

NORTHERN DISTRICT HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED



81st ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Northern District Hockey Association Inc.

OFFICE BEARERS 2008

PATRONS	Nick Berman
PRESIDENT	Larry Maher
VICE PRESIDENT	Graham Hutton
SECRETARY	Meredith Peterson
TREASURER	Gary Prowse
EXECUTIVE MEMBERS	John Berriman, Jim Bissaker
JUNIOR OFFICER	Eileen Tudor
WOMENS OFFICER	Julie Osborne
VETERANS OFFICER	Gary Prowse / Chris Jenkins
PUBLICITY OFFICER	Fiona Begg
EQUIPMENT OFFICER	Rohan Tudor
RECORDS OFFICER	Donna Collier
CANTEEN CO-ORDINATOR	Gary Prowse
NORTH AREA DELEGATES	Rohan Tudor, Jim Bissaker & Larry Maher
TURF SUB COMMITTEE	Pat McCabe, Gary Prowse, Larry Maher
NORWEST STRIKERS DELEGATE	Anne Maher
HONORARY AUDITOR	John Prowse
LIFE MEMBERS	

W Rothwell (deceased), O Whitbrook (deceased), O Wood (deceased), G Anderson, Gareth Jones (1961), Jack Haigh (1964), Glenn Griffiths (1975), G Brady (deceased), Merv Goodridge (1978), Warwick McKenzie (1981), Alex Scott (1989), Doug Roberts (1990), Peter Goodridge (1997), Andrew Bennett (2000), Gary Prowse (2001), Jim Bissaker (2002), Elizabeth Bissaker (2003) & Pat McCabe (2005), Reid Sloey (2007).

Location of Field: Pennant Hills Sporting Complex, Britannia Street
Pennant Hills

Web Address: www.ndhockey.com.au

Club Motto: Eat Sleep Hockey – What else is there?

PRESENTATION AWARDS 2008

Perpetual Trophies

Andrew English Shield

U15 player for attitude, enthusiasm and contribution to hockey.

Madisen Clarke

Keith Corkery Shield

U13 player for personal achievement and contribution to the club.

Angus Maher

The Bissaker Family Shield

U11 player for good sportsmanship and improvement of hockey skills during the year

Adam Halmy

The Prowse Family Shield

Junior Boy player for attitude, enthusiasm and contribution to hockey

Simon Begg

Northern District Women Shield

Junior girl player for attitude, enthusiasm and contribution to hockey

Madisen Clarke

Cook Shield

Women's player for commitment, achievement, enthusiasm and contribution to hockey

Anne Boyle

Umpires of the Year

**Rebekah Peterson &
Scott Berriman**

Coach of the Year

Phillip Burke

Club Person of the Year

Larry Maher

President's Report

Following on from the success of the 80th Anniversary of the club and looking towards a stronger future, 2008 proved to be another year of progress for our proud club.

2008 saw an increase in the number of juniors as well as senior women in the club. We competed with 3 U11s, 3 U13s, 2 U15s, an U18 girls and 5 women's teams. In addition to this, through our Strikers club, we fielded 3 U17 boys teams. This growth in registrations saw our junior club become the largest in Sydney which is an outstanding achievement that all of our members can be proud of at a time when there are signs that participation in our game has decreased since the previous year. For our club to prosper in the foreseeable future, we must continue to focus on our supporting both our juniors and women throughout the club. This will require dedication and investment in areas such as advertising and marketing, off season development programs, coach development and support, increased umpiring resources, a continued commitment to the U18 girl's concept, an improved integration of our U15 boy's into the Strikers program and a continued focus on improving our very successful foray into the Sydney North Women's competition.

The success of the 5th grade women's team becoming grand final premiers was a major highlight of the year. A team made up, in the majority, of mums of juniors, who managed to win the 5th grade premiership in their inaugural season. On a cold and wet Sunday night at Ryde HC, this team conquered lightning, a much younger opponent and a vocal home crowd to record what was an outstanding victory. I guess that competitive instinct from a long time ago came to the surface and showed our club how to get the job done. Well done ladies.

In July of 2008, secretive negotiations to ensure the future of Northern District were reaching an exciting conclusion. With the support of Hornsby Shire Council, 'in principle' approval of a 2nd artificial turf was received. This is a significant milestone for our club. We are experiencing unprecedented demand for use of our facility by clubs from all over Sydney and we could fill 3 fields for 7 days per week if we had the facilities. More than ever, our hockey community is looking for professionally owned and managed facilities to play the game. In addition to this, the parents of newly registered players are astounded to learn that as a club we have built, funded and managed the existing grounds at Pennant Hills Park. It is clear that the opportunities that the future brings for us have been as a result of previous committee members who have dedicated themselves to the club. My thanks go to all those involved. The realisation of our 2nd artificial turf will require a significant investment by the club and fundraising has commenced. Whilst this has been a successful but small start, there is large challenge ahead of us. Having said that, I remain excited and enthusiastic about our future and call on all club members to keep involved with this project.

One of the first fundraising events for the 2nd artificial turf was a trivia night held at Pennant Hills Bowling Club, on of our club sponsors. Whilst the purpose of the trivia night was to raise valuable funds, the feeling of friendship with in the club was one of the enduring parts of the night. This had been the first time in many years that we have got together with such a diverse group of friends of the hockey club and I hope everyone had a great night. I would also like to thank all the people who donated items to the club for the night that helped us raise over \$6000 which was an outstanding result.

Another very pleasing aspect of the 2008 season was the improved support of the club by our sponsors, Just Hockey, Pennant Hills Bowling Club and Taylor Made Physiotherapy. This level of support helped our club make improvements to our excellent facility. This year's biggest improvement being the installation of an

electronic scoreboard. I would like to thank Pat McCabe for his hard work on making this a reality.

I would like to offer my congratulations to all those players who were awarded representative honours in 2008. As we all know, the commitment to extensive travel and cost of participating in carnivals and state championships across the various NSW country and interstate venues is significant. What is encouraging with this trend is that these players bring back to the club improved skills and a renewed enthusiasm that benefits everyone in the club.

Junior umpiring was an outstanding success in 2008. We had a record number of juniors receive their SJHA badge. In addition to this, many of our juniors umpired North Area semi finals with 3 of our juniors umpiring grand finals. We also had three of our juniors progress to the senior ranks of both men's and women's during 2008. This is a very exciting part of our junior umpiring pathway.

As we move into 2009 we need to remain focussed on a number of key areas of the club if we are to continue to prosper in the future. Amongst other things, this will include ongoing support and development of club coaches, continued opportunities for player development during the "on" and "off" season with a continued focus on U9 competition, Hooked in2 Hockey and development academies. In addition to this we need to remain firmly appreciative of the fact that we have a chance to create a great legacy for the club with the ongoing planning and fundraising for our 2nd turf. In my view, the challenge for the club in 2009 will be to maintain the excellent momentum gained in 2008.

I would like to finish off by thanking all the players, parents, families and supporters on Northern District for an outstanding 2008. To the management committee, I am grateful for your hard work and support over the year. I look forward to 2009 with an incredible amount of enthusiasm and a year that brings much promise.

Yours in hockey,

Larry Maher - Club President

Secretary's Report

After a second year on the NDHA Committee I would like to thank all the parents that have assisted in completing paperwork and responding to club communications.

We are always looking for more people to join us – many hands make light work.

