

# 80 + THREE FROM THREE = NDHA

On Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, NDHA members, players and friends, past and present, joined together to celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Women's Presentation evening. As a relatively new member I was impressed by the unity shown on that evening. Little did I know from that evening a new surge in strength was being forged. We heard many great stories from the past like Pop McKenzie starting his juniors with an axe handle (we might heed to rethink our player development program) to overseas tours that could only be recounted in M15+ time-zones through to the incredible effort put in by previous committee members on the building of the clubhouse and the current turf after moving from Epping oval.

Saturday morning, 15<sup>th</sup> September, was bright and set the scene for a memorable junior presentation and 80<sup>th</sup> Party. I would like to thank the Life members and past players backing up from Friday evening who kept the party rolling. We were also lucky enough to have many past players come from as far as Canberra to join in the festivities. Meanwhile, at 12.30 pm our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade men's team (known as NorWest Strikers) took the field at Cintra for their Grand Final. After 70 minutes and a 3-3 draw, extra time, golden goal began and I am proud to say Strikers won. One down, two to go!

Saturday evening at 6pm at Homebush Olympic Pitch our 1<sup>st</sup> Grade men's team were firing up for their Grand Final battle against Moorebank, a team which they have never defeated. A sunblasted weary group of about 50 that had attended the afternoon festivities trekked down to Homebush to support our senior men. We were grateful that no injuries from past legends were repeated from the 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations and that we were all fit enough make the trek. We arrived with balloons and streamers wearing our new EAT, SLEEP, HOCKEY shirts and joined the already strong Norwest Strikers cheer squad. A very entertaining 70minutes went our way and our senior men's Premier A 1<sup>st</sup> Grade team had a convincing 3-1 win. Our first win since 1946 Two down, one to go!

Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, day three of celebrations. Our Women's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade team were locked in for a 3.45pm Grand Final against UTS Eagles who had been champions for the last two seasons. I was eager to attend as my daughter is in this team. To my surprise and absolute delight, I was joined by a crowd of 50+ members, players and friends of NDHA to help cheer home the women. Many of these supporters were on the equivalent of a "hockey crawl" from Friday & Saturday and had dusted themselves off in anticipation of the big trifecta. The women won 1-0, giving us an incredible 3 wins from 3 Grand Finals on our 80<sup>th</sup> weekend.

What a wonderful weekend for NDHA. The sweetest part not being the clean sweep but the club spirit that is alive and thriving amongst us that I found very inspiring. Congratulations to all three Premiership teams and to NDHA, no wonder we've survived 80 years!!

A terrific way to finish the 2007 season. 80 years and growing stronger. Please consider being a part of that success into 2008 and beyond. Our AGM will be held shortly and your involvement in the club in any capacity can only help us grow stronger. You can contact myself, Larry Maher, at [president@ndhockey.com.au](mailto:president@ndhockey.com.au) or just check out the website at [www.ndhockey.com.au](http://www.ndhockey.com.au) and be a part of this sport and the great club spirit.