

BANGOR HOCKEY CLUB



The Centenary Years
1921-2021



**This History of Bangor Hockey Club publication is dedicated to
Walter and Eileen Dowdall.**

**Walter was a true gentleman who upheld the best standards of
sportsmanship and tradition and recognised that what was positive
from the past would serve us well in the future.**



Bangor Men's Hockey Club

1 May 2018

Dear Eileen

On behalf of the Committee and members of Bangor Hockey Club, I would like to extend our sincere thanks for the extremely generous donation. Walters' contribution to the Club over many decades was outstanding. His thoughtful personality and sense of fair play very much came to define the personality of the Club and it was no coincidence that these qualities were recognised across Irish hockey.

Walter was an avid custodian of our history and the development of the Club is captured in his collection of photographs, journals, newspaper cuttings and Six-a-Side programmes!

With this in mind we see it as a fitting tribute to Walter to use the funds donated to compile and publish a book on the History of the Club in anticipation of our centenary in 2021.

In addition, we would like to suggest having a replica of the Walter Dowdall Memorial Trophy made each year for the recipient to keep.

Finally, given the passion with which Walter promoted school and youth hockey, we would also suggest that some of the funds be directed towards youth training/coaching activity.

We trust that you consider these suggestions appropriate.

Yours sincerely

George Wilson
President



On behalf of Hockey Ireland, I would like to congratulate Bangor Hockey Club on reaching its Centenary year in 2021. Although Irish Hockey records show that hockey was played in Bangor intermittently from 1898 to 1911, with

AD McIlwaine playing for Ulster against Leinster in 1902-03 and SA Bullock playing for Ireland against Scotland in 1903, 1907 and 1909, there are gaps from 1911 until 1921, when continuous records started again. There are scrapbooks, newspaper reports, journals and minutes showing the successes of the Club throughout the 100 years and a great amount of time and effort have gone into producing this book. Our thanks go to all who have collated these detailed sources of historical information. They show the valuable roles that the Club's members have played and continue to play in hockey in Ulster and Ireland.

Looking back over the last 60-70 years we thank Bangor Hockey Club for introducing several new initiatives into hockey in Ulster. The Club inaugurated a six-a-side tournament in 1955 and over the years this event grew in popularity to become the largest tournament of its kind in the British Isles, with a record of 150 teams taking part in one particular year. The Club introduced Mini Hockey in the 1970s and when this was such a success, a competition was offered to local schools, the Armstrong Cup. This led to the Ulster Mini Hockey Championship in 1976, when the Club hosted this event and others, for a further 14 years. Along with these achievements the contributions made by club members to hockey

administration roles, both in Ulster and in Ireland over the last 60 years are most noteworthy. We thank the following for their dedication and inspiration:

- 1961 Mr H Burrowes, President of the Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
- 1973 Walter Dowdall, President of the Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
- 1976 Walter Dowdall, President of the Irish Hockey Union
- 1983 JV Smyth, President of President of the Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
- 1999 JV Smyth, President of the Irish Hockey Union
- 2002 JV Smyth, President of the Irish Hockey Association
- 2011 Alan Morris, President of the Ulster Hockey Union
- 2017 Chris Harte, President of the Ulster Hockey Union

On the pitch Bangor Hockey Club continues to field five senior teams and is very proud of its two Olympians, Stephen Martin and Chris Cargo. Stephen played in the 1984, 1988 and 1992 Olympics bringing home a bronze medal in 1984 and a gold medal in 1988. Chris played in the 2016 Rio Games. Their achievements continue to inspire players in the Club and in the Hockey family.

An amazing amount of organisation has gone into the Club's Centenary celebrations, and I congratulate all involved and wish the Club continuing success as it reaches a new era, with the merging of the Men's and Ladies' Clubs.

Ann Rosa
President, Hockey Ireland



It is with great pleasure that the Club presents this history to commemorate one hundred years of men's hockey in Bangor. History is perhaps an unfitting description as the word does not do justice to the content and contributions which capture the personality of the Club over all those years. There have been so many changes over so many seasons but still many things remain constant. The lengthy discussion and debates at committee meetings, the development of youth hockey, training, fundraising, even the change of playing venues. The years pass, and the number of the anniversary changes, but the essence of the Club remains the same. The fact that we have reached such a landmark is testimony to the spirit and endeavour of so many over the years.

Who knows what our founding members would make of where we are today? Hopefully they would enjoy this book and feel a sense of pride in what we have built on the solid base they have laid on our behalf.

Acknowledgements

The role of an archivist is an interesting one, falling somewhere between a labour of love and a frustrating, at times, trawl through an abundance of

source material. We are fortunate to have had a wide range of such material, courtesy of Walter Dowdall and JV Smyth. The history of the Club, compiled by Walter for the 50th Anniversary in 1971, provided a sound account of our first half-century and the accumulation of photographs, scrap books, notebooks and memorabilia over many decades provided the basis for this publication.

The use of material from many external sources is gratefully acknowledged – Ulster Branch minutes, the local and regional press including the News Letter, the Belfast Telegraph and the Ireland Saturday Night. Content from the County Down Spectator, as found in Walter's scrapbooks or the Spectator archives, was particularly invaluable.

The contribution from club members, past and present, added colour and personality to the detail. Thanks to Chris McQuaid, Davy McManus, Stephen Martin, Chris Cargo, JV Smyth, Chris Harte, Roy Mairs, and Dawie Holley.

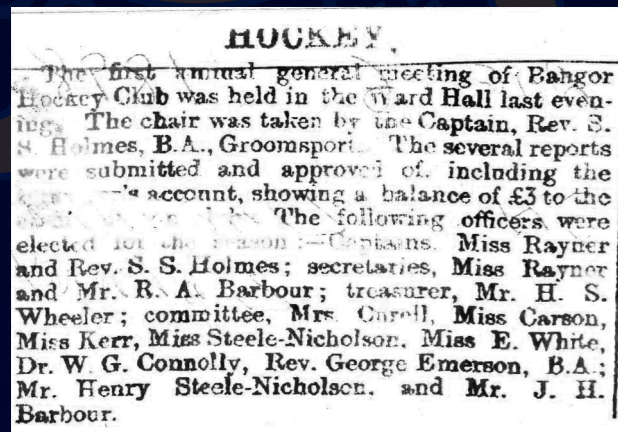
Sincere thanks are extended to Carolyn Scott for her great skill in the design and production of this book and thanks also to Heather and Nicola Wilson for the transfer of information to digital format.

Finally, a thank you to all those not mentioned by name, or inadvertently omitted, for their help in what has been a considerable team effort. Perhaps, in time, omissions, and inaccuracies, may become apparent but that will be for those who compile the 125th History of the Club.

George Wilson
President Bangor Hockey Club 2021

Club History

Hockey in Bangor was established in 1898. We celebrate our centenary in 2021 as it was from 1921 that we have continuous official records, with the exception of course of the war years. However, between 1898 and 1921 there are references to hockey being played.



Ireland Saturday Night August 6th 1898
Linenhall Library

It is now over 100 years since the first Bangor team took the field with a Senior and Junior team playing on what then was known as Jackie Hamilton's farm on the East side of Waverley Drive. Among those players then were Barbour, Costello, Currie Kingston, McKellops, Rose Vere, Moran, Chambers, H and J. Stevenson the latter (J. Stevenson) having played for Ulster.

Reference is made in Irish Hockey Records (3rd Issue) to Bangor player A. D. McIlwaine playing for Ulster against Leinster in 1902-03 and S. A. Bullock (Bangor, Malone, and Marino) who played for Ireland against Scotland 1903-07-09 as well as several times for Ulster. It is interesting to note that it is not until 1971 that another Bangor player represented his country: Davy McManus, who gained his first cap against West Germany and who with Frank Young, another young player who played with Bangor in his early days, was selected to play against England.

In April 1902, Mr. Sam Bulloch (Bangor and Malone) was elected Hon. Secretary of the Ulster Branch, taking over from Mr. John Moore, who had been Hon. Secretary since the inception of the branch in December, 1896. Apart from being described as a first-class centre half back he was well known as one of the best amateur actors in the North of Ireland.

Nothing further appears to be known about the Bangor Club after 1910 or 1911 until it was reformed in 1921. A meeting was then held in the Dufferin Hall, in a classroom to the right of the main passage. The sponsors of the meeting as far as can be gathered were Mr. B. Bell and Mr. J. Breeze and it was decided to reform the local Hockey Club and that a team should be entered in the Minor League for 1921-22 season.

17th September 1921

A public meeting was held in Dufferin Hall last Wednesday evening, called by Mr J. Breeze, Secretary pro tem, for the purpose of forming a Bangor Hockey Club. About twenty gentlemen attended. Mr. James Imrie presided. It was intimated that a number had been prevented from attending. The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said there seemed to be quite a number of enthusiastic hockey men, old and new in Bangor, and it was thought that hockey could be revived. There was a decent team at one time—he remembered playing against them. However, that club had, died, and they were here to try to revive the game. He could not see why they should not have a good team. They had some who played before, and others keen to try. It was not a difficult game. It possessed a similarity to Association football. It was a game where players had to keep their temper. It was not a married man's game. (laughter) First of all, there was the of ground and expenses 'incidental thereto, including the annual rent, keeping the ground in order, etc. There would be a small initial outlay. Afterwards members themselves could do any marking. They could do without a pavilion. Mr. Breeze - we can, this year. Continuing, the chairman said they would be in time to be affiliated with the Ulster Branch of the Irish Hockey Union. If late, they would be out for this season. Each of them should make an effort, for it would take well over 30 playing members to run two teams. The secretary pro. tem. read a letter from, Mr. J. H. Church, of the "Evening Telegraph," hon. secretary of

4TH FEB 1898

NORTH DOWN HERALD AND CO DOWN INDEPENDENT

BANGOR HOCKEY CLUB. - The growing popularity of hockey in the North of Ireland is evidenced by the number of clubs which are daily springing into active existence, and we are glad to see that Bangor has started a most enthusiastic and promising one. We have often wondered why such a club was not formed before. There is plenty of splendid material in our town to keep every kind of athletic amusement going and hockey is one of the most delightful of winter sports. However, things have taken a forward step, and, if the meeting held last Saturday to inaugurate the club be any criterion of success the future of Bangor as regards things hockey is more than assured. In response to the circular sent out a large and influential gathering assembled in the Ward Hall (kindly lent by Very Rev. the Dean of Down. D.D.), and the proceedings from beginning to end were marked by great enthusiasm. The chair was taken by Mr. C. H. Bowen (who is ever ready to do all in his power for the good of Bangor, no matter whether the business be sport, commerce, or "sociality," if we may use such a word. In a happy speech he showed the need that existed, and the very general desire, for such a club, and expressed his opinion that the meeting would form one calculated to make its prowess felt in hockey circles before very long. With such a keynote sounded, matters were not likely to languish, and after about an hour and a half's meeting during which the pros and cons of the case were fully gone into, a club was formed and called the Bangor Hockey Club, and a careful selection of officers made. We very heartily welcome the club amongst us. We confidently augur for it a most successful future. We wish it every possible success and hope to see many a glorious victory resting with its "deeds of daring do."

The following are the officers elected for 1898: —Captains (Ladies), Miss Steele-Nicholson. Balloo House; Rev. S. S. Holmes, BA. The Rectory, Groomsport. Secretaries—(Ladies), Miss Rayner, Brunswick Road; Men - Mr. R. Barbour, Ballyholme. Treasurer—Mr. H. S. Wheeler. Bangor. Committee — Mrs. Currell. Bangor; Miss Kerr, Miss L. Steele-Nicholson, S Carson. Carnalea; Rev. G. Emerson. B.A., Bangor; Mr. C. H. Bowen; Dr. Conolly; Mr. Harry Steele-Nicholson.

the Ulster Branch of the Union expressing in strongest terms of encouragement and promising any assistance in his power. He pointed out the advantages of becoming affiliated with the Minor league, as fixtures would be arranged for them, and any team failing to travel was dealt with by the Council. Friendly games were not a success. If they did not affiliate, they would find it difficult to get a match, because no affiliated clubs could play against unaffiliated teams without permission of the Ulster Branch. This was not mentioned as a threat but simply for the information of intending members. If they had a big membership friendly matches might be arranged for the Junior eleven, and if they had 30 playing members it would be a good idea to have two teams. It was sometimes difficult to retain members if they could not get a match regularly. Mr. Breeze said it had been estimated that with a playing membership of at least 30 a subscription of 15s would be necessary. The average subscription was 12s 6d. Initial expenditure for goalposts, nets, etc., would not be incurred next year, and it would be possible to reduce the subscription. This would not entail much of a sacrifice for a game which would last the whole winter season. They would not be at more expense than in joining a Rugby Club. Each member would require buying a Jersey, pants, boots,

socks, and sticks. The game required a good ground, with a level bottom. Mr. Bob Bell had assisted Elm in finding very suitable ground up Church Street way, opposite the first football field. Everything had been considered as to marking, railing, and getting the ground in order, in fixing the subscription at 15s, including a room for dressing in. Some hut could be got. The rent for the ground was to be £7 for the season. He thought that was very cheap. The football people had got a field for £15. On a show of hands everyone present announced their readiness to join. On the motion of the secretary, the following preliminary essential rules were agreed to: -

1. That the name of the Club be the Bangor Hockey Club.
2. That a President and Vice Presidents be appointed.
3. That the other Office Bearers consist of a Secretary, Treasurer, Captain and Committee; the Committee to consist of five members with the addition of the Secretary, Treasurer, and Captain, ex officio and the Captain and Secretary of the Junior Eleven, a quorum to consist of not less than five members.
4. That the Committee be given power to add to the above rules as the occasion arises, to be framed on the rules of other existing clubs. Mr. R Bell seconded, and the motion was agreed to. The subscription was fixed at 15s.

5. It was resolved to ask the following gentlemen to accept Honorary Office - Patrons—The Marquis of Dufferin and Ava and T. W. McMullan. M.P. President—Mr. T.S. Wilson. J.P. Vice Presidents Messrs. Wm. H. Heaney, Vice President of the Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union; S. C. Kelly, F. G. McGuire, Dr. Bennett, John Tyrrell, Thos. Brand, Jas. Dunseith, Wm. McMurray, W. J. Lovett, W. B. Magee, J. McWhittle, R.J. Woods, John Thomson, J. Leigh Thomas, A. Scott, Farnham Park; J. S. Goodall, W. A. McMurray, Jas. Imrie, Dr. Craig, J. F. Brice, and R. Clements Lyttle.

6. Mr. Breeze was appointed permanent Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Bob Bell hon. treasurer. Each team will elect its own captain. Mr. Breeze agreed to look after the affairs of the junior team meanwhile. It was pointed out that the railway regulations allowed teams of 8 or more to travel at half-fare now that the railways were uncontrolled. The following were elected members of the Committee—Messrs. W. Mercer, Jas. Connolly, W. McMurray, Harold Craig, and C. Cassidy. There were no further nominations. It was agreed that one team should join the Minor League, and it was stated that there were plenty of clubs being formed with junior teams not entered for affiliation to allow for sufficient games.

7. After a long discussion on Club Colours blue pants were adopted, on the motion of Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Connolly. The question of a jersey or white shirt was left to the committee.

8. Members were advised to get sticks of 21oz, not too

long. It was arranged to have the first practise game on Saturday (to-day) at Three O Clock. A cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Breeze for his preliminary work on the motion of Mr. Chas. McNeill, seconded by Mr. Walter Mercer, and the Chairman drew attention to the valuable aid given by Mr. Bell. The Chairman was thanked for his attendance and able Chairmanship, on the motion of Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Harry Johnston

Since then, for one hundred years, Saturday by Saturday during the seasons, except for the wars years when the club was disbanded, Bangor has fielded from one to seven teams according to its numerical strength. The first pitch obtained after its reformation was one in Church Street and a hall, (known as Miss Hanna's Hall) and situated in Church Street, was used as a pavilion. The first game was played against a team known as Anglo-American whom Bangor beat by three goals to one. The Bangor Club, considering it was its first season, finished in the top half of the Minor league.

Mr. Frank Stevenson, of Church Street, kept a most interesting photograph of a team taken about this time with the following members in the group, Mr. Imrie, Rev. R. C. H. Elliott (later Bishop of Connor), S. R. Bell, V. Blakely, Bradley, J. Breeze, C. Carter (Capt.), C. Cassidy, B. Connolly, J. Craig, C. McNeill, and F. Stevenson. After some two seasons at Church Street the club obtained a pitch beside the Godfrey Avenue, convenient to Ballyholme showgrounds. A pavilion was erected by the members and the membership

Frank Stevenson, hon. life member of the Club, remembers as a lad in 1905 how his home at the corner of Waverley Drive, adjacent to the club's first pitch, was used for changing rooms before a pavilion was erected

1932/33 Winners of Junior Charity Cup and "B" Division Junior League

Back Row: J.M. McQuaid, R.J.H. Caughey, G. C. Leslie, R. McKaig, Rev. C. McCurdy, S.F. Stevenson, H.P.V. Barr, J. Bell
Front Row: H. Russell, T. Duggan, J.H. Hanna (Captain), H.P. Ballagh, W.J. Reynolds



became so strong that it was possible to field three teams, one in the Senior Qualifying, one in Junior and one in Minor League hockey.

Here the Club remained for approximately five years and during the summer months organised five-a-side competitions which were very popular with other clubs. An interesting feature of the club in these days was that the subscription was 10 shillings and the charge for catering was 1 shilling per member. Around 1927 the club was once again on the move. This time they settled on ground belonging to Mr. Kinghan, now the Ashley Park district, one of the members subsequently marrying the daughter of Mr. Kinghan. The Ladies' club was also allocated a pitch beside that of the men. At this time, the club experienced a lean period. They fielded one team and had one reserve (A. Walker), but their keenness was such that he was only called upon to play four times. Small as the membership was, what they lacked in numbers they made up in enthusiasm, as the members had to prepare their own pitch for each

home fixture. It was around this time that Mr. Victor Barr first joined the club. He subsequently brought it honour by gaining both senior and junior trials, as did Willie Hannay, who, some years later, was selected for Junior Ulster for three seasons (1935-1938).

From Ashley Park the next move was to Silverstream, Belfast Road, where two teams were fielded, one in the Intermediate League and the other in the Junior League. After a sojourn at Silverstream the club moved to Ward Park where it continued playing except for a short period again in 1948 when the pitches were unplayable. The club moved on again in 1957 when the new Valentine Playing Fields were opened and remained there until they returned to Ward Park in 1975.

Probably the most successful seasons in the early days – at any rate from the point of view of trophies won – were 1933-36 when Bangor won the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Qualifying league in three successive seasons. Immediately prior to this Bangor



Bangor team at opening of Willowfield Hockey Pitch 1928/29 season

Back Row from left: A. Grant (Hon. Secretary), J.B. Boyd, H. Russell (Captain), A. Bell, R. Hughes, H. Johnston
Front Row: A. Walker, F. Stevenson, C. McNeill, I. Neill, J. McQuaid, C. Scott

1933/34 Winners of Junior League Championship

Back Row: H. Russell, G.D. McRoberts, T.W. Gebbie, GH McNeill
Middle Row: W.H. Hannay, R.E.J. Moriarty, J.H. Hanna (Captain) W.J. Reynolds, H.P. Ballagh
Front Row: Rev. D.W.A. Quinlan, H.P.V. Barr



has the fine record of five seasons 1928-32 on the Ashley Park ground without a single home defeat.

During this period from the 1920s to the 1940s the trophies won were Junior Charity Cup, 1932-33; Bradley Shield, 1933-34; Intermediate Charity Cup, 1934-35; Junior League, 1932-33-34; Intermediate League 1934-35; Senior Qualifying League, 1935-36.

Senior Hockey

In the post war years, and until the last ten years, the most successful period for the Club was in the 1960-61 and 1961-62 seasons. In 1960-61 Bangor won promotion to section A Qualifying League and in 1961-62 the 1st XI, captained by Harry McDonagh, won promotion to the Senior League having gained promotion on two successive years and having gone two seasons without a league defeat. In 1962-63 they maintained their place in Senior Hockey but were relegated to Senior League 2 the following season after a play-off with Antrim.

In the 1963-64 season Davy McManus brought honour to the club by being selected for Ulster senior team as well as the Ulster Under-23.

In 1955, in response to an appeal from the Bangor Borough council to mark the town's 1400th anniversary, the Hockey Club inaugurated a six-a-side Hockey Tournament. From small beginnings of a mere 20 teams, the tournament evolved to become the largest tournament of its' kind in the British Isles, attracting more than 150 teams. Each year in the first week of August, hundreds of players descended on Bangor, with teams travelling from England, Scotland, Wales, and the Republic of Ireland to give it a truly international flavour played in the best holiday spirit. On reaching the 50th anniversary of the tournament, given the backdrop of a gradual

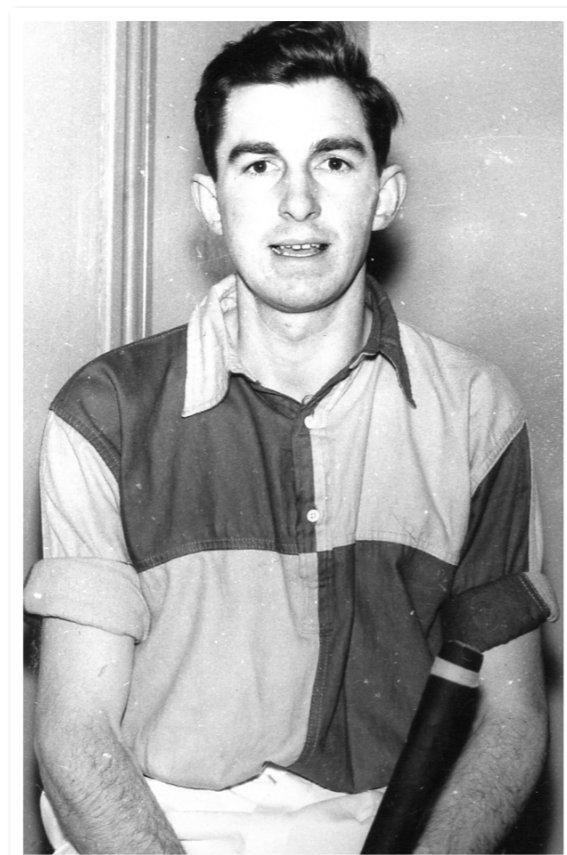


Bangor team playing Senior hockey for the first time in their match against Cliftonville at Castle Park on 6th October 1962

decline in such summer events, the Club decided it was an appropriate time to conclude what had been a wonderful success story.

Since the club began to use Ward Park in 1975 there has been a lengthy period of stability as regards playing venue, with only two further moves. However, this degree of consistency was not necessarily matched on field of play. Up until the last decade, the 1st XI has endured a lengthy flirtation with Senior one status, the most successful spell coming in 1988 when they finished 5th in the league and reached the quarter-finals of the Irish Senior Cup, notching the noteworthy scalp of Three Rock Rovers en route. Trophies won in this period by the 1st XI include the Senior Two Championship, and the Bangor Floodlit Tournament (1986-7).

The next real chance at 1st XI glory came in May 1989 when for the first time in the Club's history, a Senior cup final was reached. Having defeated Lisnagarvey in the semi-final expectations were high but Mossley were victorious by 2-0 in the Anderson Cup final. There have been other successes. In 1992 the 3rd XI capped a remarkable season when they not only won promotion from Junior league but also won the Junior Shield for the third time in 4 years. Perhaps the most memorable of these three Junior Shield victories was the first in 1989. Two



Harry McDonagh – Captain of Bangor 1st XI 1961-1962

Bangor 1st XI 1949/50 season

Front Left Back Row Standing: Ben Boal, Ted Jerram, H. Grimble, W. Dowdall, N. McMahon, B. Gordon, E. Alexander
Front Row: J. Thompson, J. Nelson, R. Henderson



nil in arrears with 25 minutes remaining, John Scott converted two short comers. Just as extra-time beckoned the diminutive Gerry Hamill scored the winner. A more dramatic conclusion to a cup final you could not wish for. Another notable landmark was the introduction of a 7th XI, for the 1991-92 season. Indeed, in their debut season the 7th XI was promoted as champions from Junior League Eight.

However, for sustained 1st XI success, the period from 2015 to 2018 represents somewhat of a high mark. The Linden Cup was won twice (in the 2015/16 and 2017/18 seasons) and the team were runners up in the Premier League, losing out by a solitary point after a 2-1 defeat against Kilkeel in the very last march of the season. The team did however then reach the final of the Irish Hockey league play-off, losing out to Dublin YMCA after a pulsating encounter. 4-0 in arrears after the first quarter, Bangor then staged a quite remarkable comeback, scoring four goals themselves. Unfortunately, a truly memorable comeback was thwarted as Dublin won after run-ins.

The School

Bangor Grammar School has of course been a consistently healthy source of playing talent over the years. JV Smyth was responsible for the re-introduction of hockey into the school sporting curriculum and launched the school on what proved to be a steady path of success. Bangor Grammar School teams have enjoyed considerable success over the past 5 decades most notably with the winning of the McCullough and Burney cup double in 1983 and the Irish school's championship in 1989 and 1997. However, it is not just playing success which is an indicator of achievement. The school has provided a constant stream of young talent to enable the club to maintain at least 5 teams for the past 40 years whilst

the school has consistently augmented its coaching staff with Chris Harte, Roy Mairs, Jeremy Macafee, Jonathan Todd, and Dawie Holley all playing for the Club 1st XI.

Recognition of the schools, success in developing hockey talent has come in the form of Ulster and Irish respective honours for a considerable number of schoolboys over the years. Sean Curran and Scott Sanderson merit inclusion for having captained Irish Schools sides. The most notable achievements are those attained by Chris Cargo and Stephen Martin. Chris has won a remarkable 195 caps for Ireland and Stephen participated successfully over three Olympics for the Great British side, winning a bronze medal in 1984 and the ultimate accolade of Gold in 1988.

Bangor has also played a central role in other aspects of Ulster and Irish Hockey. Both JV Smyth and Walter Dowdall have served as both President of the Ulster Branch (in 1983/84 and 1972/73 respectively) and President of the Irish Hockey Union itself (1976 and 1999 respectively). JV Smyth was also President of the Irish Hockey Association from 2002-2004. As already indicated the club was the first in Ireland to establish a Six-a-Side tournament and in 1976 continued their precedent setting path with the introduction of the first floodlit tournament in Ireland. Past President D. G. Lamb provided the initial impetus for a tournament which lasted for some 13 years. Just as hockey infrastructure developed within the Grammar school recognised the importance of young talent, the Club was instrumental in developing the "mini-Hockey" concept. Again, the first of its kind in Ireland, the mini-Hockey tournament was organised by Bangor on behalf of the Branch for a period of 12 years (beginning in 1976).

Grounds and Pitches

During our first one hundred years the club has played at several venues and on a considerable variety of surfaces. Indeed, grass was the surface until 1966. The location of grounds used in the early days has in many cases coincided with the town expansion.

In 1921 the first pitch was in Church Street and Miss Hanna's Hall was used as the pavilion. Shortly after that the Club moved to beside what is now Godfrey Avenue, convenient to the Ballyholme Showgrounds, also with a pavilion. Then in 1927 the Club moved to the Ashley Park area where there were three pitches, one for ladies and two for men. Ashley Park proved to be the Club base until the war, after which there was a further move to a new site at Silverstream on the Belfast Road.

In 1957, after a short period at Ward Park the Club moved to Castle Park, later known as the Valentine Playing Fields. The location of the two pitches can be related to the Aurora facility today – the ladies pitch where the car park is at right angles to the pool. The men's pitch would have been where today's pitch is – the grass certainly required boots with studs!

In September 1923, satisfaction was expressed that the club was permitted to retain the ground at Ballyholme, that the heavy expenses in connection with the pavilion had been defrayed, and that the club was able to start the new season with a credit balance. Also, in 1923 Bangor were able to give a good plain tea to a visiting team in a local café for 7 shilling each

Many visiting teams on wet days presumed the route to success was down the wings, not realising that the pitch was domed from the centre, making the wings the catchment area for rain. It was here that the club played its first Senior League match.

In those days, as home team, we had to collect and erect the nets before the game and remove them afterwards. At the Valentines the home team had to carry the nets to and from the pitch, though the posts were in place! The Valentine pitch was used until 1965, when we were moved by the Council to grass at Ward Park with a green hut as changing rooms near Broadway.

1966 was to mark the first move from grass to the all-weather surface at the new school grounds at

Ballymacormick. As there were no changing rooms at Ballymacormick, players continued to change at Ward Park. This posed quite a challenge to ensure that both teams, having changed, drove together to the "hidden" ground. Whilst the pitch itself was not large, 50 yards by 90 yards, it was approved in the absence of anywhere else to play.

In 1975 the Council had developed Ward Park into a major hockey centre with three all-weather

pitches, and, uniquely at the time, floodlights. The first matches here were played in December 1975 and the floodlights enabled outdoor evening training as well as mini hockey for primary school boys. The ladies played on the pitch closest to the tennis courts and the men used the other two. The centre pitch was helpful if leading a tight match by one nil as long clearances across the other pitches presented a challenge to return the ball quickly. The changing of surfaces was continuing at pace with the emergence of synthetic surfaces. The Club challenged the Council to develop one within the council area. There was a considerable amount of lobbying to the Council from a number of sports associations but with no synthetic surface in Bangor, the first XI moved to Belfast, playing their home league matches at the Olympia complex for several seasons. 1996 marked the breakthrough in Bangor, when two synthetic pitches were opened at Ballykillaire. This facility enabled the club to host major events such as the All Ireland Schools Tournament, the Mini-Hockey Championship, the Home International Veterans at over 40 and over 50 level. Sadly, the pitches, built on an old refuse site, began to subside in several places, resulting in them being unfit for play. 2014 marked

the next phase, with the opening of the Aurora complex. Indeed, not only Aurora, but also a pitch at the newly opened Bangor Academy, and then also at the new Bangor Grammar School site. From famine to veritable feast.

Since our 75th anniversary there has been some further notable developments.

The establishment of the facilities at Ballykillaire in 1996 saw the Club find yet another home, the many years of lobbying the Council finally bearing fruit. The pitches provided an excellent backdrop for the final years of the Annual Sixes tournament. However, whilst the Sixes continued to attract a substantial number of teams, and indeed much welcome revenue, it was decided that the 50th anniversary in 2004 would be an appropriate landmark on which to draw a final curtain on the most successful of tournaments.

Our most recent move saw us return to our playing home of the 1950s – the new Aurora complex at the Valentine playing Fields. This splendid facility was opened in 2014, the same year indeed that pitches also became available at the new Academy and Bangor Grammar School.



Opening of Ward Park pitches in 1975

Sportsmen picket council

LOCAL sports people, angry at delays in building a sports complex in Bangor, are planning a mass picket of the Town Hall at the end of the month.

Athletes, footballers, cricketers, hockey players, archers, schoolchildren and anyone else with an interest in sports locally is invited to join the protest, organised by Bangor Hockey Club, on August 30.

