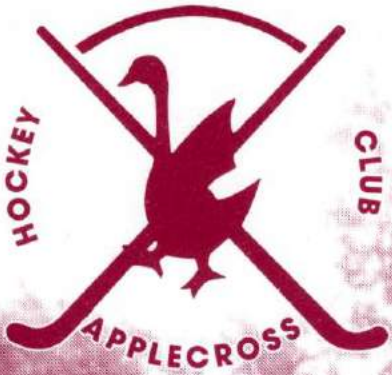


Max Reynolds



1956 - 1957

30 YEARS



1985 - 1986



FOREWORD

On assuming office in late 1982, I decided to collect the Club Records, which were somewhat scattered, and keep them at home. The bulk was greater than expected and as a result, the Records became scattered again, but over a smaller area. A filing cabinet was the obvious answer. This was obtained thanks to Harold Farmer and a start was made on sorting the Records.

The more I sorted, the more interested I became in the Club's history and proceeded to make notes with a view to preparing at least a summary of our past. But the inevitable had happened — I had lost one set of Minutes and other data. After pestering past Presidents and Secretaries of preceding Committees for several weeks, I finally located the missing records in a long-forgotten corner. This experience *convinced* me that a history was needed!!

Club histories have been prepared previously:

- In the earliest known Club Bulletin of 1963;
- Brief summaries in the earliest of the series of Annual Bulletins (from 1971);
- Brian Spitteler's article "Those were the days — and still are" in the 1973 Bulletin — the most comprehensive to that time;
- and then in 1976, Paul Meacock had prepared a very detailed study of the Club as an assignment for his History Course.

My proposal was to summarise the latter and up-date this to 1985. However, no one could locate a copy of Paul's thesis, and I began a review of Club Minutes beginning at the first recorded —

"Minutes of General Meeting of the (Applecross Hockey) Club held at the residence of Mr. V. E. Dalton, 78 Kintail Road, Applecross, on Sunday 10th April, 1960, at 10 a.m."

— to 1971 when the first of the Annual Bulletins became available. I then used these and the Players' Register (Keith Timmel's "Bluebook").

After I had first prepared a Summary and had it reviewed by some competent authorities, two other events occurred:

- (1) Paul found a copy of his thesis; and,
- (2) 1986 arrived and with it the realisation that we were in the 30th Year of the Club.

These were sufficient inducements to produce a more detailed history for this auspicious year, to be available to all members past and present.

The early parts are taken largely from Brian Spitteler's and Paul Meacock's accounts, supplemented with data from old Minutes, and from detail which had been omitted from those chronicles because of obvious personal modesty. The later sections are from the Annual Bulletins — wonderful sources of information, with their early cartoons, commentaries and poems. These were introduced by Wally Meacock (with cartoons and other contributions by his wife Beth).

Max A. Reynolds
23.8.86

FOUNDATION (1956-1959)

The following extract from a 1963 Hockey Bulletin is the first known account of the foundation year of the Applecross Hockey Club:

"1956:

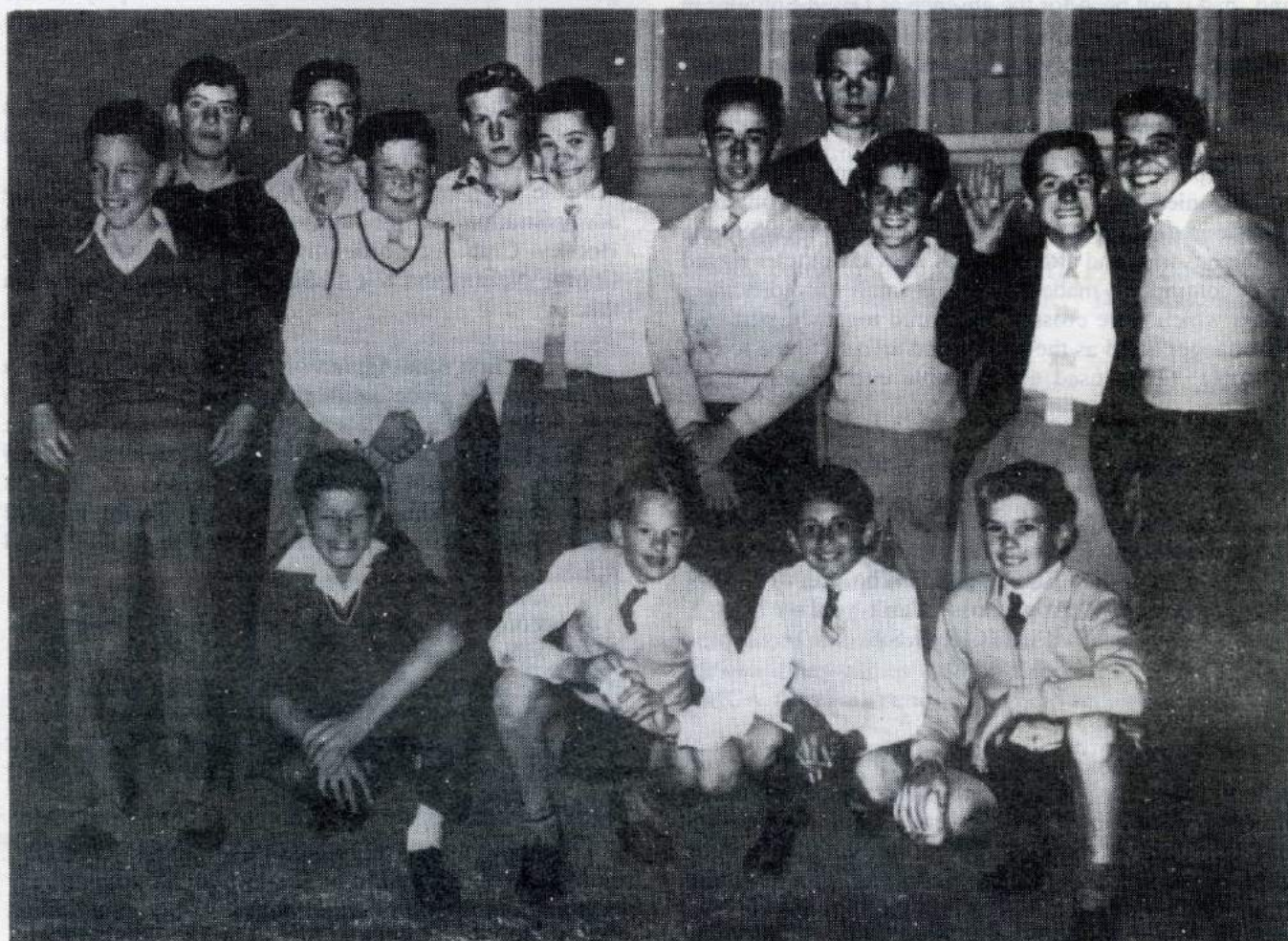
Three local hockey players in DAVE SPITTELER, ROD DALTON and JOHN COLE gathered together thirteen of their friends and formed what is now the Applecross Men's Hockey Club. In the club's first year this Under 16 team headed the table for most of the second round and only just lost 1st position on percentages after losing the last game of the season. Although we did not play in the Challenge Cup and lost both the Semi-Final and Final games, the Club won itself a name in the Association. In the first season the results were as follows:

Played 18, Won 12, Lost 2, Drew 4, Goals 53 for and 21 against.

During this first season DAVE SPITTELER gained selection in the State Schoolboys to head the list of names on the Honour Board."

Paul Meacock (1976) subsequently interviewed David and Brian Spitteler and produced this more detailed version of the Club's formation:

Two fifteen year-old Kent Street High School boys, David Spitteler and Rodney Dalton who played for the Suburban Hockey Club in Saturday fixtures, tried to persuade another Kent Street friend, John Cole, to also play with Suburbans. But John Cole found mid-week training further afield an impossibility and said unless he could join a club nearer home he would not play. This situation prompted enquiries in their Applecross neighbourhood in the summer of 1955-56 which indicated that enough support existed to form a local club. With the support of people such as Vic Dalton, Mr Spitteler and Reg Wardle (of the then strong North Fremantle Club),



The First Applecross Hockey Team, 1956

L-R (back): John Cole, Ian Atkins, Clive Griffiths, Tony Oates, Howard Taylor, Selwyn Cornish, David Spitteler, Rod Dalton, Graham Clifton, Ian Odgers, Colin McDonald.

L-R (front): Don Ross, Peter Dalton, Brian Spitteler, Robert Halvorsen.

the Applecross Men's Hockey Club established itself by fielding its first team, an Under 16 year side, in the 1956 season.

Much credit must now go to David Spitteler for following up the idea of forming the Club, and with the help of Ian Dick (an Australian player, and in 1956, captain of the first Australian Olympic Team) obtaining official recognition of the Club by the Western Australian Hockey Association (WAHA). David then became the Club's delegate to WAHA for the next two years.

Most of the members in 1956 were made up of boys from Tweeddale and Kintail Roads in Applecross, with a few others from further afield. The original sixteen members of the Club were Rodney Dalton, David Spitteler, John Cole*, Brian Spitteler, Peter Dalton, Ian Atkins, Tony Oates, Graham Clifton, Selwyn Cornish, Howard Taylor, Ian Ross, Bob Halvorsen, Colin McDonald, Ian Odgers, Clive Griffiths and Don Spitteler.

