



1977 UWA First Grade Champions



1974 IV Adelaide (Pam Rothwell centre)

THOSE WERE THE DAYS MY FRIENDS!
By Pam Rothwell who joined the club in 1973 from South Australia

"*The West Australian*" heading, August 1977..."**University Break Hockey Drought**"

University won their first premiership in 28 years after defeating Surf 3-1 in extra time. How sweet it was, my old team (I played 8 years first grade for Surf), they couldn't believe it.

There are many fond memories of my years with University such as training at McGillivray Oval. The troops just loved forwards against backs, basic skills drills (cones everywhere) and team talks were not high on the agenda, better received was speedball, shirts v skins or a drink at the old Floreat Bar. Nevertheless, through 1977-79 they were a well oiled machine, fit, fast and fantastic. No one could catch Flissy, Anwen, Lorna, Shanksie, Gail, Suzy, Mandy, Vickie or JR or could get passed Bev, Jen Wealand, Hazel, Bubbles, Liz Prater or Liz Allen-Williams.

Then there was Intervarsity, "Wee Wasy", my main responsibility was custodian of the pot (that could probably be misinterpreted these days, it was a potty). Wasy (West Aussie) teams were successful from 1973 -1977 inclusive and were also unbeaten at the boat races not to mention our supreme singing of our very own selected verse. I continued my Intervarsity experience as Coach/Manager of the Australian Universities tour of New Zealand in 1975. There were 5 Wasy representatives in the team including Jen Wealand, Hazel, Ali, Anwen and Bubbles. 13 games in 12 days, 49 goals for and only 9 against. What a marathon and still heaps of time to party.

Speaking of parties, we had them for any reason at all, far too numerous to mention, although progressive dinners, wine and cheese, Steve's, The Shents and the Floreat do spring to mind.

I vividly recall Tuesday 27th November, 1979. It was supposedly a small group meeting for dinner at Al Piccio's Restaurant in Claremont...wrong...surprise, surprise, all the gang were in attendance for my Life Membership dinner and I was so overwhelmed. What a wonderful way to end my A1 coaching involvement. That's truly up there in my fondest memories of the UWHC.

The days of Saturday afternoon games only, Tuesday/Thursday training and players teas. Memories of club selection headaches with Ric and Gail, IV initiation with Marksie and Buncie, the parties, IV, everything with club stalwarts Vickie, JR, Gibby, Troggs, Garfy, Ali, Ellie, Jo, and McMiles x 2 all featured to make an unforgettable era of team spirit and unity, life long friendships and everlasting memories...

"Those were the days my friends"...simply the best!



***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.

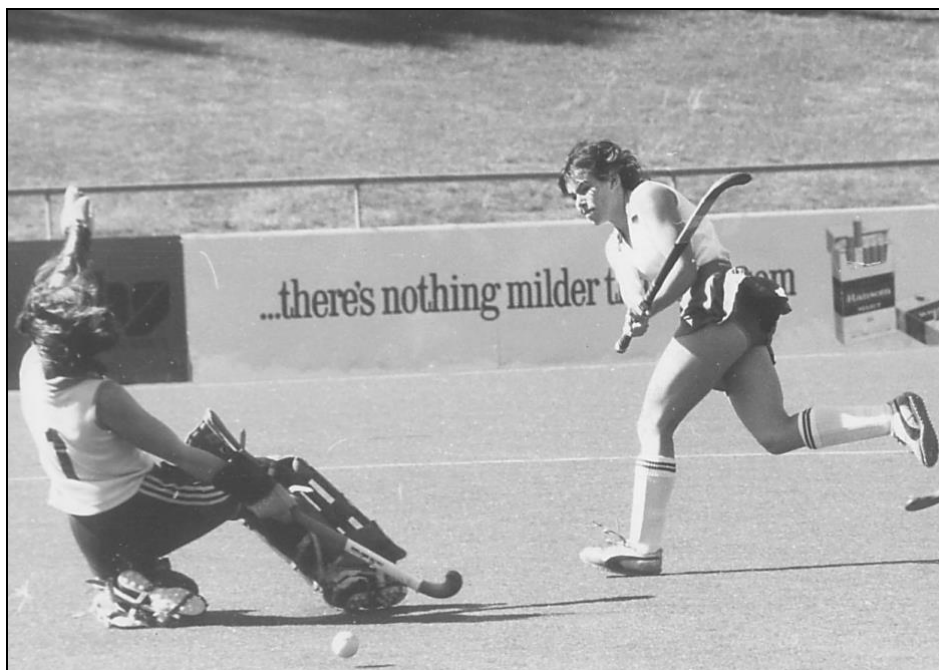
Even though I stopped playing for Uni in 1982, one of the greatest things about this game we play is the friendships forged and maintained over time. Many of our friends now are from friendships developed in that period of my life and Led's life. I am sure if times got tough the people I would turn to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



