



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 11

November 2017

Regular Features:

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Irregular Features:

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Dates For The Diary:

2017: November 4th: Saturday O/65s deferred dinner at Perry Lakes. **Play starts at 3:00 pm.**

December 20th: Hips versus Knees. 3:00 to 4:00 pm. PHS 1.

December 20th: WHM Christmas Party - PHS.

2018: June 20th/ 30th. WGMA World Cup - Barcelona. } Australia and Southern Cross

July 27th / August 5th: IMHA World Cup - Terrassa. } Australia

Interstate Masters Championships. **Venue to be advised.**

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

Hobart Results: The scores in all the grand finals are included here, together with the result of the bronze medal match if a WA team or a WHM player was involved. Complete statistics for all matches can be found via the Hockey Masters Australian website, with the notable exception of the recipient of the best player of the tournament award in each age group / division. If any reader can find these online I'd be delighted to hear from you, and we'll publish them all next edition.

O/75s: Gold medal WA (3) Victoria (2). Bronze medal NSW (3) Queensland (1).

O/70s: Gold medal Victoria (3) ACT (0). Bronze medal WA (2) Queensland (1).

O/65s: Gold medal WA (1) NSW (2).

O/60s (1): Gold medal WA (2) NSW (2). (WA 1 NSW 0 in shootout).

O/60s (2): Gold medal Queensland #1(0) NSW (2).

O/55s (1): Gold medal WA (0) NSW (0). (WA 3 NSW 4 in shootout).

O/55s (2): Gold medal WA (2) NSW (2). (WA 0 NSW 1 in shootout).

O/50s (1): Gold medal Victoria (1) NSW (2). Bronze medal Tasmania (2) WA (0).

O/50s (2): Gold medal Queensland (3) NSW (2). Bronze medal WA (2) Victoria (0).

O/45s (1): Gold medal WA (2) Queensland (0).

O/45s (2): Gold medal Queensland (1) NSW (1). (Queensland 2 NSW 0 in shootout).

O/40s (1): Gold medal Victoria (0) Queensland (0). Bronze medal Tasmania (3) WA (2).

O/40s (2): Gold medal Queensland #1(4) Tasmania (0).

O/35s: Gold medal Queensland (2) NSW (0).

Hips Versus Knees: Qualifications for selection are exacting, but starters are being called for again to take part in this showcase match. The venue is Perth Hockey Stadium on December 20th from 3:00 to 4:00 pm. This is the same date as our Christmas party. Those who are eligible and interested in playing please contact Simon Thomson at sthomson46@outlook.com. To be eligible you must have undergone at least one hip or knee replacement.

WHM Post-Hobart Travellers: By now all the post tournament holiday makers should have returned, revitalised and ready to throw themselves back into Wednesday hockey. This may be necessary to burn off all the calories generated by the great Tasmanian food (see limerick Page 4). I hope all from WHM who attended had a great time. Despite personal ill health, personal poor hockey, lack of team success (competitive, but winless) and a disrupted touring schedule I enjoyed it immensely. Thanks to all my WAC O/70s team-mates for being great company, and the team coaches and management for the efficient and capable manner in which the side was controlled.

Department of Health: The lead story this month has to be Chip Challenor who had a torrid time in Tasmania. Many of you know the full details, but we'll outline them briefly here. Before the first match he was admitted to Hobart Hospital with two bulging spinal discs. The first operation took place on September 27th, and there have been two more since. He was not permitted to fly home until October 20th. Les Waldon is due for a shoulder operation on November 20th. Bob Robinson's wife Maxine had a knee replacement on 25th October - hope all went well. Ivan Wilson has a cataract operation pending as this issue closed. Best wishes to all, including those unmentioned.

Letters To The Editor: Given the very short time which Hobart attendees had to read the October issue it's a wonder that anybody responded. My thanks go to Rusty Phillips, Ken Dyer, Neil Miller, John Milner, and Peter Murray (all the way from Malaga). All are non-Hobart attendees by the way.

Hobart Statistics: Despite gloomy predictions on team numbers from "Masters Matters" there were still 85 teams in Tasmania as shown in the table below. I was initially quite shocked at the number of cards issued, and tried to compare that total against previous tournaments. The only one I seem to have extracted figures from was Sydney 2013, where 113 yellow and 365 green cards resulted.

