



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 2

February 2019

Regular Features:

Dates For The Diary: This Page.
 Letters to the Editor: Page 3.
 Department of Corrections: Page 4.
 Department of Health: Page 4.
 'A' division blog: Pages 5 and 7.
 From The Saturday O/65s: Page 6.
 Test Your Hockey Knowledge: Page 7.
 The Balinese Bulletin: Page 8.
 'B' Division Report: Page 9.

Irregular Features:

WHM appointments: This Page.
 Changes to parking at Curtin: This Page.
 World Cups 2020: Page 3.
 Fees for 2019 due: Pages 4 and 11.
 Divisional Coordinators: Page 9.
 Constitutional Change: Pages 10/11.
 Thailand Tales: Page 11.
 Masters Skill Clinic: Page 11.
 Stop Press/WHM Board Meeting: Page 12.

Dates For The Diary:

2019: April 17th and 24th: 'A' and 'B' Division at Perry Lakes; 'C' Division at Hale.
 April 30th / May 4th. Trans Tasman matches - Gold Coast. Australian O/35s to O/65s.
 May/June: Canadian tour for Australian O/75s.
 June 19th / 29th: European Championships. Brasschaat Belgium. } Southern Cross.
 September 27th / October 12th. Interstate Masters Championships - Bunbury / Busselton WA.
2020: World Cup (s) - To be determined. } Australia and Southern Cross

WHM New Appointments: Congratulations to Neil Patterson, who is in the process of taking on the role of WHM Secretary. Neil not only has extensive national and international working experience, but also has extensive hockey administration experience as Club President in the ACT. Bob Bowyer will function as Assistant Secretary until the transition is complete. And congratulations to Keith Platel, who has accepted the position of Financial Administrator. The job description for this role is:
 # To ensure all accounting practices undertaken by WHM abide by the Constitution.
 # To establish and implement appropriate financial systems to ensure all payments and deposits are properly recorded and appropriate reports are available.
 # To act as administrator to all WHM bank accounts.
 And Peter Jones is now Social Coordinator. Congratulations Peter and best wishes from MM to all.

Changes to Parking at Curtin: After the Orthopaedic Challenge match on 19th December I heard that some of us had received parking fines. This was despite the University seeming to be shut down. So I have now checked online, and found the following:

+ "Free parking during end of year shutdown. Parking on campus will be free during the Curtin end of year shut down period from 21st December 2018 to 6th January 2019. *This seems to cover 19/12.*
 + Parking fees will increase by 1.5% from February 4th. The new rates are:
 Green Zone: Hourly rate 0.76c. Daily cap \$4.06.
 Yellow Zone: Hourly rate \$1.52. Daily cap \$6.10.
 Blue Zone: Hourly rate \$3.45.
 + Cashless Parking Office. The Parking Office located in Building 115, will no longer be accepting cash payments as from 7th January 2019. EFTPOS facilities will still be available for on-site payments."

Player Insurance: I trust that everybody has by now read and acted on Neil Patterson's email. If you did not receive it, we need to make sure that everybody who only plays hockey with WHM (on either Wednesday or Saturday) is covered. If you are in this category, and have not yet notified Neil then please do so immediately on patterson991@bigpond.com.

They Said It: A fellow early morning beach goer, who is in his sixties (just a young bloke), has told me that the phrase "Are we there yet?" is no longer reserved for children on car trips. It is now also used when senior citizens attempt to see the New Year in, and discover that they will need to retire as soon as the clock strikes midnight. Personally, I haven't seen one in since 2000.

World Cup(s) 2020: I have not included any comment on the possible venues for some time, but it has been quite a while since the WGMA announced that the venue for their age groups would be Tokyo using the Olympic turfs after the Games, which run from 24th July to 9th August 2020. The only information about the timing is that it now may be late September. This will make life very interesting for the organising committee of our Australian Masters interstate tournament in 2020, as it would now seem to be impossible to stage our event in its normal time frame of September / October - at least for the age groups going to Tokyo, which are O/60, O/65, O/70 and O/75.

So what are the alternatives available? Those I can think up are:

* Persuade the Tokyo organisers to hold their tournament later on in October and continue to hold ours as a combined event at the usual time during school holidays. This one can be ruled out almost immediately, due to the very tight timetable.

* Move our entire tournament to a different time of the year. This would have to be scheduled to enable selection of national teams for the various World Cups. Unless the sides are chosen well in advance at the 2019 tournament in WA's South/West.

