

# M E M O I R S

## REFLECTIONS OF THE FIRST 80 YEARS 1924 – 2004 THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA HOCKEY CLUB

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*1924 University of WA Women's Hockey*



*1926 - UWA in Melbourne*  
*"Something's haven't changed"*



***1936 - University A1 Team at the Claremont Showgrounds***



***1938 WA State Team***  
***UWA reps Ed Utting and Sid Johnson (rear left two), Guillian Griffiths (front second left)***

## **MATES FOR LIFE**

### **By Doug Paterson & Ted Utting circa 1934 with Shayni Buswell**

It cost Doug Paterson just 12 pounds 10 shillings to travel by train to the 1934 Intervarsity Games in Adelaide.

"A small price to pay for a lifetime of memories," he said whilst reminiscing over a cup of tea and Anzac biscuits.

He vividly remembers filling the long hours spent travelling by train across the Nullarbor composing team songs with his mates and pulling on his worn pair of leather football boots at every stop to have a "run around".

The 1934 trip to Adelaide proved a successful trip for Mr Paterson. At the completion of the 5-day tournament he was selected in the Combined University Team to play the South Australian State Hockey Team.

Fellow University of Western Australia hockey stalwart, Ted Utting also remembers back to the days when A1 hockey was played religiously each Saturday afternoon at the Claremont Showgrounds with "much longer curved sticks, thicker grass and greater bounce."

"I think there was a lot more skill needed back in our days... as well as overcoming the opposition with slick passing, dribbling and receiving skills, you also had to try and read the bounce of the grass. Sometimes it could bounce a couple of feet high into the air," he said.

According to both Ted and Doug hockey on Saturday afternoons at the showgrounds was as much a social gathering as it was exercise. A mobile tea-house was open for refreshments and often girlfriends and mothers would come along and support the boys.

"There wasn't any celebrating after the games like there is today, we would just enjoy a cold shower and a cup of tea," Ted said.

Ted believes the lack of transport in his day contributed to the lack of socialising after club fixtures. With only a lucky few having their own cars, players caught the train or bus to the showground.

According to Ted, Doug was popular at the club as he made his own car whilst studying engineering at UWA. The three wheel car, with only two small seats, no floor and roof could often be seen parked in the bare Mounts Bay Road carpark at the university.

Ted joined the University of WA hockey club in 1934 whilst attending the university part-time and working in a Fremantle office. "I was intrigued by hockey players, so one day I went down to watch my brother play at the old Charlie Gardiner Hospital site and the next thing I knew I volunteered to stand in goals," he remembers. "The goalkeeper thing didn't last long but my enjoyment of the game sure did and the following year when studying a science degree fulltime I was playing in the University First XI at centre half."

The UWA First XI was demoted to the second division in 1935 before regaining its position in the state's premier competition the following year.

Ted remembers it being a tough time at the club. "It was hard being relegated to the second division, I remember everyone being so determined to return to the top grade the following year," he said. "We would train twice a week on James Oval at the university following our lectures. Not much time was spent on team tactics though...John Cruickshank (State Coach) attended the university a couple of times and gave a few lectures in the Octagon Theatre about tactics."

Born in 1914 and 1916 respectively, Doug and Ted both attended Cottesloe State School before being awarded scholarships to attend Perth Mod. Gaining entrance into university in the 1930s was highly competitive, with interested students needing to attend highly regarded private schools or colleges where they could sit their entrance examination.



Both Utting and Paterson excelled academically as well as on the hockey field. Doug graduated from the University of Western Australia at the top of his engineering class before studying his Chemical Engineering Post Graduate Diploma at University College in England. Utting was a geologist involved in WMC's discovery of high-grade nickel mineralisation at Red Hill (Kambalda) in January 1966 that triggered the mighty Poseidon nickel boom. The boom reached its peak in February 1970 when previously little known Poseidon Lt reached \$280 a share on the strength of its Mount Windarra strike, some 300km to the north-east of Kambalda.

Ted and Doug's most memorable moment was defeating the all-conquering Claremont Cricketers in the 1938 Challenge Cup. Lead by natural sportsman Doug McKenzie, Claremont Cricketers dominated the A1 competition in the late 1930s of which UWA was one of 8 teams – Subs, Guildford, Hale, Scotch, Christchurch, CBC and Grammar. Doug also remembers parading around the Claremont Showgrounds holding a 20-foot long banner on the first fixture weekend to generate support for the student club.

Both Ted and Doug consider Sydney Johnson as the most influential and talented hockey player at UWA during their time at the club.

