



A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Blue

B Gold

B Red

B White

C Black

C Blue

C Gold

C Green

C Red

C White

O/65 Blue

O/65 Green

O/65 White

Masters Matters

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Hockey Australia Awards: Those of you who subscribe to HA's newsletter 'The Hook' will have seen these stories. For those of you who have not, awards have been made to several hockey people who have connections with Western Australia; some even have connections with WHM. The following links will take you to the details on the Hockey Australia website:

Brian Glencross: <https://www.hockey.org.au/news/life-member-Brian-Glencross-oam/>.

John Sanders: <https://www.hockey.org.au/news/award-of-merit-john-sanders/>.

A photograph of the presentation can be found on Page 4.

Don Prior: <https://www.hockey.org.au/news/news/life-member-donald-prior/>.

Wendy Pritchard: <https://www.hockey.org.au/news/award-of-merit-wendy-pritchard-nee-butcher/>.
Congratulations to all those honoured from us all at WHM.

Vale Richard Jewell: The sad news of his passing reached MM just after the previous issue closed. Many of us will have memories of encountering him during his illustrious career - my most recent being a Saturday when he called at Perry Lakes to collect a grandchild and was kind enough to umpire our first game of the day (thanks to Don Smart, if memory serves me). The Hockey Australia website includes a fine tribute, which can be reached via the link below:
<https://www.hockeyaustralia.com.au/news/vale-richard-jewell/>.

Dates For The Diary:

2020: November 7th/8th: Metro versus Country (O60s O65s O70s O75s). PHS 1/2. 11:30 to 14:00.

Please note that Perry Lakes Saturday play has been cancelled for the 7th.

November 11th: WHM Committee meeting - PHS.

December 16th: Hips versus Knees - PHS. Followed by WHM's Christmas Party.

December 19th: Christmas barbecue for Saturday hockey. Perry Lakes.

December 23rd and 30th: No play - PHS closed.

2021:

April 17th: Saturday hockey end of summer season WA Spit Roast dinner. Perry Lakes.

July 23rd to August 8th. Tokyo Olympics.

Masters World Cups:

Australia, Southern Cross and Alliance.

O/35 and O/40 Men and Women - Nottingham, England. August 13th to 22nd.

O/45, O/50 and O/55 Men; O/45, O/50, O/55, O/60, O/65 Women; Spirit of Masters - Cape Town SA.
 September 18th to 27th.

O/60, O/65, O/70 and O/75 Men; Spirit of Masters - Tokyo, Japan. November 7th to 17th.

Mega Interstate Tournament:

Women: Newcastle September 23rd to October 2nd.

Men: Newcastle September 24th to October 9th.

Quotable Quote 1: "I maintain there is much more wonder in science than in pseudoscience. And in addition, to whatever measure this term has any meaning, science has the additional virtue, and it is not an inconsiderable one, of being true" *Carl Sagan (1934 -1996). Even about Covid-19.*

Department of Health: The Knees seem to be expanding their numbers. Peter Wallis was scheduled for a knee replacement on October 27th and Ian Bromell was due for a half knee replacement on the 21st. Hope it went according to plan for you both, and that rehabilitation is not too arduous. Julian Gardner and Pam are now living in Mt Claremont while Julian continues with therapy. We hope to see him at Perry Lakes soon. Tom Long seems to have suffered a severe injury on 7th October, which needed 7 stitches in a hand. Thanks to Dan Hill for administering first aid and calling an ambulance. John Burt has made a good comeback and is still playing well. Greg Street broke a thumb and will be (has been) out of action for a lengthy recovery period. Keith Kessell's spinal operation is now due for November 7th. We hope all goes well for you Keith. Bob Bowyer's trials are ongoing, but the last I've heard is that there is now a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. Best wishes for a recovery in time for Christmas to all, including those not known to me.

Fixtures Secretary: The run of ill health experienced by Harvey Davies has caused him to give up the job while he concentrates on medical issues. Dan Hill is the new fixtures man and any queries should be addressed to him. He can be contacted on danhill@iinet.net.au.

Congratulations to Hockey WA: Well done to all those involved with the concept and execution of the North / South matches and the Ric Charlesworth series. It was also excellent to see hockey reappear in our daily newspaper's sporting pages.

