

Melville hockey rebuilds

THE 1985 hockey season began on April 13 with the Melville City club facing quite a few changes and challenges, perhaps the most important being the need for a rebuilding programme.

Its First Team was relegated from the Centre Ford First Division Competition in 1984 after its finest performance ever, and in 1985 has lost four players to other First Division teams, one through injury and also its two Australian

Institute of Sport players. (AIS players are drafted to all First Division Clubs each year).

Now begins the road back to regain a position in what many observers say is the best provincial hockey competition in the world.

To achieve this objective, the Club will be concentrating on playing its many talented younger players alongside its most experienced senior members in its 1B and 2A sides.

Coach of the top squad this year is Paul Meacock, a

very talented "local product" who joined the Club in the early seventies when it was "Applecross Hockey Club" (the name change occurred in 1983 to reflect the increase in its size and its more regional role in the City of Melville.).

Club headquarters are now at Morris Buzacott Reserve in Kardinya.

The Club is fielding six other senior teams this year including a Masters (over 35) and a revived Veterans (over 40) side.

Those who train with the

second senior squad will be coached by Ron Wilson, previously an Olympian with the Australian Team in Munich in 1972, but now retired from active playing.

An innovation this year is the introduction of an Under 19 Grade to bridge the gap between Junior and Senior hockey.

Melville City has one team in this grade, and

another nine teams in the Junior grades ranging from Under 11 to Under 17 age groups.

The Under 11 competition is being played on Saturday mornings in 1985, but other grades are in the afternoon as usual.

By metropolitan standards, Melville City is one of the biggest hockey clubs with just on 200 players.

It is administered by an active committee whose most senior executives include: President — Barry Hancock (364 7169); Vice-President (Senior Division) — Greg Hunt (417 9743); Vice-President (Junior Division) — Mike Wood (339 1763); Secretary — Ian Deveson (339 1770).

Another first for 1985 is the move by Applecross

Women's Hockey Club from Tompkins Park to the Buzacott grounds.

It is hoped that this move, and the shariang of grounds and facilities, will lead to increased strengths in both clubs.

President of the Women's Club is Mrs Gay Richardson (382 5482) and Secretary, Sue Pride (339 1947).

Hockey

Melville 1B into Four

AFTER a slow start, Melville City Hockey Club's 1B team has sneaked into the top four.

It scored a 3-1 win over Bayswater-Morley at the Commonwealth Hockey Stadium last week.

A good first half saw them leading 2-0 at the change, but Bayswater-Morley tested the defence after half-time and scored an excellent field goal.

Coach Paul Meadock (on the bench for a couple of weeks through injury) stirred Melville City to greater effort, and a goal from Dean Revell sealed the game.

Friday night was a good night for the club as the 2A team, also playing at the Stadium, recorded a 1-0 win over a young, but well-balanced Cricketers team.

A highlight of this game was the outstanding performance of inside-forward Andy Ford.

The 2's have not lost a game yet, but some tough matches lie ahead.

Other senior teams are

struggling at this stage, except for the Vetrans.

This team is led by Club President Barry Hancock, who claims that part of their success to date is due to two fine goals from Owen Jones (over 60), in their game against Harlequin-Dianella.

The U19, between the seniors and juniors, is in the upper half of a fairly even competition and should have an interesting season (the first year for this grade).

The juniors have had mixed fortunes to date, although a fine win by the 17A side over the top side, Suburban Nedlands City on May 4, placed them securely in second position and retained their grade status for the rest of the season.

Four hat-tricks were recorded on that Saturday — a fabulous effort by Ian Halliday (a State Junior and Colts player in the late 60's) for the 4A team.

Craig Lunt in the U15D's, and the Mallabone brothers, each scored three for their respective teams, the U15A's and U11C's.

Melville hockey team lifts game

THE FORTUNES of Melville City Hockey Club continue to fluctuate but its last matches provided some more encouraging results..

The 1B team played strong hockey to defeat Perth 7 to 1 with a hat-trick from Daryl Dedman.

Ron Chesney scored two goals, one a "sizzler" into the top of the net.

The 2A team has suffered a series of losses lately but will welcome the return of Nigel Clarke from injury and Andrew See from the Goldfields.

Selectors were pleased with the 3A's performances, winning their first game for the season against top side, Old Aquinians and the return to form by the 5A's who drew with the top side, Old Aquinians.

Founder

Club members were pleased to have club founder, David Spitteler, present at the games on July 6.

David was in Perth on a short visit from Melbourne and took the opportunity to watch younger brother, Brian perform in the Masters.

The Masters won well against South Perth with Garry Adams in fine form scouring four goals.