1986 WA v Qld



1983 Suzi slams one past the Fremantle keeper

TRANSFORMING TIMES

By Suzi Wood (Ferguson) who joined the club in 1977 from Mukinbudin

The time I spent at the University Hockey Club was a time of transformation on a personal, club and game level. It is difficult to encapsulate in few words the many changes that occurred in the period between 1977- 1988 when I played.

In 1977 we still played for offside, could hand stop the ball and there were six behind the line on penalty corners. The offside rule subsequently disappeared along with grass hockey as we moved Astroturf in 1980. The arrival of the Astroturf challenged the traditional operations of our respective clubs as the A Grade teams started training away from McGillivray for the first time.

1977 was a momentous year for a girl from Mukinbudin to start playing hockey for University. We won the Premiership after a twenty eight year drought in an exciting showdown against Surf at the Pat Goodridge Hockey Centre. Champagne flowed freely after the game, although my memory of this was hiding behind Fearless so my parents didn't see me drinking!

Pam Rothwell, as coach, led us to two more grand finals in successive years. Although we were unsuccessful in 1978, it remains part of our psyche as we had played two games in a row due to a draw in the first encounter and Grads swam better than us in the rematch. Amidst the pouring rain and tired players, Ric Charlesworth was memorable on the sidelines as he barracked for Grads in his poncho and made his requisite comments regarding umpiring decisions. The third successive Grand Final in 1979 was played on Astroturf for the first time, resulting in a Uni win.

A common thread that drew the club together in this time was Intervarsity Hockey. Players from all grades in the club joined together as a team, creating memories and friendships that played a significant part in developing club spirit and culture. The Tassie IV still retains iconic status as the stories unfolded from those who survived one of the first combined men's and women's IV's. The exploits of club personalities such as Pam (Bubbles) Babb, Jenny (JR) Rogers, Amanda (Marda) Shaw, Bronwyn (Bronnie) Lang, Neil (Mixer) Jilley, Russell (Rover) Wood, Chris (Stride) Jones, Frank (Fearless) Fitzgerald, Peter (Two Gun) Gummer, David (Blades) Viner and Matthew (Bolix) Jones at this and other IV's of that era remain part of Uni folklore.

Playing IV was something every club member aspired to do at least once, not just for the trip away but for the rowing races, the songs, the ironman events and the parties. The two games of hockey a day for a week were incidental, although we always liked to win.

Janene Richardson's renditions of 'A rooty cha, a rooty cha' with the whole club on a Saturday night was the greatest fun. It would not be drawing too long a bow to suggest that many of the people that went IV formed the backbone of the club and have contributed many times over to its success today.

The men's and women's clubs enjoyed a close relationship with many marriages, including mine to Russell Wood, resulting from the many Saturday nights spent at The Shenton Park Hotel, Captain Stirling Hotel and Floreat Park Hotel singing Uni Hockey songs, recounting game results and 'Wood-Duck' nominations. This camaraderie led to the building of the AJ Williams Clubrooms at McGillivray, the RF Brindley Clubrooms and finally the Uni Superturf. The two separate clubs finally amalgamated amidst some mild controversy to form the University Hockey Club in 1988. Other women's club's such as Pirates, Grads, Floreat, Surf, and Fremantle were also disappearing under similar moves.

The A grade team and hockey was continuing to evolve as the AIS Hockey Unit came to town in the early 80's, leading to an influx of new players into the local competition. Women's hockey dropped the State Championships and went from two rounds of hockey to three in 1986. The loss of the State Championships seemed to close an era where we could shake the status quo and not take ourselves and hockey so seriously. We were severely reprimanded for making 'hippy' shorts in Uni colours to wear in the last State Championship.

1983 was a particular highlight, coached by Jenny Edmonds, we won the Indoor Grand Final at Fremantle, Challenge Cup, Grand Final and had a lot of fun along the way. We remained a competitive force in subsequent years and consistently finished in the top four.

