



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 White

Masters Matters

Issue No 7

August 2019

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Dates For The Diary:

2019: July 20th : Fiji / New Zealand tour for Australian O/70s. Expected duration two weeks.
 September 27th / October 12th. Interstate Masters Championships - Bunbury / Busselton WA.
 O/35, O/40 and O/45 run from 27th September to 5th October.

October 19th: Saturday Hockey winter season windup - Perry Lakes after hockey.

December: Charity Day - 'Invictus Tournament.' Knees / Hips and many more.

December 18th: Tentative date for WHM Christmas Party.

2020: World Cup (s) - See below.

} Australia & Southern Cross

O/35 and O/40; Men and Women: Nottingham, England - August 8th to 17th.

O/45, O/50 and O/55 Men; O/45, O/50, O/55, O/60, O/65 Women; Spirit of Masters: Cape Town, South Africa - September 19th to 29th.

O/60, O/65, O/70, O/75 Men; Tournament Trophy: Tokyo, Japan November 5th to 15th.

WHM and Other Venues: We only discovered very late in the piece that the PHS turfs were not available during the school holidays on July 10th and 17th. Hasty arrangements were made to shift 'C' Division to Hale and 'B' / 'A' Divisions to Perry Lakes. Then we heard via Peter Fogels that Trid Woodhouse, who is the Warwick Hockey centre manager, was happy to offer us free play and an open bar for the two days. After discussion the executive decided that we should accept, and 'A' and 'B' Divisions used the turf and a grass field.

Future Alternative Venues: Following the usage of Warwick and Perry Lakes in recent years a straw poll was taken of 'A' Division players on 24/07 to seek opinions of where they would prefer to play when PHS is unavailable. An overwhelming majority voted for UWA - it appears that we want to play on turf, and that Warwick is considered to be too remote. 'B' Division may have different thoughts according to Dudley's report on Page 9. It has become customary for 'C' Division to play their games at Hale on those days when our usual PHS venue is unavailable. Reader opinions are welcome.

Charity Day: The advance planning has tentatively scheduled the first Wednesday in December for the big day. The latest team numbers I have are: Prostates (13), Cardiac (9), General Cancer (9) and more nominations are sought in all categories. We will not publish your name here beforehand so that your medical details remain confidential. It has been suggested that a sixth team be included; possibly of those with hearing difficulties, though this might make nearly all of 'A' Division eligible. To express an interest please contact Rod Bickers or Les Waldon personally or on these emails:

Rod: rod.bickers@outlook.com.

Les: lawdent@westnet.com.au.

WHM Christmas Party: This is now scheduled after our hockey on 18th December, and is always the time when we make our donations from the charity fund. Suggestions for either a charity or a junior hockey beneficiary should be made through your Divisional coordinator.



World Cup 2020 Update: The first newsletter from the Tokyo tournament has now been posted on the WGMA website. Those of us who are hoping to participate will be pleased to discover that there is to be a fourth turf, albeit in a different location to the three turfs at the Olympic venue. Access to the newsletter can be gained from the WGMA site via this link.

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

World Cup Comment: Barcelona had 80 teams all up, including 9 Women's sides. As the Tokyo event is to be male only it will be most interesting to see whether Southern Cross and England LX will be permitted to have two sides in an age group. Expressed succinctly by our limericist:

We now have a new World Cup plan
 There will be four turfs in Japan
 No women it seems
 So Spain's eighty teams
 Leave room for the Southern Cross clan. (*maybe*)

WHM in WA State Teams: The Masters website now indicates that the playing coach of the state O/55s is WHM member Brian Saxby. Congratulations and good fortune.

And the State O/55s Division 2 has been posted and includes these members of WHM:

O/55s (2): Marcus Frayne, George Naylor, Steve Farrar, Russell Scanlon.

There has also been a change in the O/75s. In the interest of continuity Les Waldon is now the coach and Len Blyth is captain.

WHM in WA Country Teams: Most of the WAC teams are now announced (and on the web-site) and it seems that Western Hockey Masters will again be well-represented. Included are:

O/55s: Tony Jones.

O/60 (1): Fred Flanagan, Warren Jackson and Shane Williams.

