



A Blue

A Gold

A White

B Blue

B Gold

B White

C Blue

C Gold

C Red

C White

D Black

D Blue

D Gold

D Red

O/65 Blue

O/65 Gold

O/65 Green

O/65 White

Masters Matters

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Some Like It Hot: Well done to the Committee, Divisional Coordinators and team captains for a great effort on 31st January in finding us all alternative times and venues. A 41° day poses some problems and most of us can only guess at the amount of work required to arrange all the alternates. I hope that the lower age groups managed a better turn-out than A Division and would be particularly keen on hearing from C and D Divisions. Dudley Evans has covered the Bs in his regular report.

As might be expected MM's limericist has a comment:

So how should we handle high heat

On days it's too hot to compete

Play early or late

Might not be so great

Without a cold beer to complete.

WHM Christmas Party: Last issue we appealed for some reader feedback as to why this function was so comparatively poorly attended. The total number of responses received was zero. I know that MM is not the ideal recipient of advice on how to make the event more attractive this year and I trust that our Committee has already received many positive suggestions for change in 2024.

The episode reminded me to some extent of the organisation who conducted a telephone survey of their members. It included a question as to why was everybody so apathetic, to which the universal response was "Don't know, don't care."

Registration and 2024 Fees: The fees are coming in but it appears that quite a substantial number of players are yet to pay. Please get onto this as soon as you can as requested by Colin Gee on Page 4.

2024 Tournaments: I participate in an occasional Zoom meeting with a group entitled Barcelona Alliance Old Boys and the feedback I'm getting has been very interesting. Apparently the response to the tournament in The Hague has been so strong in the older age groups that some teams are over-subscribed and players may need to play in other age groups. There are not so many keen to go to Capetown in keeping with European players' customary preference for remaining in Europe. And I've yet to speak to anybody who is keen to visit Hobart in July.

Dates For The Diary:**2024**

March 23rd: Saturday hockey summer season windup - Herdsman's Hotel.
June 19th and 20th: Warm up tournament in Oxford. *Venue same as 2012 World Cup.*
June 24th to 30th: Masters tournament in The Hague. *Venue same as 2014 World Cup.*
July 12th to 20th: Interstate Championships for Men O/34 to O/50. Hobart Tasmania.
July 22nd to August 1st: Interstate Championships for Men O/55 to O/80. Hobart Tasmania.
The women are playing in Sydney this year.
October 12th to 21st: World Cup M O/65 to O/80. Capetown. Plus Spirit Of Masters.
November 7th to 16th: World Cup M O/50, O/55 and O/60. Auckland. Plus Spirit Of Masters.

Southern Cross Teams for The Hague: These teams were announced during December but were not mentioned in the January edition of Masters Matters. I have only included only players who are from Western Hockey masters or WA Country. Please let me know of any errors or omissions.

O/70s: Peter Fogels (WHM), Mike Jenkins (WAC), Brian Thomas (WHM).

O/75s: Scott Blackwell (WHM), Bob Claxton (WHM), Richard Osborne (WHM & WAC), Keith Platel (WHM), Bob Woodrow (WHM).

O/80s: Len Blyth, George Bradbury (WHM), Dave Horsley (WHM & WAC), Peter Murray (WHM), Neil Patterson (WHM), Graeme Sansom (WHM).

Congratulations to all those selected. I wish I was going with you. Ed.

Klein Switzerland Hockey Club June 2014



Department of Health: To begin with better news, Ken Beer has returned to the field successfully. Both Challenors (Ash and Chip) have begun comebacks. From personal experience, it gets harder the older you are and the longer you've been away, but they're doing very well so far. I believe that Ken Eliot tore a hamstring in the last minutes of a December Wednesday and is still recovering. It was not good to hear that Peter Jones has had a spell in hospital after a cardiac event during his recovery from the knee operation. Hopefully he's on the way back - again. Peter Murray has also made it back onto a hockey field. Neil Scaddan is now without the sling, but has yet to resume playing. And in not so good news Peter Stevens and former O/50 captain Rob Fawkes are both on chemotherapy. To all, including those not mentioned, our best wishes for a rapid and complete recovery.

Quotable Quote Number 1: "An environment where invention and hard fact can sit indistinguishably side by side, one as credible as the other, is paralysing our democracy. It means people in power can survive by avoiding the wicked problems and instead make decisions based on eight second sound bites rather than proven fact" *Professor Brian Schmidt, Vice-Chancellor ANU.*

Player Birthdays: If you do not want to have your birthday included in Masters Matters then please contact the editor at the email address johnmerc@iinet.net.au.