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***Long Serving Club Patron (1979-2002) Dan Dunn as an 18 year old "Fresher"***



***1947 UWA A1 Premiers  
Jack Loneragan front centre***

## **BSc (HOCKEY)**

### **By Jack Loneragan, 1946-1950**

I joined the Uni Hockey Club in 1946 as one of the returning ex-servicemen who pushed club numbers and registered club teams to a record high. At times, during my following five years with the Club, the pressures of training, competition, the duties of club Secretary (1947 eleven teams), President (1948,49), and A1 Captain (1948,49,50) together with the commitment to State (1947,1950), Intersociety (1947,48,49), and Combined Universities (1948,1949-captain) teams made me feel that I was majoring in HOCKEY rather than science. I also recall that we had no coach although Alec Hall and Harry Hopkins gave us valuable advice.

My most vivid memories of 1946 were the Intersociety Games on James Oval at UWA. The weather for the games was August's perfect best and the oval surface was billiard table smooth. What a joy to play on such a surface and what a contrast to the old showgrounds on those rainy days when the ball floated in a sea of mud. Winning the Syme Cup only compounded the joy.

With most of the 1946 team returning, 1947 became Uni's year. We won the Challenge Cup, the minor premiership and shared the premiership with Guildford.

Our shared premiership was and I believe still is unique. We played Guildford twice. On the first occasion scores were drawn at full time and also after regulation extra time of 10 minutes each way plus a further 5 minutes each way. So the Association arranged another game on Riley Oval the following week. This time we not only repeated the 3 double sessions totalling 100 minutes but also played an extra 10 minutes each way in the hope of a resolution. And although goals were scored in each session, they were equalized before it ended. The Association took pity on the exhausted players and declared us Joint Premiers.

Most of that 1947 team moved on so that 1948 became a building year and we failed to make the finals. 1949 looked more promising when a new chemistry student from India turned up at our first practice session. Cec Pearce, the eldest of the 5 Pearce brothers never scored a lot of goals in any match, but he scored at least one in each match. When combined with Derek Maelzer, who switched from centre forward to goal keeper and who seldom let in any goals, we finished the season as runner up. We lost the Challenge Cup to Cricketers in the last few minutes of a tough tussle. We lost to them again in the semi final, beat Fremantle in the preliminary final and met Cricketers again in the Grand Final.

At final training before the Grand Final our left fullback Zodzee George put himself on the sideline with a self inflicted blow to the ankle. Without Zodzee we were 3-0 down at half time which is when the Uni girls arrived announcing they had won the A grade premiership. With their support and led by reserves Zodzee and Daisy O'Dea, we rallied and completely out of character, scored 4 goals in the second half, final score 4-3 to Uni. To celebrate the double premiership, the Women's and Men's Clubs held a dance at the Pagoda Ballroom in South Perth.

In 1950, the UWA Student Guild ruled that only undergraduates were eligible to play for University sporting clubs so with that we lost Cec Pearce, Derek Maelzer and many others and 1950 became another building year, however far more difficult.

I have been forever grateful for the fun I had in completing an Honours Degree in HOCKEY with a minor in science.

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**1949 A1 Grand Final – UWA d Cricketers 4-3**  
**John Duncan centres the ball for Uni**



**Ray Strauss applies a strong tackle**



**Cec Pearce dispossessed**

## **THE PROMISE OF BEER**

**By Ray (Zodzee) George who joined the club in 1947 from Wesley College.**

My hockey career was occasionally marred by injuries and mostly at crucial times. In the build-up to the 1949 First Grade Premiership Final, my ankle was bashed by Geoff Weaver on Riley Oval and I spent the afternoon of the final hobbling along the sidelines with our Uni women supporters to cheer on Uni to a 4-3 victory over Cricketers after being 0-3 down at half time. Perhaps the promise by our coach Harry Hopkins of a beer keg if we won may have helped.

Our games were often played on the Claremont Showgrounds that were boggy or underwater and had been churned up by horses during earlier polo matches. You were never sure whether there was mud or manure in your eyes after a wet flurry in the circle.

Then during the Sydney Intervarsity Carnival in 1952, I had my hand broken by a burly New Zealand forward. So I had time off from playing and managed to give some mouth to mouth revival lessons to a Cronulla surf girl. The return train trip to Perth with the Uni women who joined the train in Adelaide was memorable and there were others who actually married their companions after that rocking and rattling trip.

Country trips provided us with good hospitality and even better food at places like Bunbury and Pinjarra where sometimes we slept in cold railway carriages or not at all.

The player eligibility rule change at Uni in 1950 led to the creation of the University Associates Hockey Club for the men and Grads Hockey Club for the women.

My 20 years with Uni Associates Hockey was a wonderful continuation of the Uni mob but now we had wives and kids who mixed equally well. After games, the socials at the various homes were always very welcome after a good solid workout on the field.