O/65s: Ian Bromell, Phil Chalmer (Esperance visitor), Roger Davey, Phil Hewton, Steve McEntee, Glenn Mihala and Brian Thomas.

O/70s: Peter Eastlake (manager), Gordon Jeffery, Bob Le Merle, Richard Osborne, Mike Robinson and Ken Walter.

O/75s: David Horsley (coach), Peter Blockley (manager), Julian Gardner (another Esperance visitor), Rob Butler (Bruce Rock visitor), John Ree, Nevelle Brown, Ham D'Souza, Neil Scaddan, Robin Bailey, Peter Stevens, John Mercer, Jim Malcolm, Peter Livingstone, Harvey Davies and Graeme Sansom.

Representative Sides on Wednesdays: Both the State and Country O/75 teams will play in the 'A' Division on Wednesdays on 28th August and 4th, 11th and 18th September.

Quotable Quote One: If you watch a game, it's fun. If you play at it, it's recreation. If you work at it, it's golf." *Bob Hope (1903 - 2003). Can the golfers in our ranks confirm the truth of this statement? On some days our 'A' Division hockey is definitely becoming more like hard work rather than recreation.*

Department of Health: WHM Treasurer Steve Farrar is having chemo-therapy at the moment. Best wishes from us. Bob Bowyer has sciatica, and is unable to play at present. He also is now on a gluten-free diet (Jason has a gluten-free beer at PHS). Jim Banks has just had another hip replacement and is going through the recovery period (for the fourth time?). And I believe Eric Alcock also has another one pending, which he said will balance things up. I heard that John Milner is awaiting an imminent OK from his medical advisers on resuming. Best wishes for a speedy return to play.

Letters To The Editor: June's MM nearly sunk without trace. Thank you to KY Lee and Bill Baldwin.

Defibrillators: Many thanks to KY Lee, who responded to the paragraph in the June MM. For those of you who don't know, he is a cardiologist as well as a hockey player.

"Re the Defibrillators dotted around the grounds, is there a regular ongoing check on charge status of the batteries, and that these are not past their use-by dates? I gather flat batteries were a problem in one defibrillator at Charles-Riley?"

In hospitals, the defibrillators also have a test discharge function. The defibrillator is fully charged as if for use, then discharged to earth to test all buttons work properly. I am not familiar with defib units outside hospitals, as most of them have automatic heart rhythm detection, and will not let the user discharge energy into a patient unless 2 specific arrhythmias are detected. So I don't know if there is a test button. If there is, this should be tested also when the batteries are checked."

It would be interesting to know whether the regular checks are done on all the devices at all the hockey sites around Perth. We have been through one successful battery replacement on our Saturday O/65s machine - I think that the defib told us to do it. Ed.

European Championships 2019: As several members of WHM played in this tournament hereunder are some of their results. Also included are the goals scored by our representatives.

Southern Cross:

O/60s: Steve Farrar (vc), George Naylor. *Bronze medal (4-0 in playoff). Steve Farrar 3 goals.*

O/65s Blue: Peter Fogels, Ian Pestana (coach). *Gold medal (3-1 in shootout). Peter Fogels and Ian Pestana each scored a goal.*

O/65s Red: Steve McEntee, Glenn Mihala. *Lost playoff for 5th/6th 2-1. Steve McEntee 2 goals.*

O/70s: Peter Eastlake, Gordon Jeffery, Keith Platel & Mike Robinson. *Silver medal (1-2 in shootout). Goals to Peter Eastlake and Mike Robinson.*

O/75s: Peter Murray (c), Scott Blackwell, Dave Horsley, Neil Patterson, John Ree, Graham Sansom & Brian Soares. *Silver medal (2-4 in shootout). Goals Scott Blackwell (3), John Ree (2) Neil Patterson.*

Alliance:

O/70s A: Simon Thomson and Heath Tyrrell. *Lost playoff for bronze (0-1). Simon & Heath 1 goal.*

O/70s B: Colin Benporath, Terry Gaston, Dave Mellor and Neil Miller. *Lost shootout for 7th and 8th (1-2). Dave Mellor scored a goal.*

O/75s: Peter Stevens. *Lost playoff for bronze (0-1).*

Department of Corrections: Possibly due to a scarcity of correspondence (see *Letters to the Editor*) no errors have been notified to me. I'm sure that MM can make up for this in subsequent editions.