Please let me (and Colin Gee) know if there are any errors or misspellings. We stress again that there is no compunction to buy drinks for the bar on either a Wednesday or a Saturday.

Happy February birthdays to all the following:

A Division: 9th Colin Sanders (1941).

B Division: 11th Chris Morley (1950).

C Division: 2nd Colin Howell (1955) 9th Stuart Lamont (1959) 16th Ric Rodoreda (1957).

D Division: 3rd Rob Tincey (1962) 4th Craig Swann (1976) 6th Diarmid Burns (1963) 7th Bruce Taylor (1963) 27th John Pestana (1960).

Non Playing: 12th Roger Davey (1951), Jim Boyce (1939).

Saturday:

I hope that you're named in the correct WHM Division. This report was assembled from the current financial members, last year's February MM and the data I could access from 2023. Errors would not come as a surprise, but unless you tell me I'll never know. Ed.

Department of Corrections: The staff gathered again following the finalisation of the January issue and the editor put up a slide (*MM is still catching up with technology at a snail's pace*) of Page 6. "You people are not earning your salaries!" he declaimed. "How in the world can anybody type or proof-read a sentence reading 'Our Christmas Party was held on December in the form of a barbecue' and not notice that something's missing. This is in an edition with no other detected problems. Stop relying on the readers to find all the errors."

On the way out of the plush conference room the proof reader whispered to the typist "He's finally lost it completely. Doesn't he know that he's got no readers except for us?"

Letters To The Editor: Despite the previous paragraph some letters did reach the MM in box. Many thanks to Peter Fogels, who has given us a rather interesting piece of information.

"This may not be worthy of mentioning in the February edition of MM but for some years some of our Eastern States Masters have been infiltrating the New Zealand Masters tournament they use to select NZ teams in the same way we have our Nationals where Australian and Southern Cross teams for the following year are selected. I was aware in the past that Dudley Evans usually goes over for the tournament but this year myself, Bill Campbell, Graeme Nicholls and Maurie Giles are also going, to give the Kiwis enough players to make a proper competition.

The tournament is from February 25 to March 2."

Best wishes for a great trip and good hockey to all our WHM party. Ed.

Letters To The Editor (continued): We also heard from our occasional Thailand correspondent and the story from Woody appears on Page 9.

Membership: Registrations are flowing smoothly, however there are still a large number of members yet to register. If this applies to you please register NOW!

Coordinators: Please check the team lists and ensure we have the correct players in the correct teams. This will help the captains with their team structures.

Captains: Your team lists are incomplete because the players not registered will not appear on the list until they register. So please have a word to any player not on your list and let them know it is important that they register NOW!

If I have any errors in teams or player placement please let me know and I will correct the error.

Club Administrator - Colin Gee

Many thanks Colin. The link to the registration process is included below. Ed.

<https://www.revolutionise.com.au/westernmasters/registration>

'A' Division Blog: As we age it seems to become more difficult to play on the very hot days of Perth summers. In addition to this Hockey WA have banned play between 11:00 and 5:00 pm on the really high temperature days - I'm not exactly certain on where the cut-off point is So on the 31st we tried a start time of 9:00 am and got 16 starters. It would be interesting to hear readers' opinions about this possible option for the future. I know in my case it was a much better drive home, even if it took an extra 10 minutes to get to PHS.

January 10th: Numbers were down but we managed to play the fixtures with reduced teams of 9 field players only. Goalkeepers Colin Benporath and John Burt perforce played all the games and possibly the lower forward count generated fewer scoring chances. Though as usual goals had to be earned. After White enjoyed a blow-out over a depleted Blue side in the first match the games became dour struggles with goals at a premium. Early B Division arrival Simon Thomson joined the Blue side who started without Peter Galbraith. The goal of the day judges did not meet for a long time after these matches and eventually decided after lengthy deliberations that the brace scored by Ron Venables was the winner. The day's results and scorers were:

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

Scorers: **Blue:** Simon Thomson. **Gold:** Scott Blackwell. **White:** Sukhdev Pandher, Ken Eliot, Ron Venables (2). Total goals 6.

Team numbers based on original sides: Blue (8), Gold (8), White (10).

