

# Australia 1989

## The “Inaugural” Tour - Part 1

On Thursday 9 February the Ancient Britons assembled at Terminal 3, London Heathrow Airport at 10.30 hours, for check-in to Qantas QF2 departing at 12.15. After an uneventful flight lasting 11 hours, they arrived in Bangkok at 07.00 (local time) when they were met by the Travel Representative and were escorted to the Royal River Hotel, where most of the party retired to catch up on their sleep. The afternoon was spent exploring the waterways, and they had their first introduction to the "local brew" – laced fruit drinks. Later they returned and tied up to the Hotel's Landing stage in time to prepare for a seafood barbeque held in the open on a beautiful balmy night. The party were welcomed by Don Hearley of the Royal Bangkok Sports Club.

First Game:

The warm evening of February 11 saw the ABs line up for their first game against the Royal Sporting Club of Bangkok on grass but under lights.

The opposition looked much younger than acceptable veteran age and this proved to be the case but ABs got into their stride and slowly began to contain the Royals who were dangerous on the break. ABs got the ball in the net but it was foot-aided. Then they scored a legitimate goal, John Carrick netting from a long corner. Fitness and youth of the Royals began to tell and it was no surprise when they equalised, Roger Carter having no chance in ABs goal. Brian Lomer, who strained his back, was replaced by Alan Filby and the interval came with no further score.

ABs kept possession well in the second half and John Carrick soon completed his hat-trick. This incensed Royals who pressed hard but Roger Carter made some splendid saves to keep them at bay. Then Royals made five substitutions and got one back, but fifteen minutes from the end, Ken Clarke was replaced by Ian Garrod who immediately scored ABs fourth for a final score-line of 4-2. The question in everyone's minds will be: “Was the bottle of Bells, being kept for the first win, - opened ?? The report does not mention this.

A satisfying day ended for the ABs with a Reception and dinner hosted by the Royal Sporting Club.

**Team: Roger Carter, Chris Webb (capt), John Sharpe, Alan Francis, Clive Richardson, Arthur Barber, John Polley, Peter Jones, Brian Lomer, Ken Clarke, John Carrick.**

**Substitutes: Alan Filby, Ian Garrod.**

**Umpires: John Oakley and Bob Moorhouse.**

**Man of the Match: John Carrick.**

**Ancient Aussies:**

Perth, Western Australia, and the Chateau Commodore was the next stop where the party enjoyed two days rest before taking on Ancient Aussies on **15 February** in the Commonwealth Hockey Stadium at 4.30 when the heat of a glorious day was in decline. Even so it was agreed, due to the temperature, that players could be substituted for a spell and return when required.

Early stages were even with most play in mid-field, but Aussies opened the scoring following up for a rebound. The Ancient Britons could not settle and Alan Filby, playing well in goal, kept the Aussies out. Eventually after a period of sustained pressure John Carrick equalised. Further inspiration was found and just before half-time Ken Clarke took the ball across the circle before passing to John Carrick who registered his second goal.

Ancient Aussies started the second half on the rampage but ABs went further ahead, Ken Clarke scoring from a short corner. Aussies kept up the pressure but could find no way past Alan Filby. Then they had a shot disallowed at a short corner and were eventually not to be denied when, with the ABs defence in disarray they scored – and then quickly added the equaliser.

End to end play followed with both teams feeling the effects of their efforts and the temperature. Aussies got the winner when a cross from the right was guided past an unsighted Alan Filby. ABs fought hard to get on terms but it was not to be. Everyone was exhausted but the game had been played in a wonderful spirit and was a credit to all. Final score was 4-3 to the Ancient Aussies.

**Team: Alan Filby, Chris Webb, Brian Lomer, Bob Moorhouse, Ken Clarke, Arthur Barber, Clive Richardson, John Polley, John Carrick, Alan Francis, Peter Jones.**

**Umpire: John Oakley.**

**Man of the Match: Alan Filby.**

**Adelaide Veterans:**

Two days later our intrepid travellers boarded an Ansett Airlines flight for the 5-hour trip to Adelaide where they were to stay for four days at the Meridien Lodge. They had about 24 hours to take stock of their dwindling playing strength before facing the Adelaide Veterans.