Meredith Peterson - Secretary

Registration Day 2009

With the 2009 season scheduled to start mid March 2009, the Management committee has set down the following date for registration. They are:

Saturday 14th February 2009 between 12 noon and 4pm

Although a newsletter will be forwarded in early January, please note this date in your diaries now.

Treasurers Report

Our financials are divided into two sections being the Club (consisting of Junior's, Women's & Veterans teams) and the Sports Foundation (managing the synthetic surface). Details of the two groups are as follows:

CLUB

For the fourth year in a row, our Committee decided to maintain our playing fees the same. This also included the fundraising levy of \$30 per family, which continues to be a success.

With 8 junior (plus the under 9's), 5 women's & 1 veteran teams, this year our Association has recorded a surplus of \$18,328 compared to \$6,286 in 2007. This profit has been achieved from the following activities throughout the year:

- Summer competition - \$7,424.
- Trivia Night - \$5,617.
- Sponsorship - \$3,960

The proceeds from the Trivia night have been set aside into a separate account being the first part of raising funds towards the development of the second turf. As for sponsorship, this has been derived from Pennant Hills Bowling Club, Just Hockey & Tailor Made Physiotherapy. Part of these proceeds have in turn been used towards the purchase and installation of the new scoreboard & I thank them for their support.

As we are a Non profit organisation run by volunteers, for the Club to continue to grow it is paramount that all players and their parents help out wherever possible.

SPORTS FOUNDATION

This is our sixth year, which operates the hiring of the synthetic surface and the running of the canteen. The income stream is derived from the field from the following sources:

Hire of the Field

This is broken up into winter & summer competitions, training and schools. The main users of the facility for the relative competitions throughout the year have been the following:

Sydney Hockey Association	(Men's competition)
Sydney North Women's Association	(Women's competition)
North Shore Women's Association	(Women's competition)
North Area Junior Hockey Association	(Junior competition)

Our thanks go to these Associations and their affiliated clubs for their patronage, which is greatly appreciated, and look forward to this continuing into years to come.

The income derived from the hire of the field has increased from \$99,349 to \$108,533 and this is due to us being able to utilise the field fully throughout the weekend. A break up between the different sections reveals the following variances

Winter Competition (Junior & Senior games)	up 5%
Training	up 4.5%
Schools	up 12%
Summer Competition	up 38%

In addition to this, we also hired out the field to Gridiron NSW Incorporated for various competition games. As their season runs from September to December, it fits in well as the field is rarely used during that time. Continuation of this is expected in years to come.

My thanks go to all volunteers who put up their hands to assist in the opening and closing of the field throughout the year. A special thanks must go to Carolyn Linke & Pat McCabe for the "last minute calls" to open the field throughout the week for various school games & trainings as well as on weekends for the seniors.

Canteen

As the turf facility is used by numerous Associations over the weekends ranging from juniors on Friday nights and Saturday mornings, the men's competition on Saturday afternoon & night and the women's competition all day Sunday, it is always going to be difficult in organising a roster to cover all these times.

The gross sales from the canteen have increased by 34% to \$38,209 with the overall net income being \$17,552 compared to \$11,160. It should also be noted that we hold stock of around \$1,000 (drinks, sweets etc) that has been paid for in full and is covered under purchases. For consistency, we do not hold a stock figure for the canteen. If this was, then it would increase the NP by the amount of stock held.

As indicated in previous annual reports, due to the amount being derived through the canteen, it is not feasible to "employ" someone to run this therefore it will continue to be manned by volunteers. This includes each team manning the canteen & BBQ whilst their children are playing.

On Sunday's we tried something different this year and "employed" some players to man the canteen. This appeared feasible with gross income of \$4,176 (included in canteen income) being achieved. Continuation of this would be expected in future years.

In the sixth year of operation, the Sports Foundation has achieved a net profit of \$31,776 after allowing for depreciation of fixed assets of \$48,826.

From these funds, a further amount has been put aside into the sinking fund taking the balance to \$70,000.

GENERAL

Overall a very pleasing year from an Association prospective and with the continued help from the handful of volunteers plus the possibility of further assistance in the future from other volunteers will only ensure that this great Association continues to grow into the future

On a personal note, I would like to thank my wife Tracey for her patience and assistance over the past year.

This being my 15th year as Treasurer, I wish to advise that I am prepared to stand again for 2009 however this will be my last year. Accordingly if you are interested in taking on this role, please advise either myself or the Committee.

I submit the financial reports of the Association for your approval at the Annual General Meeting in November 2008.

Gary Prowse – Treasurer

NORTHERN DISTRICT HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ABN 16 895 574 086

COMMITTEES' DECLARATION

The members have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity. The members have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.

The Members of the Committee declare that:

1. The Financial Statements and Notes, present fairly the Association's Financial Position as at 30 September 2008 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.
2. In the Committees' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE
and in accordance with its resolution.

Larry Maher
President

Gary Prowse
Honorary Treasurer

Dated at Pennant Hills 31 October 2008

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounts have been prepared on the following basis, which are consistent with those of the previous year.

- a) Subscriptions (fees) and completed functions are accounted for in the period to which they relate and all other income and expenditure is accounted for on a cash basis.
- b) Northern District Hockey Association Incorporated is exempt from income tax under Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act.
- c) Non current assets, at cost or valuation are depreciated at rates based upon their expected economic lives, using the straight-line method so as to write off the net cost of each asset during its expected useful life.
- d) All inventories are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

2. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- a) The Association is required under the Associations Incorporation's Act 1984 to furnish statements at the Annual General Meeting, which give a true and fair view of:
 - 1) Income and Expenditure of the Association during the year and;
 - 2) Assets and Liabilities of the Association at the end of the Financial year.
- b) The Committee are of the opinion that Northern District Hockey Association Incorporated is not a reporting entity and have decided that the current format of the accounts and the accounting policies, which are consistent with past years, are appropriate for the Members, given the nature of the Association's activities. A special purpose financial report has therefore been prepared and audited under the Constitution of the Association

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHERN DISTRICT HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ABN 16 895 574 086

SCOPE

I have audited the special purpose Financial Report being the Committee's Declaration, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance and Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2007. The Association's Committee are responsible for the Financial Report. I have conducted an independent audit of this Financial Report in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the Association.

The Financial Report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1984 (NSW). I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the Financial Report to which it relates to any person other than the members or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the Financial Report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the Financial Report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the Financial Report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the Association's Financial Position, the results of its operations and its cash flows.

The audit opinion in this report has been formed on the above basis.

QUALIFICATIONS:

The Association receives a significant proportion of its income from fees from Members, functions, sale of uniforms and donations. As is common for organisations of this type, no accounting control can be established over the recording of or completeness of all income received, until their initial entry in the accounting records of the Association.

AUDIT OPINION

In my opinion, subject to the matter referred above, the Financial Report presents fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements the financial position of Northern District Hockey Association Incorporated as at 30 September 2007, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended.

