



Sydney Uni
Hockey Club

Annual Report

2020



Sydney University Hockey Club
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Office Bearers

Sydney University Hockey Club Executive Committee

President:	Eliza Roche
Club Captain:	Josef Visser
Men's Vice President:	Justin Knott
Women's Vice President:	Sarah Bird
Junior Vice President:	Sri Harsha Puthi
Masters' Vice President:	Brian Fitzpatrick
Treasurer:	Anne Simmons
Secretary:	Emily Thompson

Sydney University Hockey Club General Committee

Social Secretary:	Rachel Mannion
Equipment Officer:	Sri Harsha Puthi
Webmaster:	David Hewish
Social Media Coordinator:	Alex Hewish
Umpire Coordinator:	Matthew Apps

Executive Reports

President's Report

Eliza Roche

Wow, what a whirl-wind season!

Our year began with the SUHC and UNSW Bushfire Fundraiser in February, with the aim to raise money to support WIRES and The Red Cross in the bushfire recovery. The collaboration of the two clubs saw a half-field social competition followed by Premier men's and women's exhibition matches. The day also featured a raffle and silent auction of prizes kindly donated by Just Hockey, NSW Hockey, Greta Hayes and Lucy Warren. Between the player's donations, BBQ, baked goods, raffle and silent auction, we raised over \$6000 for WIRES and The Red Cross! Special mention to those who organised teams, umpired, baked treats and turned sausages on the BBQ. Thanks must also be paid to Ben Gethin-Damon, who put the idea to the committee and worked to bring the idea to life. It was unfortunate Ben's knees couldn't hold up to the excitement of the day.



The regular 2020 Hockey season has certainly thrown some curve balls and we are glad to have made it through to the other side. There were jubilant victories and devastating losses in our Women's, Men's, Masters and Junior's teams this season. Although we missed our usual social events and spectating, 2020 brought us back to the grass roots of our sport and allowed us to enjoy the company of our teammates.

Although it appeared to be very quiet during the COVID lockdown period from April to July, our committee were working diligently to get our club back on the pitch. This involved meetings with Hockey NSW and Sydney Uni Sport and Fitness (SUSF) to create the 12 page Bruce Pryor Field COVID Safety Plan. Scott Barker stepped seamlessly into the role of the club's COVID Safety Officer (on top of his Director of Hockey role), which involved a lot more than most people could begin to comprehend. For a while there, we were unsure if there would be any hockey competitions run in 2020, so we are very thankful to have been able to have played the season!



The challenges of such a succinct season were felt by our Vice Presidents, who had to prepare for two season commencements, while navigating the stringent COVID restrictions that were placed on community sport. Thanks goes to Sarah, Justin, Brian and Sri, who worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to field 19 teams each week. Aside from their regular roles, our VP's stepped seamlessly into many other jobs such as coach, umpire, manager, first-aid officer and shoe-tie-er. I would also like to thank our managers and coaches who volunteered their time and energy to the club. 2020 also saw our Master's teams play their first ever home games at the Bruce Pryor Field – how good!

An honourable mention to Birdy, who steered the Women's club to their most successful season ever, winning four premierships out of five grand final appearances. As a result of such a successful season, SUHC took out the SWHL Club Championship.



Of course, it would be amiss not to mention our officials, who blew whistles and flaunted cards in incredibly miserable conditions. Matt Apps' conscientious efforts to organise and recruit umpires is greatly appreciated, and I encourage anyone who is considering it to get in touch. Matt is always looking to educate and mentor beginning umpires, offering pathways from club hockey to the world stage.

SUSF's guidance was invaluable in 2020, especially in ensuring that we got back up and running after the lockdown period. SUSF continue to back the club in many ways, most notably through the Director of Hockey role held by Scott Barker. I would like to thank Scott for his patience and willingness support the club, nurture our high-performance athletes and upskill our coaches. As a result of SUSF's support over the years, our club went into the 2020 season in a strong financial position, which allowed us to fare well throughout the turbulent year.



We thank our sponsors, The Glebe Hotel and Just Hockey. Both organisations have had a tough 2020, so I encourage our members to support them through the off-season and into 2021. Make sure you mention the Hockey Club when you are buying from either, to support small businesses, nurture our club's relationship with them and receive great deals.

2020 also saw our first ever summer competition at Bruce Pryor Field. Tim Wohlers-Reichel, Justin Knott and Sarah Bird established a mixed, half-field social and competitive competition, which has seen a return to our club social scene. It has been a delight to watch 14 teams made of SUHC players from all grades, combine to have a social run.

Here are some statistics to sum up our short but successful season:

- Games played: 201
- Games won: 94
- Goals scored: 388
- Grand finals played: 6
- Premierships won: 4
- Visors worn: 4
- SUHC Babies born: 8



Although our players are enjoying the off-season, the committee is already planning for the future of the club. Some notable planning for 2021:

- Bruce and Jenny Pryor's bequest continues to be invested in short maturity term deposits. While we eagerly await confirmation on the future plans for Cumberland Campus, SUSF and SUHC are designing a clubhouse and second turf at Cumberland. Brett Radcliffe, our club historian, will be happy to know that we have requested a lengthy trophy cabinet!
- We've received a generous donation from Brian Fitzpatrick and Etel Hammond-Roldan for a hockey scholarship. Starting in 2021, the scholarship will be awarded annually to an outstanding Sydney University Hockey Club player who is a student of The University of Sydney and a member of the Elite Athlete Program.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the tireless work of our committee members: Anne, Joe, Sarah, Justin, Brian, Sri, Emily, Scott, Matt, Brett, Rachel, David and Alex. Their patience, guidance and willing attitudes meant that our members got back to training and matches after COVID, had full teams on game day and had lights on when we trained. Thank you to the 2020 committee for their tireless work.

See you on the hill at Bruce Pryor Turf in 2021!

Eliza

Club Captain's Report

Josef Visser

The SUHC 2020 season kicked off unofficially with the SUHC and UNSW Bushfire Fundraiser in February, which was well attended, and all games were played in good spirits. It was a great way for players to blow out the cobwebs leading into trials, and ~\$6000 was raised for bushfire relief efforts, which was a fantastic result. The season officially kicked off a few weeks later, with trial form looking good for all teams.

Then, as we know, lockdown came into effect and stopped all hockey in its tracks. A massive thanks needs to go out to the whole committee, but especially to Lize and Scott, for the massive amount of work they put in behind the scenes to get us all ready for hockey in a post-lockdown world. Their work allowed us to hit the ground running when training was able to resume, which was a key factor in a lot of the great results across the club this year.

Due to scheduling differences across the different associations, Women's were the first set of finals to be played. Thankfully, attendance restrictions were eased just days before the grand finals, which allowed a massive SUHC crowd to support our top 5 Women's teams who were all in the running for premierships, the second year in a row we have achieved this amazing result. Women's 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades all got the better of their opponents and took home premierships for SUHC. Special mention to 5th Grade for going back-to-back, and an extra special mention to 3rd Grade for taking out the premiership an astonishing 5 times in a row (Surely this is some kind of Club or Competition record?). Commiserations to 2nd Grade, who played a hard-fought game, but ultimately did not get the result they were after. Another special mention goes to Women's 8th Grade, who placed third in their competition, but missed out on finals due to a shortened finals series in the North's competition.

Next were the Men's finals, with Men's 1st, 3rd, and 6th Grades all doing enough through the regular season to qualify for Semis. 6th Grade had a huge turnaround from 2019; with a more reasonable grading, they were able to be much more competitive in their games. Unfortunately, after qualifying for finals in fourth place, they were unable to get the better of their third placed rivals in the Semis. 3rd Grade played out a nail-biting 1-1 draw in their knockout Semi-final, and after a scoreless drop-off period, ended up losing their game in a shootout. Later that day, 1st Grade were overwhelmed by their opponents, in what ended up being a disappointing day for the club. No luck this year for our Men's teams, but a commendable effort by all this year, especially given the unique challenges thrown at us in 2020.

This year, our U13s team was a combined effort between SUHC and Bankstown. Despite a shaky start to the season, the U13s were able to get back on track, and eventually found a berth in the Grand Final. Unfortunately, they came out second best on the day, but in all it was a fantastic season. Our U11s struggled to find wins this season, but, by all accounts, they had the time of their lives every Saturday morning.

Last but not least, Masters finals were the last to be played for the club, as they were the only competition to somehow manage to fit in a whole season's worth of games. Masters 1 were strong all year, and rightfully earned a spot in the Grand Final. They played out a 4-4 thriller on a cold Tuesday night, and were very unlucky to lose it in a shootout. That same night, Masters 4 played their knockout Semi-final, but were unable to overcome their opponents.

Special thanks to all of the managers and coaches, especially the new ones who have stepped into the role this year. It's at times a thankless job, but it's impossible to run the club without you, so thanks for all of your efforts this year. Thanks as well to the Men's and Women's VPs, Justin and Birdy, for stepping up to run the lower grade training sessions for their respective sides of the club, I know the sessions were especially well-attended this year.

In all, it was an incredible year for the entire club. Putting aside premierships won or lost, we came together as a group and faced the challenges and uncertainties of an unprecedented situation, all with pride, determination, and a smile on our faces. That alone is cause for celebration.

All that being said, here's hoping we can have a bit of a return to normalcy in 2021.

Joe

Men's Vice President's Report

Justin Knott

Maybe it was the shortened season, maybe it was COVID and there was not much else to do, or maybe because we dropped a team, I am not sure. But it was probably the easiest year as Men's VP as the men's side of the club was incredibly committed and engaged for the whole season.

2020 was a hugely different season in terms of training, playing and even going to the pub with your team (which was unfortunately not an option). Some teams still managed to achieve post game beers, but socially distanced of course! It was a challenge at times with enforcing new regulations and rules to keep everybody safe. But everyone stepped up to the challenge and ensured we had a full season of hockey. Well at least half a full season!

COVID most definitely reduced numbers this season but was also a blessing in disguise as it meant we dropped a team and were able to have 101 players across 6 teams. Even with all these players at the beginning of the season, it was the usual touch and go at times. Despite only being a half season, the men's side of the club most definitely had more injuries, hockey and non-hockey related, than they would in an entire season. But we survived, managing to field full teams with ease and reserves each weekend!

Lower grade men's training, despite being on a Monday night, had an awesome turn out this year, with anything between 14-23 players each week. I must say a challenge at times to coach and decide what drills to do each week, especially as I was caught out for copying Flemo's drills (Thanks, Kirk)! Thank you to those who turned out each week and made it that much more enjoyable. I may even do it again next year!

Despite the women's side of the club outshining the men's again this year. Thanks for reminder Birdy. The SUHC men across all the teams should be incredibly proud with huge improvements and personal successes across the board.

Seventh Grade managed by Paul Rattray

A combination of dropping a team and regrading from 2019 meant 7th grade were in with chance and set for a more enjoyable season. Finishing 5th on the table is a great achievement. Thank you to Paul for looking after the team again this year.

Best and Fairest: John Bailey

MVC: David Hewish

Sixth grade managed by Pranav Alavandi

Having been regraded to better fit their skill level and gaining 5th grade players from dropping a team, 6th grade had everything going for them this season. With a good mixture of youth and experienced players, the team made it to finals controversially losing to Monterey in the semis. Big congrats to the team on their result this year! Thank you to Pranav Alavandi for managing the team this year.

Best and Fairest: Damian Chown **MVC:** David Krebs

Yes, do not stress, I know I have missed 5th grade but in my head they just sat this season out and will probably be back next year! Did not want to confuse anyone or make players think they have moved up a team just to break the bad news next year.

Fourth grade managed by Chris Bisset

With the restructure of the Premier league from 4 PL teams to 3 PL teams, 4th grade was moved to the top of the Sydney League which proved to make it a tough season. To add to the restructure 4th grade was a very new team with many of the old timers sitting this one out or 'retiring' from men's hockey, so who knew how they would go. Adopting many of the 5th grade players, 4th grade had a strong season and narrowly missing finals finishing 5th overall on the table. Thank you to Chris for filling Rowans big shoes and managing the team this season.

