



1993 UWA First Grade Premiers
Matthew Jones second from left at rear



Matthew "Bolix" Jones

A WONDERFUL JOURNEY BUT A FINE BALANCE **By Matthew (Bol) Jones who joined the club in 1979**

1979 was my first year at UWA, and I joined the mighty “Green Machine.” The men’s club had maybe 5 teams, there were no juniors, A-Grade games were on grass at McGillivray, and we had drinks at “the Floreat” after training and at “the Shents” on Saturdays after games. Fearless, Stride, Blue, Later, Led, Bob Brindley and Dan Dunn – these were some of the club legends I remember from 1979.

There were 7-a-side carnivals in Albany over Easter. These were hilarious - like BJ getting lost on the run up Castle Rock; Peter (Dim) Sims car disappearing when he left it running; Whale returning to earth out of a pine tree, and so many, many more.

“You have to go IV” said Fearless, and after 5 of them I can tell you he’s right. We were good enough to win the Syme Cup twice, and be runner up once as well. Perhaps my most memorable IV though was Queensland in 1981. We came 7th out of 15 teams, but with a squad of only 8 guys - it was phenomenal! Beula and I were the last to leave every show; we had to forfeit a game on the Gold Coast when we had 2 guys injured in hospital; I scored a hat-trick in our 4-1 win over Wollongong in the classification game to finish 7th (I’ve never done it before or since); we received a standing ovation bigger than the winners at the final dinner!

To be relegated from Classic League was a big disappointment, but maybe just what we needed in hindsight. Fearless started the next season in 1B’s with a big speech, full of enthusiasm, about not conceding a goal all year. Ten minutes into the first game against Gosnells we were 1-nil down, so it was over to plan B. I think we ended up conceding 4 goals for the season and were straight back into Classic League. The rest, as they say, is history!

To have played 15 or so years at that level with the likes of Nobbsy, Mark (Horry) Hager, Dingo, Kenny Wark, Todd (Noddy) Williams, Steve (China) Davies and my mate Blades was an absolute privilege. To play nearly every position, to captain the side for a number of years and be a part of 3 UWA Classic League Premierships was my dream come true.

At the same time the club progressed and developed into the powerhouse it is today. A new clubhouse facility (RF Brindley) overlooking the grass fields; a sand turf; a second new clubhouse; and then a wet turf, were all huge achievements. During that time the individual men’s and women’s clubs amalgamated, a junior division was created and we became the envy of all WA hockey clubs with our facilities, membership and performance.

I was on the Club Committee and Board for much of the last 25 years and served as its Chairman for 4 or 5 of those. In that time the Club has been served by outstanding people who dedicated a significant part of their lives to our Club. I particularly remember these people who gave their heart and soul to the Club over an extended period, both before and during my time – Dan Dunn, Bob Brindley, Frank “Fearless” Fitzgerald, David “Blades” Viner, Hayden “Smut” Smith and Justin “Doctor” Whitely.

The Club has been a big part of my life, for a big part of my life, and we’ve sure enjoyed our journey together.

I look forward to watching our continued success over the next 25 years.
