

DISTRICT DRIBBLE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

August 2007

President's Report

As we near the end of another great season, I would like to thank all the people involved in the planning for the presentation day and 80th dinner & celebration. I'm sure these are going to be memorable events for the club.

I would also like to say well done to all the players and parents this year for their support. The standard of hockey has been fantastic and most importantly, we have played and watched the game in the right spirit. As we approach the end of the regular season, it looks like we have 7 junior teams in the semi's and close to 3 women's team which is an amazing achievement. Good luck to all those teams.

Please keep close to your hockey emails over the coming months as we have a number of exciting initiatives planned for 2008 (top secret of course) that will make next year our best yet.

Yours in Hockey,
Larry Maher

Junior Convenor Report

Hope everyone has enjoyed the hockey season, which is quickly coming to a close. Why not keep up your hockey skills over summer by joining an indoor team, or participating in one of the six a side competitions (held at Pennant Hills).

Thank you to all managers and coaches for your work so far this season, particularly on Saturday with team photos. I look forward to seeing everyone again at Family Fun Day/Presentation Day on 15 September.

Alex Cook
Junior Convener

Shields

Can all players get their shields to their Managers as soon as possible so that this year's plaque



can be added to it for Presentation Day on Saturday September 15th.

Thank You!!!!

A big thank you to Lisa Plummer and "Maranatha Import Export - Proud Roaster of Gloria Jeans Coffees" who have very generously donated hampers for the lucky door prizes at the Club's 80th Anniversary Celebration Dinner on September 14th.



Time to Celebrate:

Friday 14 September –

Club Reunion and Celebration Dinner, inc. Women's

Presentation at Pennant Hills

Bowling Club. Start organising

tables of 10 for a great night. Check emails and information at the canteen for more details and booking slip.



Saturday 15 September – Family Day and Club Presentations for Juniors and U18's at Pennant Hills Park. Midday to 6pm. Check emails or information at the canteen for more details. Fun for everyone!

6 A-side Hockey Comp:

Yes – it's on again - the fun, 6 aside, half field comp to finish up the year. Round up friends, family, neighbours – anyone who can hold a stick. It will run during Term 4 at Pennant Hills in the evenings. Check the information at the Canteen for team options and age divisions. There is something for everyone – even to play as a family.

Umpires Needed!

Umpires are needed for our upcoming 6 a-side competition. Levels are from beginners to experienced and this is a great way to improve your skills through the off season. If you are interested, please contact Larry Maher on 9456 6870.



Indoor Hockey

Just when you can't get enough hockey, we have the Indoor Competition plans well underway. This year the U9-13 competitions will be run at Ryde Aquatic Centre and the U15 will be at Auburn. The competition runs from 14 Oct to 16 Dec.

Northern District is looking to get some teams involved and you can put your name down on our register at the canteen. Teams and grading will be finalised shortly so please get in ASAP.

Umpire Exams

4 umpires from Northern District sat the umpires exam on recently. Both Mark & Sarah Osbourne achieved an A pass, and Owen Reynolds & Scott Minard a B pass. They were the top four candidates. Also two of our club juniors have been awarded their Sydney Junior Umpiring badges and the pink shirt that goes with this honour, congratulations to Andrew Maher (U15 Metro) and Mitchell Tudor (U13 Gold). Mitchell also recently umpired at the U11 representative Herb Fibbins carnival at Sutherland performing very well and umpired the final.

Umpire's Corner

Although it was something that I was not involved with until part way through this season, it has been my pleasure, as a current State C badge umpire to be involved with the junior umpires in Northern District. I have been given the opportunity to observe the new young talent within our club and give them pointers both on and off the field and during games.

I have noticed a growing trend of commitment to the important role an umpire plays by the continued growing skill and the desire shown by our young umpires to always learn something new. They give up their Friday nights and Saturday mornings and are striving for a higher level of achievement all the time.

Personally I feel that becoming an umpire, or at least having a thorough knowledge of the rules, improves a person as a player and helps them to understand how hard it is to be an umpire sometimes. The growth of these young people



as both players and umpires is most important to the growth and survival of our club.

Umpires are hard to find in hockey at the best of times and the same people usually end up doing most of it. So if you have an interest in umpiring or even improving your knowledge of the rules, please keep watching this space for news on development days for umpires in the near future.

Sarah Osbourne

Web update

A great Club development this year has been our webpage. Don't forget to check it regularly as it's a busy time of year. All the latest news and developments will be posted and updated regularly on the site: www.ndhockey.com.au

Editor's Note:

All care is taken for the information in the District Dribble to be correct and complete. I rely on you the members to keep Managers and myself informed so I can then pass on great news to others. If we slip up at any time, please let me know so corrections and additions can be added next time round.



Short Corner:

Which goal keeper can jump higher than a crossbar ?

All of them, a crossbar can't jump !

Keep reading for some great Club history....

Two great views of Hockey at Northern District – The Past and the Present and Future: (Definitely worth the read!)

The Past...

Interview Part 1 -

Interview with Ellis Rothwell and Barry Rothwell, 27 April 2007

Interview conducted by Aimee Fitton and compiled by Belinda Fitton.

Wally Rothwell was one of the founding members of the Northern District Hockey Association. The association was started in 1927, and Wally was a life member.



Ellis Rothwell in May 2007

Ellis Rothwell is Wally's son, and was involved in the Northern District Hockey Association during the 1940s, together with his family.

During his hockey career Ellis represented Australia, NSW and Northern District Hockey Association. Ellis officially opened the turf at Pennant Hills.

This is an interview with Ellis Rothwell and his son Barry Rothwell. Please refer to the next newsletter for the second part of the interview.