Best and Fairest: Tim Wohlers-Reichel & Aidan Hardwick **MVC:** Jason Faulks

Third grade coached by Matt Fleming, managed by Max Loxton

3rd grade was once part of lower grade men's, then welcomed into prem squad and subsequently kicked out again, so now they have their own training sessions and coach. Stepping up in the world! Thank you to Matt Fleming for taking on the new roll and coaching this year. Did not quite manage the back to back but the team went out in style in the semi-finals where they took Northern Districts to shootouts. Overall, they finished 5th on the table.

Best and Fairest: Anthony McInnes **MVC:** Max Loxton

Second grade coached and managed by Philip Price

One team that benefited from the COVID delayed start was 2nd grade with having Ben GD returning from injury just as the season started. The dream team, comprising of six 3rd grade premiership winning players and two too many South Africans, was ready for redemption but even with star striker Peter Kelly the odds were against them and missed out on the finals series finishing up 7th overall. Thank you Phil Price for looking after the team, you will get them next year!

Best and Fairest: Ben Gethin-Damon **MVC:** Varun George

First grade coached by Peter Kelly, managed by Chris Laird

Peter Kelly was on babysitting duties with a relatively young new 1st grade team! Thankfully having BJ, PK and Baker playing, the average age of the team jumped from 20 years old to 23 years old! Unfortunately, 1st grade was knocked out of the first round of finals and finished 3rd overall for the season. This is amazing for the club and excited for years to come! Thank you PK for putting up with me this season and thank you Chris for keeping everyone in line.

Best and Fairest: Connor Tuddenham **MVC:** Matthew Fleming

Two awesome initiatives from the men's side of the club this year:

1. SUHC & UNSW Bushfire fundraiser organised by Ben Gethin-Damon
The season started with a fundraiser to raise money for the devastating bush fires in Australia. Around \$6,000 was raised and donated too Australian Red Cross and Wires.
2. Summer hockey organised by Tim Wohlers-Reichel
To wrap up the short year of hockey a social summer comp was started up having a huge interest with 13 teams.

Such a great ideas from these two and let us hope it will become an annual event!

Thank you to the coaches, managers, and players this season. A strange one indeed.

But here is to 2021, sensing it is going to be a good one for the men's side of the club!

Justin Knott.

Women's Vice President's Report

Sarah Bird

2020, what more is there to say...

It was the year of the 'new normal', where 'social distancing' was introduced to our vocabulary and face masks became common use (not just for defensive penalty corners!). So, what did this mean for Sydney Uni women's hockey? A bit of a change up for sure, no social events, no spectators, minimal / no warm-ups on the fields and lots of hand sanitiser, but none the less, it was still a cracker of a season.

The season started as per normal in February. The inaugural Bushfire Fundraiser kicked started the SUHC hockey year and got everyone excited for the upcoming season. However, COVID happened and put our lives on hold as we knew it, including all hockey being postponed. With the predicted start date being April then eventually July.

So, with an extended off season, players had to get creative keeping up their skills and staying fit, counting down until we could hit the turf again. And in July, that day came. We got the green light that the season would commence, wahoo!!! Some slightly different rules in place but we were back! We were lucky to have only one-week training with no contact, which was challenging but before we knew it, we had commenced the full contact shortened half season.

This year, due to the circumstances we only had eight Sydney Uni Women's Hockey Teams. And despite everything going on, it was one of the most successful SUHC Women's year to date.

Four SWHL Premierships!!! WOW!

Sydney North West Comp

Always a super tough comp, but these two Norths teams proved they were still up for the challenge. They not only had to deal with me at training, but they had shortened games which 20min halves in an hour timeslot due to COVID rules. Congratulations to these two teams this season. You all showed so much SUHC spirit and are always up for a good time, no matter the result.

Norths 2

'Just a casual social team', however, not a bad one finishing 3rd on the table. If only the comp went to semis, Norths 2 would have been in there with a fighting chance. The crew that just keeps coming and back year after year are now almost like family. Norths 2 were accepting of the clubs new 'fresh to hockey' players this year who grow from strength to strength this season. And accepting of a Macquarie Uni player to coach their games, thank you Arv!

- Best and Fairest: Deirdre Sargent
- MVC: Josie Casey

Norths 1

What a team. Despite the results not always going in their favour finishing 5th on the table, probably the most resilient team in the club. Thank you to Rowena who looked after both of the norths teams each week, Dinesh for managing the bench and Ed and Justin for helping out too. I promise, the results will come!! 2021 will be your year.

- Best and Fairest: Erin Condon
- MVC: Rowena Butland and Cath Fagan

Sydney Women's Hockey League (Metro)

6th Grade

Second year in SWHL, 6th grade is proving to be a competitive team in the competition and will continue to get stronger and stronger. Thank you to Lacey for coaching this season. There were some speed bumps along the way, but the team managed to come together finishing 6th on the table.

- Best and Fairest: Jessica Divall
- MVC: Sarah Dawes

5th Grade

Two years in a row. The new unstoppable team. However not without the most stressful final ever going into extra time and penalty strokes. Congratulations 5th grade on another stella season and thank you Vasu for coaching again this season. Coming back for 3 premierships Vasu?

- Best and Fairest: Phoebe Fraser
- MVC: Leah Cooke

4th Grade

"Long time coming, but five years, four grand finals and finally I have a premiership!!" In the words of Courtney, regular 4th grader. This season 4th grade was a relatively new team made up of lots of new players to the club. ML4 this year was an incredibly tight division with the thought of making finals seeming almost impossible. But things seemed to work out and 4th grade too who managed to take away a premiership this season. Congratulations ladies and thank you to Joe for coaching again this season.

- Best and Fairest: Sally Uttley
- MVC: Georgia Cooper

3rd Grade

3rd grade once again managed to live up to their now very high standard and expectations. Four premierships in a row and four in a row for Eddie and Claudia,

WOW! Congratulations and no pressure next year. And thank you to Scriv and Baker for coaching again this season.

- Best and Fairest: Amelia Parker
- MVC: Laura Grimshaw

2nd Grade

The team with the most number of players who lived overseas, the most number of injuries and special requests or correspondence with SWHL this season. However, despite the ups and downs, the grand finals were made, narrowly losing to Macquarie University taking 2nd place. Not quite the result they wanted, but still a massive congratulations and thank you to Jez for coaching again this year.

- Best and Fairest: Nicole Bartley
- MVC: Sarah Steele-Park

1st Grade

So our women's 1st grade potentially benefited from COVID as it meant players didn't have conflicting priorities with representative, state or national hockey commitments and were lucky enough to play with the same 16 players for the duration of the season. And did they ever make it look easy, finishing top of the table and taking away the premiership. Congratulations ladies and thank you to Scott.

- Best and Fairest: Alice Arnott
- MVC: Emma Scriven

Despite all this. It was an incredibly challenging season as a result of COVID, especially when implementing these precautionary measures. Most likely many of these will continue next year, but as we say, it's 'the new normal' which means it will become easier. Massive thank you to Eliza, Scott and the committee for getting us all through this season. An enormous amount of work happens in the background which often goes unseen. So thank you on behalf of the women's side of the club.

Massive thank you for everyone's patience, enthusiasm and support this season. And of course, massive thank you to all the coaches and managers. You are all so valuable to the success of the club and could not thank you enough for all the hours you put in this year.

I am sure we will all be back for more and can't wait for a not only a full season, but maybe even some social events too. Here is to 2021!

Birdy

Juniors' Vice President's Report

Sri Harsha Puthi

2020 threw some interesting challenges to not just the club, but juniors sport and connected associations. Amidst the challenge of rebuilding the juniors club, fully relocating the Juniors Club to the Bruce Pryor Field in Lidcombe and the uncertainty of what was unfolding around us, our junior's numbers dwindled to just 4 returning players. After multiple *Come Try Hockey* training sessions, we were able to secure enough numbers for one full U11 team and a handful of U13 players.

We worked closely with Bankstown Hockey Club to jointly enter two teams in the competition, U11Bs and U13As, and placed players in their appropriate age group to ensure fair sport. With week one of the trial games underway in March and looking all set for the season, Hockey NSW and the association announced that all games were suspended, followed by a long wait.

After much deliberation and preparation, the shortened season kicked off in mid-July 2020, with many restrictions. Surprisingly and thankfully, we were able to maintain our team entries and numbers.

Our U13s were coached and managed by the Bankstown Hockey Club, with regular check-ins and support from our very own Scott Barker. The Sydney Uni kids gelled well with the team and consistently contributed to the team to reach the Grand Final, where we delivered a strong performance. Our U13s showed good promise, and I believe within a few years will produce strong players for the senior competitions.

Our U11Bs consisted of two players who had played hockey before and the rest who were in their first year of hockey. With a strong focus on team spirit and enjoying hockey, each week the kids jumped on the field with enthusiasm and gained some much-required game time. Although, the scoreboard and points table did not reflect the achievements, the U11Bs showed remarkable fight and improved by leaps and bounds by the end of the season. Special mention to Rohail Khan for winning the Best and Fairest award, and Hamsini Bomareddy for the Coach's award. I would like to sincerely thank Vani Kandula for managing the U11B team every week and doing a great job of it.

The season would not be possible without the selfless efforts of many people, some which I thank below. Scott Barker (for coaching U13s and helping navigate training and games during the restricted COVID situation), Eliza Roche (on numerous occasions coached and managed the juniors at training and games), Em Thompson, Matt Fleming and Jo Visser (for helping run the *Come Try Hockey* and training sessions), Alex Hewish (assisting with advertising and raising our social network presence), Ray Valeski (Bankstown Juniors convenor, fantastic support and collaboration), Morgan Valeski (Umpiring U11 games), Graeme Barnard (SEHA, for the leadership and efforts to get a season going in such tough times), parents and players (for the early morning drop offs and continued trust in our club) and many more people from various clubs.

Overall, I have a renewed confidence for the next season with a strong focus to grow our juniors club and ultimately to provide an inclusive and supportive platform for our future representative players and Olympians.



Masters' Vice President's Report

Brian Fitzpatrick

In 2020 the Sydney University Hockey Club (SUHC) Masters teams entered the competition of the Sydney Masters Hockey Association. SUHC was the only club to enter a team in all four divisions.

What a year! After the bushfires ruined the end of 2019, we were looking for some “clear air”. And then along came COVID-19. Player numbers went from 65 in March down to 50 in mid-July. Despite this we decided to soldier on with four teams and use our ability to double up/down to ensure that we managed to field a full team each week.

This worked relatively well with only the one forfeit and the ability to field a full team, sometimes with subs for most matches. Unfortunately, it also led to the loss of a match for our Sydney Cup team when we fielded a couple of ineligible players. This led to them missing the finals.

Credit for fielding a competitive team each match must go to the team managers Simon Greville, Mick Irby, Paul Rattray and David Hart. And to all the players that helped out, either up or down a grade.

Some of those players made amazing efforts to support the club including Simon Greville, Paul Barrett, Tesh Kanoiya, Paul Rattray, Dave Hart, James Crabb, Mick Irby, Ian Dyson, Stu Bragg and Grant Wood. All ready and willing to double up when asked. A lot of other players also doubled up as and when needed. Again, a sincere thank you to all those players who helped out. We would not have been able to field competitive teams without all your efforts.

Pre-season was well supported. By entering one team we ensured we had sufficient numbers each week. This also helped in club spirit, as there was a greater spread of standard of players in the team. It was evident that the best players in the first few weeks of the competition proper were the players who participated in pre-season.

The overall result was a mixed year on the field. All teams were competitive. I will refer you to the team managers for the individual reports. A special mention must go to our premier squad who were denied the title by a short corner after the final siren. The efforts these players gave each match with very limited playing numbers was particularly pleasing. Our legends side were also competitive and losing their semi-final on a shoot-out is an unlucky way to finish the season.

The fact that we are all still able to enjoy a weekly/fortnightly hit, run and social catch up with players that in some cases we have known since undergraduate days 40 years or so ago, is still the main benefit of playing Masters hockey.

Brian FITZPATRICK, Vice President, Masters

Treasurer's Report

Anne Simmons

From almost every perspective, 2020 was an unusual year for the world, and the finances and administration of hockey clubs were certainly not immune from the effects of COVID-19.