The most prominent player at the club in my time was the right fullback, Ray Strauss. He was so prominent that I could hide behind him as his left fullback when required and the opposition forwards physically felt his solid prominence if they neglected to run around him.

As for the state of the game back then, they had that ridiculous rule called "sticks" which of course I always denied giving but more recently my nice full golf swing perhaps indicates that Tom Bedells (the leading umpire at the time) may have been right to blow his whistle and give me those frequent penalties.

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**1946 IV Adelaide**  
**Olympic Gold Medallist Shirley Strickland (second from right)**



**1947 IV Melbourne**  
**University of WA Australian Player, Ray Strauss (standing 5<sup>th</sup> from left)**

## **ROCK SOLID**

**By Ray Strauss who joined Uni in 1947 from Perth Modern School.**

I played some hockey at Perth Modern School in 1944 and did not play again until 1947 when I joined Uni.

My recollections of UHC teams are that they were always changing and competitive and when there was some continuity in players the results were very good. I feel very lucky to have played with Uni for 10 years in an atmosphere and with people that I enjoyed and to then have played with the Soaks for a further 20 years.

Nickname: Straussie

Years Played: UHC 1947-57, Uni Associates 1958-1977

Representation: Australia 1954, Western Australia 1949-1955, Australian Universities 1951-1952.

### Memories

Winning the 1949 Grand Final against Cricketers after being down 3-0 at half time, incidentally the Uni women won their Grand Final the same day having played their early game at a different ground and then they arrived at the Showgrounds about half time to cheer us to victory. There were big celebrations that night

Playing on a damp Showgrounds on Saturday after Polo had been played on the Thursday. Playing in the backline with Alan Barblett, Vern Gooch, John Oldham, Santokh Singh, John Eastwood and Nils Bluman and playing with Ray George for the whole of my hockey days. Meeting and playing with two gentlemen Santokh and Inder Singh.

Also, playing with Soaks when we did meet some young teams in the reserve grade and to hear them say before the game started "lets run rings around these old wrinklies", they didn't. Frequently meeting at someone's house after the Saturday game to refresh, especially when it was the Singh's turn to cook their curry with real ingredients sent from India. Being on several intervarsity trips and when Reilly Oval was largely under water and John Duncan doing chesters before the game.

Prominent players and administrators of my time: Jack Loneragan who was captain when I first started. Ray George, John Duncan, Ralph Slatyer, Ken McKenzie, Cec Pearce, Derek Maelzer, Harry Hopkins, Ken Newton, Geoff Kennedy, Dan Strickland, Tony Wood, Peter James, Des Heenan, Tony Green, Lloyd Lutter, Brian O'Dea and Jim Payne.

Australian hockey is obviously very healthy in the world scene. It is now a different game from that played in the 50's and there is no comparison between the grounds then and now and most of the unique hockey rules of those days have been eliminated. So I consider Hockey a game that is going well but akin to the game we enjoyed in the 50's.

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***1999 - The University Associates  
Always Generous Benefactors of the UHC  
Ralph Ten Seldam (front second from right)***



***1955 IV Brisbane***



**GREAT SPORT & GOOD FELLOWSHIP**  
**Ralph (Four Eyes) Ten Seldam who joined the club in 1957.**

The top Uni team played in the A2 competition from 1958-1962, when we topped the grade and went back to the A1 grade. 1950-1964 team members could only be drawn from University undergraduates and workers, which meant constantly rebuilding the team. The University Associates Clubs (Soaks), which was mostly made up of University Graduates was started in 1950 as a consequence of this requirement introduced by the guild.

After working for 3 years overseas I returned to Perth to work as a GP and joined Soaks. The team had top level social fun and varying degrees of success on the field until 1977 when the veteran's grade was started despite strong opposition. Soaks flourished first in the veteran's grade and then in the vintage grade until 2002 when the team was disbanded due to a shortage of able bodied players. At the time the average age was 64. A small group of us have continued playing with Old Modernians. I hope to continue for two more seasons and retire at 70.

Back in the 1950-60's the sport was very much an amateur sport. We would practice only for one hour twice per week before it would get dark and fitness was left to the individual. All sports grounds were at the Crawley Campus and the hockey grounds were on the site of the present day sports complex. Our coach during that time was Noel Hall and some of the prominent players were Roger Williams, Chris Calder plus Bruce and Peter Martin.

The rules in those days were a little different, 3 players applied for off-side, a centre bully started the game, there was no rule against sticks and you could run with the ball on your stick waist high, the Indians were brilliant at this. You could also stop the ball with your hand on the ground or in the air and on the side line the ball could only be pushed in and everyone had to be 5 metres away from the pusher.