* Split our tournament, and hold the O/60s to O/75s as a separate event at a different time of the year. Again the schedule would have to provide for selection of national teams. *This is precisely the suggestion we put forward in 2017, which was resoundingly rejected (I think). Despite having spent time on a written submission, I never received a formal reply.*

At the time of writing this the IMHA has not yet announced the venue of the 2020 World Cup for the younger age groups. Possibly this will be done when the new World Masters Hockey (WMH) is formally in place, but given the size of the last one at Terrassa (127 teams) some degree of separation may be necessary. The date and venue(s) for this one (O/35s to O/55s inclusive) will also have an impact on the scheduling of our Australian event(s) in 2020.

Readers who are interested in following developments in this area should check the website for WGMA and IMHA. Here are the links and I will again include the latest news in the next MM.

WGMA: <https://wgmahockey.org/>

IMHA: <http://internationalmastershockey.org/home/>

World Cups: MM's limericist decided that he wanted to comment on the above piece.

We think our next Cup's in Japan
Or maybe it's now Kazakhstan
But trust that at least
Our movable feast
Will not be grog-free in Oman.

More Information: I also recommend clicking on the "Developments" button in the IMHA website from the link above. The two papers "IMHA Future Issues" and "WGMA The Way Ahead" are both well worth a read, as is the news on the main page about 'Spirit of Masters' tournaments which seem to be an equivalent of what we older players know as 'Tournament Trophy.'

Letters To The Editor: January's MM generated very little reaction. I heard from Jim Wright, Andrew Spittle (unsubscribing), David Elliott (email address) and John Milner. Thank you.

What's In A Name: Division: One of parts into which thing is divided (Pocket Oxford Dictionary).

Grade: Degree in rank, merit, proficiency, etc.

This is why we should use 'A' 'B' and 'C' Divisions, not Grades. We are unofficially divided on age.

Quotable Quote One: "Technology is dominated by two types of people, those who understand what they do not manage, and those who manage what they do not understand." *From the book 'Putt's Law and the Successful Technocrat', published under the synonym Archibald Putt in 2006. At the time I went to work for IBM in 1969 (in the punch card era) this was very, very true.*

Department of Health: Steve Powles went through the installation of a pacemaker on January 10th. He said that he hopes to be playing again in mid February and is keen to join the heart patients team that Brian Soares is working on. Eric Alcock has undergone several medical misadventures in recent years and now has a hip replacement scheduled for early March. Neil Miller is believed to have suffered a muscle injury during his first run in 'A' Division - possibly a hamstring. Other similar injuries occurred to both Peter Wallis (not the bad one, we hope) and Ash Foster. Ken Watt is still working on a return from his angle grinder inflicted injury, while Mal Horrigan has also had a mishap with the same implement though he managed a return to hockey on the 30th. And regular umpire John Lindsay is to consult an orthopaedic specialist this month regarding a torn meniscus. I hope everybody else made it through the festive season in good shape (I cannot remember what that's like) and are set to make this one of our better WHM years. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to all those of you who are ailing. For those of us suffering from old age all we can do is grin and bear it.

Fees for 2019 PHS Season: The last ten days of January saw a steady influx of fees to the Wednesday bank account. It's high time to get them in now before Treasurer Steve has to issue reminders. The details of the amounts due and how to pay them were in the January and December newsletters.

New Rules in 2019: We remind all WHM players that there have been rule changes, which were covered in detail in the January issue. The current rules (and the previous ones) can be accessed via this link: <https://www.fih.ch/inside-fih/our-official-documents/rules-of-hockey/>.

This will allow you to download the 2019 rules, either to your iPhone from the App store or to your Android phone from Google Play. Or a PDF version is available.

New Players in 'A' Division: A warm welcome to all those who have recently joined our ranks. From 'B' Division came Gordon Jeffery, Steve McEntee, Neil Miller, Colin Murray-Smith and Peter Wallis. And Rod Spencer from Saturdays at Perry Lakes has decided that he needs two runs per week. We also now have another commuter from the South/West in Peter Eastlake, who decided to stay with WHM after the interstate championships last year. Ian Purdie has recently re-joined after a lengthy stint as MM's French correspondent; and I have resisted the temptation to include him in another paragraph under the heading "Old Players in 'A' Division." Hopefully this gives a significant boost to the quality of our hockey, as well as our numbers. So MM's limericist got busy - twice.

Our Wednesdays will seek a new groove

After a bulk player move

But will it be good?