Contractors were supposed to start building the complex, on the site of Bangor Bog on the Old Belfast Road, next month, but the council has

refused to give the go-ahead, despite earlier commitments.

The arena would comprise artificial and grass pitches, a running track and facilities for players and spectators. The sporting fraternity, who are forced to go outside the borough for matches, expect to be able to stage major competitions there if the complex is built.

However, the council's indecision began with the arrival of consultants L & R Leisure in the borough. They have been charged with coming up with proposals for the economic regeneration of North Down and councillors

are wary of pre-empting their suggestions by going ahead with Ballykillaire, the name given to the sports centre.

When L & R came up with the idea of Bangor Dome, an ambitious £2m development at Queen's Parade which would house a theatre, arts centre, restaurants, shops and winter garden, the council appeared to lose interest in Ballykillaire, despite protestations that the projects were not mutually exclusive.

A vote, in June, on whether to proceed with the sports facility, was tied 8-8.

Members decided to wait and see what else L & R had to offer.

Bangor Hockey Club, which has lobbied for decent sports facilities for more than 10 years, finds this latest delay the last straw. Last year, with the help of the council's sport and recreation officer, Fred White, they won a £350,000 grant for the project and thought they had secured a council commitment to put up the remaining £1.43m.

Some councillors have blamed the hockey club for not attending public meetings held by L & R when they were consulting local people about what they wanted for the town.

"The reason we didn't attend was because as far as we were concerned, Ballykillaire had been given the green light," said Mr Dornan.

He blamed the new Town Clerk, Adrian McDowell, who withdrew the item from the agenda this week, for returning the plan to the back burner.

Although Mr McDowell did not go out to speak to the protesters outside the Town Hall on Tuesday, he invited Mr Dornan in.

Mr McDowell told Mr Dornan that he could not pre-empt a council decision but that he was sure it would make a recommendation to proceed on a phased basis.

"We have had a number of things coming to us this year. As good custodians of the rates, we must look at different needs," he added.

Mr Dornan was not pacified. "He said he wanted the councillors to have more time to consider a project of that magnitude. They have been considering it for years now," Mr Dornan said yesterday.

"Adrian McDowell's main concern is Queen's Parade and I agree something has to be done with Queen's Parade. Likewise, something needs to be done about sporting facilities."

TEST
Test drilling began on the site, which had been a rubbish tip. Then, nothing.

A council which was full of enthusiasm when the grant, from the Foundation for Sports and the Arts, came through, has appeared increasingly jittery each time Ballykillaire has been mentioned this summer.

The decision to delay a final commitment while L&R compiled their report was just too much for the hockey club.

"That was the last straw for us and we are very concerned about losing the grant money," said club chairman Peter Dornan yesterday.

The final decision was again to be taken by the council on Tuesday evening and a few dozen members of the hockey club turned up at the Town Hall to lobby members going in. When they arrived, they learnt that the issue had been removed from the agenda.

The protesters were furious. Mr Dornan said the club had been frustrated at every turn. Over the years they had watched as other



Protestors Jonathan Scott and Peter Dornan make their point to Councillor Austin Lennon.

Specfoto: 894/13a-63m

BANGOR HOCKEY CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 5TH SEPTEMBER 1906

The annual Meeting of this club was held on the 5th of September when the following Officers were elected for ensuing the season: - Captain H Steele Nicholson; Vice Captain, E Barcroft; Hons Treasurer FJ Kinston; Hon Secretary, W F Currell; Committee: - Rev S S Holmes, JHS Costello, G Massey Burnside, E Corry, W Merrick, H Steele Nicholson, and R A Barbour.

BANGOR HOCKEY CLUB
FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NORTHERN WHIG - 16 SEPTEMBER 1922. PAGE 3.

The first Annual General Meeting of the Bangor Hockey Club was held in the Dufferin Hall, Bangor. Mr James Connolly presided over a large attendance. Mr J Breeze presented the Honorary Secretary's Report. He congratulated the Club on having a successful first season. Out of 16 matches played in the Minor League, eight were won, two drawn and six lost.

In view of the fact that the majority of the members were playing hockey for the first time, the results were very credible.

The Committee had been successful in obtaining a new and better ground at Ballyholme on which a pavilion would be shortly erected.

On the increased support which had been forthcoming, it was hoped to run two League teams during the coming season.

Mr S R Bell, Honorary Treasurer, spoke of the flourishing financial condition of the Club. By aid of a dance and a fancy-dress match, the funds were considerably augmented. The following office-bearers were appointed; Honorary Secretary, Mr J Breeze, 35 Hamilton Road, Bangor; Assistant Secretary, Mr R C Meekin, Honorary Treasurer, Mr S R Bell; Captain 1st XI, Mr E Morrow; Vice-Captain, Mr C Cassidy.

Captain 2nd XI, Mr H Johnston; Vice Captain Mr R G Noble.

Committee, Rev R A Deane, M A, W Bradley, C Carter, C Cassidy, H McGimpsey, R C McMeekin, W A McMurray and C McNeill.

BANGOR HOCKEY CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT
BELFAST NEWSLETTER 7TH SEPTEMBER 1923

The Annual Meeting of the Bangor Hockey Club was held in Dufferin Hall, Bangor, on Wednesday evening, Mr J H Connolly presiding over a large and enthusiastic attendance. The Hon-Secretary Mr R C Meekin read the Report of the past season in which satisfaction was expressed that the Club was permitted to retain their ground at Ballyholme, that the heavy expenses in connection with a pavilion had been defrayed and the Club was able to start the new season with a credit balance. The Hon Treasurer Mr S Bell submitted the financial statement which was passed.

Regret was expressed at the loss of the late Hon Secretary Mr John Breeze who is now resident in Manchester.

The report was adopted, tributes being paid to Mr James Irmrie, Mr V A Mc Murray and Mr J Breeze; to the Bangor U D C for the use of the Tennis Pavilion and also to the Misses K Farrow and H Hurt for their kindness in promoting a dance for the benefit of the Club.

The following Office Bearers were elected for the ensuing season: - Hon Secretary, Mr J Ritchie McKee, 1 Donegal Square East, Belfast; Ass Secretary, Mr W A V Sanderson; Hon Treasurer, Mr S Bell; Captain, Mr J H Connolly; Vice Captain, Mr Charles McNeill.

George Miskimmins remembers...



I remember the pitch at Silverstream, I was never at it, but it could be seen from traffic going into Bangor from the Clandeboyne direction. During the later fifties we had a Rev Joseph McCrory, I always thought it should have said P.P. after his name but he was a Methodist Minister who was a missionary in Nigeria at that time. He played when home on leave. He was a very effective centre forward. Playing at Downpatrick one day he dashed into the circle after a ball and collided with the Down goalkeeper and received a bad gash of one his eyes. He was taken to Down Hospital from where he turned very promptly.

He appeared on the touchline dressed in his clerical collar. This caused some excitement. When the game was over, walking into the clubhouse, the goalkeeper approached Joe and rather sheepishly said, "Sorry for splitting your eye, but I am only an ignorant man from Crossgar" Joe used that expression many times when he went back to Nigeria. Who knows it may be still in use in Umachia? I had a cousin worked in the same area who told me he often came across a clearing with up to at least 30 Nigerians playing football in their bare feet and in the middle of it all one white man, the Rev Joe in his bare feet.

Also, in the mid-1950s, I remember Billy Addison and myself going to H. Malcom McKee, in Ballyholme, with a proposed drawing of the club crest for the blazer. He really gave us a right going over from the heraldic aspect of the draft. However, a week later, by post,

I received a draft from him. It was to become the chosen one.

Club Chairman 1959/60 and 1st XI captain 1954/55 and 1959/60



Social Event 25th Feb 1955

Bangor Grammar School Hockey Club

The introduction of hockey to the Grammar school sporting curriculum represented a significant landmark in the Clubs' history. Ronnie McManus, one of the three McManus brothers to represent the Club, started hockey in 1958 but the venture was relatively short-lived, and it was not until the mid-1960s that hockey became more than a "subsidiary game" in the school sporting curriculum.

JV Smyth 1966-1995

"When is hockey starting?" I asked the headmaster, Randall Clarke, over lunch towards the end of the summer term of 1966. "Whenever you want", was his reply – and that was it! On the 13th of September 1966, on the grass in front of the changing rooms at Bloomfield Playing Fields, the first school hockey was played. We soon moved to the newly laid all-weather surface playing fields at Ballymacormick, first used on 4th October 1966. At that time Ballymacormick was in its early stages of development. The lower all-weather was the only playing surface completed. Indeed, the pavilion, rugby pitches and grass hockey pitch, later to become an all-weather pitch, were not available for use until September 1968. Only then was transport provided for boys to get from school to "Ballymac", as it soon became known.

All-weather pitch for Bangor Grammar School

By THEO SNOBBY

An all-weather hockey pitch is included in the plans for Bangor Grammar School's new playing fields at Ballymacormick Road.

Better news for the Bangor Hockey Club would be hard to find. If the same is taken up seriously at the Grammar School then there should be a constant source of supply for the club, which at present has 45 playing members.

Tom McVicar, a member of the Bangor 2nd XI, is doing good work at the Intermediate School, where he teaches, by coaching some of the boys at hockey.

Two Irish Schools players, Richard Finlay and Frank Young, both still at Methodist College, are in the Bangor 1st XI. Tom Stewart, on the same team, is an ex-pupil of Methody. Three members of the Bangor 2nd XI are at M.C.B.: Army Beattie, Geoff Bulloch and Alan Gilmore.

Bangor's team to play at home against Queen's University in the second round of the Anderson Cup on Saturday is: R. Finlay; F. Young, J. Barr; J. Marshall, H. McDonough, T. Gilpin; J. Smyth, V. Heslett, T. Jemphrey, D. McManus, J. Stewart. Since last Saturday, Jemphrey and Smyth have switched places.

Shaw off

Derek Shaw is not available for Lisnagarvey in their home second-round game against Cliftonville, and Jim Mulholland comes in at inside-left. David McClements, not available last Saturday, is back at right-back.

Cliftonville are unchanged and the teams are:— P. Wilkin; D. McClements, W. Mercer; I. Wells, J. C. Bell, A. Bolas; R. Boyd, S. Howard, E. Priestley, J. Mulholland, J. M. Bowden.

Cliftonville—A. Wallace; W. J. Curran, J. Turkington; W. Hayes, A. D. Rose, P. Bowen; R. Patterson, R. Hamilton, W. Bustard, R. Colvin, D. Richardson.

Banbridge are unchanged for their home cup game against Y.M.C.A.— G. Compton; H. Wright, A. Allister; R. Dale, E. Grafton, J. Hamilton; R. Forsythe, W. M. Campbell, J. S. McCarthy, C. Conn, J. Patterson.

Mervyn McConkey, the motorcycle man, plays his first game of the season for the Antrim 1st XI on Saturday when they are at home to Mossley in the Senior League. He replaces Brian McCabe. Drew Francey is also omitted and his place at inside-left has been taken by John McKee, who has been moved over from inside-right. Dave Duffield comes on at inside-right. Mossley are unchanged, and the teams are:—

Antrim—A. Carson; A. Crawford, J. Creighton; F. Baird, C. Carson, W. Harkness; P. Marks, D. Duffield, M. Campbell, J. McKee, M. McConkey.

Mossley—D. Strange; J. Welch, C. McAllister; R. Kidd, Jim Robinson, R. McGrugan; Campbell, H. Martin, E. Bur, B. McEroom, B. Hamill.

In those early days we were only able to offer hockey to about 25 boys on each games' afternoon. This was due to staff available – only Errol Steele, Billy Mercer and yours truly. There was no hockey offered to boys in first form. Clearly it was felt that everybody should play rugby in their first year, something which continued for forty years! An interesting sidelight on the lack of transport in the initial years was that those who chose hockey tended to live in the more accessible Ballyholme area. In those days, the houses in the school were defined regionally, thus School house, which was based in that part of the town, won the house competition in the early years. Incidentally, the same tendency could be noted in the house swimming when the old Pickie pool was used.

December 1975 saw us use the three Ward Park all-weather pitches for the first time and in February 1976, we played under floodlights at Ward Park, probably the first school team to do so in Ireland. In September 1979, we played the first games on the newly converted all-weather pitch at Ballymac which replaced the grass pitch which had seldom been playable after Halloween each year. Our first synthetic match was in the Irish Schools Final at Grange Road in Dublin in November 1989 (which we won!)

Ballymac provided an interesting venue for hockey. There were no changing facilities other than the old barn, latterly the groundsman's refuge. Visitors either changed at school and were then transported by bus, or just changed in the barn, a somewhat basic facility, especially on a wet day! As for access to the pitch, it was by walking along the top of what was the bank at the top of the 1st XV pitch and then along planks down to the pitch itself. This avoided walking across newly planted grass. The pitch itself was compact – some would say small! Indeed, whilst the groundsman were marking the full size, by the time the posts were in and the lines marked, the playing surface initially was 90 x 50 yards! Later the posts were moved as far back as was safe and the side lines pushed out as far as was practical, and so the size expanded to about 95 x 56 yards – an improvement. Certainly, it did not work to our disadvantage in those early days. As for kit, at first, we wore the blue shirt, like the Rugby 1st XV, but that did not last long. In the second season we purchased shirts, like those of the Bangor club

Spectator 8.8.58

ANNUAL MEETING OF BANGOR MEN'S HOCKEY CLUB HOCKEY TO BE PLAYED AT LOCAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

THE HEADMASTER OF BANGOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL (Mr. G. R. M. Clarke, M.A.) HAS INTIMATED THAT THE SCHOOL WILL BE COMMENCING HOCKEY AS A SUBSIDIARY GAME IN THE SPRING TERM. THIS INFORMATION WAS GIVEN AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BANGOR MEN'S HOCKEY CLUB ON FRIDAY.

The hon. secretary, Mr. Walter R. T. Dowdall, described this decision as very important from the local point of view, as at long last it should provide the nucleus of young player which the club so badly required.

quartered shirts sported in those days, and white shorts. This smart outfit was for 1st XI only and the other teams wore the hooped shirts and navy shorts as worn by other school teams. Thus, playing for the 1st XI was distinctive and something to aim for.

Clearly, once we had started hockey, boys wanted to play matches. This was bound to be a challenge, as they were unlikely to have even seen the game played before playing themselves. However, getting games was not a problem, as schools were only too pleased to help a newcomer and as far as the 1st XI was concerned, it was felt that playing 2nd XI opposition was more suitable. The first match was played against Annadale Grammar School 2nd XI at Carolan Road on 22nd October 1966 and resulted in a creditable 0-1 loss! The first match at Ballymac was on 26th November 1966 against a senior club 3rd XI and the first win was on the final Saturday of the term on grass away against Sullivan, with a 2-1 win. By the end of the first season, we had played matches at 1st, U15, U14 and U13 levels and managed seventeen 1st XI matches, never being comprehensively beaten, and managing to show good defensive technique – attacking play was a more difficult art to learn! At the end of the season, we were permitted to award our first Hockey colours, three in all, and thus have the game recognised. The first captain was Ian McCullough, later to teach for many years at our neighbouring Glenlola Collegiate. Another first-year colour was John Hunter, later to be the school bursar for twenty-five years.

During the second season several other firsts were achieved. We entered and won our first Burney cup match against BRA, who included one Chris Harte, later to play such a considerable role in schools' hockey. At the end of the season, we undertook our first tour – to Dublin – thus establishing an end of

season tradition. 1967 also saw the first recognition of our players for trials and this added to the status of the game in the school. Most matches were against school 1st XIs this season and we had our first Old Boys game over Christmas, though not on Boxing Day. Travel to matches was a somewhat complicated business. When playing in the Belfast area it was a matter of taking the train to the County Down station in Belfast, walk across the bridge to Royal Avenue or the City Hall and get a bus to such places as Inst's Bladon, Methody's Pirrie Park or even to BRA at distant Ballywanard. These trips used up the full Saturday morning. More distant matches for the 1st XI were only possible when we were able to find boys and parents willing to get cars to drive to such places as Ballycastle.

1968-69 saw the establishment of a complete fixture list with 1st, 2nd U15, U14, U13 playing a total of 68 matches and the establishment of our first block fixtures against Friends and Annadale. We had a visit from a Dublin school, Sandford Park, who we then played on tour along with our visit to Kings Hospital who were to become our longest rivals from Dublin. Kings Hospital has since moved to their spacious setting at Palmerston where initially they had two all-weather pitches and more recently, a synthetic surface. Our cup run involved three matches before beating the Model school, only to lose our next match to Friends. A feature of individual play was the goal scoring Ian Hamilton, who managed 22 in a season with 4 against Model and 5 against Newry. This was a record that was to stand for some time. Our captain was Conor Fraser, later to emigrate to Sligo and who was to play a substantial role in both men's and women's hockey in Connacht.

The 1969-70 season marked the real breakthrough into the "big time" with a major cup run. Captained



First School 1st XI to reach a Burney Cup Final Runners up to RBAI

Back Row: A. Honeyford, K. Kitson, I. Montgomery, H. McComb, B. Mumford, C. McQuaid (capt), N. Browne
 Front Row: L. Mulholland, P. Dale, B. McClelland, R. Parker

by Chris McQuaid, a huge competitor, who was our first Irish School's international, this was a fiercely competitive side. They believed they could win the Burney Cup by scoring 4 goals and conceding none! And they nearly succeeded! Following 1-0 wins over Newry, Kilkeel and MCB at fortress Ballymacormick, we faced a very powerful RBAI at Pirrie Park on a very wet Saturday morning only to succumb to a single goal to a side led by the great Terry Gregg, later to be an Olympian and a goal scorer extraordinaire. We were still playing matches on the grass at Ballymac – quite a trial after the increasing use of all-weather pitches. Our cup run was notable for the manner of victories, often being characterised by outstanding defence at the numerous corners offered to the opposition – it was claimed that MCB got 23 – and I would not challenge that!

In 1970-71 our side was captained by Raymond Parker and it should come as a surprise to no one who knows Raymond that we managed a record

37 matches, still to be beaten, playing from 12th September till 9th April. Only six games were lost including the Burney Cup semi-final against Friends. Then we lost in Dublin at half-term in the Easter term and our first “overseas trip” at the end of the term with a visit to the Wirral to play Caldy Grange S and Neston HC. We also managed to take in a visit to a Liverpool match at Anfield and to the Grand National as well as crossing on the Liverpool boat. Several of that side continued to play for the club with distinction for many years with Mr. Parker going on to play for 50 consecutive seasons!

Tours became a constant feature of the school year. In the early years it often meant to Dublin to play individual schools; then in 1975 Pembroke HC introduced a school's tournament with the opportunity to play three or four matches over two or three days. We did however venture further to England and Scotland. In 1972 we visited York. There had seemingly been a pro-IRA demonstration

by their university students just before we arrived. Our host was alarmed, told the police we were coming, and it transpired they gave us protection during our visit – and wished us well as we safely departed from York station. This was our first flight on tour. Dundee, Edinburgh, and Chester were venues before an invitation to Newcastle to play County U19s of the northern counties – a five match event on superb grass pitches – our host then was to reappear in 1990, 18 years later, as our host at the Bath schools' festival. In 1979 and 1983 we went to the Oxford Public Schools festival. This huge event brought together many of the best schools in England – over 50 – and gave us the opportunity to test ourselves over five matches and prove our worth – if we did not let them play! As mentioned, we went to the Bath schools' festival in 1990 and returned on several occasions – an ideal event played around local schools ensuring competitive matches and usually five games in the three days. We also were hosted by Cheltenham College and Marlborough School where matches were very competitive and sometimes played on superb grass pitches. Cup competitions play a major part in Ulster school sport. In 1982 the first Irish Schools Tournament was held hosted by the school and using the various all-weather pitches in Bangor. This became an annual Halloween event moving round Ireland from Dublin, Cork, Cookstown, Kilkenny, Limerick, Lisburn, Belfast, and Waterford. Finally, in Dublin in 1989 we won this major event with a powerful side captained by Johnny McNaught.

There were teams worthy of note. The 1970-71 side captained by Raymond Parker. The 1976-77 under Sean Curran; a year in which schools' hockey in Ireland and Ulster was dominated by Friends and BGS, with Friends just that slightly bit better. S.

Curran captained Ireland and Ulster schools and was joined by Stephen Martin in the Irish Schools team. Stephen would later go on to greater things playing for Ireland and in three Olympic games for GB.

The 1982-83 team was probably the most successful, winning the McCullough, Indoor and Burney, the last cup final on real grass at the old Bladon Park pitch. Niall McAllister, Alan Chambers and Stephen Mitchell played for Irish schools. McAllister managed a record 54 goals in the season and 97 in his school career. In total the side won 27 of its 31 matches and proved at the Oxford festival the equal of any English school. The 1989-90 side captained by Johnny McNaught won the Irish Schools tournament and only lost three games all season and were a very strong team. 1990-91 under Scott Sanderson proved its equal in strength, winning the McCullough and runner-up in the Burney, both matches with Cookstown. Sanderson captained Irish schools and was joined in the side by the lightning quick John Poole, the scorer of vital goals.

Chris Harte 1973-2009

My first encounter with Bangor Grammar School Hockey came on the first Saturday in March 1967. I was in my final year at Belfast Royal Academy where boys' hockey was very much the poor relation to rugby and where fixtures seemed to pop up on a rather sporadic basis. In the BRA calendar the first Saturday in March was usually filled with a block of Rugby matches against Bangor GS so we packed into a bus on the Cliftonville Road with several Junior XV's and headed to the seaside. It was an early start since all were anxious to make it back to the Castle Grounds where BRA (having overcome Campbell College in the Quarter Final) were due to play MCB for a place in the Schools' Cup Final.



BGS 1978 McCullough Cup Final Runners up to Cookstown

Back Row: Mr JV Smyth, M. Chambers, C. McCutcheon, A. Ringland, D. Stanfield (capt), G. Wilson, J. Eggleston
 Front Row: M. McGowan P. Webster, D. Dickson, I. Williamson, M. Smyth



BGS 1989 BGS Irish Schools Championship Winners

Back Row: Mr B. McIlroy, Gavin Boyd, Gavin Adair, Gareth Leeburn, Ian McDonnell, Stephen Crutchley
 Middle Row: Craig McGuicken, Allen Irwin, Nick Reilly, Philip Skelly, John Poole, Jamie Drennan
 Front Row: Scott Sanderson, Peter Toogood, Johnny McNaught (Capt), Mr JV Smyth



BGS Team Winners of McCullough, Burney and Indoor Cups

Ian Dornan (Captain), Andrew Sterritt, Ian Campton, Lindsay Rainey, Chris McConkey, Glenn Strannex, Keith McAllister, Peter Reid, Andrew Brennan, Stephen Mitchell, Keith Ward, Alan Chambers, William Mayne and Niall McAllister

Having arrived at the Bloomfield Road playing fields (it must have been quite a dry winter!) all left the bus except Mr. Snowball and his eleven hockey players. We journeyed on to the edge of civilisation to the corrugated iron-roofed barn on Ballymacormick Road; there was, as yet no pavilion. Crossing some fairly level, but still bare-soiled areas we reached an all-weather pitch. The game hardly merits a sentence – a nil-all draw and both sides probably lucky to have scored nil! Honours even, a dash to the bus, a dash to Bloomfield and back to the Castle Grounds just in time to see one of my cricket 1st XI colleagues (no names) kick a loose ball dead when it seemed easier to score near the posts; a 6-3 defeat.

Switch then to September 1972 and I am being primed by JV Smyth as to what my hockey coaching commission is to be as I start my BGS teaching career. I have recently come upon the 1972-1973 BGS Hockey Club Fixture list set out in JV's typically neat and logical style. Even then there were certainties - the Under 13 XI (all 1st formers had to play rugby) did not begin matches until mid-October, and block trips to Kilkeel and Newry in September

were soon to be joined by the run to Ballycastle in the same month. This meant that September was a good month for travel expenses but also generally guaranteed matches on the grass pitches which, had we been venturing there in December, January or February were likely to be unplayable.

Games afternoons' practices were at Ballymacormick, provided the UlsterBus turned up in College Avenue when requested. In the early years they generally did; JV lamented for the days when the Boys had to make their own way back from Ballymac. He claimed that this had given School House a head start in any House competition owing to the method by which pupils were assigned to the Houses at that time. In addition to the gravel (bottom) pitch there was a grass one roughly where the top pitch was later located. I had campaigned for it to be placed end to end to the 3rd XV Rugby pitch and parallel to the road. It would have had access from the gate near the crest of Ballymacormick Road and left a neat area suitable for a small 3rd cricket ground. Alas my case was lost, and we ended up with a full-sized gravel pitch (the bottom one was a few yards short and narrow) although it never quite seemed to be a firm enough surface.

I was awarded the Under 14 XI and we had a very enjoyable season. We played a healthy 17 fixtures with 10 wins 4 draws and only 3 defeats. There was no Ferris Cup in those days so you could only assess your season's progress by looking for improvements in results when you had return fixtures. Hence the 4-1 defeat at Kilkeel and Newry became 1-1 and 3-3 draws later in the year. A 4-2 home defeat by Cookstown (one of several matches played on Glenlola's gravel pitch) was upgraded to a 2-2 draw at Coolnafrankie. I did get into a bit of bother with JV when, having won 3-1 at Bladon Park in October, we routed RBAI 7-0 at Ballymac in February! John said that 5 goals were plenty and one had to employ the off-side rule to prevent greater tallies. However, my feeling, which was confirmed in many codes over many years, was that they (RBAI) were good value for it!

The team was captained by Ian Morrow, a resourceful defender. It was run by Sean (the General) Curran whom I later appointed school cricket captain. However, the class act, who had played rugby in 1st and 2nd forms, was Stephen A. Martin. By the end of his first season, he had graduated to the Under 15 XI which got as far as the Richardson Cup Semi-Final. The rest was history for Sam. Incidentally the other multi-capped Irish international who passed through our system, Chris (Les) Cargo also started his school hockey in 3rd Form! In addition to Sean Curran, Michael (Woof)

Creighton, Drew (Twinkle) Henderson and Gerry Hamill played in all the matches.

For most of my time in the School JV, and later Roy Mairs, had me looking after the Under 15 XI. There were many fine sides especially up to the time when plastic became king. By that stage I had retired from playing hockey and my coaching strategies were stuck somewhere in the mid-80s. We managed 2 and a half Richardson Cup victories, the first in 1979 when Gary Bingham was Captain. We beat Wallace HS in a game played at The Dub (Queens). Gary was ill and did not play in the final; so too Michael Dawson who had also missed the Ferris Final the year before. It was a very strong squad even before there were squads. I think it was still in the days of one substitute, and, certainly, subs could not go back on. The very best players were Paul (Tiger) Murphy, who was always a great asset to a team, and Antony McClements. He arrived at the Grammar in 2nd Form and I am sure John Smyth checked his date of birth on several occasions as he was much bigger, stronger, and better than most of his contemporaries! Indeed we shared him with the Medallion XV which was an indication of how well the major team sports supported each other at BGS.

The deal was that 'Anto' played hockey, but if the Medallion had a Shield match and we did not have a cup game then he played rugby. This worked well until our first round Richardson Cup contest at Newry which clashed with a Shield quarter final against Methody. We escaped Newry with a 4-4 draw after extra time but the Medallion lost without Anto. A few years later a side captained by Johnny McNaught defeated Annadale GS (as it then was) 3-0 at Campbell College, also in the pre-plastic era. In 1990 the side led by Peter Whyte shared the Cup with Sullivan Upper at Lisnagarvey. This was on plastic and even at this remove I have the feeling that on that day the teams could have played several hours of extra time and the score would still have been 0-0!

Paradoxically the two-best 1st XIs that BGS produced (based on their results) both went out of the Richardson Cup at the first Round in their Under 15 years! Much of the team Ian Dornan captained to our only (so far) Burney Cup win and the McCullough Cup (1983) were beaten by Methody after extra time in Ward Park. Wynn McCabe was skipper at U

15-level, and they had a great season otherwise, as did the 1994-1995 team. As a 1st XI the latter group won both the Irish Schools' and the McCullough Cup but at U15 RBAI beat them by the odd goal in 7 at Ballymacormick, also after extra time.

The necessity to play on synthetic surfaces led to several seasons of logistical challenge. I do not think the Under 15s ever practiced at the Valley Leisure Centre, but many Wednesday afternoons featured that trek. It was always nip and tuck to make it back on to the M5 and M3 in time to avoid logjams on the Sydenham bypass. Then there were years of heading to Ards Leisure Centre before finally, in 1996, North Down Council opened their 2-pitch facility at Ballykillaire. There was still a reliance on UlsterBus to provide conveyance from and back to College Avenue but there was a huge saving in time as compared to some of the earlier arrangements.

The pitches at Ballykillaire were not without their quirks. The "Pavilion" pitch developed quite a hollow reputedly caused by the collapse of the roof of a car abandoned in the former Town Dump which had previously occupied the site. To make matters worse as time went on, the rainwater was inclined to pond in this hollow and it gradually developed muddy high watermarks which became very slippery. Another problem was that in frosty weather the roof of the spectators' stand would leave a rectangle of frozen plastic

which the low winter sun was slow to shift. Eventually all operations had to be moved to the "Far Pitch" which for the remainder of our time there was able to cope reasonably well with both wet and cold. The present-day school players have their own pitch on site and the Club operates mainly at the excellent Aurora venue.

If pitches were essential so too were coaches, the role of which has metamorphosed significantly over the years. At first the main tasks were to devise and implement some form of entertainment on the relevant Games afternoon, post a team on Friday on the appropriate noticeboard and, possibly, hold a brief team meeting at Short Break or Lunch. The appointment of a competent Captain was always a shrewd move – what he did on the pitch was relevant, but it was so much more important that he could discover any absences within the chosen XI. Thereafter the Coach had to do his/her share of bus

There was an unforgettable game at Ballynahinch in the early 1930s when Bangor, having beaten the home side, were leaving the ground when an irate Ballynahinch supporter struck a Bangor player and knocked him out. There was subsequently a court case, at which the Bangor player had to give evidence and the local supporter was fined.

duties and, almost without exception, umpire the game along with delivering a pre-match, half-time and post-match call to arms and/or analysis. Talk about multi-tasking – and driving the minibus to the corners of the Ulster Hockey empire was still to come!

During my time at the School there were a large collection of characters who managed to fulfil those roles and more besides. Errol Steele (aka Jessie to the boys, and Von Stellman to his hockey colleagues) was already in post and had looked after teams for many seasons often the Under 15s. From the early 1970s he graduated to the 2nd XI as well as running the School golf teams with great success. When the Dowdall Cup came into existence Errol's charges were always at the sharp end of the event. Starting at the same time as I did (September 1972) was Rodney Connor who brought great enthusiasm and endeavour to the Under 13 XI before he moved on to a career working in local government, narrowly losing a general election seat (Fermanagh, South Tyrone) along the way! Bob McIlroy often acted as JV's team manager whenever tours and/or Irish Championships came along.

