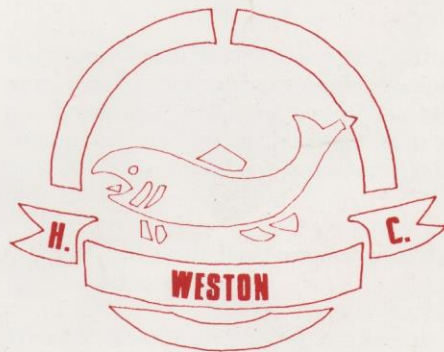


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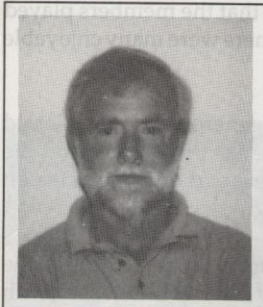
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CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Dear Friends,



It is a great honour for me to serve as Chairman of Weston in this our 50th year. I realise that some of the more "senior past members" of the club do not know me, or indeed any of the other members of the present committee, but I can assure you, that in true Weston tradition, that all your exploits, both heroic and otherwise have been handed down.

What kind of a club have we now after 50 years? What kind of success have we achieved?

We must ask ourselves by what is success measured. If it is by a trophy on a wall, or, silver cups in need of polishing, then we are indeed a poor club, but if success and achievement can be measured in good friendship, and a dogged tenacity to keep going in spite of everything, then I believe we have the best club in the country.

Finally, I would like to say to the younger members of Weston, the club will eventually be yours to steer through to the year 2043, mind it, care for it, and above all, enjoy it.

Yours in sport,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Harris". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Tom Harris,
Chairman



IN THE BEGINNING

Fifty years of hockey have now passed in Weston Hockey Club. There have been times of celebration and disappointment during those years and this seems an appropriate time to look back and remember, or in some of our cases to learn a bit about the history of the club.

It all started back in 1943 when the club was formed as Weston Lawn Tennis and Hockey Club. Both tennis and hockey were played by members of the club from the beginning. Tennis was a prominent sport within the club. At one stage there were six tennis courts in the club grounds. However, in later years, it was no longer played and the club's name was shortened to its present one.

The club did not start competitive hockey until the 1954/55 season. Before that the members played hockey friendlies (4 men and 3 women) against teams around the country. There were many enjoyable trips to venues like Athlone, Trim and Glenannes amongst others.

The club rented grounds off the Tara co-op (made available through the generosity of Mr. Gerald Burke) and built their own pavilion. The pavilion was originally used in the electrical scheme for the ESB dam in Leixlip which was happening at the time. It was acquired, taken apart and re-erected on the club's grounds until the late sixties at which stage the pavilion was sold.

Many enjoyable evenings were held in this pavilion with the social side being, as it has all through the fifty years, an important part of the club. Dances were held regularly in the clubhouse, with entertainment provided by a three-piece band every Sunday night. Several romances began at these dances, some of which resulted in marriage and a new generation of hockey players.

The club organised its first annual dance in 1958 which was held in the Metropole in Dublin. This was an event which was to continue for many years after.

The members also used to travel to Galway in the earlier years to play seven-a-side tournaments at the end of the season. This custom is still here in present time.

The crest of the club is centred around a leaping salmon. This originated from the Salmon Leap Weir which is situated near to the original grounds of the club in the Tara Co-op.



A younger
Brendan O'Hare
and **Eamon Duke**
taking a rest after
a game of tennis
on the courts in
front of the
pavillion in
Tara Co-op
grounds.

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 ON THEIR
 50th ANNIVERSARY**

TENNIS

Tennis was the main sport being played in Weston Lawn Tennis and Hockey Club in the earlier years. There was at one stage six tennis courts on the club's first grounds. However, due to the Tara Co-op having to take over some of the land, three of the courts were lost.