WHM (Incorporated): This may not be totally correct, but that seldom worries our limericist.

It happened before one could blink

Our title just added an 'Inc'

Lawsuits titanic

Need not cause panic

Nor make our bank balances shrink. (*Hopefully*)

Grumpy Old Men and Women One: "One of the keys to happiness is a bad memory." *Rita Mae Brown - author and social activist. You cannot remember if you're happy, or not.*

'A' Division Blog: We are not getting good numbers. Do any readers have an opinion?

June 26th: Despite the stormy weather we managed to get sufficient numbers to play all fixtures but for the last, when Red could not raise a team to play Gold. The better performing teams on the day were those with the low numbers in Blue and Red. Gold only scored once through Phil Metcalf from their three games, while White needed fill-ins Ian Hill and Les Waldon for both their goals. Substitute players did well for Blue, whose goals came from Ash Challenor (2), Ivan Wilson, Rod Spencer and Greg Street. Col Murray-Smith (2) was the only Red to get a goal. The hockey quality was very much improved from last week for most (but not all) of us. No names can be mentioned here due to the ban on editorial selfies. The day's results were: Blue (W4, L0, D0); G (W1, L1, D2); R (W1, L2, D1) and White (W0, L3, D1). It was good to have goalkeepers all day, and thanks to Barry, Ian and Tony. It has been some time since Ivan Wilson and Les Waldon last scored goals, so goal of the day is a joint award this week. Miss of the day will not be awarded due to the embargo on editorial selfies. Team numbers (at peak) were: White (9), Blue (7), Gold (10) and Red (7). Again White's numbers include Bob Claxton and Blue's Ash Challenor. Goals scored (10).

July 3rd: Goalkeepers appear to be an endangered species, as we could only field two. Barry and Ian played the first 5 games, and despite some improved midfield hockey generating good chances only 2 goals went in during this time, both to White. Brian Soares scored after a good long ball caught the defence off guard and Ham D'Souza converted a penalty corner in characteristic rocket-like style. The departure of the keepers opened the floodgates and 7 goals resulted from the final 3 games; a 2-1 win to White and two 1-1 draws. White were the only team to win a match with 1 goal wins over the other 3 sides and a draw with Blue. Getting the numbers sorted out seemed to be difficult as the captains appear to be unaware of how many players are expected. Gold's scorer was Scott Blackwell filling in, while Sukdev Pandher got Red's, finishing well after being put through in midfield. For Blue Ken Watt converted from close range following a good cross pass while Chip Challenor slammed in a tomahawk. Ham added another for White and Peter Blockley also got on the board. Thanks go to the volunteer third full backs (no such thing as kicking backs now): Howie Herbert, Jim Balding, Neil Scaddan, Jim Malcolm, Robin Bailey and ??? Goal of the day was shared between Ham's corner and Chip's tomahawk. Pass of the day was unquestionably won by Len Blyth for creating a goal in one hit from full back. Robin Bailey and Rob Butler played for Gold and Nevelle Brown for Blue. Team numbers (original sides) were roughly: Red (10), Gold (7), White (11) and Blue (10). Goals scored (9).

July 10th/17th: We checked out the new turf and rooms at Warwick thanks to a generous offer from Trid Woodhouse (facility manager). 'A' and 'B' Divisions played mix and match in which the State O/75s played together. It was necessary to alternate between the turf and a grass field. Both days ended with some fine bar snacks dished up by Trid and a sausage sizzle. Numbers seemed to be well up from our Perry Lakes days, though I missed our Reabold Wednesdays this year.

July 24th: All teams were short of numbers excepting for White. Only two goalkeepers attended and we were down to one after Barry Rutter departed following Match 5. It was good to see John Burt again after quite an absence, and he stayed in play all day. Much of the hockey was so poor that the occasional piece of good play stood out. This seemed to affect our tempers and there was a lot of grumpiness on Turf One, including arguments about the rules and players over-ruling umpires. The day's results were Blue (W2, L0, D2), Red (W2, L1, D1), Gold (W1, L2, D1) and White (W1, L3, D0). Those who managed to score despite the low quality of much of our passing were: John Ree (2) and a good one to Neil Miller for **Blue**: Phil Metcalf for **Gold**: Ken Beer (2), Robin Bailey and Ron Venables for **Red**: Ham DSouza, Scott Blackwell and Roy Grant for **White**. Goal of the day was unquestionably Ham's solo run and reverse stick goal from wide out on the left hand edge of the circle Robin Bailey and Ken Beer transferred from White to Red for the day, and both scored against their own side. The player numbers were: Blue (7), Gold (9) White (12) and Red (7). The final total of goals was (9) even though 4 of those did not occur versus a goalkeeper. /7

