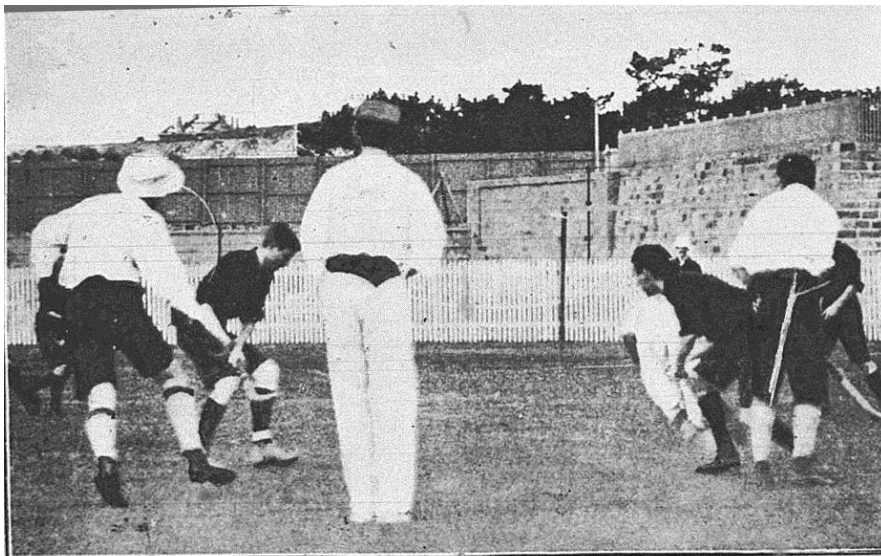




Sydney Uni
Hockey Club

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of our Club

A 2013 Perspective



A CRITICAL MOMENT IN THE CORINTHIANS—UNIVERSITY HOCKEY MATCH.

Sydney University Hockey Club is proud to be the oldest surviving hockey club in NSW and the oldest university hockey club in Australia. We started in 1906 and are the only club (surviving or otherwise) that was involved in creating the first men's and women's hockey competitions in NSW

Brett Radcliffe, Rowan Johnston and Anne Simmons
October 2103. V1.0

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

Research by Sydney University Hockey Club archivist Brett Radcliffe and others has significantly changed our knowledge of our own history, and has shed new light on the history of hockey in Sydney, in New South Wales and even in Australia.

Sydney University Hockey Club is proud to be the oldest surviving hockey club in NSW, the oldest university hockey club in Australia and probably the third oldest surviving club in Australia. We started in or before 1906 and are the only club (surviving or otherwise) that was involved in creating the first men's and women's hockey competitions in NSW.

There are records of Sydney University's men's team playing in 1906 and our women in 1907. Early in 1906 our men's team was strong enough to beat the previously invincible Navy team, which suggests they may have played before. If we started as early as 1905, we'd be equal oldest, but a 1906 start means (we think) third oldest.

We do not yet have proof a team was playing in 1905: even our own team of 1906 is hard to trace. We need help on this. The players recorded up to 1909 are listed below, along with other early teams linked to them, and it seems many of them may have played sport together at Sydney Grammar School (SGS). Does anyone know more? Does anyone have access to diaries or personal papers for these people? Does anyone have more old team lists? Please send any information you might have to webmaster@suhc.asn.au.

Identified University Players 1906-09 and Their Other Team Links					
		Sydney University	AGP/Syd Univ teams+	Sydneians	Sydney Grammar School
HK	Archdall	1907			<i>Old boy</i>
AH	Brown	1909			
M	Bundock	1907, 1908			
A	Butler	1907, 1908	1906		
CH	Cohen	1909*		1907, 1908	<i>Old boy</i>
CR	Cran	1909*			<i>Old boy</i>
COG	Donovan	1909*		1907	<i>Old boy</i>
FA	Eastaugh	1908*			
J	Edwards	1907, 1908			
N	Fitzhill	1908, 1909			
	French	1907			
F	Gaffney	1909			
	Garnock	1907			
WE	Giblin		1906		
G	Hay	1907	1906		
PM	Hinton	1908			<i>Old boy</i>
G	Howatson	1907, 1908			
WK	Inglis	1907, 1908, 1909	1906	1907	1906 team
CH	Kaeppel	1909		1907	<i>Old boy</i>
C	Keith-Cohen	1909			<i>Old boy</i>
WAF	Latimer	1909			<i>Old boy</i>
AS	Lloyd	1908, 1909		1907	1906 team
C	Manning	1907			
H	Manning	1907, 1908	1906		
N	Markwell	1907			
J	McBryde	1908			
A	Morrison	1907	1906		
JT	Paton	1907, 1908, 1909	1906		
NK	Robertson	1907, 1908, 1909	1906	1907	1906 team
KMH	Solomon	1909		1907	<i>Old boy</i>
LC	Terry	1909*		1908	
ABS	White	1908			

*Still playing in the 1912 Sydney University teams + Uni and/or AG Purves teams

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

Hockey's First Appearances in Australia

There are ball and stick games throughout history, but hockey as we know it seems to have come from the Irish game of Hurlley and the Scottish game of Shinty in the 1800s. Hockey was a recognised game early in the 1800s in England¹, but it was not a common team sport until the second half of the century. One theory is that it became popular as a winter sport for cricketers. The first known organised hockey club was the Blackheath Football and Hockey Club from 1861. London's Teddington Club introduced the rules that now define hockey around 1871. These rules were formalised for all clubs in England in 1886².