The members competed in both the mens and ladies Dublin Leagues, but without success. They also held competitions within the club amongst themselves. The best known of these competitions was for the Abie Jacob Memorial Cup. Names of winners to be seen on this trophy from the early fifties include Rev. M. Hayes, I. Jacob, B. Burke and B. O'Hare.

The tennis had a very sociable aspect to it with tournaments arranged with Athlone and Duleek amongst others. Sadly tennis declined in the sixties and hockey became the dominant sport in the club. Perhaps some person out there might consider starting this sport up again in the club.



B. Burke and D. Foxe in the final of the Abie Jacob Tennis Cup in 1956.

B. Burke went on to win the match.




Some earlier Weston lady Tennis Players



Nancy Birnie,
Kevin Duke
and
Una Duke

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THE EARLIER YEARS - MENS

In their first competitive year of hockey, the 1954/55 season, the men won the Minor Cup in the Leinster Section, after a replay, against the Royal College of Surgeons. The final score was Weston (2) R.C.S.I. (0), K. Duke being the scorer of the two goals. The captain that day was H. Vallom.

That year they also reached the final of the Junior League against Railway Union but lost on the day by two goals to nil. The following year, 1955/1956, they again won the Minor Cup. This time it was against Three Rock Rovers with the only score of the day being one goal by J. Black who was also captain that day.

However that year again they were beaten in the Junior League final. This time their opponents were Willwood who won by two goals to nil.



1954/1955 Minor Cup Winners Team

Back Row (Left to Right) D. Delemere, P. Moore, B. Birnie, P. Molloy, L. Duke, T. Molloy, K. Duke, P. McCarthy, B. Burke, J. Kane.
Front Row (Left to Right) L. Eiffe, D. Smith, M. Lynam, H. Vallom (Capt.), J. Black, P. Lynam, E. Duke.



The picture above shows the finalists in the 1954/55 Minor Cup - Weston and Royal College of Surgeons. This was the replay (the previous match which was held on 17th march, 1955 having ended in a draw). Weston were playing in white due to a clash of colours. The victors were Weston by two goals to nil - K. Duke being the scorer of the two goals. H. Vallom was the captain that day. There is one player of the team missing from the above photograph. This was Parkes Lynam who was injured during the match and was brought to hospital. That was the last match that Parkes Lynam played for Weston Hockey Club.

THE EARLIER YEARS - MENS (CONTINUED)

By 1956/57 they had established themselves as an up and coming club and, in that their third year, were promoted to Intermediate Grade. They justified their promotion by winning the Intermediate Cup against Newtimes II. The score was Weston (2) Newtimes (1) with W. Birnie being the scorer of the two goals. J. Black was captain that day.

That year, they also reached the final of the Intermediate League final but lost to Aircorps by four goals to two. However they were not to be denied and in their fourth year succeeded in bringing off the illusive double by winning both cup and league. The Intermediate Cup final match was against Lorraine with the score being Weston (1) Lorraine (0). The scorer was B. O'Hare. The Intermediate League final match was against Aircorps (after going to a replay) and was won by two goals to nil, K. Duke being the scorer of the two goals. The captain for the two finals that year was B. Burke.

Also in that very successful year, 1957/58, the Westons II won the Minor Cup with L. Eiffe being the captain of the team that day.

During the first four years of competitive hockey, the mens teams were unbeaten on home ground in both minor and intermediate cup and league matches.



1956/57 Intermediate Cup Final
W. Bernie scoring the winning goal against Newtimes
Final Score: Weston (2) Newtimes (1)

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Alec Birnie Dip Arch Tech, R.I.A.I. (Tech)



Bernard Burke - Captain of Weston 1st Mens
in 1957/58 season when they achieved the
double - Intermediate Cup and League

THE EARLIER YEARS - MENS (CONTINUED)

Thereafter there was a lull in the Weston Mens' victories until 1963/1964 when they again won the Intermediate League final against Pembroke IV by one goal to nil. The captain that day was W. Birnie. They did however in 1960/61 reach the Leinster final of the Irish Junior Cup, and in 1966/1967 the Galtrim Cup final but were beaten both times.