Wilson's Alan and David, neither of whom stayed on the staff for very long brought great knowledge to their coaching. Granville Hall was another to make his mark before moving on to teach in Belfast Technical College. From the Lisburn schools we benefitted from Rodney McCrea, who returned to his alma mater Friends' School, and Neal McKnight who crossed the road to Wallace! Jeremy MacAfee gave many years to Under 13 XIs before heading into the world of finance; now he is in the service of R.B.A.I. but it is delightful to note that his pitch-side humour and enthusiasm is undimmed. For many seasons Jonathan Todd, a former pupil and hockey player of note, has both coached and umpired, in addition to reprising Errol Steele's role with the golf teams. Mark Robinson and Greg Thompson both brought great expertise (and the winning mentality of Lisnagarvey) to the pitch.

As the gender balance of the staff has altered several ladies have made their notable contributions. Carol Kerr (née Irwin) was the first of these that I

can recall followed by Rosie McKee (in two spells) and more recently Dr. Bloomfield (née Wells) and Katie Morris. It was gratifying to notice that they all seemed to get the same enjoyment out of the progress of their teams as the players did.

All that leaves the head men to last. JV Smyth started it and never stinted in enthusiasm and direction. The successful years of the 70s, 80s and early 90s owe so much to him. When he handed over the 1st XI reins it was to Roy Mairs whose coaching notebook (borrowed from the Geography store one suspects!) can only have been rivalled by that of Ross O'Carroll-Kelly in the Irish Times Weekend Supplement! For many years Roy introduced the troops to hockey at Under 13 level. By the time his dodgy knees were calling a halt to a long and distinguished playing career he had travelled the hockey tournaments of Europe and beyond (often in company with JV and more recently Mickey Smyth) and was equipped with the knowledge to drive the 1st XI into the forefront in the plastic era. Perhaps success came too quickly but the Irish Schools/ McCullough Cup winning side of 1997-1998 was something of a high-water mark.

When Roy retired in the mid Noughties his role as 1st XI Coach (effectively Director of Hockey) passed to one of our most distinguished former players, Dawie Holley. The competition with the Wallaces, Friends' and Banbridges of this world remains fierce but we can only hope that the excellent foundations being laid in Bangor Hockey Club's youth operations will help Dawie and all his current assistants to add to the rich heritage of the half-century or so that I have witnessed.

Roy Mairs 1978-2005

In September 1995 I took over the mantle of Master in charge of hockey from the inimitable JV Smyth, an automatic passage to being coach of the 1st XI I had supposed that seventeen years of being the Under 13 coach would stand me in good stead for this challenge, but this was a group of more mature (allegedly) fitter, faster and more skilful players who would expect more from me.

The first season was one of major change, and with only one member of the previous year's first team returning, I chose at least 6 fifth formers to

BGS 1990 McCullough Cup Winners

Back Row: Gareth Stranaghan, Allister McVicar, Stephen Todd, Gareth Leeburn, Gavin Adair, John Rodgers, Jamie Drennan, Robin Thompson
Front Row: Bob McIlroy, John Toogood, Matthew Mathai, Keith Mulholland, Scott Sanderson (Captain), Jonathan Todd, Ian McDonnell, John Poole, J.V. Smyth



be in the squad. I knew they were a talented group from working with them three years earlier and in picking them I was planning for the next season, or more realistically the season when they would be in upper sixth. In the 1996/97 season we improved dramatically and went from winning only 10 games out of 30 in my first year to winning 23 out of 30 and only losing only 3. Unfortunately, two of these defeats were in the McCullough Cup final and the Burney Cup final, and whilst we had Simon Irvine, Michael Harte and Scott Parker picked for the Ulster under 18s, which brought us great pride, we still felt as if it had been an incomplete season.

As it turned out, the 1997/98 season became the most successful of all my years coaching school hockey and produced the enviable record of played 25, won 24, drew none, lost one, with 115 goals for and 15 against. It is interesting to note that the effect of this was to produce, not only silverware for other school teams, but also most teams reaching the latter stages in their respective cup competitions. The pinnacle for the 1st XI was wonderful success in the Irish Schools' tournament in October, coincidentally hosted in Bangor in the new facility at Ballykillaire, which two adjacent sand-filled pitches. The 3-2

victory over St Andrews, in a tense semi-final served as a pre-cursor for scenes of unrestrained joy, as we defeated Ashton School, Cork, in the final by 4 goals to 2. Along with our McCullough Cup win in December over Methodist College Belfast, we had won every game in the opening 3 months of the season and were delighted to have Simon Irvine, Michael Harte, Scott Parker, and Neill Slane picked for the under Ireland U18s with Gareth Callender being selected for Ulster U18s alongside the teammates. These selections, however, were to lead to our one and only defeat, a classic case one could argue, of being a victim of your own success. From January to March 1998, these players had to attend so many representative coaching sessions that we could not field our strongest team for meaningful games. In conjunction with injury, illness and fatigue, our preparation for a Burney Cup final against a strong RBAI side was not as it could have been, and we lost 3-nil, unfortunately missing out on a clean sweep of trophies. However, this did not detract from what had been a wonderful season punctuated with many memorable performances.

Although we lost nine first team players, we remained competitive in the 1998/99 season,

In the early 1930s Bangor travelled to Belfast to play a team known as "Riddells". Bangor won by a single goal. The umpire was chased by the home team and sought protection from the Bangor players. Subsequently the home team were all suspended and the club never reformed. Then there was the away match to Downpatrick. Half the Bangor team had changed in the railway carriage, only to be met at Downpatrick by a local player to say the ground was unplayable. The Bangor team had to spend the time in local hotel until the return train at 7.30pm.

BGS 1997 McCullough Cup and Irish Schools Championship Winners

Back Row: Mr. Patton (Headmaster) Scott Parker, Paul Farmer, Darren McWilliams, Gareth Tenner, Keith Bevan, Andrew Carser, Adam Reading, Simon Scales, Graham Laird, Mark Harvey, Mr. Mairs.
Front Row: Neill Slane, Gareth Callender, Michael Bradford, Michael Harte, Simon Irvine, Garth McGuigan



reaching two semi-finals, and progressing through the Irish Schools' Championship unbeaten. Neill Slane was our captain and instrumental in what we did achieve, but even with his constant heroics in goal, our goals for and against tally suffered. This was the season when I first noticed how the levels of stick work and fitness were improving in schools' hockey, attributable to the more widespread use of artificial surfaces. It was also notable that in areas of the country where there was active primary school involvement in hockey, that appropriate stick skills were better developed in preparation for post primary hockey. This was not yet the case in Bangor.

Our next season 1999/2000 had a squad with a good mix of players across all three final years of school, with Darren McWilliams elected captain in his third season with the 1st XI. However, schools' hockey had become very competitive, and not reaching any semi-final meant we did not have automatic entry to the Irish Schools' competition the following season. We did however qualify for the tournament in Cork, competing well and only losing to eventual winners, Kilkenny College by 4 goals to 1. We were also pleased that Bill Clarke was in the Ulster U18 squad that won the Inter-provincials.

My sixth year in charge, 2000/01 had me believing that we might again win some silverware. However, it was a season of great disappointment as we lost in all three major semi-finals of competitions we were capable of winning. We came through two qualifying matches for the Irish Schools, and in fact were the only Ulster team to qualify for the semi-final, winning all three group games by a single goal. However, we then met Ashton, the same school we had played three years before, on the same pitch at Ballykillaire, but this time with a very different outcome. They were an extremely effective outfit in every respect, with the match being settled in the first twelve minutes. Their captain, David Hobbs, the best player in the tournament, scored or assisted in 4 goals. It would have been better had he stayed at home in Cork, but we did rally well to keep the score at 4 – nil. Our semi-final in the Burney Cup in March 2001 was a near epic affair against the old enemy RBAI at Blaris. The teams were very evenly matched, and David McClune levelled at 2-2 to take the game to extra time. We then dominated proceedings with Bill Clarke and Jaimie McAuley scoring two great goals to give us a 4-2 lead with less than two minutes left. We then gave a hit out straight to an Inst forward 4-3 and then conceded a short corner in the last few seconds 4-4. In the replay the players still seemed to be in a trance and lost 6-2, a disappointing end to the season. However, we did have Jaimie McAuley picked for Ulster and Ireland at

U16 level and Andrew Spratt played for Ulster U16s.

Our 2001/02 season proved much harder than it should have been, partly due to an injury to our best player, Jaimie McAuley. He missed out on playing for Ulster U18s with his knee injury, but we did also have Mark Daniel selected for Ulster U18s and Chris Cargo for Ulster and Ireland U16s. Chris would go on to have a magnificent senior Ireland career, but for this season, the relative inexperience of our playing personnel at 1st XI level impacted on our performances. However, our player of the season this year was Philip McCausland, a strong forceful midfield defender enjoying his third year on the team, a wealth of experience acquired at this level.

The 2002/03 season was again somewhat of a disappointment as we were defeated in two of the three major semi-finals. Winning 19 of 26 games would be a source of pride to most players and coaches, but frustratingly, it was in the crucial games that we came unstuck. Our loss to Wesley College in Cork during the group stages of the Irish Schools was no disgrace as they were undoubtedly the finest team, we encountered that year and indeed they duly lifted the trophy. A serious facial injury to Chris Cargo after only twenty minutes in the McCullough Cup semi-final against Cookstown, impacted on our performance levels. A measure of the bravery and commitment of Chris was clearly displayed by his return to the game, but we eventually lost by 6 goals to 3. Almost inevitably, it seemed in my coaching experience, we came up against my alma-mater, RBAI in the Burney Cup semi-final. We started slowly and never gained sufficient momentum to reduce a 3-1 deficit.

For my penultimate season in charge, we lost too many good players from the previous year to be competitive – Jaimie McAuley, Clive Kirkpatrick, Mark Daniel, Andrew Spratt. Chris Cargo excelled. The fact that he was selected not only for Ireland U18s, but also the U21s bore testimony to his ability, work rate, skill, and attitude. Scott Cooper and Andrew McCausland were strong performers, but this was a year in which the top two sides, RBAI and Banbridge Academy were exceptional, with RBAI remaining undefeated in winning all three major trophies.

My last year of coaching represented something of a transitional phase, with the need to develop and integrate younger players into the 1st XI squad. Our win rate was lower than previous seasons. Throughout my many years of coaching hockey at BGS, I always tried to encourage boys to join the senior club and play Saturday afternoon hockey as soon as they were eligible. My main aim was to give the boys a "game for life", not just for school; to learn how to mix and

BGS 2018. Burney Plate Winners

Back Row: Matthew Squance, Matthew White, Benn Cudworth, Michael Reid, Callum Thompson, Matthew Armstrong-Sanchez, Daniel Dow, Jack Riordan, Stephen Hamill, Dawie Holley

Front Row: Timothy Acheson, Harry Dow, Adam Bell, Ryan McMillan, Zach McKee, Ryan Lyall, Cody Walker, Paddy Boyd



socialise with adults and to make life-long friends through sport.

Dawie Holley 2005-2021

With Roy Mairs' retirement from BGS in June 2005, it was with excitement and trepidation that I left my teaching job in Oxfordshire and returned to Bangor Grammar where I had once been a pupil. Although the buildings at College Avenue had not changed, at least for the better that is, the Principal and many of the teaching staff had. Those that did remain on staff from my days as a pupil were very welcoming and helped me settle in quickly, none more than Chris Harte who assisted me greatly in getting to know the hockey lie of the land within BGS and across the Ulster schools' hockey network. Over my early years at BGS and until his retirement, Chris' dedication to the school hockey club was a great encouragement. His umpiring, coaching, and teaching expertise was invaluable, and his ability to spot potential in a player that others had missed was uncanny. I only wish I had spotted this same potential earlier in Chris Kent, Bangor H.C.'s current 1st XI Goalkeeper when he was coming off the bench to play left wing for the school 2ndXI.

Jonathan Todd, Katie Bloomfield, Mark Robinson, Greg Thompson, and Claire Greenaway also made vital contributions to BGS Hockey over an 8 or 9-year period. After several lean staffing years, more recently the school has employed some excellent additions to the staff body, namely Katie Morris, Claire Spiers, Tracy McKee, and Jonathan Rea from Campbell College.

In those early years it quickly became apparent that there was an increasing gulf in class, quality, and depth of squads between the top few hockey schools and the rest. The correlation between successful Post-Primary schools, and the competitive hockey playing primary schools that furnish them with players, is significant. Another key factor is the relationship

between Club, school, and a club's Youth Section. The Bangor Grammar School and Hockey Club partnership is more crucial than ever before. It has been particularly encouraging to see Bangor Hockey Club's Youth Section thrive in the last decade, a development that has had impact tangible impact for BGS.

For several seasons after that first 2005/06 season there were few opportunities to meaningfully pursue silverware, apart from the BGS 2nd XI progressing to the Final of the Dowdall Cup in 2006/7, only to lose out to a strong Banbridge Academy side. Despite a lack of team success, some of our best players continued to have personal success with Ulster and Ireland. Simon Cox represented the Ulster U18 in 2008, and Phil Hamill represented the Ulster U18s in the 2012/13 season and played in the USA Under 21 programme. The 2013/14 squad was the most talented squad I had had to date with Ryan Burgess, Bryan Hamilton, Rhys Cunningham, and Noah McKeown amongst the senior players.

Harry Dow played for the Ulster U16s in 2015 and later that season travelled with the Irish U16s to Belgium to play against Europe's best. He was also selected for the Ulster U18s for the next 2 seasons. The quality of the BGS squad around him was also strengthening and as Harry entered 6th form a strong Under 15 side skippered by Stephen Hamill, was stepping up to the Senior school. Stephen played for the Ulster 16s in 2016 and for the 18s in 2017 and 2018. In his final year at school, he also was capped for the Irish U18s.

Our 2017/18 squad possessed quite a few players playing in and around the Bangor Hockey Club 1st XI squad. Playing alongside Stephen and Harry were familiar names Matthew Armstrong-Sanchez, Zach McKee, Cody Walker, Callum Thompson, and Ryan Lyall to name a few. In the McCullough Cup qualifying group, we were on course to finish second behind Banbridge and qualify for the semi-finals,



BGS 2019. Burney Plate Winners

Back Row: Matthew White, Zak Irvine, Ben Forsyth, Ewan Nicholson, Michael Reid, Jamie Gowdy, Cohen Boyd, Callum Thompson.

Front Row: Ethan Moore, Jamie Lyall, Daniel Dow, Cody Walker, Ryan Lyall, Paddy Boyd, Timothy Acheson, Stephen Hamill

until a poor performance against Methody cost us valuable points. Missing out by the narrowest of margins was a severe disappointment. The Burney Cup draw was not kind to us, and we were drawn against the eventual winners Sullivan in the opening round.

As we turned our attention to the Plate Competition there was still a hunger within the squad to make sure we ended the season with some silverware. Having progressed comfortably to the Plate semi-final, we were drawn away to Banbridge Academy, who had lost to eventual McCullough Cup finalists Friends in the opening round. From the opening minutes we went toe to toe with our opposition, and despite having less possession we struck first with a rapid breakaway goal. From that moment on we never looked back, putting together a perfect performance at both ends of the pitch. We even had time to enjoy the last 5 minutes of the match as Harry Dow scored to complete a well-deserved 3-0 victory. Our performance in the final was very nervy and a stubborn Raphoe side stopped us from playing free-flowing hockey. The game looked destined to go to extra time, until a spell of good attacking pressure in the closing minutes forced Raphoe into conceding a penalty flick. Up stepped captain Matthew Armstrong-Sanchez with to coolly convert the flick to seal victory and collect our first silverware since 1998.

The following season saw the spine of the team remain, but it was particularly pleasing to see 'fringe' members of the previous season's squad and some young players stepping into the senior school. In the McCullough Cup we had been well beaten by eventual finalists Friends and as in the previous season we progressed comfortably to the Plate Semi-final where we were given the toughest of draws against Friends School. In a dogged display with some excellent breakaway attacks, we managed to get our noses in front in the second half. Friends controlled possession for the remainder of the game

but struggled to break our defence down and we reached a second final. Raphoe, once again, was the opposition, and the nervy nature of the game seemed to be following the pattern of the first final. We started slowly and Raphoe deservedly scored first. Some of our mental frailties began to show again as our individual and collective performances were under par. We created some excellent chances and eventually scored to level proceedings. We continued to dominate the game but came up against a goalkeeper in inspiring form. Extra-time ensued and the run-ins and to the delight of the Bangor crowd, after sudden death run-ins, we retained the Plate.

Retaining the Plate was a fitting way for the nine Upper 6th players to finish their school hockey careers at BGS, but this exodus left the 1st XI in a rebuilding phase. In the 2019/20 season our Under 14 and Under 15s squads made significant progress and it was a joy to see the Under 15 squad progress all the way to the Richardson Cup final. This was Bangor Grammar's first Richardson Final since the 1990s. Unfortunately, with the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic this final was cancelled. As restrictions eased over the summer months, we were delighted to hear that Jamie Lyall had been selected for the Ulster Under 18s and Callum Duncan had been selected for the Under 16s squad to play in the Interprovincial Tournament.

2020/21 has perhaps been the most surreal season at BGS since Hockey started in 1966. We have had 2 pre-seasons, 3 'lockdowns' and did not play a single hockey match. This is desperately disappointing for our Upper 6th players who have lost the chance to lead the senior hockey teams and enjoy their final season of schoolboy hockey. Despite the many challenges for teachers, coaches, and hockey players alike, the lasting memory I think I will take away from this season is the reminder of just how valuable sport, and in this case hockey, is to the development and well-being of BGS pupils.

Christopher McQuaid remembers...



In the village where I used to live there was an axe, and it was the oldest axe in the village. It was 200 years old. Incredible, 200 years and in all that time it had only had one new head and two new handles. It seems to me that hockey is a bit like that. You see, I played for Bangor Hockey Club in the 1960s. So, yes, I am a fossil. And it almost seems like hockey today is a different game. We played on ploughed fields with tree branches, and the heads of our enemies as a ball. Perhaps not quite, but when we didn't play on gravel, we played on grass, not astroturf. Unless you have done both, you have no idea how much difference that makes. We scoffed at the old fashioned English head sticks with a curved head a foot long (that's about 30cm for younger readers). We played with the advanced and highly refined Indian head stick with its delicate head only a few centimetres long. Nowadays it's a courtesy to say the stick has a head at all and the Indian stick looks like a club. The ball was much the same though. New tools, new rules and new ways of playing, but it is still a game where teamwork, speed and skill are what count. When a man has a stick it doesn't matter how big he is, so let the rugby players go eat their dead, hockey is a sport of skill. The thing about playing with a club when you are still at school is that it takes everything up a notch. You might have younger lungs than some of the old hands, but man, they can be wily. While you can run like a hare to get to where the ball will be, they are already there, waiting. I was strong-armed into joining the club by my geography teacher, who shall remain nameless, but who once retorted "Hang your A- levels, there is a match on Saturday!" In the end, I got a PhD, but he got an MBE, so I guess he had the right of it.

We used to play against the wild hill tribes of the countryside out beyond the pale. Saintfield springs to mind or the bogs of Hillsborough. Where an umpire eyeing out a rickety-looking goal post gave it an ill-advised shake only to have the cross bar fall on his head. True story. Hockey taught me that simplicity works. The simple push to a man in free space. Mind you, the same geography teacher described me in the Bangor Grammar school magazine as "... never a stylish player [who] emphasised the value of effectiveness over a flowery style." Hockey also taught me that duplicity works too. A school match against Avoca in Dublin when I would have sworn they scored if it hadn't been for our goalie commiserating loudly with them while tucking the net back against the post to cover the hole the freak shot had passed through. It taught me the perils of the demon drink when someone in the club was off to a job in Bermuda, or the Bahamas or somewhere sunny starting with a 'B'. He threw a farewell party after an away match. Never before or since have I seen undrunk pints lining every flat surface because no one could manage them. Of course hockey had a dark side. I always dreaded 'friendly' games against Glenlola girls' school. They seemed to think we couldn't be hurt and would wield their sticks like people chopping wood. Remember those Indian head sticks? But for real heart-pumping terror, for blood and gore, you'll not beat a match against the police. Robust is the word, I think. Someone always got hurt, the trick was to make sure it wasn't you. And to beat the buggers if you could.

Bangor Hockey Club was a warm and welcoming place where a schoolboy could hone his skills, encouraged and looked after by older men who, let's face it, probably thought we were a bunch of young whipper-snappers and upstarts, though at least we knew how to hold a stick. It sounds trite to say that joining the club was the best thing that could have happened to my game, but I tell you what, rosy glasses aside, it really was.

Christopher McQuaid
(Irish Schools 1969/70)

George Wilson remembers...

I think I enjoyed my time at school! The passing of time adds flavour to perspective but my time at BGS has, if nothing else, afforded me the opportunity, some 41 years later, to contribute to our Centenary offering.

It had not started so auspiciously in September 1973. The transition from primary to post-primary for many a callow youth was interesting. Large, belligerent chaps careering everywhere, mild threats of dunking, many teachers - some of whom did not appear to like children! The school song – the strangeness of Latin sung with almost fanatic gusto. Melodic admittedly, but not a patch on the lascivious lick of Rebel, Rebel.

And then there was sport – again, an inauspicious start. In first form, we took the bus to Ballymacormick, to take to the rugby field only to be greeted by what seemed to be anomalies of nature – young teenagers but 6”3 and rising - and shaving! A school year of pretending to enjoy cross-country and swimming (and not learning to swim) before a choice in 2nd form.

From the outset, hockey was enjoyable. The same school bus, the same playing fields, the same ice -stone cold concrete floored changing rooms – but Games afternoons became enjoyable. A stick, a kit, a sense of fitting into something. The Thursday dash to the notice board in anticipation of the team selection appearing. The even more acute sense of anticipation as Saturday morning neared.

Our first coach was Mr C.J Harte, relatively new to the school and a new regular for the Club 1st XI. Despite a predilection for dispensing discipline with cubes, his advice was given with purpose and enthusiasm. We played matches, lost some, won some but had fun! As we settled into some sort of reasonably effective shape as a team, the incentive of cup competition enticed but whilst competitive we lacked the cutting edge to progress in the Richardson Cup at U15 level. By this stage we were training and playing at the new hockey facilities at Ward Park. Three adjacent gravel pitches were very welcome, as indeed was the shorter trip to get to training. Irrespective of playing venue, our proverbial secret weapon was one Mickey Smyth – gloriously unpredictable in that we never knew what time he would appear and indeed, in what combination of kit, he was however, entirely predictable in the consistent excellence of his performances.

Mickey and I were fortunate to experience 1st XI hockey in 5th form. J.V. Smyth was well known to us of course, but more so in his role as a Geography teacher. It was only when in the upper forms that we realised that the smaller room behind Classroom 17 on the geography corridor was in fact a hockey base camp. Amongst a swirl of cloak and cloud of chalk dust, JV frequently disappeared, leaving us to draw a cumulus cloud. Little did we realise the extent of his endeavours in the cause of Irish and Ulster school hockey but more importantly at that time it was his calm demeanour and constant encouragement that resonated. The “look smart, play smart” mantra became his calling card and whilst winning was important it was playing the game that mattered. Somewhat ironically, this decency of approach engendered a sense of wanting to win for JV.

By this stage, 1978, the school had established a strong reputation in Irish and Ulster school hockey having earned semi-final places in both the McCullough and Burney Cups. Final’s success did eventually come as did recognition for JV in terms of his future, alternative career as a hockey administrator but it is the idiosyncrasies of character that remain with us.

The gentle, phlegmatic swing of both arms when umpiring, allowing play to progress without the overuse of a shrill whistle. The magnanimity or response whether the team won or lost. The tolerance of misbehaviour - there were a few of us guilty of teenage exuberance on the pitch yet the admonishment was mild. A deliberate ploy perhaps, designed to engender respect for the team by encouraging a little bit of self-reflection.

There was also the preparedness to organise school tours. Dublin was a regular destination for many years, but in 1979 and 1980 we travelled to Oxford and Dundee respectively, trips on which JV had the support of other teachers (Chris Harte, Bob McIlroy, Jesse Steele, and Roy Mairs) to help temper the enthusiasm of some to create their own social highlights.

Oxford however was a particular highlight for all the right reasons. Hockey played on gloriously manicured grass surfaces, the opportunity to play against top English schools and to experience a university environment. Post-



match refreshment was provided in the quite stunning refectory, a location more fitting perhaps to the entrance of a medieval knight rather than John Eggleston leading us in, still in kit, to raised eyebrows. Our mild embarrassment at not having adhered to the dress protocol was offset by our just having defeated the team whose eyebrows were arched highest!

The impact of school hockey on Club hockey has been immeasurable. The contribution to playing numbers, the capacity for the Club to field more teams and to achieve various successes over the years. The transition to Club hockey has been a rite of passage for so many. The weekly phone call on a six-digit landline, meeting at the Castle Arms and then the journey in the company of Mr. Smyth, our teacher turned teammate, in the orange Austin Maxi!! For us it was at a time when a pre-match snifter preceded the team-talk, and the drive for some! Lining up alongside a teacher was not such a frequent occurrence but the life template was set for enjoyment of the game.

Leaving school, irrespective of ones’ next destination, was sheer relief for some and more of a wrench for others. Hockey provided a constant for me and for many who continued to play, either at university or with the Club, and for that the school deserves thanks.

George Wilson 1973-1980



Bangor 5th XI 2015

Back Row: Graeme Patterson, George Wilson, Gavin Dines, Gareth Boyd, Richard Taylor, Steven Ferguson, Matthew Riordan
Front Row: Suresh Ramasamy, David Impey, George Blackwood, Raymy Parker, Phillip Campbell

Tournaments

Since the 1950s Bangor has played a pioneering role in tournament play in Ulster, and indeed, Ireland. The first 6-a-side tournament in Ireland, a full week event, ran from 1955-2004, a full 50 years! Other notable achievements include the first floodlit tournament in Ireland played under Ward Park lights for Senior Men and Women teams; the first Mini-Hockey tournament in Ireland and the inaugural Irish schoolboys Championships.

- Six-a-Side Tournament 1955-2004
- Floodlit Tournament 1976- 1988
- Mini-Hockey – initiated in 1976
- Irish Schools Championship – first tournament played in Bangor in 1982
- Home International Veterans Tournament – first played in Bangor in 2002

Mini-Hockey

Mini Hockey was first initiated Bangor in 1976 and was coordinated in those early days by George Stevenson, Alan Morris J.V. Smyth and the then principal of Central primary School, Mr. Walter Fawcett. This venture offered primary school boys the chance to play on Monday evenings from 6.30-7.30 pm. First, they had to line up, donate 10p each and then the 40-50 in attendance were split into four groups to play on quarters of the pitch. This

proved very popular with a punctual start and finish designed to suit the parents. Such was the success of the mini-hockey format that a competition was offered to local schools, the Armstrong Cup.

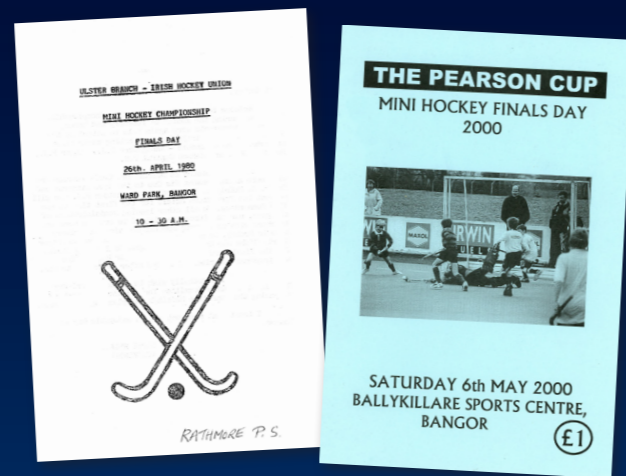
The success of this local initiative encouraged the establishment of an Ulster Mini Hockey Championship, involving sixteen teams from throughout the province. Starting in 1976, the club hosted this event for the next twelve years. The three pitches at Ward Park provided an ideal venue for the Mini-Hockey with six half pitch areas available. 30 six-a-side teams from all parts of Ulster participated in the first event and Bangor had established an event which used Ward Park for the first fifteen years, later returning to Ballykillaire, where two synthetic pitches were divided into three sections. Many of the local Primary schools competed with Rathmore Primary School and Ballyholme Primary School both winning the tournament. Indeed, many future Bangor players, some of whom progressed to achieve Ulster and Irish schools' representative honours, started their hockey career playing in the mini-hockey activity at Bangor.

Today, mini and youth hockey in Bangor are flourishing. In the past five years there has been significant uptake in the numbers participating, with over 300 involved from U9 to U15 level.



Rathmore PS Winners 1991

Back row: Garth Bennett, Simon Irvine, Tim Beattie, Michael Harte, Andrew Beattie
 Front row: Gareth Callender, Michael Bradford, Graeme Laird



Irish Schoolboys Tournament

The IHU established the Irish Schoolboys Tournament and once again, Bangor was the ideal venue for the first event in 1982. Four all-weather pitches were required – three at Ward Park, one at Glenlola. In that first year, accommodation and the tournament dinner were provided at the Savoy Hotel, lunches at Bangor Grammar School, all within easy walking distance of the playing facilities. The tournament is still flourishing after almost 40 years and indeed, returned to Bangor to be played on the synthetic surfaces at Ballykillaire in 1997.

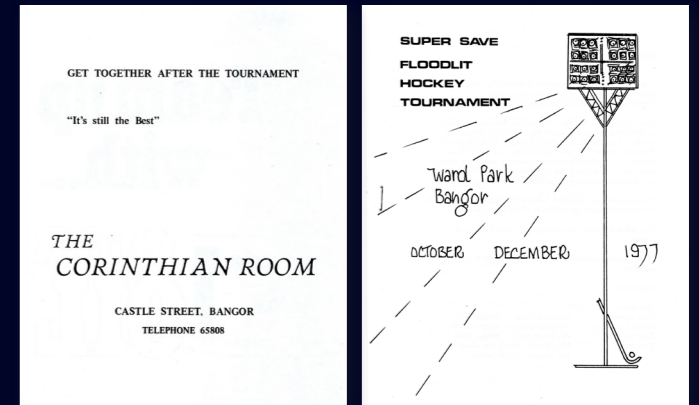


FloodLit Tournament 1976

Given that floodlights were a relative novelty in 1976, Bangor initiated a Floodlit Tournament at Ward Park. A first in Ireland, the Floodlit tournament was played mid-week and involved eight teams from both the senior men and women's leagues. The then President of the Club D. G. Lamb donated the trophy for a competition which was organised by Bangor for 12 years until the arrival of synthetic pitches at Lisnagarvey. There was hometown success in the first

Bangor team which won Floodlit tournament in 1988

Back row: Jim Carlisle (Coach), Davy Shields, Andy Brennan, Anthony McClements, Richard Mann, Paul Corbett, Noel Wishart
 Front Row: Philip Thomas, Raymond Parker, Roy Mairs, David Stanfield, Neil McIvor, Chris McConkey, George Blackwood

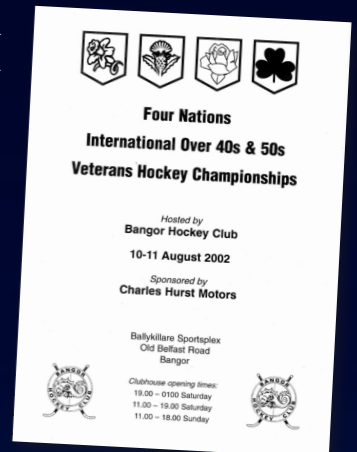


year of the tournament with Bangor ladies winning their competition whilst the men's team registered successive successes in 1986 and 1987.