Hockey grew strongly in the 1880s and 1890s. In 1905 C. J. B. Marriott, a former English Rugby captain, bemoaned that challenges to rugby in 1905 included that "five-and-twenty years ago or less, golf was only played by the few, and the game of hockey little known"³. English children were said to be taking to hockey as well as rugby and cricket by 1885⁴.

Hockey was popular in the British army and navy. Navy officers and sailors played hockey at sea⁵, and when in ports⁶, meaning it was carried to its colonies. India, New Zealand, South Australia and Western Australia took it up quickly. The State Library of NSW has an etching of Hyde Park in 1880 that shows hockey players near Lyon's Terrace (near Liverpool Street)⁷.

There are numerous references to games being played around Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century. Its name often varies even in the same reports, though, possibly because the rules were still variable. For example, the Launceston Examiner reported that:

"a game of hockey, shinty, or hurling, as it is variously called"

would be played at the racecourse in Melbourne in January 1862⁸. On St Patrick's Day 1877 in Warwick, Queensland, Captain Duggan's team won a game of that was called both hockey and hurling in the same report⁹.

Not all references to hockey are favourable. An 1879 correspondent to the Gippsland Times wanted it banned¹⁰. In 1888 14yo William Burton was fined 5 shillings (or given 6 hours imprisonment) for playing hockey in Bathurst Street, Sydney¹¹. In 1891 some councils in Western Australia also sought to ban hockey¹². In 1900 Sydney residents complained that:

"Iarrikins...congregated on a vacant piece of land, at the intersection of Wellington and St. Mary's streets, every Sunday (and) played hockey, cricket, etc"¹³.

-
- 1 Sir Stafford Northcote, English Chancellor of the Exchequer, for example, was a good hockey player at school in England even in the 1830s – SMH, 4 Feb 1888, p.8
 - 2 see <http://www.teddingtonhc.com/default.aspx?id=13> accessed 27 September 2013
 - 3 Evening News, Sydney, 23 March 1905, p.2
 - 4 Mercury and Weekly Courier, Adelaide, 23 Oct 1885, p. 3
 - 5 Eg The Register (Adelaide), 24 Oct 1902, p.6
 - 6 For example, the crews of HMS Juno and St George played an exhibition game in Albany in 1901: Albany Advertiser (WA) 19 July 1901, p.3
 - 7 Lyon's Terrace, Hyde Park, 1880
 - 8 Launceston Examiner (Tas), Thursday 2 January 1862, p.2
 - 9 Warwick Argus and Tenterfield Chronicle (Qld), Thursday 22 March 1877, p.2
 - 10 Gippsland Times (Vic), Wednesday 3 September 1879, p.3
 - 11 Sydney Morning Herald (SMH), 18 Dec 1888, p.4
 - 12 The Cambridge town council in WA declared hockey to be a dangerous game and a nuisance to the public, and refused to allow it to be played on Parker's piece in 1892 - . The Inquirer & Commercial News (Perth, WA), 28 Oct 1891, p.6
 - 13 Evening News, Sydney, 24 September 1900, p.3

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

Hockey was nevertheless becoming a mainstream sport. This was helped by its inclusion in influential sporting guidebooks, such as the 1890 "Handbook of Athletic Sports" by Ernest Bell, M.A. This book covered cricket, lawn tennis, tennis rackets, fives, golf, and hockey, which put it in elite company. Oxford and Cambridge even included hockey in their annual sporting competitions from 1890.

The first known organised hockey match (rather than game) in Australia was in South Australia on 17 June 1880. The men from the town of Two Wells played the men from Port Gawler Station at Buckland Park¹⁴ in a match that was reported on 20 July 1880. In 1880 Port Gawler was a busy trading port¹⁵, so its staff may have learned hockey from the navy, while the men from the town were said to be new to the game¹⁶. This was noted as a return game, so it was clearly not the first hockey match played here. These teams played again in 1881¹⁷.

The first recorded school hockey game (according to our research) was in 1896, when boys from Way College in Adelaide played those from Whinham College¹⁸. Women's hockey games were recorded in Adelaide in 1901¹⁹ and Bunbury²⁰ and Fremantle²¹ in Western Australia had Ladies' Hockey Clubs by 1902. The first girls' inter-school game was apparently in Victoria in 1903 between Lauriston and Ruyton²². The Perth Girl's Team was playing in the same year, but it had to play a team of men²³.

In 1903 Cambridge School, a girls' school in Hunters Hill, advertised that it provided hockey²⁴, and it played at least one game that year, but the only known game was between its own pupils²⁵. The two earliest games were for boys or men, though, which undermines the view that early organised hockey was only for women, or that girls' schools started the game here.

Hockey's Tentative Start in Sydney

The 1880 etching confirms hockey was known in Sydney, but organised hockey was not played here until at least 1905.