We hope that it should

The hockey does need to improve.

Trust there will be no commotion

After a player promotion

But if you should yearn

To make a return

Seek out a working youth potion.

Playing hockey at our age is a working youth potion IMHO.

Department of Corrections: Last issue I suggested 'A' Division should make a NY resolution to give up being grumpy old men. It's tough giving up being old, or being a man, but no grumpiness please. I am aware that I've been rather conspicuously grumpy myself, and can only request fellow players to do what I write, not imitate what I say. Painful heel cracks are not helpful for grumpiness avoidance.

Punology One: An after dinner speaker wanted to let his audience know that he was almost finished: "As Lady Godiva said approaching the end of her ride - I am drawing near to my close."

'A' Division Blog: As from January 23rd we have a new theme song - "Getting to Know You."

January 9th: Thank you to our goalkeeping coordinators, who had managed to send no less than three keepers to Turf One to make up for the absence of all our 2018 regulars. Welcome to Len Collier, Ian Spencer (for the second time) and Phil Wilson. Unfortunately for forwards they proved to be difficult (but not impossible) to pass. Blue were the only team to have their full complement, but we managed to play the fixtures with fill-ins. Perhaps the numbers were a hindrance to the Blues, as they failed to score, despite having numerous corners and a lot of the play. Red were dangerous from set plays, with Rob Andrew converting a penalty stroke and laying off a corner to Bob Bowyer for another score. Their one field goal required several attempts before Ron Venables succeeded. Gold's 3 were a good rebound to Peter Wallis, a scramble following a prolonged melee (attributed to Phil Metcalf as having got the last attacking touch) and a fine strike from Rod Spencer. White's goal scorers were: Peters Blockley and Wallis (good corner conversion), Greg Street (corner variation) and Scott Blackwell, who was overlapping the forwards from centre half. Comebacks were made by Peter Dennis and Neil Scaddan, though at times it seemed that we all had not played for some time (true). The umpiring duties were well spread (well done George B), which hopefully did not cause too much whistling fatigue. Player numbers were Blue (11), Gold (7 plus Rod Spencer), Red (8) and White (9). Of the 10 goals scored three were from corners and one from a penalty stroke.

January 16th: We continue to struggle for numbers. Only Blue had enough and some of us played more than the 4 games specified by our guidelines (possibly 6 for Peter Dennis and Peter Eastlake). So our hockey degenerated as we tired. The Gold defence had a very bad day, conceding eight goals, while Blue failed to record a win despite scoring four (and conceding five). Red and White both won once and drew twice. It was suggested that the day's results depended on the quality of the fill-ins - a comment with which I agree. This was exemplified by a forward line which included speedsters Ron Venables, Peter Dennis and Scott Blackwell, allied with the run-all day stamina of Neil Patterson. Some very good goals were scored though lack of space prevents me from expanding further. Peter Dennis and Peter Eastlake each scored three times, for a variety of sides. Doubles went to John Jeffreys, and Ken Walter, whose second was a centimetre perfect finish after an excellent cross from Ash Foster. Singles went to Peter Wallis, Phil Metcalf, Neil Patterson, Scott Blackwell and Roy Grant. Goalkeepers Ian, Len and Tony had a torrid time, as despite the large number of goals scored many more were either saved or missed. Goal of the day was not awarded due to the very large number of contenders. Player numbers are becoming difficult to count as shirts are interchanged: Red (7), Blue (11), Gold (8), and White (8). Goals 17.

January 23rd: The announcement that several players from 'B' Division were to join our ranks must have prompted the strong turn-out. All sides except White had two spare players, and after Blue were kind enough to transfer Jim Malcolm for the day, White and Blue had one spare each. That only lasted until the departure of Peter Wallis and Ash Foster, due to hamstringing strains. Gold now have a star studded side with the addition of Steve McEntee (2 goals), Dave Evans, Gordon Jeffrey and Rod Spencer. And Ken Walter picked up a hat trick. They only put it together properly with a 3-1 win against White (the day's easy-beats), conceding a draw to the other sides. Blue had some very good outcomes as a result of fine rebounding from close range, with usual suspect John Ree collecting a couple. Regular scorers Peter Dennis and Peter Eastlake added the other two. Red had a win, a loss and a draw, going down 2-0 to Blue despite having much of the play. Roy Grant was the only White player to score, but this came while 3-0 down to Gold. Goalkeepers John, Tony and Ian saved many of the shots, with John making some outstanding blocks in the first match of the day. The addition of the new players lifted the standard of the hockey, particularly the passing. This was not only because they could pass properly, but they also made themselves available when other players had the ball. Welcome again to all the new players. Numbers were Blue (12), Gold (12), White (10) and Blue (12). White will hope to regain some of their absent star players (e.g. Scott Blackwell, Len Blyth, Ham D'Souza, captain Dave Horsley) as well as long term absentees Ken Beer and Paul Robinson so that they might be more competitive. Despite the sharp shooters only 12 goals were scored. /7

