



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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Vale George Winning: We regret to inform MM readers that our inaugural WHM president George Winning died on the 1st September. During the 1990s he led the way in establishing a regular competition on the turf which expanded to include O/60s as from 2002. After stepping down from the top job in 2004 he became one of our first Life Members in 2010. A perpetual trophy for the best performing team in the Over Sixties (awarded from 2006 onwards) was named after him and this became an individual award from 2015. We enjoyed his company at the after hockey bar until very recent times. Our sincere condolences go to Lesley and all his family.
At the time of closing this edition the funeral details have not been announced.

Alternative Venues September 20th: Due to the unavailability of Perth Hockey Stadium all of us will be playing elsewhere. The details are:

A Division: Hale School from 12:30 pm.
 B Division: Lakelands from 1:30 pm.
 C Division: Hale School from 3:00 pm.
 D Division: Hale School from 5:00 pm.

Thank you to Peter Trend for anticipating this and arranging these alternatives.

In late news B Division will be starting at 1:00 pm on 6th, 13th and 20th September.

Next Committee Meeting will be held in mid to late October. If you have any matters to raise, please direct them through the Secretary danhill@iinet.net.au or any of the Committee members.

President: Tony Jones itj2gmj@live.com

Vice President: Adrian Rutter adrian@fessuper.com.au

Treasurer: Steve Farrar feral56@live.com.au

Secretary: Dan Hill danhill@iinet.net.au

Committee Member: Colin Howell howell5@iprimus.com.au

Committee Member: Russell Wood russell01@iinet.net.au

Dates For The Diary:**2023**

September 20th: Alternative venues for all Divisions.

Masters Interstate Championships for Men and Women. Home State WA.

September 21st to 30th: Women.]	
September 23rd to October 1st: Men O/34, O/40, O/45.]	Venues to be confirmed
September 28th to October 7th: Men O/50 plus.]	PHS is primary location
October 14th: Saturday Hockey AGM and end of winter season dinner.		Herdsmen's Hotel.
Mid to late October: Next WHM Committee meeting.		
November 20th to 26th: Asian Continental Cup. Hong Kong.		

2024 To be advised: 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.

Respect: Even though most of us will have received this piece by Hockey WA CEO Fabian Ross and some of us will even have read it, the message bears repeating.

“To the Western Australian Hockey Community,

As we get to the pointy end of our main hockey season with finals for all divisions just around the corner, it is a good time to reflect on the importance of respect and courtesy and how we behave towards each other whenever we’re at the hockey.

We all share a love and passion for the sport of hockey – it is what brings us together every weekend across the state. But if hockey is going to continue to thrive and maintain the amazing sense of community and inclusiveness it has, there needs to be respect for everyone in the game.

Officials and umpires across all levels of the game are as valuable as players and coaches – **without them we do not have a game.**

Like players officials are constantly learning, improving their skills & they can make mistakes.

Like players, officials devote their time, energy, and expertise into performing their duties.

Like players, they deserve our support, respect, and encouragement.

Hockey WA has a strong position of ‘no tolerance’ when it comes to criticising or verbally abusing officials and umpires. We are all here to enjoy the game and there is no excuse or justification for verbally abusing or threatening officials and umpires.

Hockey is a sport played by all kinds of people across all ages, and we all have a responsibility to set an example through how we act and play. Just like acknowledging the opposition after a hard-fought game, officials and umpires deserve a ‘thank you’ for their efforts, no matter what decisions were made, right or wrong.

Everyone has a part to play in making hockey the best game it can be. You can play your part by choosing respect and kindness in all situations that unfold on or off the field.

Together, we can ensure hockey continues to thrive and remains the best, most inclusive sporting community in Western Australia.”

On Wednesdays we all need to remember that we are not playing for sheep stations, nor even for premiership points. Umpires can make mistakes but not as many as the players. On which note the late Vern Gooch (who was a fine umpire too) used to claim that there are only two rules: Rule One: The umpire is always right.

Rule Two: If the umpire is wrong refer to Rule One.

New Penalty Corner Trial Delayed: Many thanks to Rob Ainsworth for spotting this in a publication entitled “Inside The Games” and sending me the link. The full story can be found on Page 8.

