



A Blue

A Gold

A Red

A White

B Blue

B Gold

B Red

B White

C Blue

C Gold

C Red

C White

O/65 Blue

O/65 Green

O/65 White

Masters Matters

Issue No 5

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Why This Edition? The closing page of the last edition indicated that due to the lack of hockey news 'Masters Matters' would be taking a rest. But there has been so much communication between the members of WHM that a chat with Simon revealed that we both thought another MM would be a good idea. Simon suggested a historical edition, as there have been a lot of new members in recent years who might not know much of the evolution of our 12 team competition of today.

We said we'd be taking a rest
 But here is an MM compressed
 It goes back in time
 To past years sublime
 When Masters began in the West.

WHM History Project: A project to document our past has recently kicked off and at the moment the process of locating and uploading documentation has begun in several parts of the metropolitan area. John Mercer is coordinating the project and input will come from Colin Gee, Bob Bowyer, Neil Patterson and Simon Thomson. (*and as many other sources as we can locate*)

We intend to work from committee meeting minutes, team lists and fixtures, newsletters from before 2006, and any other relevant documents. The recent years are fairly comprehensively covered by our current records, but anything from before 2006 is sought. Of particular interest are any documents from between October 1991 (the first match) and April 1998 (the first Committee meeting). During these years the original two teams expanded to four teams. If you are able to help please contact John Mercer at johnmercer@iinet.net.au.

President and Secretary's Hockey Stories: It is pleasing that Simon and Neil have each contributed the details of how they came to be running our Western Hockey Masters competition. This adds to those already received from 'B' Division through Dudley Evans (when do we hear from you Dudley?). I personally find them all to be of great interest and it is amazing just how many of our players did not start their hockey careers in Western Australia.

Dates For The Diary:

2020: Resumption of play on Wednesdays and Saturdays (*we hope!*)

2021: 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; Tournament Trophy - Tokyo, Japan. *Date yet to be decided.*

Mega Interstate Tournament:

Women: Newcastle September 23rd to October 2nd.

Men: Newcastle September 24th to October 9th.

This overlaps the South African tournament - presumably the fixtures will be structured accordingly.

The Origin of Veterans Hockey in WA: This is a repeat of an article originally included in the 'Masters Matters of March 2014 - which was extracted from a 1989 newsletter entitled 'Veteran Visor' lent to me by Barry Rutter. The story was by Peter Kennedy and headed "How it all began."

"Veterans as an entity was bound by some evolutionary process to evolve - and it surely has. 1988 saw an International Pac Rim Tournament with 7 teams from the Western Pacific Rim in Perth, it saw a National Carnival in Adelaide with 30 teams participating in 4 grades, including 50s and over.

In WAHA we currently see 5 grades in Saturday competition, a midweek composite team competition. Could we say that we have approximately 700 men actively participating in "Vets?" Have we achieved our objectives? We certainly have - but - what were the objectives?

As I see it - to keep aging players active - to not lose them to the game - to foster comradeship forged over many years - to retain their experience and financial support - to spread this retention of comradeship nationally and internationally.

What was the evolutionary process? Where did we begin? Players following World War II, as they drifted downwards from higher ranks, formed "social" teams, where performance off the field became of paramount importance. I remember thinking to myself (circa 1965) when I had slid gracefully(!) down to the bottom grade of the day (whatever it was); "If I go down any further, I'll be in the Under 17s."

About 1970 a significant move was made. George Williams and Gerry Leahy of Suburban prevailed on an old Subs stalwart, Gardie Marshall to donate a trophy in his name to be competed for annually by teams of "Over 40s" on a September Sunday. Trinity, Subs, Fremantle formed the nucleus, the day was a great success, an annual event was born. (*see page 5 - Ed.*)

So great was the enthusiasm that Vern Gooch in 1970 put a motion to WAHA that a "Vets" grade be formed. It was negated for fear of draining such experienced players from the normal competition. Gardie's tournament ran on and Vern kept presenting the motion. In 1977 "Vets" grade was announced and 11 teams in 1 grade took the field - 1980 15 teams and 2 grades. WAHA had seen the wisdom of retention of players and expansion of this sphere of hockey influence.