From The Saturday O/65s: The competition continues to provide good hockey and good socialising. # The Committee have been saying for some time that this competition really needs to have a name other than Saturday O/65s. We've not done all that well ourselves at suggestions; the list includes: Perry Lakes Veterans, West of 70, West of 70 Hockey Masters, Weekend Warriors, Weekend Whacky Warriors, WOE (Wealth of Experience) Hockey Club, Perry Lakes Pensioners, Reabold Renegades, WHM Satcomp and Y's Old Men. So I am asking our MM readers for suggestions. Anyone who manages to come up with a name which is adopted by the Saturday Committee will receive a red or white cleanskin from the MM editor.

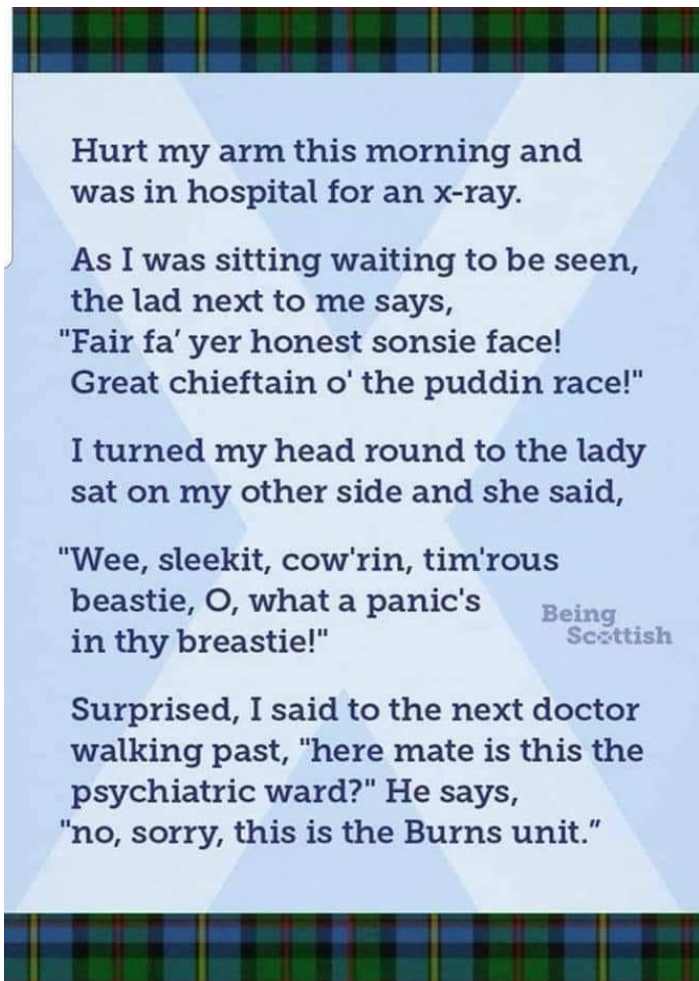
Readers of "The West Australian" may have noticed a story in the business section on 7th January about the development of a new range of boab-based products in the Kimberleys. These include beer and ginger beer, which will be brewed in Fremantle starting in March. Is there a chance that they might appear in our Eskies before the start of the winter season?

Ken Walter has a fair amount of hockey playing experience, but I had not realised that he is also experienced and knowledgeable as an umpire. Umpiring coordinator George Bradbury (who is taking the job seriously) arranged for a pre-match address from Ken on the topic before play on the 19th. Our thanks to both of you for a most interesting, enlightening and brief session.

Our bar problems on the 5th were alleviated the next week when a player confessed he had not paid for his last round of three beers and gave us the money plus an extra dollar (\$10). Then a few anonymous donors appeared to have slipped a little extra into the till and all the shortfalls were recouped. The next three weeks we were \$2 in front on each day. Thanks to you all.

For the future I think it might be better if anybody who needs to pay with a \$50 note gets either Howie or me to witness the transaction. We can then make sure that the note goes to a safe place.