John C Prowse
Chartered Accountant
Dated at Pennant Hills 31 October 2008

NORTHERN DISTRICT HOCKEY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

ABN 16 895 574 086

Profit & Loss Statement for year ended 30 September 2008

INCOME	Notes	2008	2007
Association Fees	1a	39,762.09	35,973.87
Interest - ANZ Bank		2,078.05	1,235.64
Surplus - Uniform Trading Account	2	1,452.38	1,598.62
Fundraising	3	3,960.64	3,741.82
Sponsorship / Donations		3,253.42	480.00
Summer competition / Indoor	1b	7,424.57	6,893.35
Social Activities		5,617.29	3,909.08
Sundry		<u>220.72</u>	<u>25.00</u>
		63,769.16	53,857.38
 EXPENDITURE			
Administration Fees	4	22,346.51	20,775.59
Ground Fees		3,539.05	3,994.18
Umpires / Coaching		4,157.75	2,715.00
Turf Training		7,575.00	7,112.50
Depreciation		2,011.63	2,280.64
Balls, Goalkeeping equipment		241.81	1,913.31
Office expenses		1,162.53	1,157.83
Hook into Hockey		600.00	1,054.54
Merchant Service Fees		1,152.39	853.99
Trophies		1,708.30	1,374.30
Bad Debt		0.00	110.00
80th Function		177.05	3,552.23
Sundry		<u>768.18</u>	<u>677.27</u>
		45,440.20	47,571.38
 NET PROFIT FOR YEAR		 <u><u>\$18,328.96</u></u>	 <u><u>\$6,286.00</u></u>

NORTHERN DISTRICT SPORTS FOUNDATION - TURF

INCOME		2008	2007
Hire of Field	5	108,533.05	99,348.97
Canteen (net)	6	17,026.72	11,159.86
Donations from Members		0.00	0.00
Interest - ANZ Bank		4,152.62	2,653.96
Sundry		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
		129,712.39	113,162.79
 EXPENDITURE			
Ground Hire - grass field		1,602.75	1,556.36
Electricity		9,024.66	8,732.42
Water Rates		3,696.61	3,089.22

Insurance		3,741.06	3,781.28
Maintenance		15,568.47	3,813.77
Australian Sports Foundation Admin Fee		0.00	0.00
Interest	7	14,223.74	16,492.77
Finance Charges		750.00	750.00
Lease payment		90.63	89.46
Depreciation - Fixed assets		48,825.70	46,107.64
Liquor Licence / Zip Heater		0.00	1,080.00
Sundry		412.65	12.50
		<u>97,936.27</u>	<u>85,505.42</u>
NET PROFIT FOR YEAR		<u><u>\$31,776.12</u></u>	<u><u>\$27,657.37</u></u>

Balance Sheet for year ended 30 September 2008

	2008	2007
Income/Expenditure Account as at 1/10/07	493,607.60	459,664.23
Profit for Year - Club	18,328.96	6,286.00
Profit for Year - Sports Foundation	<u>31,776.12</u>	<u>27,657.37</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS	<u><u>\$543,712.68</u></u>	<u><u>\$493,607.60</u></u>

Represented By Assets:

Club

Current Assets

Uniform Stock on hand	9,630.47	10,733.75
Cash at Bank - ANZ	2,349.43	230.27
Accounts Receivable	310.00	1,210.00
Investment - ANZ Business Online Saver	28,735.37	21,046.91

Sports Foundation

Current Assets

Cash at Bank - ANZ	59,623.03	43,401.17
Cash in Hand	479.95	671.95
Key Deposit - Hornsby Council	143.00	143.00
Accounts Receivable	9,850.50	6,203.54
Investment - ANZ Business Online Saver	5,455.20	0.00
Term Deposit - ANZ (sinking fund)	<u>70,000.00</u>	<u>52,000.00</u>
	<u>186,576.95</u>	<u>135,640.59</u>

Non Current Assets

Pennant Hills Hockey Field

- Cost	791,008.67	791,008.67
- less Depreciation & amortisation	293,720.56	247,885.65

Other Assets

- Cost	8,155.00	545.45
- less Depreciation & amortisation	<u>2,718.07</u>	<u>272.73</u>
	<u>502,725.04</u>	<u>543,395.74</u>

TOTAL ASSETS	<u>689,301.99</u>	<u>679,036.33</u>
Less Liabilities		
<i>Current Liabilities</i>		
Accounts Payable	6,255.80	2,517.25
Fees Paid in Advance	0.00	0.00
GST Payable	2,144.11	1,951.57
Members Loans	0.00	15,000.00
ANZ Bank Loan	<u>21,000.00</u>	<u>21,000.00</u>
	29,399.91	40,468.82
<i>Non Current Liabilities</i>		
ANZ Bank Loan	116,189.40	144,959.91
- NSW State Government Guarantee		
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>145,589.31</u>	<u>185,428.73</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>\$543,712.68</u>	<u>\$493,607.60</u>

Notes to Profit & Loss Statement & Balance Sheet

NOTE 1a	2008	2007
ASSOCIATION FEES		
Veterans	3,810.00	3,704.00
Juniors	19,632.13	18,463.86
Women's	17,913.76	14,591.01
Less Family Discount	810.00	545.00
Less Representative	325.00	240.00
Less T-Shirts under 9	458.80	0.00
	<u>1,593.80</u>	<u>785.00</u>
	<u>39,762.09</u>	<u>35,973.87</u>
NOTE 1b		
SUMMER COMPETITION		
Income	12,782.75	9,637.58
Expenses	<u>5,285.45</u>	<u>7,497.30</u>
INDOOR FEES	<u>-72.73</u>	<u>1,331.77</u>
	<u>7,424.57</u>	<u>6,893.35</u>
NOTE 2		
UNIFORM TRADING ACCOUNT		
Sales	5,455.22	6,277.06
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>4,002.84</u>	<u>4,678.44</u>
	<u>1,452.38</u>	<u>1,598.62</u>
NOTE 3		
FUNDRAISING		
Income	4,230.00	4,050.00
Expense	<u>269.36</u>	<u>308.18</u>
	<u>3,960.64</u>	<u>3,741.82</u>
NOTE 4		
ADMINISTRATION FEES		
Sydney Hockey Association	37.00	37.00

Sydney Junior Hockey Association	4,600.00	4,281.82
North Area Junior Hockey Association	1,113.64	1,081.81
Sydney North Women's Hockey	13,247.27	10,998.18
NOTE 4 cont.	2008	2007
Sydney Women's Hockey League	0.00	100.00
Sydney Veterans	3,348.60	3,258.60
Sydney Indoor Hockey	0.00	1,018.18
	<u>22,346.51</u>	<u>20,775.59</u>

NOTE 5

HIRE OF FIELD

Winter Competition	52,502.66	49,853.07
Training	40,220.38	38,468.40
Schools	9,060.00	8,040.00
Summer Competition	4,125.00	2,987.50
Gridiron	2,625.01	0.00
	<u>108,533.05</u>	<u>99,348.97</u>

NOTE 6

CANTEEN

Gross Sales	38,209.09	28,528.26
Purchases	<u>20,657.37</u>	<u>17,368.40</u>
	17,551.72	11,159.86
Levy paid by woman's	655.00	
Payments to Volunteers on Sunday's	<u>-1,180.00</u>	<u>-525.00</u>
	<u>17,026.72</u>	<u>11,159.86</u>

NOTE 7

INTEREST PAID

ANZ Bank Loan	14,079.49	14,536.95
Members loans	<u>144.25</u>	<u>1,955.82</u>
	<u>14,223.74</u>	<u>16,492.77</u>

U15 Metro Report

Points Table - U15 Colin Manning Trophy

Team	GP	W	L	D	GF	GA	GD	Points
Sutherland Blue	18	17	0	1	153	9	144	35
Ryde	18	16	2	0	92	29	63	32
Moorebank	18	14	4	0	94	35	59	28
South West Strikers	18	12	6	0	62	25	37	24
Sydney Uni	18	9	8	1	37	47	-10	19
Sutherland Black	18	7	10	1	22	56	-34	15
Northern District	18	5	12	1	24	85	-61	11
St George	18	3	12	3	17	93	-76	9
Gordon North Sydney	18	3	15	0	16	73	-57	6
Baulkham Hills	18	1	16	1	8	73	-65	3

The 2008 team consisted of six 2nd year U15s and seven 1st year U15s. In this age group the difference between a first and second year player is noticeable and we always knew that this team would struggle some weeks against stronger 2nd year opposition teams. Nevertheless, the team worked well together and when they arrived at the field 'switched on' it was great hockey to watch. Of the 18 games played in the season, we had 12 losses, 5 wins, and 1 draw. We ended up 7th on the ladder of ten, during the season we had beaten 5th placed Sydney Uni, and had close 1 goal losses against 2nd placed Ryde, 6th placed Sutherland Black.