Socially, there were no major parties like the ones run by the football or rugby clubs and we would go to these instead.

Intervarsity was important, but not subsidised and in the early day's one had to go by train and take 2 weeks off. I played in 1958 here in Perth, but we did not do to well. At that time I did play a match for the combined Varsity team against the state team and were able to hold them to one all at half time and then we only lost by one goal. We were very proud as the WA team had not lost an interstate match for several years and had about 6 Australian players.

In 1961 we flew to Hobart and became joint winners of the Syme Trophy. I was captain of the team and vice-captain of the combined Varsity team and ultimately received a Full Blue for that selection. I played about 150 games for Uni and about 600 games for the Uni Soaks playing mainly at full back.

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***1970 IV Canberra  
Roger Gray (standing 3<sup>rd</sup> from far right), Ross Field (front 3<sup>rd</sup> from left)***



***1975 UWA First Grade  
Frank Murray & Bob Brindley (centre standing)***

## **WONDERFUL MEMORIES**

### **By Roger Gray played 1965-2000**

Ross Field and Bob Brindley stand as giants in this club over the 60s and 70s in particular but also since then. I served on many club committees with Ross, travelled with him on five Intervarsities and shared much else and I would doubt if this club has been served any better by anyone.

Bob Brindley transcended so many decades of The University Men's Hockey Club (UMHC) and also represented us (and all hockey) so well at WAHA executive level. I have great memories of an unfinished post-match keg being carried to Bob and Chris's flat in Daglish a long time ago where much humour followed, would you believe.

It is a great pity that Intervarsity hockey is no longer such a central part of our club in the way that it was for so long. The successes and fun we had during the local 'home and away' season paled into insignificance compared to the experience of "IV". My first IV was in Sydney where I got food poisoning from eating a hamburger from the neighbourhood "Hubba-Hubba" hamburger bar and missed the first two days of competition. IV trips to Adelaide, ANU and New England Universities followed with much learnt about life, back-to-back winning of the West End Cup but no Syme Cup. Finally, Melbourne in 1970, at the IV hosted by Monash University, we won the elusive Syme. One of my very rare goals in hockey came in the final and if I had to name a moment in my long association with the club to exceed all others, this would probably be it.

In my early years in the club, there was an annual event called the "Busselton Weekend" which was something of a misnomer in that it didn't start until after the Saturday afternoon fixtures in Perth. Members of the men's and women's clubs would squeeze into what cars could be found and headed south to Busselton. The locals would turn on a party for us which, considering its inevitable late start would carry on well into the night and sometimes out the other end. In the morning, we would play a hockey game against the Busselton team which was followed by "lunch" at a venue even further south, like Yallingup. The journey back to Perth was often quite a challenge and you would think an early night was called for but, believe it or not, this did not always happen.

Some of my most enjoyable years with the club followed my relatively short career as a top-grade player. After two knee operations and the inevitable recuperation period required, I needed a 'quieter' form of hockey and, with Tom Greenwell (also convalescing - in his case a back injury), started a club 'social side'. This proved a great success and the friendships formed out of what was a quite random group of players have lasted until this day. A book could be written on the stories of the adventures of this team, of the opposition they terrorised, of the umpires they drove to distraction (one of our esteemed company was once issued a yellow card before the game had started), of the grog they drank (and not all after the game) and of expeditions in the name of hockey to many parts of the state.

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**1971 Departure to IV Queensland**  
**Ron "Later" Hewitt front second from left**



**"The Nostalgics"**  
**Ron Hewitt, Ric Dunn, Roger Gray & Tom Greewell**

## **A GREAT START**

### **By Ron (Later) Hewitt played 1970–2001**

I joined the UMHC in 1970, somewhat reluctantly, from what was then regarded as the strongest club in the competition. I still say that I would never have played for a club other than Cricketers or Uni and strongly believe that the rewards of loyalty to a club far out way any short term benefits of changing clubs.

The strengths of Uni were soon obvious – their names Ross Field, Roger Gray, Bob Brindley and Frank Murray. Not only were these four – assisted by Peter Furze, David Minchin and a host of 'senior' players – great mentors, but they became lifelong friends. Along with new friends Jeff Ovens, Lindsay Edmonds, Rick Dunn, Mike Stacey, Terry Green, Tony Morgan, cousin Ken Perry, Bevan Buirchell and a host of others we started a lifetime of what sport is all about – competing hard to the best of your ability with the time, opportunity and commitment to enjoy each other's company when the game had been played.