Even though all but three of the boys were first year players, their performance in reaching the finals that year was symptomatic of their enthusiasm and dedication; and, had it not been for the absence of David Spitteler in the State Schoolboys, they could well have been premiers. Younger brother, Brian, did his best in that final game by coming out of goals to score their only goal!

Transport in those days was by bus, and when accompanied by family and friends, the team on some occasions took up half the bus! To develop team morale on the bus trips and after matches, David Spitteler rigged up a contraption made up of two small carved hockey sticks which were crossed and wired together; part of a coat hanger acted as the handle and affixed to the top — an apple! (They used a new apple every week.)

Applecross Hockey Club War Cry

Chingalakka! Chingalakka! Chow! Chow! Chow!
Boomalakka! Boomalakka! Bow! Wow! Wow!
Chingalakka! Boomalakka! Who are we?
Applecross! Applecross! Can't you see?
A.P.P.L.E.C.R.O.S.S.
Applecross

The original members of the Club used their grey school shirts for the uniform. This was more out of necessity than choice as they were all still at school and had little time or money to buy or design another shirt. Each player was given a quarter of a yard of red material from which they lined the collar of the shirt and cut out a pocket. They also had a length of white binding tape which they stitched onto the pocket to form the letter

'A'. In 1957 the shirt design was changed to red and grey halves on the back and front with alternate coloured sleeves.

School socks were also worn. Into the top of these they folded red, knitted tops a few inches long. (In following years the socks were manufactured in the same original design with the red tops attached to the rest of the sock.) To complete the uniform they wore black football shorts.

The Club certainly changed and grew rapidly after its first year of existence. 1956 was a very humble beginning but the tradition of service was set and the example of dedication and enthusiasm has been handed on to the Club's teams through the years.

With a few new recruits the Club started 1957 with an Under 19 as well as an Under 16 team. The Under 19's won their fair share of games and entered the finals where they lost the semi-final and were eliminated. This year, the Club acquired the use of a ground for the first time. They were given the use of the Gairloch Street oval. David Spitteler coached the team in the first two years but after the 1957 season he left to play in the senior grades for University (1958-59) and Perth (1960-61).

Although considerable efforts were made to field a senior team in the third year, this did not eventuate and the Club fielded an Under 18 and Under 15 team in 1958. For the first time adults took a direct hand in the administration of the Club. The Applecross Men's Hockey Club was officially constituted with Messrs George Nelson and Vic Dalton playing a major part in this.

For the first time *Applecross fielded a senior team in 1959* in the C3 grade, while the second team remained in the Under 15's. The C3's ended the season in 4th place with 25 goals for and 22 against. The Under 15's scored the large tally of 120 goals for the season and had 28 goals scored against them to end the season in third place. Both teams were narrowly beaten in the Grand Finals.

A record was created that year by the Under 15's 30-nil win over Suburban which easily beat the previous record of 13-nil in the first season, and probably has not been surpassed since. The first pennant was also won in 1959 when the Under 15 side won the YMCA Junior Carnival Under 15 Division. The Club Coach was Mr George Nelson.

The Applecross Men's Hockey Club had thus survived its founding years and in its fourth year had made a very impressive entry into senior ranks. Many small clubs have never gone beyond this stage, but for Applecross, a new era was about to begin.

* This is the foundation member as distinct from the John Cole who joined the Club later and became our tenth life member.

GROWING UP (1960-1964)

Much of the early organisation at the Club was handled by Mr Vic Dalton who became the first Life Member of the Club. Unfortunately no records were kept of the first four years of the Club, and no formal Committee appears to have existed until 1960; that Committee was

President:	G. Nelson
Vice Presidents:	M. Bennetts & J. Wilson
Secretary:	V. Dalton
Assistant Secretary:	M. Wills
Treasurer:	K. Waterhouse

who were formally appointed at a Special General Meeting on 22 June 1960, at which a Constitution was adopted. (Only one of this Committee is still associated

with the Club, Mr Merv Bennetts, a long-standing Vice Patron, and still blowing his Umpire's whistle.) Grounds used in the early years were Gairloch and Strickland Ovals, and one ground was allocated at Tompkins Park in July 1960. One Senior team and three Junior teams played that year (at the following Annual Fees: Senior £4, U/18 £1.10.0, U/15 15/-). Also, in 1960 the Club won its first two WAHA pennants when the C3 team won the Challenge Cup and were Premiers. Brian Spitteler's name was added to the Honour Board following his selection in the State Schoolboys' Team. This was the start of a remarkable period in the Club's history ...

1961

The top team gained promotion to B2's which was a jump of four grades from the previous year. This was an unusual and very fortunate decision by the Association. The Club added a second senior team to its ranks in C2 grade. Further expansion enabled the Club to field four junior teams which gave a total of six teams. The seniors enjoyed a successful season once again with both teams reaching the Grand Finals. The top team won the Challenge Cup and Grand Final while the C2's lost the Grand Final after finishing the season fourth. The Juniors were not so successful.

Vic Dalton was Club President for his first term (his second being in 1966), Patron, Dr F. N. Douglas and Vice Patrons, J. Duffield, K. Douglas and K. Meuleman.

1962

The Club fielded three senior teams in 1962 with three junior teams to back them up. This was the Club's best season up to that time with *three Grand Finals and Challenge Cups by the Under 15 Division 1, C1's, and Reserve 3's* (the top team had been promoted from B2's in 1961 to Reserve 3's in 1962). The top team added a new record to the books when they were undefeated in all the qualifying games while the Under 15's added another YMCA Carnival pennant to their accomplishments.

Max Currell (Club Coach in 1975 and 1976) was selected again in the State Schoolboys' Team. His first year was in 1961 when he played for Busselton. An early Club personality, Mr Roy Fletcher (see caricatures, p.12) was President in 1962-63. Roy's nature is clearly illustrated in an excerpt from his 1963 President's message: "Unfortunately we have come to the end of another season. I say unfortunately for three reasons, firstly because I will miss my Saturday outings, secondly because the end of season games are exciting and tense, and thirdly, because I have to make a speech."

				U 13(2)
			U 13	cc/p
		U 13	cc/p	U 15(3)
U 15(3)	U 15(3)	U 15(2)	U 15(2)	
U 15(2)	U 15(2)	U 15	f	U 15
U 15(2)	U 15	U 15	cc/p	U 18
U 15	U 18	C3	C3	C3
U 18	C2	C1	B2	B2
C3	B2	R3	R1	A3
cc/p	cc/p	cc/p	cc/p	cc
1960	1961	1962	1963	1964

FIGURE 1: Teams and performances, 1960-1964.
(cc = challenge cup winners, p = premiers, f = finalists.)

1963

Another record was broken this year when the Club fielded seven teams in the Association with three senior and four junior teams participating. The top team had jumped two grades from Reserve 3's in 1962 to Reserve 1's in 1963. The qualifying rounds saw four of the seven teams reach the finals when the Under 13's, Under 15's, Under 18's and Reserve 1's qualified. The Under 13's and Reserve 1's had already added their respective Challenge Cup Pennants to the Club collection and later won their semi-finals to qualify for the Grand Finals. The Under 15's and Under 18's also won their way into the Grand Finals but only the Under 13's and Reserve 1's were successful in these premiership matches.

Rick Robinson gained selection in the State School-boys' Team for this year.

The success of the Club's first Under 13 side was a credit to its Coaches, Betty and Merv Bennetts, and John Walsh, and to some young hockey talent including:

- David Bickford, already in his third year (continued with the Club until 1981 and played over 300 games.)
- Terry Walsh, youngest player (who went on to play for the State and Australia from 1974 to 1985) — "A very fast left wing who dazzled the opposition with speed and ability."
- John Bell, and later his brother David, both sons of Ian who was a Vice President of the Club 1962 - 1966.

Other long playing Club members, in addition to Brian Spitteler, who were in teams in 1963 are:

Max Currell:	Res 1 (234 games since 1962)
Ian Mitchell:	B2 (243 games since 1961)
Keith Jackaman:	U15 (286 games since 1962)
Kingsley McGuire:	U18 (344 games since 1960)
Another long-serving player, who missed 1963, is	
Gary Dienhoff:	(364 games since 1960)
Ian Halliday:	(316 games since 1963)

1964

With the Reserve 1's winning the premiership in 1963 the Club's top team was *now in the A3 grade* which was the highest grade the Club had ever achieved. This meant that with good performances on the hockey field and a certain amount of good fortune that came the Club's way from the Hockey Association, the *Club's top team had been promoted nine grades in four years* which was a remarkable feat.

Two other senior teams and six junior teams were also fielded which saw the Club at its largest size so far with nine teams. The Club now had two grounds, one at Tompkins Park and the other at Shirley Strickland oval.

These teams were moderately successful with the C3 and Under 13 grades winning both the Challenge Cup and premiership and the A3's winning the Challenge Cup. The A3's were very unlucky this year in their bid to reach A2's. They won the Challenge Cup after doing very well in the first round of qualifying matches, but through injuries and a certain amount of bad luck they finished the season in fifth position. This was the first time in the Club's history that its top side did not play in the finals.



The A3 Team – Challenge Cup Winners in 1964

L-R (back): John Cole, Brian Spitteler, Gary Dienhoff, Richard Smith, Max Currell, Rick Robinson.

L-R (front): Murray Print, David Spitteler, Rod Dalton, Greg Arnold, Ian Mathieson.



THE UNCERTAIN YEARS (1965-1970)

The years 1965-70 were relatively dark years for the Club, both in the area of success on the field and in the general atmosphere and spirit of the members.