In 1899 CG Hatte's store in Newtown was offering all sorts of sporting club equipment²⁶ and asking that hockey and hurling club members visit him²⁷. He did not, though, specifically advertise hockey equipment for sale²⁸. In 1899 *The Referee* also plaintively asked:

14 The South Australian Advertiser, 20 July 1880, p.5

15 The Port has long since closed – but read the very frank account of what's left on flickr - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/imagegallery/3282880831/> accessed 1 October 2013

16 A Gawler Hockey Club and a Two Wells Hockey Club still exist in South Australia, but they do not trace their history back to 1880. It is highly unlikely they existed continuously through the last century

17 South Australian Register, Tuesday 20 September 1881, p.6

18 From the Speech Day report for 1896 in The Chronicle (SA), 26 December 1896, p.19

19 The Advertiser (Adelaide), 23 August 1901, p.8

20 Bunbury Herald (WA), 22 April 1902, p.2 – although the report says they will play "shinty" matches

21 The West Australian, 9 May 1902, p.7

22 Girls' Schools Sport & Girls Sport Victoria - a History, from <http://www.gsv.vic.edu.au/aboutus/history.php> accessed 24 September 2013

23 Bunbury Herald (WA), Friday 5 June 1903, p.2

24 Cambridge Girls' School in Hunters Hill had a team in 1903 – SMH, 24 June 1908, p.5

25 SMH, 27 September 1934, p.29 S

26 Access to hockey equipment was an issue. Some years before hand clubs in Victoria could not organise games because they could not get sticks – eg Camperdown Chronicle (Vic), Thursday 21 May 1896, p.2

27 The Referee (Sydney), 20 Sept 1899, p.8

28 There is a sad footnote to this. Mr CG Hatte came from a famous hockey-playing family in Ireland. One of his brothers died a few years later as a result of an accident playing hockey.

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

“When will someone enthusiastic start hockey in Sydney? It is a fine ball game and would probably take well in the Winter. Hurling has taken root here amongst the Irishmen, but so far the Englishmen have not introduced hockey, or the Scotchmen shinty. A considerable amount of hockey is played in the South Island of New Zealand²⁹.”

There is a report of a hockey association in Gladesville in 1900³⁰, a club in Yass in 1901³¹ and a club (the Corona Club) in Burwood in 1902³², although there is no record of the Corona Club actually playing³³. Navy teams played in Sydney in 1903,³⁴ although the opposition may have been an Australian ship’s crew³⁵. The Navy (or Fleet) teams were usually British: the Australian navy was not founded until 1913. The attractions of Glebe Point on a Sunday morning in June 1904 were also reported to be:

“several football matches, a hockey match, and a fight, also service at the Chinese Joss House³⁶.”

The teams are not named, and there is nothing to show the games were part of a competition.

In 1934, an ex-pupil of Cambridge School recalled how she played in the school’s first game of hockey in 1903³⁷, which she thought was Sydney’s first game. Even if it was not the first game, it may well have been the first time hockey was played in Sydney as part of an intended hockey competition, rather than solely as one-off entertainment, or as part of an informal “keep fit” agenda.

Cambridge School said it had difficulty securing equipment for its girls in 1903³⁸, but interest in hockey was strong enough by 1904 for the leading department stores to be advertising hockey equipment. In May that year Anthony Hordern and Sons offered³⁹:

HOCKEY STICKS, Ash Blades, 4/6; with Cane Handle, 5/9.
Hockey Regulation Balls, 3/3 each.

This may be partly because hockey was growing strongly as a sport in girls’ schools. A 1905 journal said:

“Hockey, in particular, is the schoolgirl’s delight, and almost every large school for girls, of from 12 upwards, now has its hockey club or some other club associated with outdoor exercise; indeed, it is quite a usual thing to meet a band of schoolgirls armed with hockey clubs, sallying forth on week-day afternoons⁴⁰.”

29 The Referee (Sydney), 2 August 1899, p.6

30 The Gladesville Hockey Association’s only recorded activity was conducting paper chases: The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta), 21 July 1900, p.10

31 SMH, 28 June 1901, p.5

32 SMH, 12 May 1902, p.4

33 A club called Corona applied to join the men’s hockey competition in 1908 but was not connected to this club - The Arrow (Sydney), 4 April 1908, p.11

34 SMH, 27 April 1903, p.4

35 The opponents from the Macquarie (a mercantile marine training ship until 1903) were differentiated from “the Naval side”

36 Evening News (Sydney), Mon 6 June 1904, p.2

37 SMH, 27 September 1934, p.29 S

38 SMH, 27 September 1934, p.29 S

39 SMH, 30 May 1904, p.1

40 Australian Town and Country Journal, 19 April 1905, p.42

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

Despite this interest, we have no records of an organised hockey competition for girls' schools at the time. It may not yet have existed: even in 1908 some schools (including Cambridge School) put teams in the new women's competition⁴¹.

Sydney's First Hockey Clubs

Sydney's first hockey clubs appeared in 1905. The first was the Wandah Ladies Hockey Club⁴², which was organised by Misses Phyllis and Nancy Clubbe.

The Clubbe sisters had learned hockey at school in England, and formed the Wandah club when they returned to Sydney. In July 1905 Wandah had 45 members and fielded two teams⁴³, which played at Birchgrove and Rushcutters Bay Ovals. Their games that year included matches (mixed) against a Navy team (the officers of HMS Euryalus)⁴⁴, a mixed team from Manly and against students (past and present) of Sydney Grammar School⁴⁵ (SGS). The girls' team apparently had some advantages when playing men in these mixed games: there were complaints that the women stopped the ball with their skirts⁴⁶.