To facilitate formation of teams, Vets had at the outset a condition for two 35s to play. This was gradually eased out until all players were 40 and over.

In 1980 a Perth committee set about the next step - a National Carnival in which a condition was - a player must have played at least 5 games in Vets that season. The next step followed very quickly and the same committee put together the 1981 International in Perth.

World growth of Veterans Hockey is quite staggering. Three teams from Australia, all of Perth, participated in the 1986 World Cup in London with 80 teams competing. The fact that they were young Veterans of 35 and over made it a bit difficult for our group.

A problem that confronted our early National Carnivals was the balance between "Enjoy the game regardless" or "Put on a State Guernsey and win at all costs, regardless."

Perhaps we have compromised by reaching the stage where the 40s compete and the 50s enjoy. I wonder if I can hang on long enough for the 60s!"

Peter Kennedy

Peter wrote this in 1989 when the O/50s were the old ones. Nowadays in WHM they are the young, quick people. The interstate tournament now includes all age groups from O/35s up to O/75s with only 5 years between age groups and has become a very large event. The most recent addition has been the O/75s which first appeared in the Adelaide tournament of 2016.

Saturday Masters grades now only go up to O/60s, with 4 O/50s grades and 4 O/40s. There are also several midweek Masters competitions at some of the suburban turfs.

Quotable Quote One: "I'm very pleased about each advancing year. It stems back to when I was forty. I was a bit upset at reaching that milestone but an older friend consoled me: 'Don't complain about growing old, many, many people do not have that privilege.' " Earl Warren (1891 - 1974) US Supreme Court Chief Justice. *And if the 'herd immunity' protocol had been followed*

Department of Corrections: I have not picked up any errors and judging by the 'Letters to the Editor' neither have our readers (if any). Unfortunately for our typist and proof-reader 'Masters Matters' is not eligible for a Job Keeper payment.

Department of Health: Bob Bowyer has had to go back into hospital for some plumbing repairs on the 21st April. As this edition closed he is back home again after a Covid-19 midnight alarm during his hospital stay and has resumed the interrupted recovery from the knee replacement. Hopefully it will be plain sailing from here (for a change). I hear Harvey Davies has been diagnosed with bladder cancer and by the time you read this will have gone into hospital for surgery. We hope it all went as it was supposed to go. Roger Partington is back home from a spell in Hollywood Hospital, hopefully recovered. Brian Lester has been through a course of radiotherapy, and will discover the result mid May. Peter Willett is doing very well after his radical prostatectomy. In late news Vern Gooch has had a fall and is back in Fremantle Hospital with a fractured hip and shoulder (No Covid-19 visitors) We all wish you a speedy and complete recovery and (if applicable) a timely return to hockey.

Retirement: I was sorry to hear that David Lester has announced his retirement from hockey due to reasons of health. Hopefully we can continue to see you at Perry Lakes for socialisation, when such activities are permitted again.