Southern Cross Player Nominations: The SX organization is seeking player nominations for the 2024 World Cups Spirit of Masters competitions in Auckland and Cape Town. They plan to enter teams in age groups O/55, O/60, O/65, O/70, O/75 and O/80. You will need to be a member of Southern Cross but the helpful website will allow you to sign up before you begin the nomination process. The closing date to register your interest is 10th September. Here is the link to the SX site:

<https://www.southerncrosshockey.org/home/>

Should you seek further information many WHM members play regularly with them and would be happy to tell you more. Or you could click the link on Page 10. It’s a great experience.

Southern Cross Committee Nominations: These are now open prior to the SX AGM which will be held during the Perth tournament - date and venue yet to be determined. More information and the necessary form can be found on the Southern Cross website, or via this link:

<https://southerncrosshockey.org/events/202916/>

Quotable Quote Number One: “When Solomon said there was a time and a place for everything he had not encountered the problem of parking his car.” *American radio journalist.*

Department of Health: It's been good to see Les Waldon, John Jeffreys and Colin Sanders playing with the O/80s on Turf Two during August. Unfortunately Ian Hill has been a spectator most of the time. Hector D'Rozario is out for quite some time with that ongoing problem shoulder. Jim Malcolm seems to be handling his comeback well and his pre-cardiac zip is coming back rapidly. Peter Jones is battling a leg muscle injury which is being quite obstinate about coming good. KY Lee is also battling a leg muscle injury which is somewhat recalcitrant. Neil Scaddan is also not playing, possibly due to that possible shoulder surgery. Best wishes from MM to all, including those we do not know of, for a rapid and complete recovery.

Letters To The Editor: We heard from several readers this month and it's good to know that there are some. Among them was Mal Horrigan with a correct answer to John's question. Many thanks to Keith Kessell who let me know that he'd appreciated the tribute to Neil Mannolini and included the line; "who among us are immune from the ravages of age?" Mal Jackaman drew our attention to an article on respect in YM's newsletter and Rob Ainsworth let us know that the new penalty corner rule trial had been deferred. We also heard from Graham Wood for the first time in quite a while - it's good to know that he's OK despite the recent events in Thailand.

Department of Corrections: As no complaints came in at all the MM staff checked the August edition extremely thoroughly but were unable to find any errors. The editor was gravely displeased as he can now expect all kinds of outrageous pay claims following this slice of good luck.

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

A Division: 15th Ken Walter (1946) 19th Ian Hill (1942) 24th Ken Beer (1947).

B Division: 6th Heath Tyrrell (1948).

C Division: 2nd Craig Boyce (1954) 9th Nicholas Pereira (1955) 14th Tony Watkins (1957), Damian Cooper (1958) 15th Richard Staynor (1952) 21st Russell Scanlon (1957).

D Division: 5th Peter Connolly (1965) 12th Timothy Reynolds (1963), Anthony Brittain, (1967), Sandy Kerr (1975) 13th Andrew Rahim (1965) 26th Peter Crowe (1957) 27th Lee Warin (1972) 28th Eddie Biggs (1962), Peter Bewick (1968).

Non Playing: 11th Nigel Rayney (1958) 25th Mark Faithfull (1945).

Saturday: 15th Murray Matthews (1955).

I hope that you're named in the correct WHM Division. To try and make sure everybody has been included I have used the online membership register, mostly including those names too. Ed.

Perth Pre-Tournament Last Word: In less than three weeks we will be the centre of Masters Hockey in Australia. The fixtures have not yet appeared on the altiusrt site but otherwise I would hope that all other facets of the organization are totally under control. It behoves all of us to make sure that our interstate visitors feel welcome, even if that does not extend to allowing them to win games against us. Best wishes from Masters Matters to all of you who will be playing and I hope that we all get through uninjured and play as well as we can. Hopefully the home ground advantage will be very helpful in attaining podium finishes. Ed.

Grumpy Old Men And Women One: "The object of life is not to be on the side of the majority, but to escape finding oneself in the ranks of the insane." *Marcus Aurelius - Emperor of Rome from 161 until his death in 180. He was the only emperor to be a philosopher too. The only comment I'd make about this quote would be that the more things change the more they stay the same. Ed.*

'A' Division Blog: From the 23rd the Gold side is Metro O/80s and White is based on Country O/80s.