Women's hockey teams playing at Manly in 1905

A club called Corinthian is regarded as the first men's hockey club in Sydney⁴⁷. Corinthians was also formed in 1905⁴⁸, although we have no record of it playing that year. Other men's teams did play then. In addition to the SGS students (past and present), teams called Austral Club (possibly members of a cricket club in Kogarah)⁴⁹ and Hygeia Sporting Club (no information yet found) played at least once at Centennial Park in 1905⁵⁰. Neither Austral nor Hygeia is mentioned again as a hockey team. The SGS team did play again in 1906 and could be Sydney's first ongoing men's team although, as discussed later, its parentage and fate is uncertain.

It is also possible that men's teams were playing hockey matches at this time within some agreed structure, and that Sydney may have even had a representative hockey as early as

41 IGSSA, for example, began only in 1922

42 Sydney Mail, 19 July 1905, p.164

43 Sydney Mail, 19 July 1905, p.164

44 On 1 June 1905 at Birchgrove – SMH, 10 June 1905, p.6

45 The team was identified as Sydney Grammar School in the 1905 and 1906 press, but hockey was not a school sport, and the school's magazine makes no reference to the team or games.

46 Sydney Mail, 19 July 1905, p.164

47 Australian Town and Country Journal, 26 September 1906, p.51

48 Sydney Mail, 20 June 1906, p.1649.

49 Also possibly a ship, although the "Austral" in Sydney usually meant a ship that sank here in 1882.

50 SMH, 4 Oct 1905, p.12

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

1905. This arises because *The Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People* of 30 September 1905 had a photo of “The Sydney Hockey team Selected for Melbourne”. Unfortunately there are no names, dates or other details⁵¹, and we cannot confirm the team even went to Melbourne.



THE SYDNEY HOCKEY TEAM SELECTED FOR MELBOURNE.

Does anyone recognise the people or place? Is it ice hockey?

Sydney University Hockey Club Emerges

Sydney University's hockey team started sometime between 1905, when Corinthian was formed, and May 1906, when it is first recorded as playing. The latest start date for the club is 26 May 1906, because on that day a team identified solely as a “University XI”⁵² played at the SCG (No 2).

The University team was identified in a range of ways around that time. It was called “Mr Purves’ team”⁵³ for a game on 19 May 1906, “an XI from the University”⁵⁴, “University”⁵⁵ in relation to a game on 16 June 1906 (or perhaps many weeks earlier (see below)), and “Mr Purves’ University team”⁵⁶ in relation to a game on 23 June 1906. Taken together, it was clearly a University team, and Mr AG Purves clearly organised it. A newspaper report in June 1906 also described it as an established club, which increases the likelihood it first played well before May 1906⁵⁷.

51 *The Newsletter: an Australian Paper for Australian People*, 30 September 1905, p.5

52 The University of Sydney was the only university in Sydney in 1906

53 SMH, 19 May 1906, p.5

54 SMH, 29 May 1906, p.6

55 SMH, 23 June 1906, p.2 and p.15

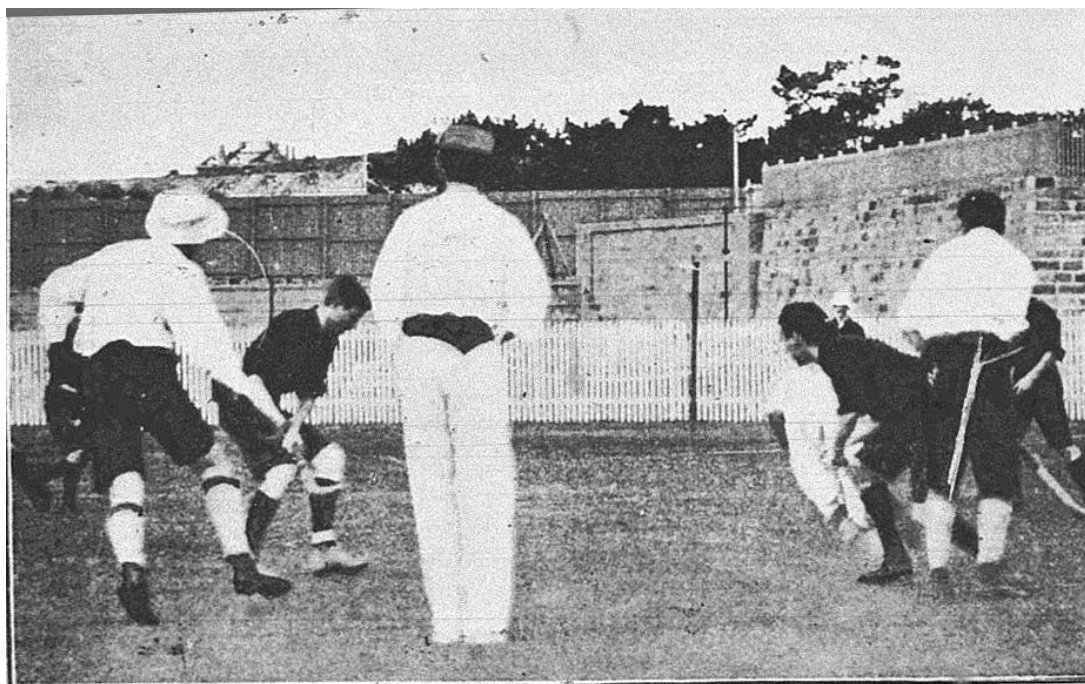
56 Sunday Times (Sydney), 24 June 1906, p. 8

