

# OLDTIMER HOCKEY NEWSLETTER



May, 2008

## It All Started In the Pub

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You can get into a lot of trouble in the pub. Sometimes you can't even look at someone without the "what are you looking at?" question raising its ugly head, or the "check out the chick over there checking you out" comment. Now I know that last comment is probably foreign to most of you, but believe me it does happen!

What happens once the tonsils have been well and truly lubricated is the ability of those said tonsils to get you in the shit.

Case in point; after several ales (actually it wasn't even several it was a couple) someone asked the question "who will write the article for the news letter" and it was at this point that my now well lubricated tonsils took on their own persona and volunteered me!

And so here we are - the first of what I hope are many articles outlining the dreams and aspirations of a bunch of old guys who still want to play hockey. I mean, none of that new "don't know the rules, I just want to hit someone" or "what is a puck" hockey, but the real old fashioned old timers "Shit is the puck really all the way over there" hockey.

I had my first taste of old timer's hockey back in 97 at the Garden City Old Timers Tournament in Christchurch. It was, to say the least, one of the most enjoyable and rewarding few days of hockey I have ever had.

Since then there have been many conversations and many attempts to stage games and tournaments in Auckland and there has also been much talk about launching an old timer's league.

To that I say "League? Schmeague!" We are a long way from that at the moment but we need to start somewhere. Regular monthly piss ups (Oops I mean games!) is where we should be starting.

Last year I was fortunate enough to be part of a great fund raising event for Multiple Sclerosis. It was a hockey game that brought together a great bunch of guys who not only scraped into the old timers category but who committed fully to this great cause.

The concept was an Origins game. New Zealand Vs Ex-Pats and what a night it was. We raised over \$4000.00 in total and took our first steps to promoting the kind of hockey that we wanted to play and that people wanted to watch.

This October we are hosting the second game and the recipients of the funds raised will be the Down 's syndrome Society. We will be inviting many of the players from last year as well as some new friends from down south to join us. We hope to raise awareness on behalf of DSS and at the same time move towards the growth of old timer's hockey. We want to show everyone that the old fellas in Auckland can put on a good do.

There are many of us old timers out there and we haven't finished playing yet - so get the gear out from the back of the garage, tape up that stick, strap that knee! Help us make the sport of hockey sit up and take notice. I look forward to seeing many new and old faces soon.

Cheers, from the North Shore

Roy Burgoyne

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*'Get your gear out  
from the back of  
the garage.....!'*

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## A Call to Arms!

Now is the time for all able body men... and women... to come to the aid of our cause. Our purpose is noble, kind and good. More importantly we are pure of heart. What is our message and why would anyone over the age of 35 years be interested in hearing it? It's a call to arms...and legs...and sticks and skates! It's an NZ "all points bulletin" to come together as the maturing veterans we now are to help us in building NZ Oldtimers Hockey community.

Under the watchful eye and support of a few of the existing Ice Hockey Associations already making adult and youth hockey available to hundreds of enthusiastic players all over New Zealand, we wish to provide a place for players who have a desire to still play and contribute to the game of hockey but do not have the motivation to play at a highly competitive pace anymore.

Oldtimers hockey is a different kind of ice hockey community and game. Sure it's competitive; every hockey player who can still fog a mirror will play the game to win but it's not a play to win at all costs motivation. As a group, we have consciously given up on our chances to play in the professional leagues but we have not given up our commitment to play in a professional manner. Oldtimers hockey is played with a focus on positional play. Play making trumps trouble making and if you lose the puck you get over it quickly. Your mistake is an opportunity for your team mates to bail you out. Of course after they bail you out, your mates would never think of mentioning your mistake to you ever again. After the game in the dressing room over post game beers your stuff up will hardly be mentioned. Right?

Most of all, Oldtimers ice hockey is about having fun both on and off the ice. Oldtimers socialize after the games with a chilly bin in the dressing room and a pub session later. Many of the players will travel with their wife (or someone else's wife!) to other NZ cities and even overseas to play in any one of the hundreds of Oldtimers International tournaments held almost everywhere around the world. Many of these host countries look forward to their return engagement on our shores. Oldtimers treat each other very well on the ice and when playing host to visiting players. It's for the love of the game that we do it and it is not uncommon that the hockey friendships created in these venues last a whole lifetime.

So if you are interested in being part of this unique hockey community, let us know. We commit to forming an inclusive, open environment where everyone who loves the game of hockey will love to play and exchange hockey news, ideas and banter. Send us your contact information today at [NZOldtimers@hotmail.com](mailto:NZOldtimers@hotmail.com) so we can send our virtual Oldtimers Welcome Wagon to pick you up. We want you to reside in our NZ Oldtimers Ice Hockey Community and to be a good neighbour to every other oldtimer player who joins in the game.

## Hockey News

***"A puck is a hard rubber disc that hockey players strike when they can't hit one another."  
Jimmy Cannon***

### National News:

The NZIHL is getting ready to start in June, with Dunedin adding a new team to the mix. There are now 5 teams in the league, giving our younger players a goal to work for, and a place to play while they're waiting to join the Ice Blacks.