August 2nd: Play today followed training for the State O/80s and as a consequence Les Waldon and Howie Herbert had a game or two afterwards. Butch Worth also had one game. Goalkeepers Barry and Graeme proved to be very hard to pass (when is that not the case?) and goals generally had to be earned. The last match was not played due to increasing rainfall and a shortage of players who were not tired from filling in. Peter Dennis still is able to run all day and in addition to getting many touches in the midfield managed to be in the right place at the right time in the circle to earn the goal of the day for his well finished brace. In quite a surprise Ash Foster appeared on the sidelines and is thinking of a possible comeback. The results and scorers:

White 0 Blue 2; Gold 2 Blue 1; Gold 1 White 0; Blue 0 White 0; Blue 1 Gold 0; Not played.

Scorers: Blue: Ash Challenor, Peter Dennis (2). **Gold:** Nev Brown, John Mercer, Ken Walter.

Team numbers at max: Blue (9), Gold (10), White (9). Total goals 12.

August 9th: At the start of the day Blue had only 6 players. So Colin Gee and Mal Jackaman transferred from the Gold team for the day and Butch Worth (B Div) filled in for the first match. Ian Pestana (C Div) filled in for the last two. Though quite a lot of chances were created the side failed to score despite some good midfield teamwork. Sharp shooting forwards Ham D'Souza (White) and Ken Walter (Gold) enjoyed good days. It was very unusual to have four goalkeepers and Barry, Colin Graeme and John seemed to appreciate the rests. There were several contenders for goal of the day and the judges finally decided that they could not split Nev Brown's solo run and Ham and Ken's fine conversions from the right hand top of the circle. The day's details were:

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

Scorers: Gold: Nev Brown, John Mercer, Ken Walter (3). **White:** Ham D'Souza (2), Neil Patterson, Ron Venables. Total goals 9.

Team numbers by original side: Blue (6), Gold (12), White (10).

August 16th: This week it was Gold's turn to have a bad day and it was quite a shocker with many passes going astray and losing captain Colin Gee after a fall. After Terry Gaston's early departure they needed three fill-ins for the last match. The same four goalkeepers as last week all turned out again with every one of them demonstrating repeatedly that the hockey ball will not pass through a pad and into the net. Blue again added Butch Worth for the first game and dominated that match although White were the best performed side on the day. Despite the good play of the custodians some fine goals were scored with honourable mentions going to the Peter Wallis tomahawk (part of a hat trick) and the David Horsley deflection. The judges were unanimous that Neil Patterson's deflected winner for White against Blue was the goal of the day. Unfortunately Neil left the field later on with a muscle tweak. The results and scorers were:

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

Scorers: Blue: Peter Wallis (3). **White:** Ken Eliot, David Horsley, Neil Patterson. Total goals 6.

Team numbers at maximum: Blue (9), Gold (9), White (11).

August 23rd: The State O/80s played as Gold and had 13 members in attendance. Despite this we still struggled for numbers and needed plenty of fill-ins each game to the extent that the last fixture match was not played. The Blue side was the only team to take proper advantage of their scoring chances as the Metro O/80 Gold failed to score and the WAC based White struggled. The player who messed up almost all White's opportunities will not be named due to the ban on editorial selfies. The keepers Barry, Graeme and Tony refused to make a mistake, leaving that up to the opposing forwards. Several players we had not seen for quite some time were included, among them Mark Faithfull, Peter Livingstone, Brian Soares and Bob Maley. Jim Malcolm also made a good return from his cardiac scare. Some good goals went in but the judges were unanimous in awarding goal of the day to the fine deflection from Neil Patterson, who seemed to have recovered well from the previous week and is making these goals a habit. The results and scorers were:

Blue 3 White 0; Gold 0 White 1; Gold 1 Blue 0; White 0 Blue 1; White 0 Gold 0; Not played.

Scorers: Blue: Nev Brown (2), Ham D'Souza (2) Neil Patterson. **White:** Steve McEntee. Total goals 6.

Team numbers: Blue (7), Gold (7), White (7).

/6

'A' Division Blog (continued):

August 30th: Last week's midfield play was fairly even but this week's certainly was not with the WAC based White being comprehensively outplayed and outrun for most of the day as shown by the list of scorers. Before the day began Coordinator George Bradbury asked the umpires to officiate as though this was the tournament; one green card resulted. Goals were generally hard to get except for the game when the Gold forward line clicked and the White defence fell apart. Goalkeepers Barry Colin and Tony did extremely well, especially Colin who made several excellent saves in the White goal. Again due to the demands from Turf One we did not have a full complement of our original A Division players there and it was good to welcome Sukdev Pandher, Bob Maley, Howie Herbert, Mark Faithfull and Rob Butler. The judges conferred at length to decide on goal of the day and eventually gave the award to Ivan Wilson's double which was obtained from good positioning in the circle and some composed finishing. The full results and scorers were:

Blue 1 Gold 1; White 0 Gold 0; White 0 Blue 1; Gold 0 Blue 1; Gold 4 White 0; Blue 0 White 0.