Hobart Team Numbers by State / Umpires Cards by Age Group

Comp	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	WAC	Total	Yellow Cards	Green Cards
O75		1		1			1	1		4	2	7
O70	1	1		1			1	1	1	6	2	28
O65	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	8	5	27
O60 (1)	1	1		1		1	1	1		6	5	33
O60 (2)		1		2			1			4	1	13
O55 (1)		1		1	1	1	1	1	1	7	5	36
O55 (2)	1	3	1	1		1	1	1		9	5	47
O50 (1)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		8	11	66
O50 (2)		1		1			1	1		4	4	11
O45 (1)		1		1		1	1	1	1	6	8	39
O45 (2)		1		1	1	1	1			5	3	26
O40 (1)	1	1		1		1	1	1		6	11	34
O40 (2)		2		2		1				5	12	21
O/35	1	1		1	1	1	1		1	7	11	36
Total	7	17	2	16	5	10	13	10	5	85	85	424

WHM Hobart Numbers

State	O75	O70	O65	O60	O55 1	O55 2	O50 1	O50 2	Total
WA	12	14	15	13	7	7	4	3	75
WAC	n/a	8	6	n/a	3	n/a	n/a	n/a	17
Other	1	1	2	3					7
Total	13	23	23	16	10	7	4	3	99

Disclaimer: These figures are approximate only, obtained by comparing the tournament book against our Wednesday/Saturday team lists and the "Masters Matters" list of emails. More on cards and the tournament umpiring can be found on Page 9.

Punology One: The pint overflowed for a second time and it was summoned to appear in quart.

Australian Representatives from WHM: Congratulations to all those selected in the national teams for 2018 and especially those from WHM. As most of the players from WA and WAC are known to us I have tried to include the non WHM players in the lists also, with WA indicated by an (*) and WAC by a (^). In this newsletter, WHM takes priority, of course.

O/75s: Peter Gason (c), Bill Baldwin, Howie Herbert, Ian Hill, Richard Osborne, Ron Venables.

Shadows: John Burt, Graham Harler, Ian Lyon.

O/70s: Len Blyth (c), Graham Challenor(!), John Harper, Heath Tyrell, Simon Williams (*).

Shadows: Peter Andrews.

O/65s: John Chapman, Peter Fogels, Rudy Keswick, Peter Morgan, Richard Staynor.

Shadows: Tom Long.

O/60s: Wayne Cutler (c), Graham Miller, Paul Murray (^), Stephen Pestana, Brian Robinson.

Shadows: Joslyn D'Silva, George Naylor, Geoff Robinson.

O/55s: Tony Jones (c), Craig Burgess, John Pestana.

Shadows: Mike Hallam.

O/50s: Robert Behets, Dean Lomax (^).

Masters Interstate Tournament 2018: "Masters Matters" has been claiming for some time now that the venue would be Newcastle. Talking to some of my former Southern Cross team mates in Hobart has proven to be most enlightening. I'm told that at the time of the 2018 event the new clubhouse in Newcastle will be very much under construction, and so another venue needs to be put up by NSW. The suggestion I've heard is a joint effort between Ballina and Lismore. I have done a small amount of research and there are 65 hotels in Ballina and 323 in Lismore. Both Virgin and Jetstar fly large planes in to Ballina from Sydney. This is not only a very scenic part of Australia but also these twin towns fit perfectly with "Masters Matters" advocacy for smaller venues.

Department of Corrections: The dates of the Barcelona tournament printed here have varied over the course of the last few months. The cause of this was that they kept changing on the web-site. As at October 2017 the web-site has confirmed that the opening ceremony is on 20th June and that the closing ceremony is on 30th June. Also the proposed venue for the Interstate Masters tournament in 2018 has altered recently and is yet to be confirmed, as outlined in the preceding paragraph.

Tasmanian Food: Every time I travel to the one time Apple Isle the dining impresses. This time was no exception, and MM's resident limerick writer was moved to comment:

In Tassie the eating is great
They put a fine meal on your plate
Seafood and Asian
Even Australian
And nothing that wasn't first rate.

The scansion did not allow me to include Italian, but we found an excellent restaurant in Sandy Bay. Several venues have been named in the Tasmanian Impressions column which begins on Page 10.

Masters Interstate Tournament 2019: I understand that there are a number of possibilities open for this one. Much will depend on the outcome of November's meeting of State delegates. One of those locations is WA's South-West, but it's far too early to plan for that happening, as it is necessary for a good many pre-requisites to occur first. We have not competed in Bunbury / Busselton since 2010 and a return visit is becoming overdue. And what happened to Darwin?

Quotable Quote One: "I can win an argument on any topic, against any opponent. People know this and steer clear of me at parties. Often, as a sign of their great respect, they don't even invite me."
Dave Barry (1947 -).US columnist and humorist.

'A' Division Blog: As is customary things are very slow to return to normal post tournament.

October 11th: I'm unable to tell you what happened as I was not healthy enough to consider driving to the stadium, let alone playing. According to the grapevine, there were enough attendees from all divisions for two teams, and some good hockey occurred.