Most emphasis was on junior development, and in 1965 the six junior teams did well, with premierships in the Under 15 and Under 13 (1) grades; the three senior teams however had a bad year.

At the beginning of the 1965 year, the Club almost amalgamated with the South Perth Men's Hockey Club. This proposed merger was brought about by the fact that the Applecross Club was losing senior players because of indifferent performances in A3 grade in the latter half of 1964. These players wished to play in the 1A grade, and were leaving to join other clubs who had teams in higher grades. By amalgamating with South Perth, it was felt that the combined players could have a good chance of making the 1A grade.

The Applecross Committee passed the proposal for the amalgamation to proceed, as did the senior body in the South Perth Club; however, the junior group from South Perth were not in favour of the merger, and they defeated the proposal. So the merger of the two clubs did not eventuate.

1966

The 1966 season was a very poor season for the Club. The A3 team was relegated to the Reserve Red grade for 1967, therefore negating the efforts in reaching the A3 grade in the period from 1960-64. *The Club had to wait for seven years before it again reached A3 grade status.*

The Club also dropped a senior team for the 1966 season which meant that it was only fielding two senior sides. This left the Club in a fairly weak condition. The only success for the year was a Challenge Cup victory for the Under 15 Division 2 team. One notable event this year was the award of the President's Trophy to Mrs Betty Bennetts for her services to the club in six years of junior coaching. A first for a woman!

Among its other activities, the Club began a series of exchange visits with the York Club which persisted until 1970, and, together with Fremantle YMCA Club, hosted the Queensland State Team for the National Schoolboys Championship held in Perth that year.

During the period between the 1966 and 1967 hockey seasons the Applecross Hockey Club affiliated with the Melville YMCA. This was done for a number of reasons, it was losing many senior players and had no way in its present state, of attracting any further players. The Club's grounds were at Tompkins Park where the Melville YMCA was building its hall-gymnasium complex, and some members of the Applecross Hockey Club felt that once the YMCA became established, it may wish to field hockey sides itself, as the Fremantle and Perth YMCA groups already had done. If this did happen, it was felt that it would be unproductive for both

bodies to compete for the same players and fields that the Applecross Hockey Club now had.

At the Annual General Meeting on 25 November, 1966, it was decided to write to the YMCA for formal acceptance of affiliation. The merger was accepted, and on 5 December 1966, the first meeting of the *Applecross YMCA Hockey Club* was held. Some of the men who arranged this affiliation were Arthur White (President) and Ray Drew (Director) of the Melville YMCA, and Peter Noad (President), Merv Bennetts, David Spitteler, Ross Halliday and Jim Wilson from the Applecross Hockey Club.

The amalgamation, at first, did not prove successful for the Hockey Club. The only immediate advantage was the use of a room in the YMCA for meetings and storage of some equipment. The disadvantages became apparent immediately. Some players left the Club, as there was a proportion of members who opposed the merger from the outset. This was serious for the Club as it was only fielding two senior teams as it was. (In the first year the Club also lost 12 junior players to the Old Aquinians Hockey Club when that club began a vigorous campaign to build up its junior ranks; one of these players, David Bell, was to become the Australian Captain in 1985.)

Initially the Club lost financially from the merger as it had to pay fees to the YMCA and also, under the rules of the YMCA, it could not continue to run its raffle as a means of raising money.

However the affiliation survived the early years and the bond between the two groups strengthened greatly in later years. The latent advantage to the Hockey Club was the growth due to the promotion of the family image through the YMCA. This was a big factor in the rapid growth of the Club in the years from 1970. The YMCA also played an important role in the printing of the Club's *weekly newsletters*. These were distributed to all members giving details of fixtures, match reports, coaching notes and all current Club news. The newsletters tied the Club together and promoted a very strong Club spirit.

1967

The Club again only fielded two senior teams. Having been relegated from the A3 grade in 1966, the top team was in the Reserve Red grade; the second team being in the B2 Red grade. Both teams finished at the bottom of the Premiership table after very poor years. The Reserve Reds drew four games during the season to gain their four only points for the year. The B2 Reds also only gained four points for the season with one win and two draws.

Seven junior sides were fielded by the Club, and they proved somewhat more successful. The Under 18 (3)

division side won the Challenge Cup, Guth Ardagh Pennant and Premiership in its grade (It was virtually the same side that was successful in U13's in 1963 and 1964, and U15's in 1965). The Under 16 (1) side finished the year in third position, but the five other teams finished well down the premiership table. Another Club member, Murray Griffiths, was selected in the State Schoolboys' Team for 1967.

1968

The 1968 season saw more senior players leave the Club. In fact so many had left that David Spitteler was the only member of the 1966 A3 side still to be playing for the Club. Brian Spitteler left the Club in the 1967 season and played for Cricketers for two years and then retired from hockey at the end of 1968. (However, after watching David play his first two games for Applecross in 1969, he came out of retirement and has played continuously for another 17 seasons, an estimated record total of over 440 games for the Club — including representation in the victorious 1976 team which took the Club into 1A Grade.)

1968 was another poor year. The Reserve Reds finished sixth and the B2 Reds were relegated. The Club still had seven junior teams and had some success — the Under 18 (1) side with the Challenge Cup, and Under 16 (1) who won the Challenge Cup pennant and were Premiers. The Club was also proud that three of its Junior players — Greg Argaet, Ian Halliday and Roger Hope-Johnstone — were selected as State Schoolboys.

Another first for the Club was the election of Merv Bennetts to the Executive Council of the WA Hockey Association. Unfortunately, he was defeated along with fellow Club nominee, Jack Edsall, in 1969 because of the Club's limited number of two votes (in WAHA elections, each club has one vote for each of its senior teams — a later attempt by Applecross YMCA Club to amend this rule to award club votes *for all teams* failed.)

1969

With the two senior teams being in the Reserve Red and B3 Green grades, the Club still did not have a great deal to offer either its junior players in years to come, or any senior players intending to join. However the B3 Green side had a successful year in winning the Challenge Cup and Guth Ardagh pennant to gain promotion for the 1970

season. The Reserve Red team also did well to finish the season in second place. Things were hopefully improving! The seven junior sides were not so successful. Their final placings ranged from fifth to eighth.

However, with the return of some former players, and more liaison between Senior and Junior Divisions of the Club, President Peter Noad at the end of the year felt more confidence for the future. He had presided over two and a half difficult years. The signs of encouragement were the election at the Annual General Meeting of five former Juniors to executive positions on the Committee for 1970: David Spitteler (President), Col Willis, Brian Wilkinson, Dave Bickford and Keith Jackaman. (Another who was also active in Club administration in 1970 was Kingsley McGuire who became a Vice President in 1971). Support for the new Committee was provided by the nucleus of older Club administrators such as Messrs Noad, Rowse, Bennetts and Weaver.

1970

After a gap of four years, the Club was finally able to field a third senior team. This increase in senior members was very important for the Club's future.

The Reserve Blue side finished a disappointing fourth after finishing second in 1969. The B2 White team finished last to be relegated for the 1971 season, however, the B2 Green team finished a creditable third.

The only Association pennant won by the club during the season was the premiership to the Under 14 (2) side who did well to come from fourth place at the end of the season to win the Grand Final.

The Club was again associated with Queensland in 1970, this time on the occasion of the Australian Senior Men's Championships, with Merv Bennetts as liaison officer.

The end of this difficult era was symptomised by the first attempt at the 1970 AGM when only seven members attended. A more normal number of sixteen formed a quorum for the next meeting on 22 November. President David Spitteler in his report stressed the need for better coaching and a still better link between seniors and juniors.



THE CLIMB TO FIRST DIVISION (1971-75)

1971 saw the general atmosphere of the Club begin to improve; the attitude of the players towards the Club was better and the management of the Club became more efficient as more people participated in its administration. It was this overall development in the 1971 season which prepared the way for the successes of the 1972 season.

David Spitteler continued as President into the 1971 season, but mid-way through the year he was transferred in his employment to Melbourne. This ended a fine fifteen years of service to the Club. In those fifteen years he played a major part in the running of the Club, as well as participating as a coach, a player and captain of the top side. He was one of the original founders of the Club back in 1956; he was Secretary for 2 years and President for 2½ years. In 1969 he was given the honour of Life Membership — the second in the Club's history. This was a well deserved tribute!

David's position as President was taken over by Ross Halliday. Ross was a fine administrator and he set about re-organising the Club. Management Committee meetings were held every Monday night and a deliberate effort was made to re-unite the junior and senior sections and bring representatives from each group into the administration. The family atmosphere was promoted and the Club spirit really blossomed.

Peter Noad was awarded Life Membership in 1971 for his service to the Club during those difficult "Uncertain Years".

In 1971, the Club had Senior teams in the Reserve Blue, B2 and B3 grades, and Juniors in the U18 (one team) and two teams in each of the Under 16, Under 14 and Under 12 grades. The B2 Team did exceptionally well to win the Challenge Cup, Guth Ardagh pennant (top of qualifying rounds) and Grand Final — *the first senior side to achieve this "hat-trick"*; they were undefeated throughout the year, and were also the first senior team to win a premiership since 1964. That team was:

Forwards: Eric Bradfield, Mike Payze, Barry Hancock (coach), Ian Mitchell, Robin Blay, Col Willis (Mgr).

Half Backs: Kevin Bradshaw, John Cole, Jack Cox.

Full Backs: Kingsley McGuire, Geoff Gorham, Kim Hunter.