How old were you when you started to play hockey, and who taught you to play?

Ellis - About 13 years old. My dad was Wally Rothwell, one of the founders of ND.

When was ND first started?

Ellis - It was a breakaway competition from Cumberland in 1927, that's how it started.

Wally was a very strong and influential force for hockey in those days and became secretary for NSW Hockey Association, secretary for Australian Hockey Association, and was keeping the competition alive during the war. Wally also managed a number of Australian hockey teams in the early 1920s through to the 1930s.

What made you decide to play hockey?

Ellis - Dad encouraged me to play.

What is your first memory of hockey?

Ellis - Watching dad play in various games.

What hockey clubs or associations have you played for over your hockey career?

Ellis – ND (bulk of career) and Manly (later part of career). We originally lived in Ryde, then moved over to the Manly area. Barry started to play for Manly and the club was very keen to my experiences as it was a very young club.

Barry - Dad was about 40 when he started to play with Manly (basically came out of retirement) and played first grade for 3 seasons. He also started and coached the Manly under 16s side.

What was it like playing hockey for NSW and Australia?

Ellis - Very hard and lots of work. In those days we didn't have the training facilities available today. I used to visit a gymnasium in the city. We used to play on grass and with long hockey sticks.

Barry - dad was renowned for his skill in short corners, particularly playing with Northern District, dad was always the goal shooter. He hit the ball very hard, and was a lethal hitter.

What position did you play?

Ellis – Left Full Back. My best hit was a half volley (undercut), which hit the ball right out into the crowd.

What did you enjoy the most playing for NSW and Australia?

Ellis – I enjoyed playing for Australia, for the prestige, but I liked playing and representing my state.

Barry – Dad had a lot of friends in the NSW side.

How long did you play hockey for NSW for?

Ellis - About 8 to 10 years

Barry – He probably started when he was about 20, through the years leading up to the war.

Did you play hockey during the war?

Ellis - Yes, but it was a restricted competition.

How many years were you involved in Northern District Hockey Association and what was your involvement in the club?

Ellis – I was a player and umpired games (up to NSW level).

Barry – You were captain of the side weren't you?

Ellis – no Terry Lee (brother of Allan Lee, captain of Australia team that went to NZ) was captain.

Barry - Dad started the under 16 team at ND and was coaching, and that is how my brother and I started playing.

What are some of the changes within the club while you were there?

Ellis – The team became stronger as we played.

Barry – Did you ever win the premiership?

Ellis – Yes, I don't know how many times.

Barry – I remember when I was growing up and watching dad play. It was a very young club when it started and they started from scratch and as years went by, a lot of kids came through the teams.

How long was your dad associated with ND?

Ellis – About 40 years, he founded it. I was involved with Northern Districts for about 15 years

Son – probably more like 25 years.

How did hockey fit into your life? Working and having a family?

Ellis - It was very difficult and we did the gym one day a week in the city.

Barry – Mum was a very strong supporter of hockey to. She was a player herself and it was pretty much a family thing. They encouraged my brother and I to play. We spent every other afternoon in the backyard playing hockey. It was a great influence in our family life and dad encouraged it very much with my brother and I.

The Present and Future:

We've been asked to write about what it's like to be a "new hockey family" in the NDHA. Well here it is warts and all. We are the **DOUGHTY FAMILY** and consist of:

Glenys (mum) who like most mother's are their children's official cheer squad (wake up, the ball's in front of you), taxi driver, first aider, therapist (you can't win all the time), magician (Where did that mouth guard go?), wash woman (9 pairs of socks/wk) and anything else I've forgotten. For me the best thing about the NDHA is its close proximity to where we live versus Concord where we used to play as this is time and sanity saving for me.

Brian my husband has a long history of hockey playing since his youth and is really enjoying playing "local" with the 3rd grade Strikers, especially now that he has learnt all their names and can gain their attention during a game. I gain great satisfaction when it's our turn to wash the team shirts and use the "most floral perfumed" wash powder I can get my hands on to make the boys smell pretty. I believe this encourages them to run to sweat it out.

Sean aged 12yrs plays for the predominately male U13 Gold team which he's really enjoying as his previous Club teams have consisted of nearly all girls - go testosterone. He has found his hockey skills

and confidence have improved remarkably under Rohan's guidance and patience - thanks. Sean is extremely tall for his age and we found the clubs junior shorts were too short and almost looked like undies so we were forced to buy basketball shorts to get the length.

Liam aged 8yrs plays for the U11 Blue Team and this is his first season and is looking like becoming a "defender" in the making thanks to Julie. He thinks the best thing about the NDHA is their fantastic sausage sandwiches and their ice cups - Liam is food orientated.

Renee aged 7yrs who plays U9's has really enjoyed her first season of hockey especially the "social aspect" as she's a greater talker even on the field. I'm grateful for her playing on grass as her muddy stained socks are the easiest to pair up.

Baby Kyle aged 10months is not quite old enough to hold a hockey stick but he's learnt to yell out to cheer. He just gets dragged around to hockey training and games.

On reflecting on our first season with the NDHA it has all been extremely positive. We have found them to be very family friendly and welcoming. With 3 kids & a hubby playing there is potential for hockey every night of the week but Eileen waved her magic wand for us and all the kids train on the same night with Renee kindly being allowed to train with the U11's - thanks Julie.

Like most parents we are constantly juggling/splitting to get kids to games but my best was when Liam was playing at Pennant Hills on the astro field and Renee on the grass field at the same time. I just stood on the hill between them and shouted out encouragement to them both.- now that's efficiency at it's best.

Thank you for a great year NDHA.

Thank you to all contributors for this edition of the District Dribble!