October 18th: Fifteen minutes before play was due to begin on Turf 1 (combined 'B' & 'C' divisions) and Turf 2 ('A' division) at 2:00 pm numbers seemed to be short on both turfs. We decided to leave the arrangements as they were for another fifteen minutes and sufficient players arrived to fill two teams on both turfs. Two apparently equal teams (Whites and Colours) took to the field and a fine finish from John Jeffreys opened the scoring for the Colours. That was (believe it or not) their only goal of the day as their passing and shooting then went haywire. Colin Benporath brought back his silver medal form from Hobart and played brilliantly, often making impossible saves. At the other end Ron Venables was in very fine form, and slotted no less than five goals. Ian Lyon demonstrated that life begins after 40 (for the second time also) and added two more to good goals from Scott Blackwell and David Pandher. The day featured several comebacks, with the real standout being the return to the field of Bob Bowyer, who seemed to have got through without further damage. There were many players in very good touch for the first week back from a break. These included David Pandher, Roger Partington, Ian Lyon, Phil Metcalf (no luck, no radar) Bob Robinson, Phil Anderson and Paul Robinson. Beside Bob B other returning players were John Jeffreys and Eric Alcock, both in fine touch too. While among the Hobart returnees Jim Balding, Scott Blackwell and George Bradbury all seemed to have benefited from the hard work. Player of the day and of course goal of the day has to go to Ron Venables for a lot of midfield fine play in addition to the goal scoring. Player numbers were approximately: Blue (5), Gold (5), Red (5) and White (7) plus keepers Colin B and Graeme S. This allowed one reserve and one player umpire to join Neil Mannolini. Total goals 13.

October 25th: Normal fixtures resumed after Hobart. We managed only two goalkeepers and three incomplete teams, which meant an increased workload for goalkeepers and fill-in players due to the 25 minute games. The hockey featured some very good tackles, some great trapping, some terrible trapping (no names, as one of them would have to be mine), and some very indifferent passing. White had enough numbers to be the only team with players in their accustomed positions and were able to produce enough successful passes to dominate the day. Their central trio of forwards in Paul Robinson, Ham D'Souza and Ron Venables combine very well and with the ball coming out of defence in good style from both half backs and full backs many opportunities were created. Only nine goals had been scored when goalkeepers Colin Benporath and Tony Marshall quit after the fourth game, but by the end of the day four White players had three goals each. Good goals were scored by Peter Gason and Phil Metcalf for Gold and Ken Beer got some great late deflections but the goal of the day must go to Ham D'Souza for a reverse stick rocket from the edge of the circle filling in for Red. Player numbers: Blue (8), Gold (9), Red (9) and White (10). Total goals scored (17).

Grumpy Old Men (and Women) One: "I have often thought that if photography were difficult in the true sense of the term - meaning that the creation of a simple photograph would entail as much time and effort as the production of a good water colour or etching - there would be a vast improvement in total output. The sheer ease with which we can produce a superficial image often leads to creative disaster." *Ansel Adams (1902 - 1984). US nature photographer. I trust that none of your Tasmanian pictures produced a similar sentiment.*

Where The Bloody Hell Are You? Numbers in the PHS bar have not been good since Hobart, as well as before Hobart ('C' division may be doing better). Our wine fundraising must be behind schedule.

Post hockey is great for a beer

But Wednesdays are lacking in cheer

For not enough come

Bob Bowyer is glum

"There weren't many raffles this year."

From The Saturday O/65s: Forty three players have paid the summer fees. Good numbers again.

The summer season kicked off on the 14th with three teams (one player short) and 2 goalkeepers. The weather was kind to us, the after match pizzas arrived on time (thank you Jim Wright) and only the hockey was not quite right at the start. It had been a long time since any of us had a run on grass but the rest must have been good for John Milner who slotted no less than four goals.

Thank you to the 3 birthday celebrants who bought all the drinks between them, Ian Lyon (80), George Bradbury (75) and Howie Herbert (also 75). Of course Ian celebrated with a goal (or two?).

John Milner decided that he needed to buy us all a drink the week following his double brace of goals, and dug deep on October 21st - thanks very much John. The rest of us must have been far too busy salivating at the prospect to concentrate on our hockey, as the day began with three scoreless games (selector Les Waldon produced even teams with a vengeance). Bob Hotinski featured with some very good goals when the scoring finally kicked off during game four.

It may be superfluous to remind everybody about the deferred end of winter season dinner on the 4th of November, but we'll do it anyway. By now all bookings have been taken, and we are starting play at 3:00 pm and possibly going until 5:00. The proceedings will kick off from 6:00 pm. Members of the committee are arriving early (about 1:30) to set up the room.

Saturday the 28th featured two new players in their first games. Welcome to Don Smart, who was the coach of the WA O/70s in Hobart, and Greg Street, who has played for both Suburban and Scarborough in past years.