Another Foreign Language Pun:



Thanks to Bill Campbell, here is a bonus pun. For any of you totally unaware of things Scottish January 25th is a day for a few wee drams and the recitation of poetry - it's Burns Night.

This newsletter goes to Scotland, and I hope that I'll still be allowed to enter the country in a couple of months.

'A' Division Blog (continued):

January 30th: All teams have bad days, and today it was Gold. The loss of Rod Spencer and Ken Walter from the previous week's team, together with the continuing absence of Phil Metcalf took a lot of punch out of their forward line, and their failure to score led to three losses. Red did not fare much better, with their only goal for the day (a corner variation to Ron Venables) enough to secure a win over Gold. Blue's passing game is getting back to where it was last year; exemplified by two goals to Peter Dennis from corner variations (take a bow, Jim Banks) against Gold. They ended the day undefeated, with a 2-0 win over Red and a 1-1 draw with White. Other Blue goals came from Jim Banks (PS), John Ree (from his usual range) and Neil Patterson (a fine strike from the left). White's final results were achieved by some stalwart defence in which the goalpost was prominent several times. Some good strikes at the other end (Julian Gardner, and Ham D'Souza from a corner) together with a George Bradbury penalty stroke secured their two wins. Comebacks were made by Red team members Mal Horrigan and Les Waldon (both will benefit from the run) and Julian Gardner was up from Esperance for the first time in a while (playing for White). But Ian Purdie resurrected his hockey career after an interval of approximately five years during which time he has been our regular French correspondent. The only comparable return to hockey I am aware of was George Winning, who a few years ago made the greatest comeback since Lazarus. Welcome back Ian. There were a number of contenders for goal of the day, which the judging panel awarded to Julian Gardner. It was great not having to fill in for other sides on a summer day, with our approximate player numbers being: Gold (11), White (11), Red (10) and Blue (11). Goalkeepers Barry, Ian and John generally played pretty well and kept the tally for the day down to only 10 goals.

'A' Division Comment: For some months now it has been necessary for many of us to fill in when other teams are short. This meant a minimum of 100 minutes of hockey, and I believe has been a major contributing factor to our high injury toll. Now that we are getting full teams again it is up to us all to keep things going, and make sure we play our best hockey in the right spirit.

Shakespeare Said It: "Yet hath my night of life some memory, my wasting lamps some fading glimmer left, my dull deaf ears a little use to hear." The Comedy of Errors Act V Scene I. *'A' Division players may have trouble remembering the rules, but thanks to cataract operations and hearing aids we can continue to enjoy ourselves. Even if that means being grumpy old men occasionally.*

"These old fellows have their ingratitude in them hereditary. ...'tis lack of kindly warmth, they are not kind." Timon of Athens Act II Scene II. *'A' Division umpire - any match, any week.*

"I am not so well as I should be, but I'll ne'er out." Antony and Cleopatra Act II Scene VII. *At times I think it would be interesting to tally up all the ailments we make light of to play.*

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders: January's question was:

Three debutants have been named for the Hockeyroos team for the Champions Trophy held in China recently. They are: Rebecca Greiner (Qld), Greta Hayes (NSW) and WA's Penny Squibb. One of them will be identified as HA player number:

- a. 300 b. 400 c. 500 or d. 600

Nobody attempted an answer, which was that player # 500 is now Rebecca Greiner.

February's question is: The 2018 HockeyRoos have just competed in the last Champions Trophy. This was held in November in Beijing, and they lost 5-1 to The Netherlands in the final. True or False: They won their first Champions Trophy in Berlin in 1991.

Answer next issue.

Grumpy Old Men 1: Some of you may have noticed that quotations appear often in these pages. While I am editor they will continue to do so, even though there is some historical opposition to the practice. "Quotation, n: The act of repeating erroneously the words of another." *Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914). From "The Devil's Dictionary."*

Balinese Bulletin No 39:

Peter has been in continuing pain, and obtained a specialist's appointment. What happened?

"Now to what we now know up here after seeing Dr Gusti Lanang last night. We presented ourselves to the Bali Med Hospital where he conducts visitations on Tuesday evenings ... made our way to the 2nd floor and found ourselves immediately in the company of half the population of Bali. We very soon realized this was the "holding cell" for patients waiting to see not only our man but an unknown number of other specialists. Sat there patiently for over 1.5 hours, which has something to do with living here as long as we have.