57 Sydney Mail, 20 June 1906, p.1649

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

The man who organised the University team, AG Purves (1874-1955), was a major figure in Sydney University sports and in sports administration. He was clearly a talented sportsman. He and his family had many links to the University (although we do not know of any to SGS). His grandfather was a fellow of the University's first Senate⁵⁸. His father was a Sydney University rower and graduate, and held an honorary role at the University from 1898 onwards⁵⁹. AG Purves was stroke of Sydney University's VIII in 1896 and 1898, a member of the NSW VIII in 1900, captain of the Sydney University Rowing Club in 1901-02, coach of the Sydney University VIII in 1902 and 1903⁶⁰ and an office bearer of the Sydney University Boat Club for many years. He was also an office bearer and selector for the Sydney University Hockey Club and Cricket Club, a noted golf and tennis player, a member of the University Sports Association and a director of the Sydney University Club⁶¹. He was a formidable hockey player⁶² as well, although we do not know when or where he learned his skills.

The Sydney Mail of 20 June 1906 had a report on a Corinthians v University hockey match, as well as photo of the victors (Corinthians by 2-1) and a photo of the live action⁶³. This is likely to be the first photo of Sydney University Hockey Club - or any Sydney men's hockey team – in action.



A CRITICAL MOMENT IN THE CORINTHIANS—UNIVERSITY HOCKEY MATCH.

The June 1906 newspaper action photo of a Sydney University hockey game

It is unclear when or where the pictured game was played. Corinthian's playing schedule from 5 May to 16 June is known from the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) weekly advertisements,

58 Alan Dougan, 'Purves, William (1811–1870)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/purves-william-4420/text7217>, accessed 7 October 2013

59 SMH, 18 Sept 1915, p.4

60 History of Australian Rowing, <http://www.rowinghistory-aus.info/university-championships/1902.php> accessed 1 October 2013

61 He was a student at Sydney University, but does not appear to have graduated.

62 He was in the NSW XI in 1907 – SMH, 15 June 1907, p.16

63 Sydney Mail, Wed 20 June 1906, p.1649

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

and we played them twice. The University team (howsoever described) drew 3-3 with Corinthian on 19 May 1906⁶⁴, and the Sunday Times reported a 2-0 loss by Sydney University to Corinthian on 16 June 1906⁶⁵. If the 16 June result was indeed a 2-0 loss, then either the Sydney Mail had the wrong score, or the game depicted in the paper on 20 June 1906 was played before 5 May that year.

There are several reasons to think the team had been formed before the 1906 season and therefore possibly in 1905. The season appears to have started officially on 5 May, and on Saturday 26 May 1906 the University XI beat the highly-rated team from HMS Powerful (which had replaced HMS Euryalus) by 2-1⁶⁶. This was the Navy team's only loss for the year. This win over the champion Navy team early in the season, the 19 May draw with highly-rated Corinthians and the close 16 June loss indicate that, even at the beginning of 1906, Sydney University was a quality team.

In addition, only one of the few teams playing in June 1906 is described as "new"⁶⁷. This was "Mr Moore's team", which became the Pilgrims club. This suggests that in 1906 the University team was already seen as an "old" or established team.

One possible explanation is that the team called the "SGS students (past and present)" in 1905 morphed into (or was really) the University team of 1906. Hockey was not and is not a school sport at SGS, and the 1905 and 1906 teams are not listed in any SGS school records. The SGS teams of 1906 appear to have had a number of "past" students who were already at Sydney University⁶⁸. The list at the beginning of this article highlights just how many of the University's early hockey players were former SGS students⁶⁹.

Sydney University Sports Union (SUSU) set the requirements for being a member of SUSU, which meant eligibility for a University team. In 1905 had to have matriculated and be studying at Sydney University, be a graduate of Sydney or another recognised University, or have been an SUSU member before the latest (1903) eligibility changes⁷⁰. Amateurism and sporting team eligibility were common topics then⁷¹, and the players would have been alert to the requirements, which were being tightened over time⁷². Having players like WK Inglis and AS Lloyd⁷³ (a future NSW rep) in a University team would have been problematic: they were still at school (SGS) and clearly had not matriculated. The players may therefore have called themselves "SGS students (past and present)" for this 1905 social game, rather than using the University name, because it avoided some complex formalities.

The idea that the team used the SGS name as a "name of convenience" in 1905 does not explain everything. For one, a team called SGS still played at least twice in 1906 after the University team was in place (8 June and 15 June)⁷⁴. One game was even on the same day

64 Evening News (Sydney), Sat 19 May 1906, p.5

65 Sunday Times (Sydney), 17 June 1906, p.8

66 SMH, Tuesday 29 May 1906, p.6

67 Sunday Times (Sydney), 24 June 1906, p.8

68 SGS probably supplied more students to Sydney University than any other school at the time. Some 5% of students passing the Uni entrance exam came from SGS even in 1910. In earlier years the percentage of University students who had attended SGS was even higher.

69 In 1909, eight of the 14 Sydney University hockey players who went to Melbourne for the first Intersarsity (IV) game came from SGS. Two others had been selected but could not go - The Sydneian, No. CCl, Sept 1909, p.23

70 Calendar for the University of Sydney for the Year 1905, Angus & Robertson 1905, p.418

71 This debate caused Rugby League and Rugby Union to split just a few years later (in 1908)

72 Prior to 1903 anyone who had matriculated and studied for a year at University was also eligible – see 1901 Calendar. Prior to SUSU's formation in 1890 different teams set their own rules.