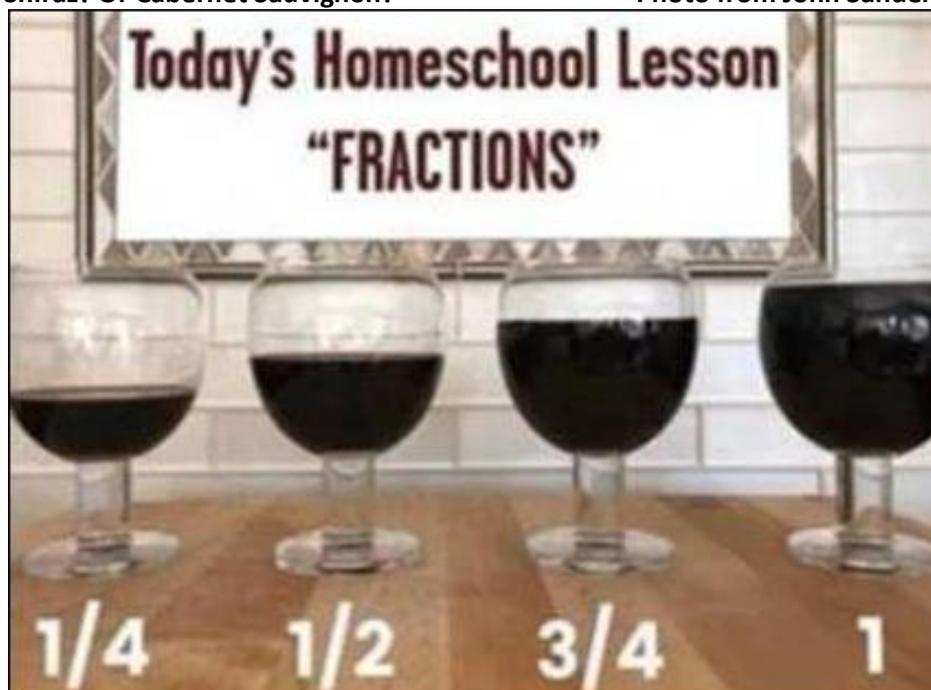
Letters To The Editor: Thanks to Mike Hallam who liked the Olympic rings and wanted clarification on the numbers of Sanders involved in Masters Hockey. And to Neil Patterson for some nice words.

Grumpy Old Men and Women One: "One reassuring thing about modern art is that things can't be as bad as they're painted." *M. Walthall Jackson, US author.*

Always Look on the Bright Side of Life: Thanks to regular contributor John Sanders who has found a real positive in the current lockdown. He claims he's now getting 3 weeks to the litre. That's petrol, I doubt that a litre of red wine would last that long. It certainly does not for me.

Shiraz? Or Cabernet Sauvignon?

Photo from John Sanders



But if you don't know your percentages and are caught driving on the high side of 0.05%

Gardie Marshall Day: Mike Gottschalk read the piece from Peter Kennedy (Page 3) back in 2014 and sent us this story of the Gardie Marshall event which was included in the April 2014 MM.

"I was delighted to read Peter Kennedy's article in the March newsletter, referring to a Vets carnival that Suburban hockey club initiated back in the 1970s called the Gardie Marshal Day.

I was particularly pleased to note Peter's acknowledgement that the Gardie Marshal Day was a bit of a forerunner to what has since developed into Vets hockey here in Perth, and possibly nationally and even Internationally. The reason I was pretty "chuffed" to read Peter's comments was because I, together with my then girl-friend, actually arranged and ran the first three Gardie Marshal Days, the first of which was held in 1973 (the year I started at Curtin University - then WAIT).

To be honest with you, the reason for initiating the Gardie Marshal Day was more financially driven rather than altruistically motivated. Back in 1973 I was a young engineering student playing A1s for Subs, and I remember my girlfriend at the time being 'amazed' at how much beer the 'older' Subs players consumed on Saturday evenings back at Tregonning! Obviously the more beer drunk the more money the club's bar made, so my idea of starting the Gardie Marshal Day was actually focussed on trying to get more 'beer-drinking older hockey players' to Tregonning!

I clearly remember putting the idea to Subs president Charles Harper whose comment was "great idea - now you run it." For those who remember Charles Harper he was not a man to argue with so I (1) organised the carnival & (2) resolved never to open my mouth again with a good idea!

As Peter Kennedy noted the teams that participated in the first ever Gardie Marshal Day in 1973 were Subs, Fremantle and Trinity, although I'm pretty sure there was a fourth team because there were games on both grounds. I can't remember if the fourth team was from another club, or was maybe a Subs #2 team.

I'll never forget that very first carnival in 1973 which was meant to start at 9:00 am sharp. It was a beautiful spring Sunday morning in September, all was in readiness, including some play equipment which we'd hired for the Veterans' kids to play on (so-called Veterans back then had children who were primary school age - or younger!!). But with only 15 minutes before the first 'bully' there was nobody there. My father Vern was blaming the Catholics for getting their priorities wrong and going to Church instead of hockey. I was cursing and swearing because I had uni exams coming up and should have been 'swatting', the bar was stocked up in anticipation, with potentially no customers and then with literally minutes to go all four teams arrived.