So statistics are duly noted but what did it all mean to this great bunch of teenagers? After years of junior hockey in the North Area these kids were able to get out and be involved in some awesome hockey all over Sydney. Most players in this team were able to slot into any position, and Northern Districts is one of the few clubs that has girls still playing in their Metro team. We had three girls that proved 'chick power' is a force to contend with, well done to Madi Clark, Sari Deres & Shannon Gerber who on many occasions dazzled the opposition. Ruan Goosen, Antoni Mitchell, Matthew Prowse and Mark Wearingford all managed some great attacks on goals and nice finishes. Our halves were always interchangeable with inners, and fullbacks, it just depended on the game. Nick Hawkins, Mitchell Tudor and Poddy Watkins, had a season of growth both on and off the field. The competition was much faster than U13s and the halves worked exceptionally hard. The fullbacks Tom Nicholls and Brad Boddington, which were well and truly peppered during some games. They remained strong, focused and more importantly, intact, during tight defending against state players with brilliant attacking skills! Last on the defensive line is goalkeeper Andrew Maher, who spent the season deflecting, sliding and kicking, but most of all, talking. Andrew took it upon himself to stretch the vocal chords and 'gee' up the team with some interesting motivational commentary from the goals, which at times rattled the opposition and humoured the crowd.

Special mention to Shannon Gerber, who received the Best & Fairest Award, as voted on by the players each week and to Mark Wearingford for receiving the closely contested Coaches Award. Speaking of coaches, thanks to Chris Hawkins, Hawko, for taking on the task, and Tim Watkins, who ably assisted most weeks at training. Good luck to Brad, Madi, Shannon, Ruan, Ant, and Andrew who all leave the junior ranks of Northern Districts this season, to play senior hockey.

Coach – Chris Hawkins

Manager – Eileen Tudor

Under 15 Blue Report

Points Table - NA Under 15 B

Team	GP	W	D	L	B	GF	GA	GD	Points
Ryde Tigers	15	12	0	1	2	52	13	39	53
Manly Red	15	8	2	3	2	43	27	16	43
Briars	14	8	1	4	1	45	27	18	40
Northern District Blue	15	3	1	8	3	21	45	-24	28
GNS Blue	15	0	0	12	3	8	33	-25	18

Eager to get stuck into the 2008 North Area hockey season, the U/15 ND Blue team formed with retuning players from last years team joined by U/13's stepping up to U/15s along with a few new players eager for their first season of hockey. Kicking off with training, the team proved to be an entertaining, friendly, and capable group who made it clear from the start that training was not only a great time to improve fitness and hockey skills but also an excellent opportunity to have a laugh whilst catching up on social news and team gossip from the week before. This engendered a camaraderie that was evident throughout the season with the players not only teammates on the field but friends off it.

This excellent team spirit ensured that once on the field, the team played their hockey in a supportive and committed fashion with all team members contributing to the teams success. Whilst the competition proved tough, the team were able to remain competitive in most games with 5-10 minute lapses in concentration proving the only difference in the final scoreline for many games. Nevertheless the ND team managed to put in some solid performances and were rewarded with wins in a number of games and a semi finals birth at the business end of the season. Perhaps U/15 Blue's finest moment was when they held the powerful grand finalists Manly to a 1-1 draw with an impressive display of committed defence for a full 60 minutes. Through this game the team showed they could mix it with the best in the comp.

There were many highlights during the season; from Brigittes flamboyant and entertaining dancing display after scoring a goal to Anupesh's first ever goal in hockey – nice deflection Anupesh!. Lachlan made many awesome sliding saves as our heroic goalkeeper not to be outdone was William who also saved the day a number of times diving full stretch to prevent opposition goals both as keeper and field player. The half combination of Sean, Ashlee and Jaimee proved to be the engine room of the team successfully defending numerous short corners whilst setting up many of the teams attacking efforts for Jake and Marius to show off their impressive finishing skills and score a good number of goals from all parts of the circle. They were ably supported by Erin who skillful in attack and determined in defence at inner proved to everyone she could stand up and give as good as she got to those "horrible smelly rough guys" in the other teams. Rachel S - Miss versatility in being able to play all positions on the field proved to be a huge asset to the team as were Rachel Mac and Jack who ran down attackers with enthusiastic tackling. Lastly our little general Simon organized defense up back and encouraged everyone throughout games whilst scoring a few goals of his own with some solid short corner shots to round out the regular team. Angus from U/13s must be congratulated on becoming an honorary team member playing by popular demand at least half our matches and in every game dazzled the opposition with his attacking flair and defensive tenacity.

Special mention to Matthew, Scott, Kevin, Caitlin from our other ND teams who filled in for the U/15 Blue team and supercoaches Brian and Chris "Hawks" who made significant contributions to us during the season. Thank you to all the parents who

manned the canteen, cooked the BBQ and were thoroughly supportive of the team throughout the season. Lastly to our team manager Marisa who contributed in so many ways throughout the season to ensure the team were well organized, on time and ready to play every game – Thanks we couldn't have done it without you!

Well done to all team members for a fantastic season, especially those who received end of season awards from their teammates, coaches and managers. Away from the scoreboard the teams greatest achievement was the way they carried themselves on the field demonstrating sportsmanship and a special team spirit in every game that ensured our 2008 season was a successful and enjoyable one.

Coach – Phillip Burke

Under 13 Gold Report

Points Table - NA Under 13 A

Team	GP	W	D	L	B	GF	GA	GD	Points
Ryde Panthers	15	13	0	2	0	76	9	67	54
Northern District Gold	15	12	0	3	0	51	15	36	51
GNS Red	15	11	0	4	0	40	18	22	48
Sydney Uni	15	6	0	9	0	27	49	-22	33
Manly Red	15	1	2	12	0	6	53	-47	20
Baulkham Hills Gold	15	0	2	13	0	8	64	-56	17

This years U13A Pool competition was very close between the top 3 teams, Ryde, ND & Gordon. We finished 2nd on the table after the 15 competition rounds, 3 points behind Ryde & 3 points ahead of Gordon. In the finals the team had a 2-2 draw after extra time with Ryde in the Major Semi, with Ryde progressing to the Grand Final due to the higher placed finish after the rounds. We then defeated Gordon 1-0 in the preliminary final to set up a re-match against Ryde in the Grand Final. The Grand Final game was played under extremely poor weather & ground conditions (cold & wet), the goal mouth at one end had to be repeatedly squeegeed out to allow play to continue. These factors and a strong Ryde team combined to result in a hard fought close loss 3-1.

All season the team played extremely well and had 12 wins and 3 losses during the rounds and overall 13 wins, 1 draw & 4 losses for the season. We scored 59 goals and conceded 21.