The eleven remaining fit men lined up in the magnificent Pines Stadium at 4pm the next day, **18 February**. There were no reserves available with one player absent and two on the sick list. The home side were in control from the start and Alan Filby carried on where he left off in Perth, but the pressure mounted, and inevitably the Adelaide Veterans scored the first, giving Alan no chance.

Further misfortune followed. Arthur Barber left the field with heat exhaustion, leaving ABs with ten men and it was not long before Adelaide scored again from a mêlée in the circle, despite Alan Filby's continued outstanding form in goal.

Arthur's return to the field did not stop the home side adding their third. Just on half-time John Carrick sustained a badly twisted ankle and took no further part in the game.

With only 10 fit men ABs put Roger Carter, who was suffering from heat exhaustion and stomach upset, into goal so that Alan Filby could bring the field players up to numbers. ABs played with great spirit, but with Adelaide able to make use of their 16-man squad the battle became very

one-sided. Adelaide scored with regular monotony until with seven against them ABs threw caution to the winds and scored a consolation goal through Arthur Barber. John Polley, who ran his heart out trying to cover in defence as well as maintaining his place in the attack, was declared Man of the Match.

Final score: Adelaide Veterans 7 Ancient Britons 1

#### **Over 50s:**

Two days later Ancient Britons played their second game in Pines Stadium against South Australian Over 50s. Good steady work by the ABs defence early in the game kept the Over 50s at bay, but eventually the home side scored when they broke away following a wasted AB short corner. The first half finished with Roger Carter making three fine saves, John Sharpe clearing off the line and Chris Webb playing a captain's game at full back.

Early in the second half ABs had a chance but the Australian keeper saved Ken Clarke's stroke. The Over 50s got back in the game and score twice more before the end with no reply.

Again the visitors seemed unable to get the best from their set pieces, of which there were many. The penalty stroke and corners alike were all missed scoring opportunities.

Final score: South Australian Over 50s 3 Ancient Britons 0

**Team: Roger Carter, Chris Webb, Brian Lomer, John Sharpe, Ken Clarke, Arthur Barber, Clive Richardson, Peter Jones, John Polley, Alan Francis, Alan Filby.**

**Umpire: John Oakley.**

**Substitute: Bob Moorhouse.**

**Man of the Match: Chris Webb.**

Victoria Veterans:

A threatened air strike did not materialise and the party arrived safely at Melbourne on 21 February where the weather was not too hot, the food excellent and the Fosters being consumed at a steady rate, led by Chris Webb.

Royal Park, 4pm, February 22 against Victoria Veterans, was the next pitch-call for the ABs. The first half was a story of missed chances by both teams with Victoria getting the only goal, breaking away with the Ancient Briton's defence flat-footed.

The second half started well for ABs, but not before they had missed three short corners did Clive Richardson make no mistake with a cross from the right. Goals followed at regular intervals, Victoria Veterans getting three more and Ken Clarke getting ABs second with a well taken short corner.

The Victoria Club put on a grand barbeque after the game for all concerned and Mr J W Smith, President welcomed the party. John Carrick replied for the Ancient Britons.

Final score: Victoria Veterans 4 Ancient Britons 2

**Team: Roger Carter, Chris Webb, Brian Lomer, John Sharpe, Ken Clarke, Arthur Barber, Clive Richardson, Peter Jones, John Polley, Alan Francis, Alan Filby.**

**Umpires: John Oakley and Brian Jansz.**

**Substitute: John Reynolds.**

**Man of the Match: Ken Clarke.**

**Bob Moorhouse and John Carrick remain on the injured List, both with ankle injuries.**

**ACT (Australian Capital Territory):**

**Saturday 25 February** saw ABs at Canberra where the magnificent Institute of Sports Complex has a plastic pitch regarded as the best in Australia. The GB Team asked to use it for training prior to the Olympics in Seoul.

With the temperature in the low eighties the game started at 2 pm and although ABs pressed and won two corners the home side scored twice, both giving Alan Filby no chance. Alan continued to play well but he could not stop ACT Vets from scoring twice more to give them a 4-0 lead. This was reduced just before half-time by Vince O'Connor, guesting for ABs.