The camaraderie that day was something special as it was the first ever 'Vets only' hockey event ever held, and the only significant problem encountered on the day was that we actually managed to run out of beer!! Fortunately someone at Subs knew the owner of the Shenton Park Hotel ('The Shents') back then, and after a few frantic moments of panic (remember this was the days of no Sunday trading) a few emergency kegs were secured.

I continued to run the Gardie Marshal Day for the next few years until I headed off overseas. Until I read Peter Kennedy's recent article I didn't realise that the first ever 'Vets' grade started in 1977, so it's probably fair to say that the Gardie Marshal Day was a real precursor to the Vets Hockey scene that we enjoy so much today.

Mike Gottschalk

Thanks very much Mike for another interesting piece of our Vets history. Beer in the change-rooms at Subs (plus more later in the bar) was a memorable part of my first year in Vets with Scarborough."

Definitions: The terms used in media reports of the pandemic appear to be interchangeable. In fact:
Coronavirus: Any of a family (*coronaviridae*) of single stranded RNA viruses that have a lipid envelope studded with club shaped projections, infect birds and many mammals including humans and include the causative agents of SARS, MERS and COVID-19. In people coronaviruses cause one third of common colds.

COVID-19: This is the name given to the disease caused by the current coronavirus.

SARS-CoV-2: This is the name for the current coronavirus.

I know I'm being pedantic - by now most of the population generally know what is meant. Ed.

From Saturday Masters: There is very little to report, except to say that the Committee is watching very closely for developments in the relaxation of the social distancing rules. If that were to happen it should not take us very long to arrange for play to resume.

I trust that you all received the closing financial report for the summer season. If and when winter play becomes possible we will set a reduced fee to cover only the period where expenditure will be required. Most of it is on a week by week or month by month basis.

Les Waldon has been in touch with the President of YMCA, Enzo Evangelista, who has kept us up to date on some matters regarding Alderbury Reserve.

- 1) The Town of Cambridge have effectively closed the reserve for all sporting activities.
- 2) Two of the light towers have been deemed to be dangerous and have been taken down.
- 3) Like us, YMCA are planning for play to resume at some stage this year.
- 4) Like us, YMCA are keen and eager to get going again.

We did not quite get to this - thankfully

Raw toilet paper for sale \$20



Some assembly required

Shakespeare Said It: "... give me leave to speak my mind, and I will through and through cleanse the foul body of the infected world, if they will patiently receive my medicine." 'As You Like It', Act II Scene VII. *Isn't that what Donald Trump said about disinfectant?*

"I rather would entreat thy company to see the wonders of the world abroad, than living daily sluggardized at home." Two Gentlemen of Verona Act I, Scene I. *Airline or hotel ad at the moment.*

"How now! Which of your hips has the most profound sciatica?" Measure for Measure Act I, Scene II. *In anticipation of the resumption of play, and a possible 'A' Division greeting.*

Punology One: Did you know that Samsung have an elite security force which is deployed whenever they launch a new phone. They're called "Guardians of the Galaxy."

No Balinese Bulletin: *Peter has taken a month off as we have asked him plenty of history questions.*

WHM History: It is generally known that we began with two teams of O/50s at PHS on a Wednesday afternoon. We are trying to trace how we evolved from that day in October 1991 to our three age groups with four teams in each and to produce a slightly more detailed history than the following:

In October of year '91
Some old blokes began to have fun
From sides White and Blue
Our Wednesday comp grew
Now twelve teams are having a run.

Here is an extract from the Hockey Bulletin of 29th May 1993 written by the Stadium Manager at the time Grattan Wilson.

"There is a dedicated band of 25 vintage hockey players enjoying a friendly Wednesday afternoon hockey match at the stadium. They have been enjoying the pleasure of each other's company on a Wednesday afternoon since October 1991. Almost without exception the games are played on the main turf and are followed by much discussion about the recently completed game and hockey in general in the stadium bar. The games start at 2:30 pm and if you are interested in joining this merry band of fit men give me a call."