Our team was changing as players retired and a younger generation of players arrived. 1988 was a fitting finale to my playing career with University. I had returned as a 'chubby redhead' after the birth of my first child Alex (now playing first grade for Uni) to help the team cope with the loss of our Olympic players Sally Carbon and Rechelle Hawkes. We defeated Wolves in the Grand Final 2-0 and Russell and I retired to the country.

The issue of what to do with all the retiring hockey players who all still loved hockey and being involved with the club was solved with the formation of the University Women's Associates Club in the mid eighties. The Uni SOAKS allow the University Hockey Club to retain some semblance of being a student club and for the SOAKS to continue doing what they think they do best, playing hockey, having fun and reminiscing.

Reflecting on this time in a few paragraphs does not seem to do justice to all the people within it. The hockey was almost incidental to the sense of community engendered by my teammates, friends within the Uni club and local hockey community who helped me to grow up. The sense of commitment to others and the club is still reflected in the club today with many of the same people from this era involved in management positions in the senior and junior clubs. Congratulations on an incredibly successful first eighty years.



***1979 UWA First Grade Premiers
Bronwyn Mather rear centre***

THE COUNTRY CONNECTION

By Bronwyn Mather (Lang) who joined in 1977 from Northam

I joined the Uni Women's Hockey Club when I came to the city in 1977 to study at UWA. I had been encouraged to join the club by Jo Ryan and Anwen Williams, who were staff members at Northam SHS, where I had attended. It was still scary venturing down for training that first time but soon I felt welcome and at ease, especially when I found out that Suzi Wood was coming as well, we had played most of our high school hockey together.

I learnt much in my time at Uni both on and off the field. I developed as a player throughout this time under the guidance of several coaches including Pam Rothwell, Peter Pederson, Judy Blight, Lindsay Edmonds and Jenny Wealand. It was awesome to come from playing country hockey to being on the field with State and Australian players. I was fortunate to be part of several premierships as the Uni Women's 1A side enjoyed a very successful time during this period.

The 1979 Premiership stands out for me as it was the first Grand Final on the new turf. The State Championships of 1980 were significant plus I had my 21st on the Saturday night right in the middle of the carnival. The whole team attended and fortunately I didn't have to front up for the first game on Sunday morning!

I played in four Intersociety Carnivals – Perth 1977, Canberra 1978, Hobart 1979 and Melbourne (Monash Uni) 1980. I loved IV. I loved the hockey, the new friendships formed, the fun, the travel and the singing. As a result of going to IV, I was selected in an Australian Universities Team that toured New Zealand in 1980, along with Erica Herron and Sheralee Edwards. I have to say that the singing antics of the Aussie girls was not appreciated very much in NZ with the final dinner being bought to an early close by the management of the function centre because of our singing.

Some of my fondest and clearest memories from IV's include the final dinner at Monash when the concertina doors between the men and women was opened and 1500 men singing 'If I give you fish and chips.....' then 1500 women squeaking back 'If you give me fish and chips...etc'. The whole of the Hobart carnival being the first combined IV. The 'beep beep' of the horn as a certain Wasy blonde

announced her arrival back at our motel on the first morning in Hobart to signify the success of her goal from the previous night to get a car for the week!

Two Gun Gummer being told to get on the plane and never come back to Tasmania after he returned the hire car and Bubbles drilling a ball head height into the spectators on the hill that were hassling her.

I took on several administrative roles during my time with the club. I recall that the club had recognised that not having juniors was a weakness and one year we entered a PLC team under the UWHC banner. In this team were Julie Waddell and Sandy Johnstone who went on to be outstanding contributors for the club at a senior level.

I am so impressed how the junior side of the club has evolved and this is of particular significance to me now as our eldest daughter is completing her schooling in Perth and has been embraced within a very supportive nest of people at the UWAHC.

The game of hockey has evolved for the better over the years with the advent of synthetic surfaces and rule changes. My first games as a junior were on a hard dirt ground that had such a slope that the ball often rolled away as you were preparing to take a free hit. Fortunately, Northam had grass fields and when I came to Uni the fields at McGillivray were some of the best in the metro area.

When I first started playing hockey the game commenced with an onside bully, there was an offside rule and when a ball went out over the sideline, it was rolled back in by the half back. Other players had to be behind a five-yard tram line that was drawn all the way down the field. The change to a sideline hit was a definite improvement!