WA Masters Hockey: Another great idea is the series of matches to be played on the weekend of 7th and 8th November at PHS. On both days a WA Metro side will take on a WA Country side in age groups O/60s, O/65s, O/70s and O/75s. Thank you to WA Masters Hockey Secretary (and WHM B Division captain) Peter (Arch) Andrews for the following fixtures:

Saturday 7th November	PHS 1	PHS 2
11:30 am	O/75s	O/70s
1:00 pm	O/60s	O/65s
Sunday 8th November		
11:30 am	O/65s	O/60s
1:00 pm	O/70s	O/75s

The playing times are 4 quarters of 17 minutes with no stoppage time except for injuries. The breaks are 2 minutes for the first and third quarters with 10 minutes at half time. The bar will be open both days and there is a sausage sizzle on the Saturday.

It seems certain that many of our WHM players will be in action. So even if you will not be on the turfs how about coming out and socialising with your Wednesday team mates?

No interstate tourney this year

So all we could do was stay here

But now we've a date

To play intrastate

It's City and Country I hear.

In late news the WA City teams have been announced. They can be found on Page 8.

Department of Corrections: All I've been able to find in the October edition is Neil Scaddan with a small 'n' instead of the capital 'N' it should have been. Sorry Neil.

Welcome New Players: Joining us this month are Bob Woodrow (Fremantle/Cockburn) in B Division; Mark Oosterling (Mods), Ken O'Driscoll (Curtin), Warren Noddings (Mods) who will all play in the C Division; and Paul Huisman (Saturday O/65s) who is helping out the A Division Red team for this year. Best wishes to you all for your time with Western Hockey Masters.

Letters To The Editor: The October issue almost sank without a trace. Thank you to Ross Lonnie, who was kind enough to include some complimentary words with a request for a reader's email address. Ross also said that he enjoys Peter Hammond's Balinese Bulletins.

Chris Morley's Suggestion - October MM: This proposed a new segment entitled "Did You Know" inviting readers to submit items of interesting hockey trivia. Chris went on to tell us about the four pairs of brothers who played for the Wolves O55/O60 team between 2005 and 2017. As can be seen from the Letters to the Editor, very few readers sent any feedback this month.

One of the functions of an editor (in this editor's opinion) is to make sure that the pages are full. Sometimes this can mean that a fill-in piece has to be written. I hope that with the examples set by Chris and me we have some readers who are prepared to submit pieces of trivia, such as this.

(In late news Ken Walter has sent in an excellent photograph from years gone by. See Page 12)

Any mention of hockey playing brothers always evokes my memories of the McKenna twins who played for Scarborough and may be remembered by some of our older readers. One of them took his hockey more seriously than his brother and actually was captain of our top team for a little while before starting to descend the grades. It was not very often that the two of them played in the same side, but on one occasion I captained a team in the lower grades which contained them both. After the game the umpires were asked for our best players and suggested, "the little bloke with the bald head; he was everywhere." The opposing captain said: "Did you notice that there were 2 of them?" *In later life both became Life Members of Scarborough Hockey Club, and also Scarborough Apex Club. I was fortunate to be the retiring Club President the night they departed from Apex (next AGM after turning 40) and the attendance from other clubs at the annual meeting and handover night was very high. Both McKennas would have thoroughly enjoyed our Masters hockey of today. Ed.*



Congratulations to you John. A most well-merited award for outstanding work on Australian hockey.

Grumpy Old Men One: "Laugh and the world laughs with you, snore and you sleep alone." *Anthony Burgess (1913 - 1994). English composer and novelist whose works include "A Clockwork Orange."*

'A' Division Blog: Our week at Hale on the 7th demonstrated once again that many of us are not all keen on playing away from PHS. The numbers were not great.

October 7th: Red were so depleted that they combined with Gold and we played six matches at Hale with three sides. Could I suggest that in this situation 100 minutes of hockey per player is a little too much of a good thing. Possibly a mix of 20 and 15 minute games as per Saturdays would be quite sufficient. The play was surprisingly good at times and included both constructive short passing and less mishits than our usual. Goalkeepers Barry, Graeme and Tony all played well and team hockey was generally needed to get past them. Goal of the day is shared between three good corner conversions from Steve McEntee, Greg Street and Ricky Watts. The results fluctuated as Red/Gold became used to new team-mates and players tired due to the workload:

R/G 0 White 2; Blue 1 White 3; Blue 1 R/G 2; White 0 R/G 3; Blue 1 White 1: Blue 1 R/G 0.

