



A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Gold

B White

B Blue

C Blue

C Gold

C Red

C White

O/65 Blue

O/65 Green

O/65 Maroon

Masters Matters

Issue No 8

September 2018

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Dates For The Diary:

2018: September 15th: Saturday O/65s winter season windup dinner at Perry Lakes. See Page 6.
September 21st / October 6th. Interstate Masters Championships - Lismore / Ballina NSW.
September 26th and October 3rd: No play at PHS during nationals.
October 10th: Combined games on one turf. A & B Div from 1:30 - 3:30 / B & C Div 3:30 - 5:30.
December 19th: Annual Hips / Knees match followed by WHM Christmas Party.
December 26th: No play at PHS.
2019: January 2nd: Combined games on one turf.
April 30th / May 4th. Trans Tasman matches - Gold Coast. Nominations are now open.
June 19th / 29th: European Championships. Brasschaat Belgium. } Southern Cross.
Southern Cross is nominating only one team in each age group.
September 20th / October 5th. Interstate Masters Championships - Bunbury / Busselton WA.
2020: World Cup - Tokyo or Eindhoven. } Australia and Southern Cross

Western Hockey Masters (Inc.): It is pleasing to be able to report that we are now an incorporated body as of August 7th this year, due to the hard work of Simon Thomson and Peter Murray. Many thanks to Peter for providing office facilities as well as expert advice and guidance throughout the project - and for this quote; "Now it's up to the Committee to make it work."

The Merger of WGMA / IHMA: I trust most readers are aware of the impending changes to the way in which world-wide Masters hockey is run. These are not generated by the existing administrations but are in response to a demand by FIH who threatened to withdraw accreditation unless there was only one organisation. Work on this has been in progress for quite some time now and a number of our Australian office bearers have been involved. At present the new body is to come into effect as from January 2019, replacing the current WGMA and IMHA. Though there needs to be some carry-over for the European Tournament in 2019. (*New body is World Masters Hockey - or WMH*).

I have been doing some reading on the various web-sites and found that the documentation is quite extensive. Possibly the best overview can be obtained from the WGMA website which is able to be accessed via <https://wgmahockey.org>. A wealth of information awaits you once you select from the home page the "WGMA Congress 2018." The minutes of the meeting have been posted online here, and may be accessed from 'Minutes.' I recommend that you all read these, to discover exactly what is due to change, and how the process will be executed.

Only time will reveal what impact the changes will have on our rank and file hockey here in Western Australia. I have heard a few grumbles in recent years that our tournaments are becoming too bureaucratic, and that Masters Hockey has become a cash cow for Hockey Australia. I leave it to readers to form their own opinions, and as always, the proof of the pudding lies in the eating.

At one point we were assured that the two tournaments would continue on a split basis. To me this is still a topic of some concern, as all the information I have been able to access on the 2020 event only mentions two venues on an either/or basis. I would suggest that if this is the case then the Tournament Trophy section of our WGMA tournament (which is not a part of IMHA due to their much greater numbers) may not survive.

Department of Health: John Lindsay has become another one to have a cardiac problem resulting in the insertion of a couple of stents. Paul Robinson has been diagnosed with a problem hip requiring a replacement. This is scheduled for 4th September, and we hope that all goes as it should. Brian Soares was at PHS on Wednesday 15th during his rehabilitation. He claimed that the glass of red wine after watching the hockey was recommended by his medical advisors. Though he has had a lung infection since then, which necessitated a brief return to hospital. Ham D'Souza appeared to be in considerable pain with a back problem as he left the turf on the 15th. And it has been a tough time for the 'A' Division Red team. Rob Andrew suffered a leg muscle injury at Perry Lakes on the 18th, but made a good comeback on the 25th, Roger Partington's comeback was derailed by a sore knee and Peter Murray also had some muscle problems (both on the 22nd at PHS).

Letters To The Editor: Respondents to the August edition included: Peter Fogels, Bill Baldwin, Roger Partington and John Milner. Thank you all for taking the trouble.

Bill Baldwin: Was kind enough to comment on the Barcelona Blog. As did a few Alliance team-mates.

Terrassa Results: These too may now be old news, but unfortunately I was unable to squeeze them into the previous MM. I was most interested to read on the web-site that this was the last one ever to be run by IHMA. Hopefully the WMH events will be as well supported and successful.