Rules to do with balls being played in the air have been subject to many changes over the years from being able to hand stop them to not and from being able to raise into the circle and then not and then yes again. I recall that during the 1979 Men's World Championships in Perth there was a lot of aerial 'ping pong' going on in the circles which was very dangerous and the rule was altered following this event. In my view, the best rule change was with interchange rule. There used to be a substitution rule where you were unable to return to the game if you were taken off. This meant that the 12th and 13th players were often left on the bench as long as possible and it was difficult for these players to feel the same sense of belonging to the team as the first eleven. It is very different now as the 'bench' can be used strategically by coaches to impact on the game and players can rotate on and off allowing the team to be more than the eleven on the field.

It is with great warmth that I reflect on this time with the Uni Hockey Club as it is a very important part of who I am. I have particularly enjoyed re-establishing connections with the club via the juniors and the club now takes on another meaning for me as we move into the next generation, sons and daughters of former players playing together and being coached and developed by players from my era.

I wish the club continued success and encourage all to make the most of the opportunities that this wonderful club presents.



Doc Whitely, right with Bol Jones



***The Superside of the late eighties
Doc Whitely, standing centre arms folded***

THE EIGHTIES – “THE YEARS OF LIVING DANGEROUSLY”

By Justin (Doc) Whitely who joined the club in 1978

Whilst this headline probably best sums up my life during this time, it was however a period of great change and achievement for the University of Western Australia Hockey Club (UHC).

I joined the UHC in 1978 after having played Under 17's hockey for the Trinity Hockey Club. I left that club to play for University because I believed that if you attended University it was incumbent upon you to involve yourself as much you can in University life. Hence after 26 years, I still continue to play to this present day having probably played close to 500 games for the club.

I began to take an active involvement in the club's committee in 1983 undertaking the role of “Dribble” and Yearbook Editor, President in 1986 and 1987 before retiring as the Editor in Chief of the 1992 Yearbook.

During this time, the UHC hosted a very financially successful and well run 1983 “Intervarsity” where I also met my wife to be Andrea (Nillsie) Nill (competing with Monash Uni), members of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) first represented the UMHC, we built our own clubrooms; “R. F. Brindley” rooms (1984), the University Men's and Women's Hockey Clubs merged in 1988 to form the one UHC and a new sand filled synthetic surface was installed at McGillivray Oval the following year.

I felt extremely proud to have led and be associated with the Club during this time because there is no doubt that the foundations for the club's current success were laid during the eighties. Admittedly, there were events which occurred that were regrettable during this time including the relegation of our 1A team in 1986, the withdrawal and reallocation of an Institute player from the top team and the enforced resignation of the club coach in the same year.

However, the highlights for me were building of the new “R.F. Brindley” clubrooms in 1984, winning the TAA Colts Cup in 1985, return of the top men's team to the 1st Division after a successful season in 1987; establishing the renowned “Superside” in 1987; merging of the men's and women's clubs and serving as the first Men's Club Captain of the newly merged entity in 1988; significant financial trading performance of the clubrooms in 1989 and 1990; attending five Intervarsities, significant contribution to the Bunbury Tourist Commission on numerous occasions during carnival time and a high quality monthly “Dribble” mailed to all members throughout 1992.

The attainment of some of these milestones was also due to a great deal of hard work by a number of club members, though not in any particular order, mention must be made of the contributions by Bob Brindley, Matthew Jones, David Albrecht, David Miller, Frank Fitzgerald, Hayden Smith, Tim Colmer, David Storate, Kate Main and Angela Kelly who worked together during the eighties to achieve these goals. I sincerely apologise if I have omitted to mention anyone as there were many other people who contributed enormously during that period.

There is no doubt that the profile that the UHC now enjoys in terms of success on the field, facilities and assets, juniors and Minkey can be in large part due to the solid foundations created by the UHC of the eighties.



**1993 Potato & Leak Club on the Occasion of the Men's First Grade Premiership
Grand Leak Duncan Allen centre with blanket**



Peter (Whale) Churack "Striding Out"

MATESHIP, TEAM EFFORT, LARRIKINISM, EGALITARIANISM

By Peter (Whale) Churack who joined the club in 1979 from Old Aquinians

I am sitting here on the Anzac day holiday contemplating my hockey club memoirs and it occurs to me that some of the themes of Anzac seem to apply the University Hockey Club.

I am in no way comparing the heroism, hardship and sacrifice of the "Diggers" to playing for the UHC, however, the traditions of mateship, team effort; larrikinism and egalitarianism have in my experience been an integral part of my life through the club.

Mateship

Upon transferring to the club in the late seventies from a college based inferior club it soon became apparent to me that firstly, I would need to improve my drinking and secondly, I would be here for life.