International Veterans Tournament

In August 2002 the Club hosted the Home International Veterans tournament at Ballykillaire.

In the Over 40s competition the Ireland squad included Raymond Parker (Vice-Captain) and Gerry Hamill as well as ex-Bangor players Stephen Martin and Billy Pollock. The Over 50s squad included three Bangor players in their ranks, John Rainey, Tom Mulholland and Peter Dornan as well as ex Bangor player Davy McManus.

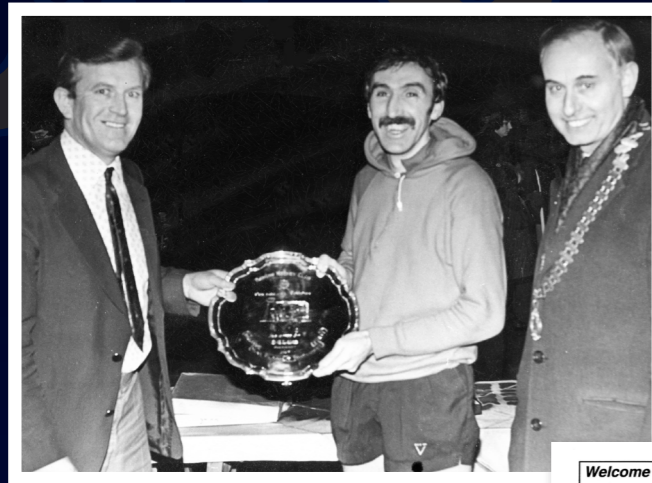


MENS TOURNAMENT FOR PRESIDENT'S TROPHY (holders YMCA)			LADIES TOURNAMENT FOR MAVICAR SHIELD (holders BANGOR)		
1st ROUND	SEMI FINAL	FINAL	1st ROUND	SEMI FINAL	FINAL
4 Oct. YMCA	Yield		11 Oct. CARRICK	Rushinstown	
ANTRIM			BANDALSTOWN		W. Down
22 Nov. MOSSLEY	Cliftonville		15 Nov. ARDS	N. Down	
5 Oct. CLIFTONVILLE		15 Dec. ANNADALE	13 Oct. QUEENS	Queens	
25 Oct. LISNAGARVEY & Dec.	Lisnagarvey		18 Dec. COLLEGIANS	Collegians	
8 Nov. INSTONIAN	Shank		29 Nov. DONAGHDEE	Donaghadee	
BANGOR			1 Nov. BANGOR	Bangor	

Memorabilia from the Floodlit Tournament at Ward Park

Floodlit Tournament Winners

Year	MENS	LADIES
1976	YMCA	Bangor
1977	YMCA	Queens
1978	YMCA	Portadown
1979	Lisnagarvey	Portadown
1980	Queens	Knock
1981	Cookstown	Portadown
1982	YMCA	Pegasus
1983	YMCA	Portadown
1984	Cookstown	Portadown
1985	Lisnagarvey	-
1986	Bangor	Portadown
1987	Bangor	North Down
1988	Collegians	-



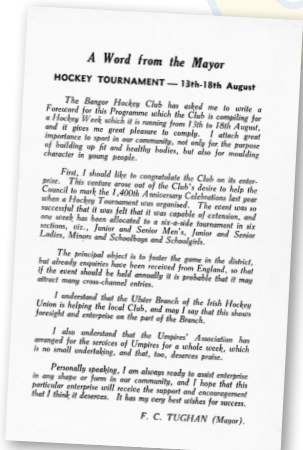
Club President D. Lamb presenting the trophy he donated for the Floodlit Competition (1976)

From left: David Lamb, Stewart McNulty Captain of YMCA (first winners of Floodlit trophy Dec 1976) Walter Dowdall (Club Chairman)



Six-A-Side Tournament
 "Britain's biggest Hockey Tournament"
 This quote from the Co Down Spectator in 1958 accurately reflects the status that the Bangor 6-a-side tournament was to achieve. It is interesting to note how many of the Ulster Clubs who competed at Bangor introduced tournaments in their own area (Annadale, Antrim, Carrick Ladies, Lisnagarvey, North Down, and Portadown). These tournaments became a staple part of the hockey calendar yet, it is fair to say, none sustained the level of success as at Bangor.

In 1955 Bangor town wished to celebrate its 1400th anniversary as a settlement. The town asked various organisations if they could organise an event to mark the occasion. After due consideration the club offered to run a 5 -a-side festival in Ward Park. Conceived by the late Stanley Maxwell, meetings were held with Mr Alex McClenaghan (the Borough Entertainment Officer) to determine dates and venues. Billy Addison, ably assisted by Harry Brady, joined Stanley to become the core organising committee. The club provided the umpires, the ladies provided a tea tent for tea, sandwiches, and cakes for all, whilst the Council prepared two pitches. The event proved a huge success for players and Council fitting the holiday pattern of the time and allowing the opportunity for teams from the Republic of Ireland and Scotland to attend.



In those early days Bangor was a small, struggling Junior club. Players and money were very scarce but vision and energy abounded. At that time Walter Dowdall was playing a good deal of Tournament

Welcome from the Mayor of North Down
 On behalf of the Borough of North Down I would like to welcome you all to Bangor and to the Four Nations veterans Tournament organised by Bangor Mens Hockey Club. I am sure you will enjoy your stay and be treated to true Bangor hospitality by your hosts. It is always a pleasure to see the excellent level of competition in sport that goes on in the Borough and this will be no exception.
 Councillor Alan Graham

TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS
 Organising Committee: Liz & Dougie Sleith, John Smyth, Harry Brady, Mike Parsons, Raymond Parker.
 Technical Delegates: Mike Parsons, John Smyth and Alan Moore
 Tournament Convenor: Raymond Parker
 Tournament Announcers: John Smyth and Neil Walker

UMPIRES
 Scotland: Charles Brindley
 England: Mike Bond, Roy Woolley
 Ireland: Terry Templeton, Chris McConkey, Bill Gowdy
 Wales: Mark Peary

BANGOR HOCKEY CLUB ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
 Bangor Hockey Club would like to acknowledge the following for their help during this event:
 • Bangor Hockey Club — All helpers
 • Stephen McMaw, Stephen Reid and Jackie Snodden of North Down Borough Council
 • Umpires and Judges
 • Charles Hurst Motors — Sponsors
 • Dorman & Sons Limited — Programme
 • Everyone else involved in the running of this event

Welcome from Bangor Hockey Club
 A warm welcome to everyone participating in the over 40s and 50s event this year. We are particularly pleased to be hosts of the event — giving many the opportunity of not only their first visit to Bangor but also to Northern Ireland — we hope you thoroughly enjoy your stay in Bangor. For those who are staying longer we are sure you will appreciate the variety and beauty which our island offers.
 This year, for the first, we are delighted to run an over 40s and 50s tournament and look forward to a weekend of festive hockey and fun.
 Our biggest disappointment of course is the fact that Mike Booth, the instigator of the Four nations Veterans Event, cannot make it this year through ill health. It won't be the same without him and we wish Mike a speedy and full recovery.
 We hope everyone has a weekend to remember!
 The Organising Committee

- OVER 50s SQUADS**
- Warlocks**
- Rod Harling
 - Barry Sewell
 - Rick Raumann
 - Steve Macintosh
 - Vijay Kumar
 - G. Furnaux
 - Mark Dykes
 - Nat Rama
 - Graham Jackson
 - Paul Wilkins
 - Alban DeSouza
 - Nigel Dean
 - Peter Cowen
 - Lloyd Wood
 - Stewart Neville
 - Sailesh Shah
 - George Harris

- OVER 50s SQUADS**
- England**
- Andrew Goodridge (GK)
 - Martin Wall (GK)
 - Mike Harris
 - Ian Mellor
 - Bob Banks (Capt)
 - John French
 - George Harris
 - Angus Brogden
 - Brian Peryman
 - Brian Hopkins
 - Alan Muller
 - Tim Hinch
 - Balbir Singh
 - Phil Hubert
- Manager: Alan Jackson
 Asst. Manager: David Wilkinson
- Wales**
- J. Hardman (GK)
 - Brian Minney
 - Ian Johnson (Capt)
 - Bernie Wheeler
 - P. Martineau
 - Johnston Ben
 - Ralph Thomas (V. Capt)
 - D. Miller
 - Dave Ferguson
 - Ian Cowx
 - Gary Cope
 - Alan Coles
 - Chris Parry
 - Tony Nicholas
 - N. Scharpal
 - Steve McIntosh
- Manager: Brian Minney
 Physiotherapist: Mel Sweetland
- Llanishan & Caerphilly**
- South Pems
 Leominster
 South Pems
 Firebrands
 Aberignals
 Cheimstord
 South Pems
 South Pems
 Hull
 Swansea Bay
 Plas Coch
 Phyl & District
 Chester
 Cardiff
 Bridgend

- OVER 40s SQUAD**
- Ireland**
- Billy Gilmore (GK)
 - Billy Sedgewick
 - Dougie Sleith (Capt)
 - Paul Cooke
 - Stephen Martin
 - Alan Smith
 - Raymond Parker (V. Capt)
 - Clive Russell
 - Gerry Hamill
 - Billy Pollock
 - Sean Curran
 - Mark McCullough
 - Willie Redpath
 - Chris Maskery
 - Tim Hogg (GK)
 - Harry McNeill
 - David Hutchison
- Manager: Liz Sleith

- OVER 40s SQUAD**
- England**
- Steve Douglas
 - Alan Thomson
 - Miles Richards (Capt)
 - Bruce Evans
 - Bryan Frazer
 - Mike Pell
 - Chris Peach
 - Nisar Chaudhry
 - Martyn Cremin
 - Stephane Port
 - Gary Hardwick
 - Richard Organ (V-Capt)
 - Martyn Seal
 - Tim Ollerenshaw
 - Bloy Jawanda
- Manager: Peter Hazell

Spectator 5.1.55 HOCKEY FESTIVAL

Read, a letter, dated 12th October 1955, from Bangor Hockey Club forwarding a report of the five-a-side tournament which the Club had organised as part of the 1,400th anniversary celebrations. The Club thanked the Council for its co-operation and for donating two plaques of the Borough Arms as prizes. The success of the tournament was mainly due to the perfect condition of the pitches, and the Club congratulated the Council's ground staff.

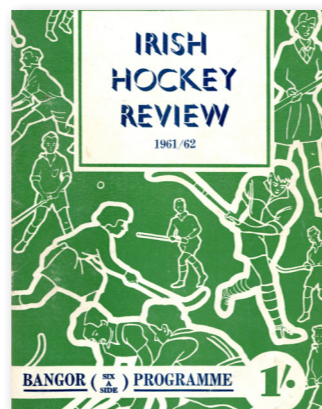
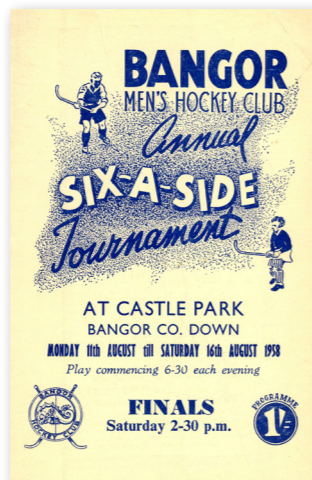
The town clerk (Mr. T. B. Graham) was directed to compliment Bangor Hockey Club on the success which has attended its efforts and to convey to the Parks superintendent (Mr. H. J. Armstrong) the Club's praise about the condition of the pitches.

The report of the Entertainment and Publicity Committee was adopted on the proposal of Councillor Brice Smyth, seconded by Councillor Hamilton.

tennis and it was decided to organise the Hockey Tournament on similar lines to that used in American Tennis Tournaments, putting five teams into each section, each playing each other. Ten men's and ten women's teams were invited to play on Thursday and Friday evening with the finals held on Saturday afternoon. So hard up was the club in those days that a collection was made on Thursday and Friday evenings and souvenir prizes for the winners were purchased on Saturday morning.

1957 saw a further increase to 90 teams and 40 matches each evening. The tournament moved to Castle Park, later named Valentine playing fields, and the first visitors arrived – Eire Air Corps who would become regulars and indeed, would be the first team from outside Northern Ireland to win a trophy (1960 Senior Men's).

By 1958 the event had indeed become Britain's biggest hockey tournament with 120 teams participating. The squad of nine allocation made for a huge number of players. This year saw two sides from Scotland and Monkstown and Glenanne joining Air Corps from Dublin. The renowned lady's tea tent was very busy. The 6.30 evening start was marked by a single whistle blast. Each subsequent match was heralded by a single overall blast which ensured a punctual flow of games from 6.30 till 9pm. The Friday evening social event – the tournament dance at Capronis was attended by up to 400!



1959 was notable for the change in the programme as it became the Irish Hockey Review. It was supported by both Men's and Women's unions and provided a summary of the game in Ireland for the preceding season. As a result, the programme reached 56 pages and included adverts, an important source of income.

By 1961 entries rose to 150 teams, a number which required 6 pitches. By now the umpires were provided by the Ulster Branch supremo Andy Hayes. Harry Brady was our local scorer and Jackie Barr brought his caravan to serve as an information centre. 1964 exceeded even the 1961 complement of 150 teams with 170 teams participating, including a mixed section of 30 teams. This was to prove the record entry. A major highlight occurred when, on a Saturday finals afternoon in 1969, the Irish Men's team played a Tournament Select as a warm-up game prior to their departure to the first European Hockey Championship.

Once it had established itself, one of the biggest attractions of the tournament was the number of participating teams from outside Northern Ireland:

Post Office Telephones Hockey Club: a club founded in the Departments Drawing office in Glasgow in 1949,

Glenanne Hockey Club: a senior Leinster club founded in 1943,

Walvic Hockey Club: instituted in 1934 under the patronage of James Templeton Co Ltd, carpet manufacturers in Glasgow,

Monsato Hockey Club: (Men's Section) founded in 1922-23 in North Wales and (Ladies Section) founded in 1958

Southsiders who drew their players from two well-known Leinster clubs Monkstown and Railway Union.

Queens Regiment Hockey Club who when stationed in Northern Ireland entered teams on at least two occasions,

Invaders, a side led by former Bangor player Davy McManus when he was playing with Hounslow

The Mayor of Bangor Alderman R.V. Campbell and Mr. Andy Hayes, President of the Irish Hockey Union, bully off to inaugurate the 1966 Six-a-Side tournament.



The Geordies, who were mainly Civil Servants working in the Newcastle-Upon-Tyne area mostly in the Department of Health and Social Security. They arrived complete with their minibus!

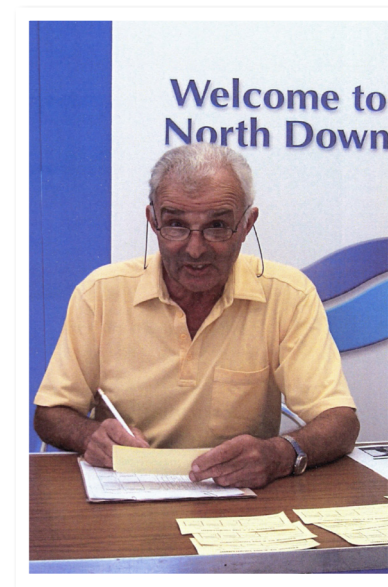
Over the years the Tournament has taken place at various venues. It started in Ward Park then moved to the Valentine Playing fields and in 1973 relocated to the Bangor Rugby Club facilities at Upritchard Park.

This presented a new challenge as it was necessary to prepare pitches, mark lines, cut the circles and even construct goal posts – all quite a challenge. However, everything was on site including a bar and a venue for a final night dance. Money and sponsorship were a more important factor now. Someone came up with the idea of getting old oil drums and allowing companies to put their names on it for £10 – original if not exactly lucrative. In 1974 finals night was moved to the Friday evening and entries had stabilised at around 100 teams.

In 1997 the tournament moved for one last time to the synthetic pitches at Ballykillaire. By 2004, as we reached our 50th anniversary, we felt it was a suitable time to call a halt. To have survived so long was an achievement. At its peak "the Sixes"

had attracted 170 teams and even in the final year 75 teams participated. The Club had established a unique event, produced a unique programme with its review of Irish Hockey and attracted teams from all parts of the British Isles.

The number of club members, players, family, and friends involved over the fifty years is almost impossible to tally. Umpires, card runners between matches, the ladies in the tea tent in the 1950s and 1960s, the Council groundsmen who tended to the Castle Park pitches in the 1950s and 1960s, those who cut grass and painted lines at Upritchard Park, club committee members who obtained invaluable sponsorship, those who liaised with participating teams and who compiled the tournament schedule of play. Throughout all this there was one constant, Harry Brady, who sat in the "old caravan" or the clubhouse at Upritchard Park and calmly noted the match scores, calculated the points tally and posted the tables standings year after year after year.



Harry Brady with his Sixes match cards.



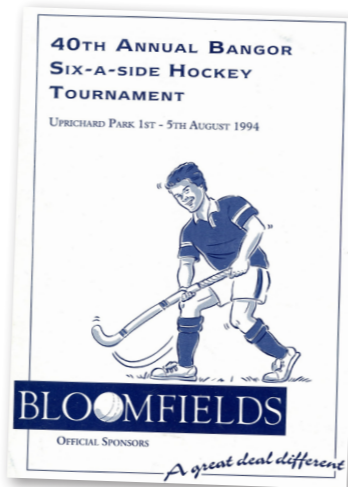


Members of the Sixes Organising Committee with AIB sponsors, 1981

From Left: Glenn Curran, Artie Coburn, Harry Brady, Alan Lambert AIB, Nial Cairns, AIB representative, John Ritchie, John Hunter, Sean Curran



Sixes at Ballykillare, 2004



40th Anniversary Programme

BANGOR MEN'S HOCKEY CLUB

Bangor Sixes 1955-2004 50 Years

The President and Committee cordially invite you to attend an evening celebrating 50 years of the Bangor Six-a-Side Tournament at Ballykillare Sportsplex, Old Belfast Road on Saturday 7th August 2004 7.30 pm for 8.00 pm

RSVP to Harry Brady, 15 Rathmore Park, Bangor, BT19 1DQ, by 30th June please.

Buffet Dress Smart/Casual

Invitation to the last social, 2004



Preparation for the Sixes - moving from Ballymac to Uprichard. Harry Brady, Roger Daniels and Timmy Campbell.

TEA EXPENSES ACCOUNT 1964-1965

1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970
Out 5 To Ballymac 51 19 10 0	Aug 27 To Ballymac 57 34 19 0	Aug 10 To Ballymac 60 49 0 0	Aug 10 To Ballymac 64 5 0 0	Aug 10 To Ballymac 66 2 4 0 0	Aug 10 To Ballymac 66 2 8 0 0	Aug 10 To Ballymac 69 9 18 0 0
54 9 0	54 9 0	49 0 0	33 15 6	14 10 0	14 10 0	10 13 5

TEA EXPENSES ACCOUNT 1968-1969

1968	1969	1970
Aug 10 To Ballymac 73 12 0 0	Aug 10 To Ballymac 73 2 17 10	Aug 10 To Ballymac 73 1 13 0 0
61 6 0	66 16 10	63 0 0

TEA EXPENSES ACCOUNT 1969-1970

1969	1970
Aug 10 To Ballymac 78 1 17 6	Aug 10 To Ballymac 78 2 5 0 0
66 16 10	63 0 0

Expense sheets from the Bangor Sixes Tournament

ENTRY FORM

SIX-A-SIDE HOCKEY TOURNAMENT
(11th-16th AUGUST, 1958)

To: THE HON. SECRETARY (W. ADDISON), BANGOR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT, 59 CASTLE STREET, BANGOR, Co. Down.

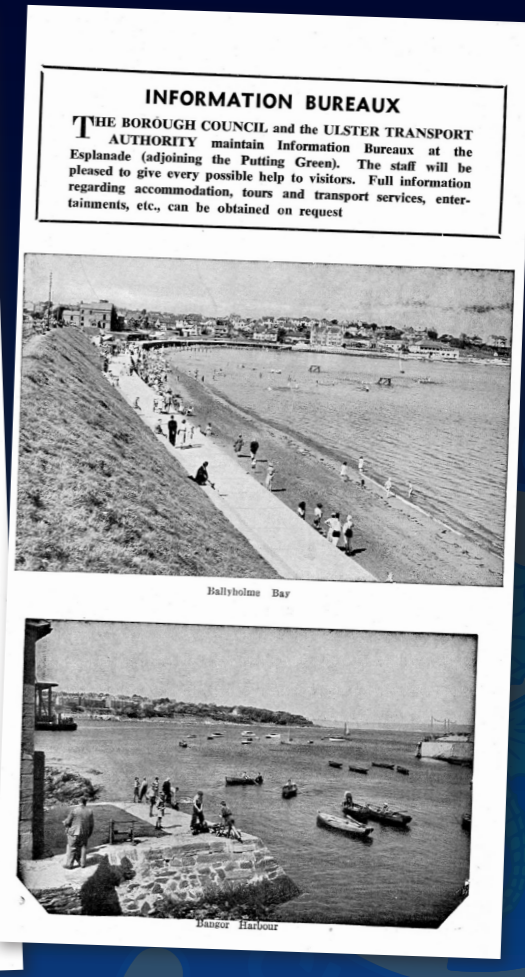
Please enter
Club Colours.....
in your Six-a-Side Tournament

We will be fielding teams in the Sections marked Entrance Fee 15/- per Team

Senior Section MEN
" " WOMEN
Junior Section MEN
" " WOMEN
Minor and Schools' Section MEN
" " " WOMEN

TOTAL

All entries must be accompanied by Entrance Fee, enclosed is.....
for..... HOCKEY CLUB
Date..... 19.....
Name and address of person to whom correspondence regarding the Tournament may be sent in close season:
.....
Phone No.....



1958 Bangor Sixes Tournament programme details

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TEAM	COLOURS	SECTION	SECRETARY
ALBERT FOUNDRY	BLUE and WHITE	SENIOR "A"	MR. F. MCGARRY
ALBERT FOUNDRY II	BLUE and WHITE	JUNIOR "D"	MR. F. MCGARRY
ANNADALE G.S.	RED and WHITE	MINOR "B"	MR. J. PARKE
ANTRIM	BLUE and WHITE	SENIOR "C"	MR. H. A. CURRY
BALLYMENA	GREEN and SCARLET	JUNIOR "C"	MR. C. B. MURPHY
BALLYMENA III	RED, AMBER and BLACK	MINOR "A"	MR. C. B. MURPHY
BANBRIDGE	RED, AMBER and BLACK	JUNIOR "E"	MR. P. S. McCABE
BANBRIDGE II	GOLD and NAVY BLUE	JUNIOR "C"	MR. H. BRADY
BANGOR	GOLD and NAVY BLUE	MINOR "C"	MR. E. F. AGNEW
BANGOR III	BLACK and WHITE	SENIOR "B"	MR. G. W. HENNING
CAMPBELL COLLEGE	BLACK, RED and GREEN	JUNIOR "D"	MR. G. W. HENNING
CLIFTONVILLE	BLACK, RED and GREEN	MINOR "A"	MR. H. CLEMENTS
CLIFTONVILLE II	BLACK, RED and GREEN	JUNIOR "D"	MR. H. CLEMENTS
CLIFTONVILLE IV	BLACK and WHITE	MINOR "A"	MR. L. CHAPMAN
CIVIL SERVICE	BLACK and WHITE	JUNIOR "C"	MR. R. CHAPMAN
CIVIL SERVICE II	BLUE and WHITE	JUNIOR "A"	MR. R. LAW
COURTAULDS "A"	BLUE and WHITE	SENIOR "A"	MR. R. LAW
COURTAULDS "B"	WHITE	JUNIOR "D"	MR. R. LAW
DOWN	WHITE	MINOR "C"	MR. R. LAW
DOWN II	WHITE	SENIOR "A"	MR. H. ARCHBOLD
DOWN III	GREEN	JUNIOR "A"	MR. H. ARCHBOLD
EAST ANTRIM	GREEN	MINOR "A"	MR. L. CONNORS
EAST ANTRIM II	BLUE and YELLOW	MINOR "B"	MR. L. CONNORS
EIRE AIR CORPS "A"	BLUE and YELLOW	JUNIOR "A"	MR. W. MERCER
EIRE AIR CORPS "B"	GREEN, WHITE and RED	MINOR "A"	MR. W. MERCER
FRIENDS' SCHOOL "A"	GREEN, WHITE and RED	MINOR "B"	MR. J. HARVEY
FRIENDS' SCHOOL "B"	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	JUNIOR "E"	MR. J. C. MORRISON
GALLAHER	BLACK and AMBER	JUNIOR "A"	MR. T. R. HEWISH
HOLLERITH "A"	BLACK and AMBER	SENIOR "A"	MR. T. R. HEWISH
HOLLERITH "B"	GREEN and BLACK	JUNIOR "C"	MR. J. BARRY
HOLYWOOD	GREEN and BLACK	JUNIOR "B"	MR. R. JESS
HOLYWOOD II	NAVY and LIGHT BLUE	MINOR "B"	MR. R. JESS
LISNAGARVEY II	NAVY and LIGHT BLUE	SENIOR "C"	MR. R. HENRY
LISNAGARVEY III	NAVY and LIGHT BLUE	MINOR "A"	MR. G. ENGLISH
LISNAGARVEY IV	WHITE and DARK BLUE	JUNIOR "A"	MR. D. R. DUFFIELD
METHODIST COLLEGE	LIGHT BLUE and NAVY	MINOR "D"	MR. H. BURNS
MONKSTOWN (DUBLIN)	WHITE	SENIOR "B"	MR. H. BURNS
MONTALTO	WHITE	JUNIOR "B"	MR. A. J. SPEEDIE
MONTALTO II	MAROON and AMBER	JUNIOR "D"	MR. A. J. SPEEDIE
MOSSLEY	MAROON and AMBER	JUNIOR "E"	MR. C. P. FREEMAN
MOSSLEY II	BISCUIT and BLUE	MINOR "C"	MR. A. G. COSSAR
OLD BLEACH	BISCUIT and BLUE	JUNIOR "B"	Lieut. J. HICKSON, R.N.
OLD BLEACH II	BLUE and WHITE	JUNIOR "C"	Adj. I. R. WARWICK
PORTADOWN	BLACK and WHITE	JUNIOR "E"	MR. S. ROBINSON
R.B.A.I.	BLUE and YELLOW	JUNIOR "B"	MR. W. CROSS
R.N.A.S. (EGLINTON)	RED and BLACK	MINOR "C"	MR. W. CROSS
ROYAL WARWICKSHIRE REGT.	RED and BLACK	SENIOR "A"	MR. R. I. TAYLOR
SAINTFIELD	BLUE and WHITE	JUNIOR "D"	MR. R. I. TAYLOR
SHORT BROS. & HARLAND	BLACK and RED	SENIOR "C"	MR. W. J. COOKE
SHORT BROS. & HARLAND II	BLACK and RED	JUNIOR "D"	MR. L. McLEER
SOUTH ANTRIM	BLACK	MINOR "B"	MR. J. MAXWELL
SOUTH ANTRIM II	BLACK	MINOR "D"	MR. R. G. BLOWER
THE BLACK SHEEP	NAVY BLUE	JUNIOR "A"	MR. R. G. BLOWER
WALLACE HIGH SCHOOL	BLUE	MINOR "C"	MR. R. G. BLOWER
WASPS	RED and BLACK	JUNIOR "A"	MR. R. G. BLOWER
Y.M.C.A. (BELFAST)	RED and BLACK	MINOR "D"	MR. B. S. DUNCAN
Y.M.C.A. (BELFAST) II	RED and BLACK	SENIOR "B"	MR. B. S. DUNCAN
Y.M.C.A. (BELFAST) IV	RED and WHITE	SENIOR "B"	MR. B. S. DUNCAN
Y.M.C.A. (OMAGH)	RED and WHITE	SENIOR "B"	MR. B. S. DUNCAN

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TEAM	COLOURS	SECTION	SECRETARY
ALBERT FOUNDRY "A"	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	MINOR "C"	MISS M. MAXWELL
ALBERT FOUNDRY "B"	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	MINOR "D"	MISS M. MAXWELL
ARDS "A"	Navy, White & Royal Blue	SENIOR "A"	MISS F. C. BURNS
ARDS II	Navy, White & Royal Blue	SENIOR "B"	MISS F. C. BURNS
ARDS III	Navy, White & Royal Blue	JUNIOR "D"	MISS F. C. BURNS
AVENUE LADIES	White, Black & Green	JUNIOR "E"	MISS O. DAWSON
BANGOR	BLACK and GREEN	MINOR "C"	MISS Y. SELLERS
BANGOR II	BLACK and GREEN	SENIOR "C"	MISS Y. SELLERS
BANGOR COLLEGIATE	GREY and WHITE	JUNIOR "B"	MISS A. M. DAVIDSON
BANGOR TECH. O.G.	Navy, Maroon and Green	SENIOR "A"	MISS B. MCMILLEN
BELFAST CO-OP.	ROYAL BLUE and ORANGE	JUNIOR "E"	MISS A. M. DAVIDSON
BELFAST HIGH SCHOOL	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	MINOR "D"	MISS V. C. BROWN
BELFAST H.S.O.G. "A"	Royal Blue, White & Grey	MINOR "B"	MISS L. COBAIN
BELFAST H.S.O.G. "B"	Royal Blue, White & Grey	JUNIOR "A"	MISS M. STOCKMAN
BLOOMFIELD COLLEGIATE O.G.	GREEN, SILVER and BLUE	JUNIOR "C"	MISS M. STOCKMAN
BLOOMFIELD COLLEGIATE O.G.	GREEN, SILVER and BLUE	JUNIOR "A"	MISS V. C. BROWNLOW
COLLEGIANS	NAVY and WHITE	JUNIOR "A"	MISS V. C. BROWNLOW
COLLEGIANS II	NAVY and WHITE	SENIOR "A"	MISS A. LAMIE
COURTAULDS "A"	NAVY and WHITE	JUNIOR "C"	MISS A. LAMIE
COURTAULDS "B"	NAVY and WHITE	MINOR "B"	MRS. M. MCBURNEY
CROSTYX	NAVY and GREEN	MINOR "A"	MRS. M. MCBURNEY
DEBRETITA "A"	NAVY and GREEN	JUNIOR "D"	MRS. M. HARBINSON
DEBRETITA "B"	NAVY and ROYAL BLUE	MINOR "A"	MISS M. MISKIMMIN
DONAGHADEE	ROYAL BLUE and GOLD	MINOR "B"	MISS E. McCLENNAN
DROMORE	RED and BLACK	JUNIOR "A"	MISS E. McCLENNAN
FRIENDS' SCHOOL	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	JUNIOR "B"	MISS M. STURGEON
FRIENDS' SCHOOL	GREEN	JUNIOR "A"	MISS E. FLACK
GROSVENOR H.S.	GREEN	JUNIOR "A"	MISS E. FLACK
GROSVENOR H.S.O.G.	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	MINOR "B"	MRS. T. H. WRIGHT
GROSVENOR H.S.O.G.	BLUE, GREEN and WHITE	SENIOR "A"	MISS J. GILLESPIE
HOLLERITH	BLUE, GREEN and WHITE	JUNIOR "A"	MISS J. GILLESPIE
HOLYWOOD	AMBER and BLACK	JUNIOR "B"	MISS F. SIMPSON
INSTONIANIANS	GREEN and RED	JUNIOR "E"	MISS M. McMASTER
KNOCK	Purple, Yellow and White	SENIOR "B"	MISS E. MCKEE
KNOCK II	GREEN and RED	SENIOR "B"	MISS J. BROWN
LARNE	GREEN and RED	JUNIOR "D"	MISS A. S. ROY
LISNAGARVEY "A"	WHITE and GREEN	SENIOR "B"	MISS I. HAMILTON
LISNAGARVEY "B"	NAVY and ROYAL BLUE	JUNIOR "B"	MISS A. LAVERTY
LURGAN COLLEGE	NAVY and ROYAL BLUE	JUNIOR "C"	MISS N. LEWIS
METHODIST COLLEGE	NAVY, WHITE and RED	MINOR "D"	MISS M. LOMAS
ORMISTON	NAVY BLUE and WHITE	MINOR "A"	MISS D. G. COURTNEY
OWLS	Navy, White and Maroon	SENIOR "B"	MRS. M. H. DEMPSTER
PORTADOWN	MAROON and WHITE	SENIOR "B"	MRS. M. H. DEMPSTER
PORTADOWN TECH. P.P.	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	JUNIOR "C"	MISS B. PENTLAND
PRINCESS GDS. SCHOOL	NAVY, RED and WHITE	JUNIOR "D"	MISS D. A. ROBINSON
RAINEY OLD GIRLS	BROWN and FAWN	JUNIOR "E"	MISS S. MAWHINNEY
REGENT HOUSE SCHOOL	Black, Maroon and White	MINOR "C"	MISS M. MOORE
ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL	RED and BLACK	MINOR "C"	MISS C. L. BROWN
SAINTFIELD	Royal Blue, Navy & White	SENIOR "C"	MISS E. ARNOLD
SAINTFIELD II	BLUE and WHITE	JUNIOR "A"	MISS R. GRANT
SHORT BROS. & HARLAND	BLUE and WHITE	MINOR "A"	MISS R. GRANT
ST. DOMINICS P.P. "A"	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	JUNIOR "B"	MISS P. KENNEDY
ST. DOMINICS P.P. "B"	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	SENIOR "A"	MISS E. FLANIGAN
THE LONE RANGERS	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	SENIOR "C"	MISS E. FLANIGAN
VICTORIANS	MAROON	JUNIOR "E"	MISS E. FLANIGAN
VICTORIANS III	Scarlet, White and Grey	JUNIOR "C"	MISS S. HUTCHINSON
WALLACE HIGH SCHOOL	NAVY and Yellow	JUNIOR "D"	MISS I. SAVAGE
WHITEHALL	ROYAL BLUE and WHITE	MINOR "C"	MISS F. I. ROONEY
YORK ST FLAX	Royal Blue, Navy & White	MINOR "D"	MRS. J. M. NESBITT
			MISS W. PAYNE

Sixes Trophies

- Senior Men – Maxwell Cup
- Senior Women – Allen Cup
- Junior Men – Flick Cup
- Junior Women – Dolphin Cup
- Minor Men – Minor Cup
- (later to become DOWDALL Cup)
- Minor Schoolgirls – Schools Cup
- (later to become Curran Cup)

BANGOR SIX-A-SIDE TOURNAMENT

COMPETITION TIME

SECTION PITCH No.

