



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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WHM Christmas Party: The numbers at this function have fallen away considerably from our record attendance of around 190, set in December 2020. This year there were only 8 tables, each with 10 chairs. There can be difficulties with the 6:00 pm start for those who finish earlier but difficulties are made to be overcome. Those who did not go missed an excellent night of fine food eaten from comfortable chairs around stylish tables. The formalities were kept to an absolute minimum, apart from an excellent joke or two from Simon Thomson and Peter Crowe. It is most pleasing to report that the George Winning Trophy for meritorious service to the club went to Ivan Wilson who has been heavily involved in every barbecue we have enjoyed for a very long time now - on both Wednesdays and Saturdays. Here is an extract from one of Ivan's nominations:

"Ivan has for a large number of years (possibly 20 years) cleaned and prepared the Barbecue, bought the Onions, Sausages, Buns and condiments, pre-cut all the Onions for the day and then on the day has barbecued the Onions and Sausages for the members. On many occasions this has been done without a great deal of help, though at times many members have assisted his work.

After the day he has always ensured the Barbecue is cleaned and left ready for the next event."

Many thanks Ivan and congratulations on a well-merited award.

I would very much like to hear from those readers who did not attend our annual celebration of Wednesday hockey. What was your main reason for not doing so?

Photographs from the function appear on Pages 3 and 6.

Registration and 2024 Fees: By now all WHM members should have received the general email with the information on the membership types and the fees for each. As Dan Hill explains later in this edition our costs have increased markedly. Several WHM members have paid already - the detailed instructions from Dan and the link to pay can be found on Page 8.

Vale John Ree: It is with much regret that we inform readers that John Ree died on 4th January after a lengthy illness. Our deepest sympathy goes to Irene and to John's family. During December a general email was sent out asking for messages to be sent to him and Ken Watt has since spoken with Irene who has told him that the individual messages were really appreciated by John. Thank you to all WHM members who responded and well done to Ken.

Dates For The Diary:**2024**

January 10th: Wednesday hockey resumes at PHS.

January 17th: Changes to times (A & B Division) and venues (C & D Divisions). See Page 3.

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: Masters Interstate Championships for Men. Home State Tasmania.

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.

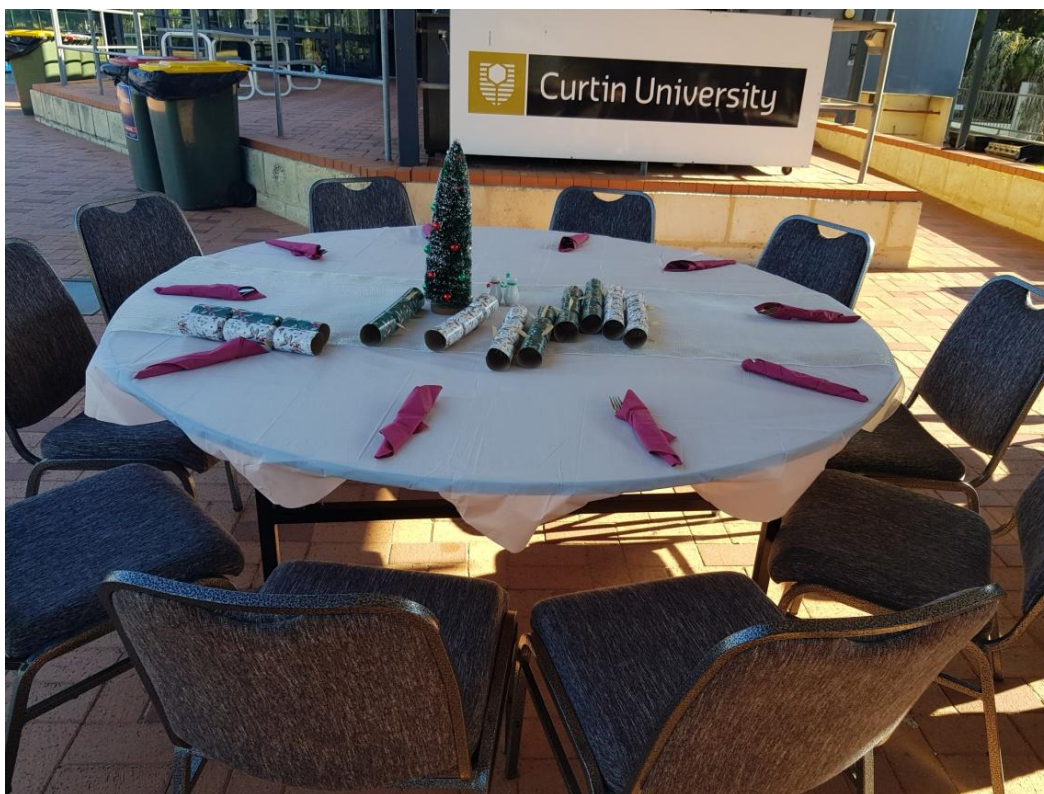
WHM Christmas Party (continued): Well done to Keith Platel and the organizers for the charity raffle which featured a Christmas hamper and quite a few wines. It was announced on the night that our charity account is expected to hold more than \$6,000 at the end of the year which is a real credit to Keith and Peter Jones, with an honourable mention to all the ticket buyers.