Unfortunately Rob Andrew has decided that he is unable to continue to play. He's just too sore the morning after, and obviously has not found the necessary performance enabling anti-inflammatory. Best wishes to you Rob, and we enjoyed having you with us.

The French Letter No 36:

Last issue I promised you some insights into the comparative cost of living between France and Australia - so here goes

It proved to be a difficult exercise for a number of reasons - different product brands, packaging in different quantities and even using different units of measurement for a given product. To illustrate this latter point - in France prepared soups are sold in either 500 ml or 1 litre packs but Coles sells such soups by the gram. All I can say is that 300 grams of soup means nothing to me - surely volume is the way to go. However I digress.

Therefore I ended up extrapolating quantities into price per kilogram or price per litre and of course converting from Euros to Aussie dollars.

Ian's detailed price comparison is on the next page of the newsletter. You may wish to look now before going on to his comments. No figure is included for red wine in this country; those of you who drink it will have a very good idea of its cost, and the rest may not care.

Mr Purdie's verdict:

- a) Fruit and vegetables are significantly cheaper in France, almost half price on the items I selected.
- b) With meat and fish the difference is less marked but still markedly in favour of France.
- c) With "other" the difference is again evident. The big one is cheese with camembert, for example, being four to five times the price in Australia..

You should note that the sub-totals and grand totals are meaningless figures as you are unlikely to buy a lot of things in kilo or litre quantities. What these totals indicate is relativity. In other words, if you compiled a personal shopping basket you can be sure it will be significantly cheaper in France.

Of course there are many other factors to be taken into account when one talks about the cost of living and I'll pass on some more information in my next issue.

For those of you who ventured to Hobart I hope you all returned not too sore and that it was an enjoyable carnival. *(I fear that a lot of us returned sick rather than sore. Ed.)*

Cheers

Ian Purdie *(Thanks Ian; I noted similar differences during the Netherlands World Cup in 2014. Ed.)*

Shopping Comparison		
Fruit and Vegies		
Items	Coles A\$	France A\$
Bananas (kg)	\$4.00	\$1.50
Tomatoes (kg)	\$4.90	\$4.50
Avocados (kg)	\$3.50	\$2.45
Cup mushrooms (kg)	\$11.00	\$4.47
Navel oranges (kg)	\$2.50	\$3.00
Granny apples (kg)	\$5.00	\$3.88
Gala apples (kg)	\$5.00	\$0.70
Pumpkin (kg)	\$3.00	\$2.04
Carrots (kg)	\$1.90	\$0.90
Brushed potatoes (kg)	\$1.80	\$1.00
Sweet potatoes (kg)	\$6.50	\$1.50
Pears (kg)	\$3.50	\$1.60
Sub-Total	\$52.60	\$27.54
Meat and Fish		
Items	Coles A\$	France A\$
Chicken breasts (kg)	\$9.00	\$9.00
Whole farm chicken (kg)	\$7.20	\$7.50
Lamb cutlets (kg)	\$21.00	\$19.75
Lamb shoulder debon (kg)	\$20.00	\$22.45
Bacon (kg)	\$12.00	\$17.00
Salmon pieces (kg)	\$32.50	\$21.80
Rump steak (kg)	\$20.00	\$21.00
Prawns raw (kg) (40-60)	\$24.00	\$15.00
Fish fillets (cod) (kg)	\$19.00	\$19.00
Pork fillet (kg)	\$32.00	\$21.00
Sub-Total	\$239.70	\$193.50
Other		
Items	Coles A\$	France A\$
Milk low fat (litre)	\$1.20	\$1.11
Mixed grain bread (850g)	\$3.50	\$1.93
Butter low salt (kg)	\$12.80	\$12.00
Frozen chips (kg)	\$4.00	\$3.50
Grant's Whisky (litre)	\$55.00	\$25.50
Bottled water (gas) (litre)	\$1.71	\$0.39
Red wine		\$4.50
Beer (litre)	\$6.00	\$3.00
Cheese Camembert (kg)	\$40.00	\$8.40
Cheese Blue (kg)	\$50.00	\$20.00
Sub-Total	\$174.21	\$80.33
Grand Totals	\$466.51	\$301.37

Balinese Bulletin No 28: Musing from Bali for November.

Sometime back a childhood friend of most of us uttered these words

“Sometimes I just sits & thinks & sometimes I just sits”

This pretty much sums up life here in Bali. Because I mostly “just sits” is probably why I find it hard to find anything remotely interesting to you Lot down there. I have, however, found a little time of late to “sits & thinks”

CUCU ...