Scorers: Blue: Peter Trend (2), Ivan Wilson. **Gold:** Ham D'Souza (2), Col Sanders, Ron Venables, Ivan Wilson. Total goals (8).

Team numbers based on original sides: Blue (7), Gold (6), White (7).

From Saturday Masters:

We remind members again that the date for our AGM and winter season windup dinner is Saturday 14th October at the Herdsman's Hotel after hockey.

Les has appealed for all those interested in joining the Committee to think very seriously about it and discuss your interest with a member of the current Committee should you have any questions.

The current members are:

Club Captain: Les Waldon. (*retiring*)

Club Vice Captain: Jim Wright (currently in Queensland). (*retiring*)

Membership and Selection: Scott Blackwell.

Bar Manager: Howie Herbert.

In Recovery Mode: Bruce Mercer. (*retiring*)

Secretary/Treasurer (and assistant bar manager): John Mercer.

As from 2nd September we are running our own bar again. This means that we need to bring some cash with us and preferably not in \$50 notes. I did try to investigate methods for payment by card but the big disadvantage is that it would require the bar staff to start serving drinks and enter the details into the machine. Self-service means that we can all enjoy the social aspect of our club.

Many thanks go to those members who have helped me to carry all the necessary equipment out to and back from the ground each week. At the moment that is my own hockey bag, our bag of hockey balls, the first aid kit and the defibrillator.

It has been a very long time since we had to cancel play due to lack of interest but that's what took place on 12th August. There almost was an encore on 2nd September but we managed to get in three games with both sides being one short. MM's limericist wanted to comment:

Were all of them staying away

To watch the Matildas in play

Or right out of reach

On some distant beach

It made for a fairly bad day.

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

Punology One: Did you know why the Middle Ages were also called the Dark Ages. There were too many Knights.

B Division Report August 2023:

The storms and high August rainfalls came and went but by some strange twist of fate largely stayed away on Wednesday afternoons. Some say this was just coincidence, others that it's all to do with climate change and others said that it had something to do with internet influencers!! Whatever the reason it maintained the continuity and enjoyment of the Wednesday experience.

As is customary at this time of year the State 70's and 75's have started playing as the Gold and Black teams to give them some good match practice leading into the State Championships later in September. Although for the first week this led to too many players in the third team this hiccup has been ironed out and now a four team competition is underway. Many thanks to John Chapman, Mike Robinson, Adrian Gabriel and the other Captains for making this happen. Many thanks also to all the regular players who accept this arrangement which is very much appreciated by the State Teams.

Another great thing about the lead up to the State Champs each year is the number of players who come out of the woodwork for a run. With some States short on players for a variety of age groups and positions anybody who wants a game generally gets a game. This is fantastic for WA Masters hockey and keeps our participation numbers at very high levels!

Off field the wine raffles run by Keith Platel are still going strong. All our members are urged to support these raffles as much as possible because the profits are given to good causes. There is also provision for members to make submissions at the end of each year as to what these good causes should be!

So another great month of hockey for B Division, let's keep it going!

Dudley Evans

Thanks again Dudley. So now I know who those blokes in the black shirts are. Ed.

Balinese Bulletin No 83: Peter says:

"I had an MRI scan on Thurs. This is, I think, the last of a series of tests to determine if the surgeon feels he can move ahead with the hip replacement. We plan to get back to him once we have seen the neurologist next week."

Thanks Peter - Hope the surgery will not interfere with your enjoyment of Carlton's finals. Ed.

Shakespeare Said It: "Better a witty fool than a foolish wit." Twelfth Night Act I, Scene V. *Hopefully the Masters Matters editor is not considered to be either - no correspondence please.*

".. every stride he makes upon my land is dangerous treason" King Richard II Act III, Scene III. *Some keepers have this attitude to any forward who comes anywhere the goals.*

"There is no composition in these news that gives them credit." Othello Act I, Scene III. *How on earth could the bard have known what a main stream media bulletin would be like?*

Well Dones for August: Wednesday's A Division umpires: Rob Ainsworth, Jim Balding, George Bradbury, Bob Claxton, Peter Evans, Terry Gaston, Peter Galbraith, Ian Hill, Mal Jackaman, Jeff Kozak, KY Lee, Steve McEntee, Peter Murray, Neil Scaddan, Peter Trend, Les Waldon, Ken Walter, Ken Watt, Ricky Watts and Frank Williams.