The winners were:

Hamper: Steve McEntee.

Wine: Colin Howell, Steve Farrar, Tom Long, Steve McEntee (yes again), Simon Williams, Greg Wood, Paul Scicluna, Ricky Watts, Ian Syme, Mark Oosterling.

I hope I have the names correct, but am sure that our readers (if any) will let me know if I haven't.



Department of Health: Both Neil Scaddan (shoulder) and Peter Jones (knee) have now been through their operations and are in recovery mode. Peter has a small problem with the post-operative wound but otherwise is doing well, while Neil should be able to shed the sling some time this month. Ken Beer's return to the field has now been delayed to later in January - in the meantime we hope that he's maintaining the necessary nutrition intake. As can be seen the health grapevine has not been operating properly over the Christmas break and I am sure that there are many other WHM members who merit inclusion in this report. Best wishes from MM to all, including those we do not know of, for a rapid and complete recovery.

Playing Arrangements For January 17th: Please note changed times (A & B) and venues (C & D).

A Division: PHS 1 from 12:00 to 14:00

B Division: PHS 1 from 14:00 to 16:00.

C Division: Lakelands from 15:00 to 17:00

D Division: Lakelands from 17:00 to 19:00.

Hopefully the fixtures for C and D Divisions will be available soon. To fit the abbreviated time slot A and B Divisions will need to play shorter games.

Quotable Quote Number One: "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." *Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955). Some players appear to think that every goal they score is a miracle, judging by the celebration. Ed.*

Player Birthdays: If you do not want to have your birthday included in Masters Matters then please contact the editor at the email address johnmercercer@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 January birthdays to all the following:

A Division: 2nd Peter Trend (1951) 15th John Mercer (1945) 18th Hector D'Rozario (1948).

B Division: 4th Michael Gottschalk (1954) 12th John Harper (1945) 26th Lance Woods (1951).

C Division: 9th Graeme Nicholls (1954) 14th Damian McEvoy (1959) 17th Michael Henderson (1961) 23rd Peter Gould (1954) 25th Michael Sputore (1959).

D Division: 2nd Sean Bunn (1961) 18th Adrian Miller (1970) 22nd Greg Ryan-Gadsen (1963) 25th Ken Moncrieff (1970).

Non Playing: 2nd Alan Osborne (1950) 3rd Ray Domingo (1950)

Saturday: 2nd Stan Balding (1945)

I hope that you're named in the correct WHM Division. The complete online membership register was not available due to the end of year rollover so I have used the limited data I could access from 2023. Any errors were probably caused by this. Ed.

Department of Corrections: The editor summoned his staff again following the December issue and accused them of deliberate sabotage. The Gala Day report on Page 3 claimed that "the late changes to team personnel made the selection of uneven sides very difficult." *Other than a couple of incorrect dates in the B Division and Saturday reports no other errors were identified.*

The assembled staff were urged to increase their productivity levels and to learn something about hockey. They were firmly told that selecting uneven sides is so easy that anybody can do it but it takes an expert to pick even teams. "I think he might be onto us" said the typist to the proof reader as they returned to the sweatshop.

Letters To The Editor: Rob Ainsworth sent a suggestion for a local rule to apply to penalty corners awarded when there are no goalkeepers:

"In this situation when a short corner is awarded, the penalty is taken as a "Long Corner" and fully defended by the defending team, and in my opinion, thereby taking away the advantage of that normally afforded to a short corner.

May I suggest for your consideration that when this situation occurs, and a "Long" awarded that only five defensive players to be able to be in that side of the half way line (like a normal short corner) thereby rewarding the attacking side while still taking the free hit (in lieu of a short corner played from the baseline).

I think this will reward the attacking side rather than them losing the advantage and just playing a "Long".

Thank you Rob. This is something that Phil Metcalf suggested several years ago and I have raised several times in casual conversation. I believe it's an excellent idea and could be implemented on both Wednesdays and Saturdays. The original suggestion was that the defensive players only have to start outside the 23 metre line but I am sure that we could decide this based on the results of the suggested change. What do readers think? Ed.