The season awards went to Andrew (AJ) for Best and Fairest as voted by the players & coach, this was an outstanding effort as he joined the team after round 5. Brooke received the Most Consistent trophy for her consistency and commitment during the season. The 2 team North Area encouragement awards went to Kirsten for her improvement over the year and Blake for his consistent work rate until he broke his leg playing on his scooter and missed the remainder of the season after round 11. The perpetual U13 Andrew Corkery Award went to Angus for outstanding achievement and contribution by an U13 player.

Scott B had a solid year playing the majority of games at inside forward setting up numerous goal scoring opportunities for the team.

Kegan worked hard all year on his positional play & skills. He was always lurking around the post scoring goals during the year.

Scott C was consistent all season at the back with his strong tackling and really came on well during the finals

Lauren unfortunately only managed to play 1 game during the season due to illness, but she came & supported the team on a regular basis.

Tobi performed well at centre forward, his best game was the 2-1 round game win against Ryde where he set up one goal & scored the other.

Alex worked hard all year in the back and saved many of our opponent's attempts at goal by sweeping the ball away from our goal area.

Sam showed his versatility covering a number of different positions. During the finals he was excellent at inside forward.

Ash continually improved all year in goals & made many fine saves at important times which often meant the difference between a win and loss.

Jackson played well in several positions during the year, mainly right or centre half but also right wing and scoring a number of goals.

Riley came on really well during the year and scored some important goals during the last few weeks of the season at left wing, the biggest being the only goal of the preliminary final win.

A major thank you goes to Kay for her fantastic job as team manager. Kay sent out emails, co-ordinated the B&F votes & provided fruit at half time for each game, which the kids really enjoyed & provided the necessary energy for the 2nd half. Each and every one of the players games improved as the season went on thanks to the great coaching by Rohan Tudor.

Team: Angus Maher, Jackson Tudor, Scott Berriman, Ash Thomas, Scott Collier, Alex McAnulty, Tobi Goosen, Sam Paynter, Kegan Brown, Kirsten Burns, Riley Wilson, Andrew Jennings, Blake Phelan, Brooke Dwyer & Lauren Condon.

Coach – Rohan Tudor

Under 13 Blue Report

Points Table - NA Under 13 B

Team	GP	W	D	L	B	GF	GA	GD	Points
GNS White *	15	9	2	3	1	38	28	10	41
Briars *	12	8	1	2	1	55	11	44	40
GNS Blue *	15	8	0	5	2	49	21	28	40
Ryde *	15	7	2	4	2	20	23	-3	36
Northern District Blue	14	5	1	6	2	25	32	-7	32
Northern District White *	15	4	1	8	2	20	41	-21	26
Baulkham Hills Red *	15	1	1	11	2	7	42	-35	20

Our team this year was made up of new players - India, Lucy and Adam, and veterans - Mitchell, Simon, Bethany, Cassandra, Katherine, Daniela, Matthew, Ramon, Zali, Joseph and Emma.

The season began with 2 training sessions to teach the new players the basic skills of hockey and remind the remainder of the basics before I was off travelling for four weeks. Liz my youngest took on the role of goalie coach to Mitchell on Monday nights, and Sarah my eldest had the difficult task of continuing training and turning them into a team. By the time I returned, I had missed the first three games, a 4-2 loss to Gordon white, a 4-0 win over Sydney Uni and a 2-1 win over Ryde. A great start to the season.

Unfortunately a few players missed several games due to injury and illness. This impacted on the team dynamic almost as much as the unfortunate draw which saw us have a month off with a bye before the school holidays.

Of the top four teams we recorded a win against Ryde, a draw against GNS white and gave GNS blue a scare in our last game of the season leading 2-1 with only five minutes to go, only to lose the match 3-2 in the dying seconds. I'm sure however everyone would agree our most exciting games were played against ND white. They won the first encounter 3-2 in a very exciting game. The rematch was a different story with the Blues triumphant in another extremely tightly contested match, winning 4-3. By the end of the season we had recorded 6 losses, 5 wins and a draw to finish the season in 5th place.

Everyone's hockey skills improved immensely over the course of the season, with many players in positions they had not played before and that they initially weren't comfortable playing.

Even with all the disruptions, the team worked well together and were overall fairly evenly matched with the other teams.

Coach – Julie Osborne

Assistant Coaches – Sarah & Liz Osborne

It was a great season although we did not make the semifinals (we came 5th), but by the end of the season each player had improved and we were working well as a team. We played consistently and at times the players were rotated through different field positions to allow them to gain an appreciation of being somewhere else on the field. Even our goalie Mitchell and the backs had a run on the field and scored.

Congratulations to Joseph on being selected in the Sydney West Boys team who played at Albury and to Cassandra for being selected in the Girls team who played at Armidale. There were many other Northern Districts players also selected - this is a credit to our club, coaches and to Eileen for her encouragement of these kids.

The awards this year were:

Best and Fairest – Mitchell Emerton

North Area Encouragement Awards – Bethany Halmy & Adam Jut

Most Improved – India Coubrough

Thank you must go to Julie and Sarah for coaching this year; to Lizzie who helped Mitchell in goals with her expert advice and to Kerry (Emma's mum) for helping out; also to Meredith and all the parents who worked in the canteen and ran the BBQ – a huge thank you – our roster went without a hitch! Thanks also to the parents for bringing their children to training and the games – the season would not have been a success without you.

Lastly, to Eileen and Rohan – thanks for answering all my emails!

Manager – Lynne Emerton

Under 13 White REPORT

Points Table - NA Under 13 B

Team	GP	W	D	L	B	GF	GA	GD	Points
GNS White *	15	9	2	3	1	38	28	10	41
Briars *	12	8	1	2	1	55	11	44	40
GNS Blue *	15	8	0	5	2	49	21	28	40
Ryde *	15	7	2	4	2	20	23	-3	36
Northern District Blue	14	5	1	6	2	25	32	-7	32
Northern District White *	15	4	1	8	2	20	41	-21	26
Baulkham Hills Red *	15	1	1	11	2	7	42	-35	20

This year the U13White hockey team was coached by Kate and Aimee Fitton. (Being twins there was always much confusion as to who was who, except when Kate wore her trademark t-shirt "I am not Aimee") Thank you Kate and Aimee for all the enthusiasm and hard work you put into teaching new skills, but most of all for coping with a very chatty team. Mercia Millingham managed the U13White this season.

ND U13White consisted of 6 boys and 8 girls. Four of the players were playing their first season of hockey ever. Uddhav Bhargava and Rhys Nicholls took to the game like ducks out of water and Uddhav ended the season as the teams highest goal scorer. The remainder of the team had all moved up from U11 last year, with the exception of Jackson Bush who played up into the U13's this year. The season started well until the July break with the team winning 4, Losing 3 and drawing 1 game. Our loss to Ryde in the first game 1-2 was a super result, but our devastating loss 0-8 to GNS Blue gave us a massive goal difference that we struggled to regain for the rest of the season. After the July holidays we sadly lost every game we played. The teams game became too defensive rather than attacking which would have resulted in more converted goals. Everyone remained positive and put in a good effort, but we just could not seem to find that much needed win and that goal difference just seemed to get bigger and bigger.

During the season three of our talented players were selected to PSSA teams: Caitlin Condon and Saskia Whyte made the Sydney North PSSA Hockey team and Holley Grey was selected to the Sydney West team. Congratulations girls. Their championships were played at Armidale on 17-19 June and Sydney North qualified 6th overall, which is a fabulous achievement.