We do not know very much about those early years as there was no formal committee and hence no meeting minutes. It is known that by January 1995 a Red team had been added. The first Committee meeting was held on 29th April 1998 and was attended by George Winning (Chairman), John Sanders (Secretary/Treasurer), and team captains Peter Hammond (Blue), Brian Young (Gold), Ross Lonnie (Red) and Jim Boyce (White). The Gold team was added at some stage between 1995 and that meeting.

The O/60s began on a trial basis at the end of 2000 and games were played once a month (on the second Wednesday) right through 2001. At the Committee meeting on 27th March 2002 Peter Ford submitted a detailed proposal to make O/60s a permanent feature of Wednesday play and a trial series began. The minutes of the 8th May meeting reveal that the trial was deemed to be a success, and from then the O/60s played before the O/50s. There seemed to be no need to change a winning formula and the initial teams were Blue and White.

Incomplete Minutes: At the time of closing this edition we have minutes going from the inaugural Committee meeting on April 29th 1998 to 26th May 2004. There are gaps, the missing dates are:

18th September 2002
21st May 2003
3rd December 2003

If a reader has any of these minutes we would really appreciate being able to get a copy.

We are seeking the following information from the early years:

The date of entry of the Red O/50 team - first mentioned on a trophy 1st quarter 1995.

The date of entry of the Gold O/50 team - first mentioned in Committee minutes April 1998.

Hereunder are the inaugural team lists (October 1991) we currently have. Any update is welcome.

White Team : Peter Gardner (c), David Menzies (GK), Brian Stewart, Ray Cherrington, Harry Duncan, John Franks, Brian Young, Cecil Bogg, Fred Strother, John Gadsdon, Barry Angus, Kim Hawkins.

Blue Team Peter Gason (c), Bill Pickering (GK), George Winning, Ray King, Bill MacKintosh, Bill Williamson, Dudley Younger, George Orchard, Alan Blunt, Paul Robinson, T ? Blake, Tony Barley.

'B' Division: *Dudley has taken a month off, but Simon Thomson's saga will suffice for this edition.*

A Fortunate Hockey Life: *(Simon Thomson)*

I was introduced to hockey in 1959, at the age of 13, at Dover College, where I went as a boarder. Until then my passion was cricket. I still have the Art of Cricket by Donald Bradman given to me on my 10th birthday by my Father.

Hockey at school was a minor sport, played only in the short Easter term, when the weather was usually foul. Mr. Dowrick was the hockey master, a very good chemistry teacher, who had little knowledge or ability at any sport, which is why he was given hockey.

My memory of hockey at school was playing on the bitumenised assembly area with mates in free time. The only skill I learnt was how not to fall over (I don't think I even mastered that well). Nevertheless we did develop a good house and school team.

I left school at 18 and joined our local hockey club, Tunbridge Wells in Kent. In 1965 the fixtures were still determined by the hospitality of the opposition rather than the quality of the hockey. Jugs of beer in the changing room after the match, and a sit down meal with the opposition was a prerequisite for a return fixture.

Brian Perryman was a teammate at this time, and we were to meet some 40 years later in opposition teams, he was captain of England when I was playing for Australia in a Masters World Cup in Oxford.

During my time with Tunbridge Wells, I was also playing for a Sunday touring side called the Madhatters, and John Maylam was a teammate, who also plays for the old enemy. I have fond memories of the Thanet Hockey Festival for the quantity of the beer, and the quality of the Dutch women.

In 1969 I paid 10 pounds for a cruise to Australia on a ship called the Akaroa. (I think it was its last voyage!) After 6 weeks sailing, via the Panama Canal, on a sparkling May morning we docked at Circular Quay in Sydney. No virus checking then, merely showing a chest X ray certificate enabled one to disembark and wander the streets of Sydney.