Saturday's umpires were: Dudley Burress, Murray Matthews, John Mercer, Rod Spencer, Neil Scaddan, Greg Street, Les Waldon and Len Walker. Our thanks to all.

Past Players, Non Players and Injured Players August: Noted at PHS: Jim Balding, Jim Banks, Hector D'Rozario, Ian Hill, David Horsley, Tony Jones, KY Lee, Jim Malcolm, Richard Osborne, David Pandher, Neil Patterson, Neil Scaddan and Ken Walter. At Perry Lakes: Eric Alcock, Ken Beer, Ian Hill, Paul Huisman, Peter Jones, Bruce Mercer, Steve Powles, Neil Scaddan, Rod Spencer, and Les Waldon.

Quotable Quote Two: "I am a man of fixed and unbending principles, the first of which is to be flexible at all times." *Everett McKinley Dirksen (1896 - 1969) US Senator.*

Penalty Corner Rules Trials: Here is the full story from "Inside The Games."

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has put a trial of new rules for hockey penalty corners, which are designed to improve athlete safety, on hold, as it looks at ways to "protect the original characteristics" of the move.

The FIH had planned a trial of a new rule, in which the ball had to travel at least five metres out of the circle, beyond the dotted five metres circle, before a goal could be scored. This was designed to reduce the risk of injury by removing the option of a direct shot, eliminating the need for defenders to have to run at an attacker shooting towards goal.

The FIH said the decision was made after "internal consultation" with the governing body's President Tayyab Ikram saying in a statement: "I think it is wise for us not to proceed with this trial, because we must protect the original characteristics of the penalty corner. "Athlete safety must not be compromised, but the penalty corner is such an integral and iconic part of our game that we must be very considerate and careful when we explore changes to it.

"Therefore, I have initiated a re-evaluation and further evaluation to design a trial that will protect the original form of the penalty corner, while we also continue to work on enhancing athlete safety in our game and especially in the penalty corner situation."

The FIH told *The Times of India* during this month's Asian Champions Trophy that no competitions that include athletes who are hoping to qualify for Paris 2024 would be used for the trial as "the rules will not change before then."

Before the announcement that the FIH had put its trial of the new rule on hold, former Pakistan goalkeeper Salman Akbar, who was part of the side that won gold at the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou in China, had called on the FIH to reconsider in a post on *Facebook*.

"This will limit the influence of goalkeepers in winning tournaments," Akbar wrote.

"Drag-flick is an art and has equal influence in winning tournaments.

"Eliminating this battle between penalty corner defence and attack will not bring any attraction or benefit to this beautiful sport."

The FIH launched a consultation programme entitled "The Future of Penalty Corner" in May 2022, which received more than 4,300 responses from around the world.

The Thailand Times: Here's the latest from our S/E Asian correspondent Graham Wood.

Thailand is in the midst of upheaval at present. There was a general election was held in May. The Military were obliterated and the new Move Forward Party won an overwhelming majority, thus making everyone happy, however Mr General elected 250 senators just before the election who decided who would be in power. Therefore the Move Forward Party is now in opposition, and, a combination of the Phiew Thai Party and Military are in power. The people are not happy so we will see what happens next. It has taken only 4 months for a parliament to be formed.

Meanwhile hockey season is now on hold since it is wet season, our club BIHC has been training every Monday night, and this year we have decided to become a serious hockey club "not social" so we our training is intense, very enjoyable, however trying to keep pace with 20 and 30 year olds is a challenge. So, I should be a little sharper than usual for Perth in a couple of weeks.

I am looking forward to catching up with all my hockey mates in Perth, I miss the camaraderie amongst our special group of warriors.

See you all in a couple of weeks

Cheers

Woody

As you can tell we have former players in lots of places. Ed.

Grumpy Old Men Two: "Many a man's reputation would not know his character if they met on the street." *Elbert Hubbard (1856 - 1915. US author - died in the Lusitania in WW I.*

Test Your Hockey Knowledge With John Sanders:

August's question was: Can you name these famous hockey playing sisters who all represented Australia at the highest level?