Scorers: **Blue:** Neil Miller (2), Neil Patterson, Ricky Watts. **Gold:** Phil Metcalf, Rod Spencer (2). **Red:** Bob Hotinski, Sukdev Pandher. **White:** Steve McEntee (2), John Mercer (2), Brian Soares, Greg Street. Team numbers, based on original sides: Blue (10), Gold (8) Red (5), White (12). 15 goals were scored.

October 14th: It was a fairly strange day of hockey as the scoreboard seldom reflected the run of play and it's been quite a while (if ever) that more goals in 'A' Division were scored from penalty corners than field play. Ron Venables (field goals) and Steve McEntee (corners) both were much more on target than most of us and Steve's two powerful hits earned him goal of the day. Red were able to recruit Paul Huisman from our Saturday comp for the day which resulted in higher player numbers than usual. Nev Brown played for Gold and Ken Watt for Red. The day's results were:

White 1 Blue 0; Gold 0 Red 1; Gold 0 Blue 0; Red 1 White 1; Gold 0 White 1; Red 1 Blue 1.

Scorers: **Blue:** Ricky Watts. **Red:** Col Murray-Smith, Ron Venables (2). **White:** Steve McEntee (2), Brian Soares. Player numbers: White (10), Blue (10), Gold (9), Red (9). Only 7 goals went in.

October 21st: A depleted Red side conceded 3 early goals before establishing any teamwork. Even then they had difficulty in scoring, despite competing well in midfield. Gold's attack menaced all day with their forward line passing working nicely (Ken Walter and Terry Gaston both prominent here). White welcomed back Len Blyth and Ham D'Souza who assisted them in holding Gold to a draw. Neil Miller led the scoring, picking up no less than 3 goals for Blue. But after a long consultation between the judges goal of the day went to Hector D'Rozario for a terrific deflection. The numbers meant that Blue transferred Nev Brown, Jim Malcolm and Ken Watt to Red for the day, while White had to run two spare players for the duration. The results were:

Red 1 Gold 3; White 2 Blue 1; White 1 Gold 1; Blue 2 Red 0; White 2 Red 0; Blue 1 Gold 3.

Scorers: **Blue:** Peter Eastlake, Neil Miller. **Gold:** Terry Gaston, Phil Metcalf, Rod Spencer (2), Angelo Strano, Ken Walter (2). **Red:** Sukdev Pandher. **White:** Hector D'Rozario, Ham D'Souza, John Mercer (2), Steve McEntee. Team numbers: Red (7), Gold (10), White (12), Blue (13). 17 goals were scored.

October 28th: The Red side was low on numbers again, and appears to be in need of a temporary transfer or two. They have managed to co-opt Paul Huisman from the Saturday competition who will add to their numbers until Christmas. Both Blue and White are consistently getting good numbers; and Jim Malcolm seems to be a semi-permanent fixture in a red shirt, while Robin Bailey also played for them. As the uniforms officer he has no trouble finding the right coloured shirt. They were still good enough to beat White, whose failure to combine caused them to have great difficulty in scoring. Blue did best on the day mainly due to their strong defence keeping a clean sheet with a couple of opportunistic goals by John Ree at the other end earning them two wins. After dominating Red in their first match Gold managed to snatch two draws from the jaws of victory, with their cause not helped by a muscle strain to Rod Spencer in their second game. The bad tackles which Steve McEntee highlighted a few weeks ago are still occurring. John Ree was well in front for goal of the day until in the very last match a bouncing ball was first timed into the net by Peter Blockley with a centimeter perfect one handed reverse stick shot. The results were:

Blue 1 White 0; Red 0 Gold 3; Red 1 White 0; Gold 0 Blue 0; Red 0 Blue 1; Gold 1 White 1.

Scorers: **Blue:** John Ree (2). **Gold:** Phil Metcalf (2), Angelo Strano, Ken Walter. **Red:** Ken Beer. **White:** Peter Blockley. Player numbers: Blue (12), White (13), Red (8), Gold (10). Only 8 goals were scored.

From Saturday Masters: October certainly was a very interesting month.