Theme Tune for 'A' Division: The ABC's classical music station played a tune for us on July 10th. The title was "The Old Grumbler" and the composer is Julius Fucik.

From Saturday Hockey Masters:

Sydney 2013



The reason for the inclusion of this photograph is that John Halley celebrated a significant birthday during July and came over to Perry Lakes on July 24th to buy us a drink. Thanks very much John, and a retrospective Happy Birthday to you. At this age one can celebrate both wisely and well.

And our Saturday Masters Secretary / Treasurer will be celebrating the same birthday on August 5th. All the best for a great day to you Bob from us all.

Well done to Neil Scaddan, who was the duty selector on Saturday 27th July. He duly honoured his selection commitment, and then went back home to his ailing wife.

There are times where people who are without a Saturday game want to have a run with us. Here are the guidelines for casual players as set out by Secretary Bob.

We have a standard \$50 casual/social fee which covers players for 3 games plus all member privileges (great after games socialising, substantial nibbles, cheap drinks, etc)

Payment can be made directly to our Sat account: WHM, BSB 036069, Acct 548917 or cash to George Bradbury.

Require White, Blue and Green play shirts.

Be there by 1.30 pm for teams organisation and warm up. Play commences at 2:00 pm.

The windup for our winter season will be held at Perry Lakes after hockey on 19th October. Those of us who enjoyed the meal provided by WA Spit Roasts at our previous function will be pleased to hear that they will be catering for us again.

Numbers have been down lately, even reducing us to two teams on some Saturdays. Though we did have had four sides on Saturday 13th, including George Bradbury's two grandsons, who were kind enough to take it easy on the elderly.

Punology One: Some people are revolted by, have resistance to and find shocking watt is charged in our ohms for the use of electric current.

'A' Division Blog Continued:

July 31st: Today was definitely forwards day and a lot of good goals went in despite the best efforts of Barry and John. Though the numbers were not so good with three teams depleted to the extent that the last fixture was not played. This was despite the great weather. At times the hockey quality was reasonably good, but not all the time, particularly toward the end of the afternoon. The day's scorers were **Blue:** John Ree, Ken Walter; **Gold:** Ken Walter (3); **Red:** Robin Bailey, Col Murray-Smith (2), Ron Venables; **White:** Ham D'Souza (2), Brian Soares (4), Peter Wallis. As can be seen Brian and Ken each got 4 and Brian has to be awarded goal of the day for some very fine reflex volleys and deflections. Team numbers: Gold (7), White (12), Red (8) and Blue (6). Robin Bailey and Greg Street played for other teams due to White's high numbers. Goals scored (17).

General Comment: Maybe many of us are touring the world, or we are suffering a lot of injuries. But on a day of ideal weather less than two months before the interstate tournament a much better turnout would be expected. If anybody is just staying away due to lack of interest then please have a talk to your team captain or Division Coordinator George Bradbury and make your problems known, which will give us a chance to solve them. And it appears that a little inter-division coordination would be helpful in the goalkeeping ranks. On the 31st July 'A' Division's four teams had only two keepers (for 5 games) while 'B' Division's three teams had four goalkeepers.

Balinese Bulletin No 44: *"A few difficulties" persist. Peter has persisted too.*

UMALAS REHAB REPORT:

Initially I found myself looking forward in terms of weeks, unfortunately weeks have turned into months as this week heralds 7 months since the fall. I am still unable to move around the house without my Willy Walker so any stroll down to my friends at Warung Dua & other close by favourites & exchanging pleasantries is a long way off. Generally however, I am feeling much more comfortable in that I am sleeping at night really well & not getting up in the morning, often as late as 9.00 - 9.30 am. In addition I find sitting in the living area (which I do a lot of) not as uncomfortable as it once was ...in fact not uncomfortable at all. Pain from the initial fracture location sets in only when I do something silly, which I try to avoid.