World Cup (Men)

O/55s: Gold; England, Silver; Germany, Bronze; Netherlands. Australia 5th (*lost Q/F in shootout*).

Website shows Craig Burgess from WHM 'C' Division White with 5 goals.

O/50s: Gold; Australia, Silver; Netherlands, Bronze; Germany.

O/45s: Gold; Spain, Silver; Netherlands, Bronze; England. Australia 6th.

O/40s: Gold; England, Silver; Spain, Bronze; Argentina. Australia 7th.

O/35s: Gold; Australia, Silver; England, Bronze; Germany.

World Cup (Women)

O/60s: Gold; England, Silver; New Zealand, Bronze; Australia.

There was also a Women's O/60s in the Barcelona WGMA tournament. Confusing for editors.

O/55s: Gold; England, Silver; Australia, Bronze; Scotland.

O/50s: Gold; Ireland, Silver; Australia, Bronze; England.

O/45s: Gold; Netherlands, Silver; England, Bronze; Russia. Australia 4th.

O/40s: Gold; Argentina, Silver; Australia, Bronze; England.

O/35s: Gold; England, Silver; Australia, Bronze; Spain.

Terrassa Team Numbers: This was a very large tournament and a very quick glance at the fixtures showed that games had been scheduled on Pitch 8. Not all the teams who had registered appeared to have played, so my team counts are derived from the final results in each age group.

Men: O/35s (7), O/40s (15), O/45s (15), O/50s (12), O/55s (15). **Total 64.**

Women: O/35s (6), O/40s (16), O/45s (11), O/50s (16), O/55s (9), O/60s (5). **Total 63.**

It was intriguing to see that among the countries were Ghana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Chile and Belarus. It's no wonder that combining the two tournaments is regarded as impractical. This tournament was hailed as the largest international hockey event ever. If the 77 WGMA teams from Barcelona were added it would be rather unwieldy. Any reader feedback from Terrassa would be most welcome. I would very much like to know how a 127 team opening ceremony is run.

Department of Corrections: My Barcelona Alliance team actually conceded 29 goals rather than the 28 claimed in my limerick. But 'nine' does not have as many rhymes as 'eight.'

Quotable Quote One: "There has never been but one question in all civilisation - how to keep a few men from saying to many men: You work and earn bread and we will eat it." *That raving Socialist Abraham Lincoln (1809 - 1865). Donald Trump's party has changed a little since then.*

Milestone Man: The 18th August marked a very significant match for one of our number, and we quote from a publication entitled “Red Letter - Whippet Volume 18/08/18.”

“On Saturday 18th August Peter Willett will be playing his 1,000th club senior game when he takes the field at the Old Aquinians Club. It will be his 925th for Aquinians, following his formative years at SIC (now Newman Knights) where he played 75 games. 1,000 games is a conservative estimate as Peter has also played for other clubs on a fill-in basis on umpiring bye days which were not recorded in the OAH system.

Peter is renowned for his tenacious playing style and is the epitome of fair play; having never been sent off during his long career (in our memory anyway).

In addition to club hockey Peter has played and continues to play representative hockey for WA State teams and Australian Masters teams. Peter is a long serving member of the Old Aquinians Hockey Club having played 60 consecutive years and winning numerous Fairest and Best awards. He was awarded Life Membership of the club in 1985 in recognition of his outstanding contributions off the field.”

A function was organised for a post-game celebration and I am sure would have been very well attended. Well done to Aquinas for a fine tribute to a most deserving recipient. And very well done to Peter for 1,000 consistently good games. Ed.

Heart Surgery? Brian Soares has suggested that we should consider the addition of a team of Hearts to the Knees / Hips. The previous time this idea came up the list we managed to produce included: Bob Bowyer, Roger Jewell, Derek Jobe, Eric McCauley, Colin Needham, Ray Norton, Neil Patterson, Stan Salazaar, Ian Sills, Ric Watts and Peter Williamson. As can be seen quite a few are no longer in the game, and Bob Bowyer also qualifies for the knees. Can readers provide any more names?

Masters Hockey Australia: Some of you will be aware that Dean Lomax (WA Country and Australia) has taken on the Communications/Online role with what will be our new merged (Men and Women) national body. As all WA Country players would expect he has already had an impact - and I suggest you have a look at the new web-site. This can be found at www.australianmastershockey.com. As an example, the fixtures for Lismore/Ballina can be found on the site.