All Saturday playing, casual and social members are reminded that we will not be playing on the 7th November due to the number of our players who will be in action in the City versus Country matches at Perth Stadium. The normal summer season resumes on the 14th.

Congratulations to YM stalwart Di Crocker who has received the accolade of Hockey WA Volunteer of the Year. Di does a lot for us during our winter season and we are very grateful for her help.

I trust you all enjoyed the AGM and winter season windup dinner. Many thanks must go to Jim Wright for his customary great organisation. Our usual lass from WA Spit Roasts did a great job again and we are planning to have another function during next April to wind up the summer season. Many thanks also to all our volunteer members who not only came early to set the room up, but also stayed on afterwards to clean up. A special mention must go to Ivan Wilson and Scott Blackwell who seemed to be washing and drying wine glasses for a very long time. Thank also to members Howie Herbert and Ken Walter for donations of the red wines.

A few points from the AGM. The minutes will be circulated to all Saturday members.

For some time the Committee has been concerned about our lack of a liquor licence. Thanks to Les Waldon we have now explored several possible options, and it appears that the best solution is for us to become social members of YMCA. This may have a small financial effect, and will also necessitate some of our members gain a "Responsible Service of Alcohol" basic qualification (which is already held by Howie Herbert and Rob Ainsworth). We will keep you informed.

The Committee now has a new member in Scott Blackwell who has replaced George Bradbury as the Membership Director. Many thanks to George for his years of service - he will still be very much round the place as a player. Welcome, and all the best to Scott.

The Committee for the next 12 months will be:

Club Captain and Chairman: Les Waldon

Club Vice Captain and Social Director: Jim Wright

Club Secretary/Treasurer: John Mercer

Assistant Treasurer: Bob Bowyer

Membership Director: Scott Blackwell

Club Drinks Director: Howard Herbert

Assistant Drinks Manager: John Mercer

Responsibility for the defibrillator and first aid kit has been taken on by Les Waldon in the absence of a volunteer. This position should be held by a regular attendee - please contact Les if you are interested in taking it on. The duties are not onerous as the first aid kit and the defib are stored in a locked cupboard in the YM rooms. Just make sure they go out to the playing area and return them after play - and we all hope that neither will be needed at all. Ian Hill is the deputy first aid officer.

Western Hockey Masters President Simon Thomson was able to provide some clarification on the Hockey Australia levy and insurance charge. It appears to be certain that in time to come nobody will be able to play hockey unless they have paid their levy. Simon also queried why, when we are in the most vulnerable age group, we would not desire to be fully insured against all hockey eventualities.

The possibility of needing four teams is addressed by our limericist:

Our players are all really keen

To put on the blue, white and green

If numbers should rise

To reach some new highs

What colour fourth side might be seen?

And if you have not paid your fees yet, get onto it right now. BSB is 036-069, Account 548917. Full playing membership is \$100; casual players (and social members) pay \$50.

Punology 1: Did you hear about the small boy who had an irrational fear of Father Christmas. His mother took him to a child psychiatrist who said that he was Claustrophobic.

Balinese Bulletin No 56: From WHM's regular Indonesian correspondent.

Bali Lockdown ..9 + Months & Counting. Life up here at the moment, has to a degree, become keeping score of things. One I am 1 year & 10 months into some sort of rehabilitation since my fall on the 27th December 2018. I am feeling ok but still require some form of help getting around the house. Each day I am able to "walk" to some degree with the use of a walking stick, but that movement is very limited. Sitting, sleeping is fine & without any real inconvenience. Who knows, by the end of the year I may be "all better" & this problem will, in the words of Donald "Boofhead" Trump have miraculously gone away!!

And two Other than for the short visitation to the Immigration Office around a month ago we still remain housebound & have been so for almost 9 months. Don't worry though, we are in good shape generally & are being well looked after by a number of beautiful local Balinese families & individuals.

Meggs. Some people say that you do not adopt cats they adopt you! For quite a number of months now a small ginger cat has been surveying where we live & on many occasions would sneak in during the evening & would slink upstairs to spend the night. If Eddie sensed the cat in the garden he would bark & frighten it off. Well around 4 - 6 weeks back "Meggs" decided she would stand her ground allow Eddie to accept the inevitable. As much as we enjoy her company we are not thrilled with the playmates she often carries into our open living area so that we may see how clever she is. Such playmates include a small grass snake, a rat, a mouse, several small garden lizards & a number of geckos. I have to say we are getting to be pretty much over her unannounced guests.