In Sydney, the pandemic's effects were initially felt in at what should have been the beginning of the winter hockey season. The start of the season was consequently delayed due to the lockdown and ongoing efforts to limit community transmission. As Sydney started to open up, each association approached the impact of the pandemic differently and designed their shortened seasons in different ways. SUHC has teams in five different competitions across Sydney and the variability in approaches meant that setting revised player fees for the season was a complex process. Association fees were modified and our aims were to ensure that the Club broke even whilst keeping player fees as low as possible as well as consistent and fair across the player groups. Player numbers returning after lockdown were also highly variable and team numbers were also reduced in most comps.

I would like to thank Eliza and the VPs for their efforts in getting everyone across the line with player registrations in this unusual year. It is always an enormous task to ensure that all players are registered with both SUHC and HNSW and members of SUSF before they take the field, but this year proved to be even more complex. The end of the year also saw the introduction of a summer hockey comp at BPF and, from an administrative point of view, the team registration process was completed very successfully with the help of Tim Wohlers-Reichel.

Sydney University Sport & Fitness (SUSF) continued its strong support of the Club and we thank it for its ongoing backing. Their decision to provide the Club with its full financial allotment for the year was very welcome in that it allowed the Club to decrease player fees in accordance with the shortened season. We worked very constructively with the new SUSF team led by Ed Smith on general finances, budgeting, coaches' contracts and a range of other admin matters including the impacts of COVID on our admin and finance activities.

In summary, we made sensible and informed decisions throughout a difficult season, and the Club will come out of 2020 with a small surplus, mainly due to the support of SUSF.

I would again like to thank SUSF for its great support during the year, the Exec for their support and everyone else who has assisted the Club from an administrative point of view.

Anne

Foundation Report

Brian Fitzpatrick

The University of Sydney Sport Foundation (USSF) is part of the Foundation of the University of Sydney and its accounts are included in the consolidated University of Sydney accounts. The Hockey Division is a division of the general sports division of USSF.

The USSF Council meet three times during the year. The Hockey Club was represented at these meetings in 2020 by Ant McInnes.

There are many divisions within USSF. The relevant Hockey Club divisions are:

Capital works division

The capital works division supports the raising of gifts to be used for specific building and infrastructure projects. The Home of Hockey Appeal (HoHA) launched in August 2015 is part of this division. HoHA raised **\$1.5m** for the building of the Bruce Pryor Hockey Field. The field was opened officially in October 2017.

Hockey division

The hockey division is a separately accounted for sub-division of the Foundation, allowing the hockey club to raise funds. Being a part of the greater University Foundation, it allows donations to the hockey division to be tax deductible. As at 30 June 2020 hockey divisional funds totalled approximately \$140,000. These funds are invested in the capital preserved account.

Sporting scholarship division

The aim of this division is to raise philanthropic gifts in support of the sporting scholarship program and subsequently benefit the Elite Athlete Program (EAP). Hockey receives 50% of the Mollie Dive Hockey and Cricket Scholarship funding. This scholarship was funded by Dr Margaret Tyrell who wishes to honour a contemporary of hers, Mollie Dive. Scholarship funds for the joint hockey/cricket scholarship total almost \$200,000 at 30 June 2020, meaning \$100,000 is used for the hockey scholarship. The capital is preserved with earnings being provided to an Elite Women's Hockey Athlete.

Mollie Dive hockey scholarship recipients:

Alice Arnott **2019-2020**
Kyah Gray **2018**
Greta Hayes **2015-2017**
Nina Khoury **2011, 2012, 2014**
Georgina Morgan **2013**
Hollie Webster **2010**

Gifts and bequests

The amazing legacy of Bruce and Jenny Pryor lives on, and not just in the Bruce Pryor Field. The Hockey Club received a bequest of over **\$6m** from Bruce and Jenny Pryor's estate in 2019. Funds received so far have been invested in term deposits and are earning interest for the Hockey club. The funds will ultimately be employed for stage 2

of the Bruce and Jenny Pryor Hockey Complex at Lidcombe. Sydney University Sport and Fitness (SUSF) is the trustee of these funds and the funds must be used for the benefit of the Hockey Club and most importantly in the building of stage 2, specifically for a second hockey pitch.

With the advent of COVID 19 the University Vice Chancellor Dr Michael Spence announced that there would be no new building work on Campus to preserve the funds of the University. This unfortunately stopped planning for the 2nd stage of the development at Lidcombe. We are also waiting for the final handover of the Lidcombe facility to the University of Sydney and their master plan for the area.

Brian Fitzpatrick

October 2020

Sydney University Sport and Fitness Ltd – Club Advisory Committee (CAC)

Sydney University Hockey Club, Members Jacinta Mallon and Brian Fitzpatrick.

With the incorporation of SUSF Ltd the CAC was established to play the role of the Board of SUSF. The foundational, legal, governance and administrative components of our new sports corporation are now settled.

Amongst Board roles was the responsibility of finding a replacement for the Director of SUSF Rob Smithies. This was done with Ed Smith being formally appointed earlier in the year.

The main policy and procedures the CAC are currently involved in include:

- Assisting in the incorporation of clubs;
- The design of a first class, finance system and financial arrangements in and for Clubs;
- The provision of assistance to Clubs to achieve excellence in the delivery of elite and participation level sport.

If you would like further information on this or CAC please contact either Jacinta Mallon or Brian Fitzpatrick.

Club Awards

Best and Fairest

Grade	Women	Men	Masters
8 th	Deirdre Sargent	-	-
7 th	Erin Condon	John Bailey	-
6 th	Jess Divall	Damian Chown	-
5 th	Phoebe Fraser	-	-
4 th	Sally Uttley	Tim Wohlers-Reichel and Aiden Harwick	David Hewish
3 rd	Amelia Parker	Anthony McInnes	Derrick Jones
2 nd	Nicole Bartley	Ben Gethin-Damon	Simon Greville and Phillip Price
1 st	Alice Arnott	Connor Tuddenham	Dougal Alexander

Most Valued Contribution

Grade	Women	Men	Masters
8 th	Josie Casey	-	-
7 th	Rowena Butland and Cath Fagan	David Hewish	-
6 th	Sarah Dawes	David Krebs	-
5 th	Leah Cooke	-	-
4 th	Georgia Cooper	Jason Faulks	James Bonnano
3 rd	Laura Grimshaw	Max Loxton	Mal Monteiro
2 nd	Sarah Steele-Park	Varun George	Ian Dyson
1 st	Emma Scriven	Matt Fleming	Paul Barrett

Milestone Awards*

100 games medals

Kyah Gray
Jacinta Mallon
Elizabeth Gobe
Sarah Dawes
Samantha Kirby
Kate Farquharson
Ed Ringwood
Campbell Wang

200 games medals

Nicole Bartley

300 games medals

Peter Flynn
David Henderson

500 games medal

Ian Dyson

700 games medals

Paul Rattray

100 goals medal

Peter Kelly

**to be handed out at Presentation Evening 2021*

Coaches and Managers 2020

Men's

	Coach	Manager
1st Grade	Peter Kelly	Chris Laird
2nd Grade	Phil Price	Phil Price
3rd Grade	Matt Fleming	Max Loxton
4th Grade	Justin Knott	Chris Bisset
6th Grade	Justin Knott	Pranav Alavandi
7th Grade	Justin Knott	Paul Rattray

Women's

	Coach
1st Grade	Scott Barker
2nd Grade	Jeremy Phillips-Yelland
3rd Grade	Emma Scriven and Edward Baker
4th Grade	Josef Visser
5th Grade	Vasu Pankhania
6th Grade	Aaron Lacey
7th Grade	Sarah Bird
8th Grade	Arv Hughes

Junior's

Team	Coaches, managers and officials
Under 11's	Coach: Sri Harsha Puthi Manager: Vani Kandula Umpire: Morgan Valeski
Under 13's Combined Bankstown Team	Coaches: Ray Valeski (Bankstown) Scott Barker

Master's

	Manager
1st Grade	Simon Greville
2nd Grade	Michael Irby
3rd Grade	Paul Rattay
4th Grade	David Hart

Women's Team Reports

First Grade

Scott Barker

WOW! A season like no other!

The first grade 2020 preparation commenced in January with a focus on developing core strength & fitness to implement a newly designed way of play for the season ahead. Unfortunately, all the hard work had to be put on hold for a couple of months when the COVID 19 lock down was enforced.

After an extremely challenging couple months in lock down and some fun ISO challenges we finally received the greenlight to recommence training in mid-June. Whilst we were back training, we still didn't have any clarity if the season was going ahead. With so much uncertainty around I felt it was extremely important for me to refine my coaching philosophy and create the most enjoyable training environment as possible. I thought that it was more important, that collectively as a team, we needed to identify "how do we define success in 2020".

We were able to come up with three main principals that we thought could measure success but that could be applicable to our lives outside of hockey. These were:

1. Finding happiness
2. Supporting each other – ability to handle pressure moments
3. Creating resilience and a growth mindset

"It is not about the outcomes, no mention of wins or losses and most definitely no talk of any premierships".

We stood by and often referred back to our motto!

Now that we had established the three key principals, I was able to implement a tough but extremely fun program. After the first three training sessions I could see the beginnings of something very special was starting to develop within the group. The level of competitiveness and the ability to challenge each other to get better at every session, plus the friendship away from the pitch was truly inspiring. The group had found the key to working extremely hard, staying focused and enjoying every moment of the journey.

What happen next was simply astounding! The team went through the whole season undefeated scoring an astonishing 34 goals and only conceding 5 goals. Personally, it was a pleasure to be a part of this group and to witness the growth and amazing resilience on the way to our premiership.

Personally, I need to thank all the players on an amazing season. I certainly enjoyed being involved with this great team.

Finally, I would like to thank our support staff, who have been invaluable all season and are certainly a large part in the team's success.

Team Manager: Vanessa Johnston

Strength and Conditioning Coach: Ed Arnott

Women's VP – Sarah Bird

Women's Team Reports

Second Grade

Jeremy Phillips-Yelland

In the 2019 report, I wrote about resilience and commended the group on the grit and determination they showed to overcome all obstacles and to achieve so much. It seems these comments, although accurate, were somewhat a premature. In terms of resilience, 2019 was a canape to the main meal of 2020.

Build up

Our squad began the season with 22 players and selections looked impossible. Come round 1, there were 11 available for selection. The pandemic had ravaged our roster, dragging many players out of Sydney, inter-state, overseas and even out to Wagga to assist. SHWL (of course) had a role to play in dictating which players could play and where and across the season, we found new and unique ways of collecting injuries.

But all that was taken in stride. The enduring spirit of this team is to be positive, to be upbeat and to be excited to take the field each week – particularly when games are scheduled in the PM. They train to improve, they play to win, but there is also a fair amount of interest in having a good time along the way. That mentality has been key to their success over many seasons.

Early Season

With 1-1 draws against UNSW and Moorebank in the early weeks, team confidence had taken a hit. Also taking a hit was Sinead's wrist, collecting a stray hockey ball whilst spectating a 1st Grade warm up. This was the start of a very frustrating season of injury for Shinbad, especially after taking the best and fairest points for round 1.

Only 3 weeks in, we had a broken wrist, some frustrating draws and even fewer names on the playing roster. Add to this a frustrating game against Mac Uni, played at home, in a typhoon. In a game that should have, could have and we would have postponed, we played a sopping first quarter of hockey and were 1-0 up at quarter time. We then had to watch 3 quarters and 3 points slip by, with the game disappointingly and inaccurately called a 0-0 draw.

In the lead up to round 4, there was some concern in the group that in such a short season, our shot at finals may already be fading – taking only 3 points from each of our first 3 games. At times like these, I would usually turn to emotion and passion to drive a team forward, but they'd heard all that before. So, I turned to psychology.

Self-efficacy refers to an individual's belief in his or her capacity to execute behaviours necessary to produce specific performance attainments (Bandura, 1997, 97-99). It is also a useful way of saying 'belief' without having to say the word 'belief'. This team had talent across every line, an airtight defensive set up, a lightening quick midfield and

known goal scorers. Easily good enough to beat anyone on their day, they just needed to 'efficacy' in order to transform all of those attributes into wins on the board.