John Goldie coached the first grade in 1972 and 1973. This was a watershed for the club – we learnt to play team hockey and structure a game. The improvement went through all grades. When Frank Murray took over in 1974, Uni was about to start it's most successful period since soon after World War II. I can't add to Frank's status as a coach – suffice it to say Goldie had established a platform and Frank was able to get the best out of the players both during the week and on match day.

For me it meant an environment where people enjoyed their hockey and their friendships even more because we were starting to succeed. The core of what later became the new Soaks was established – Denis Reynolds, Murray Griffiths, David Miller, Malcolm Traill, Jean Michel Merven, Mark Howard, David Viner, to name just a few, became the strength of the club and continued to contribute for years to come.

Nothing can surpass 5 IV's I attended, each one being different and all magnificent – what amateur sport should be all about. Each one brings with it a special memory...

Queensland (71) - The birth of '3 Jellyfish on a Rock'.

Melbourne (72) - Ovens, Hewitt and a bottle of Jim Beam, no this drink wasn't invented in 1995.

Sydney (73) - Edmonds as Captain, good friends and seafood cocktails at South Sydney Juniors

Western Australia (74) - The only win!

Adelaide (75) - Yet another hard working loss in a Grand Final, but with only 13 players, a great result.

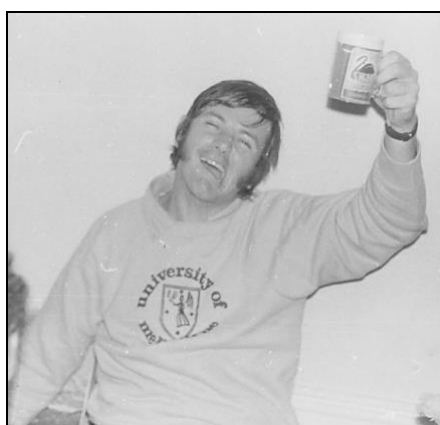
The most significant event subsequently was the establishment of the new Soaks in 1984. This enabled older players to continue there association with UHC, freed up the middle grades and laid the platform for considerable financial support to the main club over many years.

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**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.



***1980 Nostradamus Tour of Albany  
Fearless (centre rear) holding bank notes to groin region***



***1990 UWA First Grade Grand Finalists  
Fearless, standing on the right***

## **ALWAYS FEARLESS**

**By Frank (Fearless) Fitzgerald who joined the club from North Fremantle in 1971.**

To say, the UHC has been a major part of my life in the past 30 plus years is an understatement. In that time I have made some lifelong friends and I have lost some as well. Bob Brindley, Jenny Greenwell and Danny and Merle Dunn are sadly missed.

Over 200 first grade games, 9 IV's, serving in every position on the committee, inaugural club chairman in 1988 following the amalgamation of the men's and women's clubs and not the least, co-founding member of the Fearless-Stridehoff gang...I do know a bit about the history of the UHC.

As a fresher in 1971, I was first coached by Ross Field and went to my first show with Malcolm (Sticky) Traill and I was hooked. I met some dubious characters to say the least, Ken Perry, Al Lopez, Bevan (Snoopy) Buirchell, Murray (Muzza) Griffiths, Jean Michel (String) Merven and two guys who were a bit different, Chris (Stride) Jones and Tim (Dum Dum) Irvine.

In 1972, John Goldie from Cricketers and who was also the successful state under 21 coach accepted the Uni A2 coaching position. I think he initially got a shock of what Uni was like as a club but he soon adapted. During the season we would often retire to Ric Dunn's place for table tennis and drinks. Goldie, after a few lizards would always say, "come on I'll play you left handed", to the unwary, this seemed like easy meat, however, despite being right handed, Goldie played competitive table tennis left handed.

1972 also introduced me to IV being in Melbourne that year. I only played 1 game, but I loved it and decided to keep going as long as I could and in 1973, John Paxton penned my nickname – Fearless Fireball Ferocious Frank Fitzgerald. It is now an economical Fear.

In 1974 I made my first grade debut at left wing, Frank (Blue) Murray was coach and Steve (Doc) Hayward, John (Netts) Nettleton and Greg Davies joined the club to play under Blue's leadership. Also that year IV was in Perth, which we won and the final dinner guest speaker was Alan Barblett who had played hockey for both University and Australia. He spoke wearing a great coat and a WW1 Helmet and was very entertaining.

In 1976 we won IV, lost the A1 grand final, Doc Hayward won the Olympians Medal for the association fairest and best which inspired everyone on the pitch and Chris (Xmas) Davis made the first Woodduck Trophy. Despite being a judge along with Xmas and Lindsay (L'ed) Edmonds, I was the first winner of the trophy having left the Syme Cup at the Chelsea Pizza Bar after travelling 6000 miles and playing 8 games of hockey to win.