Dr Gusti was a lovely man and exuded confidence which certainly made us feel much more comfortable. He took a look at the x-rays and report, and explained the significance of the fracture. Obviously he said that an operation was the ideal course of action but then went on to say, given the length of time since the fall (33 days), the healing process has more than likely begun and that to heal to the point where I can move around more freely could take 6-12 weeks. I said that almost 5 weeks have already passed and that time is something I have available. So here we are in the hands of the Bali Gods and will wait out the time. He did say that when healed I would probably lose 3-5 cms on my left leg & find myself with a limp ... but hey, I will probably just walk around like almost everybody else down there on a Wednesday afternoon.

As I type this I am looking out over my computer at our very lush, green tropical garden and thinking if this is where they were going to send me for Rehab then this is where I want to stay funny that. I want to add that we spent the time last night in the care of our Bali Daughter & friendly & caring driver. Couldn't be in better hands. My lovely wife, Erin, certainly didn't "sign on" for any of this and has been beyond wonderful.

So folks, here we are now with something definite on the table in terms of a plan. I will keep you informed as we go forward.

Love from us up 'ere."

Peter Hammond. *Thanks Peter. Please continue to keep us in touch and you have our best wishes for as speedy and complete a recovery as is possible under the circumstances.*

Well Dones: In January 'A' division umpires included: Bob Bowyer, George Bradbury, Peter Evans, Col Gee, Ian Hill, Mal Horrigan, Mal Jackaman, Gordon Jeffery, John Jeffreys, Steve McEntee, John Mercer, Peter Murray, Barry Rutter, Neil Scaddan, Greg Street, Ken Walter, Ken Watt and Ivan Wilson. As can be seen George is spreading the net very wide. The 'B' and 'C' umpires are in the main unknown - but obviously include Vern Gooch. Perry Lakes umpires were: George Bradbury, Peter Brien, Ian Hill, Bruce Mercer, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Greg Street, Les Waldon, Len Walker, Ken Walter, Ken Watt and Ivan Wilson. A big thank you to all our whistle blowers. As best I could determine the sausage cooks on the 30th were Damian Cooper and Graham Harper from 'B' Division - thank you. Our Perry Lakes catering continues to be of a high standard - well done to Jim Wright and all the volunteers who turned on the nibbles following our games.

Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players: MM has just changed notebooks and the new one is still being run in. It only recorded George Winning at PHS for the whole month, so I'm sorry if I missed you. Perry Lakes fared better, with the notebook picking up Eric Alcock, Terry Armitage, George Bradbury, Bruce Mercer, John Mercer, Paul Robinson, Neil Scaddan, Peter Stevens, Brian Thomas, Les Waldon, Len Walker and Ken Watt. Good to see you all under the trees and in the bar at Perry Lakes - and we could use a few more in the bar at PHS.

Quotable Quote Two: "A child of five would understand this. Send someone to fetch a child of five." *Groucho Marx (1890 - 1977) He actually managed to say this before the computer age, and how right he was. Unfortunately for me, Google search, which I consult for all my unsolvable problems, is no longer five years old and now assumes that I know much more than I do. But any child of five would also know a lot more than I do.*

'B' Division January 2019: *The promotion of Gordon Jeffery meant that "Masters Matters" has been without a 'reporter from either 'B' or 'C' Divisions. But with a little persuasion from Simon we now have a new correspondent. The author suggested that his by-line could be 'from a casual observer' but as Neil Patterson has identified him we will keep everything plain and simple.*

The start of a new year and changes were brewing. The sleeping giants on the committee had awoken from their Christmas siesta and decided that the competition needed some adrenalin. Some said just a beer would do but it had been decided that reinvigoration was required so some players were pushed up the hill to 'A' Division. Note I didn't say over the hill but that's where we are all heading or starting from depending on your point of view! Some new positions were made with each of the 3 teams appointed a Captain who will then appoint a Vice Captain to assist. A Grade Coordinator has been appointed (congratulations to Gabes) and general all round organization has been streamlined with lines of communication now clearly defined. General comments from the playing group like "Why? Who cares and I thought I was Captain?" show that it has been a roaring success with appearance numbers up and the competition fierce.

An on field survey during lulls in play with several players showed general agreement with the committee's direction and directives. One current Australian player even suggested that he was now going to start training seriously. One wag commented that if he started now those that were still here might notice a difference around 2030! He didn't say what that difference might be.

So with these really positive signs 2019 looks like another bonanza year of fun, fitness, competition and fellowship, just like last year, only better!!