Goalie: Owen Ferguson.

Four other teams made the finals, also, but were unsuccessful.

An influx of players from the old North Fremantle Club added considerable strength to the Club this year both in the areas of playing and administration. Also, at about this time, the Club benefitted from the arrival of a number of talented juniors from non-hockey backgrounds, whose parents were to play important roles in the Club over the next decade. With their arrival, a comprehensive end-of-year Journal appeared which has become an annual production and a major source of information about the Club and its people.

1972

The 1972 season saw an increase to nine junior and four senior teams, to become *the 2nd largest Club in the State*. The hard work that brought the Club out of the "doldrums" in the 1960's brought its rewards as the top side gained promotion from Reserve to A3 Grade for the 1973 season. We had not had A Grade status since 1966!

The Club had depth in both the playing and non-playing areas, which saw it functioning most efficiently. The Club and team spirit was very strong indeed and this would have helped greatly in bringing about the successes throughout the year. *The Club won a total of 14 pennants during the season*. Four teams won Challenge Cups; four won Guth Ardagh Pennants; five teams reached the finals with three teams winning the premierships. The most important premiership win was the Reserve White, which brought the A grade status for 1973. The Club also won three carnival pennants throughout the year — Albany, Bunbury and Perth.

This year saw the first important step in the rise to 1A status with the appointment of Colin West as Club Coach. Ably helped by Barry Hancock, he brought expert coaching to the Club. They developed a high standard of skill throughout all grades and laid the foundation for the many successes that came in later years. Together they drew up the policy which formalised coaching on a Club-wide basis and provided a much higher standard than in previous years.

At the end of the 1972 season, Ross Halliday was transferred to New South Wales. He had taken over the job as President at a crucial time and kept the Club on a sound footing for the future. He was made Life Member of the Club at the end of the 1972 season for his efforts and important contribution.

The social atmosphere of the Club increased greatly during this year. The Club was built around the family unit and social activities were carried out on this basis. This enabled many people — apart from players — to become involved and the spirit of the Club improved accordingly.

The number of teams increased by one to make the number of senior teams five and junior teams nine bringing the total to fourteen. The momentum set in train by Presidents David Spitteler/Ross Halliday in 1971-72 was continued by Wally Meacock and his administration through 1973 (and into 1974) in a remarkable period of achievement which took the Club into 1B status.

At the beginning of the year the Club absorbed several more (and valuable) members of the North Fremantle Men's Hockey Club. These players brought with them a wealth of hockey experience, many of them having played A1 hockey in the 60's, and were able to pass their knowledge and skills on to their new Club. They soon integrated with existing members, and have played an important part in the continued growth of the Club. As well as Barry Hancock and Colin West, others from North Fremantle included Haydn Binning, Ian Deveson, Phil and Jim Harry, Mike Jessup, Barry Kjellgren, Ian Lyon, John Pickering, Graeme Rickman, John Shannon and Jack Warman.

The Applecross YMCA teams were again successful in 1973. The A3 side performed far above expectations to finish only one point off top place in their first year in this grade, while the B1 and B2 teams gained promotion to Reserve A and B1 respectively. This ensured excellent grades for 1974 and a challenge to offer the top players. It also offered added encouragement to up and coming junior players. For the first time the Club was able to hold its top young players and even encourage other talented players to join its ranks.

Some fine hockey was also played by the nine junior teams. The healthy enthusiasm and enjoyment in playing the game and development of team play in all grades was very rewarding. Junior coaching improved steadily as all recognised that future success would be built from the strength of junior coaching.

Paul Meacock was selected as a State Junior, and the Club Secretary, Howard Bradfield, was the Manager of the team. This WA Team (coached by Trevor Vanderputt) was successful in winning the 1973 Carnival. Both Paul (as Vice Captain) and Howard as Manager represented WA again in 1974.

The Club's Social Committee was very active this year and as a result the financial situation was the best it had been for many years. They organised a Chinese Banquet, Quiz Night, Cabaret and compiled and sold Recipe Books to willing (or strong-stomached) customers.

Another important factor in the very "healthy" financial situation was the fine work done by the Treasurer, Colin Everingham. A card index system was set up for the first time and he was responsible for establishing the Club's finance procedures on a firm footing. The Club ended the year with a balance of approximately \$1000.

The 1974 season saw the introduction of a new grading system which placed *the top side in the 1B Division*. This was a good thing for Applecross YMCA as it provided a much better chance of making the top 1A Grade.

The Club fielded a total of seventeen teams each week; seven senior and ten junior teams. The teams were well graded to provide good standard hockey for all players.

1974 also brought the arrival of an experienced non-playing coach of very high calibre in Gren Davis. This was a very good opportunity for the Club to gain expertise and a high degree of knowledge of all levels of hockey. Also in 1974, the considerable problems of coaching ten junior teams were resolved with the appointment of Norm Kidd as Coach Co-ordinator and the generous help of many other parents.

Gren Davis was able to weld together a good 1B side which gained much in hockey experience over the year. In the second round they lost only 2 games and finished on strongly to be in fifth place.

The year was also a very successful one for the other teams with three Challenge Cup wins, one Guth Ardagh Pennant, ten teams in the final four and two teams in the Grand Final. These two teams were the 5B's and 17A's but unfortunately they were both defeated for the premiership. However the 5B's gained a very valuable promotion to the 5A grade for 1975.

From 1974 onwards, the top side wore an alternative shirt. It was a grey V-neck style with three vertical red stripes on the back and front. The rest of the club changed to a V-neck style of shirt in 1975, but kept the original design of grey and red halves.

In an effort to keep fees to reasonable levels, the Social Committee had two aims — to get players, parents and friends together socially and to make some profit on certain fund raising functions. The Committee was successful and its profits were over \$1000. In 1974 about \$7000 passed through the Club books, other major income being from fees — \$3000; largest payments were to WAHA — \$2250, and Melville YMCA \$550.

The Club also arranged a trip to the Waverley Hockey Club in Melbourne for a group of Under 17 players. The trip was organised by David Spitteler from the Waverley end, and by Brian and Cath Spitteler from the Perth end. The group comprised sixteen boys between the ages of 14 and 17, Coach Greg Stewart and Manager Lew Marshall.

This period of growth brought not only more membership but also the need for greater administration, with a larger Committee and more people accepting responsibilities than ever before. The Club was extremely fortunate to have two most appropriate persons to preside over this growth period in Wally Meacock (1973-74) and Keith Timmel (1975-79), both of whose interests evolved from their sons.

A total of eighteen teams — seven senior and eleven junior sides were fielded by the Club making it the second biggest hockey club in the State. Of these teams, two senior and seven junior teams made the final four, two senior and four junior sides participating in the Grand Finals in their respective grades. Premierships were won by the 2B's, 3B's, and Under 17A sides, with the 2B's and Under 17A's winning Guth Ardagh Pennants and the Under 17A's winning the Challenge Cup.

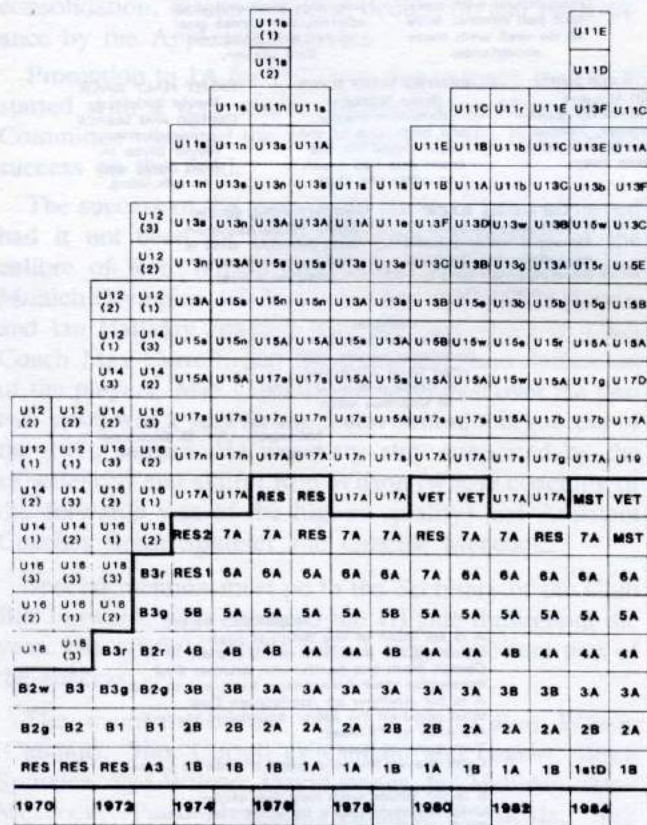


FIGURE 2: Teams and gradings, 1970-1985.
(g = Green, w = White, r = Red, n = North, s = South.)

It was disappointing that the 1B side did not make 1A's and could only manage 5th place, but the 2B and 3B sides had an extremely important and successful year to gain promotion to the 2A and 3A Grades respectively. These promotions were important to enable junior players to gain valuable experience in very good senior grades and to build up experience and skills to help the Club gain 1A status. Figure 2 shows the growth of the Club and its grades from year to year.

At the beginning of this year Max Currell rejoined the Club after approximately 10 years with Old Modernians Club. His appointment as Coach provided a very good opportunity to reach 1A Grade. At the commencement of the season a committee composed of Gren Davis, Max Currell, senior players and junior coaches was formed to lay down guidelines in order to co-ordinate coaching through the various grades.