I shared a flat in Manly, with some ship mates, and joined Manly Hockey Club. The first match I turned up to play, I was confronted with items I thought were only used in kickboxing. Shin pads and mouth guards were as new to me as schooners of Tooheys old. I adapted to this new style of play with gusto, (never to Tooheys) and became a regular at Manly Hospital on a Saturday afternoon. *(Many West Australians also never adapted to Tooheys - me included. Ed)*

A return to the UK in 1976 with pregnant wife, Carol, saw me join Littlehampton Hockey Club where I played for 5 years. I had to readjust my style of play, as the Pommie umpires kept picking on me! Two children later we returned to Australia, this time by plane and to Perth. We bought a house in Karrinyup and I joined Perth Hockey Club, my closest Club which was based at Charles Riley. I played 3A's for about 6 years. I was captain for a number of years, (because I was one of the oldest) and I think we won 2 flags. Vets hockey started for me in my early 40's. I have gradually risen through the ranks to over 60's, and have now played for NCR for nearly 40 yrs and Masters/Vets for nearly 35.

Some of my most enjoyable hockey has been playing Masters, both on a Saturday with NCR and WHM at Perry Lakes, and of course on a Wednesday. I have been playing Wednesday hockey for 24 years and have been Chairman for the past 15 years.

I have been very fortunate in playing Masters Interstate hockey for over 30 years, (" this could be my last one." Carol has heard for many years) and Australian Masters, both internationally and at home.

Wherever I have lived the hockey family, and friendships, have always been a large part of my life and hopefully will continue to be, once we have beaten this virus.

Keep safe and fit.

Simon Thomson

Thank you Simon. An early photograph appears next page and readers are invited to try their skills at identification. We can only offer the same prize for a correct answer as for John's quiz question.



Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders:

April's question was: Which of the following statements is true about Australian goal scorers in the FIH International Hockey Tournament in Ahmedabad in 1962:

- a) Eric Pearce (WA) scored 7 goals.
- b) Gordon Pearce (WA) scored 5 goals.
- c) Both statements are true.
- d) Neither statement is true.

The correct answer is c) as both statements are true. No wonder CBC were a good side.

May's question is: The second time that Australia played Great Britain was during the:

- a) Tour of Australia 1948.
- b) Olympic Games Melbourne 1956.
- c) Olympic Games Rome 1960.
- d) International Tournament Ahmedabad 1962.

Answer next issue.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "Idleness is not doing nothing. Idleness is being free to do anything." *Floyd Dell (1887 - 1969) US editor, literary critic, and author. As we're discovering. Ed.*

A Travelling Hockey Life: *(Neil Patterson)*

I was born in Melbourne and moved to Perth in 1953 when my father was sent here to be General Manager of the Shell Company's operations in WA. My mother was a talented pianist and artist. I liked Perth much more than Melbourne: better weather, beaches, etc.

In my first year at Perth Modern School (1956) two members of the Old Modernians Hockey Club (now Mods)—Merv Adams was one of them—were given class time to encourage boys to play hockey. Quite a few took it up as a result. I began in 1957 with the PMS team in the Saturday mornings inter-school competition on Langley Park, continued in that competition in 1958, and played for the South Perth club (U15s) in the afternoons in 1958.

At some stage, Alan Scott (who taught at Mt. Lawley High School and was an A1 player at Mods) started holding coaching and training sessions on the PMS school grounds. He brought some Mt. Lawley boys along to train with the PMS boys. Many from both schools became long term players with Mods. I played for the PMS school team in 1960 and for Mods from 1958 to 1964 (in U18 and senior teams) in which we had considerable success. This was a result of good coaching and support from people such as Alan, Merv, Brent Bellon, and Wilf Byfield. This was a time of great resurgence at Mods.