Footy. Now that the 2020 Season has ended we will not have much to look forward to until it all begins again next year. I will have to admit this year's Footy has been a little underwhelming & I am hoping to see a much improved set of fixtures in 2021.

In Closing. With the U.S. Elections on November 3rd we have found ourselves caught up in the whole theatre mainly through viewing the CNN TV channel. I am now & have been, it seems forever, at a point where I am compelled to say "You F***** Idiot" every time I see Trump say ...anything!!! I can't think of anything else to add so I will just sign off & wish you all well. Please keep safe from the "BVT"!!

Peter Hammond

Thanks again Peter. I'm pleased to hear that DT evokes the same reaction in others as he does in me. At least it's easy to tell if he's lying - if you can hear him, he generally is. Ed.

Well Dones for October: Wednesday's 'A' Division umpires: Rob Ainsworth, Jim Balding, George Bradbury, Peter Eastlake, Peter Evans, Bob Hotinski, Ian Hill, Gordon Jeffery, Bob Maley, Steve McEntee, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Greg Street, Ron Venables, Les Waldon, Ken Walter, Ken Watt, Ricky Watts, Ivan Wilson and Jim Wright. Saturday's umpires were: Eric Alcock, Peter Brien, Col Gee, Michael Gottschalk, Ian Hill, Bob Hotinski, Neil Scaddan, Greg Street, Les Waldon, and Ken Watt . As far as I could tell the hamburger cooking on the 28th was done by Peter Jones and Ivan Wilson. A special mention goes to all the Saturday volunteers who helped to set up and clean up our post AGM dinner at Perry Lakes. Thank you and well done to all.

Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players October: The Perth traffic must be worsening. The only non-players the notebook recorded on Wednesdays have been Keith Kessell, Les Waldon and George Winning. Saturdays again had a good turn-out, including: Marty Greay, Keith Kessell, David Lester, John Milner, John Pierce, Don Sanders, Greg Street, Peter Stevens, Neil Scaddan, Les Waldon and Jim Wright. There were also a very large number of former players at the AGM.

Quotable Quote Two: "My personal hobbies are reading, listening to music, and silence" *Edith Sitwell (1887 - 1964). Pity such a regimen is not followed more widely nowadays.*

Hips V Knees 2020: Thanks to Bob Bowyer for this update on our annual highlight.

We are now about to play our 5th annual HIPS v KNEES match sponsored by the AOA and also some other sponsorships. (AOA - Australian Orthopaedic Association) Unfortunately, we are still aware of significant scepticism and fear of these operations in the public and some sporting groups. We hope that the publicity associated with our annual Bionic Cup match will reduce this.

In publicity for our event last year, President of the AOA, Dr Andrew Ellis, said “that such an event is a celebration of the wonder of movement and provides the Australian orthopaedic community a chance to reflect on the significant contribution that hip and knee replacement surgery provides thousands of Australians every year. Being able to enjoy the freedom of movement, let alone undertake sporting endeavours, just wouldn’t be possible without significant advances in prosthesis technology and the improvement of surgical technique over the past 80 years.”

This year in response to suggestions on improvements to the presentation of the event we have introduced numbered shirts and will produce a program with details of the teams and the game to assist spectators, sponsors and the media.

The match will be conducted at the WA Hockey stadium on the 16th December between 3.30 pm and 5:00 pm. The teams have been selected and shirt sizes obtained to allow production of the numbered shirts to proceed.

The provisional teams are:

Hips Ashley Knapp, Rob Tincey, Chris Buchan, Shane Knapp, Andrew Robertson (GK), Brian Thomas, Dudley Evans (Captain), Jim Campbell, Neil Miller, Don Sanders, Simon Thomson, Bob Le Merle, Bob Claxton, Jim Banks, Ivan Wilson.

Knees Stephen Adams (GK), David Lockett (Capt/Coach), Adrian Gabriel, Graham Harper, Peter Selfe, Peter Eastlake, Shane Williams, Nick Pereira, Norman Same, Michael Gottschalk, Greg Allen, Thomas Long, Peter Fogels, Rod Spencer.

