



1971 – B3 Reds after winning final 1 – nil at Langley Park
Tom "Greenman" Greenwell is at bottom right 'gob struck'



John Goldie

'HOCKEY - SONGS - ENDURING FRIENDSHIPS'
By Tom (Greenman) Greenwell Played 1971-1988

2 A's in a year we were seeking promotion to First Grade with John Goldie as coach.

For eighteen years the UMHC was a very large part of my sporting and social life. I was extremely fortunate to be involved in the club during the time of the likes of Peter Furze, Ross Field, the late Bob Brindley, John Goldie and Frank Murray. All of these fine people had a marked influence on both, my hockey and my development as a person. I loved the 'life' that emanated from this club.

Initially my involvement was accidental. I had badly injured my knee playing baseball over summer. Living in Hale School Boarding House as a tutor, I met up with Roger Gray. He had been asked to fill and look after a team, the B3 Reds, rather than allow the nomination to lapse. With a few guys who had not found a place in other sides, we cajoled friends, retired players into 'buying a shirt' and the famous 'social side' of the 70's was founded. We had a great bunch of guys playing, keen supporters both male and female, and we had a great time. Pre-match meetings (aka drinks) became legendary and half-time and post-match discussions were no less lively. We won many Guth Ardath Pennants and Premierships at the same time as propping up the Swan Brewery (see photo). Names such as Speed Jordan, Ivor de Souza, Colgate Fernandez, Typhoon Tai, Gunro, Ginty, Woodsie, Jim Maher, Fossie, Bartlett and Clover. What a bunch and tying it all together, Roger Gray.

One of our annual highlights was the Bunbury Carnival. Always done in style though with performance lagging on the last afternoon and characterised by the wonderful lunches at new recruit Pino Monaco's family home, 'Wonderful stuff!'

Curries! In the mid seventies it became practice, after drinks at Steves or one of the other watering holes we tried before the 'home' at McGillivray eventuated, for a large group to take curry at the Maharaja Restaurant in East Perth. The owners loved us – the other diners not always so enamoured. Led by Fearless, Stride, Rick Dunn or Stace, our curry experiences really blossomed. So much so that several of the participants could lay claim to doing a passable job in curry preparation themselves.

It was during this time that many wonderful friendships were consolidated. Partners became married couples, children followed and many wonderful times were had, and continue to be to this day.

Another quirky UMHC institution was born at this time – the Badgers Club. Initially a club whose membership was to be avoided, as the follicular strain increased due to the great pace of would be members on the hockey pitch, it became a highly priced accolade. The initial presentation evening was, amongst great hilarity, conducted at Villa L'homme Vert. With all sorts of measurements made, various awards in categories such as the 'Jarrah Dieback', the Convex Reflection' and ultimately the 'Golden Comb' were conferred. The last such event in my memory was a wonderful event at Castle Carmel where hosts 'Merven Seniors' put on a marvellous do and the presentations were judged by highly unqualified (at that time) Roger Gray, Mike Stacey, Rick Dunn and Dids Merven. A bookies board ran hot on the night and fortunes were won and lost.

This memoir would not be complete without mention of 'The Nostalgics'. Four blokes, with passable voices, the incredible memory of songs that Roger Gray has, and plenty of front. And people thought they were OK, even funny. Songs were led at formal dinners, weekly drinks, weddings, birthdays and christenings. Ranging from covers of the Four Tops to any UMHC drinking song Dunn, Gray, Greenwell and Hewitt did it 'their way'.

There was a little time for serious hockey. I shall always remember with a little pride and a lot of satisfaction being involved with the beginnings of the careers of the likes of Mark (Thong) Howard, Brian (Rowdy) Kazakoff, Terry (Ace) Green, David (Blades) Vines, Peter (Two Gun) Gummer, Malcolm (Sticky) Traill, Didier (Dids) Merven in wonderful 3/4's teams of the seventies. Such good guys, such fun times and so many wonderful memories.