In early 1965, I was obliged to move to Canberra because at UWA my studies had been financed by an Honours Cadetship with Australian Bureau of Statistics. Within several days of arriving I was playing cricket for the Australian National University and hockey for the United Hockey Club in the Canberra summer competition. (Canberra was a small place then and word got around the government departments quickly whenever a new player arrived there.) I remained with the United Club from 1965 until 1990, apart from 5 years abroad. In the 1960s I mostly played in the A1 grade (and sometimes represented the ACT, mostly in its second team), in the early 1970s (after being abroad) in A2s and A3s, and (after being abroad again) in the late 1970s socially. In the early 1980s, when the prospect of playing Interstate Masters hockey arose, I got more serious, moved up to the A3 grade, and represented the ACT in the O40s divisions from 1983 to 1988. (The 1989 Perth tournament was cancelled because, I think, of an air pilots' strike.)

I was elected Club President in 1974, and again in the late 1980s for, I think, 3 years, and held many other executive positions, although never Secretary (too hard!) The United club organized three overseas tours, to Europe, Asia, and the Americas. I joined two of these. On the Asian tour in 1983, we went first to Singapore (the Padang was flooded so no hockey but the hospitality at the Singapore Cricket Club compensated), then to Malaysia where we played State U21 teams which were preparing for their national championships (we stayed in KL and Penang, both great venues, then to Hong Kong, and finally to Foshan (near Guangzhou in mainland China) where we played two matches against the Chinese Olympic team, which was seeking to qualify for the 1984 games (in fact, they failed), and of course they beat us twice but not by big margins. We were hosted there by the All-China Sports Federation, which I learned about 10 years later, was a very great honour. The other tour was to the USA and Canada, where we played in San Francisco (at UCLA Berkeley), in Los Angeles for the California Cup (an annual tournament for club teams from the US and various countries), in Calgary, and in Vancouver. While women's hockey is strong all over America (most colleges have teams, with good financial support), men's hockey is quite strong only in few areas (e.g. California and in those days at least in northern New Jersey.) In Canada, it is stronger especially in Vancouver and Toronto).

For 2 years from mid-1969 to mid-1971, I was seconded from the ABS to the United Nations Secretariat in New York City. Little men's hockey is played in New York, although occasionally, we would see groups of expatriate Indians or Trinidadians playing on Flushing Meadow, a large park near where we lived in Queens.

For 3 years from 1975 to 1978, I worked at the International Monetary Fund in Washington DC as a mid-level economist/statistician. There was a small hockey league in Washington (4 teams). Although I did not work for the World Bank, I played hockey for their team. (It was a nice group, with players from various countries, including from Germany, the Netherlands, Argentina, India, UK, and

New Zealand, and Spain). The other teams were mostly ethnically based (mainly of Indian origin.) We played on Sunday mornings during summer; exceedingly early to avoid the later build-up of heat and humidity and the arrival of tourists. Playing in winter is out of the question: far too cold. The general standard of hockey was not high, but the location was superb; we were on the Washington Mall, with views to the Capitol to the east, and to Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial to the west, and with the buildings of the Smithsonian all around.

Once a year, Washington hosted the John F Kennedy Memorial Tournament over a 3-day long weekend. It was similar in format to the California Cup. I believe it was sponsored by Pakistan International Airlines, and in those years, Pakistan's national team attended and won. Our team always enjoyed playing in the tournament because of the higher standard of competition. For those who know Washington, the venue was around the area of the Tidal Basin (between the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials) and not on the Mall itself. Also, in several years, we participated over long weekends in an annual tournament in the hills and woods of northern New Jersey. For atmosphere and style, this was one of the best.

I was invited back to the IMF in early 1990. It was meant to be a two-year contract, but we remained in Washington DC area (in fact, we lived in the State of Virginia) for another 17 years. For much of the time from 1992, I held senior management positions in the Statistics Department and travelled frequently to other countries and organizations. Hockey was no longer available, so my main exercises were woodland walks, at the gym, swimming (we had a particularly good local community pool), and cycling. I chose to take "early retirement" in 2006 at age 63, to allow time to settle back into Australia, build a house, and find useful things to do. Another consideration was that, in the wake of 9/11 and the start of the second Gulf War, the prospect of living in the "changed" US became less desirable.