We were recently presented up here with our first Balinese “Cucu” (Granddaughter)Baby Mia. Our lovely Balinese girl & Husband who really go out of their way to look after us recently delivered their 3rd Daughter. Obviously they were hoping for a Boy to keep their Parents happy ...however they are just pleased that Baby Mia is healthy.

LIFE IN ANOTHER PLACE

Life in Bali is a little like living on another planet. With all that is going on around the globe ...political unrest, terror & dislocation of millions of people around the middle-east & now in Myanmar ... & many other deeply disturbing events, the Balinese people just go about their life as if all this unrest was happening on another planet. Maybe we just watch too much TV!!!

WILL IT ..WON'T IT

Most of you down there are aware of the “Imminent”(?) eruption of Bali’s Mt. Agung which has been rumbling now for almost 2 months. Well I can report that it is currently in what appears to be a “Slumber” mode. The volcano experts are divided in what they expect to happen in the short term. Will it ..won't it ..some say “Yes” ..some say “I don't know”. Well, that just leaves us all in what might be described as a “suspended state of concern”. The underlying tragedy is that around 185,000 people have had to walk away from their homes, pets, livestock, businesses etc & cannot return until ..whenever!! They are all currently living in very cramped, unhygienic conditions where many young children & older people are becoming sick as a result. We can only hope the "Old Fella" goes back into a very deep sleep!!!

CONGRATULATIONS.

Thanks to hockey friends down there I was made aware of the various links to hockey sites which enabled us to keep abreast of the results across there in Hobart. Congratulations to all those who were good enough to finish with a medal. Where will it all end”Centenarians & Over”

PS: Should anyone down there care to send an email to us 2 Old Timers up here it would be much appreciated. A reminder also that if you are in this part of the world at any time you will be more than welcome to share a Bintang or two with us ...naturally, over a meal would be even nicer.

Peter Hammond

Good to hear from you again Peter. I think that the Balinese are quite right about TV watching. Mine shows me a lot of same-sex embraces and group gropes - and that's just the sporting coverage. Ed.

Happy Birthday: Thanks for the 14/10 drinks at Perry Lakes to celebrants George Bradbury, Howie Herbert and Ian Lyon. Howie and George are now officially qualified for O/75s while Ian is eligible for the next age group. There has already been a seven-a-side tournament for O/80s in the UK.

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: October’s question was: What was unusual about the 1954 WAHA Grand Final between Cricketers and CBC hockey clubs? a) It was played at the WACA. b) Two sets of brothers played on opposing sides. c) Cricketers won the match by 5 goals to 3. d) Kevin Carton played. An answer arrived from Ian Lyon, who seemed to be determined to be right at least once and suggested a), b), c), and d). He got two out of four - the match was played at Murdoch Oval, UWA: Cec and Mel Pearce played for Cricketers, Eric and Gordon played for CBC: Cricketers won 5-2: Kevin Carton did play according to the match report John provided.

November’s question is: Which of these teams did not compete in 1937 at the ‘A’ grade level in the West Australian Women’s Hockey Association? a) Laurels b) Boronia c) Old Modernians d) Pirates e) Whywurie f) Surf g) Triangle h) University i) North Cottesloe j) North Fremantle. *Answer next issue.*

Hobart Umpiring: This year I thought that the standard varied a lot - I saw several excellent whistle blowers in the younger age groups, while some of the others were definitely not so good. There was an over-readiness to award green cards for being within 5 metres of a self-pass, while in my opinion a lot of bad tackles did not receive the penalty they merited. There was also a lot of pedantry about taking a free hit from the precise spot where the breach occurred, often resulting in the penalised team being the one awarded the free. One strange event I noted was a resumption of play from the sideline within the attacking 23 metre. Tony Gibbs from the Victorian O/70s put his stick on the turf in front of the ball and was given a yellow card. My WA Country side received a free hit instead of a penalty corner, which we certainly expected under the circumstances. The rule appears on Page 14.

Reader opinions and experiences are welcome - but please keep them short.

Poetic Licence: Some exaggeration follows, but not all that much:

That free must be from the right spot
Were words that we heard quite a lot
 To tackles so crude
 We all said "How rude!"
The umpire responded "So what?"

Hobart Umpiring: For those of you who think I'm over-stating the position regarding green cards, it may interest you to know that Ron Venables was given a green. For those of you who know them, so were Harvey Davies and Norm Stanton from the WA Country O70s. That's three of the most unlikely players imaginable. If anybody reading this has a connection to the Hobart umpires I would be very curious to know whether any official directive was given regarding cards.

I thought it might be of general interest for the Rule of the Month in this edition to cover the self pass rule. Though space limited me to just the rule which can be found on Page 14.