Transform they did, and quickly. With Sas and Lizzie both scoring twice (and hitting a couple of crossbars) and with one goal each to the Sarahs, the girls netted 6 goals against Western Districts to leap up the table, improve their goal difference and gain a some much needed efficacy. Thanks to super sub Nell Stallworthy for a great couple games in 2s early this season.

Mid-Season

By this point, the girls had hit their straps at training, were gelling as a group and clicking nicely on the field. We borrowed a Mallon (G) and had Lil racing the clock and traffic, to both double-up and ensure we had the numbers to put away Briars in Round 5. With our internationals being released from quarantine, with Sinead's wrist on the mend and having picked up a star recruit in Ellie Sobels during the transfer window, suddenly there was efficacy a plenty.

After a tight win against Mos Harbour, which saw Madie hit top form, we took the chocolates on the big screen against Ryde, which included a 50m effort from Fordy resulting in a contender for goal of the year (GOTY).

We then put 3 past UTS (with Remi hitting the score board) and much to Linda's relief, we put 4 past Gordon, to win a game that also saw SSP bend the baseline and Ellie break some ankles to score another GOTY contender. With EmCat, SSP, Fordy and Leilani (3 in 2 weeks) all netting goals in the lead up to finals, our striker line was hitting form and we were coming in hot. Finishing in 2nd place on the ladder, we had set up a grudge match with the old enemy in the Semi – Moorebank.

Finals

It was at this point that SWHL decided that not even a pandemic should get in the way of their bi-laws and so Tinks and Bel joined me and Shinbad (ball to face) on the bench. Thanks to the ever-reliable Anabel Probert, our super sub for finals.

The 2 v 3 semi-final against Moorebank was as expected. A tight game, with precious few opportunities and a good amount of hip and shoulder. As they have many times before, our defensive set up of Lil, Linda, Liz, Ron and Remi kept us in the game, until the magic could happen late. The last place Veronica thought she'd be playing this season was at left half, a spot affectionately known as 'Quambie'. But it was from there that she made one of the more spectacular runs of the season, overlapping from deep before running the baseline and scoring bottom corner. With another strong a contender for GOTY, we booked our spot in the big dance.

The Grand Final was not to be our day. From a goal down at quarter time, the girls rallied hard, with both the second and third quarters being tight, goalless affairs with good chances at both ends. We pushed again in the fourth and as she makes a habit of doing, the Skipper lifted to pull us level, scoring via the trusty back post and bringing the Blue and Gold army to their feet. Unfortunately, we conceded from a broken-down

short corner in the final minutes and weren't able to find the equaliser. A gallant effort from our girls, who didn't get the rub of the green that day, going down 2-1.

Although this season did not finish the way we would have liked, in so many ways this team has had an incredibly successful year. Needing to replace 7 players from last year's Premiership team, after a tumultuous pre-season, with only 9 games to build connections and with several players playing out of position all season (thank you for doing so), this team became the **top attacking and defensive team** in the competition.

Finishing the regular season unbeaten, having scored the most goals in the competition (23) and conceding the fewest (4) is something quite exceptional. This group should be very proud of their 2020 season.

Thank you

To the Club; it has been a year full of unprecedentedness and many people have sacrificed their time and worked hard to ensure that we could all play this season and do so safely.

To Ed Arnott; for your work in keeping our strength and conditioning cherry ripe throughout the year, in what were very unusual circumstances. Your 'at home' work out videos were a personal highlight, as was your hi-vis, COVID-Marshall gym attire. Thank you for investing in this team and their success.

To Scott Barker; for dedicating so much time to the club, the women's prem squad, the 2nd Grade players and to me, to help me become a better coach. Scott puts in very long hours, with very early starts and very late finishes. The work he does in with individual players, on their skillset and their mindset, is elite and his hard work results in players looking to push their boundaries and improve week on week.

To Our Captain Nicole and Vice-Captain Lil; for leading this group so well. You set the standard, you drove performance and you led by doing. You both did a fantastic job steering the ship this year. Thank you for your sounding boards, your strong support and your frank feedback.

To the 2nd Grade Girls; for the patience, grit, stamina and humour you found throughout the year. You are passionate, strong willed and energetic and both a challenge and a joy to coach. Thank you for your friendship, guidance, sassiness and support this season.

As voted by the team post season, the **Most Valuable Contribution** award went to **Sarah Steele-Park**.

As voted by the team after each match, the **Best and Fairest** player was **Nicole Bartley**.

Well done on a fantastic season.

Rip in and good luck next year.

Jez.

Women's Team Reports

Third Grade

Emma Scriven and Ed Baker

In the season that nearly wasn't, with a starting squad of only 13 and only one formal training under their belt, the mighty SUHC 3s set out to chase the 5-peat dream when July 19th finally rolled around. 2020 saw us welcome back Amanda McInnes and Amelia Parker to SUHC, and, continuing our international tradition, we also welcomed Dutch import Minke Geerts to the ranks of the mighty 3s.

With 3 big wins in a row (including possibly the wettest game alive), it seemed the team was off to a stronger start than previous years. Round 3 saw the return of ex-SUHC 1st grader and GWS Giants superstar Annalyse Lister – her tomahawk and unashamed competitiveness a welcome addition to the team (at least most of the time).

Amassing a huge 21 goals in 7 games, the strong start continued into the season. Led from the back by goalkeeper Claudia Meere – now stroke-facing extraordinaire – our defence of Minke Geerts, Annabel Probert, Laura Grimshaw and Eddy Paul were solid all season, conceding fewer goals than almost all our opponents. The undeniably strong midfield of Annalyse Lister, Nellie Stallworthy, Jules Pochini, Nicole Janes and Amanda McInnes set up play after play, and the cool heads of Sarah Louie, Annalyse Lister, Hannah Coffey, Amelia Parker and Rach Mannion showed us how it was done in front of goal, together tallying the most goals for in the league. Two losses against Manly and Northern Districts – who went on to finish top two – proved tough, but a 5 goal win including a Lister hatrick in Round 7 saw the team return to winning ways just in time for finals.

Despite the strong season, the two mid-season losses saw the 3s again left to fight for a Grand Final spot from 3rd place. Up against Manly – winners of the round game match up – in the must-win semi final, the path to the Grand Final wasn't going to be easy. With coach Scriv still on pitch with her team (thanks SWHL), coach Ed Baker stepped up cool, calm and collected. After an incredibly nerve-wrecking, scoreless three quarters of hockey, and many heart attacks, the girls slotted one away in the dying minutes to take the win. The 5-peat dream was still alive!

The Grand Final saw us take on unbeaten Northern Districts Strikers, newly promoted to the division in 2020. In a game very different to the week before, the mighty 3s slotted away 3 goals in quick succession, and saw out the game with a comfortable lead to take the Premiership, making it an incredible 5 in a row for SUHC ML3. Special congratulations go to Claudia and Eddy who have featured in all 5 wins!

In a challenging year for everyone, Ed and I would like to thank the team for making this season of coaching so enjoyable – it was a pleasure being out there with you every week and I can't wait to do it all again in 2021. 6-peat anyone?!

Women's Team Reports

Fourth Grade

Josef Visser

2020 started off as many years before it had. Trial form was looking red hot, and plenty of new and lower grade players were creating the usual selection headaches. Then, as we all know, COVID came along and ruined any hopes we had for the season ahead.

Once restrictions eased, the makeup of the team started to become a bit clearer. With the usual loss of players, some moving up the grades (up as far as 2s!), as well as a few players using the shortened season as an excuse to take the year off, the team was almost unrecognisable from the one that blew the competition away in 2019. Still, even though it was essentially a whole new team, we knew 4th Grade would be able to make a deep run in 2020.

Round 1 rolled around, and our first opponents were the promoted ML5 Grand Finalists from last year, Cronulla Sharks. This would be a great indication of where we were at as a team. After absorbing a bit of pressure in the first half, we eventually ran away with a 4-0 victory, which was a great sign of things to come. However, we came crashing back down to earth the following week, suffering a 0-2 loss against Briars in tough conditions.

Next was a grudge match against last year's premiers, Moorebank. Neither team was dominant, but in the end, Moorebank pounced on a mistake at the back and were able to convert it, sealing a 0-1 loss for SUHC. The tides turned again the following week, running away with a 4-0 victory over Bankstown despite letting a few opportunities go begging. Next was a game against undefeated Glebe, but it was also the first game of the year with the whole team available for selection, so anything could happen. And what we delivered was a dominant, well-constructed, 3-1 victory that put us into the top 4 and proved we had more than enough in us to reach the finals and beyond.

The following week was another tough assignment, against undefeated ND Strikers. Whether it was the early start time, discovering that we weren't actually allowed to use the circle to warm up for some reason, or just something in the air at Pennant Hills that morning, we were never able to fully hit our stride, resulting in a disappointing 1-3 loss. The competition was so tight that the loss dropped us down from 4th place to 7th, but with three games left to play and a favourable draw ahead of us, we knew that three wins would be enough to wrap up a finals spot.

The first match on our road to finals was against winless Macquarie Uni, but we went into the match with no complacency. While not the dominant performance we were after, we still did enough to come away with a 3-0 win, which also got us back into the top 4. Next stop on the road to finals would be a tough match against MosHarbour, who were equal with us on competition points, so a win here was absolutely crucial, for both

teams. MosHarbour were as clinical as ever, and were the first to open the scoring off a short corner. SUHC had a reply in mere minutes, with Hewish tapping in a ball that was deflected up off the keeper. The score hung precariously at 1-1 for most of the game, until MosHarbour once again broke the deadlock at the start of the fourth quarter. It made for a tense final quarter, but we showed composure and were able to equalise with a few minutes to spare thanks to a tap in on the left post from Reece.

Although not the win we were after, the draw was enough to keep us ahead of MosHarbour on the table, which meant that a win in the final round game of the season would be enough to secure a spot in the finals. Standing in our way were the low ranked Manly side. Unfortunately, we just failed to click on the day, and were unable to unlock the Manly defence. The score at the end of a frustrating night was 0-0. So what did this mean for finals? We had to wait on the results of other games to see if we'd made it. It was a stressful 24 hours. Thankfully, Lady Luck was with us, and the results of other games meant we scraped into the finals on goal difference. Not the way we had hoped or planned to make it to finals, but did it really matter? Definitely not.

So, the following week, we shaped up for the 1st vs 4th place Semi-final against an undefeated Moorebank side. We knew exactly what we needed to do to beat them from our previous encounter, and so the game plan was set. And we executed it perfectly. Comparing this game to the Manly game only a week before was like night and day. It was the quintessential team performance. The forwards ran their guts out in the press, and supported each other amazingly in attack. The midfield held the ball with strength and poise, and worked back in defence when needed. The back four were composed under pressure, and waited for the right moments to move the ball upfield. And Ellie got a few easy touches in goals too. Moorebank never looked like scoring, and we never looked like losing. It took a while, but our maintained pressure finally paid off in the final quarter, when a cross into the circle could've found any number of SUHC sticks, but made it to Issy on the left post, who made no mistake and slotted a goal to seal a fantastic 1-0 victory.

Grand Final time! Our opponents in the big dance were Glebe, who had only lost one game all season. Thankfully for our confidence, that single loss was to us. As the first whistle began to draw nearer, the nerves started to settle in. Last week, we'd had nothing to lose. This week, we had everything to gain. Still, we knew if we played anywhere near as well as we had in the semis, there wasn't a team in the comp who could stop us. As the game commenced, Glebe were on the front foot from the start, and Ellie was forced to make some tough saves in goals. We soon wrestled back control, and rode out the rest of the quarter without incident. The second quarter was more of the same, with neither team able to take full control and stamp their authority on the game. It was the third quarter where we really started to shine. Glebe had very little possession, and our sustained pressure eventually paid off with a short corner just before three-quarter time. With our regular pusher taking a break on the bench, a completely untried short corner battery stepped up to the plate. Em's push went to Tyla, who hit it back to Em on the

left post for the deflection. The keeper was able to save it, but luckily the ball came straight back to Em who slapped it just inside the left post. 1-0!!