While abroad, I did not know how much Masters Hockey had grown in Australia (or indeed in any other country) or about the many improvements in the way the game was played (including by the use of better sticks). However, I decided to give it a go and found a place in 2007 at Hale because it was short of players. Not being "hockey fit," I was hopeless. I played a bit better the next year (various people kindly provided helpful advice then and later) and in 2008 Mods took me back despite my having been elsewhere for 44 years. I played in their O60s side (as captain in some years) into the middle of the next decade until I was replaced by younger and better players. Fortunately, I had earlier joined WHM, and later its offshoot Saturday Hockey Masters, both of which provided excellent alternative venues for playing hockey and socializing.

I returned to playing Interstate Masters Hockey in 2011. I played for WAC in 2011, 2012, 2015, and 2016 and for WA in 2013, 2014, and 2016-2019.

In 2014 Mike Black finally convinced me to start nominating for Southern Cross teams. I represented Southern Cross in Euro and World Cups during 2014, 2015, and 2017-2019.

Many thanks, Neil. The title 'A Travelling Hockey Life' is mine, not his. I've been in the same team in an interstate tournament with NP and heard a little, which prompted the headline. Ed.

Late News: If you looked at 'Dates for the Diary' you may have picked up the announced dates for the interstate tournament in 2021. If you missed it, the venue is Newcastle, it's announced as a mega event and includes the Women's tournament from 23rd September to 2nd October and the Men's tournament from 24th September to 9th October. That is going to be a lot of teams seeking accommodation at the same time, but as those of us who attended the 2016 World Cup know there is plenty of it. Also, the new clubhouse should be complete.

Punology Two: The world tongue-twisting champion has been arrested by the police. It is expected that he will get a tough sentence.

Quotable Quote Two: "To disagree with three fourths of the British public is one of the first requisites of sanity." *Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900) anticipates Brexit.*

Statement from Hockey Australia:

Hockey Australia (HA), together in consultation with its Member Associations (MA's), have commenced planning for a 2020 hockey season to take place. As Australia continues to make inroads in flattening the curve of COVID-19, there is genuine optimism and excitement about the prospect of hockey being played this year. Hockey Australia CEO Matt Favier reiterated the primary focus for HA and every MA continues to be on getting local competitions started up again, and he is buoyed by the recent commentary by government authorities.

"While we understand this is a really difficult time, that there is still a level of uncertainty and it is premature to set any specific dates on when hockey will recommence, we are excited by the progress that is being made and the direction Australia as a nation is heading in with regards to this pandemic," said Favier.

"Hockey Australia and the MA's have started planning for when the green light is given for community sport to resume, which has been announced as one of the Federal Government's priorities, and we are hopeful that it is a case of when and not if."

"The MA's have shown outstanding leadership and cohesion during this extremely challenging time, and the decisions being made through this process have been with the betterment of hockey and all of its stakeholders at the core."

"The wider hockey community has also been extremely supportive and unified in navigating through this period, highlighting the collective strength of our sport. We will continue to aim to provide them with as much information as possible as things change."

"As we look to the months ahead with the hope that hockey will be back sooner rather than later, it remains critical that everyone continues their diligence in following the strict government and medical directives."

While each Member Association is guided by their individual state/territory jurisdictions, which means the timing of a resumption could vary in different parts of the country, Hockey Australia continues to be in regular contact with Sport Australia who are in the process of developing 'return to play' guidelines for the time when hockey and sport will be in a position to safely return. In the meantime, Member Associations will continue to communicate and inform their respective associations and clubs of updates and developments.

Importantly, various restrictions remain in place until further notice, and HA will continue to monitor, and act accordingly, in response to statements and policies enacted by both Federal and State/Territory Health authorities. HA encourages all members of its community to download the Government's [COVIDSafe app](#) as well as continue best hygiene practices and social distancing.

I took this statement from the WA Masters website - it was loaded on 1st May. Ed.

Page Filler: There are projects under way looking at both the future and the past of WHM. So:

We Masters are having a crack
At looking both forward and back
There's plenty of work
That no one will shirk
But documents still are a lack.

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. Email: johnmercercer@inet.net.au.