The people I met, Blades, Fear, Doc, Later, Chuck, Tim Casey, Sticky, Rover, Speed, Roger Gray and the Greenman all showed me by example how there is a lot more to the hockey club than the 70 minutes on the field. At the post game drinks spontaneous song would erupt which by the way was extremely harmonious, this was then followed by a series of anecdotes usually on the silly exploits of club members over the previous week either hockey related or otherwise.

These stories known as the "Wood Ducks" were tales told by master story tellers involving much humour and suspense as the identity of the club member was withheld until the completion of the story (even then some nominees were unsure it was them as exaggeration was essential to a good nomination) to this end I must mention Jim (Jimbo) Ashby for his creative acts which lead to such fine nominations.

In this environment people could not help but become friends, indeed lifelong friends. Today I number among my closest friend's club members and of course, in the true sense of the word "mate", my wife, Lianne, for whom I will always be as grateful to the club as one can be.

Team Effort

As Uni is a student based club, we fielded teams, (outside of the 1's & 2's) consisting mainly of students invariably aged in their late teens and early 20's pitted against established very experienced teams from other clubs. As a result we were traditionally slow starters but once underway with the effect of extra curricular activities such as the Easter Albany Carnival, the Religious Games and of course IV, our teams soon gelled and often though outside of the 4 midway through the season they just as often ended up playing off in the Grand Final.

The team effort theme extended beyond the playing arena of the club. In 1983/4, the club made the decision to establish clubrooms of our own as the experiment of sharing the AJ Williams Pavilion with the Uni Football and Athletics Clubs was never going to work. As a group we raised the funds, dug the foundations and wherever possible assisted in its construction. This was the first major club building project which was only made possible by the leadership of Bob Brindley. The new clubrooms were subsequently named the RF Brindley Pavilion in 1984.

This success was followed by the vision of an artificial surface and again the teamwork of club members made this vision happen, from the fundraising to the design, to assisting in construction, many members contributed their time, money and effort.

Today we enjoy a facility equal to any club facility in the world and one that is the envy of most. The teamwork between the club and the University, including the valuable contribution of long time caretaker Chris (Marshy) Marsh, continues.

Larrikinism

As with any club with such youthful members, larrikinism was ever apparent. I remember to this day

the words Fear imparted to me on my first Fresher's show "sure we have fun, but we always look out for each other and never undertake activities that may upset others, unless they are Vic Park!". Very rarely over the last 25 years have I seen club members deviate from this philosophy.

Also, as you can imagine with any such club, youth and alcohol have created some moments of concern but the edict of always looking out for each other has meant that no serious problems have arisen. This combined with a level of irreverence towards stuffy regulations and pompous authority has resulted in some very humorous situations including the Bunbury Nude Olympics, the Piccadilly Arcade rally drive, Nostradamus Tour of Albany and the Castle Rock run throughs.

However in my view the perfect illustration of this sense of larrikinism is the Potato & Leek Club. Not only are there 10 commandments laid down by the Grand Leek Duncan (Duncs) Allen, but originally there were sponsored tee shirts, membership cards and club dinners with potato and leek soup provided.

Even the usual stuffy WAHA recognises the role the Potato and Leek Club has made in providing a sense of atmosphere at finals. Who but the most stuck up could not appreciate the half time rendition of "singing the rain" as performed by David (Herpex) Albrecht and the assembled Potato & Leek Choir?

Egalitarianism

I truly wonder whether many members appreciate the extent and value of this attribute of the club. Hockey as a team sport with a longer playing life than most sports lends itself to a level of egalitarianism that say football could never aspire to but when one plays for Uni you could be training alongside an Australian player or slotting one past a world eleven goalkeeper.

But Uni's egalitarianism is more than just the on field sports, for once you played for Uni it was the way you played the game, the commitment you made to your side and your contribution to the social life of the club that is valued by your fellow club members and not the job you held or the money you made, or the school you attended. Sadly this is not true of all clubs.

As a result of my time at the UHC, I number among my friends Architects, Doctors, Lawyers, Dentists, Electricians, Plumbers, Property Developers, Politicians, Entrepreneurs, Engineers, Teachers, Magistrates etc. The point being not that I can number these professions among my group of friends but that without my association with the UHC I would have had no way meeting and making lifelong friends with such fine people.

The University Hockey Club has certainly played and continues to play a major role in my life. Now, as my children start their time with the junior club, I sincerely hope that they too will enjoy all the aspects of University Hockey that I have had the privilege to enjoy over the last 25 years.