Our intention was never to shut up shop for the final quarter, but things in a Grand Final don't always go to plan. A string of defensive short corners early in the quarter wasn't ideal, but Ellie and the back four never looked phased, and held Glebe at bay. As the quarter wound down, a touch of panic started to settle in, and possession was given up a little too easily. Eventually, all 11 players were behind the ball, ensuring above all else that Glebe didn't score. And they didn't. As the final whistle went, it was a little bit hard to believe, but we were ML4 Premiers for 2020!!!

The win was celebrated with some socially distanced dinner and drinks at The Glebe, after which, Birdy graciously put us up at her place where we celebrated long into the night, much to the dismay of her housemates. 2020 will often be remembered for a lot of negative reasons, but thankfully we were able to put together a bloody great memory to outweigh all of the other ones. This was surely one of the strangest seasons of hockey anyone has ever or will ever play, partly because of the significantly shortened format. Even still, we managed to cram all the highs and lows of the regular season into 11 short weeks, and somehow came out on top at the end of it all.

It was a real pleasure watching a group of good hockey players transform into a genuine team, and that team taking out the premiership was really just the icing on the cake. That being said, here's hoping we don't have to completely rebuild the team again in 2021.

JV



Women's Team Reports

Fifth Grade

Vasu Pankhania

After two Grand Final appearances in two years, including a 2019 premiership, and with the start of the 2020 season so delayed, there was plenty of time for expectations (and nerves) to be running high by the first game of the season. With such a short season we knew, if we wanted to defend our premiership, every game (and every training) mattered.

Despite a mix of old and new faces in the team it didn't take long for us to find our form. Looking sharp with our matching yellow scrunchies (Thanks Liza!) we started with convincing wins in the first 5 rounds. Over half the season done and we were off to a great start. With Leah Cooke's pre training fitness sessions, and ability to stare us down until we finished that extra lap or sprint set, we had the pace and endurance we needed to outrun and outlast the opposition each week particularly in the final quarters of games when the months of lockdown induced inactivity seemed to catch up with most of our opponents. And, with Vasu's enthusiasm for flow drills at training, our movement up the pitch improved with each game. While round 6 saw us slip slightly with a 1-1 draw against ND Strikers, we rebounded with 3 more wins to round out the regular season as minor premiers.

As minor premiers, and after a comprehensive 5-1 Semi Final win over Glebe, the team went into the Grand Final against St. George with some serious expectations on our shoulders. Maybe it was these expectations, maybe it was the pressure of having spectators back in the stands for the first time all season but, whatever it was, we never quite found the same rhythm we had in previous games. St. George got an early goal and just like that we were down 0-1. While it might not have been our most polished performance, we fought back with the next 2 goals before St. George got the equaliser just before 3 quarter time. With the score locked at 2-2, the last quarter was frantic with neither team managing to score before full time. As the number of players on the field dwindled and tension grew, we hung in through two rounds of drop offs but still no result.

Time for strokes. The five were picked, Sue focused herself in the goal, the rest of the team assembled on the halfway line and at least one spectator muttered that their cardiologist would not approve of this kind of stress. St George stepped up for the first shot. Saved. First up for Sydney Uni was Leah. Adopting an unorthodox approach, she rolled the ball so slowly that the lack of any pace whatsoever was such a shock to the St. George Goalie that she failed to stop it. 1-0 to Sydney Uni. Shiv and Phoebe's shots were close but didn't find the back of the goal while St. George managed to sneak one past Sue. Scores were equal at 1 each with two shots left for each team. Another St. George

goal before Pugs slotted her shot away beautifully. 2-2. A miss from St. George before El stepped up for the final shot. If she was feeling the pressure you couldn't tell. Cool as you please she snuck it past the goalie. 3-2 Sydney Uni. We might not have done it the easy way but we had got the win. 2020 Premiers!

With two consecutive premierships under our belts, the stakes for the 2021 season have been set even higher. But, however next year's season shapes up, I think it is safe to say that penalty strokes will be featuring more prominently on the training schedule.



Women's Team Reports

Sixth Grade

Aaron Lacey

It is hard to be optimistic at the start of a season when you are down one goalkeeper. Ellie and Sue made some pre-season appearances to support us through our trial games, but we were still searching for a goalkeeper of our very own. As for the rest of the team, we had a great turn out for pre-season trial games and training, and we were all looking fit and ready for a season...

Let's quickly fast-forward 3+ months of lockdown and no team sport, and we managed to have a much needed consistently high turnout for training to recover from the weeks of Netflix and work/study from home.

We will be eternally grateful for Maya doubling up to fill our goals for the first two games of the season. She saw us through our first game: a 1-0 win against UNSW and our second: a hard fought 1-2 loss to Sutherland - the new team on the block who ended the season undefeated.

By game 3 Maddy had found Emily Woodward, our shiny brand-new keeper. Emily had never played a game of hockey before, let alone put on a pair of pads. The experienced keepers of SUHC gave a lot of support for her to get more and more confident throughout the season, with Sue and Ellie giving her valuable pointers and Sri's goalkeeping sessions helping support Emily in her very first taste of the sport.

We had a strong start for her first two games; the team kept the ball on the offensive end of the field, aside from a single sneaky goal from Canterbury during their first foray into our circle. In our game against Macarthur Bankstown it all seemed to be coming together, establishing some dominance with a goal each for our three strikers: Ambrose, Em Thompson and Isabelle (Izzy's first goal for SUHC).

Unfortunately, from game 5 onwards our season got a lot tighter. After a hard fought 2 all draw against Glebe at home, our trip up north to play Strikers saw our finals contention come to an end. It also started a trend for our final 3 games: tight games ending in a 1-point loss. This was a hard end to the season but involved some strong performances against Ryde and Mosman, two very tough teams at 2 & 3 on the ladder. A big thanks to Em Scriven and Ed Baker for filling in for our final game against Mosman while Aaron was occupied playing his own Sunday game.

Overall, the season saw just 10 goals conceded and just 10 goals scored, with some strong defense and some evenly spread goal scoring across the forward line. With much rallying from Aaron on the sideline we learnt to talk to one another and showed moments of the fire that got us those few goals. The season just did not end the way it

could have, as we just struggled to put all the pieces and potential together into a winning combination.

In defense, stalwarts Tash and Sarah Dawes helped keep the ball out of the defensive circle, while Jess and Sammy not only continued in defense but also managed to score a goal each from their cameos up front for offensive penalty corners. Elise was a new and welcome addition to the half-line, flexibly fitting in and taking some smooth runs and passes down the line from transfers out of the back line.

Up the front we had the return of the strikers Nat Ambrose, Em Thompson, Lauren Jenkins and Lauren Leamon, joined by the fresh faced Izzy. All of our strikers managed to get one in over the course of the season, with Ambrose, Em and Lauren Leamon sneaking in 2 each to be our triple top goal scorers. In the inners Maddy was joined by two new fast faces with Tiff and Sarah Hawkins making their SUHC debut.

As even in a shortened season players missed games, we owe many thanks to Laura Foster from 7s filling the gaps in our half line three times, and to Annabelle Parsons and Bridget Fagan for helping us out for a game each.

No matter the scoreboard, this season was full of encouragement and a special thank you to the whole team and Aaron for not only gelling together but also being so welcoming and willing to help out all of our new players in this weird, wonderful and unprecedented year.

Cheers,

Hope.



Women's Team Reports

Seventh Grade

Sarah Bird

This year was very much a “construction season”: a team cobbled together from the remains of 7s and 8s. A lightning fast season, of 10 rounds with shorter 1-hour games. This was the season of no warm-ups, 2-minute half-times, and erratic weather. Dinesh Pala guided us from the sidelines on game-day, with Sarah Bird our Tuesday trainer.

We started the season full of manic energy from being locked inside for 3 months, smashing home a 3-nil win against Norths on a sunny afternoon at Pennant Hills. We dreamt of big things: success, glory goals, podium finishes... But with a team very much loaded in the defensive half, it was a sporadic scoring season, with the team finishing 5th in their division. Leading goal scorer Siobhan Walsh hovered at the top of the circle, until she injured her hand in round 6. Other honourable mentions for attacks on goal go to Hannah Feringa and Rachael Emde (borrowed from Eighth Grade).

COVID restrictions meant no weekends away and so we ran a full-bench of subs most weeks. In our defensive half were Lauren Condon, Kate Farquharson, Belle Parsons, Brooke Smith, Laura Foster, Ainsley Chapman, Izzah Effandi, Sharleen Menezes, Zoe Hanson, and Cath Fagan. Up the front were Zil Cheng, Erin Condon, Bridget Fagan, Hannah Feringa, Samantha Menezes, Rowena Butland, and Siobhan Walsh.

Revelation of the season was the rookie of the team, Cath Fagan. Dragged in for some HSC-distraction, she became our full-time goalie (and thus the hero of the team). Having no prior knowledge of how much hockey-balls hurt, she was fearless in goals, charging down the opposition, and sweeping the balls clear of the circle. Now we just need to convince her to study at USYD next year, so that she stays on as goalie.

Another great season for Norths 1, a super tough division but we are getting stronger and stronger each year. I sense finals one day will be in sight. Hope to catch everyone again next year for 2021 season!

Managers:

Rowena Butland and Dinesh Pala

Season Summary:

Played 10 games:

- won 2
- drew 0
- lost 8

Goals:

- Goals for 11
- Goals against 17

Goal Scorers:

- Siobhan Walsh (6)
- Hannah Feringa (2)
- Rachael Emde (2)
- Laura Foster (1)



Women's Team Reports

Eighth Grade

Arv Hughes & Rowena Butland

Back together for a fourth, fifth, or sixth season (? honestly, we've lost track now), the girls started the season on a spirited high after their 2019 grand final appearance. We welcomed a few new players to the team: Rachael Emde, Amara Leonard, Salote Moso, and Vani Kandula.

The season got off to a slow start: a forfeit in the first game, and then a flooded field at rainy Ryde. Finally, in week 3, we could jump on the field, only to be slaughtered by 4.... Obviously, some teams spent less time on the couch in the COVID off-season. Disappointed, the team regrouped with stella training session. Arvind Hughes took the lead as game-day coach, with Sarah Bird running training and pushing us into fighting form. We then began a run on wins. The team was back in its groove with strong attacks leading to goals from Harriet Watson, Diedre Sargent, Josie Casey, Carmen Dinh, and Kate Barrow.



Honourable mentions go to the Backs: Hilary Cairns and Claudia Hall. In a team with mostly forwards and no defensive subs, these two played full-games every game. Discovery of the season was Caroline Ashley, who shuffled from a decent Wing to a strong and steady Centre-Half. Her calm and maturity kept the team in check. Most

dramatic improvement would have to go to Salote Moso, who turned up to trials having never held a hockey stick, and asking about the rules of the game. Salote turned into a strong half, specialising in “bugging the hell out of the opposition”. Impressive improvements were also made by Amara Leonard and Vani Kandula, both quiet additions to the frontline of an otherwise raucous team.

Another strong season by the mighty 8ths (Norths 2s), hope to see everyone back for another year in 2021!

Coach: Arvind Hughes

Manager: Rowena Butland

Season Summary:

- Played 10 games: won 4, drew 4, lost 2
- Goals for 11; Goals against 11
- Top Goal Scorers:
 - Harriet Watson
 - Diedre Sargent
 - Josie Case

Men's Team Reports

First Grade

Chris Laird & Pete Kelly

The 2020 season will be remembered for many reasons.

The first and obvious point relates to COVID-19 pandemic. This had multiple effects including a delayed start to the season, shortened home and away schedule and spectator restrictions taking away atmosphere, support and encouragement for the players.

The second point of note is the squad finishing third on the ladder, the highest placed finish in recent years. The third place was in a large part due to the defensive effort of the team finishing the season with the second-best defensive record in the competition table. Unfortunately, the form shown throughout the season did not carry over into the semi-final loss to Sutherland.

It should also be noted that Peter Kelly, Sydney University PL 1 stalwart took over the coaching role from Scott Barker. Peter filled multiple roles this season including key strategist, team physiotherapist, cheer leader and bench player.