At presentation day the following awards were distributed: Rhys Nicholls for Best and Fairest, Carl Nielson achieved the Coaches Award and the North Sydney Encouragement Awards were won by Uddhav Bhargava and Holley Grey. To the rest of the team Isabella Borskjaer, Jackson Bush, Caitlin Condon, Amanda Cooper, Elizabeth Kennedy, Sarandeep Hothi, Kevin Millingham, Kathryn Ramsay, Olivia Turnbull and Saskia Whyte – very well done on a season filled with highs and lows. See you all back at the turf in 2009.

Coach – Kate Fitton
Manager – Mercia Millingham

Under 11 Gold Report

Points Table - NA Under 11 A

Team	GP	W	D	L	B	GF	GA	GD	Points
Baulkham Hills Gold	15	15	0	0	0	66	3	63	60
Manly Red	15	9	3	3	0	24	15	9	45
Ryde Panthers	15	4	5	6	0	12	24	-12	32
GNS Red	15	4	2	9	0	14	28	-14	29
Briars	15	4	2	9	0	18	36	-18	29
Northern District Gold	15	2	2	11	0	13	41	-28	23

The Under 11 Gold team of 12 players competed in the Sydney North A pool this season. For most this was their first season in the A pool at a time when Sydney North had a very strong group of U11 players. This contributed to a strong competition that included some outstanding players in teams that had played together before at this level. With this, winning games was going to be tough for our young relatively inexperienced side.

After a couple of losses early in the season, it was clear that we had to concentrate on getting numbers in defence and defensive skills which the players responded to well. After the first round we had succeeded in stemming the goal leakage and had quite a good defensive structure, but need to work out how we were going to score goals. To our advantage we had Adam Halmy in our team who was the quickest player in the competition so the plan was set him loose on the final 2 defenders which worked to great effect. We also moved our defensive structure upfield in a press formation so we were now had periods where we could contain the ball in the opposition half and apply more pressure. At training, we had also been working on our hitting which had greatly improved and enabled us to clear our defense line more successfully. Our round 3 results show how the team had improved with a win over Gordon, almost a win over Ryde when we were foiled by a late goal, and a 3 all draw with Briars also foiled by a late opposition goal. Although losing to the top 2 sides in the final round, we performed strongly.

As a coach it was a pleasure to coach the team and their most impressive quality was that they could execute any game plan I handed them. As individuals, the players improved immensely during the season, each of them mastering their own positions and developing their individual skills. As well as that they all seemed to have fun and I hope they will continue on next year.

I would like to thank Madi Clarke my Assistant Coach for her support during the season and Adrian Wilson the Team Manager who always had everything organized. Also, I would like to thank the parents of all the children for their support.

Coach – Brian Doherty
Assistant Coach – Madi Clarke
Manager – Adrian Wilson

Under 11 Blue Report

Points Table - NA Under 11 B

Team	GP	W	D	L	B	GF	GA	GD	Points
GNS Blue	14	9	3	0	2	23	4	19	46
Sydney Uni	14	7	3	2	2	18	5	13	40
Manly Green	14	7	2	3	2	16	10	6	39
Northern District White	14	4	4	4	2	7	10	-3	32
Northern District Blue	14	3	2	7	2	13	17	-4	27
Briars/Baulkham Hills	14	1	4	7	2	3	18	-15	23
Ryde Tigers	14	0	4	8	2	2	18	-16	20

The 2008 U11 Blue team comprised Aaron, Caitlin, Callum, Chris, Dennis, Hamish, James, Louise, Matthew, Nathan, Renee, Sanjit and Tim. (Adam, the goal keeper from the Gold team, also played the last three games as a field player).

What a wonderful season– we didn't win the comp, we didn't even make the semi's but the whole team and their families were outstandingly successful. For the players, they gained the best of what Northern District Hockey seeks to provide – new friends, lots of fun, and development of hockey skills. For the supportive families, they too developed new friends and were taught great lessons about sporting values by the children as they cheered, encouraged and hoped from the sidelines. At the Club's trivia night we had a great role up and had the best dressed table. To celebrate the fun we all enjoyed, following the season's last training session the team and its families joined in a sausage sizzle.

From our team of 13 players, only three had previously played competition hockey and of the ten that had not, six were totally new to playing the game – so the team started the year with basic stick skills and no real sense of playing in a team. It presented quite a challenge for our coaches, Bruce and Malcolm, who generously and enthusiastically gave of their time to teach and care for the players. Early in the season they used to wonder if they were watching a game of tennis as the players would hit the ball and stand back to see if the opposition returned it. But by the back end of the season the teamwork was coming together and passing and calling became more a feature of the team's play.

The players' enthusiasm for the game was reflected in their strong attendances at both the games and practice – every player but Caitlin (who broke her arm mid-season) played 10 or more of our 12 matches and 9 of the team attended 12 or more of our 14 training sessions. Three players, Matthew, Callum and Sanjit were there for every game and training session.

While the team lost 7 games, 4 of these were by just one goal. The team improved against every team, except one, from the first round to the second round. We scored 3 goals in Round 1 and 10 goals in Round 2, while conceding the same number of goals in each round. The most exciting game came in Round 11 when the team won 4-0 against Briars/Baulkham Hills. This game saw all the skills come together in a wonderful display of attack and defence. The players kept to position, passed and called and worked the "W" which Bruce had been teaching them at the previous training session. Players and parents were over the moon at the display. While this game was followed up with a larger, 5-0, win against Ryde Tigers, the game against Briars was the season's best performance.

Our thanks to coaches Bruce and Malcolm for all the time they caringly gave to the team. Thank you to all the parents for their good natured sideline support and fulfilling the team's canteen and BBQ duties. And finally thank you to all the players for giving us such a fun season. Bring on next season!!

Coach - Bruce

Manager – Ian Steward

Under 11 White Report

Points Table - NA Under 11 B

Team	GP	W	D	L	B	GF	GA	GD	Points
GNS Blue	14	9	3	0	2	23	4	19	46
Sydney Uni	14	7	3	2	2	18	5	13	40
Manly Green	14	7	2	3	2	16	10	6	39
Northern District White	14	4	4	4	2	7	10	-3	32
Northern District Blue	14	3	2	7	2	13	17	-4	27
Briars/Baulkham Hills	14	1	4	7	2	3	18	-15	23
Ryde Tigers	14	0	4	8	2	2	18	-16	20

Hook in2Hockey Centre



Northern District Hockey Association was the first club in Australia to run a Hook in2 Hockey program for 2008. The program was conducted during the last week of the January school holidays at the Pennant Hills Park complex. This time was chosen in order to have the participants try hockey prior to registration day and then to hopefully sign-on for the season.

In the process the Northern Districts participants also became the first to receive the great new Hook in2 Hockey Equipment Packs consisting of a stick, ball, shin pads from the program's Official Equipment Supplier, Kookaburra Sport.

There were 22 participants (10 girls and 12 boys) aged between 5 and 13 and they were confidently led by 3 leaders, Sam, Zac & Adam all of whom play 1st or 2nd grade for our senior men's club, Norwest Strikers.

Over the week, the leaders took small groups and covered basic hockey skills of pushing, trapping, tackling, passing and receiving the ball. They played modified games and everyone had a great time

This is the 4th year Northern District Hockey has used the H2H program. The H2H program has been extremely successful with club registrations growing.

Northern District Hockey Association is very happy to have been the first Hook in2 Hockey Centre for 2008 and it would like to thank the dedicated band of leaders, the participants and their families for taking part in the H2H program.

