

CONSOLIDATION: 1950 - 1959

1950

In 1950 a Grounds Finance Committee was formed to raise funds towards costs involved with the Club gaining its own ground. Jim Lucas was selected to represent the State and Roth Martin was appointed as the State Team Manager.

1951

Roth Martin was appointed an Australian Selector in 1951. Bill Brooks was selected in the State Senior team and Barry Tucker gained representation in the State Under 16 team.

1952

In 1952 an agreement with the Corporation of the City of Port Adelaide was finally negotiated providing for two playing fields at the John Hart Reserve. The Club paid an initial fee of \$200 for the first year (1952) with reduced amounts annually for the next 19 years. The total amount paid to the Council for the grounds was \$1,200.

Herbert Sutton was elected a Life Member in 1952.

1953

During 1953 a Best Club Member award was recognised as an important feature of the Club's progress and the first award was made this year and it continues to the present time. The first recipient was Arthur Weir.

Best & Fairest Trophy Winners 1953:

A Grade:	Barry Tucker
B Grade:	Bob Northeast
E Grade:	Ron Loughhead
Best Club Member:	Arthur Weir

Rex Martin was elected a Life Member of the Club

1954

Events in 1954 were of considerable significance to the Club. A project to build a Clubroom adjacent to the playing area commenced. This was to consist of an ex-army steel framed *Nissen Hut* with a brick room at either end, one end for storeroom, showers and toilets, and the other end a kitchen and canteen. Club Members laid the foundations for the brick sections of the Clubrooms.

To obtain building materials at the best price for the construction of the rooms at either end of the Clubroom permission was obtained from the Port Adelaide Council to demolish a condemned brick dwelling at Portland.

Club members carried out this demolition, but there were not sufficient bricks for the project. Further permission was gained to demolish a vacant shop/office on the corner of St Vincent and Nelson Streets in Port Adelaide.

Having enterprising members in Jack McGrath and Bruce Main to oversee this particular project, Jack sought and obtained a draught horse from a local carrier to assist. The exercise was carried out successfully on a Saturday morning, but there were some complications.

Instead of one shop being razed another two adjoining rooms also suffered the same fate and a considerable section of Nelson Street was littered with bricks and mortar in the process. This proved to be something of a hazard to passing traffic, but a hurried call to the Club where other work was being done brought some members to the site quickly and the roadway was cleared without the police traffic division having to be called out.

Having some influence through a Club member being a Councillor, the demolition of the three rooms instead of one did not become an embarrassment to the Club. The entire building was planned to be demolished in due course.

This provided more than enough bricks for the job. A considerable amount of timber was also obtained from these buildings. Club Members undertook the entire construction and erection of the Clubrooms, except the plumbing, which was done by a Club supporter who provided his labour at no charge.

Work also progressed steadily on the playing area, which was being used for training

The Club won the C Grade Premiership in 1954, the first since resumption after the War.

Best & Fairest Trophy Winners 1954:

A Grade:	Jim Quimby
C Grade:	Ray Risely
D Grade:	John Russell
Best Club Member:	Bob Northeast

1955

1955 was the first year that the South Australian Hockey Association fixtures were programmed for Hart Reserve. Some sections of the Clubrooms could also be used as change rooms for the players.

Bruce Main was selected in the State Senior team.

Best & Fairest Trophy Winners 1955:

A Grade:	Don Germein
B Grade:	Ray Risely
E Grade:	Doug Coghlan
Best Club Member:	Ray Warland

A GRADE TEAM- 1955



Back (L-R): Bill Brooks, Jack McGrath, Bob Northeast, John Rockwell, Bob Main, Bruce Main
Front (L-R): Brian Roberts, Don Germein, Jim Quimby, Graham Boots, David Brentzell

1956

On 26 May 1956 it was a proud occasion for the Club when its Clubrooms were officially opened by the Mayor of Port Adelaide, Mr. Bill Whicker, with a commendation to all the Members and supporters who contributed to its construction. It was also a memorable occasion for the City of Port Adelaide, 1956 being the centenary of the formation of the Council.

The following are excerpts from the August 1956 edition of the *Hockey Circle*, a magazine published by the Australian Hockey Association and distributed throughout Australia on a monthly basis at that stage.

'Club House for Port Adelaide

No finer story of hockey planning, initiative and courage has been told than that of the might effort of the Port Adelaide (The Magpies) Hockey Club of South Australia in building their own clubrooms, now valued at £2,000 on their home ground.

The work of Arthur Weir inspired the whole Club.

An original (1934) member of the Club, Arthur Weir (Life Member and former President) was just the person to encourage and lead the operation. In the months that followed he proved that nothing is impossible if you have the will to succeed. Club members can now appreciate how Arthur won for himself and his country a Military Medal and Bar during the first World War. He never spared himself on this big job.