The boys were competitive in all the games played particularly against the other top six teams. The PL 1 squad is a very young side by comparison to previous years. Most of the players from 2019 signed up for 2020 and were joined by some new and exciting talent that blended right in with the culture being created around the team. The ability for Uni to supplement its squad with new quality players speaks volumes for the coaching effort in recent years.

For the record

- Players choice for B&F/MVP was Connor Tuddenham
- Most Valuable Contribution was awarded to Matthew Fleming
- Highest goal scorer was Paul Counsell

Special thanks needs to be passed on to Scott Barker who coached and guided the PL 1 squad for the past six plus years. Without doubt the success this squad is experiencing is in no small part due to the hard work, passion and commitment demonstrated by Scott.

Based on the 2020 results the 2021 season is looking like a good year for the students.

Chris Laird
Manager

Men's Team Reports

Second Grade

Phil Price

And when she was good, she was very, very good, But when she was bad she was horrid.- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

In a short season, any teams that would succeed were going to need a lot of work and little bit of luck, primarily to quickly develop the extra continuity and cohesion that occurs during a normal 22 game season. This was no normal season.

One advantage we had when the season eventually started in July was the core of a structure from the previous years' team and the influx of experience and youth from the Premiership winning third grade team from 2019. We had strong grounds to believe that we had the right mix and it showed up in a positive first 5 games that saw us second on the table after a 1-2 loss to the 2019 premiers. However, what did we say about hard work and luck?

A couple of significant injuries to Simon, Alex and Brad were disappointing in the grander plan and bad luck for the boys themselves. These were nearly compensated for by captain Ben's impressive return from a major pre-season incident in February that would otherwise have caused him to miss half a season. Another bonus was Dylan's arrival from lands far away and his luck in landing at the best hockey club in Sydney. We were all celebrating Vince's promotion to 1's, but we didn't recover in such a short time from losing his contribution to the structure and our threat to opposition defences. In reality, the better teams were much stronger than we were in 2020 and have set the bar for our targets and ambitions in 2021 and beyond.

Best & Fairest for 2020 went to Ben Gethin-Damon

Most Valuable Contribution to Varun George, for which we are all thankful

Top Goal Scorer was Ed Ringwood with 7 goals (from 8 games)

Thanks to Ben and the rest of the leadership group and to Peter Kelly and Scott Barker for their support during the season.

Men's Team Reports

Third Grade

Matt Fleming

The year began with all eyes from the Premier League 3 competition on our very own defending premiers. Who was returning and who was promoted? With a new look side, could they do the double? Then the year's hockey promptly halted, making way for some enforced quality time with loved ones and near ones away from the pitch.

A few months later, after many necessarily cancelled training sessions, the men were back at it and itching to make up for lost time. An old fashioned flogging of Briars in the first round put us in a commanding position of the competition. Although there were a few new faces across the park, one thing was clear: PL3 hadn't lost its magic.

From the dizzying high of round one, PL3 settled into a competitive year naturally. Due to the season being condensed to half its usual length, each side had only half as many chances to secure their spot in the top 6. And didn't they know it. Week after week, games were decided by a single goal and victories were celebrated like it was October. The men held their ground from the back and developed a knack for sniffing out scoring opportunities. It was this consistency across the park that earned them a spot in the Semi Final, in spite of the squad's rapidly decreasing number of functional hamstrings and increasingly delicate areas of swelling.

Against a team who so narrowly had the better of us early in the year, PL3 had something to prove coming into their Semi Final with Northern Districts. They knew it would be a hard fought battle, the question was whether they were up to the challenge. For 65 minutes, both teams attacked ferociously and defended with unyielding tenacity to keep their sheets clean. As the clock crawled towards that final siren, it seemed that the two teams were locked in a stalemate. Then, heartbreak manifested herself as a goal conceded. The clock sped up. PL3 was rapidly approaching an unconsenting resignation from the year's hockey. Minutes turned to seconds. Seconds vanished faster than a striker being called off for a rest. Clinical passing through the midfield and effective leads up front brought a circle penetration. Composure under pressure brought a penalty corner. The siren blared. Skill, smarts and, maybe a little bit of magic gave the men a goal through Justin Knott. It was enough to make one coach weep with pride, and the other to weep in agony. But the job was not done. The first five minutes of drop off extra time went by in a blink. The second five seemed to last an eternity. In trend with the contest so far, nothing could split the two sides. We were headed to shootouts. Cameron Rowland, Tesh Kanoija, Ant McInnes, Ryan Bull, Scott Laird and Justin Knott stepped up to the challenge. Six men who had proved themselves time and time again throughout the season took their chance once more. Desperate and dynamic saves from Cameron Rowland complimented some clinical finishing and after five attempts from either side, we still didn't have a winner. Now sudden death in the 8th round of the shootout, Northern Districts found the millimetres needed to progress to the following round. Our season was over, just like that.

Broken hearted arm bumps and brief commiserations were the final formal moments of the 2020 season for PL3. But the blood, sweat and hamstrings were not shed in vain. From the opening moments to the final siren, the team played with passion and class. Every single player that took the field for this team over the course of the season showed immense heart and character. There is no shame in an unkind scoreboard or an undecorated neck, provided the game was played with power, pride and purpose. Although the dreams of a double did not come true, this year's PL3 men consistently played the game with power, pride and purpose.

Men's Team Reports

Fourth Grade

Chris Bisset

2020 was a season of rejuvenation following the two premierships and deep finals progression over the past three seasons. With some of the senior leaders from past seasons regrettably unable to take field this year - there were opportunities aplenty promoted, new and returning players to step up.

It's certainly worth acknowledging the size of the shoes to be filled this year without Brian Gunner, Rowan McDonald, Ethan and Phil Price, Paul Barrett, Michael Nelson and Jeff Stibbard - to name only a handful - on the field. We are all hoping that many of them will be able to return for the more orthodox campaign in 2021.

Mick Irby re-donned the captain's band and led the backline, ably supported by Jason Faulks in the centre and the ever-aerial James Crabb on the wing-half line. They led a number of welcomly fresh faces and younger-ish legs onto the field in Aidan Hardwick, Tim Wohlers-Reichel, Nick Jobson, Lachlan Woodall, Matthijs Koreman, and the returning fit and healthy Kirk Lewis. Now experienced dad, Luke Turnor returned, re-joining Nic Verbeek, Matt Cudmore, Michael Clayfield, Jonny Wilkinson, Tesh Kanojia, and Shiv Rahore in the team.

With only a precious eight rounds of hockey to savour for this year, the team focussed on playing the same brand of structured, quality hockey right from the start, that had formed the foundation of the premiership years. We lived up to Tugga's challenge to 'focus on having fun and playing our hockey'.



We narrowly missed playing in the newly condensed finals series - finishing fifth with three wins and a draw. We started with a hard-fought 2-1 win vs St George, and completed the season with a gutsy 2-1 victory over Northern Districts and a convincing final-round 3-1 win against UNSW. The team is rightly very pleased with this very competitive overall result in a development year.

The team had ample supply of distanced beverages to join in for the final rounds, owing largely to Jimmy Crabb's Scottish-accent-laced appeal for a "fooooot" being (mis-)interpreted as abuse

worthy of a 10min yellow. It may never have been recorded, with all round amateur team management seeing match cards rarely completed, always delayed on submission, and fine-beers proffered many weeks late (with compounding interest).

A special mention to Lachlan Woodall who finished joint top-scorer for the year with four goals from only four matches he was able to attend. Kirk Lewis joined him despite making a bee-line for the back-stick at every opportunity. Our new keeper Aidan Hardwick also made a fantastic contribution that was essential to keeping us in each of the games we won.

The team is looking forward to more hockey together in 2021 and to welcoming back as many as possible!

Men's Team Reports

Sixth Grade

Pranav Alavandi

Men's 6th Grade had a season to remember.

After COVID struck and the 5th grade team was dissolved, those that were able to play joined forces with the 6th grade team. With just enough players turning up in the final minutes of the first round one might have thought that the lower grade men's team would have another typical season, but this wasn't the case.

Our first game vs St George had us going 2-2, not too shabby for our first game of the season, where very few of us had seen our teammates before.

Feeling pleased with our play, despite giving a few lousy short corners the team held some optimism about possibly being competitive.

Over the next few games our expectations were shattered, and in a good way. 5-0 vs Manly, 3-0 vs Monterey, 2-0 vs Benstix and 3-1 vs NWS. The team was on a roll. Playing aggressive on offense and supporting in defence. Everyone on the team enjoyed themselves, and couldn't wait for Saturday to come around, enjoying the spoils of our 4-game win streak. Damian and Declan Chown lead the scoring, Damian seemingly scoring goals for fun. Lacey having a phenomenal game vs NWS saving at least 3 goals on the baseline. Everyone on the team was contributing, going hard and helping each other out.

The following week would be a tough matchup vs Ryde. Our confidence hit a dent after a clinical performance by Ryde left us losing 0-4. The following loss vs Sutherland 1-3 had us fighting for a spot in finals.

However, after the return of the Chown's (Declan fracturing his Jaw, and Damian with his hammy), the game was a must win vs Northern Districts in order to secure our finals position. Scoring the first 2 goals the team felt positive, but there was an unspoken tinge of nervousness in the air. Northern districts scoring the next 3 goals had us all worried about our chances in the finals. Alas with 2 minutes on the clock, a hail Mary attack was launched. The score became 3-3 after a pass from halfway, and finally Damian Chown scoring the winning goal with 3 seconds left on the clock. Everyone running, screaming, and jumping. One of the best games many of us have played in our hockey careers.

Looking towards finals with our finals birth secured the team felt excited. Not very often us lower grade gents get the chance to play in a finals game. Scoring a goal in the final seconds



of the first quarter, all that was needed was to hold our lead. However, it wasn't meant to be. Monterey scoring the next 3 goals secured our fate.

All in all, it was an extremely memorable season. Piecing together a team, going all the way to finals, having a positive goal differential. Despite the bittersweet end I am certain that everyone on the team fully enjoyed themselves and improved their hockey skills on the field, and banter off it. Thanks to everyone who played, and to those who subbed for us. It was a great season and one the best things to come out of COVID.

Men's Team Reports

Seventh Grade

Paul Rattray

This year was a very unusual season. The combination of a very late start and a shortened nine game season made it very difficult for players. Also having a 12 team comp meant we didn't play every side and any bad this games could be very costly. This proved to be the case. We had our usual slow start, and while the results picked up well, we could only manage fifth. We left our best performance for the last game, beating Easts who were running second, with a with a sore, tired and patched together team.

The season was very enjoyable with the usual mix of experienced vets players and enthusiastic younger players. It was just great to be out playing again after the COVID look down. We can't thank the club committee and the other organisers for their work to get us back on the field. We did expect the season to be again cut short, so it was a relief to be able to complete the season.

I would like to thank everyone for their efforts and look forward to seeing everyone next season. Special mentions to John Bailey for wining a very close B & F award and for David Hewish getting the Most Valuable Player award. John was a new addition this yet and his hard bustling defence was a big plus for us.

Master's Team Reports

First Grade - Premier League

Simon Greville

The 2020 Sydney Masters Hockey Season was the Longest (and Shortest) hockey season ever experienced before, and hopefully again.

The season had already been turned on its head with the withdrawal of Ryde and Penrith from Premier Division. Penrith showed up week in, week out, for the last two years with barely the numbers to make a team and copped a flogging. Understandably this isn't many peoples idea of a fun time, but they hung in there and toughed it out in the hope of improving. Ryde however were last years Minor Premiers (the flogger rather than the floggee), so to be permitted to drop into Sydney Cup after losing 2 games in a season and "thinking" that you might not be competitive was their reason. Sydney Masters Hockey Committee in their wisdom, approved the request and thus reduced the Premier Grade to a mere FOUR teams.

The Pre COVID season saw us play each team once and with a Win, Loss and Draw and it was safe to say we were "average". The team was good, but in typical Masters fashion, getting players available and on the park was always the biggest challenge.

Then COVID hit.

Ben Hardy hit the Gym, Scott Heapey hit the mattress and the rest of us hit the couch and waited, and waited, and waited.....

On the season resumption, many options were thrown around. Full season, part season, modified season and from the Premier Grade perspective, with the Semi Finalists already decided, we just wanted to get back out and play. Somehow the resulting new draw was weekly matches, almost exclusively after 9pm until October. I'm not quite sure that was what we were hoping for.

