



1983 UWA First Grade Premiers
Jen Wealand standing 4th from right



1977 IV Jen Wealand and Pam Rothwell front centre

REFLECTIONS

By Jen Edmonds (Wealand) who joined the club in 1975

My time at Uni began with me transferring from X's Hockey Club in 1975. Initially X's was a club based on people who were X teachers college. They filled bottom place or thereabouts on the ladder for many years. While I did not learn a lot about hockey I had a lot of fun and learned about drinking and socialising, all of which were good prerequisites to joining Uni. I was however a non-drinker.

I was inspired to play better hockey after watching Mavis Gray in an international Australia played at Langley Park in about 1969. Mavis and Ros Fisher (Pirates) were players I really admired.

I was pretty keen to improve my hockey and Anwen Williams, a close friend, encouraged me to move to Uni. I was in the process of completing my degree part time and working as a first year out physical education teacher. We were coached by Pam Rothwell, and always worked toward playing in the finals and achieving the ultimate prize that had eluded Uni for so long - a premiership.

We played in the finals for much of the time I played at Uni. Our first Grand Final win, in 1977, remains a fond memory. We played against Surf (now YMCC) and they had quite a few good players. We played on grass in those days of course and the venue was Pat Goodridge Centre. It was a good crowd and the Uni boys as usual supported us well. It was a tight game played in quite hot conditions. We were finally victorious (2-1) and celebrated Uni's first Premiership in twenty-eight years.

It was in the days when all regular matches were on a Saturday afternoon at 2 or 3-30. I am sure some of you can remember those days! Felicity Perry has an amazing "Super 8" movie of the grand final and the following celebrations. Memories of some players remain vivid and stories are often retold! Results and "game by game" press coverage can be found in the newspaper archives collected by Felicity over that period of time. We also won the Challenge Cup that year.

In 1978 we drew with Grads (now Wolves) in the Grand Final after 15 mins extra time each way. In those days games weren't decided on strokes. The replay, on the Sunday was played in driving rain at McGillivray but we lost 0-1. We went on to become a threat on a yearly basis, winning again in 1979.

Lindsay (L'ed) Edmonds coached the team for the 1980 premiership year. It put our relationship on hold for quite some time as a result. Imagine if we had not won, I may never have spoken with him again, much less get married!

On a personal note I had a burning desire to play for Australia, so playing for and captaining my State and Country were highlights. I would train six days per week, much of the time by myself. During the summer Chris Marsh, the UWA groundsman then and now, would mark out a circle at McGillivray for me. I spent countless hours practising.

Even though I stopped playing for Uni in 1982, one of the greatest things about this game we play is the friendships forged and maintained over time. Many of our friends now are from friendships developed in that period of my life and Led's life. I am sure if times got tough the people I would turn to first would be from this very special group.

Led and I have continued to be involved in the club, firstly as part of Soaks and then as parents and coaches of our two boys. We have been involved in the junior club for the past seven years, coaching one or two teams each year.

In seniors I coached the Uni first division women's team, 82-84. I coached the WA State Women's team for three years for two titles and one minor premiership. I also coached the WAIS team for a season as well as the Australian Uni team.