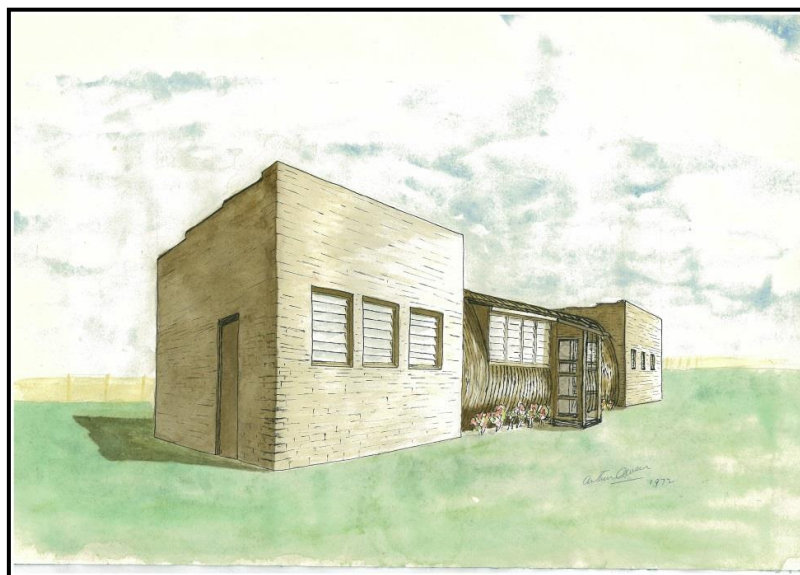
It was learned when the decision to build was made that the National Fitness Council had surplus Nissen huts available for sale at £76. The Club did not have the £76, or the £46 which the National Fitness Council eventually agreed to accept, but keen members did not let a trifle like that to deter them and soon the money was forthcoming.

Some time prior to this Arthur Weir was elected to the Council of the City of Port Adelaide and this was to prove a great help in bringing the Club's dreams to fruition. In Council, he learned that an old condemned house at Portland was to be demolished. On behalf of the Club he tendered £1 for it, which was accepted. In moved the demolition squad from the Club and before long bricks, roofing iron, timber beams and other materials were transported to the ground.

The complete structure and fittings cost £450, and the eventual value of the building and contents was approximately £2,000.

Most members pulled their weight during the many months of hard work. It is not possible here to mention all who played a part, but among those who rendered yeoman service were Rex and 'Rocky' Martin, Keith Cosh, Bill Brooks, Don Germein, Bruce Main, Ray Warland, Bob Grist, Jack Waterhouse and of course Arthur Weir, whose mighty effort has been suitably recorded by an inscribed plaque inside the building.

** Congratulations Port Adelaide, from your District and State.
May your efforts win you praise wherever this publication goes.'*



Water Painting by Arthur Weir of original Clubrooms at John Hart Reserve

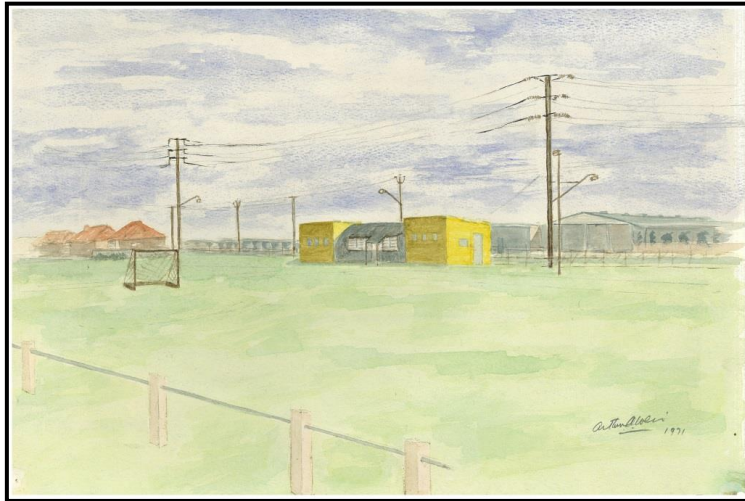
During 1956 the underground watering system was installed on the second ground – another task undertaken by Club members. The SAHA Grand Finals in the top two grades were played on our ground.

Best & Fairest Trophy Winners 1956:

District Grade:	Don Germein
A2 Grade:	Barry Townsend
C Grade:	Bob Robertson
Best Club Member:	Keith Cosh

1957

A Summer Hockey competition commenced in 1957 and Port Adelaide was one of eight Clubs to nominate a team. The Port Adelaide Clubrooms and ground were officially recognised as the headquarters of the South Australian Summer Hockey Association for the 1957-58 season.



Water Painting by Arthur Weir of club grounds and clubrooms

As part of the summer season, a team was selected to represent South Australia to play a series of three matches against Victoria in Melbourne from 25-27 January 1958. South Australia won the series 2-1.