***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.



*1988 UWA First Grade Premiers
Julie Waddell front second from right*



2005 Julie in attack

AN ERA OF LEGENDS

By Julie (Waddle) Waddell who first played in 1981 while at PLC

My Memories...

Shorts and purple shirts of state champs
Wet white shirts in the rain
Suzi Woods band aids
Learning to play alongside the 'old girls'
Roasts at Mrs. Johnstones
Spa parties
Dancing the bus stop prior to winning the grand final
Entertaining pre game talks, not always about hockey but none the less inspiring.
Friendships
Dodging dogs at training, great for agility

Legends

Jen Wealand, Susie Wood, Pippa Thompson, Robin Harvey, Pam Babb, Crackle, Sally Carbon,
Rechelle Hawkes, Cathy Partridge, Sandy Johnstone

Legend Administrator, the stalwart, Angela Kelly

Major Events

1983 Challenge Cup, Grand Final, Premiers
1985 Challenge Cup, Grand Final
1988 Grand Final, Premiers
1990 Challenge Cup, Grand Final, Premiers
1992 Challenge Cup
1994 Grand Final, Premiers, Coach

The State of the Game

Gone are the bullies and offside
Can't remember the roll in
The lime green's been retired

If you can't do a tomahawk
You may as well not play
Cause using your reverse
Is the order of the day

Bodysuits and carbon fibre
State of the art
Playing on grass
Just doesn't get a start

The games sure changed
For the better I'm not sure
Where once there were legends
Are there any anymore?

Growing up playing hockey for Uni I was lucky enough to play alongside and learn from a group of extremely talented individuals who taught me many a thing about hockey and life.

To succeed among such a talented group was and always will be a very memorable time in my life.



***1988 UWA Australian Representatives
Sally Carbon, Kathleen Partridge, Rechelle Hawkes***



***1990 UWA First Grade Premiers
Kathleen Partridge (coach) front left***

A BRIEF YET VIVID RECOUNT

By Kath (KP) Partridge who joined the club as an AIS recruit in 1984 from NSW.

I moved to Perth in 1984 as a 19 year old to take up my scholarship in the Hockey Unit at the Australian Institute of Sport. I came from Armidale, NSW and played representative hockey for NSW from 1982–88 and then WA from 1990–92. In Armidale I played originally for my school, O'Connor Catholic College and then for Checkmates Hockey Club and the University of New England Hockey Club.

I met all of the girls, Bubbles, Suzi Wood, Gail Warrilow, Robyn Harvey, Jilly Sheehan, Julie Waddell and the rest early on in 1984 having been drafted to the Uni Hockey Club for the year. I was immediately struck by their competitive spirit and fun loving attitude and of course by Bubbles' head band and wild wind up for the 16 yard hit!

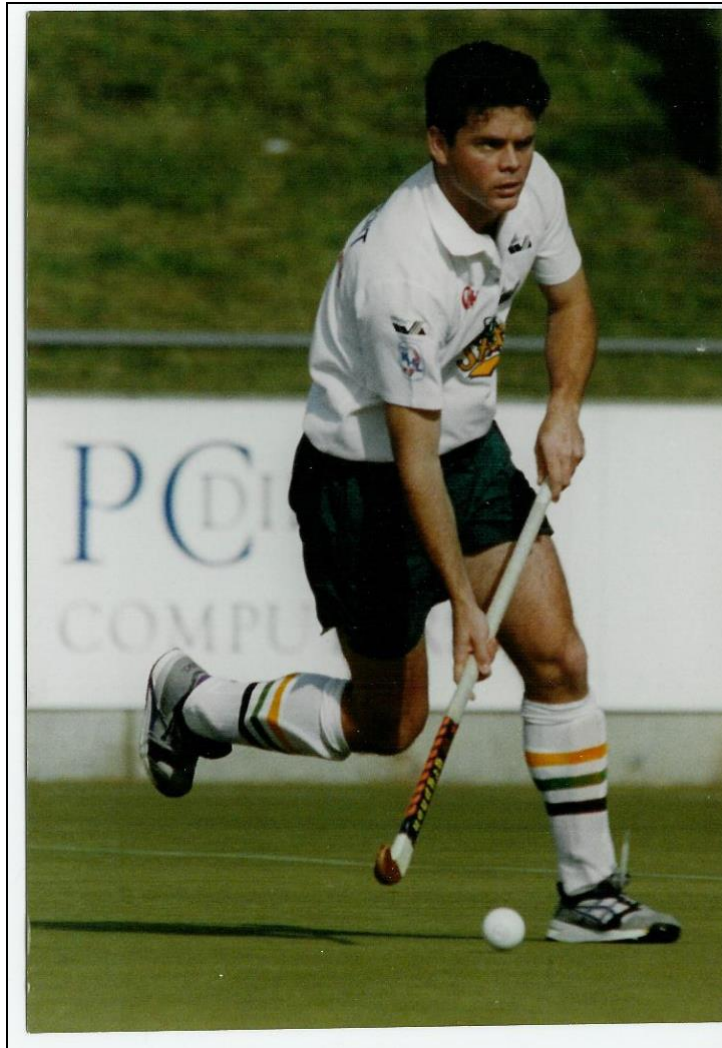
I was grateful to many of the girls, in particular Jill who would pick me up for training and games from the luxurious AIS units at Noalimba in her little green MG, goalie kit bag hanging out the back. I am sure I was not the best club member in my first year at Uni, but I did try hard, I was terribly home sick and the move to Perth would have been more difficult if not for many of the Uni girls including Judy Blight, my first Uni coach.