Big news from the Junior ranks last week was the inclusion of five Melville City players in the 1985 State junior teams:

Rob Golding in the U17 team to play in Tamworth, NSW; Andre Parker, Michael Heard, Paul Early in the State U16 schoolboys team to go to Queensland; and Ben Gooch, captain of the U15 team who will be playing in Melbourne.

June 29, will be a day to remember for the U13C boys who won 21-0.

All played well, particularly Nick Hamer-Smith who provided the drive, and Nathan Kenny with 11 goals.

The Applecross Women's Hockey Teams had mixed fortunes on July 6 with a win and two losses. The win was important for the 1B Team because it maintains its place to compete in the Mid-Season Challenge Cup.

Hockey players in top teams

FIVE young players from Melville City Hockey Club are becoming well known throughout the State.

Benjamin Gooch (captain) has been selected in the under-15 State side to play in Melbourne later this month.

Benjamin began playing hockey with Bassendean Morley in 1979, then played over 50 games with Willetton before joining Melville City in 1984 as the inside forward.

Three hockey players from Melville have been selected to play in the under-16 State Schoolboys' Team to play at Gold Coast, Queensland between August 26-31.

Paul Early (16), has played hockey for eight years, six years with Old Aquinians Hockey Club and two years with Melville City as a half-back.

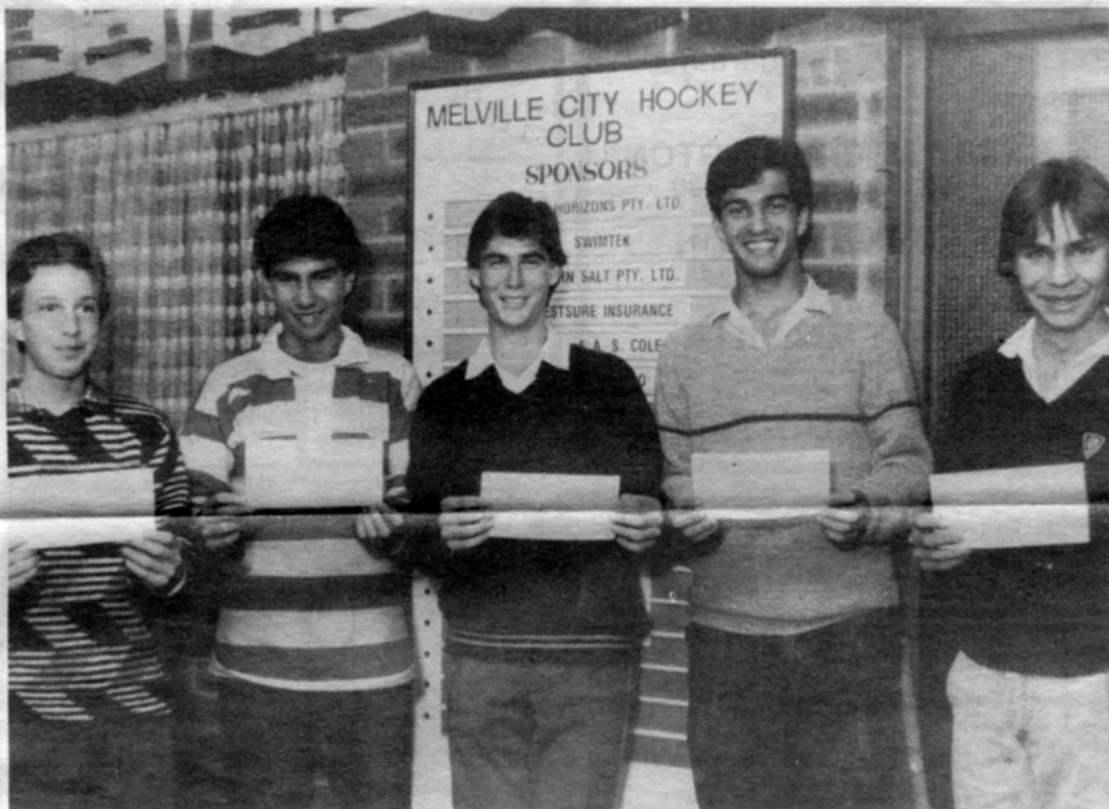
Michael Heard (16), played in Alice Springs for two years before joining Melville City this year.

Heard represented the Northern Territory in the under-14's and twice in the under-15's. He plays in the position of centre forward.

Full back, Andre Parker (16), joined Melville City after one year with East Fremantle YMCA. He has played more than 60 games for the club.

Robert Golding (16), has been selected in the under-17 team to play in Tamworth in September.

Golding began playing in 1977 at the age of eight with Fremantle Hockey Club and joined Melville City as a half back in 1984.



Top class hockey players Benjamin Gooch, Paul Early, Michael Heard, Andre Parker and Robert Golding.