Port Adelaide also participated in this summer carnival, as did Burnside and Forestville Hockey Clubs. Each club played against each other and a Victorian metropolitan team. Our results were not impressive, but the event overall was one to be remembered by the participants.

The Club won the A2 Grade premiership this year and Jim Quimby again represented the State in the Senior team.

The Annual Trophy was for the Best Club Member became known as the *Arthur Weir Best Club Member Trophy* when he provided a trophy in perpetuity.

Best & Fairest Trophy Winners 1957:

District Grade:	Don Germein
A2 Grade:	Bob Robertson
C Grade:	Bob Seddon
D Grade:	Joe Buley
Best Club Member:	Jack McGrath

CLUB PHOTOGRAPH – 1957

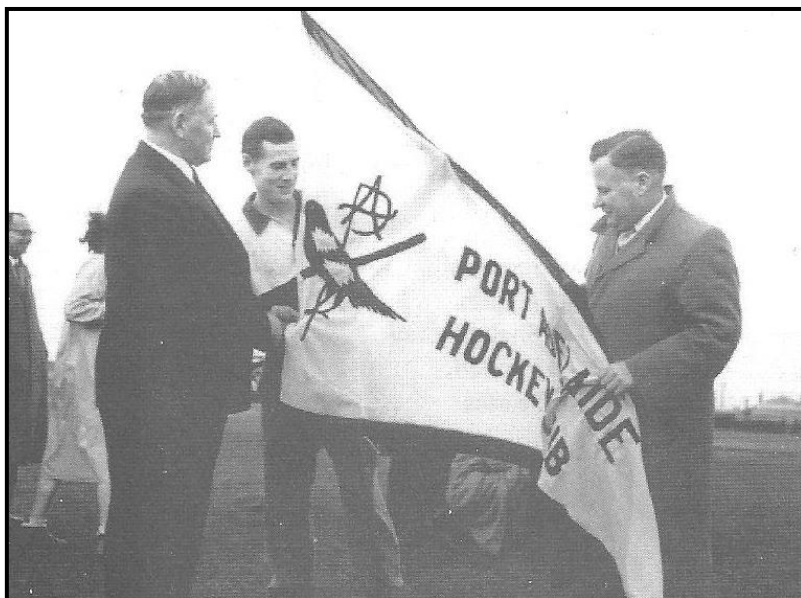


Back (L-R): Barry Cavanagh, Bob Main, Jack Garde, Jim Quimby, Bob Northeast, Brian Roberts, Bruce Main, Jack McGrath, Bob Seddan, Bill Gardner
3rd Row (L-R): Rex Ballard, John Searles, Bill Brooks, Kevin Olssen, Peter Merigan, Alan Higgins, John Bauer, Graham Selby, Peter Young, Neil Ballard
2nd Row (L-R): Don Chaplin, W Brooks (Patron), Keith Cosh (Secretary), Don Germein (President), Arthur Weir, Roth Martin, Bob Rice, Robert Gill
Front (L-R): Geoff Dunow, Doug Coghlan, Dean Pennell, Ian Pentecost, Daryl Pennell, Joe Buley, Lindsay Davis
Absent: Jay O'Grady, Rex Martin, Herbert Sutton

1958

1958 was the 25th year of the Club's formation and to celebrate the occasion a Club flag was presented to the President Jay O'Grady on behalf of the inaugural members of the *Magpies Hockey Club*. Eleven of those members were present on the day.

FLAG PRESENTATION – 26 JULY 1958



(L-R): Ben Ball (SAHA), Sir Norman Jude, Peter Merigan (Club Captain), Jay O'Grady (President)

State Representatives:

Under 16: John McManus and John Giblin

Best & Fairest Trophy Winners 1958

District Grade:	Brian Roberts
A2 Grade:	Bob Rice
B Grade:	Ron Loughhead
D Grade:	Kevin Robinson
Best Club Member:	Bob Northeast

During December, the Club Management Committee discussed a proposal to update the Clubrooms by replacing the centre section with a brick structure. It was decided to proceed with the proposal and steps were taken to have plans and cost estimates prepared.

1959

A highlight of 1959 was achieved by Don Germein in winning the *Advertiser Trophy* for the SAHA Men's Best and Fairest player.



Don Germein – SAHA Men's Best & Fairest 1959

The Club commenced to stage a knockout competition open to all Clubs during the holiday weekend in June, which continued for a number of years. These were of considerable financial benefit to the Club.

The Club made an end-of-season trip to Port Pirie on the long weekend in October, when matches were played against the local Association.

State Representatives:

Under 21:	Daryl Pennell
Under 16:	John Blacketer, John Giblin, Ron Giblin and John McManus

Best & Fairest Trophy Winners 1959:

District Grade:	Don Germein
A1 Grade:	Don Chaplin
A2 Grade:	Peter Shaughnessy
C Grade:	Dean Pannell
Best Club Member:	John Searles