I also remember representing Australia whilst playing for University. I am sure that this made things difficult at times for the players and coach but I always felt appreciated and supported at the club. I was also pleased that I was attending UWA as a student and playing for Uni at the same time. I was proud of the fact that I played for Uni. After a few years at the club, Fremantle needed a goalie and then South Perth that was part of AIS life, being moved from club to club, I did not enjoy that aspect. Once I was away from the AIS I returned to play for Uni and on the turf at McGillivray and eventually coached the women's A grade for a number of years.

I also have very fond memories of coaching at the club. I vividly remember how we won the Women's A Grade Premiership in 1989, the fantastic early opening goal by Sally Carbon that set the tone for the game. Rechelle (Re) Hawkes also played for the club during that time. I was lucky enough to coach some incredibly talented players including Nikki Mott now Hudson, Re, Sally Carbon, Danni Roach, Julie Waddell and Birgit Beyer from Germany; but more importantly I coached at a time when the 'Uni Ones' were made up of a tremendous group of players who loved the club, always gave 100% and understood what it meant to play for "Uni". Players like Suzie Booker, Julie McCormack, Fiona Simpson, Jodie Pike, Claire McNee, Chris Worthington and many, many others – all were, by the way, fantastic trainers, players and people. I appreciated the club's support during my coaching years, in particular the support of Angela Kelly who has given so much to the club over many years.

I feel that Uni is my club and I expect that once I've finished being a Principal out here in the bush I will be back involved in the club in some capacity. Currently I am coaching the local team on grass, not dissimilar to my early playing days on grass at McGillivray Oval for Uni. My only regret is not playing soaks, and unfortunately, the back is no longer up to it, but I must say, the entertainment value of watching the odd soaks game has been outstanding!

My years at Uni have been important and enjoyable years for me.



1992 Perth Thundersticks – Robert “Clem” Clement



***2002 UWA First Grade Premiers
Clem (coach) standing fourth from left***

IT'S NOT JUST A CLUB IT'S A LIFESTYLE!

By Rob (Clem) Clement who joined in 1988 from Westside Wolves formally Cricketers

My fondest memories would have to include the three premierships that I was apart of in 1992, 1993 & 1995, from about 1991 to 1995 the team was fantastic, the determination to win and destroy other sides was ruthless, we were the first classic league side to hit 100 goals in a season in 1994 and our goal each game was to score three by half time and five for the match, our theory was if they could score six they could have the game.

During my early days at the club, administrators and members such as Hayden Smith, Justin Whitely, Matthew Jones, Peter Churack and Peter (Gweedo) Wright were very prominent either on the floor or at the bar. Many times training on Thursday would end in singing and drinking long into the night followed by the odd grand prix race circuit where the turf now sits. David Albrecht, Bruce (Saus) Jones and Angela (Ang) Kelly also came in to prominence and put on a wonderful Intervarsity as well as sat on boards for many a year.

Players of note through my playing days have been Michael Nobbs, Todd Williams, Steven Davies, Damon Diletti, Mark Hager, Michael York and in later years Mathew Wells and Tristram Woodhouse and being a left side player two personal favourites are David Viner and Craig McKenzie both had enormous endeavour and gave everything for the team and the club. Of all the representative players we have had, Mark Hager and Michael Nobbs were inspirational and true leaders, they formed the back bone of a fantastic period in our history and I will be forever indebted to those two for the skills and support they provided to me during my playing days.