TEAMS	GOALS	PENALTY STROKES	PENALTY CORNERS

UMPIRES

Sixes match card

BANGOR HOCKEY CLUB – 50th Six-A-Side Anniversary

August 2004 Random Thoughts/Reflections

Anniversaries are the flavour of the month and year at the present time. Today's history of past events are linked to anniversaries, this year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of D-Day, also the 100th anniversary of our local Bangor Spectator newspapers continuous ownership by one family, the 'Alexanders'.

Of interest to hockey followers, this year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Bangor sixes. It owes its excellence to an anniversary to mark Bangor's 1400th foundation in 1955.

50 years ago Bangor had its own Borough Council and they asked local organisations to celebrate the anniversary by organising a special event. Bangor Hockey Club responded by holding its very first six-a-side from 18th – 20th August 1955. Doubts, however, exist as to whether the first tournament consisted of five-a-side teams as reported in the Bangor Spectator, August 1995.

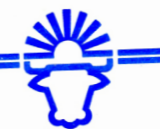
Bangor's Mayor in the mid 1950's was Mr. Fred C. Tughan who was very encouraging and helpful as was the Town Hall Entertainment/Publicity manager, Mr. McClenaghan and his deputy Major Affleck.

The first tournament was a great act of faith, Billy Addison took the little green collecting box round on Thursday/Friday evening and the prizes were bought on Saturday morning for the finals that afternoon. In the early years the tournament was run on a shoestring budget and had a hand to mouth existence.

The tournament was based on good value for money – original entry fee 15/- (75p) per team for six players plus tea and sandwiches free.

The tournament was based on American Tennis tournament (sections of 5 teams) each playing each other.

Milk Marketing Board for Northern Ireland
456 ANTRIM ROAD BELFAST BT15 5GD
Telephone: Belfast 792111/10lines/Telexgram: Nornordtel 447136



Mr John Hunter
4 Riverside Road
BANGOR
Co Down

Our ref: 19/19/2

25 April 1978

Dear Mr Hunter

BANGOR MAID HOCKEY SIXES

I refer to your letter of 6 March and our subsequent telephone conversation. I now wish to confirm sponsorship totalling £125.00 for this year's hockey tournament.

Perhaps you will get in touch with me a little nearer the time of the event to discuss some ideas for publicity.

Yours sincerely

W J Silcock
W J Silcock
fpr Sales Manager

BANGOR HOCKEY CLUB – 50th Six-A-Side Anniversary

The tournament was always intended to be a fun tournament but occasionally was taken too seriously by some.

The first aid tent is run by St Johns Ambulance Brigade who have been in charge since the very first tournament. Unfortunately on one occasion an umpire slipped on the opening night of the tournament finishing up in Bangor Hospital with a broken leg.

Pitch preparations – particularly on grass – was onerous. Cutting and marking circles, painting goal posts, backboards, corner posts – not forgetting John Hunter searching for lost hockey balls.

Changes to the rules of hockey were adopted over the years – roll in, hit in, bully off, hit back, no off side.

The social side of the tournament was very important, usually a tournament dance was held. In 1958 this was held in Caproni's Ballroom. Dancing 9pm – 2am, admission (30p) according to the tournament programme advert.

The Ulster Umpires Association contribution from the very outset was

particularly important under the direction of Andy Hayes and Gerry Edwards.

Over the years women's hockey has always been well represented in the tournament. In 1957 for our third tournament Mrs. M.E. Hopkins, President Ulster W.H. Union and President Irish H.U. 1956/57 presented the cups and medals.

Special celebration matches were often organised for finals day taking many forms. Way back in 1955 at the first tournament in Ward Park an Ulster XI played league winners Lisnagarvey. On another occasion an Ireland XI v Festival XI met prior to a European Cup.

Novelty items were introduced over the years for spectator interest – one such success was a penalty flick competition for both sexes.

Support from the Ulster Hockey Presidents, both men and women, over the years was very much appreciated and on occasions visits from Irish Hockey Presidents was the icing on the cake.

Walter R.T. Dowdall

BANGOR HOCKEY CLUB – 50th Six-A-Side Anniversary

The lady helpers in the tea tent added so much to the tournament surrounded by prize winning roses supplied by our President, Charles Curran.

Merris, S.D. Bell were the sponsors of the tea used in the early years. They were delighted to receive many phone calls saying how much they enjoyed their cup 'o' tea in Bangor last evening.

Milk Marketing Board sponsorship of the tournament under Joe Silcock was particularly valuable as was their support of youth/schools hockey.

At one time the tournament was thought to be the largest six-a-side tournament in the U.K. (in 1964 the entry reached 165 teams).

Visiting teams travelled from England, Scotland, Wales and of course the Republic's teams were always strong supporters.

50 years ago mens and ladies hockey was run completely separately but Bangor sixes very first tournament had both mens and ladies sections and later introduced a mixed section, very much ahead of its time.

Alongside the tournament programme, for a number of years, we published the "Irish Hockey Review", in 1950's, 60's, 70's covering the larger Irish hockey scene.

The six-a-side tournament – changing locations with changing circumstances. Starting off in the Ward Park, moving after a couple of years to Valentine Playing Fields, Castle Park from the 50's – 70's. The third location was Bangor Rugby Club (Uprichard Park) and finally Ballykillaire Sports Complex on artificial sand based pitches in recent years.

Hockey followers particularly in the early years were very supportive and many a donation was supplied into your pocket by ex players standing on the line.



Money and sponsorship became a more important factor as the Sixes grew

The Personalities: Davy McManus

My earliest experience was in the 1940s watching Portrush Hockey Club where my father was Chairman for many a year! The team was well supported, and I had to force my way to the front of a crowded touchline to see the play. My older brother Ronnie played and represented the first team before going to Queen's University and later Belfast YMCA where he gained his first Irish Cap. I followed him several years later, going to Bushmills Grammar School where hockey was the main sport played. We left Portrush and moved to Bangor in 1956 where my father was the new postmaster.

Norman and myself transferred to Bangor Grammar School and as the school did not play hockey, we took up rugby which was a great experience. I played on the 1st team at no. 8 position. As school matches were on Saturday morning, I was free to play hockey on Saturday afternoons. I have many happy memories of my Bangor days, a well-run club which has contributed greatly to Ulster and Irish Hockey over the decades.

I played in a very successful 1st team captained by Harry McDonagh which went 2 seasons without a league defeat from 1960-1962, winning promotion to the qualifying league and then to the senior league. Harry McDonagh was a great centre half and an inspirational captain. The team had great character with a never say die attitude. I remember well the after-match sessions in the Castle Arms Pub sitting in a nice cosy corner around a fire listening to the many tales of sporting endeavour.

The Bangor Sixes

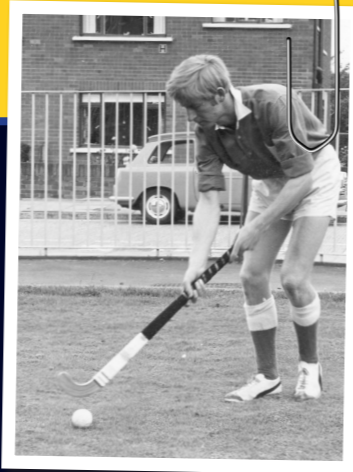
The first of its kind. This involved the whole club in organising and preparing for a week-long tournament. Even my mother was employed in the tea tent. I enjoyed the tournament so much that when living in London and playing for Hounslow I brought over a team named The Invaders on four occasions. My other memory of this event was the caravan in the middle of the Valentine Playing Fields. This was used as headquarters for the Ulster Umpires to retire to between matches. I know they really enjoyed this weekend when refreshments ran out replacements were sent for. By night this was where most of my Invaders team slept. There was an unfortunate fire one evening caused by a lit candle but luckily no one was injured and not too much damage done. I played on many more occasions for different teams, enjoying success with the Storks and the Bushwhackers.

In 1966, as the bank I worked for went on a long strike for better pay and conditions I moved to London to work. I never returned to banking. While socialising one evening in August 1966 I asked the company I was socialising with did anyone know of a nearby hockey club. Someone who happened to overhear remarked that Hounslow played nearby. I went to the first training session at the end of August unaware of Hounslow's high reputation. Hounslow had in their rank several English, Scottish, and Welsh internationals as well as United Kingdom players. I started in the 2nd XI and scored 4 hat tricks in the first 6 games which paved my way on to the 1st team and later Middlesex Honours. In my first year we topped the London League which was then based on overall average of the many teams involved.

Hounslow won the first English Hockey Men's Championship Cup Competition in 1971-72 season, defeating Norwich Grasshoppers 3-0 in the final. I scored 2 goals in the final. This qualified Hounslow to represent England in the Great Britain Clubs Championship held on the Isle of Man. We were successful defeating a very strong Queen's University team in the final. During my time in London I guested for many teams at various festivals, including London Indians, enjoying their after-match curries. Whilst at Hounslow I was awarded six Irish International Caps. This included taking part in the European Championship in Brussels 19th September to 27th September 1970. We were unfortunate not to qualify for the quarter finals from our group as we lost no matches. Nevertheless, a great experience.

I returned to Bangor in 1973 and played a year for the club before my job took me to work in Omagh. I joined Cookstown Hockey Club which was much more convenient for training and travelling. This coincided with emerging talent from Cookstown High School. In 1975 Cookstown won promotion to senior hockey league and remarkably in the first season finished third in the league.

The first big success was reaching the Irish Senior Cup Final in 1980. We played Belfast YMCA and were beaten



2-0. However, as YMCA were unable to accept the invitation to play in Europe we travelled instead. We then learned that we would have to participate in a qualifying tournament in Zagreb (Yugoslavia) and if successful could proceed to European B division championship held in Rome. We successfully qualified in Zagreb.

Winning our section, we faced the home side Algida which numbered in its ranks six Italian and two internationals in front of a huge partisan crowd. We won the final on penalty strokes and were the first team in Ireland to win a European Title.

In 1987 we won the Irish Senior Cup beating Banbridge 4-0 in the final. This qualified us for Europe again so off to Amsterdam for "A Division" with the elite teams in Europe. We played in front of over 10,000 people in the match against the host Dutch team. They scored in the first minute and 10 minutes before the end. However, we fought well, had several chances to equalise before their second goal. We were given a standing ovation by the huge sea of local orange support.

Throughout the 1980 and 1990s key figures within the Armagh Local Schools had created an appetite for Men's Hockey. I was invited by George Compson to get involved. Following several meetings, the club was founded on 23rd February 1994. After a few years playing for the first team, I dropped down to captain a young 3rd team before retiring from Hockey Club, some 50 years since it all began.

1st XI 1961/62 season

Back Row: John Nelson, Tom McVicar, Mr Charles Curran (President), Harry Brady, Davy McManus,

Seated: John Marshall, Ted Jemphrey, Harry McDonagh (Captain), Trevor Gilpin, Alan Crichton

On floor: Jackie Barr, George Miskimmins



Davy McManus' Ireland shirt

The Personnel

The history of Bangor Hockey Club, as with any sports club, is punctuated with varying stories of success. The list of playing achievements provides one measure of such success and progress. For Bangor, one can point to promotions to the upper tier of hockey and trophies won by teams throughout the club. However, equally as important is the backdrop of off-field achievement – the development of the club itself, the contribution of key personnel and the incidents and events that help to define the character of the club. The influence of the club has extended beyond the boundaries of the Borough, not just in the establishing of important tournaments but also in the contribution key personnel have made within Ulster and Irish Hockey.

ULSTER AND IRELAND HOCKEY UNIONS

- 1901 JHS Davidson elected President of Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
- 1961 Mr H Burrowes elected President of Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
- 1973 W Dowdall elected President Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
- 1976 Walter Dowdall elected President Irish Hockey Union
- 1983 JV Smyth elected President Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
- 1999 JV Smyth elected as President of Irish Hockey Union
- 2002 JV Smyth elected as President of Irish Hockey Association

2011 Alan Morris elected President of Ulster Hockey Union

2017 Chris Harte elected President of Ulster Branch

Walter Dowdall

The legacy of Bangor involvement in Ulster Branch administration began in 1901 with JHS Davidson being elected as President of the Ulster Branch. It was then a further sixty years before H. Burrowes served as president of the Ulster Branch as well. In 1973, Walter Dowdall was elected as president of the Ulster Branch of the Irish Hockey Union and in 1976 he was afforded the honour of being elected president of the Irish Hockey Union. However, the contribution that Walter made to Bangor is immeasurable. Walter was a true gentleman, a man of calm temperament and an inveterate organiser. From joining the club in the late 1940s, Walter was involved in all key developments within the Club, sitting on committees which organised Dinner dances, the six-a-side tournament and mini-hockey competitions. Walter was also the Club archivist for many years, compiling the history profile for the 50th Anniversary. Indeed, 11 Rosemary Drive became somewhat of a shrine to the Hockey Club, with photographs, tournament programmes and scrap books nestling in every corner and providing a wonderful source of material for our updated history.

Harry Brady

Harry Brady is a Club member of true distinction who, from his first involvement in the late 1940s, was integral to the initiation of club activities and events, which survived healthily into the 1970s and beyond, the Sportsman's Ball and the six-a-side tournament being the most notable. Harry is one of very few club members who has served in every position on Committee, serving longest as Treasurer where his attention to detail proved invaluable. This organisational acumen found its spiritual home in the Sixes caravan. For many, many decades Harry coordinated the issue, collection, and review of match cards, documenting all onto the Results Board for all to view – in real-time! Harry also helped organise Club tours, setting up a standing order for tourers to utilise, the proceedings from which he distributed evenly at point of need!

An interesting feature has been the number of clergy who through the years played for the club. These included Rev. H. D. M. Banton (formerly Archbishop of Dublin), Rev. R. C. H. Elliott (formerly Bishop of Connor), Rev. R. A. Deane, Rev. Mills, Rev. Quinlan, Rev. McCurdy, Rev. T. M. Gebbie, Rev. E. S. Barber, Rev. J. M. Armstrong, Rev. F. Ebbitt, Rev. J. Hume, Rev. J. McCroony, Rev. D. Irwin, Rev. D. Stanfield, and Rev. D. Cupples.

JV Smyth

JV Smyth joined the staff of Bangor Grammar School in 1964 and quickly established hockey on the school sporting curriculum. Within five years the school had established a strong reputation. Whilst there was an inevitable time lag between the introduction of the game and subsequent success, by the early 70s the first signs of achievement were very evident. However, equally important as playing prowess was the way in which things were done.

Understated by nature, John brought an incredible enthusiasm to sport in the school. His calmness of approach disguised an astute organisational brain. Indeed, these organisational skills were recognised at Ulster Branch level as John took his first steps on a path which ultimately led him to presidency of the Irish Hockey Union. It was in the early days that

John became instrumental in the administration of Ulster Schools hockey, a role which then expanded to incorporate All Ireland Schools hockey as well. Indeed, perhaps one of his proudest achievements was leading Bangor Grammar School to All Ireland Schools cup success in 1989. John continued to play into the late 1970s. He had served the 1st XI with distinction and captained each team in the club. Who can forget his rampaging runs on the right flank, shirt tucked ever so precisely into the fading blue shorts? However, the legacy

is not just that of playing and administrative achievement. John's mantra from the early days was 'think smart, look smart, play smart'. These words were repeated regularly at training sessions on wet, windy Wednesday afternoons at Ballymacormick and on the school bus en route to every away fixture. His ease of personality endeared him to all, and it is rare to have a teacher who is so fondly remembered by so many schoolboys.



1972 Committee

Back Row from left: Drew Ferguson, Raymond Parker, Alistair Stewart, Artie Coburn, J.V. Smyth, Paisley Watson, John Hunter, Lindsay Mulholland
Front Row: Harry Brady (Hon. Treasurer), David G Lamb Club President), Walter Dowdall (Club Chairman and Ulster Branch President), Derek Forshaw (Hon. Secretary), George Stevenson (Captain).



From left JV Smyth, Walter Dowdall, Harry Brady, Raymond Parker – the backbone of the Club for fifty years.

Raymond Parker

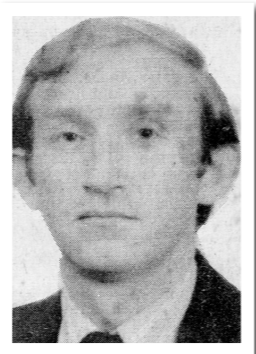
From his first appearance for the club in 1968, Raymond Parker demonstrated the competitive edge that came to define his play. A veritable dynamo, his unrelenting stamina and fine stick ability saw him establish a reputation as one of the most effective players in Ulster hockey. One Ulster cap may have been scant return for such a fine player, but for Raymond it was always the club that came first. A tireless organiser, he became synonymous with the Sixes tournament, touring teams, and club committee. The constant on-field exhortation of "Come on boys!" no doubt still rings in many a Bangor ear and his modesty of manner has earned him many admirers. Such was Raymy's enthusiasm for the game that, in the 1988/89 season he played four matches for Monkstown H.C in the Leinster League, contributing enormously to vital away victories and to the retention of Senior One status. If success is relative to expectations, then promotion to Senior League 1 in 1977 represented a major achievement for Bangor under the captaincy of R. Parker. Even more impressive, some would argue, is that to this day Raymy still takes the field, with distinction, for Bangor. Fifty successive years of play, 26 for the 1st XI, 13 as club captain and unbroken service on the club committee. An impressive tally indeed!

David Johnston

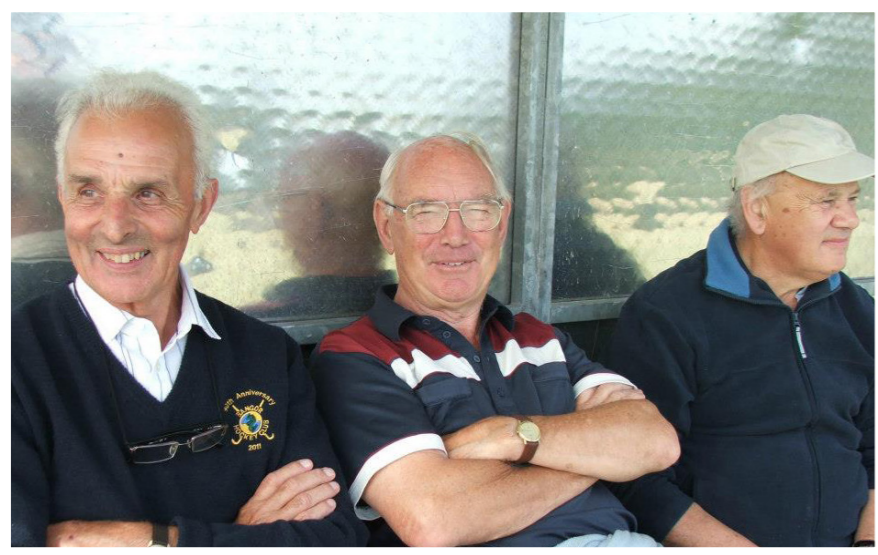
For all those members who have contributed to the workings of the club the accolade that resonates most is being presented with the David Johnston Memorial Trophy. This award was introduced in 1978 following the untimely passing of David Johnston, whilst playing for Bangor at Annadale. David joined Bangor from Civil Service in 1969 and was actively

involved in many aspects of club activity. One of his tasks was helping with the six-a-side tournament, his forte soon to be the efficient management of the provision of refreshment for some 1,000 participants. David captained the 5th XI in the 1975/76 season and the 4th XI in 1976/77 season. Always conscientious, David was elected as Match Secretary for the 1977/78 season and indeed was re-elected in the season in which he so sadly passed away.

In recognition of such splendid service to the Club, the David Johnston Memorial Trophy was first awarded in 1978.



Chris Wilkinson receives the David Johnston Trophy from Club Chairman Peter Snodden and Gareth Stubbings



Harry Brady, JV Smyth, Jim Gregg

Raymond Parker reflects...



I was in 3rd form in Bangor Grammar when Mr J. V. Smyth walked into our room announcing that hockey was being offered as an option to rugby and cross country. Little did I know that John's announcement was going to have such a massive effect on my life.

It didn't take long for me to fall in love with the game and to be able to play and enjoy hockey in school was a real bonus for me as I struggled academically.

School hockey inevitably led into club hockey. I could never have imagined then, the joy and satisfaction I would get from being part of this great club.

My highlights come mainly from my years playing and captaining the 1st XI. Years mixed with promotions and relegations, many great games against fine teams with top players. I will never forget some of our Irish cup matches, in Dublin and Cork in particular. In those days we always prayed for an away draw against a Southern side and of course we would have to make a weekend of it! Playing 1st XI hockey with my son, Scott, was also a real highlight for me.

I was very fortunate to play my senior hockey when you always socialised after the game. The friendships made with the opposition over a cup of tea, or a pint have been very special, and I still have the joy of meeting many either after a game of at lunches and dinners.

Those early friendships led to hockey tours at Easter and Whit. I had the pleasure of playing for the Ulster Storks, a touring team made up of players from teams throughout Ulster. We toured for 25 years. The IOM festival at Whit was another great festival which I attended for many years. Glorious memories on and off the pitch.

Along with all this I had a wonderful couple of seasons playing with Monkstown Hockey Club (Dublin) while still playing for Bangor. Again, loving the hockey and making a lot of new friends, a few of whom I still meet up with annually. I am so fortunate to have a very understanding wife!

Sadly, festival hockey seems to be a thing of the past, indeed socialising in general is nothing like it was but I know this is something the Club is working on. It's all about people and forming friendships which you will appreciate more and more with age.

Bangor Hockey Club has given me so much. Never the most successful but always competitive. I wouldn't swap my time at Bangor for anything.

I just hope young players coming into our club give it their all, remembering 'it's not what your club can do for you but what you can do for your club'. If they do, they won't be disappointed.

I genuinely consider it a great privilege and a blessing to have been Club President and to continue to be part of such a very special club.

Raymond Parker



Dinner Dance 2006

Back row: Jeremy MacAfee (Chairman) Harry Brady, Timmy Campbell, Alan Morris Front Row: Eileen Dowdall, Walter Dowdall, J.V.Smyth, Joan Smyth

The Personalities: Stephen Martin

“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

When I began my education at Bangor Grammar School back in the 70s I had no idea of the wonderful journey I was embarking on. Back then, the school cap was compulsory, jotters, fountain pens, blackboards and chalk were the order of the day, hockey was played on gravel pitches and rugby was the only team sport on offer to first and second formers. Only one of my P7 classmates made it to BGS so, for me, it was an opportunity to make new friends who had similar interests. Academia was important, however I preferred to put the extra effort into sport. I am sure many of my teachers would attest to this!

Throughout first form I played wing forward (I was fit and could get around the pitch better than others) and this helped me develop a more aggressive approach to sport – if you didn't you wouldn't have survived!

During the summer holidays I was rushed to hospital with a burst appendix. I was seriously ill for weeks until the doctors trialed a new drug which literally saved my life. However, I was also given devastating news- recovery would be slow and sport was not permitted. Crushing words to a 12-year-old who lived for his football and golf. I spent the entire 2nd form running cross-country!

How then did my interest in hockey start? By this time, my older brother was playing on the school 1st XI. One evening in the garden I picked up a stick and challenged him to several “one on ones”. It was fun – my hand-eye-ball coordination was good and in third form I took up the option to play this new team game. Of course, I had the inevitable to deal with from certain teachers – “Why are you playing hockey, boy! Come back and play a proper sport, boy!” But this was a time to follow my own path and instincts. I never looked back really. With the encouragement from teachers Chris Harte, John Smyth and Errol Steele I developed an interest and ability to compete with the best.

I practiced a lot in my spare time and was soon on the 1st XI. Our school won the McCullough Schools Cup, and I was selected to represent Ulster and Ireland Schools. I can recall being so excited about playing in the Home Nations schools tournament in England that I forgot to pack my stick. I had to borrow one! I never forgot that experience and always ensured my stick sponsor provided 3-4 identical sticks for international tournaments. Lesson learnt!

Like all talented BGS pupils I was encouraged to join Bangor Hockey Club.

At BHC I started at the bottom but progressed quickly up to the 2s. My first game for the 1s was an away game at Stranmillis College. I played left wing and I think we won!

Progressing from the 5th XI to the 1st XI many teammates encouraged me to use my ability on the pitch. Often, they also had to protect me from opposition who wanted to take me out...they had my back! Ted Murphy, Alan Morris, Harry Brady, John Smyth, Billy Harris, Gerry Dunn, John Rainey, Nicky Langley, Norman Irwin, Sean Curran and, of course, my brother Phillip (who was playing Irish U21 hockey) were always so supportive.

Transportation to the 2s and 3s games was sometimes a tad hairy, especially with Billy Harris or Fred Maguire. These guys enjoyed showing off their driving skills and managed to keep their sporty cars between the hedges... just about! I always loved to arrive early at away matches because we could watch the end of Senior matches and have the opportunity to admire the skills of international players. Saturday, post games, was an enjoyable trip to the Castle Arms. A beer and chat just before the Ireland Saturday Night match report was picked up at the local newsagents on the way home.

A typical week for me as a schoolboy consisted of two training sessions with BHC 1s, two practices at school/ two training sessions of my own re Irish U21s, a Saturday match for BGS and a BHC match in the afternoon. I cannot remember having club substitutes back then, so it was full on... physically, mentally, and socially. Thankfully, I had amazing support from my parents.

I always enjoyed playing in BHC's groundbreaking club tournament, the Bangor Floodlit at Ward Park. It was a chance to watch top players as well as the opportunity to play against them. It was also a shop window for young talent. So, while still a member of Bangor Hockey club I was playing for Ulster and Ireland U21 (winning a European Silver medal), and I played in the first ever U21 World Cup in Paris.



Aged 19 I joined Belfast YMCA hockey club, a move I had to make to achieve my ambitions at international level. The same year I was selected to play for Ireland in a World Cup qualifying event in Malaysia. It is never easy to leave a club where you have enjoyed your time, made friends, and developed as an individual and a player..... However, it proved to be the right move for me. In 1992 I made it into the Guinness Book of records as the most capped player in the UK! (94 GB and 135 for Ireland). I have played in 3 European cups and 1 World Cup for Ireland. I also played in 13 Champion's Trophy Tournaments and 3 Olympic Games with Team GB. I have two Olympic medals (Gold and Bronze) and was vice captain/captain of the GB team between 1984-1992. An accolade that I am very proud of was to be selected to play in the World XI v Continental XI.

I realise that my success would never have been possible without the support and encouragement from a few significant others, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the part that BHC played in that journey. I have been asked many times, “What went through your mind when you stood on the Olympic podium. Number 1 in the world?” Honestly, my thoughts flashed back to those early days... my family, teammates telling me to “believe in yourself, Sam” and I wanted anyone who had influenced me to be sharing in my success.

One person who was never enticed away from BHC was Raymond Parker. He was a standout club player on and off the field. I learnt so much from him and he in turn showed an interest in helping me to succeed. He had all the attributes of a top player, he was fit, competitive, encouraging, a great communicator, led by example and is still part of the fabric of this great club. Another was John V Smyth, a great mentor. He was a calming influence, knew how to get the best out of me, always promoting me at school level and within Ulster hockey. I owe him so much. Thank you, John.