Southern Cross AGM: Those who can afford the air fares to Lismore / Ballina and also are interested in hockey travels in 2019 should attend this meeting. So should anybody else with an interest in the future of non-national teams international Masters Hockey. The date is Thursday the 4th October, time 3:30 pm and the venue is the Lismore Hockey Centre in the touch football meeting room adjacent to Pitch 2. As there is to be no tour in 2019 for the Australian O/70s and O/75s it would appear that competition for selection in the more senior Southern Cross teams is likely to be strong. I have not played for Southern Cross since 2016 and may have difficulty in getting from Ballina to Lismore on the day of the meeting, so I would really appreciate it if one of our WHM attendees could give me a briefing on the meeting discussions.

Trans-Tasman 2019: As per “Dates for the Diary” the venue is the Gold Coast and the playing dates are from April 30th to May 4th. Nominations are now open for players and officials, and the forms are available on the Masters web-site www.australianmastershockey.com. New Zealand has not yet managed to initiate national teams in O/70s and O/75s, and the site also has the news that there will be no 2019 tour for the Australian O/70s and O/75s. If I have any readers with more information on the reasons for no tours I would be very pleased to include them in the next issue.

Punology One: While our Secretary Bob is changing address this one seemed appropriate: A house purchaser claimed that he had just bought a two story house. His agent had told him one story before he signed and another one afterwards. *(Though I believe Bob sold a two story house)*

'A' Division Blog: Three wishes for 'A' Division: better weather, better numbers, better hockey.

August 8th: This was yet another wet and windy day, with the customary impact on our numbers. We also lose several 'A' Division regulars to the state O/70s nowadays. The weather was actually fine for much of the time, and both the goalkeepers on the walkway padded up and joined the teams. Thank you to Bill Baldwin and Tony Marshall. Basically there were two teams plus at times up to five extra players. As John Lindsay has had a cardiac problem our umpires had to be drawn from these spare players, and after 4 games everybody decided they had enough, and the rain was threatening to bucket down. Ham D'Souza scored twice, Peter Eastlake once (with a little help from the defence) but the goal of the day was a shared award between Phil Metcalf (after a terrific reverse stick pass from Peter Murray) and Robin Bailey (on the comeback trail after knee replacement). Robin had a bit of practice before his successful shot. It was great to see apparently successful comebacks in progress from Robin, Chip Challenor and Roger Jewell. Player numbers on Turf One were Red (8), White (6), Gold (6) and Blue (6). There were several members of 'A' Division with the State O/70s on Turf Two also. Total goals (5).

August 15th: At last a Wednesday without rain and gales and goalkeepers emerged from their places of hibernation - we had no less than four. Gold (1) and White (2) have both lost players to the State O/70s, and given the length of the injury list for both (White especially) it is not possible for either to field a full side. The Red team are due to be replaced by the State O/75s as from 29/08 and hopefully the competition will even up a little. Some of the hockey was surprisingly good at the start of the day, but deteriorated as we tired, partly due to the number of fill-ins needed. At least we managed to complete the scheduled fixtures, for the first time this quarter. All the goalkeepers made several good saves throughout the day, keeping the tally low to the point where Gold were scoreless and White only managed one. Nevertheless some fine goals were scored, with 3 to Ian Hill, 2 to Ron Venables and good strikes to Ash Foster and Mal Horrigan (on the comeback trail) among them. Ham D'Souza is still having back problems and had to stop playing early in his first game. Player numbers were: Blue (10), Gold (8), Red (11) and White (6). 8 goals were scored.

August 22nd: The day produced two tallies of three individual goals in one game as well as several blow-out scores. This kind of thing will continue to occur while our numbers are depleted due to many injuries and the loss of elite players to the State O/70s. Red and Gold suffered heavy losses to Blue, and White were put to the sword by Gold. Several players had a great time in front of the net with tallies of 5 (4 Blue/1 White) to John Ree & 3 to Peter Eastlake (2 Blue/1 Gold) and Phil Metcalf. John and Phil were the hat trick scorers and probably should share goal of the day, while singles went to Ash Foster, Trevor Kerr and Neil Patterson. Before play started a player with a Gold shirt and a beard introduced himself to all present as Ken (Walter) - and he seemed to have got through the day without any further injury. During play Terry Gaston managed to lose the hockey ball, which was on the white sideline in front of him. I looked for the cameras filming a Specsavers advert, but could not see any. Despite all my moaning and groaning some good hockey was played (as well as some not so good hockey). Player numbers are maximums only due to some late arrivals and injuries, but all up: White (7), Red (11), Blue (10) and Gold (7). Total goals scored (14).

