 4 players) and many of us have to play an extra game nearly every week. I don't know how you're going - my left knee is giving me very firm messages that 100 minutes of hockey and 25 minutes of umpiring is too much. It seems that it's time we considered returning the games to 20 minutes again - reader views are welcome.

**Barcelona Update:** The Secretary of Southern Cross Peter Hayes by email: "Southern Cross Masters Hockey has been advised by the World Grand Masters Hockey Association that organisations entering teams in the Tournament Trophy to be held in association with the World Cup in Barcelona in June 2018 will be limited to **one team** in each age division.

This means that Southern Cross will be entering **four teams** viz 60+, 65+, 70+ and 75+ in the 2018 Tournament Trophy competition. The World Cup Opening Ceremony will be held on Thursday June 21st and the Closing Ceremony on Sunday July 1st. Look for more information from Southern Cross including nominations for support staff, players and supporters in the coming weeks."

*This certainly puts an end to my own attendance at World Cups. If you are good enough to gain selection in an Australian or Southern Cross side then I would urge you to nominate, as the three I was fortunate to attend were all great experiences, and most enjoyable as well. Ed.*

**Masters Matters Schedule:** Could all regular contributors, potential contributors, support staff and readers note that the intention is to close off the September issue (in other words, the one after this one) as soon as possible after the games on Wednesday the 23rd August. The pre-Hobart issue must go out before Friday 22nd of September, my departure date for Hobart (knee permitting).

**State Team Photos:** Thanks to the senders. 14 pages is enough; we'll include them in the next MM.

**Stop Press:** Simon is off to Cairns for a fortnight, thence Melbourne to visit new-born granddaughter Ruby. Birthday was last Tuesday, but Simon says the two are not connected. Congratulations to all.

All news and other contributions to:

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