On this wonderful occasion it is fitting then that the two men who I most respected from Bangor Hockey Club are leading the Centenary Celebrations; Raymond Parker as Centenary Dinner Convenor, and John V Smyth as Guest Speaker.

Wishing the newly merged men's and women's Bangor Hockey Club every success both on and off the field in years to come.

“S.A.M”

Dr Stephen Martin MBE OLY Olympic Gold and Bronze Medalist and former Bangor Hockey Club player.



The local and national press in Northern Ireland has been a constant and at times, colourful companion to the Club since the late 1890s. In 1899 the first record of a Bangor match was detailed in the Newtownards Chronicle. On 2 December a Bangor team defeated Ards 3-2 in the first round of the Keightley Cup, with an admission fee for gentlemen to spectate but not for Ladies.

The News Letter, Belfast Telegraph and the Ireland Saturday Night have all provided welcome coverage over the years, particularly for the annual tournaments. However, the County Down Spectator has been the most constant companion to the Club, detailing match reports and upcoming fixtures as well as dispatching photographers to capture the weekly on-field action. Most importantly perhaps, the Spectator archives provide a rich source of historical data. Minutes of Annual General Meetings can be found in the archives, most of which were transferred to the scrapbooks which Walter Dowdall compiled from the 1950s to the 1970s. The 50th anniversary of the Club was recorded in full-page glory, but it is not just the historical data itself which is of interest. There is also the character of the contributors which resonates. Perhaps the most memorable scribe was "Flick," whose colourful contributions ranged from pithy match commentary to poem writing. The following excerpts demonstrate his skill with words.

Men's Hockey – 21.02.1953
**AND THEN THERE WERE SEVEN
 FOUR PLAYERS WALKED OFF IN BANGOR
 MATCH**

The second elevens of Bangor and Albert Foundry finally reached a decision in their Braddell Shield tie after playing 250 minutes' hockey with Bangor finally emerging victors by three goals to one.

The game was marred by an unusual and unpleasant incident which took place ten minutes from the end, when Bangor, who had been pressing strongly, were awarded penalty bully. Several of the Albert Foundry players objected to this decision and four of them, including their captain, left the field in protest.

Albert Foundry played out time with seven players, Bangor scoring from the penalty bully taken by Lavery and adding a further goal through Dowdall.

This was a very unsporting action and reflects badly upon the Albert Foundry club and is certainly not in the best interests of the game.

The score at the time of this incident was one goal each and with then minutes still to play it was not improbable that a full-strength Foundry side could have pulled the game out of the fire.

Bangor were a much superior side for most of the game, their forwards giving the opposing defence a gruelling time and only being prevented from scoring several more goals by bad luck and some very good goalkeeping.



Bangor AGM at the Town hall in 1988

Spectator 29.10.55
PARS FROM THE PAVILION

Last week's items caused a stir, and some members inform me they are not stiff after training. All I can say is they mustn't be putting enough into it-or else I'm getting old.

Speaking of training! Twenty-one members are now attending on Tuesday evenings. Still room for a few more. Mr. McVicar, the instructor, will be glad to see them.

The Third's display at Saintfield on Saturday merits a word. Quite a performance, especially as there were some last-minute substitutions. Pollock, I believe, was almost impassable in goal.

Bangor makes history this week when for the first time, a IV eleven has been entered in the Minor League. This team, Bangor Colts, is especially to cater for youngsters interested in taking up the game. Anyone looking for a good match should approach a member of the club.

Members will take part in a club sponsored "Sportsman's Service" in the Hamilton Road Methodist Church on Sunday evening, 13th November. Donaghadee make voice choir will lead the praise.

I can see signs of Bangor claiming the title for the "best dressed hockey club in Ireland." Already resplendent in navy blazer with the club crest, members are to have the opportunity of purchasing a matching tie to be specially designed.

In conclusion, just a word about "cry-offs." Don't leave it until Friday if you are not available. Let your captain know early in the week. It makes his difficult job a little easier.

Dowdall opened the scoring with a splendid shot which rattled the backboards, and from then until the interval Bangor did everything but score, Addison Miskimmon and Dowdall again having good efforts saved.

The second half was a repetition of the first, with Bangor just unable to score, and things began to look black after Albert Foundry equalised in a breakaway. Then came the penalty bully incident already described which gave Bangor a well-deserved passage to the second round.

The forwards were the outstanding part of the Bangor team, Addison and Miskimmon forming a most effective right wing. Apart from the slip up, which cost a goal, the defence was sound.

TO-DAY'S TEAMS

1st XI v. Old Bleach in Ward Park after 3 p.m. (Intermediate League): (Morton; Caswell, Calvert; Boal, Nelson, Lorimer; Townsley, J. Barr, Alexander, V. Barr, James.

2nd XI v. Lissara at Kilmore Village (near Downpatrick) in the Braddell Shield (second round): Crichton; Blundell, Lavery; Burns, McMahan, Miskimmon, Connolly, Addison, Dowdall, Baker, Wall.

"Flick" waxes poetic

The Ulster-Home Scots fixture at Cliftonville meant that last Saturday was a free date for all Bangor's teams and having a few hours' spare time over the weekend I thought I would wax poetical in

this week's notes in the honour of the 1st XI. All I ask is that they continue their winning way this season and prove worthy of my verse – such as it is!

BANGOR FIRST ELEVEN

*The town, it is Bangor,
 1995 is the year.
 Hockey's my subject,
 So, lend me your ear.*

*Men's Hockey is thriving,
 With that you'll agree.
 It means too much to them
 Down by the sea.*

*The first team is winning,
 Has had a good run.
 Will this be their year?
 For a "place in the sun?"
 Let's look at the boys,
 Who are doing the job?
 They do it for love,
 Without earning a bob.
 Allen Crichton's the 'keeper,
 A suicide post.
 He uses his kickers
 To keep out the host.*

*His kicking is perfect,
 And never in doubt.
 When forwards break through
 He is sure to come out.*

Two "sons" play at back,
That may sound funny,
They're in no way related,
Ain't got the same mummy.

Geoff Robin "son" first,
He plays on the right
His full-blooded tackles
Give forwards a fright.

Geoff's not often beaten,
He's hard to get round.
Long-legged and lanky,
He covers the ground.

Pete Morri "son" new,
And a useful addition.
A reverse stick exponent
For left-back position.

A well-trained fellow,
It's easy to tell,
His recovery amazing,
He's hitting so well.

The fine half-back trio,
Leaves little to chance.
Keen anticipation,
Leads forward a dance.

Freddie is right half,
Burns, his second name.
When occasion demands it,
He plays a grand game.

Though picked for the Seconds,
He soon made the grade.
Quickly parting the ball,
He starts many a raid.

Centre-half Johnny Nelson,
Is also the skipper.
His stickwork is classy,
He couldn't be fitter.

His work down the middle,
He performs with great ease.
And seldom if ever,
Does he fail to please.

Left half's an "old-timer",
Ever-green Jackie Barr,
Known the world over,
As Bangor's bright star.

With tiger like tackles,
And copybook passes,
He gives of his best
Without keep-fit classes.

Five forward "laddies",
Now take our attention.
Their deeds though not valiant,
Are worthy of mention.

Outside-right George Miskimmins,
Is the club's able Sec.
A fleet-footed fellow,
He worries a back
His goal-scoring prowess,
one never can doubt,
His lone solo runs,
Raising many a shout.

Stan Maxwell at inside,
Is slower of foot.
But is never too slow,
To share in the loot.

An experienced player,
He chooses his passes.
But often holds back,
Because of his glasses.

Bonnie James down the middle,
Often runs riot.
A quick-tempered fellow,
He will not deny it.

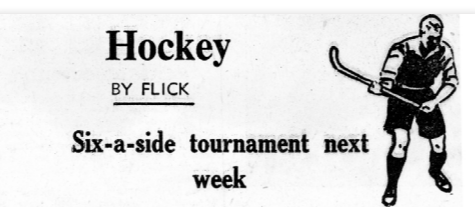
With strong supple wrists,
And quite a fast pace
He's a centre-half's nightmare,
A goal-scoring ace.
Willie Addison now,
The Club's inter-pro.
He plays inside left,
With plenty of "go".

A non-stop trier,
Is wee Willie's role,
When once in the circle,
Is sure of a goal.

Left-wing is Big Dennis,
His name is McNiece.
He runs down the touchline,
May they never cease.

A treat to the eyes,
Is his classic display,
Deft, dexterous stickwork,
Is Dennis' way.

I've written these verses,
And laid it on thick.
'Because I've got to live with them,
Yours truly Flick.



Hockey
BY FLICK

Six-a-side tournament next week

IT seems I'm not going to be allowed to enjoy my summer vacation—at least not for too long! Bangor Men's Six-a-side Hockey Tournament opens on Monday evening, so I've had to fill my pen, look for some writing paper and say a word or two about the good things in store.

As most of our readers know, the Club last year ran a Festival over two evenings with the finals on Saturday. The event, organised as part of the Borough's 1400th Anniversary Celebrations, proved such a success that popular demand practically forced the Club to run one this year. A sub-committee has been hard at work for some nine months and now, at last, they are beginning to see the results of their efforts.

50 teams, 104 matches

This year's tournament has been considerably broadened and lasts the whole week. In all, 50 teams will be competing and 104 matches will be played to decide the winners. Teams from all over the Province are competing and many Internationals and Inter-provincials will be playing. Six cups will be competed for—one for each section. There are sections for Senior men and women, Junior men and women, Minor men and school girls, with medals for winners and runners-up.

The cup presented for the Senior men has a sporting history worthy of mention. It was originally presented by Mr. Richard Maxwell, a director of Distillery Football Club for a knock-out competition in the Intermediate football League. This is now defunct and Mr. Maxwell, who has two sons playing for the Bangor Club, kindly presented it for the Tournament.

The sections which will be played off on American Tournament lines with the finals on Saturday, are comprised of the following teams:—
Minor Men for Minor Cup—Regent House School, Friends' School, Bangor H.I., Cliftonville H.V., Ballymena H.I., Schoolgirls for Schools' Cup—Regent House "A", Bangor Technical, Regent House "B", St. Dominic's, Methodist College.

Junior Men for Flick Cup—Bangor, Albert Foundry H.I., Lieburn Old Boys, Mossley H., Banbridge H., Cliftonville H., East Antrim H., King's Scholars, Friends' School, Ballymena.
Junior Women for Dolphin Cup—Bangor Tech. Old Girls, Ards H.I., Garvey H.I., Saintfield, Portadown, Bangor H.I., St. Dominic's H., Ards H.I., Bloomfield Collegiate H.I., Portadown Tech. Past Pupils.

Senior Men for Maxwell Cup—Cliftonville, East Antrim, N. Down Linnagarvey "A", Banbridge, Albert Foundry, Queen's University, Lisnagarvey "B", Mossley, Down.

Senior Women for Allen Cup—Bangor, Instomans, Belfast High School, Old Girls, Ormiston, St. Dominic's "B", St. Dominic's "A", Greenisland, Bloomfield Collegiate "A", Banbridge, Down.

Ambitious venture

Staging this tournament is quite a venture for an Intermediate Club such as Bangor, but if you will allow me a hackneyed but nevertheless truthful phrase) they have left no stone unturned and spared no effort to make it an event worth seeing. To facilitate spectators the club has compiled a 24 page programme fully detailing the week's matches which begin each evening at 6.30.

Might I echo the words of the Mayor, Mr. F. C. Fughan, when, in the programme's foreword, he writes "... I hope this particular enterprise will receive the support and encouragement I think it deserves. It has my very best wishes for success."

Bound for Olympics

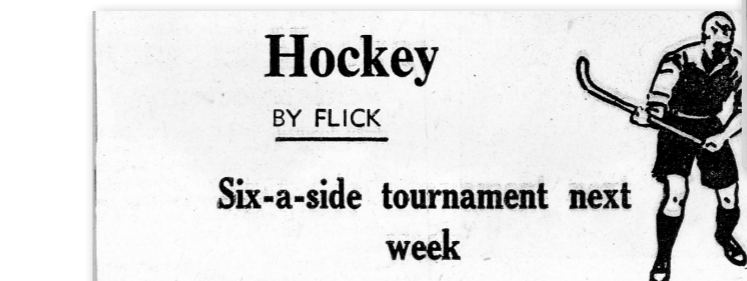
Sterlie Johnston, Ireland's popular back and defence stalwart of the Lisnagarvey hockey side will be making one of his last appearances in his home club's colours for some months when he plays for the Garvey "A" team in the Bangor Tournament.

A member of the British party leaving shortly for the Olympics in Melbourne, Steve, who well merits the honour of being Ireland's sole representative, will receive a rousing send-off from the many visitors and spectators attending this Bangor event.

Accompanying the Banbridge team as a spectator will be Aubrey Allister, Ireland's former winger and an Olympic possible until he sustained a broken leg during last season. Although not yet quite fit Aubrey hopes to be back in the Bann side early this season.

However, humour was not the exclusive to "Flick" in the 1950s. In 1972 we first encountered SUPERVIC, the comic-hero version of Victor Haslett. Victor was a First XI captain and Club Chairman, whose effervescent approach to life was perfectly captured by a local journalist.

Today, hockey benefits from the social media forums that allow for a vast amount of information to be communicated efficiently. These platforms also provide a timeless repository of information for archivists. Yet the traditional printed press is still with us. The "Specky" remains a valuable source of communication for many, whether it be to provide match reports, details of fixtures or publishing photographs, new and old. However, the legacy of the printed word is that we have tangible evidence of the rich history of our Club at our fingertips.



Hockey
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A SPORTING LEAF FROM FRANC'S DIARY...



At the 30th annual Sportsmen's Ball in 1982 (from left): Derek Watt (Ulster Branch President), Raymond Parker (captain), Stephen Martin (member of medal winning Great Britain Olympic team) and Walter Dowdall (Bangor President).

Club committee in 1972. Front row: H. Brady (hon. treasurer), D. G. Lamb (club president), W. Dowdall (club chairman and Ulster Branch President), D. Forshaw (hon. secretary), G. Stevenson (captain), Back row: D. Ferguson, R. Parker, A. Stewart, A. Colburn, J. V. Smyth, F. Watson, J. Hunter, L. Muilolland.

Admiring the silverware at a reception held before the final of the floodlit competition in April 1983 were John Lorimer, John Scott, Derek Adams and Walter Dowdall.

From Hamilton's Farm to Ward Park

ALTHOUGH Bangor Hockey Club had finally found its feet in 1960, and then in 1952 made the short switch to Castle Park Playing Fields.

In 1927 Bangor were on the move again, this time to ground belonging to Mr. Kinham in the Ashley Park area of the town, and when one of the members subsequently married Mr. Kinham's daughter, a ladies section was formed. They were also granted use of a pitch beside the main field.

Bangor stayed at their new site for almost 30 years, moved to St. Ann's on the Belfast Road and in 1952 continued their nomadic existence.

A rebirth which saw Bangor grow into a strong outfit, both at playing and organisational level. The first pitch was in Church Street, with Miss Hanna's Hall being used as a pavilion and the club's first game was against a team named Anglo-American which the Bangor lads won 3-1. Despite it being their first season they were well pleased when finishing well up the league table.

The club soon found another pitch beside Geoffrey Avenue, convenient to Ballyhanna show grounds. It was a very good pitch and a pavilion was erected which housed a lot of interest in the town. Soon their membership had grown enough to field three teams, one in the senior qualifying league and two in the junior and minor hockey.

In those days the membership fee was ten shillings with a catering charge of one shilling per member.

In 1932-33 season Davy McManus brought honour to the club by being selected for the Ulster Senior team, as well as the Ulster under-23 side.

An interesting feature has been the number of clergy who have played for the club over the years. These included Rev. H. D. M. Barton (formerly Archbishop of Dublin), Rev. R.C.E. Elliot (Bishop of Down), Rev. D. O'Sullivan, Rev. J. M. Barber, Rev. J. M. Armstrong, Rev. F. Ebbitt, Rev. J. Hume, Rev. J. McCarty and Rev. D. Dwin.

The first eleven was captained by Harry McLaughlin and they won two seasons without defeat.

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ABOVE—Davy McManus, who gained his first provincial and international caps while playing with the Bangor club.

LEFT—A line-up of members who took part in the 21st anniversary six-a-side Bangor Presidents v Ulster Presidents in August 1979.

1959 CUP DAY TO-MORROW

To-morrow is Cup Day! Three of the Club's four teams have cup matches on Saturday and all seem to have a reasonable chance of winning.

The Firsts are at home to Cookstown, and this will probably be their stiffest test so far this season. This Co. Tyrone side on a different section of the Intermediate League and has been making its presence felt, having recorded wins over Saintfield (last year's League winners) and Parkview II. On form Bangor can win this tie, but there must be no slacking either in forwards or backs and – penalty corners must be converted into goals.

On paper Seconds appear to have an easier draw in the Junior Cup 2nd Bangor have already beaten this side round, being away to East Antrim III. but it must not be forgotten that this is a cup match, and anything can happen. Lower confidence seems to be the only thing that will keep the Seconds from reaching the quarter cup finals.

In the remaining Cup fixture, the thirds travel to Lisburn where they renew acquaintance with Lisnagarvey IV – always a hard team to beat on their home ground. Bangor is fielding what looks like a very strong side, and if the members "remember" to play as a team this match can be won.

The Colts play Queen's IV, in a Minor League match at Cherryside and should have a good game.

The Teams

First Eleven v. Cookstown at Ward Park (Bully-off, 2.30) – Crichton; Robinson, Morrison; Burns; Nelson (capt.); Barr; Miskimmins; Maxwell; James; Addison, McNiece.

Second Eleven v. East Antrim III. at Glengormly (bully-off, 3.15pm) – Browne; Calvert, Blundell, (capt.) Boal, Brady, Caswell, Ballance, Duff, Culbert, Dowdall, Bradley.

Third Eleven v. Lisnagarvey (bully-off, 3pm) – Pollock; Massey; Larmour; Reid; Grindle; Harmer; Dunlop; Caruth (capt.); McBride; Weir, Boyd.

PARS FROM THE PAVILION

I see Addison has given up his Indian hood stick. Wonder why? Maybe if you had played in a turban, Willie and spoken in "Hindu" it might have felt more like home! I believe the treasurer had been heard to remark "I told you so." Here's wishing Willie many goals from the new stick.

"To-night's the night, we're going to have some fun!" this opening line of a popular song seems appropriate, as the Club's annual ball "bullys-off" at 9 pm. this evening in the Savoy Hotel. Though not wanting to put a dampener on proceedings, might I remind members that to-morrow (Saturday) is the Cup Second Round, and it is advisable to be seeing only one ball in cup ties.

In a recent match an umpire's decision regarding a penalty corner was questioned. Perhaps Jimmy Massey, popular R.A.F. Sergeant, returns to the fray this weekend after a few weeks lay off. On the injured list recently, Jimmy was missed. Good to see you back "at back!"

It's wonderful the difference a change of position makes! I notice the former winger Ronnie Larmour has taken to the left-back position like a "duck to water." He certainly makes opposing forwards "duck" with his hard-hitting and forceful tackling.

I'm told the ankle trouble is spreading to the Seconds. The team captain was "smitten" at the social the other evening. Hope he's nit limping for the match – not to mention the dance.

I'll close by wishing the three Cup teams – all the best! Note I haven't wished them luck, because I believe a well-trained, fighting team makes and takes its own chances.

Scott Parker reflects...



Bangor Men's Hockey Club has been a massive part of not just my life but my entire family's life.

My earliest memories were standing watching Mum and Dad playing at Ward Park on the gravel pitches while hitting a hockey ball off the base of the flood lights and trying to control the rebound – much more difficult on gravel than astro!

Following the matches, it was off to the Castle Arms for a drink and a packet of crisps and to enjoy the family atmosphere of what was a great social occasion each Saturday.

In the late 80s Friday nights at Olympia became the home of our 1st XI as I travelled to every game with Dad, and this was where my love with the game really took off. I saw the TV cameras in the stand opposite the dug outs and remembered thinking I'd love to play for the Firsts!

I made my first appearance for the 1st XI at the age of 14 in an away game against Newry, coached by Smyth Patterson and lining up in the same team as Dad – I believe at that point he was the oldest player in Senior 1 and I was the youngest – a very proud family moment!

Playing for the 1st XI over many seasons was certainly a highlight however by the time I hung up my stick in my early 30s I had played for every team in the club enjoying some very successful seasons with both the 2nd & 3rd XI.

After finishing my playing career, I knew I needed to have hockey in my life, so I decided to take up coaching. Starting with a season coaching the Under 15s I found myself sprung into the position of Joint 1st XI coach with my good friend Allister McVicar the following season as the club struggled to secure someone full-time.

This season taught me a lot about the game and how different it is standing on the side-lines and dealing with personalities, but I knew I loved it and wanted to continue.

I spent 5 years as 1st XI coach which had many highlights including finishing runners up in the Premier League, getting to within penalty runs of EYHL and qualifying and competing in the inaugural year of IHL2.

Being Chairman of this club gives me immense pride and its an honour to follow in the footsteps of so many great people who have held the position over the years, including Dad!

Having been involved with the recent merger with the Ladies Club coupled with our fantastic youth sections, I can honestly say the future for our great club looks bright!

Scott Parker



U18 HONOURS 1998

Back row: Gareth Callender, Neill Slane
Front Row: Simon Irvine, Michael Harte, Scott Parker

The Personalities: Chris Cargo



I am honoured to be asked to contribute, in writing, to the long, rich history of Bangor Hockey Club. As with most members of Bangor Hockey Club, my hockey journey and interest started at Bangor Grammar thanks to Jeremy McAfee, Chris Harte, and Roy Mairs. I cannot thank them enough for igniting my initial interest in the sport.

I couldn't wait to make my senior debut for the club in 2001, which was slightly delayed because of the foot and mouth outbreak that year. Eventually, it came for the 6th XI, when I helped the team to reach a cup final against Kilkeel, played at Ballykillaire. It was a great first experience of senior hockey and my first taste of success. In the same year, I remember watching the 1st XI playoff against Newry Olympic at Ballykillaire, when they narrowly missed out on earning a place in the Premier League. Like many young kids, I had a goal to play for the 1st XI, but I didn't think it would happen anytime soon. In 2002, I was excited to be asked to train with the 2nd XI, with the famous Raymy Parker as captain. There were some great memories of playing in Junior 1 against the likes of Marty Sloan and the remnants of the famous Garvey "7 in a row" team. I learnt a huge amount from playing in that league on and off the pitch, including an unforgettable trip to Raphoe on the minibus.

Then in 2002/03 Brian Davis joined Bangor Hockey Club and you could say that it changed my life forever. He created a team that impacted on the culture of the club, and he certainly changed my outlook on what was possible for me in hockey. In 2002, I had been involved in Ulster and Irish U16 hockey, but I was one of a small group and not from a classical big hockey school or club. It was a fantastic experience to play in a league winning team where I learnt a lot from the players around me. They looked after me when needed and taught me some other life lessons when required.

The experience of Premier League hockey for myself and many others in 2003/04 only helped to set my ambitions higher. Again, it was a fantastic season when I learnt a great deal from playing against so many current and ex-Irish internationals, which probably started to make me realise what was possible in future. I have some great memories of playing in the Irish Senior Cup with a successful away trip to Cork Belvedere and then Lisnagarvey in ISC. The latter is still a very vivid hockey memory for me, as we had been written off in the press. We arrived in the changing room to those same newspaper clippings which had been pasted all around the changing room by Brian. I somehow was given the challenge of marking Mark Raphael, who was one of the best players to ever play for Ireland, but we unfortunately lost in extra time to a golden goal.

Soon after, I moved to Bath University and my hockey career took on a new challenge with Bath Buccaneers in the English National League. Unfortunately, we never managed to gain promotion to the Premier League, but we had a relatively successful team in the British University Championships under the guidance of future GB coach Bobby Crutchley. During this time, I was still being selected for Ulster U-21 in the interprovincials, but I had fallen down the pecking order with the Irish selectors.

After 4 years at Bath Buccaneers, I made the tough decision to leave and join Reading Hockey Club to test myself in the English Premier League. I was lucky enough to make the squad and play with several current and future Olympians, the Mantell brothers and Jonty Clarke amongst others. Reading was also in the newly formed Euro Hockey League, which only added to the exciting challenge. My 6 years at Reading had many highs including winning the English Championship in 2012 and winning a bronze in the Euro Hockey League in 2011. Just playing and training in a team of internationals who expected to win every game was an amazing learning experience.

During this time, I was luckily noticed by Paul Revington, the new Irish coach, and in 2009 won my 1st cap against France in the Celtic Cup in Edinburgh. This was a day that I had never thought would come as I had given up on playing for Ireland, as most of my under-age compatriots had won their caps years before. After this I set my sights on being picked for major tournaments and luckily in 2011, I was selected for the European Championships in Germany when Ireland finished in their joint highest ever position of 5th after beating Spain in the final game. However, unfortunately 6 months later we missed out on qualification for the London 2012 Olympics following a last-minute goal by Korea in Dublin. Even though the result was gut wrenching, the experience of a home tournament and large crowds (for hockey) was something never to be forgotten.

By this stage, Ireland was on the world stage and more exotic trips were to follow to Argentina, Malaysia, India, USA, South Africa alongside the more common tours to cities in France, Spain, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. I was very lucky to travel the world and experience many cultures whilst playing some hockey.

With further disappointment in 2013 when trying to qualify for the World Cup, I set my sights on Rio 2016 as my last realistic opportunity of playing in a major tournament. I left Reading and took a sabbatical from my job to play semi-professionally for Royal Racing Club de Bruxelles in Belgium. This gave me the opportunity to train harder and more often and experience a new culture and team, which I will never forget. Unfortunately, we didn't win the Belgian title, but I have great memories of a fantastic club with loyal members and supporters. This helped me prepare for our 2 Olympic Qualifying tournaments in 2015, in San Diego and Antwerp where we finally did enough to qualify for a major tournament; the hard work had finally paid off. We added a European Bronze medal that summer in London to top off a truly memorable summer of hockey.

The following year was all about the Rio Olympics, which was an experience never to be forgotten. I was lucky enough to visit Brian Davis before I left to show him the caps that I had won. Although our results in Rio did not meet our expectations, it was an experience never to be forgotten. Playing our final pool game in a packed stadium against Argentina, who would go on to win gold, with the stadium rocking to the noise of the Argentinian national anthem is a memory still so vivid to me today. Walking around a village with the best athletes in the world felt a long way from a cold and windy Monday night at Ballykillaire, but it was worth the hard work.

After moving back to England and joining Hampstead and Westminster, I decided to continue playing for Ireland and we qualified for the 2018 World Cup in India. It is fair to say that playing hockey in India is a near out of body experience, as you are treated like superstars with guarded escorts to training and matches and people asking you for pictures and autographs in the shopping centres. Playing in front of thousands of screaming supporters, unable to hear teammates, in heat and humidity with giant bugs on the pitch is a far cry from a cold Bangor evening. Unfortunately, though, we had a poor tournament and didn't progress out of the pool, which still leaves a bitter taste in the mouth.

After stepping back for a time, I decided that I wanted to try and play in one more major tournament with the goal of playing in a knock-out match in the Olympics. Therefore, I rejoined the squad for the fateful Olympic qualifier in 2019 in Canada, where it is fair to say that a controversial umpiring decision robbed our chances of playing in Tokyo and finished my international career.

Retiring with 195 caps, having played in an Olympics, a World Cup and having won a European Bronze medal is something that I would never have believed possible, but it all started with Bangor Hockey club and the people who believed in me there and pushed me to be better. Although I have not played for Bangor for several years, it is still my home club, and it is still the origin of many of my fondest hockey memories and I hope that I have inspired some other young Bangorians to chase their hockey dreams.

Chris Cargo



On The Pitch

Success on the field of play is a key indicator of the state of health of any club. Many Bangor teams have won trophies, promotions, and competitions over the decades. Many have suffered disappointment. The scores from the first games played by Bangor, in late 1901, provide a typical picture of the fluctuating fortune that accompanies any team and Club.

19 Oct 1901 Bangor - 1 North Down 4
 9 Nov 1901 Bangor 1 Queens College 2
 23 Nov 1901 Bangor 2 Banbridge 1
 30 Nov 1901 Bangor 2 Malone 0
 7 Dec 1901 Bangor 2 Lisburn 0

At this early stage of their existence, Bangor was able to field a second team and indeed, Bangor ladies played their first matches in this season.



Team selection may have been more straightforward with fewer teams, but the confirmation of the team line-up was somewhat more involved. Postcards were sent to team members with the request to reply by return post if the arrangements did not suit. Who knows if the Mr S Connolly named on the 1927 match card did in fact travel to Belfast to play for the second eleven against Belmont? The postcard remained a mode of contact until the late 1960s but as the card sent to Tom McVicar in 1961 indicates, telephone was becoming the preferred way of communicating. Tom was a member of the promotion winning side of 1961/62 and, with neat symmetry some 60 years later, his grandson Allister McVicar is the current 1st XI coach.

The most successful seasons in the early days – at any rate from the point of view of trophies won – were 1933-36 when Bangor won the Junior, Intermediate



and Senior Qualifying league in three successive seasons. During this period from the 1920s to the 1940s the trophies won were Junior Charity Cup, 1932-33; Bradley Shield, 1933-34; Intermediate Charity Cup, 1934-35; Junior League, 1932-33-34; Intermediate League 1934-35; Senior Qualifying League, 1935-36.

In the post war years, and until the last ten years, the most successful period for the Club was in the 1960-61 and 1961-62 seasons. In 1960-61 Bangor won promotion to section A Qualifying League and in 1961-62 the 1st XI, captained by Harry McDonagh, won promotion to the Senior League. The intrepid Spectator hockey scribe, Flick, captured the personality of this strong side in his inimitable style.

“Captain Harry McDonough had a well-established side as there was not too much competition for places in a club of two, almost three sides. Alan Crichton, our goalkeeper, padded, with a sports jacket and cap – and arriving from the distance down the slope to the pitch. Davy McManus, our real star, inside left, goal scorer extraordinaire, seemingly immune to the tackling efforts of aggressive opponents. Trevor Gilpin, a strong wristed left half, and the lightening Ted Jemphrey, temperamental maybe, but too fast for many an opponent. The solid two footed – always behind the stick – Harry Brady, and his equally solid and impenetrable John Marshall. Jeremy Sullivan, when returned from business tours to the Caribbean and South America, promised something on the left wing. All were marshalled by Harry McD, whose leadership by example, forced a response from all who played. Later we were joined by the irascible Victor Haslett – a small man – never short of a word, with whom many umpires tried, and failed, to have the last word! A penalty stroke expert, never spectacular, but usually in the back of the net”.