January 17th: Due to maintenance on Turf Two we played a shortened program (six 15 minute matches) on Turf One. This was the first day after a heat wave and was just as humid as such days generally are. Nevertheless we almost had three complete sides of field players and two goalkeepers - thanks to John Burt and Colin Benporath. The play was remarkable for the number of times that it appeared certain that a goal would be scored only for the ball to somehow refuse to cross the goal line, frequently with assists from defenders, forwards and goalkeepers. Despite the misadventures in the circles the midfield play featured some quality moves with both the White and Gold half lines prominent. Blue were missing Peter Galbraith. Several players reappeared who we had not seen for some time, including Mal Horrigan, Neil Patterson and Ken Beer. There is no truth in the rumour that a messenger was hastily dispatched to the Hockey WA kitchen to acquaint them with Ken's return. The goal of the day judges gave a Highly Commended to Col Murray-Smith's two excellent finishes but gave the award to Ivan Wilson's well placed and struck winner for Blue in the last game of the day. The results, scorers and team numbers were:

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

Scorers: **Blue:** Ivan Wilson. **Gold:** Scott Blackwell, John Mercer (2). **White:** Col Murray-Smith (2).

Team numbers Blue (9), Gold (9), White (10). Total goals 6.

January 24th: We were joined (once-off) by Simon Thomson (who played with Blue) and Peter Eastlake (who played with Gold) from the B Division. This, plus the return of many some of our more influential players lifted the quality of much of the hockey and goalkeepers Tony Marshall and John Burt acquitted themselves well considering the pressures they were subjected to. The games were very even to begin with but the White side missed quite a few chances throughout and failed to add to their goal in the first match. They also lost Rob Ainsworth and Ken Eliot to injury in the last game of the day. White started with one spare player but Jim Malcolm was transferred to Gold for the day, thus leaving Blue as the only side who enjoyed a bench rotation. There were several contenders for goal of the day, but the judges were unable to split Peter Dennis (welcome back), Simon Thomson and Scott Blackwell. The results, scorers and team numbers were:

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

Scorers: **Blue:** Peter Dennis, Simon Thomson, Peter Wallis. **Gold:** Scott Blackwell (2), Nev Brown (2), Peter Eastlake (PS), John Mercer. **White:** Ken Eliot.

Team numbers (original) Blue (10), Gold (8), White (11). Total goals 10.

Grumpy Old Men And Women One: "Hating someone is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die." *Nelson Mandela (1918 - 2013).*

January 31st: Due to the forecast 41° heat and the Hockey WA ban on play between 11:00 and 5:00 pm Coordinator George Bradbury managed to make a booking on Turf One from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Only 16 players arrived with no goalkeepers amongst them but a hasty allocation of the Blue players to the Gold and White teams resulted in equal numbers. The play unfortunately was fairly uneven due to the overall disparity in pace between the sides. The most conspicuous feature of the play was the number of chances which were not converted by the Gold/Blue side - and there were even a couple of gilt-edged opportunities not taken by White/Blue. Players were happy to give up the play (generally) after they had infringed, even after recruiting a spectator (the MM editor) as the sole umpire. Goal of the day had to go to a solo run from White/Blue's Jeff Kozak despite Scott Blackwell's score of more than half the day's total. The details of the three 15 minute matches which were played before the heat and player fitness ended the day:

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

Scorers: **Gold:** Ken Beer, Scott Blackwell (4), Terry Gaston. **White:** Jeff Kozak.

Team numbers (original) Blue (5), Gold (5), White (6). Total goals 7.

From Saturday Masters:

Our numbers are expanding again. Not only are Ken Walter, Tom Long and Peter Wallis playing again but we also have been joined by some players for the first time. Welcome to KY Lee (who has been playing on Wednesdays) and KC Lee (yes, a brother). There have been several possible players who have expressed an interest and Jeff Kozak had a run with us on the 3rd February and hopes to join once his health issues are resolved. In addition, both the Challenors have now had a game. Chip is having his first run on a hockey field for about two years, but appears to be working his way back to fitness while Ash does not appear to have lost much during his enforced break from hockey.

Chip Challenor returned to the field a week before Ash restarted and his arrival ready to play caused a lot of interest. Ash short circuited several possible repetitive conversations by holding up a sign which read "B4 you ask Chip is back playing hockey." MM's photographer did not have his phone handy and will no doubt be severely reprimanded by the editor.

As happens so often nowadays, our birthday celebrants are chipping in for the post-hockey drinks. Thank you to everybody who has done this during our summer season. On the 20th January the post-game refreshments were donated by Graeme Sansom - and it wasn't even his birthday. Thank you to Graeme from all of us who appreciated your hospitality.

The 27th gave us the chance to try the penalty corner variation as Graeme was the only goalkeeper present. For those who don't remember, where a penalty corner is awarded against a side without a keeper it is taken as a long corner but only five defenders are permitted behind the centre line. My personal view is that this is too much advantage if hits at goal are allowable and it would be better to use the 23 metre line as the limitation.