The COVID Resumption also saw the 1st and 2nd Grade teams lose close to an entire team of players, player numbers were going to be a real issue. Vice President Fitzy wrote to the association and requested an exemption from the Masters Committee from their rules for players doubling up between the grades. Considering it a done deal, and common-sense option a few players then played 1's and 2's each week to keep both teams alive and competitive. I want to make a special thanks to James Crabb, Grant Wood, Paul Barrett, and Natesh Kanojia who doubled up for most of the Post COVID season as well as Peter Kooner and Max Girault that also helped out in 2's. Please refer to the 2nd Grade Season report to see that in fact common sense is remarkably uncommon and it was unfortunately also NOT a done deal.

The Premier Season saw Briars shoot out of the blocks and they were the length of the straight in front of everyone. UTS were struggling to get a team on the park despite

withdrawing from Sydney Cup and were lagging behind in 4th and that left Manly and ourselves to fight it out for the 2nd and 3rd places.

We eventually gave up on enticing the COVID pull outs back and knuckled down with the players we had. Maybe it was the lack of showering together or just the banter and carpark beers but the team started to gel, the game plan materialised (even in the absence of a Chris Moylan ball show) and the results started to come.

The dreaded middle of the season is always the hump that Masters teams need to negotiate but without overseas work and holidaying, I was optimistic that we would pull through. Unfortunately, I hadn't accounted for injuries and illness so when we lost Tugga, Heapey, Maxy, Dags, Craig and Snake at once, the thin numbers were decimated and games with 9, 10 and 7 (forfeit) didn't help our cause.

Most of the injuries and illnesses healed and a strong finish to the season with a couple good of wins over Briars and Manly, boosted our morale and position on the ladder and we moved into the finals in high spirits and with 2nd spot on the ladder secured.

The Semi Finals were thankfully abbreviated to 1v4 and 2v3 so we were up against a Manly team that we just LOVED to beat. They had been the most carded team in the competition and currently had one player suspended for the remainder of the season following a red card. The game was given the "Priority" umpiring appointments so it was therefore interesting to see that Manly had recruited their FORMER teammate, (who was playing for Ryde last year) for the Finals. When we enquired to his eligibility, we were told by the Umpiring team that it would be sorted out (if necessary) AFTER THE GAME..... We won, they lost, and thanks to a MOTM performance from PB dominating this ring in, we progressed to the GF expecting to play Briars, the form team all season. BUT THEY LOST TOO...

Somehow UTS had found some their mojo at the business end of the season and we knew they were going to be a formidable opponent.

The final was a cracker of a game and after being up by 2 goals, then 1 goal down, we fought back amazingly to first draw level and then spectacularly take the lead with 2 minutes left on the clock. Unfortunately, we couldn't hold the lead and a final minute equalizer from a short corner led us to a penalty shoot-out which saw UTS take out the Grand Final. BUGGER!!!

Thank you to the amazing effort and commitment from all of the players. At one stage there, it was a real possibility that the season would be cancelled. The bad taste left in the mouth from the final shouldn't undervalue the achievement of everyone.

Regards

Sniffer

Season: B+F – Dougal Alexander (Dags) 22, Anthony McInnes (Ant) 21, Paul Barrett (PB) 13

Top Goal Scorers – Dags 8, Natesh Kanojia (Tesh) 8, Ben Hardy (Rig) 5

Second Grade - Sydney Cup

Michael Irby

Many people have said that 2020 has been a very stressful and difficult year due to all the issues relating to COVID-19. I must say that it certainly had an impact on the season and our standing in the Sydney Cup competition.

The season got underway as usual in late February and we were optimistic of having a successful year. Finishing minor premiers in 2019, we retained most of the team from last year, recruited a couple of new players to the club and had some players from the 2019 Premier Division side drop back a grade.

After just three games, the season was halted and went into limbo for four months before finally resuming in mid-July. This is when things got difficult.

Upon resumption of the competition, our Sydney Cup squad was heavily impacted - losing 9 players due to issues surrounding COVID-19 or long-term injuries. This was in addition to our Premier Division squad also losing several players. The club decided we would continue to run with four teams to avoid impacting the competition but would require players being able to double up across the grades. At this time, Sydney Uni submitted a request to Sydney Masters Board asking for relaxation of the rules allowing players to move between grades and their regrading policy. To our own detriment, we failed to follow this up when the board did not respond.

We did our best to put a competitive side on the field each week thanks to guys doubling up or down a grade on a regular basis. We often found ourselves playing with just 11 players (including guys carrying injuries or backing up after having just played for their own team). Despite the adversity, the team managed to qualify for the finals when we defeated MacArthur in the second last game of the year (or so we believed).

The remaining game was a deferred match (also against MacArthur) which the Board of Sydney Masters had rescheduled for the following evening. With a place in the semi-finals secured and MacArthur unable to qualify for finals, the result of this deferred match would decide whether we finished third or fourth on the table.

At around 3:30pm on match day, we were advised by the Board that a protest had been lodged for playing "ineligible players" in the game the previous evening and we had twenty-four hours to show cause as to why we should not lose the points. They further advised that for the deferred match, we were unable to use four of the selected eleven players. With only seven players and no keeper (and no time to arrange replacements), we had no option but to forfeit the final match.

Despite putting a strong case forward to the Board to have the original result against MacArthur stand, our appeal was dismissed, we were penalised by Sydney Masters for breaching the association rules and stripped of the competition points. Together with having to forfeit the deferred game against MacArthur, we missed our chance of playing in the finals.

It was somewhat ironic that it was MacArthur who lodged the protest given they could not field a team for their match against us earlier in the year and rather than award a forfeit to us as per their own competition rules, the Board decided that in fairness to the competition (???), they would insist the game be played.

For the records, the results for Sydney Cup were...

- 5 Wins, 3 Draws, 4 Losses
- We scored 29 goals for and conceded just 16
- In the 12 matches we played this year, we used 28 different players

These results should have had us finishing third on the ladder.

The history books will show otherwise.

Michael Irby (BOTT)

Third Grade - Masters League

Peter Flynn

Another year of asking aching bones and worn out muscles to perform miracles on cold midweek nights. Yet we all do it willingly and I hope the whole team will be running (hobbling) around next year as well.

This year was especially difficult, both with the long midseason break, then with the lengthened season the finish the normal competition season. Despite this, most players were just happy to be out there playing. It was made harder by a number of withdrawals in the higher grades, plus a number of injuries that put a lot of pressure on player numbers. Despite this, we were competitive every game and only just missed out on playing the semi-finals. A big thank you to the second and fourth grade players that helped out on a regular basis.

Special mention to Derrick Jones who was B & F for the grade and Mal Monteiro who was voted the Most Valuable Player. David Loxton was our top goal scorer.

I would also like to thank the other players who made organising the team as easy as it could be. Players organised overseas work trips, holidays and work functions around the draw in an effort just to play that extra game.

Fourth Grade - Legends League

David Hart

We have been incredibly lucky and fortunate to have played hockey this year. Starting in late February, we managed just two games before the pandemic stopped play until games could recommence in July. The team lost several games by just one goal, finishing 6th out of 7 in the Legends Open Division but 4th in the Legends 055 Sub-Division. Towards the end of the season, the team became stronger, however several players picked up niggling injuries but continued to turn up to play, for which I am grateful. Perhaps they were just keen to work up a thirst and have a beer at the Concord Pub afterwards....

Legends Team: Matthew Apps, James Bonanno (GK), Bruce Burns, Stuart Gibb, David Hart (C), David Hewish, Chu KongLiew, Bruce McCormick, Bruce McKay, Martin Mills, Peter Pether, Gowtham Reddy, Simon Rodgers, Marcus Tjong, Malcolm Monteiro & Paul Rattray.

With thanks to guest appearances from SUHC Masters (3s): David Henderson, Stuart Bragg, David Loxton, Crichton Smith, David DeWolfe, Ian Chandler.

Several players doubled up in Masters (3s) when needed: Dave Hewish, Harty, Mal & Ratty.

Congratulations: David Hewish – Best & Fairest; James Bonanno – Most Valuable Contributor

The Legends average team age is 55 with Hendo & Matt Apps the youngest at 45 and the oldest, Harty at 66. Harty made the Sydney 65s team this year which won gold at the State Championships in Bathurst and has been selected in the NSW 65s team for the 2nd year running. Not too bad having suffered 2 heart attacks last year!

The Legends are a sociable bunch, regularly attending the Concord Pub after games. Bruce McKay, seriously injured late in the season and unable to play, still turned up at the pub, to the point that he would get his Guinness served personally by staff to his seat. Hopefully Bruce will be back next season.

It is no exaggeration to say that the team improved during the season with match fitness and became quite competitive against the top sides. We lost our semi-final to 1st place Ryde on penalty 1 on 1s, going down 1-3. We finished the season competitively and most important, we had a good time on & off the pitch.

Cheers,

David Hart



Back Row: Marcus Tjong, Mal Monteiro, Peter Pether, Gowtham Reddy, Simon Rodgers

Middle Row: Stuart Gibb, James Bonanno, Paul Rattray, Bruce Burns

Front Row: David Hewish, David Hart, Martin Mills, Chu KongLiew



Competition Tables

Sydney Women's Hockey League

Metro League Division 1

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Sydney Uni 1	9	8	1	0	30	4	26	25
ND Strikers 1	9	7	1	1	25	17	8	22
GNS 1	9	6	1	2	35	13	22	16
UNSW 1	9	3	6	0	18	11	7	15
Moorebank 1	9	4	2	3	20	12	8	14
RHH 1	9	4	0	5	29	16	13	12
WD 1	9	2	1	6	17	23	-6	7
Briars 1	9	2	1	6	8	22	-14	7
UTS 1	9	2	0	7	10	32	-22	6
Glebe 1	9	0	1	8	1	43	-42	1

Metro League Division 2

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Macquarie Uni 1	9	8	1	0	19	5	14	25
Sydney Uni 2	9	6	3	0	22	4	18	21
Moorebank 2	9	5	1	3	15	6	9	16
RHH 2	9	3	3	3	8	9	-1	12
Briars 2	9	3	3	3	6	10	-4	12
GNS 2	9	3	3	3	8	16	-8	12
UNSW 2	9	2	5	2	9	10	-1	11
UTS 2	9	2	2	5	3	8	-5	8
WD 2	9	1	1	7	6	22	-16	4
MosHarbour 1	9	1	0	8	7	13	-6	3

Metro League Division 3

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
ND Strikers 2	9	7	2	0	21	7	14	23
Manly 1	9	7	1	1	23	7	16	22
Sydney Uni 3	9	6	1	2	24	9	15	19
UNSW 3	9	6	1	2	18	8	10	19
Wenty 1	9	2	3	4	11	14	-3	9
GNS 3	9	3	0	6	6	25	-19	9
MosHarbour 2	9	2	2	5	6	11	-5	8
RHH 3	9	2	2	5	12	21	-9	8
Moorebank 3	9	1	3	5	4	13	-9	6
Glebe 2	9	0	3	6	4	14	-10	3

Metro League Division 4

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Moorebank 4	9	7	2	0	16	2	14	23
Glebe 3	9	5	3	1	19	8	11	18
ND Strikers 3	9	4	5	0	10	4	6	17
Sydney Uni 4	9	4	2	3	17	9	8	14
MosHarbour 3	9	3	5	1	11	10	1	14
Briars 3	9	3	4	2	10	9	1	13
Cronulla Sharks	9	3	1	5	8	15	-7	10
Manly 2	9	2	3	4	6	11	-5	9
Macquarie Uni 2	9	1	0	8	5	14	-9	3
Mac/Btown 1	9	0	1	8	4	24	-20	1

Metro League Division 5

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Sydney Uni 5	9	8	1	0	30	4	26	25
RHH 4	9	7	1	1	25	4	21	22
St George	9	6	0	3	28	12	16	18
Glebe 4	9	6	0	3	15	11	4	18
ND Strikers 4	9	5	2	2	16	7	9	17
UNSW 4	9	3	2	4	12	13	-1	11
Moorebank 5	9	2	1	6	8	24	-16	7
Wenty 2	9	2	0	7	6	22	-16	6
Briars 4	9	1	1	7	3	14	-11	4
Macquarie Uni 3	9	0	2	7	4	36	-32	2