'B' Division Report - October: I'm not sure what might have happened to Gordon this month. Maybe he stayed on in Tasmania, maybe he got the Hobart virus, or possibly he just switched over to the NBN and is off the air. *In late news he's super busy on the farm. Hopefully he'll be back next month.*

Dummy Spit Of The Month: Everybody seems to be behaving too well lately. This is going to be a selfie yet again, though again I claim that the provocation was extreme. My "Day in the Wilderness" tour to the Tasmanian South-West was cancelled due to the weather, and even though Par Avion gave us all a full refund it is hard to avoid a feeling of being victimised. So ...

This makes it two years in a row
My tournament tour's a no show
 In Tassie low cloud
 No flying allowed
In S.A. the gale meant no go.

Following the Adelaide tournament I'd booked a tour of Kangaroo Island, but the ferry could not depart due to the full gale. The previous year in Cairns the wind blew so strongly for our entire stay there that it was not worth a trip to the Barrier Reef, due to the poor visibility.

Quotable Quote Two: "When I am abroad, I always make it a rule never to criticise or attack the government of my own country. I make up for lost time when I come home." *Winston Churchill (1874 - 1965). Tony Abbott seems to operate under a different rule.*

Punology Two: The urge to sing "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" is only ever a whim away.

Page Filler: When women meet me they usually think I'm ugly.
When women find out about all the money I have they think I'm ugly and poor.

Hobart from Mt Nelson

Photo Alan Bryce



Hobart Impressions: As has become customary, here are some personal impressions of the trip and the tournament. We would probably lack the space to include something similar from all 99 WHM members who attended, but please send them in (and keep them short) if you have a good story.

Perth Airport: I trust that the virus I departed with was not passed on to those I met there. Jim and Merylyn Banks and George Mullins were on the same flight and I also met WA medic Phil Watson as we were delayed in Melbourne by a non-functioning aircraft toilet - a different plane was required.

Hire Car: During the Tullamarine hold up Thrifty phoned me to say that the Corolla I had booked had been returned with accident damage. I had to settle for a brand new Yaris instead with less capacity for hockey bags, and which had to work hard climbing Mt Wellington with three adults.

Thank You: To the WA O/70s (especially Ash and Wendy) who kept us in touch with Graham 'Chip' Challenor's situation. An expanded bulletin can be found in the Department of Health on Page 3.

Kulcha Night: David Sonenberg and John Mercer from the WAC O/70s attended the Musica Viva concert at the Hobart Town Hall on September 25th. There we met Ian Hill and Kate. All of us were impressed by both concert, and building, which I last saw during the 1970 National Apex Convention. My hasty note from the evening reads: "What a building! What a cellist!"

What a Finish: The round robin match between WA and ACT in the O/70s saw WA leading 3-0 inside the last 4 minutes. ACT then scored two penalty goals on either side of a field goal by a forward who had been unmarked on the penalty spot for a long time.

No winners/No losers: The weather for the game described in the preceding paragraph was freezing, and the two subsequent matches were both draws too (Vic 0 / Qld 0, NSW 1 / WAC 1). We certainly would have been a lot warmer and healthier if we'd stayed in the bar.

Tiger Rags? Ivan Wilson's black and gold WA track suit top resulted in a very keen Richmond fan making a mistaken assumption on the day of the Grand Final. A kiss on the top of the head followed.

Pedantry: Some of the umpiring was very good, but much of it was over pedantic regarding the exact location of free hits and cards were very freely awarded for being less than 5 metres away from a player taking a self pass. Bad tackles did not always incur similar displeasure - I have expanded on the tournament umpiring a little more in the paragraph on Page 9.

WAC dinner: Despite the reduced numbers this was held at the Bellerive Oval where Tasmanian cricket Tests are played, and on the whole was a most successful function. The view down the Derwent looks great on TV and is not so bad from the venue at night either. Good food too.

WAC dinner: Congratulations to Irene Simpson (co-manager of the WAC O/70s) on being awarded a life membership of WA Country at this function. Irene and John are still on their way back home.

Foxhole Medals: A couple of issues ago we printed a letter from Ken Watt regarding this business. Our way to the hockey centre from Sandy Bay took us past it, and it was usually necessary to stop at the lights before turning right onto Macquarie St. From memory the sign in the window read: "Some call it multi-tasking. I call it getting on with something else while I try to remember what it was I was meant to be doing." Hope some of you managed to call in.

Peter Hearne's "Retirement": We reported last issue that Peter Hearne had retired from all forms of hockey - based on a club communication. Yet there he was in Hobart wearing a red shirt, and a read of the tournament book showed him in the South Australian O/65s, along with Graham Wood.

Tasman Island: WA Country O/70s manager Harvey Davies had done the boat trip on a previous visit but was keen for a repeat. So John Mercer joined him, and was very impressed. The photographic evidence is on Page 13 and as can be imagined there are plenty more where that came from.