Every couple of weeks or so I am afforded a 4 hour "Day Release" together with my 2 Girls & Made (Family-like driver). I do enjoy visiting the "other" Bali & of late have found these visits a lot easier to handle than earlier on.

Probably in a week or two, following Galungan & Kuningan I will visit the hospital & have another Xray followed up with another visit to Dr. Gusti Lanang to measure any improvement. Reading back on this I have to say that my condition is not bad as it may read & that many more people than I are in a much worse position.

I really don't know what my Lovely Wife & Putu have done in an earlier life to deserve all they are doing to make this Old Bloke as comfortable as he is & I can't thank them enough. The Balinese people in my life up here have been tremendous & if Putu is unavailable from time to time all I need to do is to make a phone call & everything just falls into place.

So, there it is for better or worse

Please pass on my best wishes to all those down there on a Wednesday afternoon.

Peter Hammond.

Thanks Peter. Hope you have been able to watch some of Carlton's recent better form. Ed.

Past Players, Non-Players and Injured Players: Warwick had more non-players than PHS, where MM recorded only George Winning. We saw Julian Gardner and Brian Lester at the Whitfords Club's new facility. At Perry Lakes we saw: Eric Alcock, Rob Andrew, Bob Bowyer, Marty Greay, David Lester, John Mercer, John Milner, John Pierce, Neil Scaddan (selector), Brian Thomas and Ken Walter. Plus of course John Halley, who bought us all a birthday drink on the 27th.

Vale: *Murray Sharp died in July, and here is Ken Walter's eulogy. Thanks Ken, they are tough to do.*

Murray's larger than life presence has always been there throughout his Hockey career and family life. Hockey was always a big part of family life for Muzz and his brothers. He has represented Cricketers, Wolves, Western Australia, Southern Cross, WA Country, Towns (Bunbury), Hotspurs and Western Hockey Masters.

He burst on to the local scene in the 1965 Cricketers 1A team when they were decimated by the retirement of several great players. They went on to win both the Challenge Cup and Grand Final with an outstanding year by Muzz at left half back. In 1966 he became a permanent fixture at centre half where his physical size, long reach and good skills saw him continue in that role for a decade.

Murray also contributed plenty off the field, especially after training, after games and other fun times. Memories of Bunbury carnivals and nights at the old Hollywood change rooms will never be forgotten, (especially at Bob Andrew's bucks party and the tomato sauce damage to his new trousers which Glenda had just given him). His sense of fun was infectious and his strong personality made him a significant member of all teams he was involved with. He was a particularly welcoming presence for younger players coming through the grades.

Following his time in Perth, Muzz moved to work in Bunbury and continued to play hockey representing WAC 2002-2007 and 2011-2014 and Southern Cross 2012 2014 until he retired with a bad knee and wanting to spend more time with Glenda.

Thanks also to Richard ("Speedie") Osborne and Peter Eastlake for input. Speed summed it all up very well with: "Good guy and friend, Sharpie was larger than life on and off the field." I was fortunate to have been a Wednesday team-mate for a few years and really appreciated the superb distribution to the forward line from our centre half. WHM had several members at the funeral. Ed.

Well Dones: 'A' division umpires from 26th June to 31st July included: Rob Andrew, Jim Balding, Bob Bowyer, George Bradbury, Dudley Burrell, Ham D'Souza, Peter Eastlake, Peter Evans, Colin Gee, Mike Gottschalk, Graham Harler, John Harper, Ian Hill, Mal Jackaman, Gordon Jeffery, John Jeffreys, John Lindsay, Jim Malcolm, Peter Murray, Colin Murray-Smith, Bob Robinson, Neil Scaddan, Brian Soares, Rod Spencer, Peter Stevens, Greg Street, Ron Venables, Les Waldon, Ken Watt, Ricky Watts, Ivan Wilson and Jim Wright. Thanks to all of you. I was able to note some 'B' Division umpires at Warwick - thank you Jim Balding, Vern Gooch, Mike Gottschalk (who did officiate together at least once) and Tom Long. Perry Lakes umpires recorded were: Eric Alcock, Rob Andrew, Bob Bowyer, Peter Brien, Peter Jones, John Mercer, Peter Murray, Neil Scaddan, Don Smart, Greg Street, Les Waldon, Ken Watt, Ivan Wilson - thank you to all. Almost all the cooking at the various venues seems to have been done by Ivan Wilson, Bob Bowyer and Peter Jones, who merit our thanks - sorry if I've left you out here. Please let MM know if that has been the case.