For the future we have appointed a coordinator in the ES to recruit teams to facilitate an “Orthopaedic Challenge” match with at least one ES team in future years. The biggest stumbling block is the cost for the ES players to come to Perth for the match. As a result, we will need sponsors to largely cover this cost - mainly air fares.

Bob Bowyer - Hips V Knees Coordinator 2020

Shakespeare Said It: “Sir, I foretold you then what would ensue.” Troilus And Cressida Act IV, Scene V. *The chief medical officer to Donald Trump. Or Boris Johnson.*

“... For thy favours done to us in our election this day I give thee thanks.” Titus Andronicus Act I, Scene I. *Committee member after Wednesday or Saturday AGM.*

“Why, that’s the way to fool their preparation, and to conquer their most absurd intents.” Antony And Cleopatra Act V, Scene II. *Strategy session prior to Metro versus Country.*

Challenge Matches: In late news here are the WA teams. Thanks to Peter Andrews.

O/60s: Coach Rob Lawson. **Players:** Andrew Barker, Craig Burgess, Peter Crowe, Dave Elliott, Martin Ferrari (GK), Keith Harper, Lyle Kenny, David Lockett, Noel Morrison, John Pestana, Stephen Pestana, Brian Robinson, Paul Scicluna, Jeremy Walsh, Russell Wood.

O/65s: Coach Wayne Cutler. **Players:** Peter Aylmore, Eddy Bartnik, Craig Boyce, Wayne Cutler, Dudley Evans, Maurie Giles, Colin Howell, George Naylor, Steve Needham, John Ostaszewsky, Geoff Robinson, Ian Simes, Richard Staynor, Paul Wilson (GK), Greg Wood.

O/70s: Coach Jim Banks. **Players:** Peter Andrews, Ian Brown, Bill Campbell, Peter Fogels, Tony Freeman (GK), Bruce Goetze, Ian Kealley, Alan Ledger, Bob Le Merle, Ron Mitchell, Peter Morgan, Steve Powles, Don Sanders, Simon Thomson, Heath Tyrrell, Len Walker Simon Williams.

O/75: Coach Len Blyth. **Players:** Jim Balding, Scott Blackwell, Len Blyth, George Bradbury, John Harper, Howie Herbert, Ian Hill, Mal Horrigan, John Jeffreys, Neil Patterson, Colin Sanders, Barry Rutter (GK), Rod Spencer, Ron Venables, Peter Willett.

'B' Division October 2020:

October saw further consolidation of numbers for the four teams, some great hockey weather and even some great hockey! The bar provided refreshments, the food supplied was most welcome, the sausage sizzle and raffles went well and some players won a bottle of wine. All in all I think it was a very successful month for B Division and long may it continue!

Early in the month Tommy Long sustained an injury when in a goalmouth skirmish his hand got caught in the grill of the goalies helmet opening up a nasty gash. In true hockey style he was taken away in an ambulance and the game continued. Tommy reported a few days later that no bones had been broken and he expected to be back after a few weeks recovery. So we wish him well and hope to see him back soon.

This month's featured players are Greg (Ted) Allen and George Burcher both currently playing for the White side. Both Ted and George have been around Wednesday hockey for many years and bring a wealth of experience and knowledge into the Wednesday Masters group.

Dudley Evans

George Burcher's hockey bio.

My hockey started when my farming family moved from Albury N.S.W. to Mt Many Peaks, half an hour's drive east of Albany W.A. at the age of eight. In the time I was at Many Peaks primary school, the local farming community created two grass hockey fields out of bush, next to the school. We fielded two very competitive hockey teams, black and gold, in the Albany D grade competition, winning a number of premierships.

After completing grade 7, my parents shipped me off to Hale School, in Perth, as a boarder. I was captain of Hale 1st and 2nd year teams in the private schools competition. The Christchurch captain in the same years was Ric Charlesworth. He played at Centre Half Back as I did. I made it into the Hale School first eleven in third year and fourth year before leaving and going back to Albany, where I played in the Men's competition and Country Week sides.

My wife Helen, son Ian and I moved to Perth in 1999, to further Ian's hockey, by enrolling him in the Como hockey school. I played winter grass hockey with Wasps for some years before moving to Victoria Park. I gave grass hockey away last year because we lost our weekend shop staff and I decided to do the weekends myself, rather than employ a new person. I have been playing Wednesday turf hockey for a number of years now and thoroughly enjoy it.