Many thanks to Dudley Evans, for this insight into the next group of senior WHM players. It's good to know that the 'A' Division of 2029 will sound very similar to that of today. Ed.

Divisional Coordinators: Thanks to Neil Patterson for the information about this role, which has now been provided with an explicit job description. This is:

- 1) To assist the team captains in keeping the teams balanced, in numbers and ability.
- 2) To meet and greet any new players and visitors and place them in a team for the day. To collect contact numbers from new players and give WHM banking details to visitors so that can deposit the visitor fee (currently \$20).
- 3) To assist team captains in deciding which players should be moved into other divisions if and when the Committee determines.

The new 'B' Division coordinator will be Adrian Gabriel, and Colin Howell and Tony Jones have jointly taken on the role in 'C' Division. The 'A' Division coordinator is yet to be appointed (05/02).

Punology Two: Thanks to John Sanders for this New Year one. You all know it's an "Old Lang Sign?"



Constitutional Amendment: A proposition to amend our brand new governing WHM constitution (proposed by Colin Gee, seconded by Neil Scaddan, with 17 supporting signatures) has been circulating among us. The amendment reads:

"I propose the following by-law:

That the Western Hockey Masters Wednesday Competition be constructed of three age groupings with teams made up in each age group as numbers of players allow.

Each age group shall be:

'A' Division will be all players aged over 70 years of age.

'B' Division will be all players aged over 60 years of age.

'C' Division will be all players aged over 50 years of age.

1: Provision will be made for players whose playing ability does not fit their age group and may be given exemption to play in a group suiting their playing ability.

2: This judgement is to be made by consultation of the captains of the division's individual teams.

Purpose of this by-law is to maintain the integrity of the Western Hockey masters competition, where our aim is to foster the longevity and continued participation of hockey players to each player's individual personal ability.

Explanation for this change:

Strict age guidelines are established by FIH and Hockey Australia for participation in age structured competitions and we must adhere to these same age guide lines.

Age groupings have become the basis of our structure.

Players must play in their age groups for the competition to flourish and remain competitive.

Without adhering to these guide lines and groupings individual age groups will get out of step with the whole competition.

Undue influence is being placed on our competition by individual players/captains with their own agenda.

Individual players want to control who and with whom they play, this cannot be allowed.

The Club is bigger than the individual members and needs to reflect the integrity of the management of our competition.

The club needs to be inclusive of all hockey players regardless of age or ability."

My considered response follows, and is written on the basic assumption that our objectives include an unwritten one that our hockey should be played at the best standard possible in all the competitions which we decide to organise.

+ Our current structure was specifically set up to allow for maximum flexibility, which is why the divisions are named 'A', 'B' and 'C' instead of O/70, O/60 and O/50. Enshrining the age groups in the constitution would remove this flexibility, and require a special general meeting to change anything.

+ Many of our current 'C' Division players are still there because they are still working, and are unable to arrive for a 1:00 pm start. If we adopted this proposal we will lose a lot of them.

+ A check of our goalkeepers in the current WHM data base reveals the following should change if this idea were adopted:

'A' Division: Of the six on the roster one should be playing O/60.

'B' Division: Of the four on the roster three should be playing O/70.

'C' Division: Of the three on the roster two should be playing O/60.

+ An analysis of the field players in the data base is even more interesting:

'A' Division: There are only four players who are under age. There are fifty four other players.

'B' Division: The roster includes thirty two players in the revised age range, and eleven who would have to move up to O/70s.

'C' Division: There are twenty four players in the specified O/50 age range, twenty eight who would need to move to O/60s and one who would have to move to O/70s.

/11

Constitutional Amendment (continued):

+ Therefore, were the new age rules to be strictly applied immediately, we would lose two of our O/50 teams. Both O60s and O/70s would expand dramatically and cause fixturing difficulties. I consider that this could leave us in some danger of losing players from all age ranges.

+ One final comment. I am not at all convinced that our current system is broken. Hence I cannot see that we have any need to fix it. As long as the divisional captains and coordinators continue to talk to one another on a regular basis any emerging problems should be able to be identified and addressed on an amicable and timely basis without having to make hard and fast constitutional rules.

Thailand Tales: Thanks to Graham Wood, who at the moment is our only healthy foreign reporter.

Hi from Thailand,

Hockey here in Bangkok has pumped up again with our season underway. There are 10 teams in our comp, Police, Air Force, some University teams, the Dutch (Thai Elephants), AC/DC, and our club Bangkok Inter have 2 teams this year. Our teams are made up of all nations 4 Aussies, 5 or 6 Poms, 3 Irish, 2 Belgians, 1 Portugese, 3 Americans, and a guy from Singapore, so a mixed bag.