At the time of closing off this edition the forecast maximum for Swanbourne next Saturday is 39° with an afternoon southerly / south easterly breeze. I suggest you all keep a very close eye on your emails, as we may have to cancel play again.

Saturday players are again reminded about the end of summer season function at the Herdsman's Lake Tavern after hockey on 23rd March, the week before Easter. This is open to financial playing and social members - if you haven't already done it reserve the date now.

Make sure that you book in to play by responding to the "are you playing" email before the time requested by Len Walker in the email. And if you have booked in and can't you make it, then please notify us about that too.

Punology One: After a prolonged drought, when the rain finally came all the animals in the bush were happy except the kangaroo. When the others asked her what the reason was for such sadness, the kangaroo revealed that the rain meant that all its kids would now be playing inside.

B Division Report January 2024:

A new year and most players are back for more of the same! A few carry over injuries from last year but appearance numbers are creeping up for each of the three teams. Usually at this time of year teams are carefully analysed for strengths, weaknesses and competitiveness. This year this has been delayed until C and D Division finalise their format and teams, and some players (if any) are promoted (or pushed) up the hill to B Division. Already one welcome addition to B Division is Ian Brommel (Broms) who has returned to Wednesday Hockey. Ian is a hard, mobile fullback and will strengthen any side he plays for.

Whispers by those in the know are circulating that 3 or 4 other players from C Division are nominated and ready for the transition into B Division. We look forward to seeing their skill and youthful exuberance! Currently all the sides are fairly evenly matched. This was no more evident than when play ended on the 17th January each team had managed to score 1 goal and concede 1 goal. The day was declared a draw!

The last day of January saw implementation of the new heat policy with play relocated to Lakelands from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. With 2 teams organised on the day and the temperature at least 3-4 degrees cooler than at PHS play continued as per normal. In fact a good time was had by all! Feedback from the day would suggest this venue is the preferred alternative however those that weren't there may have a different view.

So 2024 has begun and B Division continues as per previous years. Unfortunately this includes the general obstacles of life including injury and illness. We therefore give a hearty shout out to Roger Davey (lastly in the White side) and wish him well in his battle with the big C.

With many thanks from all at WHM Keith Platel continues to successfully run the weekly wine raffles and bank the proceeds. At the end of each year these monies are given to charities and other good causes.

Dudley Evans

Many thanks again Dudley for a great start to 2024. Those of us in A Division are keeping a very close eye on those player movements as some of us (well, me at least) can only make one more move. That appears to be a lateral one to a non-playing position outside the sideline. Ed.

No Balinese Bulletin: *We have not heard from Peter, and hope that he's OK. If any of you still have regular contact with him please let me know. Ed.*

How To Buy WHM Playing Gear: Uniforms officer Peter Wallis has sent the following:

I am holding some stock of all uniforms in anticipation of future team changes. If any players need replacement items I can bring them to the stadium on a Wednesday. Shirts are \$35, socks are \$10.

Members or team captains need to contact me in advance with specific requirements.

Text 0412 402 782. Correct change is appreciated.

Peter

Thank you Peter. I have noticed that quite a few of us in the different divisions no longer are playing in our WHM shirts and socks and suggest that a campaign to smarten up might be a good idea. Ed.

Well Dones for January: Wednesday's A Division umpires were: Rob Ainsworth, Bob Claxton, Peter Evans, Peter Galbraith, Martin Gallivan, Terry Gaston, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, Mal Horrigan, KY Lee, Steve McEntee, John Mercer, Col Murray-Smith, Neil Scaddan, Peter Trend, Les Waldon, Ken Watt, Ricky Watts and Frank Williams. Saturday's umpires were: Eric Alcock, Adrian Gabriel, Colin Gee, Ian Hill, KY Lee, Tom Long, Colin Murray-Smith, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Greg Street, Len Walker, Ken Walter and Ken Watt. Our thanks to all.

Quotable Quote Two: "Nothing is worse than active ignorance." *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832). As the current world situation shows only too well. Ed.*

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

This short article appeared in a New Zealand newspaper:

INDIA WINS, 1-0

(N.Z. Press Association—Copyright)

September 5.

Australia went very close to ending India's unbeaten Olympic hockey record when it forced extra time in their quarter-final match at the Velodrome today.

India won 1-0, but its only goal came from a penalty corner when there was only two minutes of extra time left.

The young Australian team fought courageously and towards the finish was playing just as confidently as its opponents.

In which Olympic Games was it played?

Note: 1) Australia lost 0-1 2) Extra time was played. 3) Played at a velodrome.

For an extra point, who was captain of the Australian team?

- 1) Dennis Kemp 2) Kevin Carton 3) Michael Craig, or 4) Charlie Morley?