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

Jay Stacy scored the first of his goals for Australia in a match against Soviet Union during the 10th Champion's Trophy in Lahore. He scored a total of:

- a. 27 b. 72 c. 172 d. 227 goals.

We received no answers - the correct one was c (172).

August's question is: In 1969 which of these momentous events occurred:

- a. Concorde flew for the first time b. Man stepped on the moon
c. Old Mods won their first A1 Premiership d. All of the above

Answer next issue.

Quotable Quote Two: "A wise man should consider that health is the greatest of human blessings, and learn how by his own thought to derive benefit from his illnesses." *Hippocrates (460BC - 377BC), Regimen in Health. For instance, a joint replacement might qualify you for a Charity Day game in December. Though my own preference is to be an unqualified onlooker. Ed.*

'B' Division June 2019: From Dudley Evans

Two Wednesdays in July at Whitfords turf on two beautifully sunny days has been the highlight of the month. With some players still away playing hockey overseas and others on holiday with the flu there were only enough numbers for 2 teams. Alternating between the turf and grass the enjoyment of both the hockey and the facilities at Whitford was first class. I have had numerous comments and requests that this should be an annual event and that we should also play there any other time that PHS is unavailable! Having completed due diligence on all of their tap beers I totally agree with this sentiment! *(A difficult task, but somebody had to do it. Ed.)*

This month's featured player is Brian Thomas currently playing in the forwards for the White side. The problem playing against Brian is he traps everything! (There might be a message here?) After a lengthy and in depth interview I asked Brian to expand on his philosophy of life whilst looking through the kaleidoscope of hockey. This is what he told me and how he ended up running around the hockey field at Wednesday Masters.

Brian Thomas

Thanks to Dudley Evans for the opportunity to tell the story of how I arrived at Western Hockey Masters. Originally a Crow Eater from the Riverland in South Australia, I spent my first 18 years living on the family vineyard. Typical of those times in small Australian country towns, life revolved around sport, sport and more sport. Summer consisted of tennis, sailing and basketball with winter pursuits up till the age of 13 being golf and football (Aussie Rules). Following a summer trampoline accident which damaged the cartilage in my left knee, I was told that was the end of my up to that time very undistinguished football career and was advised to find another winter sport. The country high school I was attending only offered football and hockey, so the choice was made. Fortunately, the school not only had regular interschool games but also nominated both junior and senior colts sides in the local regional hockey association. Having a reasonable turn of speed meant I was offered the opportunity to play in both grades on weekends picking up skills more quickly competing with the older players. Selection for the regional country week squads followed and I transitioned to playing in the adult grades as well as the senior colts, meaning the end of my golf ambitions as my swing couldn't cope with the abbreviated hockey players hit due to the old sticks rule and golf is not really a team sport.

I then moved to Adelaide and joined the Adelaide University Men's Hockey Club ("The Blacks"), playing with them on and off for the next 12 years as I managed to start one degree, get lost for a few years in the usual undergraduate/adolescent sex drugs and rock n roll lifestyle and then finally finish off a science degree in geology and mineral economics. The itinerant existence of a geologist spending extended periods in the bush meant hockey opportunities were somewhat sporadic although there were a couple of appearances with the old university alumni club Graduates, now amalgamated with all the university, men's, women's, students and alumni clubs under one banner.

A permanent move to WA came in mid 1980's to manage a gold mine in Southern Cross meaning I had a choice of hockey in Kalgoorlie 2 hours away or a smaller comp in Merredin just 1 hour away. I ended up playing with the farmers rather than with the miners, playing 2 Country Week tournaments in Perth with Merredin, which was my first ever experience of playing on turf.