They are photographed here on arrival in NZ in 1948 for a tour of the country, including a single Test match which was played in atrocious conditions in Dunedin.



The girls developed their hockey skills in Moulyinning, country Western Australia, and when playing together in the strong WA side.

For an extra point: Who won the Test with a score line of 3-2??

Mal Horrigan: "They would be the Pearce sisters - May, Jean & Caroline - & Australia won the test."

John S: "They are (l-r) Caroline Ash (Tib), May Campbell and Jean Wynne, Members of the Pearce family! A fourth sister, Morna Hyde, also played for Australia captaining the 1956 World Cup team. For the Bonus point.

Australia won the Test 3-2. Goals for Australia were scored by May Campbell, Laurel Johnson and Meg Weaver. For New Zealand D. O'Connor and D. Gray scored.

The local paper reported "*The test match played at Dunedin on Saturday on a waterlogged ground, under possibly the worst conditions which an international women's hockey match has ever been played.*"

Well done to Mal.

September's question is: SYDNEY, August 15, 1937.-The Test match, Australia v. New Zealand, was played at the Sydney Sports ground yesterday, when approximately 3,500 people saw New Zealand defeat Australia, one goal to nil, in a hard, fast game.

Which of these statements about the game are TRUE?

- A high standard of play was not revealed owing to the slippery condition of the ground caused by heavy rains on the two preceding days.
- New Zealand retained the Manning Memorial Cup, which it won in New Zealand in 1934.
- Two West Australians played, Jack Prosser and George Milner.
- The NZ team played each state during the preceding 1937 Australian Championships.
- This was the first time the Australian combination had played together.
- All of the above.

For an extra point:

True or False? The Test between the New Zealand hockey team on tour in Australia and Australia on August 7 was broadcast from station 2BL Sydney, the broadcast starting at 4.30 pm.

Answers next issue.

Is The Tournament Too Expensive: Back in 2017 the cost of air fares and accommodation was seen to be going up steeply during the school holidays when our tournaments were happening. So this submission was made. As far as I know it went through the WA Masters Committee and on to the powers that be but nothing ever came back down. I think it's still relevant today.

Western Hockey Masters: Case for O/60 to/75 to travel outside school holidays. Submission to Hockey WA Masters Committee.

Re Interstate Masters Tournament: The request is that the O/60s, O/65s, O/70s and O75s be moved away from the school holidays. This would not necessitate a different venue for the two age ranges if it is desired to use only one location for all ages, although there are significant cost and attraction advantages to a smaller town venue with a minimum of one turf.

Supporting reasons:

- 1) Accommodation costs. These are at a peak during the school holidays.
- 2) Accommodation availability. It has become very difficult to find desirable lodging at the time of the tournament. Two WA Country teams stayed in cabins at Hobart Airport this year. The accommodation in Newcastle was almost fully booked at the time some WA team managers attempted early reservations when it was thought to be the tournament venue.
- 3) Air fares. Like accommodation these are at a peak at school holiday times and usually impact even more severely on West Australians than those from other parts of the country.
- 4) More and smaller venues. Our contribution to local economies is a large one, but can vanish if we play in a mainland capital city. The benefits of hosting this tournament should be better shared among Australian hockey centres.
- 5) WA Country lost four teams with numbers declining from 9 in Adelaide to 5 in Hobart. High costs have been advanced as one of the prime causes of the reduction in numbers.
- 6) Word of mouth feedback can be unreliable. However considerable discussion of this issue has occurred at PHS, and every opinion I have heard has been very much in favour of this idea. I have yet to hear a dissenting view, or any reasons against from such discussion.

Reasons against:

- 1) The only objection I have heard to splitting the tournament is that volunteer officials and umpires cannot be found for two venues at different times of the year. When the 2016 World Cups were held in Newcastle and Canberra there appeared to be no problem & both those events were both very successful.

Southern Cross Information: For those of you who'd like to travel overseas to play here is the link to an informative document about the Southern Cross organization. Depending on your age you could be heading for New Zealand or South Africa in 2024.

<https://www.southerncrosshockey.org/news/>

Then click on the story "What is Southern Cross Masters Hockey" which will take you to the PDF.

Punology Two: The CEO of Ikea was elected Prime Minister of Sweden. He should have his Cabinet together by the end of the weekend.

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