Once again the Social Committee made an important contribution to the life of the Club. They organised a car trial, Cabaret, a night at Dirty Dick's Elizabethan Theatre Restaurant, Quiz Night, apple sale and "Swap Meet".

During this season the Management Committee spent considerable time inspecting alternative venues to Tompkins Park. This was due to the sub-standard playing surfaces at Tompkins Park as well as increasing pressure for grounds from other sporting activities associated with this venue. Mandala Reserve, Bateman, was an area that received considerable attention. However, this project was deferred because of the inadequate resources of the Club, and more support from the Melville City Council which resulted in improved playing surfaces at Tompkins Park.

At the end of 1975, Brian Spitteler received the fifth Life Membership ever awarded, in appreciation of almost twenty years of service since he helped to form the Club in 1956. It was claimed that Brian, as a Vice President in 1975, wasn't allowed to chair any meetings this year because he didn't allow them to run long enough to form a quorum!

1971 BULLETIN EXTRACTS

APPLECROSS Y.M. HOCKEY CLUB AWARDS FOR 1971

Under 12 Div 2	Fairest and Best..... Steven Fletcher
	President's Award..... John Meacock
Under 12 Div 1	Fairest and Best..... Graeme Wilson
	President's Award..... Simon Nelson
Under 14 Div 3	Fairest and Best..... Anton Birch
	President's Award..... Anthony Fletcher
Under 14 Div 2	Fairest and Best..... Paul Meacock
	President's Award..... Ken Edsall
Under 16 Div 3	Fairest and Best..... Barry Murray
	President's Award..... Michael Camilleri
Under 16 Div 1	Fairest and Best..... Alan Meacock
	President's Award..... Brad Cummins
Under 18 Div 3	Fairest and Best..... Kevin Green
	President's Award..... Les Brooker
B 111's	Fairest and Best..... Peter Hassett
	President's Award..... Peter Furrer
B 11 white	Fairest and Best..... John Cole
	President's Award..... Kingsley McGuire
Reserve blue	Fairest and Best..... Brian Spittler
	President's Award..... David Bickford

Colin West Trophy	Best Position Player..... K. Bradshaw
Colin West Trophy	Best Position Player Juniors..... Ian Miller
Max Reynolds Trophy	Most Consistent Effort..... Paul Slavin
Merv Mundy Trophy	Most Consistent Effort..... Richard Bruce
Most Improved First Year Player.....	Michael Brooker

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD	No 1. The Late Vic Dalton
	No 2. David Spittler, 1969
	No 3. Peter Noad, 1971

100 GAMES AWARDS 1971

Robin Blay	Ian Miller
Ian Mitchell	Ian Finland
Gary Dienhoff	Steve Wilson
Gary Wright	Kim Hunter

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY 1971. OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLUB.

Awarded to Barry Hancock

RESERVE BLUE 1971

LEFT WING
Peter Lander
Hard working forward
equally at home at
left inner. Very good
season.

CENTRE FORWARD
Wade O'Rafferty
Fast moving skilful
player with good
ball control

RIGHT WING
Colin West
Very skilful and
experienced player who
encourages team play
and sportsmanship

LEFT INNER
Graeme Meacock
Youngster of the team.
Good mover with excel-
lent ball control. Sure
to do well with more
experience.

RIGHT INNER
Gary Dienhoff
Sacrificed a lot to
play this year and was
appreciated. Great goal
sense and good mid
field player.

LEFT HALF BACK
Ian McLeod
Hard working coach
and player. Knows
all the tricks and
uses them.

CENTRE HALF BACK
Brian Spittler
Excellent player
and backbone of the
side. Could lift the
team and has much
to offer the club.

RIGHT HALF BACK
David Bickford
Captain and team's
greatest trier.
Never gives in.
Also plays well
on left wing.

LEFT FULL BACK
Kingsley McGuire
Covers a lot of ground
as a defender. Tackles.
Good clubman who is in
everything.

RIGHT FULL BACK
Roger Hope-Johnston
Goal defender who is
rarely beaten. Good
position player.

GOALIE
Ron Cochrane
Dedicated player who
tries hard. Potential
is there and sure
to improve with
experience.

Manager: D. Bickford
Coach: I. McLeod



"CROSSFIRE" by c.c.

A is for Alan of the Brooker Clan
Coaching our 12's he's many a plan
Comes from the north with brother Syd
Spreading their knowledge from kid to kid.
A is for Andrew an Applecross Dad
Who coaches the junior friends of his lad
A's also for "Alliday"
Two sons of Ross
Colts player fine and good friends of Cross.

B is for Bruce with hair like straw,
Uses his stick like a Scottish Claymore,
Sticks to his wing like 3 star glue
Thwarted Marists and Fremantle too.

C is for Cole who pilots Big Red
When he hits an Acegoal it goes to his head.
As centre half-back taught teachers a lesson
It's Applecross first at Majestic's Session
C is for Cox and have no fears
Of our social Committee running out of ideas.
Plays for B2's and there's no debate
On which Cross player is bound to be late.

D is for David who handles our Cash
Playing at hockey He's plenty of dash.
Has worked hard for us, our thanks he deserves
A very fine clubman who led our Reserves.

E is for Edsall that stout fellow Jack
When it's time for the finals
His team's on the track.
Last year, and this, it was just the same
His boys were out playing "A dash good game."

F is for Fletcher who shouts and raves
Out on the sidelines to all his young braves.
As coach of our 12's he laughs as he drills
Young Tony and Steve with some of his skills.

G is for Gorham and Griffiths and Green
Bearded and tall and speedy and keen
Elusive fellows hard to tag
But always there with whistles and bag.

H is for Halliday and Hancock too,
Without them both we'd be in the stew.
President fine and coach supreme
Building a Club of sportsmen keen.



1976, THE 21ST YEAR OF THE CLUB

The 21st year of the Club proved the most successful in the Club's history. We fielded the largest number of teams ever — eight senior and twelve junior teams (see Figure 2).

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly *the promotion from 1B's to the top 1A Grade*. This achievement was the culmination of 21 years of building, consolidation, disappointment, dedication and perseverance by the Applecross players.

Promotion to 1A for 1977 was due to many people. It started with a very sound, hard working Management Committee who laid the foundations off the field for the success on the field.

The success of the team could not have been achieved had it not been for the acquisition of players of the calibre of Ron Wilson (Australian team of 1970 and Munich Olympian 1972), his brother Syd, David Porter, and Ian Halliday coupled with the experience of Club Coach Max Currell, and the enthusiasm and dedication of the players. Max Currell's perseverance over the past two years was a very strong factor behind this success of the 1976 season. He was very ably supported by the experienced and skilful Ron Wilson (whose coaching of the forwards was of the highest quality) and Assistant Coaches Brian Spitteler and Graeme Meacock.

Special mention must go to the Secretary of the Club Bill Forward, who managed the 1B side throughout the year. His off-field efforts were a very important part of the success.

The members of the 1B side were: Ron Wilson (Captain), Max Currell (V/Captain and coach), Brian Spitteler, Syd Wilson, David Porter, Ian Halliday, Alan Meacock, Paul Meacock, Andrew Reynolds, Neil Woollacott, Patrick Matthews, Graeme Meacock, Simon Ford, David Halliday and Keith Harper. Throughout the year the team played eighteen games (excluding finals), won fourteen, lost three, drew one. Goals for 58, against

13, points 29. Won the Challenge Cup 2-1, won the Guth Ardagh Pennant, won second semi-final 2-0, lost grand final 3-4.

It was not only the 1B grade in which the Club was successful. The 1976 season was very important for all teams. The 2A and 3A sides did very well to consolidate their gradings, whilst the 4B team won the premiership to gain promotion to the 4A grade. The 5A's reached the preliminary final, the 6A's came 5th, the 7A's 2nd last, and the Reserve Reds lost in the Grand Final.

The Junior sides also had a good year with the Under 17A's winning three pennants, Under 17N the Guth Ardagh Pennant, and the Under 11N the premiership.

Altogether the Club had two Challenge Cup wins, three Guth Ardagh pennant successes, nine teams in the finals, six in grand finals with three of those winning the premiership.

During the 1976 season, a "bank" of lights was erected at Tompkins Park with a lot of hard work and support (including some very generous donations).

This year was unique in financial administration in that an amount of over \$1600 was spent on capital equipment, namely the lights. Despite this heavy commitment mid-season, it was possible to maintain reasonable working funds due to the efforts of Treasurer Mrs Ila Reynolds and a hard working committee.

Brian Spitteler played his 300th game for the club during the season and John Meacock gained selection in the State Under 16 side for the Brisbane carnival.

Also, David Spitteler made a special trip from Melbourne to present the "Founder's Shield" to the Club at its end of year function.

And who among the older members will ever forget the celebrations at the old Majestic Hotel which attended the Club's successes in 1976? It was a year to remember (and, in the midst of euphoria, one of apprehension for the years ahead).



L-R (back): Bill Forward, Ian Halliday, Brian Spitteler, Graeme Meacock, Max Currell, Ron Wilson, Neil Woollacott, Dave Halliday, Keith Timmel.

L-R (front): Andrew Reynolds, Pat Matthews, Simon Ford, Dave Porter, Paul Meacock, Alan Meacock, Keith Harper.

PICK OF THE PICS

1962 Premiers



R3 Grade

L-R (back): I. Mathieson, P. Biggins, M. Currell, R. Dalton, G. Cook, G. Dienhoff.