Work then moved the family to Perth in 1988 taking up residence in Swanbourne conveniently close to Cresswell Park, the home of the then relatively brand new Westside Wolves, where I have been a member ever since. My first outing with Wolves was two seasons with the O35's Masters team after which that grade folded and I played in a regional north comp before joining the O40's grade, helping Wolves eventually get a team promoted back in the O40's Div 1 before the call of the O50's took over, settling into fundamentally the same team that I still play Saturday grass comp with now. The O50's was a tough division but once we moved to O55's and O60's we had a golden decade between 2006-2016, playing in the finals every year, 10 grand finals, winning 9 flags.

Perth being a city of hockey tragics, I also discovered mid-week vets/masters comps at the PHS and from 1991 a comp on the new Hale turf. In 2007 I was selected to tour with WA Country O55's, having now played 10 tournaments with WAC and am now looking forward to the 2019 Bunbury / Busselton tournament with the O65's. In 2009 as work commitments in the finance and corporate life eased somewhat, I was invited to join what is now the WHM O50's comp. WHM has been without doubt 10 years of the most enjoyable hockey I have ever experienced. As a fellow participant once said, it is a privilege to be able to play with good players in a competition that maintains such a consistently high standard whilst providing lasting friendships and camaraderie. The hockey tourism bug then bit me in 2013, travelling with Southern Cross to play in the O60's Euros Tournament Trophy in Antwerp followed by the World Cup TT in The Hague in 2014 and finally the Euros TT again in London in 2015. Now that my recovery from the half knee replacement has progressed from a stint playing with the Saturday WHM at Perry Lakes, to normal Wednesday WHM and now Sat grass O60's I will once again, in spite of still having work commitments, be looking to nominate for any of the Masters tournaments that are out there.

Thank you Dudley and thank you Brian. Ed.

Thailand Tales: *Woody seems to have found inspiration in Dudley's 'B' Division player profiles. So for those of you who would like to know how MM gained a Thailand correspondent here is the story.*

I think I was the luckiest kid on the block. My next door neighbor was Graham McKenzie, probably the greatest sportsman WA has ever had. Not only playing Test cricket for Australia, an outstanding hockey player, Aussie rules footballer and state champion swimmer, for which he held the record for the 100m backstroke for many, many years. So it was inevitable that I would play cricket and hockey as he was my childhood idol. I used to go to his pennant cricket matches with Claremont Cottesloe, where I met Dick "Speedy" Osborne, Ross Edwards, Laurie Bedford, etc who also played hockey for Cricketers Hockey Club.

So that's where it all started, when I was 8. Although there was no team at that age level, the hockey sticks were out in the backyard at a very early age. My first game was for Swanbourne High School when I was 11, even though I was at Swanbourne Primary, I played on Saturday morning at Langley Park, and nicked off from school on Monday afternoon to play interschool sport for the high school.

School hockey was where I came across Eric Alcock and Trevor Kerr both teachers at other schools and so passionate about hockey. My hockey teacher was Graham Strickland, a great man. I played with John Chapman and Les Hayter at high school and played against many players like Farmer Hud, the Fremantle boys Steve Beard, Phil Martin and many more. I am sure there are many guys still playing who I played against at school.

Cricketers Hockey Club!!! What an amazing hockey club.

Rob Andrew, Speedy Osborne, Laurie Bedford, Ross Edwards, Ian Dick, Mel Pearce, Gordon "Dinga" Bell, Graham McKenzie, John Goldie and later on Ric Charlesworth, Peter Hazelhurst and Peter Morgan. What more could a kid have, training with these guys under 2 spotlights at College Park in Claremont. All these guys had an impact on my hockey life.

At this point I must pay special tribute to my parents Doug and Letty Wood. My father was secretary of the club for about 15 years with Malcolm Andrew (Rob's father) as President, and my mum ran the canteen (20 years) every week without fail, she made sure all her "boys" were well fed. Their dedication is what makes hockey clubs survive.

At age 18 I had a severe operation on my knees which put me out of hockey for quite some time. My rehabilitation was pool work every day, and running, no physical contact allowed, so an AFL umpire I became. Travelling to the bush every weekend, running about 30 km a game (one umpire back then) certainly got me fit. I loved it, and of course you got paid for it. /11

My fondest and scariest moment, I umpired the last round match in Collie, between Mines Rovers and Collie, the local derby, the winner made the four, the loser out. I remember it was bitterly cold. Scores were tied and with 10 seconds to go I awarded a free kick about 60 metres out from goal, and copped a mouthful of abuse so I awarded a 15 metre penalty, the siren sounded, the Collie guy kicked a point, so Collie went through. I was booed off the ground and needed a police escort. The umpire's change room was on the other side of the ground and the door was almost destroyed by very angry supporters from Mines Rovers. I stayed in there for 2 hours, petrified and eventually snuck out the back door.