Under 9 Report

The Under 9's numbers grew to a total of 25 players this year and also saw a change from Tuesday night training & Saturday mornings on the grass to Friday night training & games from 5:30pm on the turf, with Gordon again participating by sending a team of 8-10 kids.

Friday nights seemed to work very well for families & thanks goes to everyone that assisted during the year. Thanks to the following people: Simon Begg & Rebekah Peterson for umpiring, Christine Boxwell for assisting with the kids, Julie Osborne, Meredith Peterson & Anne Maher for assisting on canteen & running the BBQ to feed the kids.

The club season went from Term 2 through to week 3 of Term 3 & finished with a wonderful carnival run at Manly where a team of our U9's got to play games against other teams.

The program continues to be very successful in attracting younger players to the club & introducing them to hockey in a less competitive environment and building their skills and confidence prior to moving them into our U11 teams. Several players are expected to graduate to the Under 11 competition next year and hopefully the others will return back to U9's with a friend(s). This along with the club's Hook into Hockey program will continue to develop the playing future of the club.

Manager – Eileen Tudor

ND WOMEN'S 2008 Season REPORT

The season is finally over and this year the women's registrations grew significantly with 69 women registering in the women's competition and 16 girls playing in the U18 competition. Unfortunately 2 players withdrew due to injuries, 3 withdrew due to conflicting commitments and others were called away at various stages in the season, which contributed to low team numbers. With quite a number of players unavailable each week, many of the women played more than one game each week, including this seasons goalkeepers, who all played in 2 teams each week. Despite the significant increase in registered numbers, it was unfortunate that most teams struggled to field a team each week or had no substitutions.

Congratulations to all the teams on an outstanding season, and especially ND1 who were Minor Premiers of first grade and ND5 who were Minor Premiers and Premiers of third grade.

This season would not have run so successfully without the dedication and hard work of the coaches: ND1 Pappu, ND2 Graham, ND3 Daniel, ND4/ND5 Julie & Sarah and U18 Keith. Each week they gave up their valuable time to impart their experience to the players in an attempt to improve their individual skills.

After the success of such a great season, we look forward to building upwards next year with more skills to be learnt and shared, and hopefully more women registering and playing in next year's competition. So get your registrations in early next year and bring your friends along to have some fun and get some great exercise at the same time.

Thank you to all of those who made this season possible, with both their time and their continued support.

Julie Osborne - Women's Convenor

U18 Girls Report

On behalf of the team – thank you to Keith for coaching and to Alex for the emails. Also thank you to Kathy Bush for her assistance at the games.

Congratulations to the new U18 girls we hope you enjoyed it and we look forward to you playing in 2009. All the best for those who have turned 18 and will be playing seniors only next year.

Most Improved	Phoebe Kiel
Most Enthusiastic	Zoe O'Rourke

Coach – Keith
Manager – Kathy Bush

ND1 Grade Report

Most Improved	Annalese Smith
Encouragement	Kimberly Howcroft
Players Player	Xanthe Dwyer

Coach - Pappu

ND2 Report

The 2008 season provided a real challenge to the players in ND2. The team was comprised of a group of players who had various levels of experience.

The initial draw issues resulted in a huge disparity of teams abilities between the top of the pool and the bottom. It meant that we were regularly facing seasoned 1st division teams. We therefore determined that we would just do our best, learn as many new skills and strategies as possible throughout the season enjoy our hockey and see how things worked out. We were aware that the teams would be split into appropriate divisions based on the initial round (half season). I think we all expected to be at the top of 2nd Division for the second half of the season with a shot at a premiership ...having learned a great deal from playing the top teams.

As it turned out we finished the first round in 5th or 6th position ...which meant that we were included as a second ND team in the top 8 teams in 1st Division. This really lifted the challenge for our team as we knew that we were very competitive against the 2nd division teams but had suffered some solid losses against the top teams.

To all of the player's credit they knuckled down to the task at hand and brushed off the inevitable losses against the top 3 teams. We had a number of tactics / strategies that we had to employ for the various game scenarios that we encountered. This took a fair amount of learning particularly due to the challenge of work / Uni pressures etc resulting in inconsistent numbers at training or availability for pre game preparation and warm up etc. However, by the end of the season we did have a workable full team understanding of the various game plans and we had some great results ie against Manly 1 and a particularly pleasing game against the top Sydney Uni team which was one of the top four in 1st Div. We drew 2 all with them and very nearly beat them.

We went into our semi final with plenty of enthusiasm and were really unlucky to go down 3:2 in a tough encounter against SU Rollers. They scored what was a controversial goal with little time left on the clock.

Overall I was extremely pleased with our team's progress throughout the season. I was very proud of their competitive attitude and courage to keep coming back against tough opposition. I believe that every player in the team benefited from playing at the higher level. We may not have won any trophies but I think we achieved our original goals of improving our hockey skills and understanding and just enjoying the Hockey and team environment.

Special thanks to Esther for being our team manager as well as social secretary etc etc

Also special thanks to Rob Hutton for his assistance with the team throughout the year at training and for standing in for me when I was not available. He also enjoyed the experience and gained from it too.

About the team...and in no particular order (after the award winners)

Best & Fairest award. Kate Fitton. a critical player to the team worked tirelessly and developed one of the best offensive and defensive jab tackles going around.

Most consistent award. Rondy Cooksey Was our rock in defense. Always very reliable, strong tackles and great distribution.

Coaches Encouragement award. Hannah Ware...showed a great enthusiasm to learn throughout the season.scored two cracking goals in the semi final.

Gail Sramek Worked tirelessly and was most analytical about her own game and team strategies .

Siobhan Baird - A great team player and worker who linked well between the halves and the high strikers . Unfortunately work commitments reduced her playing time.

Megan Baird - A young player who made a great contribution in every game. Marks her own card extremely hard !...but was right up there in the best and fairest voting!

Tracey Brataniec - One of those players who could make a contribution in any part of the field. Defense Midfield or attack. Tracey was always very eager to learn.

Esther Mitchelson - Showed great control and played a strong central midfield role throughout the season. Played at a very high standard given her limited years of hockey experience.

Victoria Spurway - Improved significantly throughout the season and had some really great games. Perfected a neat jink which she put to great use on many occasions to get out of tight situations at left half.

Jo Harrington - struggled with shin splints for the majority of the season . Was determined to do her part and played most games. At times playing in unfamiliar positions...scored two goals in one game when playing as a high striker ...that could only walk!!

Jennifer Gollan - Had a very busy year in goals! and did a fantastic job in every game. Jen helped us to keep our score-lines respectable against some incredibly strong opposition forward lines.

Belinda Thomas - made some of the most outrageous defensive saves that I have ever seen . Was very tenacious and gave everything she had as well as making sure that the team was kept up with positive talk.

Shevaun Herson - Our top goal scorer for the season. Shevaun developed her skills and was another great worker / team player at inside forward.

Cindy Black - Unfortunately had to return to Perth half way through the season having also missed a number of games due to work commitments. A real shame as she was a natural/aggressive striker who developed a hammering tomahawk shot. I think Cindy would have made the difference in our finals campaign.

I look forward to seeing all of these players building on this years experience next season.

Graham Hutton - Coach

ND3 Report

I stand before you today - an empty shell. The broken spirits of those pitiful wretches of ND3, huddled in desperate misery, shedding silent tears of frustration. Frustration borne of their own failures. Frustration borne of their own fruitless quest for glory on battlefield.

After glorious beginnings and mighty victories against numerous foes we wrapped ourselves in the trappings of success and lost touch with our Amazon ways. Soon our victories would be naught but distant memories.