Also a huge influence on the club at this time was Fred (Fatman) Desavaugie who was a bar manager. He introduced the club first to Minskeys in Nedlands and then the Chelsea Tavern. Fred was captain of the infamous B1 Tan's. In a tent at the Bunbury Carnival that year we listened to the Olympic final between Australia and NZ. Fred being a Kiwi was the only happy guy!

1977 saw the Stanley Cup between Australia and NZ played at McGillivray Oval. Steve Gray who was studying at Ag School and his mates put up the fencing for the test; a sight to behold. A highlight of the test was when a player drilled the Cup on the stand and dented it, much to the delight of the crowd.

Another big event in 77 was the airline pilots strike and as a result we had to drive to IV hosted by La Trobe Uni. We hired three cars, drove non-stop then caught the train home. "Two Gun" Gummer was the weirdo this year, as he drove to Melbourne wearing gardening gloves. It was this IV that Xmas Davis confirmed that "Eye Vee is more fun than Tea Vee or the Nay Vee"

Horror upon Horror, 1978 saw combined men's and women's IV. Naturally, Stride, Dum Dum and I should attend along with Filthy John Bouchier and the greatest Woodduck of them all Jim Ashby.



In 1979, Ross Field was coach and Blue was teaching at Applecross SHS, so it was only right that these youngsters should join Uni so Mike (Spike) Bain, Bruce (BJ) Johnston, Matthew (Bol) Jones and Gareth (Ga Ga) Widger came to the club.

During the late 70's and early 80's we ran the University Pre Season Carnival. Swamp Fox was our treasury in those days and was an engineer for the Water Corporation, so at carnival time we raised money by selling water with a dash of cordial, much more profitable than cool drink.

1980 was for me the pinnacle of the 70's with Blue Murray back as coach and Australian Captain Ric Charlesworth joining the team from Cricketers, what a year!!!! We won the Challenge Cup, Guth Ardagh, the R&I Cup, sadly lost the Grand Final 4-5 to Cricketers in extra time, won the Syme, Bunbury Carnival winners and there was the outstanding Nostradamus tour of Albany.

During an IV function that year Dave (Blades) Viner, Bol, BJ, Russell (Rover) Wood, Brett (Squawker) Hawker and I wore our Nostradamus caps, as you do. Some Macquarie Seapigs recognized Blades as a state player and decided to rough him up in the toilets. He was saved just in time. The next day we played the Seapigs and in the first 5 minutes Blades was clubbed and had to leave the field to get stitches. The team were outraged and wanted revenge.

Alf Schnieder playing left wing with a 28 oz stick, normally a fullback, was drilling anybody who came in range and Squawker our goalie was slide tackling on the 25 yard line. We drew blood, we conquered, we won and the Seapigs will never ask questions of the Green Machine again. Not only did we win IV, we won the drinking and the long distance event.

In 1981 I became club president. The club was on a pub crawl in those days, firstly at the Captain Stirling Hotel and then at the "Shents" and needed a home. For a couple of years the men's and women's club shared the "AJ Williams Pavilion" with the University Football Club while our own club rooms were being planned. We hosted IV again in 1983 which was very successfully run by stalwarts David (Chuck Chunder) Miller and Tim (Friggin) Rigden and with our IV boosted savings started construction of the RF Brindley Pavilion. Bob Brindley almost single handed, built it being completed for the 1984 season.

WA hosted the Australian Senior Championships in 1983 which bought Ian (Quokka) Milne to Perth with the Queensland team who stayed on to play for Uni. Following the 83 season many of our first grade players left or retired and Quokka coached 1984-part 86. I coached Melville City in 1984, however I never forgot my club. In fact, one Thursday evening I drove to training and set up my cones only to realise that I had come to McGillivray instead of Melville. You can take the boy out of Uni but not Uni out of the Boy. I was honoured with Life Membership in 1984.

Midway through 1986 I replaced Quokka as first grade coach and maintained my 100% record of coaching and relegating a first grade team to 1B's. It had been 13 years since Uni was last in second division and everyone was determined to win back first grade status the next year. We lost twelve first grade players from 86, however Bol, BJ, Lee Bott, Darren (Steiner's) Steinberg, Bede Rogers and Justin Taylor all stayed when they could have walked into any other first grade team.

Our plan was to go undefeated with no goals against and win the R&I Cup. We lost our first game 1-0 against Bullcreek on a ground that Lee Bott described as a Ryvita Biscuit that had a creek running through the corner of the pitch. Despite that loss we won 14, drew 3 with 52 goals for and only 8 against and were rewarded with promotion back to the first division for the 1988 season.