August 29th: The weather was cold, wet and windy (*this line unchanged from the previous month*), and the only team which had a full complement was the State O/75s. We managed to play a rough semblance of the scheduled fixtures (in a Red versus Blue it was 9 against 11 for most of the match) between the showers, except for the last match, which was not played due to the number of times that most players had filled in. The State team revealed some good combinations and passing, which were generally not matched by their various oppositions (who were usually playing in totally new combinations). Thank you to all umpires (Neil Mannolini, Neil Scaddan, Ken Watt and Greg Street for braving the weather. Thanks also to goalkeepers John Burt and Barry Rutter for joining State custodian Graeme Sansom in getting the pads wet. The player numbers based on the original teams: WA O/75s (11), Red (5), Blue (6), Gold (5) and White (5). Players also included 2 Queensland guests in John O'Donohue and Neil Sue See, who added (relative) youth, speed and class. Total goals scored were 9, with the classic deflection by Don Smart undoubtedly goal of the day.

From The Saturday O/65s

Bookings Open for Sept 15th

Photo Jim Wright



Another end of season dinner is due after hockey on Saturday 15th. Bookings are essential.

We are coming to the end of another successful winter season. I cannot remember there being any less than three teams, though attendances during the World Cup would probably have been low.

Our relations with both YMCA and the Town of Cambridge continue to be excellent. Di Crocker has been a great help with our nibbles and drinks - so much so that we made a small presentation to her after hockey on the 11th August. We will be doing our own bar for the rest of the season but will be sharing the fridges with YM, who still have several junior days coming up which will require catering. This includes one with an estimated 600 attendees.

it is rare for goal scoring to be mentioned here; I hasten to emphasise that this is not personal sour grapes. But on the 25th usual suspect John Milner scored again, and unusual suspect Harvey Davies also put in a good one. He claimed that this was his first since the Netherlands in 2014.

The relevant dates for the winter and summer seasons are:

Last winter playing date; Saturday 15th September. Dinner in rooms to follow at 6:00 pm.

No play September 22nd, September 29th, October 6th.

Summer season begins October 13th.

Bookings are essential for the dinner on September 15th. We will not be catering for partners at this one. Eligible attendees are financial winter 2018 players and social members. If you have not already confirmed your attendance please email John Mercer on johnmerc@inet.net.au.

Grumpy Old Men One: "There was a time when we expected nothing from our children except obedience, as opposed to the present, when we expect everything from them except obedience." Anatole Broyard (1920 - 1990). American writer, literary critic and editor from New Orleans who wrote for the New York Times. I leave it up to readers to decide - is he right?

The French Letter No 44:

August has seen a marked change in the weather after the heat of July - with lots of days just simply dull and grey; not much rain but at least I haven't had to water the vegies every day.

We had another failed sale with the house. The prospective buyer had signed the memo of understanding, and also agreed to buy a lot of the furniture. However, before it got to the official signing with the notaire he approached the estate agent and said he wanted to do a deal at a lower price plus cash under the table for both us and the agent. This was to cut his costs with the notaire who collects taxes on behalf of the government. The agent didn't want to know about it and neither did we - the penalties for such actions are very severe in France. However, sadly, another missed sale.

This led to Joelle and I deciding on a course of action we had been debating for quite a while. Wait for it - *we are coming back to Australia regardless*. If the house doesn't sell in the next few weeks we are planning a return in mid-October. It's a tough call for us to make as it means leaving the house empty but it does mean that Joelle can access her Australian age pension. We will need to pay for some maintenance and cleaning etc on the France property so it won't be easy, but we will manage. Apart from financial considerations we have family that we haven't seen for a long while. We are also expecting to become great grandparents in September so it's quite exciting.

I have no idea whether or not I'll be able to play hockey after four years since my last game and a few health issues as well, but we'll see. I'll write again for the October issue but hope to see you all sometime in that month.

Cheers, Ian Purdie (*Thanks Ian for your timely and entertaining bulletins - Ed. See you soon.*)

Situation Vacant? It appears that "Masters Matters" will be without a French correspondent as from the November edition. Though I should warn prospective applicants that the travel is entirely at your own cost, the expense allowance is non-existent and there is no pay. But looking on the bright side, you will be paid as much as the "Masters Matters" editor.