The effortless skills we displayed so early in the season became a glaucomic vision in sepia tones. Where once we experienced the elation of victories we now taste only the bitter bile of defeat.

Again and again our plates were heaped with grisly and fatty portions. What looked so palatable turned out to be less appealing than warm up laps to ND5. But perhaps I digress into the never ending mire of metaphor without end.....as is my penchant. Let me say simply....we lost our way...and last, our games.

So one year of hockey ended for ND3. Our sad family melancholy, our spirits low. Our time for reflection. For in the New Year we shall be renewed like the phoenix from the ashes. We shall gather our fallen comrades, heal their wounds (and teeth) and mend their trappings of battle. The blood that flowed from many noble and tormenting losses shall not be in vain. That blood shall be like the fuel in a midday furnace. Our foes foul presence shall be as bellows to stoke the fires hotter and higher, and from this furnace shall be forged a new steel. This steel will be wielded without compassion. The coming storm shall be our herald. In its wake only victories

So as the battle rages across the realms, and all are swept aside, futile defiance in the face of our insurmountable will, there will be no talk of Hockeyroos or Olyroos or even ND1's or ND2's. But only ND3-Aroos.... Or perhaps Snub-nosed, soft-tailed potoroos.

I haven't quite decided yet!!!!

Either way....we shall, we shall, rock you!

Best & Fairest	Jessica Morrison
Most Improved	Natalie Harrison
Most Committed Player	Vicky Shuttleworth

Daniel Johnson - Coach

ND4 Report

This year saw a complete change to ND4 from the previous year with 9 new players joining the team and for five of these ladies it was only their second season of playing hockey. Every week our attack improved and our defence was difficult to breach. In many of our games we were defeated by only one goal and even though we finished in 6th place, this does not reflect how close many of the games actually were.

For most of the season we had difficulty fielding a full team, with many games being played by only 10 players. Thankfully we had some players from other ND teams filling the gaps. Unfortunately the study, work and travel commitments that affected players attending the games also had an impact on training, which was usually quite scarce. There was a core group of about 6 players that attended training consistently and it was evident in the games as the season progressed, as their skills and confidence improved. Despite the low numbers at training, the team more than made up for it in enthusiasm.

A big thank you to:-

- Sarah for coaching the team in my absence
- The ladies from other teams who played for us – Meredith, Kerry, Glenys, Jane, Donna and Lizzie.

Most Improved	Mel Efstathiou
Best & Fairest	Fiona Shields
Encouragement Award	Talone Higgins

Coaches - Julie & Sarah Osborne

ND5 Report

Premiers for 2008

2008 was the inaugural year for ND5 – this team consisted of the more mature women whose children play hockey or who were friends of women whose children played hockey. We had a registered team of 18 players and throughout the season only played short twice.

With an average age of 43 years we managed to win more than we lost and eventually succeeded in being the Minor Premiers.

Thanks must go to Julie and Sarah Osborne for encouraging those able to attend training to fine tune their skills. With their help and sheer tenacity after being defeated by Ryde in the last round and the semi-finals we can back to win the grand Final 4 – 2 on a freezing cold storm interrupted afternoon.

Thank you to Virginia – our intrepid goalie and Donna C – our extremely efficient Manager as well as the rest of our supporters, we were nothing without the constant encouragement (?!?!?!?) from the laughing spectators.

Team Awards for 2008

Most Committed Player Kerry Scott
Encouragement Award Christine Boxwell

Looking forward to another great season in 2008.

The “Hot Flushes”

Men’s Veterans Report

Northern District is home to a Men’s Veterans (“Vets”) team that plays in the Sydney Men’s Veterans Hockey Association.

The competition tends to be on Monday & Wednesday nights at Homebush (both Olympic pitch & Pitch 2), with occasional games at Cintra (Burwood) & Moorebank. Umpires are provided by Sydney Men’s Hockey.

Qualification age is 40, however there is now a rule to encourage gradual integration of players, so teams can have one 37 y/old, 1 x 38 & 1 x 39. Or 3 x 39 or 2 x 38 & 1 x 39.

Northern District Vets team has a great ethos of playing sportingly, trying to win, but not at the cost of not enjoying the spirit of hockey.

The season was well organised – Sydney Hockey did a good job with the organisation. The season started with one large “B Division”, divided into two pools. After 7 games the division was split into “B” and “C”, each with 8 teams. This made for more competitive games, with few uneven match-ups.

ND had a good start, but several early injuries. Scrappy, played some wonderful games as keeper before a significant workplace injury broke his foot. Luckily Greg

stepped in and kept us honest with some equally good keeping. After 7 games, ND had 2 wins, 2 draws, 3 losses, which just saw us into Div C.

C Division compromised: Easts, Glebe, Macarthur, Manly, Northern Districts, Ramblers, Ryde, Southern Highlands.

Points Table - C Division:

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	Points
Southern Highlands	14	7	3	4	43	34	9	24
Manly	14	6	4	4	37	23	14	22
Macarthur	14	5	4	5	33	26	7	19
Northern District	14	5	3	6	27	32	-5	18
Glebe	14	3	4	7	19	24	-5	13
Ramblers	14	2	3	9	24	45	-21	9
Ryde	14	1	5	8	13	36	-23	8
Easts	14	1	3	10	8	45	-37	6

This meant ND earned a spot in the Semi-Finals:

Semi-finals **Southern Highlands** (2) vs **Manly** (3) **Northern District** (1) vs **Macarthur** (2)

Preliminary final Preliminary final **Southern Highlands** (1) vs **Macarthur** (2)

Grand final **Manly** (10) vs **Macarthur** (8)

As the results show, we were very unlucky not to earn a Finals berth. But drinks all round for a fine season of friendship, teamwork & enjoyment. See you all next year!

Contact for further details:

Chris Jenkins on chris.jenkins@se1.bp.com

Turf Committee Report

This year the major work undertaken was to install an Electronic Scoreboard and a Public Address system. That now brings our turf facilities up with the best of the club owned grounds.

That is not to say that is the end of the vision held 5 years ago, there is more that can be done such as shelter and seating for spectators and improvement to the surrounds of the turf area to minimize the transfer of dirt and vegetation onto the surface.

Turf bookings this year have increased, and with that, there is the increased workload on those volunteers that open and close the field, clean change rooms, team dugouts, surrounding grass areas, and work in the canteen and on the BBQ. My thanks to all those members, players, parents who have assisted with this work during the past year.

There are a vast number of small jobs that need to be attended to, on and off the turf, to care for and maintain our facilities. This year two working bee's were organized to carry out maintenance on our goals and dugouts, and reorganize the canteen and storeroom, including the installation of additional shelving. Many thanks to those volunteers that assisted with this work and achieved majority of the identified tasks. Unfortunately the list grows and we will be planning another working bee early in the 2009.

SHA, a major hirer of our turf, has this year checked the lighting of all Sydney synthetic turfs. Hockey Australia has provided lighting guidelines for major competitions having night games.

Testing has shown that all fields failed to meet the base specification. We are currently seeking a quote to improve the lighting on our field. Initial enquiries indicate that a sizeable sum of money may be needed to carry out this upgrade.

The committee would be interested in hearing from any NDHA member, or a family member, who is willing to contribute, assist or advise us throughout the year in the many areas of facilities management, repairs and maintenance. Please contact a committee member if you would like to have your details recorded.

The Turf Committee thanks all volunteers for your contribution in 2008 particularly those that are leaving the Junior side of NDHA this year.

Turf Convener - Pat McCabe