ACT continued to dominate in the second half, but allowed Clive Richardson to break away and get AB's second goal. Peter Jones left the field with a pulled muscle and shortly after, owing to the substitution of players due to heat, Chris Webb found himself on the right wing. Chris relishes such a challenge and he was soon on one of his famous runs – round the back, round the keeper and hey presto, a goal.

With the score now 4-3 and with ABs transformed, Chris went on a second run and crossed for Ken Clarke to steer the ball into an empty goal and tie the score at 4-4. Then Vince O'Connor scored his second and the ABs led. However this state of affairs did not last long as ACT Vets scored twice in the final minutes to win 6-5.

After the game the visitors were entertained to yet another barbeque, more drink, plus a few songs !!

**Team:** Alan Filby, Chris Webb, Brian Lomer, John Sharpe, Ken Clarke, Clive Richardson, Arthur Barber, Peter Jones, John Polley, Alan Francis, John Reynolds, Vincent O'Connor.

**Umpire:** John Oakley.

**Substitute:** Roger Carter.

The Ancient Britons still have Bob Moorhouse on crutches and John Carrick with his badly ankle. The injury list has increased with Peter Jones and Brian Lomer with pulled muscles. Having played the majority of their hockey over recent years on grass, the ABs are finding it difficult to adjust to plastic. To date, the only tour game on grass was the first one, at Bangkok, which they won.

We leave our footsore Veterans in Canberra, with the sincere hope that all the injured will soon be back in the fighting line. Reinforcements are due to arrive in Sydney on **March 3** in the shapes of Paul and Peter Bloomfield, Steve Hattersley, Rod Harling and Roger Fry.

**On Tuesday February 28** for their second game in Canberra, the AB's opponents were, once again, the ACT Veterans. The game was played at 4pm in a temperature of 25/30°C at the Institute of Sport with television and newspapers reporting.

With John Carrick back from his ankle injury and Roger Evans, late of the United Services, it was not long before the match developed into a midfield tussle. The Australians were the first to score through Vincent O'Connor, but Arthur Barber put the score on equal terms, with a well taken penalty stroke. Goals came regularly, until the score reached 4-3 in ACT's favour. At this stage the ABs began to wilt and with one final burst from their opponents, conceded one more goal at a short corner to make the final score 5-3.

The ACT Veterans entertained their visitors right royally in the evening, during which time awards were made to Chris Webb, John Sharpe and Bob Moorhouse. Brian Colquhoun welcomed the Ancient Britons and their wives. Captain Webb replied on behalf of the tourists. The official part of the evening finished with a rendering of the Ancient Britons fighting song – words to the tune of

**Men of Harlech. I must get a copy of the words and find out what connection Harlech was with the Ancient Britons.**

Team: Roger Carter, Chris Webb, John Sharpe, John Reynolds, John Polley, Arthur Barber, Peter Jones, John Carrick, Alan Francis, Clive Richardson and Alan Filby.

Substitute: Roger Evans.

Umpire: John Oakley.

Man of the Match: Roger Evans.

**After two days away from hockey, the ABs played the first of their two games in Sydney, on Friday March 3 at the Moorbank Liverpool Hockey Complex.**

**The game got off to a bad start, as the home side were very late in arriving and as a result, the game had to be cut. The ABs never really put their act together, missing various assorted corners and making half-hearted passes which should have resulted in goals.**

**The Moorbank Vets scored twice in the first half and it was not until well into the second that the ABs registered a goal through Peter Jones, after some good defensive work by Arthur Barber and John Sharpe. Final score – Moorbank 2 ABs 1**

Team: Roger Carter, Chris Webb, John Sharpe, John Polley, Arthur Barber, Clive Richardson, Peter Jones, John Carrick, Alan Filby, A N Other.

Umpire: Bob Moorhouse.

Man of the Match: John Carrick.

## The “Inaugural” Tour - Part 2

On March 4 1989 the ABs travelled to Wollongong for a three-day stay, where reinforcements caught up with them in the shape of Peter and Paul Bloomfield, Steve Hattersley and Rod Harling.