73 We assume they might have played. There is no team list, but it's hard to imagine them sitting out the opportunity.

74 Evening News (Sydney), 8 June 1906, p.1 and Evening News (Sydney), 15 June 1906, p.1

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

that University played⁷⁵. However, it is possible the SGS name was still used so the schoolboys could play while the SUSU rules were being clarified. Something must have been agreed (or the hockey players found they could go under the radar) because at least two University players later in 1906 were still at school.

A second but lesser issue is that SGS students called themselves “Sydneians”, and a club that was formed in 1907 (with several former SGS students) also called itself “Sydneians”. This club had no formal links to SGS or its Old Boys association, though, so the name could have been meant as a broad reference to being residents of Sydney, rather than being school-specific. This club only lasted until 1909⁷⁶. Interestingly, in 1912 the SGS Old Boys actually decided to form their own hockey club and naturally enough called it “Sydneians”. There was no suggestion this team was linked to a previous team, or that this was anything but SGS’s first hockey initiative.⁷⁷

The First Organised Men’s Hockey Competition in Sydney

A series of organised hockey games took place in Sydney in 1906. They were mostly for men’s teams, but they also included matches with Wandah. The games were on Saturdays and were usually advertised in the Amusements section of the SMH on Friday and Saturday. The Amusements section had match details for hockey as well as rugby, Australian Football, British Association Football, hurling, cycling, lacrosse, coursing and other sports. On 23 June 1906, for example, the SMH advertised:⁷⁸

SYDNEY CRICKET GROUND,
(Northern Ground.)
TO-DAY. TO-DAY.

HOCKEY.
UNIVERSITY v CORINTHIAN 2nd.

LACROSSE.
MARRICKVILLE v NORTH SYDNEY,
3 p.m.
ADMISSION, 6d.

Sydney University won that game 4-0.

The advertisements were probably placed by the clubs or the grounds, as there was no central body organising the competition. The SMH advertisements all cover Corinthian games, so that club may have taken this initiative. Other clubs may therefore have played games which were not publicised because they wanted to avoid this cost (if any), although the match reports in the various Sydney papers correspond well with the advertised games.

The First Men’s Hockey Association

In 1907 Sydney’s men’s hockey clubs agreed to create the New South Wales Hockey Association. This appeared to result from the need to co-ordinate their games as there were already eight clubs and 12 teams playing⁷⁹, with more being formed. The first meeting for this was on 30 May 1907⁸⁰ and was chaired by English lawyer AM Hemsley of Corinthians. When

75 Sunday Times (Sydney), Sunday 17 June 1906, p.8

76 The Referee (Sydney), 6 April 1910, p.11

77 The Sydneian No. CCXI, April 1912, p.27

78 SMH, 23 June 1906, p.2

79 SMH, 31 May 1907, p.10

80 SMH, 31 May 1907, p.10

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

the Association met in July to decide its rules AG Purves chaired the meeting⁸¹. He was also elected a vice president of the Association at the 1909 AGM⁸².

The Sydney clubs decided to follow the English principles of amateur athletics. Games like hockey were solely for pleasure, exercise and honour gained, and playing well was more important than being the winning team. These principles extended as far as not even having medals or trophies for the competition winners⁸³. Amateurism was a very important topic in 1907 – it split football in Sydney into Rugby League and Rugby Union later that same year.

The clubs playing during 1907 were Balmain (did not play after 1907), Bandits (did not play after 1922), Barbarians (did not play after 1912⁸⁴), Corinthians (merged into Bohemians in 1922⁸⁵, who then folded before the 1923 season), Navy/Fleet (left town after the 1912 season), Hunters Hill (did not play after 1907), Sydneians (disbanded 1909: SGS Old Boys took the name in 1912⁸⁶ but disbanded in 1922), Pilgrims (last played in 1922, but had a 2nd grade cup named for them in 1929) and University (that's us, still going strong). A Corona Club began in 1908, but it was regarded as a new club⁸⁷. The Corona Club of 1902 may not have gone beyond the initial meeting or press report.

From 1908 to 1910 a range of grounds were used including Rushcutters Bay Oval, Sydney Cricket Ground No. 2, Gladesville, Crescent Oval (Cook's River, Marrickville), Luke's Park (Burwood), Imperial Oval (also in Marrickville, we think), Hawkesbury Agricultural College Oval, Chatswood, Waverley Oval and Victoria Barracks⁸⁸.

Issues mentioned in the match reports for the men's hockey games through 1907 and 1908 included grounds, games starting late, too little stick skills⁸⁹, lack of umpires, potential need to pay umpires, lack of teamwork and the need for a dedicated hockey ground. In 1909 they also noted that a Veterans team would be formed because:

“(the game) is now played too strenuously for those men who are not as young as they were, and who through pressure of business and other reasons are unable to train regularly. It is expected that this club will afford such men an afternoon's amusement without about four days' stiffness and discomfort”⁹⁰

We have moved forward over a hundred years, and little has changed...

Early Discrepancies over Sydney's Founding Men's Clubs

Even by 1910 there were differing accounts of the teams which had been involved in hockey in Sydney in 1905 and 1906.