SPECTATOR 1961 PROMOTION TO “A” DIVISION OF QUALIFYING LEAGUE

Hockey Club's promotion means hard work ahead
 Bangor Hockey Club had the satisfaction at the annual meeting of reviewing a season in which the Club's 1st XI had won promotion to the “A” Division of the Qualifying League, but members were warned that promotion would bring hard work; serious training and an all-out effort to attract new players were essential. The annual meeting was one of the most successful in recent years.

The outgoing chairman, Mr. G. Miskimmins, thanked all the committee members and club members for the generous support they had given him in the latter half of the year.

A vote of thanks on the proposal of W. Dowdall and seconded by J. Barr was passed thanking the chairman for his work during the year.

The hon. secretary's report, presented by Mr. Miskimmins on behalf of Mr. J. Steele who had resigned recently, thanked sincerely the office-bearers who had commenced the season, but due to the pressure of business had to resign their offices.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the season was the first eleven winning promotion to the “A” Division of the Qualifying League and so bringing the first silverware to Bangor since the club was reformed just after the war. Since promotion and relegation were instituted by Ulster Branch the Bangor Club had been runners-up to R.U.C. in 1959 and Montalto in 1960. On each occasion they were only beaten at the post. However, the secretary said they made no mistakes this time. With 14 league games played they won eleven and drew the other three, thus sharing with the junior club Lissara the distinction of being one of the two clubs to remain unbeaten in league hockey in Ulster last year.

Tribute to Captain

The secretary paid praise to the team captain, Trevor Gilpin. Seldom had a team been better lead. Nevertheless, praise must also go to the captains of recent years as well. All these good influences had combined to bear fruit.

The secretary said there was one note of disappointment on the first eleven front. No longer would they have Norman McManus with them. Norman McManus joined the R.U.C. and might well be in opposition to the club next season.

The secretary said it was a good sign for the promotion winning side that the two teams promoted during the last season had more than held their own in the higher leagues. However, with success gained last season, this would bring a lot of hard work in the year ahead. Foremost was the need for serious training and in preparation for this the committee had been working in conjunction with Bangor Borough Council.

Training would have to be run on stern lines as well as new and young players with first eleven potential sought after. The second and third elevens, whilst only meeting with moderate success on the playing field, had nevertheless played their part in the continued expansion of the club. More would indeed be expected from them.

The secretary brought to the notice of the meeting the death during the year of one of their vice-presidents. Mr. H. Mercer, who had been a keen supporter of the club. His interest would be missed, the secretary added. He also said further honour had been brought to the

club by one of the vice-presidents. Mr. Harry Burrowes, in his election as president of the Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union.

The hon. treasurer, Mr. I Bradley, gave a satisfactory financial statement.

Appointments

The election of office bearers was conducted by the club-president, Mr. C. C. Curran. Mr. Curran was unanimously re-elected president. Other appointments were – Vice presidents, Messers, H. Russell, J. P. Simms. S. Patton, R. Henderson, C. McNeill. H. Burrowes, V. Barr, R. James, E. Browne, E. Jemphrey, J. Lavery, Councillor D. Ewart, O.B.E., D. Paul and H. Balance; chairman H. Brady; Secretary A. Coburn; treasurer I. Bradley; team secretary H. Brady.

1st eleven captain, T. Gilpin, vice-captain H. McDonagh; 2nd eleven captain W. Addison, 3rd eleven captain J. Ekin.

Press secretary, T. Jemphrey. Committee-J. Barr, W. Dowdall, J. Nelson, and D. McManus. The hon. auditors, W.C. Millsopp and W. J. Reynolds, were re-elected.

How it was achieved

Bangor Hockey Club graduated to the Senior League, why? Because of their efforts of Club members by their play from Saturday to Saturday, by the work of the committee in running the Club, the dedicated efforts of individuals in their capacities as captains, chairmen,



End of season, April 1954

Seated: W McClintock (hon treasurer), C Blundell, SJ Patton (branch representative), N McMahon (club captain), C Curran (president), WRT Dowdall (chairman), W Addison (hon secretary), F Burns and J Morton
 Back row: W Harmer, G Miskimmins, H McKenzie, A Caswell, PC Weir, EJ Alexander, I Bradley, C Dennis, K Boal, W Neill, R James
 On ground: H Calvert and JH Connolly

SPECTATOR 16.3.1962

Senior Hockey comes to Bangor

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF BANGOR MEN'S HOCKEY CLUB, SENIOR HOCKEY IS COMING TO BANGOR. BY VIRTUE OF THEIR DEFEAT OF R.U.C. ON SATURDAY BANGOR GAINED PROMOTION TO THE SENIOR LEAGUE NEXT SEASON.

Bangor, hailed in recent years as one of the most promising and go-ahead clubs in Ulster, have already had many congratulations from hockey clubs on their noteworthy achievement. The Ulster Branch have indicated their pleasure at having the club in senior hockey as performances in recent years have had the stamp of senior hockey. In addition, the now famous annual six-a-side tournament has not gone unnoticed by the Branch. For many years Bangor have proved themselves a force in league hockey always finishing the season well up in the league table.

When the "promotion and relegation" system was introduced into Ulster hockey four years ago it gave clubs like Bangor the chance to improve their place in Ulster hockey and aim for higher things and give them the incentive to win the league.

In the first year Bangor were in the Senior Qualifying League "B" Section and were narrowly pipped for promotion by R.U.C. by one point.

Undaunted, Bangor did extremely well the second year only to miss promotion again by one point when Montalto defeated them in the deciding game.

Having got rid of their two main rivals Bangor made no mistake in the third year and were promoted in the 1960/61 season to the Senior Qualifying "A" Section.

In this the 1961/62 season Bangor have now exceeded even the most optimistic hopes by winning the league title and promotion to the Senior League.

Since the inception of league hockey in Bangor it has always been the hope that they would make the Senior grade and they must now be very proud of their achievement and no praise is high enough in this their finest hour.

This year is a milestone in the history of the club and is to be marked by a celebration dinner on a date to be arranged in the very near future.

THE VITAL LEAGUE TABLE

P W L D P

Bangor 14 10 0 4 24

R.U.C. 13 9 2 2 20

This is the present position in the league table showing Bangor in an unassailable position. Bangor have now been undefeated in league competition for two years – a great achievement.

secretaries, treasurers and in many other duties too numerous to mention.

At this stage it is only right to hand out a few bouquets.

To the playing members in all the teams whose ability and efforts have brought us to the Senior League.

To the team captains over the years who have guided the teams and especially to Trevor Gilpin and Harry McDonough who have led us to continued success in the last three years.

To the president, Mr. C. Curran, who has been at the helm for many years, and the vice-presidents and other non-playing members for their support.

To all persons who have contributed in any way to the present success.

The Bangor Club is very proud of its Club spirit, built up over the years through the happy association of its members and this Club spirit has knit into a strong position in Ulster Hockey. It is evident in the Annual Six-a-Side in which a concentrated Club effort is required to ensure success and now having attained senior status we are looking forward to even greater things at Bangor.

R.U.C. beaten in League decider

The league decider was a game with a difference. A place in the Senior League awaited the winners so there were no holds barred with an all-out effort from start to finish.

The importance of the game drew a record crowd by hockey standards, despite poor weather, to cheer on the teams, and the presence of a battery of photographers engaged to photograph to R.U.C team added a cup final touch to the occasion.

The Bangor players turned out almost an hour before the bully-off to get used to the hard pitch and this preparation was well rewarded as Bangor gave as good as they got in the opening stages.

The first half was a ding-dong battle with the R.U.C. showing slight superiority because of their being used to the fast pace of the pitch and the ways to make best use of it. It was Bangor, however, who opened the scoring, when David McManus followed up a hit up field and scored after it rebounded off the post.

The R.U.C. increased their efforts and were well worth their equalising goal through Norman McManus, following the good work by McGregor on the right wing.

The second half proved to be thrills all the way with fast exciting play of a very high standard that had the spectators at fever pitch.

Bangor had now settled down to the pace of the pitch and their clever constructive hockey brought the second goal after Gilpin and Taylor split the defence David McManus finishing off the movement by a great goal.

R.U.C. were far from beaten and equalised inside a few minutes when a tangled Bangor defence conceded a goal again scored by Norman McManus.

A draw seemed imminent as both sides battled for the winning goal, but Bangor, pulling out all the stops, attacked again and again and deservedly won the day when David McManus completed his hat-trick with a cracking goal on the half-volley from a Gilpin cross.

Great jubilation followed the final whistle and excited spectators chaired Harry McDonough and hero of the day, David McManus, off the pitch.

A Great Team Effort

This was a great team effort, everyone played above themselves and brought great credit to the Club for their excellent and sporting play.

Congratulations on promotion and every success in the Senior League.

Harp Breakthrough Festival Winners 1991

Back Row Nicky Marshall, Chris McConkey, George Wilson, Richard Mann, Philip Thomas, Noel Wishart, Scott Sanderson, Jeremy Poots, Stephen Cumper
 Front Row Brian McKee, Graham Earls, Ken Morrison Harp Sponsor Representative, Raymond Parker (Captain), Roy Mairs, Neil McIvor
 Seated Scott Parker (now Club Chairman) and Lisa Parker



Spectator 1963 On tour to Isle of Man

At the end of this season the Club are able to fly to the Isle of Man on tour to play a series of matches in the local tournament.

There will be twenty in the party leaving on Friday 8th June and returning Monday, 11th June, during which period they will play five matches against leading English, Scottish and Welsh clubs also attending.

This will be the third trip to the Isle of Man undertaken by the Club, the previous two were a great success in every respect. The hospitality is first class and there is never a dull moment.

Keep saving for the Isle of Man trip, you will need about £12 to cover the cost.

highlight of the Dublin trips throughout the 1990s was the Morehampton Road Guest House owned by Miss "Doc" Doherty, a Georgian townhouse somewhat past its prime with butter almost as old as the building itself.

In 1987 a fortuitous conversation between club member Davy Stewart and his brother John proved to be the catalyst for an "Oldies" tour. John's connections with Hilversum Hockey Club in the Netherlands resulted in a Bangor side being invited to a Veterans tournament. Since that first trip in 1988, the Oldies have visited Hilversum many times and travelled to Brussels, Venice, Ourense in Spain, Kiel, and Bremen in the last twenty years. The first trip to Bremen in 2003 was initiated by Hugh "Jobby" McComb. A member of the first BGS team to reach a McCullough final in 1969, Hugh had settled in Bremen following University studies and joined Club zur Vahr Hockey Club.

The hockey may have been demanding, as Veterans' hockey has a full league format in Germany, but the hospitality extended was exemplary and indeed, even

surpassed, on the three subsequent trips to Bremen.

Festive Fixtures

In 1967 the Club committee decided to organise a Boxing Day Fixture between an Old Boys team and the Bangor Grammar School 1st XI. The ideal way to see off the excess of Christmas Day, the fixture has always provided a wonderful opportunity for friends to gather and renew old acquaintances. The format has remained the same in terms of a pre-match sip of port followed by a post-match coffee and mince pie. Having started at Ballymacormick, Ward Park became the venue for many years before the Club moved to Ballykillaire and, most recently, the new Grammar school pitch. The fixture became so popular that a second match was organised, the BGS second eleven lining up against the Club 1st XI. So popular in fact that a second Festive fixture was organised, this time on New Year's Day. This time it was a mixed match involving the ladies' Club, which was followed by an afternoon rendezvous in the Corinthian Rooms!



Hugh McComb – Our man in Bremen



Club zur Vahr – Bremen



Boxing Day in 1986

Back Row: Harry Brady, John Ritchie, Nial Cairns, Derek Carter, Billy Harris, Alan Cruickshanks

Front Row: Davy Orr, George Williamson, Artie Coburn, John Scott, Michael Gibson.

Boxing Day 2018

Back Row: Chris Wilkinson, Roger Irvine, Norman Irwin (Organiser), Ian Dornan, Duncan Morris, Mark Dornan, David McClune, George Wilson, Warren Boal, Johnny McNaught, Jeremy MacAfee, Micky Smyth, Niall McAllister

Front Row: Chris McConkey, Gareth Boyd, Gareth Stranaghan, Simon Cox, John McAllister



Kiel – Oldies Tour 2008

Back Row Alan Sinnamon, Nicky Hamilton, John McAllister, Peter Dornan, Robin Thompson, Ken Conlin, Mark Dornan, George Wilson, Roy Mairs

Front Row George Wilson, Alen Irwin, Geoff Mitchell, Jeremy MacAfee, Hugh McComb, Johnny McNaught

Tour Team Vienna 2008

Back Row: Billy Pollock, Alan Sinnamon, Peter Dornan, Robin Thompson, George Wilson, Mark Dornan, Johnny McNaught

Front Row: John McAllister, Allen Irwin, Philip Thomas, Geoff Mitchell, Hugh McComb



Pre-Season Intra-Club match 2018

Off The Pitch

A Club personality is not just defined by its playing activity. Equally, it is determined by the personalities who come to shape the spirit and character of the Club. Bangor has been very fortunate in that there has been longevity of service from many people over the years which has helped not only in terms of developing and sustaining key initiatives such as the Six-a-Side tournament, the Floodlit tournament, tours, and festive fixtures, but also in creating a sense of "how things should be done".

A cursory glance at the Committee Members and Position Holders from 1921 provides ample evidence of this experience. S.D. Bell, C. Curran, D. Lamb, WRT Dowdall, H. Brady, J.V. Smyth, T. Campbell, R. Parker, M. Clancy, J. MacAfee, G. Wilson – all with at least 10 years' service on Committee. It is somewhat remarkable that there have only been seven Club presidents since 1951 and only eighteen Treasurers since 1921. Timmy Campbell indeed served for 25 consecutive years as Treasurer.

The Curran Dynasty

The Club has been fortunate in that the role of President was for many years the preserve of a select few individuals. The tradition of holding the post for ten years may have passed but the record of seventeen consecutive years will never be equalled. From the 1951/52 season until May of 1968, Charles Curran was a wonderfully safe pair of hands at the helm, helping steer the Club through key developments in

the 1950s and 1960s. Charles was involved in the Sixes Committee, the Dance Committee and was President when the Club achieved Senior League status for the first time in 1962. Such was his involvement that it was hardly a surprise when his son Glenn also played an active role in the Club. He was Convenor of the Sixes tournament for several years and is fondly remembered for his closing remarks at the close of the tournament, particularly his line that he would like to "thank God for the good weather", even if it was inclement. Indeed, it was no surprise when two his sons, and grandsons of Charles, Sean and Liam, both came to play for Bangor. Sean "the General" Curran had a distinguished school hockey career, captaining Ulster and Ireland U18 before going on to represent the Irish U21 team.

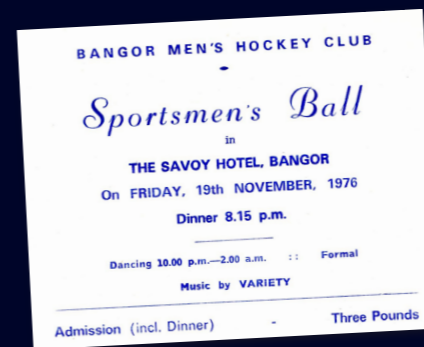
Social Scene

The Club has been fortunate to have always enjoyed a healthy range of social activity. Since the Dance Committee initiated the Sportsman's Ball in the 1950s there has always been an annual Dinner Dance. There may have been many venues, the Savoy Hotel, the Culloden Hotel, the Crawfordsburn Inn, the Groomsport House Hotel, the Marine Court Hotel and Bangor Golf Club, yet the event remains ever popular. The 1950s also saw a dance organised to coincide with the last night of the Six-a-Side tournament, another event which took place for fifty consecutive years.



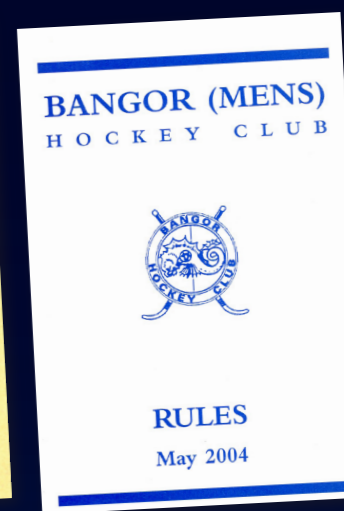
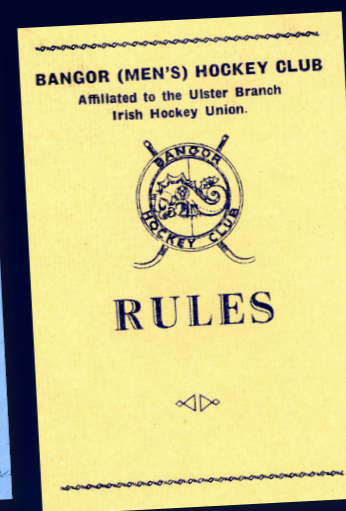
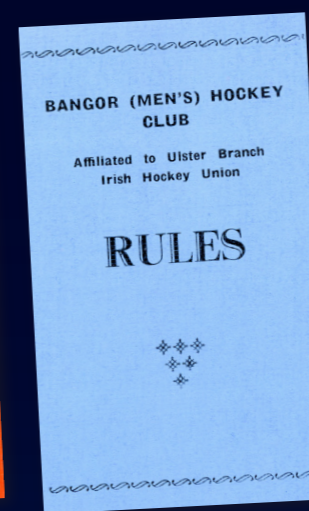
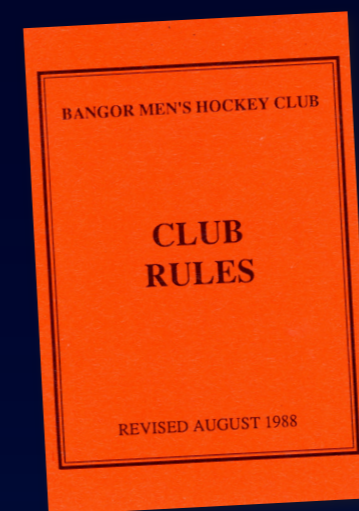
Club Committee 1993

Back row from left: G. Wilson, N. Wishart, J.V. Smyth, J. Clarke, J. MacAfee, N. Walker
Front Row R. Mairs, R. Parker, T. Campbell, R. Huggins



Dance Committee 1960

Back row: Harry McDonagh, Ted Jemphrey, Ian Bradley, John Nelson, Charles Curran, Walter Dowdall, Davy McManus, Billy Addison, Artie Coburn, Harry Brady.

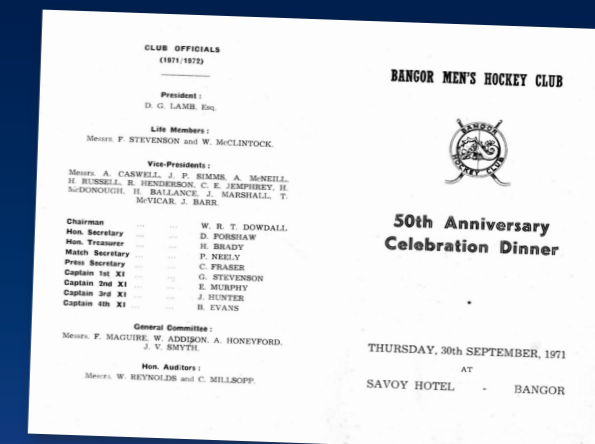
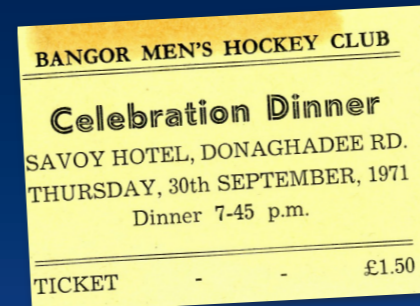


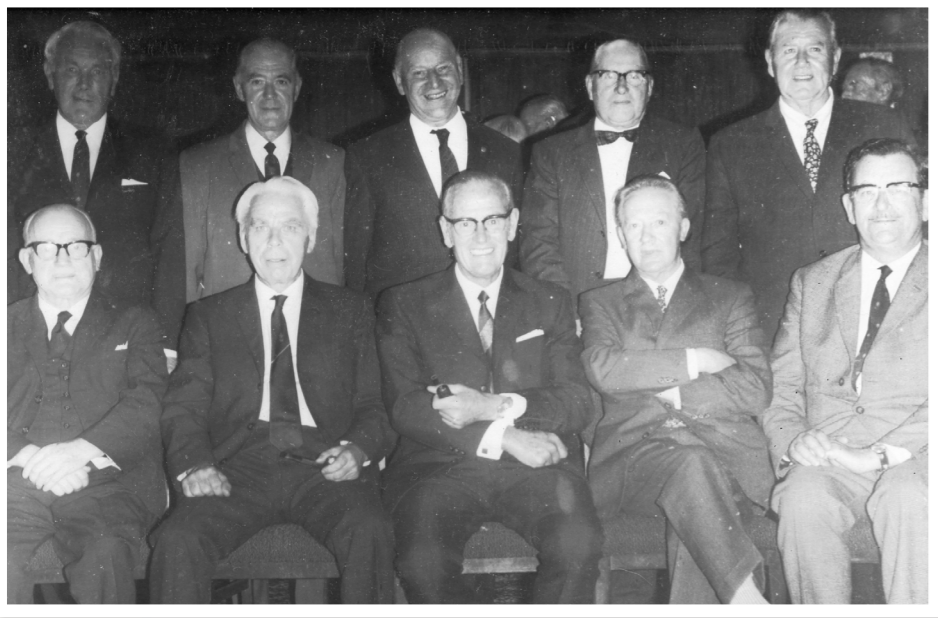
Important landmarks in the Club history have also been marked with social functions. The 50th Anniversary in 1971 and the 75th Anniversary were celebrated with commemorative Dinners. It was especially gratifying to see so many of the 1933/34 team which won the first of Bangor's trophies at the 1971 Dinner. Indeed, from this team "Willie" Hannay (goalkeeper) and R.E.J. "Bob" Moriarty (inside left), had the honour of playing for the Junior Ulster side which defeated Leinster 2-0 in Dublin on 17 April 1937, Bob Moriarty scoring one of the goals.

Willie Hannay played for Junior Ulster in three successive seasons.

The Annual Club Dinner has a wonderful tradition. Always an opportunity

to celebrate the achievement of the season just past, an added dimension was introduced in the late 1980's when R. Parker indulged in glorious poetic licence to present alternative Awards of the season. A twelve-foot cardboard cut-out of Davy Wilson, Philip Campbell in a shopping trolley, Norman "Crocodile Dundee" McManus in full outbark garb, with a crocodile. Heady days indeed.





**50th Anniversary Dinner 30 Sep 1971.
Players from the 1933/34 season**
Back Row: W.J. Reynolds, W.H Hannay (Goalkeeper), H. Russell, G.H McNeill, R. McKeag
Front Row: N.L Hull, HPV Barr, J.H Hanna (captain), H.P Ballagh, R.E.J. "Bob" Moriarty



Celebration Dinner for 75th Anniversary

BANGOR MEN'S HOCKEY

75th Annual Dinner Marine Court Hotel

1. Alderman Bruce Mulligan, John Hunter, John Connolly.
 2. Billy Pollock, Brian Dillon, John Rainey.
 3. Fred Burns, Tommy Mulholland, Glen Curran.
 4. Norman McMaster, Jonathon Scott, Victor Haslett, Timothy Campbell, Paul Wilson.
 5. Past Presidents of Bangor Men's Hockey Club, from left: Mr. D. G. Lamb (1968-78); Mr. Walter Dowdall (1978-1992); Ulster President Irish Hockey Union, Mr. Michael Graham; Mr. Harry Brady (President 1992 -).
 6. From left: Noel Wishart, George Blackwood, Chris McConkey, Philip Thomas.
- Below: Victor Haslett, John Smyth, Michael Graham (Ulster Branch President), Peter Dorman (Bangor Club Chairman), Harold Brady (Club President), Ted Jenphrey, Raymond Parker.



Annual Dinner 1961

BANGOR MEN'S HOCKEY CLUB

(1900-81)

President:
C. CURRAN, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:
Messrs. D. EWART, G.B.E., J.P.; H. RUSSELL,
J. P. SIMMS, S. PATTON, R. HENDERSON, C.
MCNELL, H. BURGOWES, V. BARR, R. JAMES,
E. BROWNE, J. JEMPHREY, J. LAVERY, Mr.
COATES, Mr. MCLEAN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. MCMANUS,
Mr. BALLANCE.

Hon. Members:
Messrs. F. STEVENSON and W. MCCLINTOCK

Chairman G. MISKIMMINS
Hon. Secretary J. STEELE
Hon. Treasurer I. BRADLEY
Captain 1st XI T. GILPIN
Captain 2nd XI J. KEELSON
Captain 3rd XI I. POLLY
Match Secretary H. BRADY

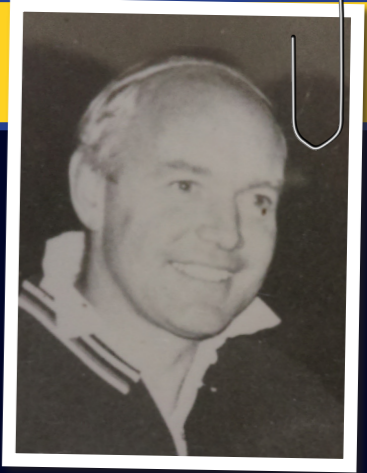
General Committee:
CHAIRMAN SECRETARY, TREASURER, TEAM
CAPTAINS EX-OFFICIO, Messrs. J. BARR, W. R. T.
DOWDALL, H. BRADY, and W. ADDISON.

Hon. Auditors:
Messrs. W. REYNOLDS and C. MILLSOPP.

Annual Dinner

THE SHIP HOTEL, BANGOR
FRIDAY, 10th FEBRUARY, 1961

JV Smyth reflects...



The Club used to socialise in the "Castle", the Corinthian Arms in Castle Street, a base for many years for the rugby and cricket club downstairs and the hockey club upstairs. In those days (the 1970s) it was customary to entertain not just ourselves but also our visitors. Before the days of drink driving legislation, and admittedly many fewer cars, such social activities could last for some time. In the case of the home team, until after Match of the Day which was around closing time!

The selection and general committee would meet in the room upstairs in the Castle and there we remained though several ownership changes. By then the rugby and cricket clubs had moved to their new home at Uprichard Park. We too soon moved on, for a time to Fealty's (the Ormeau Arms) on High Street. An old-fashioned spit and sawdust location, the Guinness was good, but the roof ceiling bevelled!

The search for a more suitable home was then resolved in the unlikely find of Pickie Bowling Club on Broadway. This private Club created a new Saturday membership for the hockey Club members and Pickie soon became the base for committee meetings, social functions, and a Saturday drink!

Much of the social aspect of the game has changed. It is no longer the norm to socialise after the game with one's opponents. There is little doubt that the multiple use of pitches with start times of 1pm, 2.30pm and the "graveyard shift" of 4pm impacted on the opportunity to socialise. A 5.30 finish made a Saturday drink difficult, especially in Raphoe!

JV Smyth

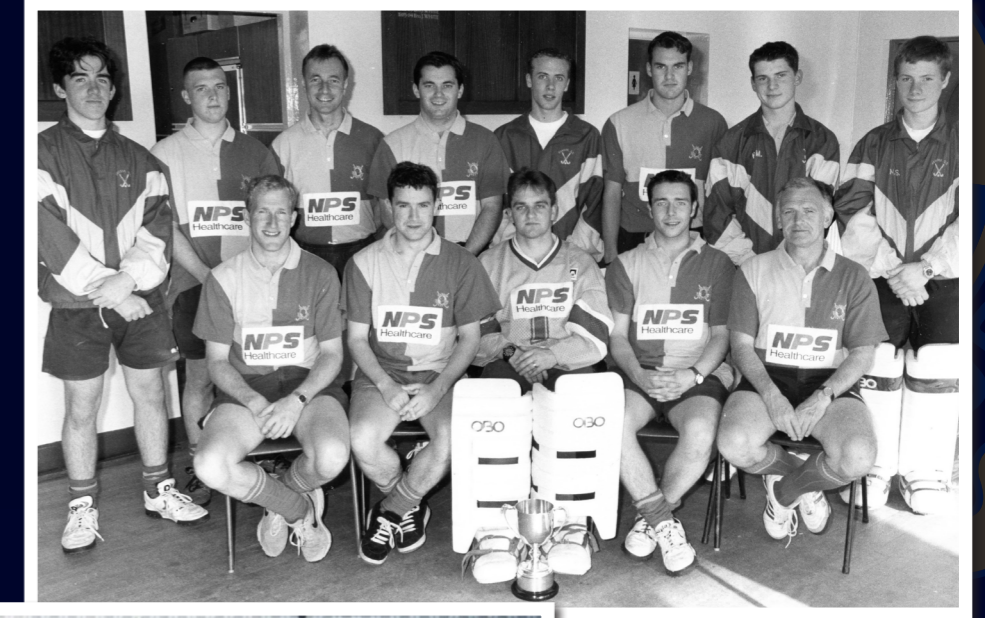


Recognition for JV from Club members receiving his MBE for services to hockey (2016)



Bangor 1st XI Winners of Senior league 2 1977

Back Row: Alan Morris, Mike Ballard, Sean Curran, Philip Martin, Walter Dowdall, Norman Irwin, George Stevenson, Timmy Campbell, Paul Corbett
 Front Row: Chris Harte, John Rainey, Alan McDonald, Raymy Parker, Billy Dickson, Nicky Langley, Stephen Martin)



1st XI 1998

Back row: Michael Bradford, Scott Parker, George Blackwood, Jonathan Todd, Simon Irvine, Chris Callender, Ricky Mayne, Neill Slane
 Front Row: Jeremy MacAfee, Keith Mulholland, Stephen Cumper, Peter Whyte, Raymond Parker

2nd XI 1992/3 season
 Back Row: Geoff Mitchell, Gareth Leeburn, Roy Mairs, Michael Claney, Mark Dornan, John Rainey, Norman McManus
 Front Row: George Wilson, Gerry Hamill, Robin Thompson, Timmy Campbell, Allister McVicar



Opening of BallyKillaire pitches – 1996 Oldies XI which played the Club First XI

(Back Row Stephen Mitchell, Norman Irwin, Philip Thomas, George Blackwood, Neil McIvor, Paul Corbett, Noel Wishart
 Front Row David Shields, Roy Mairs, Raymy Parker, Graham Earls, Chris McConkey



Bangor 3rd/4th XI 1992/93 season

Back Row: Warren Boal, Michael Doherty, Keith Ward, David Quirey, Andrew Slane, Ken Conlin, David Walsh, Stewart Crutchley, John Scott
 Front Row: Allistair Adair, Peter Whyte, Maxwell Gillespie, John McAllister, Chris Jefferson

Don't Worry be Happy tour
 Back row: Ken Ward, Denis Thurley, John Ritchie, Hugh McComb, Ian Dornan, Billy Harris, Norman McManus, Harry Brady
 Front row: Peter Dornan, Philip Campbell, Roy Mairs, Keith Campbell





1st XI 2017/18 season

Back row: Gareth Stranaghan (Coach) Joel Easlea, Andrew Seay, Rhys Cunningham, David McClune, Adam Scott, Zach Mckee Adam Reading, Aaron Martin,
Front row: Ryan Burgess, Michael McCombe, Matthew Armstrong-Sanchez, Greg Shevlin, Simon Cox, Chris Campbell

Intra-club match, August 2021



Monday 24th May 2021 marked a momentous landmark in the history of the Men's and Ladies hockey Clubs as they finally merged to become one entity – Bangor Hockey Club. It is fitting that the joining together happened in the Centenary year of the Men's Club and it represents a significant opportunity to further develop hockey in the town and Borough. It is also somewhat poignant that some 123 years after a ladies captain was first appointed in 1898 we have come full circle.