Shakespeare Said It: "Nay, but ask my opinion too of that." The Merchant of Venice Act III Scene V. *Good luck to tournament coaches presenting a game plan to a team who have their own thoughts.*

"... abide the change of time; quake in the present winter's state, and wish that warmer days would come." Cymbeline Act II Scene IV. *The ninety two days of winter can feel interminable.*

"We grieve at chances here." Cymbeline Act IV Scene III. *Sometimes our conversion rate for scoring opportunities is not good in 'A' Division. Sometimes it's worse than that.*

PS: I may have used this quote before. If so, it was a long time ago, and it is still appropriate today.

No Balinese Bulletin: Peter Hammond has been down in Perth and has been granted a month off.

Wine Raffle: Questions are being asked about there being a serial winner. As one of the workers who put the ticket stubs into the drawing pool I can assure readers that there is no collusion. Despite it seeming that Bill Campbell has some method of influencing the draw this is not so. Bill just follows the winning ways outlined in "Masters Matters" some years ago, which are:

- Be in the bar after hockey.
- Buy multiple tickets.
- Have good luck.

Quotable Quote Two: "I was working on the proof of one of my poems all the morning, and took out a comma. In the afternoon I put it back again." *Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900). I'm fairly certain that our WHM "Masters Matters" would not work very well using this approach to proof reading.*

'B' Division Report: Gordon was going to try and send a report for August before departing for the tournament by road. It looks as though he has not been able to squeeze in the exacting task among the other preparations - including the packing of the caravan for a three month absence. So unless another volunteer is able to give me some 'B' Division copy the 'B's will join the 'C's in obscurity.

Thailand Tales: *Fortunately Graham Wood has obliged with a piece from further afield.*

Hi from Thailand, I hope everyone who attended Barcelona arrived home safe and well, and raring to go for Ballina. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Hockey in Thailand is now non-existent as it is wet season here. My team Bangkok Inter played in a six-a-side tournament in Hua Hin, a resort town on the east side of Bangkok on the ocean. A beautiful location, magnificent grass fields and well organized. We also attended a 4-team tournament in Laos on 12/13 August and retained our Champions trophy. We are also playing in a 6-a-side tournament in Bali on the 22/23 September but regrettably I will be in Ballina for the nationals, so I will miss out, sounds like fun, the nomination fee includes a non-stop buffet of food and beer all weekend, so I guess a few hangovers will prevail.

Our club still trains every Sunday afternoon from 4-6pm before retiring to a nearby pub for our mandatory warm down. A very enjoyable outing.

So Ballina here we come, I am coaching ACT 65's this year, and first up WA, then WAC, so guys if you get lost, get there after the first 2 games. Pesty, look forward to seeing you in the coaches box, and WAC boys look forward to our encounter, should be fun.

All the best, see you all in Ballina.

Cheers, Woody

Thanks Woody - see you over there. Ed.

It's Never Too Late: 'A' Division umpiring coordinator Greg Street has suggested that we could seek to improve our whistling skills by running one or more education sessions, followed by the formal practical test for accreditation. I think this is an excellent idea, and Greg and I will follow it up after he has a holiday and many of us have the Interstate Championships. MM's limerick writer has prepared some advice for any want-to-be umpires:

You don't know about giving flicks?

And quail at a clashing of sticks

Then go to the source

Do come on the course

An old dog can still learn new tricks.

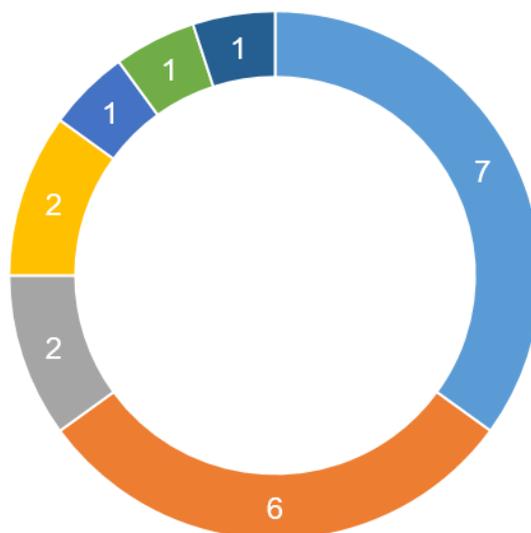
Modified 'A' Division Fixtures: As the WA O/75s are to play in the Turf one games until the Ballina tournament Roger Partington has updated the fixtures. Peter Fogels has done the online ones. Our thanks to both of you - and I've included the updated fixtures here too.

