

# OLDTIMER HOCKEY NEWSLETTER



July, 2008

## The Time is Now

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The response from the first Oldtimers newsletter was overwhelmingly positive. The sport of ice hockey is growing in New Zealand and the graduating class of 2008 is now ready to transition to Oldtimers and the Masters Games. Thanks to the many efforts of the men, women and children who love ice hockey our game is now played all over the country. New rinks are planned for Wellington, Hamilton and hopefully Invercargill soon. The Erewhon Cup was played this weekend in Alexandra as it has been since 1937, on outdoor ice and with a limited number of players. The next step is for us to add a retirement home for maturing players to aspire to for the time after the kids are grown and gone.

Through our newsletter and your responses, we learn more about the wishes of our Oldtimers community. It appears from early feedback that we will require two divisions. One division we'll call "wolves;" will be a predator division where our most competitive, testosterone driven, adrenalin breathing old farts, who do not play well with others, can play with each other. The more controlled group will be the "foxes" and they can best be described as "non-wolves." These sly, old veterans realize that there is more to life than winning and beer league hockey is more about the beer than the hockey. These players have a purpose called fun. If they stuff it up, it's seen as an opportunity for a mate on either team to try their luck! The penalty box is seen as a great rest stop and their feelings toward the referee for placing them there for 2 minutes is one of gratitude.

Our NZ Oldtimers community at the moment are coaching, playing or watching too much hockey with their kids or grandkids. The Nationals, SIHL, Erewhon Cup or their local ice hockey league is in full swing for all of July and August. So Andy Mills in Queenstown, Roy Burgoyne in Auckland and Al O'Connor in Dunedin have organized ice time in September and October for after the snow settles. Outdoor hockey heavens like Tekapo and Nasby must wait for us Oldtimers until next year. But our time to play is now! **Who wants to play September 20 and 21 in Dunedin, October 18<sup>th</sup> in Auckland or in October in Queenstown? Singles welcome!**



## The Auckland "Old Timers Outing"! *Bernie Brantsma reporting*

Well it came and went; the first "old timers outing" and I watched it from the sideline having scorched a path of destruction getting from an U19 game at Botany to make it to Avondale in time. I didn't quite make it in time to have a skate, but what I watched was possibly some of the best hockey I have seen in a long time and this was just a get together scrimmage!

The average age on the ice would have been 48 and apart from a few creaking joints the speed and agility of some of those players would have been envied by any 80 year old! Only joking - it had me thinking that if this was the quality of Old Timers hockey then it has a big future in this country.

This is hockey that should be show cased and held up as what real hockey is. Going by the talent I watched in this game I can only imagine the overall quality of players from around the country. We have a huge talent pool and we need to start letting people see it.

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"How would you like a job where, every time you make a mistake, a big red light goes on and 18,000 people boo?" ~Jacques Plante

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## Upcoming Oldtimers Game in Auckland *Roy Burgoyne reporting*

On Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting the second annual Ex-pats vs. NZer's charity game and we would love to see a couple of southerners in either one of those teams. Apart from being a great night it helps raise funds for a chosen charity and this year we have chosen The Down Syndrome Association.

I would therefore like to extend an invitation to some of our southern team mates to join us and to help celebrate our Old Timers community and to help a worthy cause. This is not all about Auckland, it's about the Old Timers community and playing the way we want to play hockey. So come on guys; let's help these kids out and let's help ourselves out by showing the public that a game played by a bunch of crusty, broken old men can be played with skill and fun!



## Ode to Ice Hockey

The Southern Cross, never at a loss  
To point to the events she will bless,  
Once whalers offshore and then explorers galore  
And now ice hockey players expecting no less.

Tis brave acts outdoors that she truly adores  
And bears witness to the vows proclaimed,  
To believe in a goal to the depth of your soul  
To arrive at a place better than we aimed

Inspiration from above on the game that we love  
Comes in the shared karma and uplift we feel,  
Soaring for fun, way too close to the sun  
On winged feet made of steel.

Chase boredom away and get on your way  
To an ice rink beyond the next hill,  
For there you will find many people of like mind  
With their free spirits entwined in a thrill.

## No cartoons for me please

As the Dunedin Penguin Oldtimers hockey season approaches, playing Coach Steve Jackson is attempting to change the image of his team. "We need a new emblem," Coach Jackson declared today, "our guys are looking for an edge before the puck drops and a new logo will provide us that lift." To drive change into his aging squad Jackson has decided a new and more dramatic Penguin logo is the answer. The services of Active Design, a recognized Dunedin architectural design group, have been hired. "This is not a job for amateurs," Team Captain Larry Nichvolodov was heard to say after the last defeat, "getting our emblem right is now our biggest priority." Graham Phipps-Black is secretly working on the new design but at press time he would not share any of the proposed designs until the official logo is launched at the Penguins opening game.

The competition in the NZ Oldtimers league all has meaner and tougher names than Penguins. The small Antarctic animal is no match for a Black Jurassic although they may be fantastically nimble and fast swimmers. Penguins have been known to escape large predators before travelling long distances in treacherous waters. "They just look too darn cute," says Mike Cop, Penguins poet laureate and no stranger to cute himself according to Penguin team groupies. "Penguins on our sweaters are just not tough enough as an animal species to make people think twice about taking us on in the corners," protested Mark Bingham, the team's enforcer. "The Sharks and the Beasts have it right with their names and this makes us play the intimidation catch up with our wimpy Penguin image."

"No cartoons for me please," said OB1 (Old Bastard) O'Connor who is the senior player on the roster, "playing with some stupid Walt Disney cartoon hero will not put fear into the hearts of anyone we play." When pressed further for suggested images, O'Connor suggested a Jekyll and Hyde approach. The Old penguin logo would be retired and a new fang bearing, bulging eyed and ferocious looking replacement would look like a Penguin from another planet. "Then people who come against us would worry that the stuff the mascot was on may have been also made available to the players in the dressing room prior to the game." "In order to complete the intimidation picture," Mike Sam was quoted as saying, "our players need to keep their mouths closed at all times so that the opposition does not notice that not only do we not have fangs, few of us have any teeth left at all."

Emblems are about perception and reality is the victim. The Penguin logo may go the way of the Dodo.



## Proposed Oldtimers Events Calendar

Dunedin Oldtimers Tourney	Dunedin	September 20, 21
Queenstown Oldtimers Tourney	Queenstown	October, 2008
Oldtimers Charity Game	Auckland	Oct 18, 2008
Canterbury International Tournament	Christchurch	Feb, 2009
NZ Masters Games	Dunedin	Feb 2010

Send us an e-mail at [NZOldtimers@hotmail.com](mailto:NZOldtimers@hotmail.com) or chat it up with:  
 Steve Jackson, Mike Sam, Larry Wheeler, Dunedin  
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