A 1909 English book asserted that Corinthian Hockey Club began in 1905, and that this was quickly followed by the formation of the Barbarians, the Pilgrims, and the Sydney Grammar School (past and present)⁹¹. We know though that SGS was playing before Corinthian was

81 Evening News (Sydney), 17 July 1907, p.10

82 Evening News (Sydney), 26 Mar 1909, p.2

83 Sunday Times (Sydney), 18 May 1913 p.16

84 SMH, 7 May 1913, p.5

85 The Arrow (Sydney), 12 May 1922, p.9

86 Referee (Sydney), 18 September, 1912 p. 8, and The Sydneian No. CCXI, April 1912, p.27

87 The Arrow (Sydney), 4 April 1908, p.11

88 See eg The Referee (Sydney), 6 April 1910, p.11

89 The Arrow (Sydney), 4 April 1908, p.11

90 The Referee (Sydney) 4 Aug 1909 p.12

91 Eustace E White, The Complete Hockey Player, London, 1909, p.144

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

formed, and that Sydney University played before Pilgrims was formed, so this list is not a full list of 1906 teams.

It is possible University and Barbarians were grouped together because the Barbarians were recruited mainly from Sydney University⁹². They were clearly separate teams, though, and have separate team lists for a game between them in June 1907⁹³. Interestingly, three Barbarians were even on the Sydney University Cricket Club Committee at the time (ABS White, AG Purves and H Manning). The amateurism principles at the time meant that people were happy to support multiple teams if it ensured a good game. Indeed, the University Hockey Club's own committee of 1909 included CM Macnaghten⁹⁴ (Barbarians/Corinthians) and FA Eastaugh (Barbarians) as well as White and Purves.

Another discrepancy (and contradiction) is a 1910⁹⁵ newspaper report by "CMM" (presumably Macnaghten) on the demise of the 1907-1909 Sydneians. The report indicated that Sydneians was one of four clubs playing four years earlier (ie in 1906). He named the others as Corinthians, Barbarians, and the Fleet, although we know that Sydney University, SGS and Pilgrims were playing in 1906, as well as Corinthians, Barbarians, and the Fleet. It is possible that Macnaghten (a lawyer) differentiated between large, established institutions like the University and SGS and the brand-new, smaller and more transient hockey clubs.

The First Women Hockey Players in Sydney

The Cambridge School, a girls' school in Hunters Hill, played its first game of hockey in 1903⁹⁶, but the first dedicated Sydney's women's hockey team appears to have been Wandah Hockey Club, which started in 1905.



Women hockey players (Wandah included) at Manly in 1905⁹⁷

Wandah played a mixed Manly team in 1905, as well as some school and men's teams⁹⁸. Games between Wandah and men's teams were advertised in 1906⁹⁹ although not in 1907, when the men's hockey association began.

92 SMH, 20 September 1906, p.10

93 SMH, 15 July 1907, p.10

94 CM Macnaghten graduated from Cambridge in 1901, came to Sydney around 1903 and was involved with Sydney hockey from 1905 as player, umpire and administrator. His unusual life story includes being at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. Chris Clark, 'Macnaghten, Charles Melville (1879–1931)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/macnaghten-charles-melville-7426/text12925> , accessed 7 October 2013.

95 The Referee (Sydney), 6 April 1910, p.11

96 SMH, 27 September 1934, p.29 S

97 Sydney Mail, 19 July 1905, p.164

98 Sydney Mail, 19 July 1905, p.164

99 SMH, Saturday 7 July 1906, p. 2

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

Hockey had a reputation for being popular with men and women wherever it was played. Sydney's *World News* wrote in 1907:

“Few games have made so much progress of recent years as hockey and the twin game, shinty, which is played mostly in Scotland. Hockey, as an expert has said, has served a very hard novitiate, battling for years in the teeth of opposition and prejudice. It has gained immensely in popularity from the fact that girls play it. The enthusiasm which hockey can create was shown the other day at Ottawa, where 2000 spectators stayed all night in the waiting line, with the thermometer at zero, and ultimately fought among themselves and with the police for a chance to buy tickets”¹⁰⁰.

A well-publicised charity carnival in September 1905 even featured a mixed game.



*Mixed hockey at a charity day at the SCG in 1905*¹⁰¹

The day's highlight was, however, a 10 Mile Championship Bike race¹⁰².

Sydney University's First Women Players

By 1907 Sydney University's women students were playing a mixed match every week¹⁰³, but the university women (and no doubt others) still had some serious obstacles to deal with to be accepted as serious players. These games could not be held on the University grounds, for example, because the University did not approve of girls who:

“played boys' games in skirts that were shortened to six inches above the ground”¹⁰⁴.

The University students were therefore referred to as “the Newtown tarts”: they lived in or near slummy Newtown, and had such short dresses¹⁰⁵.

Women's hockey at Sydney University was catapulted forward from 1908 by Jessie Lillingston (1889-1970). She had attended Wycombe Abbey School in Buckinghamshire, England¹⁰⁶ in

100 The World's News (Sydney), 27 April 1907, p.21

101 Sydney Mail, 9 September 1905, p.632

102 Sydney Mail, 9 September 1905, p.632

103 Sonja Lilienthal, *Newtown Tarts – A History of the Sydney University Women's Sports Association*, 1997, p. 17

104 Sonja Lilienthal, pp.ii, 17

105 Sonja Lilienthal, p. ii

106 Heather Radi, 'Street, Jessie Mary Grey (1889–1970)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/street-jessie-mary-grey-11789/text21089> , accessed 23 September 2013

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

1904-06 then started an Arts degree at Sydney University in 1908. She was a born leader, and a driving force for many issues, including the eventual dedication of “The Square” as a grass hockey field at the University. Lillingston was the captain and coach of the first Sydney University Women’s team in 1908, and played until graduating in 1911.