PHS Is Now Cashless: We remind all players that the PHS bar will no longer be accepting cash payments. Any cash you bring will solely be for the charity raffle or for your personal transactions with other players.

Grumpy Old Men And Women One: "Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring." *Marilyn Monroe (1926 - 1962.*

'A' Division Blog: Is it possible that some of us are slowing down at last. In the first quarter of 2023 we managed to play the scheduled fixtures on all but two occasions. This includes the (generally) warm months of January, February and March. In the second quarter we needed combined games five times, while in the third quarter (pre-tournament) the only time we did not play the fixtures was a cancellation of play due to adverse weather on 13th September. The fourth quarter has been a different story as we only managed the scheduled fixtures five times, played combined sides four times, and one day was cancelled (rightly) due to the heat policy. On the day of our Christmas party not only was our player turnout low but our attendance at the party was also the lowest I can remember. I started going to them in 2007 and have only missed 2019 since.

Any feedback from our readers would be appreciated I know that we have had quite a lot of health concerns, not all of which are reported in Masters Matters. However, if there is a reason that players are no longer keen to have a game other than their own old age and infirmity (as in my case), we need to see if the problem can be corrected. And possibly the poor attendance at the Christmas party was due to the logistics of filling in a three hour gap between the end of A Division games and the start of the festivities.

A long time ago the late Roger MacLIVER responded to my suggestion that it was time I retired from our O/50 (2) team at the age of 64 by saying: "As long as you keep playing 21 other people can have a game." I took this message to heart and have tried to honour it ever since.

December 6th: The White team was awash with players, including Rob Ainsworth for the first time for a while, and even after George Bradbury transferred to Blue still had three reserves. The day featured some excellent midfield hockey, some fine finishing and a lot of missed opportunities. Goalkeepers Tony, Graeme and John were good all day and goals had to be earned. Peter Wallis kept the somewhat undermanned Blue side in the hunt with a couple of good goals until Col Murray-Smith found his range with a well struck brace in the last match of the day. Unusually the day included two penalty strokes to Gold, only one of which was converted. We welcomed our previous visiting (from Wales) umpire in Martin Gallivan (MM apologises for the previous mis-spelling) who now has multiple family members in WA and may be here for some time. The goal of the day judges conferred at length and awarded the prize to Ken Watt's tap in goal. This occurred after brilliant lead-up work from the (apparently) ageless Ron Venables. The day's results and scorers were:

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

Scorers: Blue: Peter Wallis (2). **Gold:** Scott Blackwell, Mal Horrigan (PS). **White:** Sukhdev Pandher, Colin Murray-Smith (2), Ken Watt. Total goals 8.

Team numbers based on original sides: Blue (9), Gold (10), White (14).

December 13th: It may have been the day of the WHM Christmas party but we couldn't even make up three sides. There were also no goalkeepers. Very few of those who played on Turf Two stayed for the event and virtually none of those who did not play arrived later. As White had one spare player they played a combined Blue / Gold team four times but the games were occasionally a little unbalanced. Some of the hockey was quite good but establishing combinations with unfamiliar team mates took some time. Thank you to the two umpires, Martin Gallivan and Rob Ainsworth, who controlled every match. Ken Watt announced his retirement from Wednesday hockey and will be missed, both for his umpiring as well as his fearless play. Nev Brown was his usual alert self in the attacking circle and picked up a hat trick which made him a strong candidate for the goal of the day winner. However, as it was his last day of Wednesday hockey Ken Watt had earned a share of a joint award. The scorers and team numbers based on the players' original side were:

Scorers: Blue: Peter Dennis, Peter Wallis (2). **Gold:** Scott Blackwell, Nev Brown (3). **White:** Jim Malcolm, Ken Watt. Total goals 8.

Team numbers at maximum: Blue (8), Gold (7), White (11).

Quotable Quote Two: "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read." *Groucho Marx (1890 - 1977).*

From Saturday Masters:

Our Christmas party was held on December in the form of a barbecue. Well done to all those who did the preparation and work on the night; those I am aware of include Simon Thomson, Ivan Wilson, Peter Jones, Jim Wright, Les Waldon and cook Ken Beer. Thanks also to the many members who assisted with the post function clean up. The attendance numbers reached the mid 30s and as usual with every function held by this group the night was most enjoyable.

Unlike Wednesdays, when PHS has not been open, we usually miss playing on very few weekends and this year was no exception. It was decided to have a rest on December 23rd but we played again on the 30th and managed to field three teams.