L-R (front): R. Smith, K. Waterhouse, T. Nelson, D. Spitteler, R. Bowyer.



C1 Grade

L-R (back): R. Jones, B. Short, B. Morris, K. Shugg, Ron Fletcher, B. Barton, J. Rooke, P. Mortlock.

L-R (front): D. Meynert, P. Atkinson, I. Mitchell.



Under 15 Division 1

L-R (back): G. Wilson, S. Bennetts, K. McGuire, R. Robinson, G. Arnold, M. Jackaman, M. Print.

L-R (front): P. Polain, R. France, G. Atkinson, J. Laird, P. Denny.

POISED AT THE CREST

In terms of its top team, the last years of playing as "Applecross YMCA" were years of alternating hope and frustration, the latter associated with relegation from 1A Grade at the end of 1978, 1980 and 1982. However, whereas other clubs have wilted under such strain, the Applecross spirit remained strong and it fought back to 1A Grade in each of the intervening years. Once again, the Club's depth and administration were the critical factors. The following extracts from President Keith Timmel's report at the end of 1977, a year in which the 1A Team had little success (only 2 wins) and finished last, illustrate the Club's attitude and potential:

"If the success of the Club is to be gauged by the number of pennants we win, 1977 has been a very lean year (two only) . . . However, I believe the year has been very successful." (All senior sides maintained their grades, and five players eligible to play Under 17's played with distinction in senior ranks — a policy which the Club pursues.) "The ability of our players was recognised by the State Selectors. John Meacock was selected in the State Junior side for the second time as Team Captain. Alan Meacock became the first Applecross YMCA player to gain selection in the State Colts (U21) side." Four others were selected in the Metropolitan Junior Team. Details of all state representatives are included in Appendix II.

Club Coach, Max Currell stood down at the end of 1977 and was replaced in 1978 by Ron Wilson. It was most appropriate that the inaugural winner of the Founder's Shield, presented by David Spitteler at the end of 1976, was Max Currell, and that he also was made a Life Member in 1978.

A special General meeting voted in favour of a change of uniform from the traditional red and grey to *maroon shirts with white trim, white shorts and maroon and white hooped socks* — a complete change for all grades, introduced in 1978. The selection of the Queensland colours was undoubtedly influenced by having been their hosts in WA on two occasions.

1977 was also a significant year in the introduction of *sponsorship*. Although the Club has been fortunate over the years with generous financial support from its members, the pressures produced by the increasing cost of hockey and the club's policy of keeping fees to a minimum led to the seeking of sponsors. First support was from Alco, King's Travel and Melville Motors and an anonymous supporter who donated the new club shirts to the 1A and 2A teams.

1978

The new uniforms unfortunately did not prevent relegation from 1A Grade — a disappointing year for players and supporters. Lack of experience among younger players and injuries to key players made the year difficult for coach Ron Wilson despite his dedication and skills. Nevertheless, the Club had some successes particularly in Junior ranks where the U17A's again won the triple titles, a tribute to Howard Bradfield who had coached three premierships teams in four seasons.

No fewer than nine Club players represented Western Australia, Paul Meacock and Andy Reynolds in the Colts, five in the newly created Under 19 competition and two State Juniors. This feat has been equalled only once since (in 1979).

The move from Tompkin's Park to Windelya (later named Morris Buzacott) Reserve in Kardinya occurred at the end of 1978, providing the Club with four grounds and new Club House facilities for the first time. Much credit is due to Mr Ted Jones, chairman of the pilot committee, who ensured our acquisition of the area and facilities, and the co-operation of the Melville City Council. (Good relationships with the Council have been a feature of the Club's administration, and it is significant that the Mayor, Mr Jack Howson, has been our Patron from 1974 to the present). These facilities were shared initially with the Kardinya (previously Scots) Cricket Club under an administering body, the Windelya Sports Association composed of members of associated playing Clubs (now including tennis and baseball). The first President of the Association was John Pickering with a committee composed of three members from the Hockey Club and three from the Cricket Club.

1979

An outstanding year in which the Club won Premierships in 1B's, 4B's, 5B's and U11E, while the 1B's added to their laurels by taking off the Guth Ardagh and Challenge Cup Pennants, and as noted above, nine of our players again represented Western Australia. The 1B players responded well to Coach Ron Wilson who was rewarded for his own performance with the WAHA Medal for fairest and best in the 1B Grade.

A change in policy saw the appointment of a Co-ordinator for each Junior age group: John Mulcahy, John See, Greg Hunt and Russell Revell.

Ted and Janet Jones with their energy and drive ensured the smooth transition to the new Club rooms at Morris Buzacott Reserve, and the Club received considerable support from many senior players, from all levels. Moves were made to recognise sponsors, major sponsorship by perimeter advertising at all home games, and featuring together with minor sponsors on the covers of Club Bulletins.

1979 saw the end of five years of remarkable patience, dedication and achievement as President Keith Timmel retired. His administration had carried the Club through a major growth period into a strong Club with a 1A side. He and Wally Meacock (the preceding President and a record five year "Past President") have both been rewarded with Life Memberships, Wally in 1979, and "KT" in 1980.

New members to our senior ranks included Russell Hearnden from Cricketers, and Terry Moore and Ron Glew from Bayswater-Morley. Russell stayed with the Club until 1982 as a quietly dedicated Assistant Coach and Captain, and a valued friend.

1980-82

Club President, Ted Jones, looked back on the 1980 Season and the advantages offered by the Club:

1. A progressive Club catering for all ages and one returning to 1A in 1982 (a prophecy fulfilled).
2. A strong committee operating the Club in a manner which earns the praise of WAHA, our opponents, other clubs and organizations.
3. A Club fostering the right ideals in life ...
4. The commitment of many people to a furtherance of these ideals ...

The only premiership was won by the 2B's, "Waldo's Warriors", and Challenge Cup pennants by 2B's, U17A's, U17 South and U11 Reds. State representatives were John Meacock (Colts), Matthew Spencer, David Johnston, David Andrew, Andrew Ford and Geoff Ranford. For the first time ever, the Club entered a team in the Veterans grade.

Family groups were again important. These good people are acknowledged in our Annual Bulletins, and each year sees more and more acknowledged — their importance can never be overrated. Janet and Ted Jones, in particular, were the innovators of many fund raising activities such as pot plants and apple sales and the grape picking for Evans and Tate which has become a pre-season ritual extending from Baker's Hill (where the vine pythons lived) to Gngangara in later years.

The Club again performed well in 1981 under President Ian Deveson, and with a new Club Coach, Richard Aggiss (previous State and Australian player, and Australian Coach since March 1981). Premierships were won by the 1B's, 5A's, U13B's, U11A's and B's. The first senior side wore an alternative white/maroon strip for some of their away games this year. In addition to Richard's appointment as Australian Coach, John Crute and Ian Lyon made State Veterans, John Meacock was Captain of the Colts, and four juniors were selected in State teams.

The Club was very pleased to see the Hancock family back from Cocos Island for one year before transfer to Hyden.

John Andrew was in "the Chair" for 1982, a good year apart from relegation of the 1A side from First Division, and only two senior pennants with Challenge Cup wins by 5A and 6A Teams. Juniors won 7 pennants, including a triple by the U17 Souths. *The Club won its 100th pennant this year.* David Johnston was selected for State U23 and U21 teams, and State Juniors were Andrew Ford, Richard Bullock and David Andrew.

Two young Canadians who joined our Club to gain experience with our senior players, Kip Hladky in 1982 and Kim Ewasechko in 1983, became real assets both as players and Club members. *The Kip Hladky Trophy for Best Clubman* was instituted at the end of 1982 — first won by Paul Meacock. Both Kip and Kim went on to play for Canada.

More sponsors were acquired and the Club held an inaugural sponsors' dinner. Another first was the visit of the Waverley Club Juniors in August.

The Club's grounds again were in excellent condition, and the House Committee under Bill Forward provided after-game fellowship and Player of the Day Awards. For his service since the early 70's in social activities, administration, as top team manager, and House Manager, Bill was awarded the 9th Life Membership Medal.

The nomination of the Veterans' Team was withdrawn in 1982 because of the feeling that Junior coaches/Managers were being lost to the Veterans grade (but this proved not to be the problem, and in fact the Club lost good members to other clubs!).



NAME CHANGE AND THE FUTURE (1983-)

Towards the end of 1982, it was becoming clear

- (1) that businessmen had problems presiding over a Club with the size and financial turn-over of Applecross YMCA for more than one year, and,
- (2) that "Applecross" YMCA were not popular in the Kardinya area because of their tenure of Morris Buzacott Reserve.

Max Reynolds agreed to become President to steer the Club through some difficult decisions and to hold things together until someone younger and more energetic was available (Max already had that someone in mind!)

The move to an expanding population area in 1979 was trouble free until the residents became established and began exerting pressures for playing grounds for their newly emerging sporting bodies. Morris Buzacott Reserve was clearly a target, particularly as our Club name suggested that membership was derived from a "foreign" area. (Membership of the Club was in fact widespread throughout the Melville City area, including some Kardinya residents.) However, the pressures from local bodies, particularly football, in 1982 necessitated that the Club take steps to indicate that it represents the whole of the City of Melville. Even though it was difficult to shed a name the Club had held for 26 years, unanimous support was given at a Special General Meeting on 5 December 1982, to change the name to *Melville City YMCA Hockey Club*. The new name more accurately described our identity as the major hockey club in this part of the metropolitan area.