No answers were received. John S tells us:

- Played during the Rome Olympic Games 1960.
- Michael Craig, who passed away aged 92 in November 2023.

February's question is:

The Australian Men's team (later the Kookaburras) played in the 1972 Olympic Games held in Munich.

Who was vice captain:

- Bob Andrew
- Robert Haigh
- Brian Glencross, or
- Richard Charlesworth?

For an extra point, did Ric Charlesworth?

- Play in all matches.
- All except v Poland
- The first match only, or
- Miss the last one against GB?

Answer next issue.

Thailand Tales:

Hi all, hope everyone had a Merry Xmas and enjoyable New Year. Our season started this week; we have 2 teams (our A and B teams) but still compete in the same grade. My team B played Kasetstart University and lost 1-0, a goal scored in the first 5 minutes. We are the only club apart from the university teams that are mixed gender. Playing against University teams is challenging as they all average about 18-20 years old and are extremely quick and skilled. Our captain, who is 36 years old, came up to me and said "These kids are half my age, how do we keep up?" I laughed and said "I am double your age, how do I feel running after them?" Everyone is aware that I am blessed with such incredible speed. Our A team played Chula Uni and lost 4-3 but it is just great to be playing; I don't care how old they are.

I have attached a photo of the Perth team from Old Mods O/50s who travel to play in our King's Cup carnival in December every year.

Cheers

Woody

Perth Blundersticks

Thank you Woody. I thought of running a straw poll to enquire how many of our readers feel that they are qualified to join a team of Blundersticks, then decided that the response was likely to be more than a little overwhelming. Though that does assume we have readers Ed.

Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players February: Noted at PHS: Peter Andrews, Robin Bailey, Jim Banks, Hector D'Rozario, Peter Jones, John Mercer and Neil Scaddan. At Perry Lakes: Eric Alcock, Ian Brown, Ash Challenor, Roger Davey, Peter Jones, Tom Long, John Mercer, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Brian Thomas and Len Walker.

Shakespeare Said It: "... let us satisfy our eyes with the memorials and the things of fame that do renown this city." Twelfth Night Act III, Scene III. *Southern Cross or Alliance players on their way to the tournaments in Oxford and The Hague? Or national and Spirit of Masters players off to the World Cups in Auckland and Capetown.*

"By the Lord, I'll be a brave judge." First Part of King Henry IV Act I, Scene II. *Wednesday or Saturday umpire's closing thought in a sequence which begins: "Should that be a penalty flick?"*

"But you must learn to know such slanders of the age, or else you may be marvelously mistook." King Henry V Act III, Scene V. *Sound advice for anyone who procures all their news from various social media. However, seventy million Americans voted for Donald Trump last election and will no doubt do so again in the next one.*

Punology Two: Tim and his long-time girlfriend decided to tie the knot. One evening, after the honeymoon, he was organising his golfing equipment. His wife was standing nearby watching him. After a long period of silence she finally spoke: "Tim, I've been thinking, now we're married maybe it's time you quit golfing. You spend so much time on the course. You could probably get a good price for your clubs."

Tim's face expressed shock and horror.

She said: "Darling, what's wrong?"

"For a minute there you were beginning to sound like my ex-wife."

"Ex-wife!" she screamed. "I didn't know you were married before!"

"I wasn't." he replied.

Player Movement Between Divisions: I understand that high level discussions are currently under way and all kinds of rumours are beginning to circulate. It is essential that the player numbers in any Division do not vary too much when a mass migration of this kind occurs and hopefully outside recruiting will keep the numbers in D Division at a sufficient level. It is also hoped (by the more senior A Division players) that the influx of younger and faster players does not squeeze them out of a game. To any WHM member in doubt about going up a Division MM's limericist has some advice:

Move up a grade's not demotion
Think of it as a promotion
You'll be really slick
And feel young and quick
Gliding around in slow motion.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "To die for an idea; it is unquestionably noble. But how much nobler it would be if men died for ideas that were true!" *H. L. Menken (1880 - 1956).*

Hockey WA Board: In recent news Phil Wilson, from our C Division, has been reappointed to the Board of Hockey WA. Congratulations from us all at WHM.

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

All news, other contributions, and Unsubscribe requests to:

John Mercer: A Division Gold team. Email: johnmercer@iinet.net.au

A Brief Last Word: These editions of Masters Matters are getting more and more difficult to finish. I have been badgering the medical profession for some time to see if there is a reason why I feel so tired much of the time but nothing has been identified. This may well be the last year of Masters Matters under its correct editor. I hope that a volunteer will take over, if necessary.