Metro League Division 6

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Sutherland	8	7	1	0	37	3	34	22
MosHarbour 4	8	6	1	1	15	6	9	19
RHH 5	8	6	0	2	17	8	9	18
Glebe 5	8	3	2	3	12	13	-1	11
ND Strikers 5	8	3	2	3	11	12	-1	11
Sydney Uni 6	8	2	2	4	10	10	0	8
UNSW 5	8	2	2	4	7	15	-8	8
Canterbury	8	0	2	6	5	24	-19	2
Mac/Btown 2	8	0	2	6	4	27	-23	2



Sydney North Women's Hockey Association

Division B

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Points
Briars Social 1	10	9	1	0	33	7	28
Hornsby Hockey 1	10	7	2	1	20	7	23
BHHC 1 Gold	10	5	1	4	12	16	16
Norths Red Bears	10	3	1	6	6	18	10
SUHC North 1 (7)	10	2	0	8	9	17	6
RHHC 6	10	1	1	8	5	20	4

Division D

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Points
Ryde HC 7	10	7	2	1	16	7	23
Northern District Green	10	5	4	1	20	6	19
SUHC North 2 (8)	10	4	4	2	11	11	16
Hornsby Hockey 3	10	4	2	4	15	13	14
Norths Black Bears	10	2	1	5	17	18	7
BHHC 3 White	10	0	3	7	2	26	3



Sydney Men's Hockey Association

Premier League 1

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Moorebank Liverpool	10	9	1	0	65	6	59	28
Ryde HH	10	7	3	0	55	15	40	24
Sydney Uni 1	10	7	1	2	28	12	16	22
UNSW	10	7	0	3	46	12	34	21
NWS-BH	10	6	1	2	44	21	23	19
Sutherland	10	6	0	4	45	20	25	18
Glebe	10	2	2	6	20	36	-16	8
Manly-GNS	10	1	2	7	13	53	-40	5
Northern Districts	10	1	2	7	13	81	-68	5
Briars	10	1	1	8	22	47	-25	4
South East Sydney	10	1	1	8	10	58	-48	4

Premier League 2

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Sutherland	10	8	0	2	42	15	27	24
UNSW	10	8	0	2	39	17	22	24
Moorebank Liverpool	10	7	1	2	36	15	21	22
Ryde HH	10	7	0	3	52	17	35	21
Macquarie Uni	10	6	0	4	23	23	0	18
NWS-BH	10	5	2	3	32	22	10	17
Sydney Uni 2	10	5	1	4	26	19	7	16
South East Sydney	10	3	1	6	20	32	-12	10
Glebe	10	2	1	7	15	29	-14	7
Briars	10	1	0	9	12	45	-33	3
Manly-GNS	10	0	0	10	4	67	-63	0

Premier League 3

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Ryde HH	10	9	0	1	44	7	37	27
Glebe	10	7	2	1	29	12	17	23
Sutherland	10	7	1	2	41	7	34	22
Northern Districts	10	6	3	1	22	15	7	21
Sydney Uni 3	10	5	2	3	19	14	5	17
Moorebank Liverpool	10	5	1	4	29	14	15	16
South East Sydney	10	3	2	5	15	35	-20	11
UNSW	10	2	2	6	14	20	-6	8
Macquarie Uni	10	2	0	8	8	32	-24	6
Briars	10	1	1	8	11	47	-36	4
Manly-GNS	10	0	2	8	6	35	-29	2

Sydney League 1

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Ryde HH	8	8	0	0	32	8	24	24
UTS	8	7	0	1	39	18	21	21
Bankstown	8	5	1	2	29	17	12	16
Sutherland	8	4	1	3	22	19	3	13
Sydney Uni 4	8	3	1	4	16	19	-3	10
UNSW	8	3	0	5	12	24	-12	9
St George/Rand	8	1	2	5	9	20	-11	5
NWS-BH	8	1	2	5	5	27	-22	5
Northern Districts	8	0	1	7	9	21	-12	1

Sydney League 5

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Ryde HH	9	8	0	1	36	9	27	24
UNSW	9	7	2	0	31	6	25	23
Monterey	9	6	1	2	21	10	11	19
Sydney Uni 6	9	5	1	3	21	15	6	16
Sutherland	9	4	2	3	14	18	-4	14
Northern Districts	9	4	1	4	20	18	2	13
Bentstix	9	3	0	6	8	24	-16	9
St George/Rand	9	2	2	5	12	25	-13	8
Manly-GNS	9	1	1	7	7	29	-22	4
NWS-BH	9	0	0	9	9	25	-16	0

Sydney League 6

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Ryde HH	9	8	1	0	34	7	27	25
Tartans	9	7	2	0	24	6	18	23
UNSW	9	6	1	2	34	11	23	19
Easts	9	6	1	2	31	11	20	19
Sydney Uni 7	9	4	2	3	10	9	1	14
Northern Districts	9	4	1	4	16	11	5	13
Bankstown	9	3	2	4	21	24	-3	11
Ryde White	9	2	4	3	14	18	-4	10
Wests	9	2	2	5	14	23	-9	8
Briars	9	2	1	6	15	23	-8	7
NWS-BH	9	1	1	7	9	17	-8	4
Bentstix	9	0	0	9	1	63	-62	0

Sydney East Hockey Association



Under 13

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Sutho TD	11	9	2	0	32	6	26	29
B'town/Syd Uni	11	5	4	2	24	15	9	19
UNSW	10	5	1	4	17	13	4	16
Sutho BD	10	4	3	3	21	16	5	15
Glebe Strikers	10	2	0	8	10	32	-22	6
Moorebank	10	1	0	9	15	37	-22	3

Under 11 – B Division

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Sutho BT	10	8	1	1	53	9	44	25
St George	10	8	1	1	53	19	34	22
Sutho TD	9	4	0	4	26	33	-7	13
UNSW	8	3	1	4	16	10	6	10
Moorebank	8	2	2	4	13	17	-4	9
Glebe Hornets	9	2	1	6	19	33	-14	7
USYD/B'town	8	1	0	7	7	66	-59	4



Sydney Masters Hockey Association

Division 1

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Briars 1	13	10	0	3	57	26	31	30
Sydney Uni 1	14	7	1	6	38	40	-2	22
Manly GNS 1	13	4	2	7	32	40	-8	14
UTS 1	14	4	1	9	30	51	-21	13

Division 2

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Ryde Syd Cup	12	10	2	0	64	16	48	32
Briars 2	12	8	1	3	35	15	20	25
Maq Uni 2	12	6	2	4	26	29	-3	20
Macarthur 2	12	6	0	6	30	39	-9	18
Manly GNS 2	12	4	2	6	22	27	-5	14
Sydney Uni 2	12	3	3	6	20	26	-6	12
ND 2	12	1	0	11	8	53	-45	3

Division 3

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Ryde Masters 2	14	11	3	0	61	11	50	36
Sutherland 1	13	7	4	2	21	16	5	25
Easts	13	4	6	3	17	17	0	18
Macarthur 3	13	4	3	6	13	28	-15	15
Sydney Uni 3	13	3	3	7	17	24	-7	12
Penrith 3	12	2	3	7	17	24	-7	9
Manly GNS 3	12	1	4	7	19	41	-22	7

Division 4

Team	Played	Wins	Draws	Losses	For	Against	Diff.	Points
Ryde OA	15	15	0	0	58	8	50	45
Sutherland 2	15	7	3	5	27	19	8	24
ND 4	15	7	3	5	16	18	-2	24
Briars 4	14	7	2	5	23	18	5	23
Ryde O55	15	7	1	7	21	32	-11	22
Northside 4	14	3	2	9	16	32	-16	11
Sydney Uni 4	14	3	1	10	9	21	-12	10
Macarthur 4	14	2	2	10	9	30	-21	8

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Dobrijevic Peter		10	11	15	3		17															56
Downton Brian																8	3					11
Dryer Scott																			11			11
Duck Mick														5			8					13
Dwyer John		10	12	1																		23
Dyson Ian									12	12	10	16	15	19	20	17	18	15	14	14	21	203
Eastmond Michael										11	2											13
Eldridge Geoff				14	14	5																33
Elgie Graeme									9													9
Faulks Jason												8	8	12	10	16	9	16	14	13	8	114
Fitzpatrick Brian				15	14	15	11	14	14	14	14	9	10	5	1	1		10	10	13	3	173
Flack Mark										14	13	10										37
Flynn Peter												10	12	14	14	14	15	14	14	19	12	138
Ford Stephen																3	15	17		16	3	54
Friemann Justin				15	15	8					10	9										57
Garrett Stephen		10	11	15	16	13	12	13	11	11	14	12	13	8	6	8	8	8	6			195
Giaquinto Steve							18	9														27
Gibb Stuart										16	14	13	14	12	13	15	15	10	11	13	9	155
Giiraut Max																				12		12
Girault Max																				9		9
Goninion Aaron																		11	15			26
Grace Peter														1								1
Gray Phil												9										9
Greenlees Bill					8																	8
Gregory Steve																	12	9	11	1		33
Greville Simon														10	10	12	10	13	18	15	21	109
Griffin Nick											3											3
Grimshaw Stuart			3	9	10	11	10	9	8	8	10	6										84
Gulson Kalervo													7	6								13
Gunnell Wayne																				3		3
Gunner Brian												6	1		13	16	13	16	16	18	1	100
Gupta Sanjeev												4	3									7
Hardman Kerry		10	5	9	8	10	14	9														65
Hardman Marc			1	1	2	7																11
Hardy Ben																	12	8	13	7		40
Hart David																	11	17	2	20		50
Hayward Phil							7	7														14
Heappy Scott																			11	10		21
Henderson David															15	14	18	17	19	16		99
Hewish David												13	6	14	11	7	12	12	13	13		101
Higgenbotham Russel											5											5
Hillier Geoff									9	9	5	8		7								38

Hope John			5																			5
Howitt Diggery							14	12	15	14	10											65
Hufer Kurt													13	10	10							33
Irby Michael		10	12	15	13	16	12	14	13	16	17	13	8	14	15	19	15	17	17	18	17	291
James Andrew																			15	6		21
Jean Paul								13	2	1							11		1			28
Jessup Ian					10	12	14	12	13	7	10	16	17	3								114
John Paul				14	15	15	13	4	16	16	23	13						17	15	16	7	184
Johnston Wes																				12		12
Jones Chris															15	13	12	9				49
Jones Derrick																			14	10		24
Jones Simon																		13				13
Jumppanen Jussi										16	16	4										36
Kanoiya Natesh																			21	16	17	54
Keating Declan														8								8
Kershaw Ken				14	13	14	17	12	15	16	17	17	23	10								168
Knights Trent																		14				14
Kong Liew Chu																	12	4	3		11	30
Kooner Peter																		9	14	13		36
Leamon Wayne			8	13	1																	22
Lee Trevor										15	13	17	17	14								76
Leeder Nick										11												11
Leeuw Jason																			2			2
Lo Ian																				12		12
Loxton David																	15	12	14	10		51
MacLeod Iain														6								6
Marshall Troy															10	13	15		14	2		54
Mason Paul														9	19		14	8				50
Matheson Mark							9	6	14	14					15	16	2	12	4			92
Mathews Claude																	14	11	15	11	2	53
Mathews Louis																	15	17	16	13	2	63
McCormick Bruce		10	9	15	15	10	17	11				24	19	17				11	11	8	9	186
McDonald Rowan									12	13	12	8		1			6	13	6	13	1	85
McFarlane Todd																		5				5
McHenry Bill		5	7																			12
McInnes Anthony																				14	11	25
McKay Bruce		10	6									17	13	8	10	8	11	13	10	3	4	113
McPherson Roger																2						2
Mills Martin		10	4	13	12	10	14	11	9	13	15	12						12	13	14	13	175
Milner Simon																			6			6
Monterio Julian													16	11								27
Monterio Malcolm										11	17	17	18	17	13	13	12	15	19	19	17	188

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