There has been considerable progress in the past five years – the infrastructure for youth hockey has blossomed with over 300 participating across the age groups up to U15 level. This, in turn, has had a positive impact on the playing personnel in the Men's and Ladies 1st XI senior squads, both dominated by players under the age of 20! There will now be 10 hockey teams taking the field of play, with one committee established to oversee and organise Club activity. As the Chairperson of the new Club Scott

Parker commented, "There is much to look forward to and a real sense of momentum to build on."

The last Annual General Meetings for the respective clubs were well-attended. Somewhat strange meetings it must be said, not because they had to be conducted remotely for the second year, but because they signalled the formal disbanding of the individual Clubs. "A moment in time tinged with nostalgia" remarked newly elected President, George Wilson, after the motion to form a new Club had been passed at the Establishment meeting. "Much as we look forward, it is also important to cast an eye over our collective shoulder to remind ourselves of what has gone before". There is indeed much to remember. For decades, hockey has been a constant on the local sporting curriculum. A century for the men and almost 70 years for the ladies (founded in 1953).

We trust this record of our history will complement those memories.

The Committee of Bangor Hockey Club (May 2021)

Back Row: Michael Claney (Youth Convenor) Lyndsay Turner (Treasurer) Scott Parker (Chairperson) George Wilson (President) Chris Wilkinson (Match Secretary)
Front Row: Peter Hopkins (Social Convenor) Valerie McKibbin (Match Secretary) Carolyn Scales (Committee Member) Amanda Houston (Committee Member) Rhys Cunningham (Fundraising Convenor).





Bangor Men's Hockey Club



26 April 2021

Dear Club Member,

As you know, the Annual General Meeting of Bangor Men's Hockey Club will be held on Monday 24th May 2021 via the Zoom app.

The Agenda is as follows:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. Reports
 - Treasurer
 - Director of Hockey
 - Social Secretary
 - Youth Chairman

4. Motions

Motions from outgoing Committee

1. That para. 13 of the Club Constitution be amended to remove the reference to Ulster Hockey. The second bullet point of paragraph 13 now to read "In the event of dissolution, any assets of the Club that remain shall be disbursed in a manner agreed at AGM".

2. Playing fees in all categories to be reduced to reflect the disruption caused to the 2019/20 season.

3. That the Club authorize the Management Committee to continue with discussions with Bangor Ladies, with a view to the merger of the clubs in time for the 2021/22 playing season. The final decision of merger to be put to the members in the 2020/21 AGM.

5. Elections

6. Any Other Business

We strongly encourage you to join us.

AGM Agenda from April 2021 with reference to motion to merge as one club

Position Holders

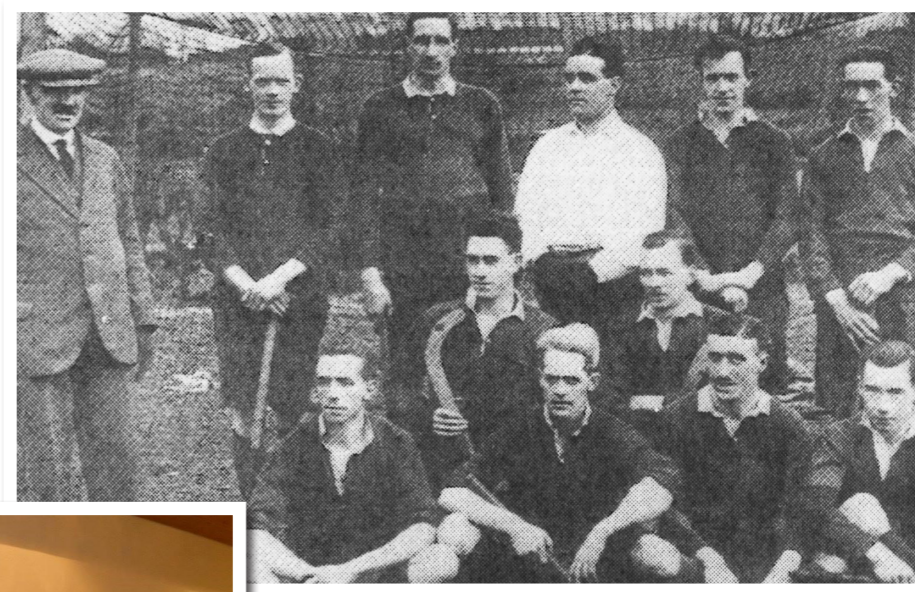
Year	President	Chairman	Honorary Secretary	Honorary Treasurer	Captain 1st XI
1921 - 1922	TS Wilson JP		J Breeze	SR Bell	C Carter
1922 - 1923	TS Wilson JP		J Breeze	SR Bell	E Morrow
1923 - 1924	SD Bell JP		JR McKee	SR Bell	JH Conolly
1924 - 1925	SD Bell JP		JR McKee	SR Bell	JH Conolly
1925 - 1926	SD Bell JP		JR McKee	SR Bell	JH Conolly
1926 - 1927	SD Bell JP				
1927 - 1928	SD Bell JP		JN Quoid	HC Scott	H Russell
1928 - 1929	SD Bell JP		A Grant	HC Scott	H Russell
1929 - 1930	Rev WJ Currie BA	Rev RA Deane MA	A Grant	HC Scott	S McKee
1930 - 1931	Rev WJ Currie BA	S McKee	JH Hanna	HC Scott	JH Hanna
1931 - 1932	Rev WJ Currie BA	S McKee			JH Hanna
1932 - 1933	Rev WJ Currie BA	S McKee	T Dougan	E Hay	JH Hanna
1933 - 1934	Rev WJ Currie BA	S McKee	SE Orr	E Hay	JH Hanna
1934 - 1935	Rev WJ Currie BA	S McKee	SE Orr	E Hay	W Hannay
1935 - 1936			WJ Reynolds	GH McNeill	JH Hanna
1936 - 1937		HC Scott	WJ Reynolds	GH McNeill	JH Hanna
1937 - 1938		HC Scott	WC Millsopp	DK McMillan	WJ Reynolds
1938 - 1939		HC Scott	WC Millsopp	DK McMillan	WJ Reynolds
1939 - 1945	Suspended during war				
1945 - 1946	WH McMillan MA	H Burrowes	SW Rutherford	C Millsopp	J Barr
1946 - 1947	WH McMillan MA	H Burrowes	FJ Hyland	A Caswell	HPV Barr
1947 - 1948	WH McMillan MA	HPV Barr	FJ Hyland	A Caswell	HPV Barr
1948 - 1949	H Russel	H Burrowes		A Caswell	WC Millsopp
1949 - 1950	H Russel			A Caswell	N McMahan
1950 - 1951	TJ Harding	WC Millsopp	SJ Patton	A Caswell	R Henderson
1951 - 1952	C Curran	W McClintock	J Morton	KW Boal	J Nelson
1952 - 1953	C Curran	W McClintock	J Morton	KW Boal	J Nelson
1953 - 1954	C Curran	WRT Dowdall	W Addison	W McClintock	N McMahan
1954 - 1955	C Curran	WRT Dowdall	W Addison	W McClintock	G Miskimmins
1955 - 1956	C Curran	WRT Dowdall	G Miskimmins	W McClintock	J Nelson
1956 - 1957	C Curran	WRT Dowdall	C Blundell	W McClintock	J Nelson
1957 - 1958	C Curran	J Barr	WRT Dowdall	W McClintock	W Whitsitt
1958 - 1959	C Curran	W McClintock	W Addison	JH Ekin	G Miskimmins
1959 - 1960	C Curran	G Miskimmins	J Steele	I Bradley	CE Jemphrey
1960 - 1961	C Curran	S Maxwell	J Steele	I Bradley	T Gilpin
1961 - 1962	C Curran	H Brady	A Coburn	I Bradley	H McDonough
1962 - 1963	C Curran	JO Nelson	K Coulter	I Bradley	H McDonough
1963 - 1964	C Curran	H McDonagh	J Marshall	I Bradley	H McDonough
1964 - 1965	C Curran	W Addison	J Marshall	WRT Dowdall	T Gilpin
1965 - 1966	C Curran	CE Jemphrey	R Gash	WRT Dowdall	H McDonough
1966 - 1967	C Curran	N Hamilton	T Marshall	WRT Dowdall	JV Smyth

Year	President	Chairman	Honorary Secretary	Honorary Treasurer	Captain 1st XI
1967 - 1968	C Curran	CE Jemphrey	T Marshall	WRT Dowdall	JV Smyth
1968 - 1969	D G Lamb	JV Smyth	W Addison	WRT Dowdall	V Haslett
1969 - 1970	D G Lamb	D Forshaw	W Addison	WRT Dowdall	G Stevenson/JV Smyth
1970 - 1971	D G Lamb	D Forshaw	W Addison	WRT Dowdall	E Murphy
1971 - 1972	D G Lamb	WRT Dowdall	D Forshaw	H Brady	G Stevenson
1972 - 1973	D G Lamb	WRT Dowdall	D Forshaw	H Brady	G Stevenson
1973 - 1974	D G Lamb	V Haslett	D Forshaw	H Brady	R Parker
1974 - 1975	D G Lamb	G Stevenson	D Forshaw	H Brady	R Parker
1975 - 1976	D G Lamb	WRT Dowdall	J Hunter	H Brady	P Dornan/R Parker
1976 - 1977	D G Lamb	WRT Dowdall	J Hunter	H Brady	R Parker
1977 - 1978	D G Lamb	WRT Dowdall	J Hunter	H Brady	R Parker
1978 - 1979	WRT Dowdall	FS Maguire	J Hunter	H Brady	GT Dunn
1979 - 1980	WRT Dowdall	FS Maguire	J Hunter	H Brady	J Rainey
1980 - 1981	WRT Dowdall	J Ritchie	J Hunter	H Brady	J Rainey
1981 - 1982	WRT Dowdall	J Ritchie	M Stewart	WA Harris	SJ Curran
1982 - 1983	WRT Dowdall	J Ritchie	M Stewart	N Wishart	CCJ Harte
1983 - 1984	WRT Dowdall	R Parker	M Stewart	N Wishart	R Parker
1984 - 1985	WRT Dowdall	R Parker	M Stewart	N Wishart	R Parker
1985 - 1986	WRT Dowdall	JV Smyth	M Stewart	N Wishart	R Parker
1986 - 1987	WRT Dowdall	JV Smyth	M Stewart	N Wishart	R Parker
1987 - 1988	WRT Dowdall	JV Smyth	M Stewart	N Wishart	G Blackwood
1988 - 1989	WRT Dowdall	P Wilson	M Gillespie	N Wishart	R Parker
1989 - 1990	WRT Dowdall	A Morris	C McConkey	N Wishart	R Parker
1990 - 1991	WRT Dowdall	A Morris	C McConkey	N Wishart	R Parker
1991 - 1992	WRT Dowdall	T Campbell	C McConkey	T Campbell	R Parker
1992 - 1993	H Brady	T Campbell	J Macafee	T Campbell	J Clarke
1993 - 1994	H Brady	P Dornan	J Macafee	T Campbell	J Clarke
1994 - 1995	H Brady	P Dornan	N McLvor	T Campbell	J McNaught
1995 - 1996	H Brady	P Dornan	G Wilson	T Campbell	J McNaught
1996 - 1997	H Brady	P Dornan	G Wilson	T Campbell	J Macafee
1997 - 1998	H Brady	G Wilson	C McConkey	T Campbell	J Macafee
1998 - 1999	H Brady	G Wilson	M Claney	T Campbell	J Macafee
1999 - 2000	H Brady	A Morris	M Claney	T Campbell	A McVicar
2000 - 2001	H Brady	A Morris	M Claney	T Campbell	A McVicar
2001 - 2002	JV Smyth	M Claney	N Walker	T Campbell	R Mayne
2002 - 2003	JV Smyth	M Claney	N Walker	T Campbell	J Macafee
2003 - 2004	JV Smyth	M Claney	N Walker	T Campbell	M Harte
2004 - 2005	JV Smyth	M Claney	N Walker	T Campbell	M Harte
2005 - 2006	JV Smyth	J Macafee	N Walker	T Campbell	J Tormey
2006 - 2007	JV Smyth	J Macafee	G Wilson	T Campbell	J Tormey
2007 - 2008	JV Smyth	J Macafee	G Wilson	T Campbell	J Tormey
2008 - 2009	JV Smyth	J Macafee	M Claney	T Campbell	A Reading
2009 - 2010	JV Smyth	A Walker	M Claney	T Campbell	A Reading
2010 - 2011	JV Smyth	A Walker	M Claney	T Campbell	S Hunter
2011 - 2012	JV Smyth	A Reading	G Wilson	T Campbell	S Hunter
2012 - 2013	R Parker	A Reading	G Wilson	T Campbell	D McClune

Year	President	Chairman	Honorary Secretary	Honorary Treasurer	Captain 1st XI
2013 - 2014	R Parker	A Reading	G Wilson	T Campbell	D McClune P Snodden
2014 - 2015	R Parker	A Reading	G Wilson	T Campbell	J Trimble
2015 - 2016	R Parker	P Snodden	A Gowdy	T Campbell	J Trimble
2016 - 2017	R Parker	P Snodden	C Wilkinson	A Gowdy	J Trimble R Burgess
2017 - 2018	G Wilson	P Snodden	S Moore	A Gowdy	C Campbell
2018 - 2019	G Wilson	P Snodden	R McCoey Allen	A Gowdy	S Cox
2019 - 2020	G Wilson	S Parker	R Cunningham	N Scott	R Cunningham
2020 - 2021	G Wilson	S Parker	R Cunningham	N Scott	R Cunningham

1922 team

Back row: Mr Imrie, E Bradley, RCH Elliott, J Craig, C Cassidy, F Stevenson.
Centre row: C McNeill, SR Bell
Front row: B Connolly, C Carter, J Breeze, V Blakely



Club Chairman Adam Reading (2011-2015) receiving the 1stXL Player of the Season award for 2015/2016 from Davy Larmour, Ulster Branch President

Dates of Interest

1902-03	AD McIlwaine played for Ulster against Leinster
1903-09	SA Bullock played for Ireland against Scotland
1905	Bangor played on pitch between Waverly Drive and Godfrey Avenue
1908-09	Last reference to playing of hockey in early days
1921	Bangor club reformed. Meeting held during summer months in Dufferin Hall
1921: 1 October	First match in Minor League at home against Anglo-American. Bangor won by 3-1
1921-22	Pitch obtained in Church Street
1923-24	Pitch obtained beside Godfrey Avenue. First pavilion (portable)
1928	Bangor moved again, this time to Ashley Park. Now fielding only one team
1932-33	Bangor won Junior Charity Cup
1933-34	Bangor won Braddell Shield Junior League
1934-35	Bangor won Intermediate Charity Shield and Intermediate League
1935-36	Bangor won Senior Qualifying League
1939-44	Club was disbanded War years
1945	Club was reformed. Meeting held in Jackie Barr's house on Donaghadee Road
1945-46	Bangor recommence playing Intermediate League A. Drew first game against Holywood - one apiece
1954	Club badge adopted
1955	Bangor Six-a-Side Tournament inaugurated to mark town of Bangor's 1400 th anniversary
1957	First visit of a Bangor team to Isle of Man
1957	Castle Park playing pitches opened
1958	Hockey first introduced to Bangor Grammar School under Ronnie McManus
1958	Promotion and relegation introduced
1958-59	First Irish Hockey Review published (incorporating Sixes programme)
1959	New club tie adopted
1960-61	Bangor won promotion to Section 2 of Senior League
1961-62	Bangor won promotion to Senior League
1961-62	Mr H Burrowes elected President of Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
1962	Second visit to Whit Tournament in Isle of Man
1962-63	Bangor relegated after play-off with Antrim to Section 2 of the Senior League
1963-64	D McManus selected for Ulster and Ulster and Under 23 teams
1966	Hockey reintroduced to Bangor Grammar School under John Smyth
1968	Club President Charles Curran died
1970	D McManus gained first international cap against West Germany
1971	D McManus and F Young played for Ireland against England in Belfast
1973	W Dowdall elected President Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
1975	Official opening of Ward Park all-weather pitches
1976	First floodlit matches played at Ward Park
1976	Walter Dowdall elected President Irish Hockey Union
1983	JV Smyth elected President Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
1984	S Martin represents Great Britain side who win Bronze at LA Olympics
1988	S Martin represents Great Britain side who win Gold at Seoul Olympics
1988	Bangor 1st XI win Floodlit trophy for second year in succession
1989	Bangor Grammar School win Irish Schools Championship for first time
1989	1st reach first Senior Cup final but lose Anderson Cup to Mossley by 2-0
1991	Introduction of Club 7 th XI
1992	Third XI win Junior Shield for third time in four years

1996	G Blackwood appointed Irish U21 coach Dawie Holley plays for Irish U21 Celtic Cup Winners 1998 Michael Harte plays for Irish U21 Celtic Cup Winners 1999, 2000 U21 win European B Championships Italy 1998 (Dawie Holley plays) U21 European A Championship, Spain 2000 (Michael Harte plays) U21 World Cup, Tasmania 2001 (included Michael Harte Vice-Captain, Neil Slane, Simon Irvine)
1996	Bangor move to new artificial playing surface at Ballykillaire Sports Complex
1997	Bangor Grammar win Irish Schools Championships for a second time
1998	Bangor Grammar win McCullough Cup
1998	Michael Harte, Simon Irvine, Neil Slane and S. Parker all represented Ulster U21's
1999	3rd XI win Junior Shield
1999	JV Smyth elected as President of Irish Hockey Union
1999	Scott Parker represents Ireland U21
1999	Alex Ward scores six goals in one match, a Club record
2002	JV Smyth elected as President of Irish Hockey Association
2003	Bangor win Senior One League and gain promotion to Premier League
2004	Chris McConkey appointed as an FIH umpire
2004	Fiftieth, and final, Six-a-Side Tournament
2005	1st XI reach semi-final of Kirk Cup (lost 2-1 to Banbridge)
2006	1st XI reach semi-final of Anderson Cup (lost 2-1 to Instonians)
2006	2 nd XI win McClements Cup
2010	3rdXI win Junior Shield
2011	Alan Morris elected President of Ulster Hockey Union
2014	Bangor move to new Council facility at Aurora (at former home of Valentines Playing Fields)
2016	1st XI win Linden Cup
2017	Chris Harte elected President of Ulster Branch
2018	1st XI win Linden Cup
2018	1st lost in play-off final for EHYL 1
2018	1st XI qualify for Irish Hockey League 2 – for 1 season
2018	1st lost to Kilkeel in last game of season to miss out on winning Premier League by 2 points) lost 3-1 to
2018	1st XI coach Scott Parker award Ulster Hockey
2019	R Parker first Bangor player to represent club for 50 successive seasons
2019	Chris Cargo retired from Irish International Hockey with 195 caps (captained the team on 2 occasions)
2020	Club Centenary Celebration

Club Badge Committee 1955

For many years, the club jersey was yellow with a broad blue band and a white collar. In the 1950s it was changed to yellow and blue quarters. These have formed the background for the club badge adopted in 1954, which depicts a green dolphin in a swimming position, and on it, a gold roundel charged with a bull's head, a translation of "Bangor" (pointed horns): behind two hockey sticks crossed in a saltier and the whole badge enclosed in a white ring bearing the words "Bangor Hockey Club".



Goalscorers

There were of course many goal scorers for the club before the 1979/80 season. However, it was in 1979 that Ken Ward donated a trophy to the club which was to be presented to the leading goal scorer in any given season. Some would say that the Ken Ward Leading Goalscorer trophy was initiated to reward himself, as Ken did indeed score the most goals in the first three seasons of its existence. Yet as the years have passed, the trophy has become much sought after and indeed from the 1979 two achievements do stand the test of time. In the history of the club no-one has scored more goals in a season (Ryan Burgess in 2015/16 with 55 goals) and no one has topped the goalscoring table more times than Gareth Stranaghan (eight times).

Year	Name	Goals
1979 - 1980	Ken Ward	25
1980 - 1981	Ken Ward	23
1981 - 1982	Ken Ward	29
1982 - 1983	Paul Wilson	19
1983 - 1984	Alan Cruickshank	15
1984 - 1985	Tim Campbell	16
1985 - 1986	Roy Mairs	14
1986 - 1987	George Wilson	22
1987 - 1988	Richard Mann	22
1988 - 1989	Jeremy Macafee	11
1989 - 1990	Tim Campbell	19
1990 - 1991	Ken Ward	21
1991 - 1992	Tim Campbell Norman Irwin	17
1992 - 1993	John Clark Ken Ward	13
1993 - 1994	Ken Ward	15
1994 - 1995	Johnny McNaught	21
1995 - 1996	David Montgomery	12
1996 - 1997	Jeremy Macafee	23
1997 - 1998	Scott Parker	24
1998 - 1999	George Wilson	13
1999 - 2000	Peter Whyte	34
2000 - 2001	Gareth Stranaghan	24
2001 - 2002	Gareth Stranaghan	21
2002 - 2003	Gareth Morton	36
2003 - 2004	Johnny McNaught	26
2004 - 2005	Simon Harper	28
2005 - 2006	Simon Harper	32
2006 - 2007	Michael Ferguson	28

Year	Name	Goals
2007 - 2008	Johnny McNaught	13
	Gareth Stranaghan	
2008 - 2009	Gareth Stranaghan	28
2009 - 2010	Gareth Stranaghan	21
2010 - 2011	Gareth Stranaghan	21
2011 - 2012	Gareth Stranaghan	19
2012 - 2013	Gareth Stranaghan	32
2013 - 2014	Simon Hunter	29
2014 - 2015	Simon Hunter	23
2015 - 2016	Ryan Burgess	55
2016 - 2017	Ryan Burgess	27
2017 - 2018	Ryan Burgess	35
2018 - 2019	Simon Hunter	40
2019 - 2020	David McClune	17



Ryan Burgess receives the Ken Ward Leading Goal scorer Trophy from Chris Cargo 2016



Gareth Stranaghan

Competitions and Trophies

Hospital Cup

Mid-week knock out competition until 1969 and then then awarded to winners of Junior League Section 6

1972-73 4th

Saturday Night Cup

Awarded to Winners of Senior League Section 2

1935-36 1st
1961-62 1st
1976-77 1st
1981-82 1st
1990-91 1st
1992-93 1st
1994-95 1st

Cliftonville Cup

Awarded to Winners of Qualifying League Section B until 1973 and then awarded to winners of Intermediate League

1960-61 1st

Braddell Shield

Knock-out competition for Junior teams until 1969 and then awarded to winners of Junior League Section 5

1933-34 1st
1972-73 3rd
1981-82 4th
1985-86 3rd

Mullholland Shield

Knock-out competition for Junior Leagues 3 and 4

1973-74 2nd
1988-89 3rd
1990-91 3rd
1991-92 3rd
1999-00 3rd
2010-11 3rd

Linden Cup

Knock-out Competition for Intermediate league Clubs

1934-35 1st
2015-16 1st
2017-18 1st

Davidson Cup

Awarded to winners of Junior league 2

1933-34 1st
1987-88 2nd
1989-90 2nd
1992-93 2nd



1st XI 1992/3 season: winners of Senior League 2

Back Row: Raymond Parker, John Poole, Mark Brown, Allister McVicar, Jonathan Todd, Chris McConkey, Reg Huggins
Front Row: Andrew Walker, Keith Mulholland, John Clarke (Captain), Jeremy MacAfee, Graham Earls



1st XI Linden Cup Winners 2016

Standing (from left): Patrick Dixon (Manager), Sam Moore (Goalkeeper), Scott Parker (Coach), Dave Edwards, Simon Hunter, Bryan Hamilton, David McClune, Phil Templeton, Ryan Tate, Rhys Cunningham, Simon Scales, Michel McComb
Kneeling: Matthew Riordan, Harry Dow, Pete Snodden, Andy Seay (Goalkeeper), Ryan Burgess

Ludlow Cup

Awarded to Winners of Junior League Section 7
1980-81 5th

Junior League Cup

Awarded to winners of Junior League Section 8
1991-92 7th

Priory Cup

Awarded to Winners of Junior League Section 3
1976-77 3rd
1980-81 3rd

Athletics Store Cup

Awarded to Winners of Junior League Section 5
1932-33 1st
1973-74 4th
1980-81 4th
1992-93 4th

McClements Cup

2005-06 2nd



1st XI Captain James Trimble with the Linden Cup 2016



Brian Davies was a long term North Down Hockey Club member who also coached at Bangor. His contribution to our Club, starting in 2002, was considerable, not only navigating the 1st XI back to Senior hockey but also providing much needed guidance to a young squad which included future Ireland international Chris Cargo. Following his untimely passing, both clubs decided that a memorial match be held in his honour.

Representative Honours

Playing

Senior Ulster and Ireland

1902-03	AD McIlwaine played for Ulster against Leinster
1903-04	SA Bullock played for Ireland against Scotland
1963-64	David McManus selected for Ulster and Ulster and Under 23 teams
1970	Davy McManus gained first international cap against West Germany
1971	Davy McManus and Frank Young played for Ireland against England in Belfast
1976	R Parker represented Ulster in Interprovincials.
1979	Roy Mairs represented Ulster in Interprovisionals
1980	Stephen Martin represented Ireland (1980-1983)
1981	Roy Mairs represented Ulster in Interprovisionals
1984	Stephen Martin captained Ireland
1984	Stephen Martin represented Great Britain side who win Bronze at LA Olympics
1988	Stephen Martin represented Great Britain side who win Gold at Seoul Olympics
1989	Noel Wishart represented Ulster in Interprovisionals
2006	Dawie Holley and Mark Daniel represented Ulster
2019	Chris Cargo retired from Irish International Hockey with 195 caps (captained the team on 2 occasions)

Ulster and Ireland U21

1975	Nicky Langley and Raymond Parker represented Ulster U22
1976	Nicky Langley represented Irish U21
1977	Sean Curran represented U21 (and 1978)
1977	Philip Martin represented Ulster and Irish U21
1978	Stephen Martin represented Irish U21
1979	Stephen Martin, Billy Dickson, Sean Curran, and David Stanfield represented Ulster U21
1982	Davy Dickson represented Ulster U21
1984	Niall McAllister represented Ireland U21
1984	Stephen Mitchell and Alan Chambers represented Ulster U21
1985-7	Andrew Brennan represented Ulster U21 (Captain in 1987)
1987	Andrew Brennan represented Irish U21
1995	Jonathan Todd represented Ulster U21
1996	George Blackwood appointed Irish U21 coach
1998	Dawie Holley played for Irish U21 Celtic Cup Winners
1998	Dawie Holley played for U21 European B Championships winners
1998	Michael Harte, Simon Irvine, Neil Slane and Scott Parker all represented Ulster U21s
1999	Michael Harte played for Irish U21 Celtic Cup Winners 1999, 2000
1999	Scott Parker represented Ireland U21
2000	U21 European A Championship, Spain 2000 (Michael Harte plays)
2001	U21 World Cup, Tasmania 2001 (included Michael Harte Vice-Captain, Neil Slane, Simon Irvine)

Ulster and Ireland U18

1970	Chris McQuaid is the first BGS player to represent Irish Schools
1971	Raymond Parker represented Ulster Schools
1972	Gerry Dunn represented Ulster Schools
1973	Nicky Langley represented Irish Schools (and 1974)
1975	Brian Rogerson represented Ulster Schools
1976	Sean Curran captained Ulster and Irish Schools
1976	Stephen Martin represented Ulster Schools
1977	Sean Curran captained Irish Schools U18
1977	Stephen Martin represented Irish Schools

1977	Billy Dickson represented Ulster Schools
1978	Billy Dickson represented Irish Schools
1978	David Stanfield represented Ulster U18
1979	Michael Smyth represented Ulster U18
1980	Davy Dickson represented Ulster U18
1980	Michael Smyth represented Irish U18
1981	Davy Dickson represented Irish Schools U18
1984	Niall McCallister, Alan Chambers and Stephen Mitchell represented Irish Schools
1985	Stephen Cumper represented Ulster U18
1985	Ian Campton and Keith McCallister represented Irish U18
1986	Brian McKee represented Irish U18
1990	Allen Irwin represented Ulster U18
1991	Scott Sanderson captained Irish Schools
1991	John Poole represented Irish Schools
1992	Jonathan Todd represented Ulster U18
1995	Dawie Holley and David Jefferson represented Ulster U18
1997	Simon Irvine, Michael Harte, Neill Slane and Scott Parker represented Ulster U18
1998	Gareth Callender represented Ulster U18
1998	Simon Irvine, Michael Harte, Neil Slane and Scott Parker represented Irish U18
2000	Bill Clarke represented Ulster U18
2001	Jamie McAuley represented Ulster and Ireland U18
2002	Mark Daniel represented Ulster U18
2004	Chris Cargo represented Ulster and Ireland U18
2008	Simon Cox represented Ulster U18
2013	Philip Hamill represented Ulster U18
2018	Stephen Hamill represented Ulster and Irish U18
2020	Jamie Lyall represented Ulster U18

Ulster and Ireland U16

1984	Brian McKee and Richard Mann represented Ulster U16
1986	Robin Hudson and Robert Wylie represented Ulster U16
1987	Jonathan McNaught represented Irish U16
1989	Scott Sanderson represented Irish U16
1989	John Poole represented Irish U16
1995	Dawie Holley and David Jefferson represented Irish U16
2001	Andrew Spratt represented Ulster U16
2002	Chris Cargo represented Ulster and Ireland U16
2015	Harry Dow represented Ulster U16
2016	Stephen Hamill represented Ulster U16
2020	Callum Duncan represented Ulster U16

ULSTER AND IRELAND HOCKEY UNIONS

1901	JHS Davidson elected President of Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
1961	Mr H Burrowes elected President of Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
1973	W Dowdall elected President Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
1976	Walter Dowdall elected President Irish Hockey Union
1983	JV Smyth elected President Ulster Branch Irish Hockey Union
1999	JV Smyth elected as President of Irish Hockey Union
2002	JV Smyth elected as President of Irish Hockey Association
2011	Alan Morris elected President of Ulster Hockey Union
2017	Chris Harte elected President of Ulster Hockey Union

UMPIRES

1984	Paisley Watson appointed as an FIH umpire
2004	Chris McConkey appointed as an FIH umpire



Alan Morris, elected President of Ulster Hockey Union in 2011



Chris Harte, elected President of Ulster Hockey Union in 2017



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