	1:00	1:30	2:00	2:30	3:00	3:30
29/08	Red v 75s	Blue v Red	White v 75s	Blue v 75s	Red v White	White v Blue
05/09	75s v White	75s v Red	Blue v White	White v Red	Blue v 75s	Blue v Red
12/09	Blue v 75s	Blue v Red	White v 75s	Red v 75s	Blue v White	White v Red
19/09	Red v 75s	Blue v Red	White v 75s	Blue v 75s	Red v White	Blue v White

Punology Two: Graeme Sansom phoned a regular business contact to invite him to lunch. His friend said "I've just brought my youngest boy into the firm, can he come too?" "No problem" said Graeme, "The more, the merrier." So seated at the table were the father, the son and the goalie host.

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: August's question was: Australia's goal scorers at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics were: 1 - Robin Hodder, Des Piper, Don Smart. 2 - Ray Evans, Pat Nilan. 6 - ?? and 7 - ??. Please provide the missing names. The only person who attempted an answer was the editor (as John S sent that in at a later date), and who actually was right. Here is the solution:

Australian Goal Scorers @ Tokyo Olympics 1964



■ Don McWatters ■ Eric Pearce ■ Ray Evans ■ Pat Nilan
 ■ Des Piper ■ Don Smart ■ Robin Hodder

September's question is: When did the Kookaburras first win a gold medal at the Champion's Trophy tournament. a) 1980 at Karachi. b) 1981 at Karachi. c) 1982 at Amstelveen. D) 1983 at Karachi.
Answer next issue.

Well Done: 'A' division umpires for August: Ham D'Souza, Peter Evans, Terry Gaston, Colin Gee, Mal Jackaman, Roger Jewell, Neil Mannolini, Bob Robinson, Neil Scaddan, Greg Street, Ken Watt, Ken Walter and Ivan Wilson - thank you all. The 'B' and 'C' Division umpires will have to remain unsung heroes. Perry Lakes umpires in the notebook are: Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Neil Scaddan, Greg Street, and Ken Watt - thanks gentlemen. The PHS food has all been prepared by Jason this month - it would have been terrible weather for a sausage sizzle in any case. And thank you and well done to all the Perry Lakes Saturday rostered caterers.

Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players: It has been mentioned once or twice before in these pages that it is always pleasing when former or injured players join us for the social side of WHM. PHS has seen not only regulars George Winning and Jeff Godfrey, but also had a very rare visit from both Peter Hammond and Dudley Younger. In addition Brian Soares and Ken Walter dropped in while Neil Scaddan has been a regular umpire during his convalescence. At Perry Lakes our visitors have included Paul Robinson, Neil Scaddan (umpiring again), and John Halley made it on the 11th too. And Brian Soares has been a regular visitor during his recovery from heart surgery, and appears to have taken note of our story last issue about the cardiac benefits of wine.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "The reason grandparents and grandchildren get along so well is that they have a common enemy." *Sam Levenson (1911 - 1980). American humorist, writer, teacher, television host and journalist. And yes, he did have a couple of children.*

Barcelona Tournament Diary: There is a shortage of regulars in this issue, as Gordon Jeffery appears to have taken off for Northern NSW by road before filing his August report. Also, Peter Hammond is in Perth instead of Bali and has not filed a report too, perhaps being too busy enjoying our Perth weather. At least it would be different to the tropics. So I've included a few more snippets.

Post-Hockey Warm-Down

Photo Fin Everding



Lost Again? My team found that this was a great way to recover from another loss. Not only did the available facilities include beach umbrellas and loungers, but vendors with icy cold beverages went up and down the beach. At least while we were there no squads of would-be rescuers appeared to save the beached whales. The picture offers such a contrast to our current Perth conditions.

Souvenirs: Everybody no doubt brought back something different from the tournament and the post match holidays. John O'Donohue got as far as Morocco and returned with a carpet. I returned from Budapest with a lasting memory - two viruses which are still with me.