It was good to see Colin Benporath return to hockey on December 30th after a lengthy absence. Maybe we will not need the suggested changes to penalty corners being taken when there are no goalkeepers as discussed on our Page 4.

The venue for the end of summer season function has already been booked and will be held at the Herdsman Lake Tavern after hockey on 23rd March, which is the week before Easter. This is open to financial playing and social members - I'd suggest reserving the date now.

I know that it can be difficult to avoid but when four or five members all have nothing other than a \$50 note it can be impossible for bar manager Howie to provide change for them all. Our bar is not a large scale operation so we don't have large amounts of cash in the till. The last time I checked it would be too costly for us to operate a machine to handle card payments.

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.

PHS Christmas Party



Punology One: It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs. They always take things literally.

Balinese Bulletin No 87: *Good news this issue.*

The long awaited hip replacement surgery was finally completed on Saturday 2nd December.

Recovery process is in progress albeit very slow.

Physio exercises are a daily routine & are certainly helping.

My eldest Son, Grant, is coming to visit at the end of Feb & we are looking forward to seeing him.

The annual Wet season generally begins around Nov & carries through until March/April. This year to date ...not a lot of rain at allclimate change perhaps.

In closing I want to wish everybody down there a Very Happy New Year & hope that 2024 is a good one for all.

Cheers from 'ere. Peter Hammond

It's taken a while but Peter is finally qualified to play in the Bionic Cup. Best wishes from all of us down here for a speedy recovery. Many thanks from me for the Bali Bulletins over the years and all the best for the New Year. Ed.

B Division Report December 2023: Unfortunately we have not heard from Dudley this month. Hopefully this means he's relaxing somewhere away from the city lights and will be back in the next edition of Masters Matters.

The New Year in WHM: I am certain that many of our members will decide to travel for hockey this year. It is unfortunate that the interstate tournament looms as one of the less desirable options. We were in Hobart in 2012 and 2017 and it can be quite cold enough in September/October. However our tournament is now totally out of our hands and has become somewhat of a cash cow for Hockey Australia. I have been told by a couple of the Scots who usually play for WA Country that July in the Tasmanian capital is too cold compared to a Scottish winter.

On a brighter note the European tournaments in Oxford (warm-up) and The Hague seem to be attracting a lot of interest from Southern Cross and Alliance players. Oxford was the venue for the 2012 World Cup and the Klein Switzerland Hockey Club hosted the 2014 event; both were excellent. Many WHM players went to these tournaments (*me included, Ed.*) and the newsletters from those years carry reports and a couple of photographs. I hear that the Dutch venue now has six turfs which is one more than the five they had 10 years ago. They also have a brand new clubhouse. It was a pretty marvelous venue then and should be a great location now.

Or the World Cups are in Auckland for the younger age groups and Capetown for the older ones - including Over 80s, if Australia is permitted to enter. These events should include Spirit of Masters competitions for those of us who do not manage to be selected in Australian teams.

I strongly recommend these tournaments to anyone who is doubtful about their attendance. You will find yourself in extremely congenial company with plenty of time for sight-seeing and socials. Due to health and financial reasons my travelling days appear to be over but I urge any of you who are in the process of thinking about it to give it a go. MM's limeriscist says:

We're now up to year twenty four
There's plenty of hockey in store
Perhaps overseas
In venues which please
Or just play at home if you're poor.

Well Dones for December: Wednesday's A Division umpires were: Rob Ainsworth, Bob Claxton, Peter Galbraith, Martin Gallivan, Terry Gaston, Ian Hill, Steve McEntee, Les Waldon, Ken Watt, Ricky Watts and Frank Williams. Saturday's umpires were: Rob Ainsworth, Eric Alcock, Ken Beer, George Bradbury, Terry Gaston, Colin Gee, Michael Gottschalk, Ian Hill, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Simon Thomson, Les Waldon, Len Walker, Ken Watt and Ivan Wilson. Our thanks to all.

Please Don't Shoot Me, I'm Only The Umpire: In recent months it has become very noticeable that we (that's A Division and Saturdays) are not treating our match officials properly. I know I'm just as guilty as anyone else in this regard and have made a New Year resolution to try to do a lot better in 2024. Nobody goes out there with a whistle and deliberately tries to make bad decisions. Umpires do make mistakes but not as many as the players. Hockey WA has been displaying this message at the stadium for a couple of months now and I suggest that we all take note.