The most memorable events for me would have to be a combination of preseason top squad trips to Geraldton and Busselton, R&I Cup matches in the bush such as Woodanilling and the Bunbury Carnival in July which included guys from all grades and all walks of life, the trips included nude indoor hockey, Chinese restaurants, the Nude Olympics and many a bus trip.

In terms of shows, nothing should ever beat the freshers show, the boat races and table slides of days of old were more than memorable and finally the Intervarsity hosted by UWA was the last of the real form of IV which included just hockey players and the desire to punish themselves such as the iron man event.

The main changes to the game for me in my time was the move to synthetic fields from the grass surfaces of days gone by, the university bank used to be full in front of the old clubrooms and songs were sung all game, the culture was strong and there was a real sense of belonging to something special and bigger than the individual.



1992 UWA First Grade Premiers “the first in 43 years”

Todd Williams holding the R&I Cup



1993 Todd “Noddy” Williams in action in the R&I Cup Final

“THE ULTIMATE PAYBACK”

By Todd (Noddy) Williams, joined the club as an AIS recruit in 1992 from Tasmania

Although I was only at UWAHC for three years, I am proud to say that they were three of the most enjoyable and successful years of my hockey career. Two Premierships, 3 Challenge Cups, top goal scorer and the prestigious “Players Player” were the high points associated with what was undoubtedly the strongest Club side in Australia. Hey, we could even afford to give Blades Viner a game! Despite the success and quality of the team and its personnel, my favourite story that epitomises the club, actually relates to two well known members of the first squad at the time, one an average player, and the other who was awful.

To be fair, Darren Steinberg played 200 games for the 1's and whilst decidedly average in our eyes, would have played in any other first team in any remote country region you care to name. Furthermore, whilst Hayden Smith was the sort of hockey player for whom concrete surrounding walls were invented, it should be noted that he was only the Manager of the 1's.

Except, almost on one fateful night...

The background to this story involves what started as a harmless passing comment from Smith to Steinberg when the latter was speaking about the house he had just purchased through the formers property agency. “It's on fire” was meant as a joke, but escalated into an untidy episode, with shock, tears and eventually phone calls to the vendor, who ironically was standing in his decidedly “un” burning kitchen. Steinberg consequently vowed revenge.

Those aware of what happened stood back and waited for an immediate response but none came. Time drifted on and many started to think that perhaps Steinberg had swept it under the carpet of his undamaged new house. That was until one Friday afternoon before an evening game for the 1's when Coach Nobbs rang the Manager.

At the time, the 1's were 12 points clear on top and the 2's were struggling to make the finals with 2 games remaining. Consequently, the 1's were playing with a bare 11 in order to give the 2's the use of our bench players. This was the nature of the conversation with Hayden, when the Coach recommended that the Manager had “better bring his gear”.

Now those of you who know Hayden know that there is only one salvation when it comes to hockey and his ego, and that is that he has never played in the 1's. We know it, he knows it and most importantly, Darren Steinberg knew it.

To cut a long story short, we warmed up and with barely a minute before pushback, Rob Clement fell into a heap and was immediately surrounded by the Coach and the Physio. “Hayden, you're on” was the instruction from Nobbs and immediately, the Manager went into what can only be described as a tizzy. Desperately trying to pull his tracksuit bottoms over his shoes whilst fumbling for his stick, he became visibly worse when the ground announcer advised the crowd “there has been a late change, number 6 Rob Clement is to be replaced by number 58, Hayden Smith”.

At this point, as he lined up at right wing, with his back to the crowd and technical bench, there were two things that everyone except Hayden could see. The first was that quite obviously Hayden was approaching a watershed moment in his life where, forevermore, he would be able to lay claim to, and bore everyone senseless about, his career in the 1's. The second, and far more important, was that with barely seconds before the pushback, the match controller was now standing behind Hayden with a fit Rob Clement and the numbers 6 and 58 above his head.

With the umpires under strict instruction not to start the game at any cost, the ground announcer, by this stage barely controllable, declared that “there has been a late, late change, number 58 Hayden Smith to be replaced by Rob Clement”. Those that were there will remember Hayden spinning around, throwing his stick into the dugout and directing a string of expletives at Steinberg that, had he played, would have resulted in the quickest yellow card in history. But then, he didn't, and it wasn't!