We went to Bali in September and played the 6 a side tournament which we won, and participated in the King's Cup in December - 2nd. The festivities at both tournaments are fantastic & hangovers are expected. There is a prize for the best "social" team which we always seem to win.

The Dutch side have been strengthened by the inclusion of a French International (3 olympians) so they are a very strong side, but we drew with them coming back from 3 nil down. It's a tough comp this year, being 67 I am by far the oldest by some 15 years, so chasing after the 20 year old Thais is something I have learnt NOT to do.

I am going to Newcastle for the Alan Richardson Memorial Carnival in a couple of weeks and then will be in Perth for Wednesday Masters on Feb 27, so look forward to catching up with everyone. I will have samples of the Antwerp shirts for everyone to see.

All the best, see you all in a few weeks..

Cheers - Woody

Major Donor: Many thanks to new 'B' Division player Warren Jackson who has most generously put \$1,000 into our charity fund. In recent years we have been supporting junior hockey as well as all our regular recipients, such as the Salvation Army. Something to think about for the end of 2019.

Get Those Fees In: There was an earlier reminder on Page 4. A late check through the WHM data base indicates that there are still quite a lot of unfinancial players. MM's limericist thinks that ours are great value compared to club fees, considering what is included.

In spite of a strong credit squeeze

It's time for this year's playing fees

You need not dig deep

It's really quite cheap

For forty plus games, if you please.

Masters Skills Clinic: I have a flier for this event, which is to be an 8 week program in two streams as from 12th and 14th of February. The days of the week are either Tuesday or Thursday and the session times are 6:00 am to 7:00 am and 9:30 am to 10:30 am on both days and the venue is the Warwick Hockey Centre. The cost is \$175 for 8 x 1hr classes (1 session per week) or \$325 for 16 x 1hr classes (2 sessions per week). Those of you who believe that old dogs can still learn new tricks may:
1) Contact me at johnmercercer@iinet.net.au and I can forward you a PDF copy of the registration form.
2) Contact Trid Woodhouse on mobile number 0411 849 429.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "If knowledge can create problems, it is not through ignorance that we can solve them." *Isaac Asimov (1920 - 1992). Legendary US science fiction author.*

AUSTRALIAN ARMY MUSEUM OF WA *Presents*

SUNSET CONCERT SPECTACULAR

24 Feb 2019, Sunday, 5.30pm
Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle

Featuring

The Australian Army Band Perth

Royal Australian Navy Band WA

The massed Pipes and Drums from the:

- Australian Army Band Perth
- 51 ACU Swan Regiment Drums and Pipes
- Presbyterian Ladies' College Pipe Band

Tickets available through www.trybooking.com

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| Adults | \$30.00 |
| Family (2+2) | \$65.00 |
| Concession & Groups of 10+ | \$25.00 |
| Children under 18 | \$15.00 |

Booking fees apply:

- This price includes free museum visit prior to the concert
- Seating provided
- BYO alcohol and food
- Plastic drinking glasses ONLY
- Sausage sizzle, hamburgers, soft drinks, ice creams and coffee available for purchase

For further details, refer to our website www.armymuseumwa.com.au
Army Museum of Western Australia • Artillery Barracks, Burt Street, Fremantle WA 6160 • Contact: 9430 2535

Advertising: After a talk with Simon we have agreed that the above is suitable for inclusion. It is not a for-profit event, and the organisation's Treasurer (Peter Dennis) is one of our 'A' Division playing members. Also, an old mate of mine was a regular army man, who rose from Private to Major during his service and his last task before retirement was assisting with the setting up of this museum.

Situation Vacant: I seek help with the records for 'A' Division while I'm to be away during April. Is it possible for a volunteer to record the match results and goal scorers for the days from Wednesday 3rd April through to Wednesday 1st May inclusive.

Stop Press: The new WHM board has had its first meeting, and the story is posted on the WHMA website. Southern Cross have a link on the "News" page. Or use <https://wgmahockey.org/>. And there are some important developments for 'C' Division. Full story next issue.

Change of Details: Could all members of WHM, past and present, remember that in the event of any change to your email address you should notify Colin Gee. Colin is our data base administrator and his email address is gee.colin@gmail.com.

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:
John Mercer - 'A' Division White team. Email: johnmercer@inet.net.au.