More Kulcha: Our WAC O/70s also were represented at two concerts by the Tasmanian Symphony in their new Federation Concert Hall. The sumptuous sound of a Stradivarius viola featured in the first while the second featured very fine piano playing in Beethoven's Fourth Concerto. The conductor in that one (Douglas Boyd) also did a great job with WASO the very next Friday (13th October).

Medical Miracle Workers: Keeping several teams of geriatrics on the turf for a fortnight requires lots of skill and hard work. The only thing which our team from WAC were unable to cure was the Hobart virus, which affected many participants from all age groups and States. An enormous thank you goes to Lyn, Adam, Hannah and Alix for a job very well done.

Tourism: Every time I have visited Tasmania I have been most impressed by the helpful and friendly locals. One of their principal sources of income is tourism, and in my experience they do it very well.

Hobart Accommodation and Dining: A few brief notes on these also.

Mayfair-Plaza Motel, Sandy Bay: Thank you to WA Country for allowing my O/70 side to move our accommodation from the airport. Thanks also to Bill Baldwin for finding and organising this venue in Sandy Bay. Above all, many thanks to all the motel staff, and especially to Liz who took care of all our booking, room allocation and reserved slots in the communal laundry for us. She also recommended a venue for the team dinner. To show how we were looked after I quote from an under-door note:

"Good morning. Another beautiful day in Hobart. Partly cloudy. Very high chance of showers (3-5 mm), becoming less likely this afternoon with possible hail. Winds west to southwesterly 35 to 50 km/h turning northwesterly 15 to 20 km/h in the evening. Snow on Mt Wellington, falling above 300 metres at first, rapidly retreating to the highest peaks.

Hope you all brought long johns to wear under your hockey uniforms. Liz."

We also received a reminder about the start of daylight saving by the same method.

Team Dinner: Liz recommended the Dr Syntax Hotel which did not disappoint. We appreciated the service provided by Ben Barratt and his able staff so much that we went back for our closing dinner too, as well as some of us enjoying other meals there. One lowlight - another state had also booked the Dr Syntax for their closing dinner but did not have the courtesy to inform the hotel that they had no intention of honouring the booking. As a result the extra staff & food which had been organised were not needed. Even if it was just a communication breakdown such happenings reflect poorly on both Masters hockey in general and our tournament in particular.

Hobart Dining (continued): It may be invidious to single out a few venues only when I'm certain we all had our own favourites. But good food and service deserve appreciation.

Dr Syntax Hotel (Sandy Bay): This venue has been mentioned already, but the steak and mushroom pie has not. It was definitely good enough to have twice.

Sandy Bay Bakery: This was one of our favourite haunts in 2012 and it was pleasing to discover that it is still under the same ownership. Visits were frequent again this year for morning tea and coffees as well as light lunches. I preferred to buy my morning toast bread there too.

Poseidon Seafood Restaurant (Sandy Bay): This was a fish and chip shop in 2012 but has since added an excellent dining venue. Varieties of seafood and salads could be matched to suit individual tastes.

Don Camillo (Sandy Bay): This Italian restaurant accepted six of us after an evening match when they were about to close - for a pasta only menu. The gnocchi special which most of us had was so good that we went back on more than one occasion, including the last night in Hobart for many of us.

The Drunken Admiral Seafarers Restaurant (Hobart waterfront): A slightly overdone nautical setting but the food was very good. It seems to be the flavour of the moment and is usually booked out.

Oyster Cove Inn (Kettering): This place needed a mention for having wallaby sausages on the menu. They were delicious, and lean enough that they could have been the genuine article.

Shakespeare Said It: "Advise thee, , what is to be done, and we will all subscribe to thy advice." Titus Andronicus, Act IV Scene II. *No wonder last issue's Hobart O/70s coach was optimistic if his team said that to him. Though our memories were probably not as good as our intentions.*

"This news, which is called true, is so like an old tale that the verity of it is in strong suspicion." The Winter's Tale Act V Scene II. *'Masters Matters' was incautious enough to claim that the tournament for 2018 was definitely in Newcastle. Obviously it should have been: "A source hitherto reliable but as yet unconfirmed has informed us that"* However, some team managers have tried to book accommodation in Newcastle, so we were not the only one to be wrong. Just very publicly wrong.