Hayden (Smut) Smith and I interviewed prospective coaches for the 1988 coaching position with only one to welcome the opportunity, Michael Nobbs. Nobbsy was a breath of fresh air for the club. The South Australian former Australian player who came to Perth when the AIS established here in 1984 was just what we needed to rebuild and dominate. I became his assistant coach.

The other big event in 1988 was the unification of the men's and women's clubs. Angela Kelly, Dave (Herps) Albrecht and I had the task over summer 1987/88 to bring it together for voting at the first term general meetings held separately and then combined. Chuck Miller constructed a new

constitution and we implemented radical changes to the structure, including the formation of a Board of Directors. I had the pleasure of being elected Chairman.

I retired from first grade as captain during the last game of the season which was also the R&I Cup Final. We won!

In Sept 1992 whilst training on the bike I arrested several times and found myself in hospital for several weeks. Uni had made the first division Grand Final during my stay and defeated WASP on the day. After Uni had won, Blades rang through the final score, however there was a discrepancy in the scorers as Blades could not bring himself to ring and tell me that Bol had scored from the field playing fullback. It was pandemonium in the cardiac ward at RPH that evening as Nobbs and the team came to visit with their medals on their way to the club. The first men's Premiership in 43 years, not something you forget in a hurry.

1993-95 delivered two more first grade flags with the 94 final being lost to Old Aquinians after penalty strokes. Australian players Mark (Horrible) Hager and Damon (Dingo) Diletti were outstanding for Uni in these glory years. Blades as coach and Smut as manager of the 1988 State Under 18's discovered Dingo's potential and encouraged him to join Uni in 1989.

Smutty Smith, almost single handed, organised a synthetic turf over the hill west of the RF Brindley which was completed 1989 and together with Ron (Later) Hewitt, who designed the building, supervised a new club house and change rooms which were completed in 1995.

During the 80's and 90's a number of families had recycled as it were. Young Fields, Brindleys and Murrays had followed their parents to the club and a new generation of Hewitts, Edmonds and Howards were starting to appear in the Uni juniors which were started in 1991. The fathers would go down to the club on Thursday evenings to train briefly before moving to the bar. Most Thursday evenings would see Jeff (Jovens) Ovens, Malcolm (Speed) Jordan, Later and Muzza Griffiths enjoying the moment.

In 2002 my son Cam joined Uni U11's so it was the same as it had always been, Bunbury carnivals, training, beers with String Merven, Mark (Howie) Howard, Craig (Macker) McKenzie and Blades. In 2003, after last coaching Uni 23 years earlier and now a successful former Australian coach, Blue Murray returned to coach Uni. Apart from the fact that some of us have lost most of our hair, you could have sworn it was still 1974.



***1976 University First Grade***



***1979 Intersivity Tasmania***

## **QUATRO STAGIONE**

**By Pino Monaco, stolen from football in 1971 after arriving from Bunbury**

Let me relate to you my 'four seasons' of hockey.

As an undergraduate law student and country lad, an invitation to play a team sport that offered a few beers before the game and a few more at half time was too much of a good offer to refuse. At the time I was a footballer and I knew naught about hockey so it seemed a fair challenge. My conversion from amateur football to hockey in 1971 was made very easy. At the time I was an undergraduate living at St Thomas More College and was recruited by Ivor De Souza. He already had Jim McGinty, Sean Bartlett, Chris Tai and Alan Fernandez in the team from the College, so I sensed an air of desperation when I received his offer of beer and hockey. As a footballer I made a poor hockey player and spent much of my game time behind our goals (a position that my soon to be wife Chris thought was my designated spot in the team, a belief that was encouraged by the likes of McGinty).

So started my first 'season' of hockey.

I soon learnt that I had joined the social team with a big 'S' and everyone had their place. There were the real hockey players that had played 'top hockey' like Malcolm Jordan (a rock doctor escapee from Tasmania), Roger Gray (the Hale master), Andrea Foss (another Hale chalkie) and Ivor De Souza (scientist and doctor). The team enforcers were treated with respect, especially at half time when they were refuelling for the second half from the team esky, so Kieran Wood and Tim Delaney (McGinty's brother in law) always had first pick at the esky. The team raconteur of tall tales and vocal backbone was made up by the orators lead by Jim McGinty (Guild supremo and later state head honcho), Jim Maher (mild mannered reporter), Geoffrey Gray (brother of Roger and umpire's unofficial advisor), Tom Greenwell (Hale chalkie, able to talk while drinking and playing at the same time) and Doc Davies (suave man about town with a Dalkeith riverside address). Then there were the rest of us to make up the numbers.

This was the era of cotton shirts, bullies, offside, tram lines, 'sticks', hand stops, no helmets, no uni fees, no insurance, no training, three cheers, long hair, rust buckets, boat racing and drunk playing.