Lillingston is often better recognised by her married name, Jessie Street. The “Newtown tarts” tag seems very harsh indeed when one considers that Jessie Street became a world-recognised peace activist and the wife, mother and even grandmother of a dynasty of Chief Justices of New South Wales.

A 1908 photo shows the men and women of Sydney University Hockey Club together¹⁰⁷.



Our 1908 players. Jessie Lillingston (coach of the Women) is in the second row, on the left.

We know many of the men’s names (see the earlier list) and the women probably include Janet Beith, Anne Laurie Edwards, Nellie Devendish Meares, Kitty Prescott and Marion Sly. Can anyone help with more names or by matching names and faces?

The First Women’s Hockey Association

Six women’s teams appear to have played in an informal competition in Sydney in 1907. They and others met to form a separate NSW Ladies Hockey Association on 26 March 1908. Jesse Lillingston attended the foundation meeting on behalf of Sydney University¹⁰⁸, and she was elected honorary treasurer in 1909¹⁰⁹.

The six teams from 1907 were Cambridge School, Coeayanna, Kumalong, Manly, Valkyrie and Wandah¹¹⁰. Four clubs joined them in forming the Association¹¹¹. They were Bedford

107 National Library of Australia, NLA 2683/11/6

100 Heather Radi, 'Street, Jessie Mary Grey (1889–1970)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/street-jessie-mary-grey-11789/text21089>, accessed 23 September 2013

109 SMH, 30 March 1909, p.10

110 Hodges, Lena and Dive, Mollie “NSW Women’s Hockey 1908-1983” (1984)

111 Hodges, Lena and Dive, Mollie “NSW Women’s Hockey 1908-1983” (1984)

Origins of Hockey in Sydney, and of Our Club

College, Fortians (presumably Fort Street Girls High School students, past and present), Strathfield and Sydney University¹¹². Our role in the foundation of the NSW Ladies Hockey Association means that Sydney University was the only club to be involved with both the men's and the women's associations in Sydney in the year of their inauguration.

Interest in the Association or hockey seemed to drop a little after the first year. In 1909 only Wandah, Cambridge School, Sydney University, Valkyrie and Coeoyanna attended the Association's AGM¹¹³. Momentum began to build again, but the war and then the flu epidemic of 1919 decreased the focus on sports, and participation dropped for a number of years.

Most of the women's founding clubs lasted less than a decade. Bedford College played only in 1908 and 1909. Cambridge School played in 1908 and possibly 1909, but its hockey-enthusiast headmistress Florence Hooper moved to Ruyten School in Victoria (another 1903 hockey school) and the school merged or closed in 1913. Coeoyanna and Fortians played only until 1915, when many clubs were waning as men enlisted and people focused on the War effort. Kumalong and Strathfield played only in 1908, Manly only until 1910 and Valkyrie last played in 1921. Wandah was short of members in 1919¹¹⁴ and did not field a team again.

Only Sydney University survived beyond the 1920s. We are now over 100 years old, and stronger than ever. We even won the top Sydney Women's competition in 2012 and 2013.

Given hockey's popularity, it is surprising that women's competitions did not emerge earlier. This may be because the men's competition benefited from the early presence of players such as AM Hemsley, CM Macnaghten and members of the Navy, who were involved in business and administration. The women's competition, on the other hand, did not start until a number of dynamic young Australian women returned from their studies in the hockey-playing schools or universities of England. These included Nancy and Phyllis Clubbe as well as Florence Hooper, headmistress of the Cambridge School, who learned hockey at university in Cambridge, England¹¹⁵ and Jessie Lillingston, whose mother was Australian and who came back to Australia after learning hockey at school in England. In addition, women did not have the same ready access to the organisational structures of other sports as the men had at the time. Many male players and administrators were simultaneously involved in club rowing, athletics, rugby and/or cricket as well as hockey¹¹⁶, which meant they were familiar with the processes of creating and running clubs and competitions, as well as having access to grounds.

The British Navy is often given credit for introducing hockey to the Australian colonies, but these young women who had been taught hockey at school or university in England in the late nineteenth century (or early twentieth century) were clearly at least as important in starting the game in Sydney.

When hockey competitions emerged in Sydney, Sydney University was the only club that played in the inaugural competitions for both men and women. Sadly, of all the clubs involved in the first years of either competition, only Sydney University Hockey Club survives. Over a century later, Sydney University is still proudly fielding teams in Sydney's Men's and Women's hockey competitions, as well as in Sydney's more recent Juniors and Masters competitions.

112 There is a photo of the Sydney University women's team from 1908 in Osmond, Barbara "Tradition and Transformations: A Tribute to NSW Women in Hockey" (1984)

113 SMH, 30 March 1909, p.10

114 Evening News (Sydney), 14 May 1919, p.2

115 State Library of NSW, Florence Earle Hooper papers 1898-1967

116 Nancy Clubbe was an exception. She represented NSW in tennis.