### International News:

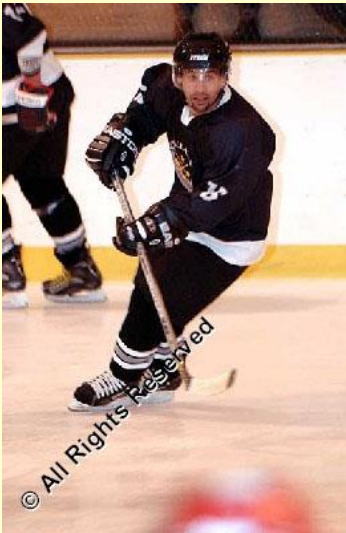
For those of you keeping track of NHL games, there's a free web site offering a chance to watch the games online. Being free, it may or may not have the games available, and it may or may not work, but it is free! Check out [www.channelsurfing.net](http://www.channelsurfing.net) and see what's playing!



## Tournament Profile: CARHA

167 teams from 11 countries attended the Canadian Adult Recreational Hockey Association (CARHA) tournament last month in Quebec City, Quebec. With that many teams, divisions were structured based on age and ability, the largest being 7 separate divisions for 40+ and even a division for the 70+ teams. The next tournament will be in 2012, with the Canadian city not yet named. Check out [www.carhahockey.ca](http://www.carhahockey.ca) for more information.

## Player Profile: Sam closer to Penguin roster spot



As the Dunedin Penguin Oldtimers hockey season approaches, playing Coach Steve Jackson is finalizing his starting lineup. "It will come down to the risk factor," Coach Jackson declared today, "do I keep all my stalwarts like veteran players Mark Bingham and Larry Nichvolodov for one more year or do I make a move and bring in an aspiring 38 year old rookie like a Mike Sam? It's such a crap shoot!"

Sam is coming off a decent NZ Masters games appearance with the big club, where he raised eyebrows with his gritty two-way performance. Being involved in all 14 Penguin goals during the 5 game, 2 day tournament along with a plus 14 plus/minus rating did capture the imagination of the fans. But it's the veteran Penguin players he must play with on the ice, not the fans, who will decide his fate and their reaction to his performance was mixed.

"I liked his determination" said OB1 (Old Bastard) O'Connor who is the senior player on the roster, "and playing the entire 5 games without a rest helped his teammates really enjoy watching the play. But can he do it every game all season as we expect from our younger players, I'm not sure" said the doubting veteran. "Time will tell if he has the stamina to play hockey at the Oldtimers level." Another veteran chimed in, "Sam was okay on the ice with his average of 46 minutes of puck control and possession in each game" said Mike Copp, "but he went missing in the dressing room after only his 2<sup>nd</sup> beer between games. He came back with a fresh box of beer but many of us think that this was a cover. We all believe that he slipped home to be with his beautiful wife and new baby. That's the trouble with young players, they have that life/work balance thing going on. Grandkids and Great grand kids are much easier. This type of devotion will just have to be monitored so it doesn't become a regular occurrence."

Another player commented on how quiet he was. By quiet I don't mean that he didn't scream and yell at the referee and opposition. "What I mean is he never seemed to breathe hard on the bench...just didn't seem tired whereas most of us were exhausted by the time we finished the warm up." And another thing: he doesn't make noises? Oldtimers dressing rooms are supposed to smell like beer and liniment and sound like military hospital....every single movement from bending over to pick up our equipment bag to tying our skates is supposed to be accompanied by a distinct sound of pain. Young Mike Sam may just have far too much fitness and finesse at this point in his career.

"We will likely be sending Mike back to the minors," declared Coach Jackson when pressed further about which way he was leaning, "I really like Sam but he needs a little more seasoning and he can't get it at this level." The National League Dunedin Thunder and his regular appearances with the New Zealand Ice Blacks are an easier place for Mike to prepare for the huge step up to Oldtimers Hockey. With a little more determination next year might be right.

## Proposed Oldtimers Events Calendar

Southern & Canterbury Tourney and Trials	Lake Tekapo	August, 2008
North & South Island Annual Tournament	Auckland	Oct 16/17, 2008
North & South Island Bragging Rights Charity Game	Auckland	Oct 18, 2008
Canterbury International Tournament	Christchurch	Feb, 2009
NZ Masters Games	Dunedin	Feb 2010

These events are in their infancy and are being proposed with the discussions just starting. Please send us an e-mail at [NZOldtimers@hotmail.com](mailto:NZOldtimers@hotmail.com) to get in the loop if you have value to add or if you have been missed inadvertently on our first pass in the patch. Talk to any of the following people if you know them and they will steer you into the NZ Oldtimers community. Thanks!

Steve Jackson, Mike Sam, Larry Wheeler, Larry Nichvolodov, Dunedin  
 Matt Ashling Swirtz, Andy Mills, Graeme Glass in Southern/Queenstown  
 Dwayne Bell, Christchurch/Canterbury  
 Karl Butscher, Lake Takepo  
 Mark Bingham, Waimate  
 Roy Burgoyne, Janet Moses, Auckland  
 Wayne Attwell, Hamilton

Please send articles, noteworthy items (or not!) or upcoming events to: [NZoldtimers@hotmail.com](mailto:NZoldtimers@hotmail.com)