After 5 years it was back to hockey, I played for various clubs, Aquinas and Fremantle. During that period I was playing 2A's goalkeeper. I got the call up to play 1A's against Aquinas. The first penalty corner from (Big Bird) John Charlick, straight between the eyes, but I sensed it and made the save. Next one though broke the backboard, never saw it. I then coached Curtin Uni (where I met Peter Westlund) and Rockingham then ended up at Melville City where I coached the 2A's, loved the club and had a ball.

In 1993 I moved my business to Sydney, and lived in NSW for over 20 years. I played and coached Moorebank, Bankstown and in Newcastle. I played 1 year for NSW, and then was approached to play for ACT and have done so ever since.

In May 2014 I moved to Thailand to establish an English teaching business which is now in its fifth year. I play hockey here for Bangkok Inter, a club of all nations, Yanks, Poms, Belgians, Portugese, Irish and of course some Aussies. One of my teammates here is Nino from Marist Bros in Perth, so we exchange regular news clips from Perth.

I came back to Perth for six months in 2017 and rejoined Melville City and of course played in the Wednesday Masters Comp. It was great to catch up with all my WA hockey friends and I always look forward to coming home to see family and my hockey colleagues.

It has been a wonderful experience to be involved with Southern Cross hockey, we have had some wonderful trips, and this year unfortunately had to withdraw from Antwerp, but looking forward to Korea in October.

Bunbury is looming in September so I look forward to catching up, once again with all my friends, WA colleagues and enemies, reliving our past memories.

Cheers - Woody

Thanks again Woody - whose full byline is Graham Wood. Ed.

Shakespeare Said It: " 'Tis time to give 'em physic, their diseases are grown so catching." King Henry VIII Act I Scene III. *I wish I could stop acquiring the latest version of the latest virus. And I wish there was something that could be taken to alleviate them.*

"... a man of such perfection as we do in our quality much want." Two Gentlemen of Verona Act IV Scene I. *Tournament team on a recruiting drive tries to add a star to the side.*

"No epilogue, I pray you; for your play needs no excuse." A Midsummer Night's Dream Act V Scene I. *Fortunately for me, my 'A' Division team does not believe in match post-mortems.*

WAC O/75s: It's been very disappointing that we've been unable to fill three West Australian teams despite all Peter Blockley's hard and meritorious work. Things looked so good when we had two lists with 13 players in each, and MM's limericist has chronicled some of the saga:

Our depth will receive a real test

We've entered three teams from the West

Two Country, one State

The games will be great

Which side do you think will do best?

We old blokes have suffered a blow

There's 7 who've said they can't go

Now comes selection

Could be rejection

No wonder we're all feeling low.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "Abundance of knowledge does not teach men to be wise." Heraclitus (540BC - 480BC) Ancient Greek philosopher. *Hence the state of the world today.*

Whistle While You Work

Advantage: I have run out of the space and time required for the intended detailed discussion which I hope will appear in the next issue. Meantime, a couple of relevant quotes from the Rule Book.

“A penalty is awarded only when a player or team has been disadvantaged by an opponent breaking the Rules.”

“It is not necessary for every offence to be penalized when no advantage is gained by the offender: unnecessary interruptions to the flow of the match cause undue delay and irritation.”

WHM Travellers: David Evans from ‘A’ Division Gold has taken off (with Michelle) around the world. And Paul Robinson from ‘A’ Division White has begun with family in Vancouver but will go on to a lengthy road trip which will include crossing the border to the Mid-West of the United States. All the best for a great time to you both.

Punology Two: The first computer dates back to Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with limited memory, just one byte. And then everything crashed.

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.

“Masters Matters” Schedule: As the October issue will need to be early (I depart for the South/West around September 29th) the aim for September is to be bang on time (August 31 / September 1).

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:
John Mercer - ‘A’ Division White team. Email: johnmercerc@iinet.net.au.