The match in Wollongong was played on Sunday March 5 against the Illawarra Veterans on the first grass since arriving in Australia. Before the game, both skippers were presented to the Mayor Frank Arkell who addressed the gathering. The skippers replied and the Ancient Britons presented their pennant to the Mayor.

With the new blood in the team and playing on grass, the ABs soon settled down to open play and well drilled hockey. Steve Hattersley was soon in command of the mid-field, breaking up most of the attacks and spraying passes to both wings, which kept up continuous pressure on their opponents. Unfortunately they were unable to capitalise on this pressure and it was against the run of play when an Illawarra forward rounded the ABs grounded keeper to score the first goal of the match.

After a series of short corners, all well saved by the host keeper, John Carrick latched onto a pass from John Polley to equalise. John scored again early in the second half to take ABs into a 2-1 lead. This did not last too long as Illawarra converted a short corner and a penalty stroke, the latter as a result of Steve having been adjudged to have pushed an opponent, to give the final scoreline of Illawarra 3 ABs 2.

Team: Rod Harling, Chris Webb, John Sharpe, John Polley, Arthur Barber, Peter Jones, John Carrick, Clive Richardson, Peter Bloomfield, Paul Bloomfield, Steve Hattersley.

Reserve: Alan Filby.

Man of the Match: Steve Hattersley.

**On Tuesday March 7** the ABs returned to Sydney in time to face, for the second time, Moorbank Liverpool Veterans. Playing in the Sports Complex at 5 pm with the temperature at 35°C and humid, the ABs had plenty of reserves and two guests.

They quickly got into their stride and it was not long before Gary Hicks scored the ABs first goal. They were now playing their best hockey of the tour and after gaining several short corners and hits around the circle, John Carrick scored forma good passing move.

Moorbank came back strongly forcing a number of short corners, all of which were well saved by Rod Harling. From a long clearance, John Carrick ran through to see his shot go wide. However, he was not to be denied, as moments later his rasping shot gave the keeper no chance. Half-time came with the ABs leading 3-0 and with the Moorbank Vets trying to get back into the game, but with the Ancient Briton's defence playing soundly, they did not have much success.

Both teams were now interchanging their players to overcome the heat, which, for once, found the ABs faring better than their opponents. By this time the visitors could do no wrong, scoring two more goals through John Carrick, bringing his personal tally to four. A minute before time Moorbank scored a consolation goal for a final score of 5-1 to the ABs.

**Team: Rod Harling, Chris Webb, Arthur Barber, John Sharpe, John Polley, Gary Hicks, Steve Hattersley, Paul Bloomfield, Don Kyle, Peter Bloomfield, Alan Francis.**

**Reserves: Clive Richardson, John Carrick, Peter Jones, Alan Filby.**

**Man of the Match: John Carrick.**

The scene now changes to the Seacrest Apartments, Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast, for a four night stay. There was a possibility of a hockey match, but in the meantime, the tourists played golf, cruised to Ladbroke Island, and spent time at the Currumbin Bird Sanctuary and Dreamworld.

This period of relaxation was shattered at 4.30 pm on **Sunday March 12**, when our revellers found themselves up against the Combined Gold Coast Veterans at the Palm Beach All Stars Hockey Club.

The match was played on grass with the usual number of short corners being taken and missed by both teams. However as the ABs got used to the 'long' grass and succeeded in hitting the ball hard enough to get from one player to another, Clive Richardson broke through the foliage and scored.

This set-back seemed to have an effect on Gold Coast, who started to come forward with some dangerous forays, one of which ended with the ball being put over the ABs keeper into an empty goal. What had enticed Rodney off his line?

This turned out to be a vulnerable time for the ABs goal area, which saw Rod diving and lying on the ground and CGC forwards waltzing round him, only to find Arthur Barber saving on the line.

The second half was much like the first until the Gold Coast scored from a breakaway. But it was not long before John Carrick said that enough is enough and scored following a fine solo run.

With ten minutes left the ABs put on so much pressure that the CGC were hitting the ball upfield just to give themselves breathing time and space. But still the onslaught continued with Paul Bloomfield scoring a goal which was disallowed. Final score was 2-2.