Australian O/80s: I had a most interesting chat at our Alliance dinner with Jorgos Dramitinos, a past President of Alliance (who was suffering from a severe toothache). We agreed that there was a good chance that our combined Masters tournament would be used in future to extract money for FIH. We also discussed the future of hockey for senior citizens, and decided that encouragement needed to be given to keep players in the sport for as long as possible. The Wellingborough (UK) seven-a-side tournament in 2018 included one of (or the first one ever) the first events for O/80s and Jorgos threw down the challenge to eligible Australian players of forming a side to play there in 2019. Dates are from 12th to 14th April, so it would be best to combine the trip with a holiday. I am not going to volunteer my services as tour organiser, as I am still (a little) too young.

Future Tournaments: It is my personal belief that priorities are going to change, and that playing to win will become the only goal, and just taking part will cease to be. I would very much like to be proved wrong on this point.

Southern Cross O/75s - TT Gold Medallists

Photo John Mercer



Winners Are Grinners: As promised last issue here are the winners of the Tournament Trophy O/75s gold medal. I was not able to secure a podium photograph as the line of sight from the bronze medal position was not suitable. As can be seen, there are plenty of WHM players here. Congratulations to you all - especially on your wins over England and the Netherlands national teams.

2020 Tournament: I have been having a look at the possible venues. Tokyo appears to have only two turfs, while Eindhoven has four water turfs, one “semi water” surface and three sand-filled - eight in all. The logistics of a combined 200+ team tournament would be fascinating - especially the catering. Presumably the decision will be one of the first ones made by our new combined World Masters Hockey organisation. I am sure that Japan will have other auxiliary venues given that they are usually such good organisers and, as usual, will endeavour to keep readers in touch.

What's In A Name? If not a name, then what's in an acronym? It is hoped that the use of our WHM initials by the new organisation which will be running our World Masters Hockey (WMH) as from the 1st January 2019 will not lead to confusion. After all, we had it first.

How Many Going To Ballina? As long time readers will know, “Masters Matters” usually includes a count of how many WHM players are playing in the Interstate Tournament. Unfortunately this year, due to the loss of Dean Lomax to the Australian Masters web-master position WA Country has not been able to post team lists on their web-site. The State team representatives appeared here very soon after the teams had been selected. So we will have to alter the timing, and the MM reporter will need to bring back the tournament program and extrapolate from there. This will also make it a lot easier to locate WHM people playing for other states.

Team Numbers For Northern NSW: It appears that O/75s are much more susceptible to injury than the younger brigade. Initially it seemed that it would be a breeze to send both a State and a Country team, but since then almost all developments have been negative. In a nutshell:

Our more senior players had dreams
 This year we would enter two teams (*State and Country*)
 But now red alert
 They're all getting hurt
 Disrupting our West Aussie schemes.

Team Numbers For Northern NSW: Here is a breakdown of nominations by age group and state.

	Barbarian	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	WAC	Total
35s	1	1	1		1	1		1			6
40/1		1	1		1	1		1	1		6
40/2			2		2						4
45/1			1		1		1	1	1	1	6
45/2			1		1	1		1			4
50/1		1	1		1	1	0.5	1	1	0.5	7
50/2			1		2			1			4
55/1			1		1			1	1	1	5
55/2		1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1		9
60/1		1	1		1			1	1	1	6
60/2			1		2			1			4
65s		1	1		1	1		1	1	1	7
70s		1	1		1	1		1	1	1	7
75s			1		1			1	1	1	5
Total	1	7	16	1	17	7	2.5	13	9	6.5	80

Changes From The Table: I understand from the fixtures that in the O/55s both WA and NSW have had a team moved from Division 2 to be a second team in Division 1. This does not seem to me to be either an equitable or necessary arrangement. I also consider that the high cost of air fares in the school holidays is functioning as a deterrent to WA players. It will be most interesting to see how the numbers go in 2019 when the eastern states come over here. Maybe that could be a good time to seek support for moving the tournament (or part thereof) away from that time of the year. Though it seems that there never will be a good time to do anything like that, as for some reason there is firm and implacable opposition to the idea. One of these days I might hear some reasons for it.

Welcome Back: It was great to see Dudley Younger at PHS after hockey on Wednesday 29th. It's been quite a while, due to family reasons of one kind or another. Do make it back again soon. The same goes for Peter Hammond, who was there (all the way from Bali) on the 22nd.

Masters Matters Publishing Schedule: This September "Masters Matters" will be the last before the Ballina / Lismore tournament. I'm coming straight back (this time) and if I can avoid getting another virus during the return journey (first time for everything) will start straight away on preparation of the next MM. Contributors (if any are left) please take note.

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:
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