With much gusto and hard work the team earnt and held the status as the social side of the Club, which meant fine dining (curries, Chinese take-aways, spag bol), BBQ's before Challenge Cups (at Doc Davies over looking Freshwater Bay), drink waiters in tuxedos for finals, cigars at half time, beer before, during and after the game (of the full strength swan king brown variety), the first team back to the Club drinking hole (Steve's, Chelsea Village and later McGillivray), tours (to Bunbury), many weddings and christenings.

Our abundant and regular success was never understood by the rest of the Club. We confounded our critics by showing total disrespect for conventional sporting logic, as training was forbidden (training as a basis for playing was never embraced by the team and remains our mantra today, except that spouses were and are told that getting home late on Thursday night was due to training commitments). Team drinking was mandatory and recruits were assessed on their ability to adopt and master this skill. The goal scoring prowess of the team was legendary resulting in walls covered with pennants and some less than modest but repetitive bragging.

As the team matured we welcomed more to the ranks (we also had to let a few go for reasons of fatigue). John Naughton, Gordon Bragg and Fred Desauvage were some of the recruits. Towards the end of this 'season' more of the team found themselves married, divorced, mortgaged, employed, owners of cars, parents, teachers, politicians, lawyers, dentists, farmers and a few good hockey players.

My second 'season' came about as a result of the aging process, followed by a spontaneous psychological thump of atomic proportions when the team decided that it was time to play Vets. Dealing with this trauma was a real credit and milestone in the 'social team's history and makeup. A prerequisite to playing Vets required that the transition had to be made using the same hockey playing strategies and social culture that had characterised the team in its



'infancy'. At first this seemed to work as we continued our successes of winning pennants and promotion into the Vets 'A' Division where our crowning glory occurred when we beat Australia on a day that our opponents fielded a team of 5 ex Australian and international players only to be beaten by our 'social' side.

Our collective palates had become more expensive maturing for the better, with more wine than beer being taken for sustenance and fine cuisine. Injuries and weekends down south became a fact of life testing the team selectors. Our gratuitous advice to umpires improved as each year passed and my personal visit behind goals had a deja vu feel about it, but now without the audience of my wife who, like other spouses, seemed to show less interest in our games. Our new recruits added class and weight to the aging lineup. It included the likes of David Miller, Steve Gray, Chris Stevenson, Murray Griffiths, Bevan Buirchall, Bill Chapman, Brian Chapman, Peter Ewing, Jim Ellis, Roger Jones, Alex Tiverios and Dennis Cunneen. It is a misnomer to call these guys new.

My third 'season' commenced as a result of being a parent of two juniors. I was invited to participate in the development and administration of our Club juniors. The Club had suffered in its development from two major obstacles. The first was the policy that prohibited non UWA students from playing for the Club. This was addressed and the policy was sensibly reversed in the 60's. The second was the policy against juniors. This was rectified in the 90's and I am very pleased to have been part of this initiative. The juniors are the Club's future and without a healthy number of juniors the Club will wither.

To work with Craig Boyce, David Miller and Steve Wood in promoting our juniors in those early days was one of my more satisfying off field hockey experiences. The fruits of this work are simply outstanding and evident through the number of juniors who have made the transition to seniors, who are participating in the Club's administration and who have embraced the Club culture. It has also introduced to the Club a very dynamic and energetic group of parents. Many of our juniors have achieved state representation, however my yardstick for measuring success is not how many pennants we win (even though it is always satisfying to win and we have won more than our fair share) or state players, but on the number of our juniors that re-enroll for another season of hockey at our Club. To have over 100 Minkey players and 20 junior teams has set a solid base for our Club.

The fourth 'season' was my role as a Club and hockey administrator. It was a great honour for me to be involved in this capacity. When we developed the juniors I dealt with Angela Kelly as the Club President but it was not until Matthew Jones invited me to be a consultant to the Club Board that gave me a wider and more active role in Club administration. Since then I have had the privilege of being the President of the Club and serving our membership. The development of the sand fill turf and later the wet turf was our most outstanding achievement as this gave the club a home with world class hockey facilities. The UWA Sports Association has to be given much credit and acknowledged as an important and significant contributor to our achievements. The Sports Association has had the confidence to share our vision and back our developments by providing the financial support to underwrite our infrastructure, grounds, club rooms, lighting and turf.

I am not a believer in 'the good old days' and trying to hang onto the past or to rest on our laurels, in fact I advocate to everyone to get involved and to stay involved whether they are old members of the club or new. Too many people say that things were better at some earlier time. I have thoroughly enjoyed my journey with the club and the friends I have made by being involved, but I so look forward to the future.

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