As a footnote, because we are very proud of him, our son Ian has played in every State Representative side u/15's, u/16's, u/18's, u/21's and Thundersticks. He has also represented Australia in the u/16 schoolboys tour to South Africa, The Junior World Cup in Rotterdam, and in the Kookaburras at various overseas tours, Aslan Shah cup in Malaysia, and test matches in Australia.

Thanks, George.

My Hockey Journey: Greg Allen

I've played hockey most of my life as Melville hockey club was born out of Applecross hockey which began opposite my house on Gairloch Oval. I joined Old Wesley when I was at high school at Wesley College. I briefly went back to Melville for a few years to try to help them into what was A1s back in the day and played with the nickname Ted, my hockey name.

Recently I helped organize a catch-up with guys who played for Old Wesley some 40 years ago when we played at the WACA. Back in those days the top competition was dominated by Cricketers (who became Wolves) and Old Mods. One of the highlights our group agreed on was beating Cricketers 3-1 with Ric Charlesworth and Bob Andrew both being sent off. We used 28 ounce Vampire sticks at fullback and over the years plenty of funny goalkeepers.

I was the 'enforcer' back then and I one game after an opposition player from Perth hit the ball into my shins after the whistle had blown, I dropped my stick, he took off and we had to start the game again without him as he wouldn't come back from the car park where he was hiding! About 34 years ago my wife Kaye and I helped set up Minkey at Wesley South Perth, to be

succeeded by Alan Stewart and all the other parents who have kept Minkey alive and well. From the WACA Old Wesley days, as Paul Wright retired this year the only guys left still playing are Roger Davey and myself. Along the way there has been the merger of South Perth & Old Wesley and then in 2008 the South Perth women & WASP men's sides.

I've enjoyed the camaraderie and friendships and have an innate trust of anyone who is a hockey player. *(Thanks Greg - so do many of us, me included. Ed.)*

I really looked forward to turning 40 from my mid 30s so that I could play State hockey and in my 40s couldn't wait to turn 50 to play mid-week vets. In my 50s I was looking forward to turning 60 so that I could play Grand Masters which has been fantastic too. Back in my 40s George Winning and John Dunstan used to talk about the Buffers so I was aware of a midweek comp but didn't appreciate how great it was until I played. It breaks your week in half, you could be having a lousy Monday or Tuesday and then have a run on Wednesday and feel great again. I tell people now that it may seem like a doddle, playing for a colour, no finals but eventually it becomes a favourite as you're playing with guys you normally compete with & making new friends and sometimes even improving!

In many ways wearing a colour instead of a tribal top, playing all year round for fun and with no finals it feels like I've gone full cycle back to minkey.

Greg Allen

Thank you to Dudley, George and Greg for another insight into B Division life. Ed.

News of a Former Player: Those of us who still read the West Australian were very pleased to find in the 24th October edition a story on former WHM member Rob Crofts. He has not only taken up a most competitive sport after his life changing event, but is excelling. Congratulations from us all.

PASSION PROJECT

**A CHANCE MOMENT AT A BOATING EVENT CHANGED THE LIFE OF ROBERT CROFTS,
WHO HAS GONE ON TO BECOME A CHAMPION PARA SAILOR**

I first became involved in sailing when . . . on a rainy Sunday I wheeled into the Perth International Boat Show at Elizabeth Quay to get out of the rain – or so I thought. I was immediately drawn to Sailability WA's display and I had an incredible realisation that I'd discovered what I had unknowingly been searching for. This chance encounter changed my life forever.

To my great surprise and frustration . . . I finished last in my first race in December, 2017. I later learnt that WA's Para sailing fleet is one of the strongest in Australia . . . so there's certainly no shame in coming last . . . to begin with anyway.

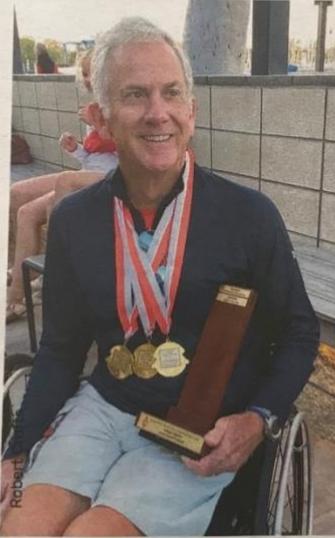
Throughout my life I have always been active and competitive . . . and I was incredibly proud to represent WA in the Over-55 division two team at the hockey Masters Australian Championships in Cairns in October, 2015. Hockey was always my first love from childhood and this was certainly the pinnacle of my sporting life. I scored a couple of goals during the tournament and we defeated NSW 5-0 to win the gold medal – so happy days.