The name was further amended at the end of 1983 by removing "YMCA" from the title. (Even though association with the Melville YMCA was minimal after the move from Tompkins Park, financial contributions were continued because of our previous cordial relationship.) The decision for the deletion was prompted by a change in YMCA administration in 1983, and their inability to print the Club bulletin as YMCA had done for many years. We recognized the need to become an incorporated body at this time, also, and so became the *Melville City Hockey Club, Inc.* 1983 also saw the design of a Club logo featuring a Lion rampant and hockey motif (the winning design by Dean Revell in an intra-club competition).

The highlights of 1983 were the wins in the finals by the 1B's and 6A's, and finals appearances by the 3B's, Reserve Whites and three Junior divisions, U17 Green, U13A and U11C. The 6A's was the best performance because of their "hat trick", the first senior team at "A" level to achieve this feat. The 2A's unfortunately were relegated, but the Club ended the year with five of the six senior divisions in "A" Grade — a good result considering the loss of 12 players from the top training squad at the end of 1982. Many of these were recent graduates of University and WAIT whose employment took them to country areas, but not away from hockey

(as a visit to the Annual Country Carnival at WAIT will reveal!). Seven players were selected in State Junior Teams. Daryl Dedman won the WAHA Fairest and Best Medal for the 1B division in 1983.

Clearly Dick Aggiss could no longer be with us in 1984 as he concentrated on the Australian Team for the Los Angeles Olympics, and we said farewell to Joan and Dick who had been excellent Club Members; Dick had restored the Club to First Division for 1984.

The difficulties of administration referred to earlier were aggravated in 1983 by the poor economic climate and high unemployment, and, apart from a number of "old reliables", little help was obtained in some areas. A special meeting to address this problem was surprisingly well attended, and resolved to form sub-committees to handle recruiting, junior activities, and finance/development. These led in 1984 to the addition of a third Vice President to the Committee and portfolios divided into Senior Administration (Harold Farmer), Finance/Development (Bruce Porter) and Junior Administration (Ian Deveson) — a successful move in the division of responsibilities.

Highlight of the Social programme was a beef-on-the-spit night to entertain the Tasmanian Team (in Perth for Australian Senior Men's Championship) and visitors from Goulburn — the "Fireflies" (a busy time for Club President who was convenor also for the running of the National Championship!). Also, Barry Hancock and John Pickering organised a wonderful weekend in Hyden for Club members.

1984

The Club could not have hoped for more effort than the Seniors put into staying in First Division, and regaining 2A Grade in 1984. In the former we may have failed — but with the best Club performance ever with 13 points, and only 2 points away from being 7th. The Club's second aim was achieved.

The fight to retain First Division status, however, did not end on the hockey field. Melville City wrote to both the Executive Council of WAHA and Metropolitan Clubs along the lines that the introduction of Australian Institute of Sports (A.I.S.) players into club teams in 1984 had a profound influence on team performances, and also deprived twelve WA players of the experience of playing First Division hockey. It recommended that the number of teams in First Division be increased to eleven, and that any teams with 25% or more of possible points at the end of 1984 remain in that Division, together with the two teams promoted according to existing Rules. An urgent study of the Aggiss promotion proposal (WAHA Bulletin, 22 September 1984) also was suggested. EXCO referred the matter to the Annual General Meeting on 3 December, where the first motion to increase number of teams was defeated 21 to 9; the second proposal was adopted.



The Double "Hat-Trick" Team

L-R (back): Rob thorn, Alex James, Geoff Riley, Paul Lockwood, Mike Shannon, Gary Dienhoff, Steve Martin, Bruce Cameron (with Tristan).

L-R (front): Rob Dalglish, Nigel Atkinson, Greg "Digger" Stewart, Bruce Turner, Wayne Luce.

Frank Fitzgerald (ex-University) or "Fearless", as Club Coach, provided a lot of drive to our top teams and the Club was disappointed when he returned to Uni in 1985. Once again, the Club fielded 20 teams — 7 Senior, 1 Masters (a new over-35 years grade), and 12 Junior, nine of which made the finals. Only two teams, however, were premiers — the 2B's and the 6A's took out their second "hat trick". Better known for his coaching achievements in the Under 15 age group over the years, John Cole stepped in as Coach for the other Senior players, as well, towards the end of the year, and A Grade status was retained from 3's to 7's. As a long time supporter of the Club in administration and coaching, John was awarded Life Membership in 1984.

Junior co-ordinator in 1983-84 was Mike Wood (also Vice President, Juniors 1985), an active Member in Junior Management in the Club and in the WAHA Junior Committee. Mike was involved also in junior participation in Summer Indoor Competitions which began in 1982/83. In 1984, the Junior teams had mixed fortunes although six of the twelve ended up in the final four. Two U13 sides won Guth Ardagh pennants. The WAHA regrading experiment with U13's and U11's (whereby teams are regraded after a short preliminary round) was effective and appreciated by our Junior administrators. The Club was host to the Victorian Schoolboys Team thanks to the Junior parents.

A new innovation was the presentation of an *Award of Merit* to Chris and Barry Hancock (for House Management, Social Committee, and managing the new Masters Team — a whirlwind year). A magnificent Honour

Board and Sponsors Board were presented to the Club by Lyn and David Richards.

Attempts to amalgamate with *Applecross Women's Hockey Club* began in 1984 with some joint social games during a visit from the Hyden Club; a major move came in 1985 when arrangements were made for the women to use one of the Club's grounds and its Clubhouse.

1985

Well, the "someone in mind" (p17) had arrived and took the Chair for 1985 — Mr Barry Hancock, and with him, a number of his contemporaries to form a very effective administrative team. Immediate problems to be faced were the loss of 7 senior players — the two AIS draftees of 1984, transfer of four players to First Division clubs, and one injury; and the draw-down in other teams with the addition of teams in Veterans and a new U19 Grade.

Paul Meacock took over as Coach of the Club's top squad (the first Club player since Max Currell in 1977) and did a fine job as a leader both on and off the field. Even though the 1B team finished only third, it was a successful season in which 24 players were used, including a number of fine young players.

A second Club Coach, Ron Wilson, was appointed for the lower senior grade players to ensure all seniors received the coaching to which they were entitled. Many did not avail themselves of this opportunity and, together with the problems outlined above, a number of senior teams finished near the bottom of the ladder. On the other hand, all junior sides did extremely well with seven

of nine sides making the finals, and five talented juniors were selected in State Teams. The only pennants for the year were won by the Veterans D Grade Team.

The cost of running the Club continued to rise with a turnover of more than \$40,000. Fees were increased to relieve pressure on the few who ran the raffle each year, and to cover a membership fee (newly imposed by the Windelya Sports Association). Social and fund raising events included grape picking (pre-season) and a Quiz Night.

THE FUTURE

Before any consideration is given to the future of the Club, a brief review of its performances over the years may be useful:

- (1) Apart from its initial growth, the Club languished for a number of years until the number of teams reached ten in its 15th year. This figure doubled in the next six years to 20 teams and has remained at or just below that level ever since (Figure 2).
- (2) The Club always has been strong in Juniors, and later growth has been mainly at Senior level.
- (3) Although the Club has never had a benefactor, it has managed to remain financially stable (only just at times), a credit to the energies and dedication of a lot of young fellows, and the support of many fine families.
- (4) Good liaison with the Melville City Council has been maintained, culminating in acquiring grounds and Clubhouse facilities at Morris Buzacott Reserve in 1979.
- (5) The Club has been a good member of the WA Hockey Association, paying its moieties on time (now about \$10,000 pa) and contributing to administration with 2 Vice Presidents, 2 Treasurers, and one other Member on Executive Council, and five members on various Committees.
- (6) About all that the Club has not achieved has been permanent First Division status; but the record of its top representative teams since promotion to 1A is well worth examining:

Yr	Grd/		P	W	L	D	F	Ag	Pts.	Pos.
	Div.									
1977	1A		17	2	15	0	28	79	4	10
1978	1A		17	3	13	1	30	70	7	9
1979	1B		18	14	1	3	70	22	31	1
1980	1A		18	4	13	1	31	73	9	9
1981	1B		18	15	2	1	89	16	31	2
1982	1A		18	1	14	3	19	51	5	9
1983	1B		18	14	2	2	71	20	30	1
1984	1A		18	6	11	1	33	58	13	9
1985	1B		18	11	2	5	54	27	24	3

During the same period, Senior Teams have maintained high Grades (Figure 2), and our Junior Teams provided many fine performances. Since its inception, the Club has won 118 pennants, and provided 60 State Under 21 and Junior representatives. The Club also had senior players who have played for Western Australia and Australia, but except for AIS player Nigel Patmore in 1984 (Los Angeles Olympics), all gained selection from other clubs. And therein lies the Club's problems in its quest for more permanent First Division status — it lacks the depth of top First Division players necessary to maintain the status which it has tried so hard to achieve. So what of the future?

Melville City Hockey Club is still one of the strongest in the State in terms of manpower resources and virile administration. It has good grounds and facilities ... all it needs is two or three top class players, and the dedication of its top squad, because it does have depth of experience. Where does it obtain these players?

The obvious answer these days is to buy them. In our opinion this is not the answer. We were unlucky not to have regained First Division status in 1986 with a depleted team. However, another year in 1B's and retention of 2A Grade will provide the opportunity to build up a top class team, possibly from our own resources. New Coach Peter Crowe with Paul Meacock and Daryl Dedman to assist will provide the nucleus of experience and dedication around which to build — considerable strength will come from within our younger talent. And we are still a good enough Club, at all levels, to attract players. Let's be proud of what we've got, and build on that; and remember, above all else, that what we put into our Club is what we get out of it — that has been my experience.