**Team: Rod Harling, Chris Webb, John Sharpe, Roger Fry, Peter Jones, Peter Bloomfield, Alan Francis, John Carrick, Paul Bloomfield, Steve Hattersley, Clive Richardson.**

**Substitutes: John Polley, Alan Filby, Arthur Barber.**

**Umpires: Bob Moorhouse and Lindsay Lawer.**

On Tuesday March 14 Surfers Paradise was vacated and after a journey via Brisbane, the ABs arrived at the Cairns Colonial Club in Manunda Cairns, Queensland. Wednesday was spent exploring the Barrier Reef and Island.

This exploring must have had its effects on our travellers as they suffered one of their worst defeats. The game was played on Thursday March 16 at the Brotherhood hockey Club at 6.20 pm on a grass pitch under lights in a humid atmosphere as may be expected in the tropics.

The Cairns team were much younger and had many replacements to call upon. The going for the ABs was tough and with Cairns scoring their first goal within four minutes, things got tougher.

With goals coming at regular intervals, the Cairns side were playing as though there was no tomorrow. The ABs battled on with Arthur Barber in defence always looking tidy when tackling and clearing his lines. In the midst of all the turmoil John Carrick found time to score his 14<sup>th</sup> goal of the Tour.

Final score: Cairns 7 ABs 1

**Team: Rod Harling, Chris Webb, John Sharpe, John Polley, Alan Filby, Paul Bloomfield, Steve Hattersley, Arthur Barber, John Carrick, Clive Richardson, Peter Bloomfield.**

**Substitutes: Alan Francis, Peter Jones, Roger Fry.**

**Man of the Match: Arthur Barber.**

The last game played on Australian soil was against the Townsville Veterans. It took place at the Townsville Hockey Centre at 6.30 pm on Saturday March 18 on a superb plastic and sand pitch with lights like daylight.

These conditions were quite the best experienced in Australia and, as it turned out, the standard matched the conditions. The match started a little late, as each player was introduced individually by name and had to run out onto the pitch. There had been a considerable amount of publicity concerning the event, which had promoted a great deal of interest.

The first half produced some excellent hockey, with both sides playing at a good pace. Both goalkeepers were constantly in action, making great saves which ensured a goalless situation at half-time.

The second half saw Townsville increasing the pressure and as a result scored a well-deserved goal. During the last ten minutes the ABs tried everything in the book to level the score, but to no avail and the final score remained 1-0 to Townsville.

After the game the ABs were treated to a very enjoyable evening with good food, wine and beer, which was finally curtailed by a thunder-storm.

**Team: Rod Harling, Arthur Barber, Paul Bloomfield, Clive Richardson, Steve Hattersley, Roger Fry, John Polley, Chris Webb, John Carrick, Alan Francis, Peter Jones.**

**Substitutes: John Sharpe, Alan Filby, Peter Bloomfield.**

**Umpire: Bob Moorhouse.**

**Man of the Match: Rod Harling.**

And so they bade farewell to this tropical island paradise with its sun-kissed plastic hockey pitches, endless barbecues and missed short corners. The party arrived in Singapore on Monday March 20 for the final three days of the Tour.

Most of the time was spent exploring the city, not to mention the culinary delights of the Excelsior Hotel. The match against the Singapore hockey Club could almost appear as an afterthought, taking

place on their last day **Wednesday March 22.**

The setting and Clubhouse were grand, bearing the colonial standard of the pre-war years. As may be expected the Singapore team were of a younger age and included a number of Asian players with very good stick expertise.

It was an enjoyable game, played on grass and well umpired by Captain Arul Subramanian and Mr M Neethiaivathan. Both these gentleman served on the Seoul panel. The final score was Singapore Hockey Club 3 Ancient Britons 1, and after the game presentations were made during the evening's entertainment. Roger Fry thanked all concerned on behalf of the Ancient Britons.

**Team: Roger Carter, Chris Webb, Arthur Barber, Peter Bloomfield, Clive Richardson, Steve Hattersley, Alan Francis, John Polley, Peter Jones, Roger Fry, Alan Filby.**

**Substitutes: Bob Moorhouse, Paul Bloomfield, John Sharpe, John Carrick.**

**Man of the Match: John Sharpe.**