But unknown to me . . . on the flight home from Cairns a deep vein thrombosis developed in my left leg and a few weeks later I suffered a rare spinal cord infarction caused by a blood clot restricting the blood supply to my spinal cord. Over 24 hours, what initially began as mild chest pain and numbness in my foot

escalated upwards and resulted in paraplegia. **I instinctively knew that sport . . .** was going to be central to my rehabilitation and after 99 days in hospital and reading *Pushing the Limits* by Kurt Fearnley I joined the WA Marathon Club and set about building my wheelchair skills. Since then I have completed six half marathons and three 42km marathons. Wheelchair racing is perfect cross-training for sailing and I believe this has given me an edge. I've also benefited enormously from training with Australian Para sailing coach Grant Alderson. I travelled to the US and Spain to compete in 2018 and 2019 Para World Sailing Championships and achieved a world ranking of 26. I won gold this year in Melbourne at the 2020 Australian Para Sailing Championships and also the 2020 WA championships in both the Hansa Liberty and Hansa 303 fleets. I recently had the honour of being named the 2020 Australian Sailing Para Sailor of the Year for WA and also the WA Disabled Sports Association's Sports Star of the Year.

In the future . . . I'm looking forward to the 2020-21 season and the resumption of club racing at RPYC. The 2021 Hansa Class World Championships are scheduled for Sicily in October next year and a new group of Para sailors is training to represent WA.

I promise you . . . there is no greater feeling than leaving your wheelchair behind on the dock as you sail out of the RPYC marina into the majestic waters of Matilda Bay.



Grumpy Old Men Two: "If nobody spoke unless he had something to say, the human race would very soon lose the use of speech." *W. Somerset Maugham (1874 - 1965) From The Painted Veil 1925.*

B Division Blue



Back (L to R) Graham Harper, Dudley Evans, Graham Newson, Jeff Kozak, Tony Davey, Tony Freeman
Front (L to R): Alan Oldfield, Ian Pestana, Damian Cooper, Keith Platel
Absent: Graeme Nichols, Simon Williams, Frank Williams, Bill Rochester, Rick Rodoreda, Rod Bickers

B Division Gold



Back (L to R): Dan Hill, Len Walker, Geoff Riley, John Rogers, Richard Osborne, Bob Le Merle, Glenn Mihala, Geoff Robinson
Front (L to R): Don Sanders, John Chapman, tom Long, Bill Campbell
Absent: Ian Brown , Phil Hewton, Greg Wood, Chris Morley, Peter Fogels

Do You Know? Many thanks go to Ken Walter for this photograph of the 1965 WA Colts team. Ken says that two are still playing today, and challenges readers to identify them. And everybody else.



Did You Know? How did you go? The only names I could even hazard a guess at were the three in the back row who were all connected with Mods. Reader answers are welcome, and we might try to persuade Ken to offer a Red Gully wine prize for the first correct answer. Ed.

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders:

October's question was: In how many Olympic Games Hockey Tournaments did Ron Riley of NSW participate? a) 0 b) 1 c) 2 d) 3.

The correct answer is d) as Ron played at Mexico City (1968), Munich (1972) and Montreal (1976). Nobody attempted an answer - do we need to offer a prize?

November's question is: Who was the youngest participant for Australia at the 1968 Olympic Games? a) Don Martin b) Ron Riley c) Julian Pearce d) Don Smart. *Answer next issue.*

Punology Two: Did you hear about the termite who walked into an Australian outback pub and immediately asked; "where is the bar tender?"

Change of Details: In the event of any change to your email address and other details you should notify Colin Gee. Colin is our data base administrator and his email address is gee.colin@gmail.com.

Next Issue: It is hoped that we can include reports of the City/Country matches, a late preview of the Hips versus Knees, and the customary overview of the year. Plus photographs from Peter Hammond and Mike Spatore (a West Leederville team from 1951) which did not make it in this time.

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