APPENDIX I

PRESIDENT

1956-59	No records
1960	G. Nelson
1961	V. Dalton
1962	R. Fletcher
1963	R. Fletcher
1964	M. Bennetts
1965	D. Spitteler
1966	V. Dalton
1967	P. Noad
1968	P. Noad
1969	J. Edsall/P. Noad
1970	D. Spitteler
1971	D. Spitteler/R. Halliday
1972	R. Halliday
1973	W. Meacock
1974	W. Meacock
1975	K. Timmel
1976	K. Timmel
1977	K. Timmel
1978	K. Timmel
1979	K. Timmel
1980	E. W. Jones
1981	I. Deveson
1982	J. Andrew
1983	M. A. Reynolds
1984	M. A. Reynolds
1985	B. Hancock
1986	B. Hancock

LIFE MEMBER

Vic Dalton

David Spitteler

Peter Noad
Ross Halliday

Brian Spitteler

Max Currell
Wally Meacock
Keith Timmel

Bili Forward

John Cole
Max Reynolds

have regarded First Division status in 1982 as a definite aim. However, it was not until the 1982-83 season that the club was able to achieve this status. The club's success was due to the dedication of a lot of players and the support of many of the club's members. The club's success was also due to the dedication of a lot of players and the support of many of the club's members. The club's success was also due to the dedication of a lot of players and the support of many of the club's members.

A new innovation was the presentation of an Award of Merit to Chris and Harry Hancock (for House Management, Social Committee, and managing the new Masters Team) — a whirlwind year. A magnificent Honour

The Club has been a good member of the W.A. Hockey Association, paying its members on time (now about \$10,000 per annum) and contributing to the administration with 2 Vice Presidents, 2 Treasurers, and 2 members of the Executive Council. The club has also been a good member of the W.A. Hockey Association, paying its members on time (now about \$10,000 per annum) and contributing to the administration with 2 Vice Presidents, 2 Treasurers, and 2 members of the Executive Council.

Paul Meacock took over as Coach of the Club's top squad (the First Club) since Max Currell in 1977 and did a fine job as a leader both on and off the field. Even though the 1985 team finished only third, it was a successful season in which 24 players were used, including a number of fine young players.

A second Club Coach, Ken Wilson, was appointed for the lower senior grade players to ensure all seniors received the coaching to which they were entitled. Many did not avail themselves of this opportunity and, together with the problems outlined above, a number of senior teams finished near the bottom of the ladder. On the other hand, all junior sides did extremely well with seven



APPENDIX II

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

1956	D. Spitteler	Jnr. State Schoolboys	1980	J. Meacock	Colts U21
1960	B. Spitteler	"		G. Ranford	Secondary Schoolboys
1962	M. Currell	"		D. Andrew	Junior U16
1963	R. Robinson	"		M. Spencer	"
1967	M. Griffiths	"		D. Johnston	"
1968	G. Argæt	"		D. Ford	Junior U14
	I. Halliday	"	1981	R. Aggiss	Australian Coach
	R. Hope-Johnston	"		J. Crute	Veterans
1973	P. Meacock	Jnr. U16		I. Lyon	"
	H. Bradfield	Jnr. Manager		J. Meacock	U21 (Capt)
1974	P. Meacock	Jnr. (v-capt.)		M. Spencer	Junior U18
	H. Bradfield	Jnr. Manager		D. Johnston	"
1975	K. Costello	Metro U15 representative		D. Andrew	Junior U16
	J. Meacock	"		R. Bullock	Junior U14
1976	J. Meacock	Jnr. U16	1982	R. Aggiss	Australian Coach
1977	A. Meacock	Colts U21		D. Johnston	U23, U21
	J. Meacock	Jnr. U16 (captain)		A. Ford	Secondary Schoolboys U16
	A. Boyd	Metro U15 representative		A. Bullock	"
	T. Widger	"		D. Andrew	Junior
	G. Reynolds	"	1983	R. Aggiss	Australian Coach
	Blake Smith	"		G. Hymus	U21
1978	P. Meacock	Colts U21		A. Dick	Junior U17
	A. Reynolds	"		P. Barrett	Schoolboys U16
	A. Bullock	Junior U19		E. Floyd	"
	A. Kidd	"		D. Ogilby	"
	G. Reynolds	"		R. See	"
	A. See	"	1984	N. Patmore (A.I.S)	Olympics
	T. Widger	"	1985	R. Golding	Junior U17
	A. Boyd	Junior U16		P. Early	Schoolboys U16
	C. Harper	"		M. Heard	"
1979	J. Meacock	Colts U21		A. Parker	"
	C. Harper	Junior U18 Schoolboys		C. DiGiovanni	"
	T. Widger	"		B. Gooch	Junior U15 (Capt)
	G. Reynolds	"	1986	A. Parker	Junior U17
	A. Boyd	"		B. Gooch	"
	C. Wilkes (V.Capt)	"		P. Harry	Schoolboys U16
	A. Kidd	"		J. West	"
	D. Johnston	Junior U16		P. Denet	Junior U15
	D. Andrew	Junior U14		D. Richards	"
				J. Cole	" Manager



AN EARLY NEWSLETTER

Post amalgamation with Melville YMCA ("The Uncertain Years")

Y'VILLE NEWS

MELVILLE Y.M.C.A. NEWSLETTER — 50c. PER ANNUM.

16/5/67.

Y-VILLE NEWS

Page 1.

APPLECROSS Y.M.C.A. HOCKEY CLUB INFORMATION.

Teams for Saturday, 20th May, 1967, from the following:—

RESERVE (RED) — SCARBORO V. Scarborough N. 3.30
J.Cowden, D.Spitteler, I.Mitchell, P.Gregory, J.Sharpe, B.Nugent,
K.Jackaman, D.Willis, K.McGuire, A.Noad, S.Wheeler.

B2(RED) V TRINITY. Tompkins N. 3.30 (Balls & whistles)
K.Critch, K.Hunter, J.Cox, L.Beal, P.Irvine, G.Gorham, T.Halliday,
P.Denny, T.Bishop, C.Johnston, G.Dienhoff, A.Harris, R.Williams.

U18(2) V GRAYLANDS. Lemnos. 2.00 (Balls & whistles)
B.Moore, B.Gardiner, P.Fenn, S.Smith, C.Manley, P.Dawkins, G.Gailey,
P.Hunt, S.Anderson, G.Rowse, B.Byfield.

U18(3) — OLD WESLEY V. Wesley. 2.00.
M.Griffiths, A.Bennetts, S.Pummer, B.Woods, P.Shuff, P.Lander,
D.Bickford, P.Boyce, I.Fingland, J.Monaghan, M.Weber.

U16(1) — NTH.FREMANTLE V. Tompkins S. 2.00.
P.Baster, G.Argaet, P.Wright, I.Collett, I.Halliday, R.Walker,
G.Allen, S.Boardley, R.Weaver, G.Wright, R.Backhouse.

U16(2) — UNITING CHURCHES V. Tompkins N. 2.00.
G.Paust, A.Gibson, M.Cole, A.Backhouse, I.Weaver, C.Clegg, P.Tothill,
R.Hope-Johnston, W.O'Rafferty, M.Wright, S.Keesing.

U14(1) BYE) but check above U18(3), U16(1) and U16(2) teams
U14(2) BYE) for your name.
U12(1) BYE

NOTE. With school holidays now on it is essential that if any of
the above-named players are not available they ring at the earliest:—

Reserves	P. Noad	642343	U18(2), U18(3)	M. Bennetts	644618
B2	K. Critch	641101	U16(1), U16(2)	L. Collett	602019

TRANSPORT. Would parents please note that when Junior teams have
matches away from home, each team manager needs assistance with
transport of players — 3 cars per team is enough. If you can assist
please give in your name. This particularly applies to the U16(2)
team at present.

YORK TRIP. Sunday, 21st May. All invited to be at Tompkins at 9-45 am

Take your picnic lunch and enjoy a nice day's outing. Junior

and Senior games during the day. Take a white T shirt and sand-shoes.

DANCE. Family 50/50 dance at Tompkins, Saturday, 3rd June, at 8 p.m.

Bill Blaine Group. Admission 75cents, children under 14 — 20cents.

Your support is requested to assist Hockey Club funds. Invite all

your friends to make this night a success.

THANKS to Mel Pearce who gave his valuable time and experience to

assist our forwards on Sunday, 7th May.

RESULTS of matches played 13th May, 1967 :—

Reserves	drew with	Old Hale	1 - 1
B2	lost to	Cricketers	0 - 13
U18(2)	lost to	Un.Churches	1 - 6
U18(3)	defeated	Fremantle	5 - 0
U16(1)	lost to	Cricketers	2 - 3
U16(2)	lost to	Old Aquinians	0 - 6
U14(1)	lost to	Fremantle	0 - 13
U14(2)	lost to	Nth.Fremantle	2 - 5
U12(1)	lost to	Fremantle	0 - 11

HOCKEY-PLAYING BROTHERS



David Spitteler (left) and his brother Brian are shown practising at Tomkins Park with the Applecross Men's Hockey Club team. Both play with the club's senior A3 team. David is captain and Brian is a fullback.



AUTOGRAPHS