"I can go no further sir; my old bones ache ... I needs must rest me" The Tempest Act III Scene III. *Hobart player requests time on the bench.*

Well Done: I have no idea who blew the whistle at PHS on the 11th. Those I recorded for the next two weeks in 'A' division are: Robin Bailey, Jim Balding, George Bradbury, Peter Evans, Peter Jones, Neil Mannolini, Peter Muray, Roger Partington, Neil Scaddan, and Ken Watt. Thank you to all, as well as the unknown 'B' division and 'C' division umpires. The October Saturday umpires have been: Rob Ainsworth, Bob Bowyer, Peter Brien, Dudley Burress, Graham Harler, Peter Murray, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Greg Street, and Ken Watt. Thank you also to Jason and the staff at the Stadium for the post match snacks, which given our limited numbers meant that Ken Beer needed more help to tackle the quantity and quality provided. Finally, thanks to all the food providers at Perry Lakes.

Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players: It is good to see a few people who have not played in the bar at PHS. During October these included Brian 'Spider' Lester, John Sanders (hope the leg mended eventually), Brian Soares (the night before he went to Japan), Ivan Wilson and George Winning. And on the 21st at Perry Lakes were Stan Balding, Don Smart, Greg Street and Ken Walter.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "Abstract art is a product of the untalented, sold by the unprincipled to the utterly bewildered." *Al Capp (1909 - 1979). US cartoonist and the creator of "Li'l Abner."*

Tournament Virus: I trust you've all recovered in better fashion than I have.

Even after you swallow a pill
It's hard to play well when you're ill
But though I'm now back
I'm not all right Jack
The bug is afflicting me still.

Tournament Size and Timing: I have expressed some firm opinions in several previous issues of the newsletter, but the drop-off in numbers for WA Country this time has prompted a repeat. So has the report of WA team managers attempting to book accommodation for the 2018 tournament, and not being able to find any. Another factor has been that I have yet to speak to anyone who is against the idea of making some changes to our interstate tournament.

The suggestion is that the event be split into O35s to O55s at one venue and O60s to O75s in another. The older age group's dates would be moved away from the school holidays - the younger age groups could also change their dates if desired.

There are a number of reasons I would advance in support.

- 1) Accommodation costs. These are at a peak during the school holidays.
- 2) Accommodation availability. It has become very difficult to find desirable lodging at the time of the tournament. Two WA Country teams stayed in cabins at Hobart Airport this year.
- 3) Air fares. Like accommodation these are at a peak at school holiday times and usually impact more severely on West Australians than those from other parts of the country.
- 4) More and smaller venues. Our contribution to local economies is a large one, but can vanish if we play in a mainland capital city. The Cairns tournament in 2015 showed what is possible. I am of the opinion that the benefits of hosting this tournament should be better shared.
- 5) The only objection I have heard to splitting the tournament is that volunteers and umpires cannot be found for two venues. If the two are held on different dates as occurred with the 2016 World Cups in Newcastle and Canberra there is no problem. Incidentally, those events were both very successful.

I would like to hear readers' opinions on this topic as a proposal has been put to our WHM Committee that a formal request be made to the Vets Committee of Hockey WA for changes to the tournament along the lines as outlined above. I would be particularly interested if there are numbers of WHM players who would be unable to attend a tournament out of school holidays. I would also like to take on board any more points for or against the idea.

My contact details are - johnmerc@iinet.net.au. Or 'A' division White team.

Tasman Island

Photo John Mercer



Landing Place: The materials to construct a lighthouse and five cottages for the keepers were landed here and hauled up to the top along a set of rails from the wooden platform. So were the people.

Winners are Grinners: WA sides won the O/75s, O/60s and O/45s. The O/45s fall outside our age group for Wednesday and Saturday hockey and the O/60s are well covered on their Facebook page. As the O/75s do not have a Facebook page on our WA Masters web-site their manager Lesley Rutter was kind enough to provide a photograph for "Masters Matters." Hearty congratulations to all team members and coach Ian Hill on a job well done. Kieran McLernan had a terrific tournament, winning not only the player of the tournament award, but also the top goalscorer. This comes just after he was responsible for running what I'm told was another terrific tournament in Glasgow.



Rule(s) of the Month: The procedures for taking a free hit are described in Rule 13.

13.1 a) A free hit is taken close to where the offence occurred. *"Close to means within playing distance of where the offence occurred and with no significant advantage gained."*

13.2 a) The ball must be stationary.

b) Opponents must be at least 5 metres from the ball.

"If an opponent is within 5 metres of the ball, they must not interfere with the taking of the free hit or must not play or attempt to play the ball. If this player is not playing the ball, attempting to play the ball or influencing play the free hit need not be delayed."

A player taking a self-pass is not forbidden to run directly at an opponent who is within 5 metres, but umpires need to be alert. I think a general warning would have been better than all the cards.

Check Your Details: Colin Gee (our data base administrator) has asked us all to check the details he has on file for you, and advise him of any discrepancies. Please honour his request. He can be contacted at gee.colin@gmail.com. Or in the 'A' division Gold team on Wednesdays.

All news and other contributions to:

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