Registration and Fees 2024 (from Dan Hill):

The 2024 registration email was sent to members on Friday 5th January. It is important that members register as soon as possible at <https://www.revolutionise.com.au/westernmasters/registration/>

Due to increased turf hire costs and the HWA requirement to use and pay for a Ground Controller, the WHM Committee has reviewed the budget and determined that the annual fee for a full playing member this year will be \$450.00. Whilst this is a significant increase on last year, it still equates to only \$10.00 per week for someone who plays 45 weeks out of a possible 49-week season!

Discounted fees apply for Goalkeepers and members aged over 80. New categories have also been adopted for part time and occasional playing members. Social members and Saturday only membership categories are also included.

If you have difficulties completing your registration, please contact Colin Gee gee.colin@gmail.com or Dan Hill danhill@iinet.net.au

Shakespeare Said It: "... it is no matter how witty, so it be eloquent and full of invention ..." Twelfth Night Act III, Scene II. *Reader advice for Masters Matters? We try to avoid invention, excepting for an occasional limerick or two. Ed.*

".... I'll give thee thy due, thou hast paid all there." "Yea, and elsewhere, so far as my coin would stretch: and where it would not, I have used my credit." First Part of King Henry IV Act I, Scene II. *Exchange between financial WHM player and a non-financial one. It's time to pay - see above.*

"..... our history shall with full mouth speak freely of our acts." King Henry V Act I, Scene II. *That was the general intention when we began creating our WHM history during the pandemic. It's all still online and can be found in the Revo site under the "About" button.*

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders:

We were not able to include a question for December due to some John to John communication difficulties. *(That may be the first time ever)* Fortunately we have got back on the same wavelength and here with is our first teaser for 2024.

January's question is:

This short article appeared in a New Zealand newspaper:



In which Olympic Games was it played?

Note

- Australia lost 0-1
- Extra time was played.
- Played at a velodrome.

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

- Dennis Kemp
- Kevin Carton
- Michael Craig, or
- Charlie Morley?

Answer next issue.

Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players December: Noted at PHS: Hector D'Rozario and Peter Jones. At Perry Lakes: Rob Ainsworth, Eric Alcock, Peter Andrews, Ken Beer, Colin Benporath, John Burt, Marty Greay, Peter Jones, Peter Murray, Roger Partington, Neil Patterson, John Peirce, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, Simon Thomson (*it did happen*), Len Walker, Ken Watt and Lance Woods.

Punology Two: Thanks to Ken Watt for this one: "One tequila, two tequila, three tequila Floor!"

Player Code of Conduct: Did you know that WHM has a formal code of conduct? On having another read it appears that we are not as scrupulous as we ought to be in following all the directions, mainly those about umpires or match officials. Though possibly that is just A Division and all the younger age groups are polite and respectful at all times.

This code of conduct applies to all Members of Western Hockey masters who participate in Wednesday and/or Saturday hockey organized by WHM. You are required to meet the following standards with regard to your conduct.

1. Behave in a sporting manner at all times to all players, officials, spectators and Hockey WA personnel.
2. Play by the rules at all times and ensure that the game of hockey is not brought into disrepute by your actions.
3. Do not show unnecessary obvious dissension, displeasure or disapproval (by action or verbal abuse) towards an umpire or match official as a consequence of his or her decision or generally.
4. Do not make detrimental statements in respect of the performance of any umpire or match official.
5. Do not engage in inappropriate and/or physical contact with players or officials in the course of play.
6. Accept responsibility for all actions taken. Exercise reasonable care to prevent injury by ensuring that you play within the rules. Reasonable care consists of showing due diligence in abiding by the rules and adhering to the officials' decisions.
7. Don't do anything which adversely affects or reflects on or discredits the game of hockey, WHM, teams, competition, tournament, sponsor, official supplier or licensee, including but not limited to any illegal act or any act of dishonesty or fraud.
8. Refrain from using obscene, offensive or insulting language and/or making obscene gestures which may insult other players, officials or spectators.
9. Refrain from making any comments or undertaking any actions that might be of a racial and/or sexual vilification nature.
10. If absent for any game, notify your Captain (or Vice Captain) at least 24 hours beforehand.

As a member of WHM pursuant to its Constitution you confirm that you have read this WHM Players Code of Conduct and you fully understand and accept the responsibilities and conditions disclosed.

A member will to the best of his ability abide by this Player Code of Conduct during all WHM Hockey matches and social events.

The Divisional Coordinators are responsible for ensuring that this Player Code of Conduct is met at all times.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." *Thomas A. Edison (1847 - 1931).*

All The Best For 2024: Masters Matters would like to extend our best wishes to you all for the 2024 season. Hope you remain injury-free and enjoy a year without any major dramas.

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