**1963/64 Intermediate
League Winners**

Back (left to Right)
B. O'Hare, K. Duke,
E. Malone, W. Burke,
F. McLoughlin,
P. Molloy,
F. McGivern, M. Foxe

Front (Left to Right)
J. Buckley, B. Burke,
W. Birnie (Capt.),
B. Hughes,
W. Condron

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THE EARLIER YEARS - LADIES

Minor League Winners 1956

Front Row: P. McCormack, K. Smith, Mrs. E. Lynam (Capt.) M. Lyons, J. Kelly, A. O'Brien.

Back Row: E. O'Brien, E. Clearly, P. O'Brien, C. Farrell, M. O'Carroll, C. Kelly



The club also catered for women, and not to be outdone, the ladies team won the Minor League in their first competitive year of hockey - the 1955/1956 season. They went on to win again in the Junior League final in the 1956/1957 season and progressed up to Intermediate League level.

By 1960 there were three ladies teams in the club competing in different leagues. The fact that they were not very successful around that time did not take from the enjoyment that they got in meeting up every weekend during the season and participating in the games.

In both the 1966/1967 and 1967/1968 seasons, Weston Ladies were successful in getting to the final of the Junior Badges. However they were on the losing side in both years. Also in the 1967/1968 season, the same team had only one defeat in the league and were unfortunate to come runners-up in that as well. At that time the ladies teams competed for badges while the mens competed for cups.

It was not long after that the club had to leave Tara Co-op grounds and the ladies team had to regrettably disband due to a stipulation in the ladies hockey rules at the time that they had to have a home ground.

It was to be nearly ten years before they started up again.

THE MIDDLE YEARS TO PRESENT DAY - MENS



1992/1993 Intermediate Cup Finalists Team

Back (L to R) B. Burke, J. Kelly, R. O'Hare, F. Attride, F. Brennan,
P. Loughnane, M. Birnie, S. O'Hare (capt.)
Front (L to R) B. O'Hare (Manager, N. Hipwell, T. Kinsella, D. Kirwin,
D. O'Brien, A. Birnie, M. Baldwin

In 1968/1969 Weston were again beaten in another final. This time it was the Walters Cup. During the 1970's the Weston men's section found the competition at First Team level difficult as they had no home base or the use of a pitch for training purposes. Other clubs in the Leinster Branch that had such facilities went from strength to strength as it was not until the 1970's that training was to play such a vital part of success in league and cup competitions.

In 1974/1975 Weston II won the Junior League and only dropped one point in their League campaign of that year. Again in 1979/1980 Weston II captained by B. O'Hare with most of the same panel beat Pembroke by a single goal, scored by F. McLoughlin in a thrilling Leinster Junior Cup final. The celebrations after that match lasted for almost a week.

As a matter of fact, even to this day, some of the players have been seen to lift a glass at the mention of that goal.

Yet again in 1987/1988 Weston were beaten in another Walters Cup Final. In the 1980's the Weston Mens managed to field three teams in Leinster Branch league and cup fixtures. With the running of these three teams the strength of hockey again improved and in recent years the success of the men's first team has given the club great expectations for the nineties.

In the 1992/1993 season the men's firsts were narrowly beaten in the Intermediate Cup final. After Weston gained the lead in the first half by a splendid goal by S. O'Hare (Capt.), U.C.D. battled on to reach a two goal to one lead after extra time. Weston won a penalty stroke with ten seconds remaining in extra time. But a fantastic save by the U.C.D. keeper brought the cup to Belfield.

The same team gained promotion to the Senior Leagues and this season will see Weston Hockey Club in Senior hockey for the first time in its history.

Leinster Junior Cup 1979/80

Although all eleven players and substitutes were instructed to have new shirts for the Cup final by Brendan O'Hare (Capt.), it was not until the match was about to commence that Billy Birnie removed his tracksuit to reveal that he was wearing his original Weston shirt.

Billy's shirt, which he had worn in previous cup finals almost twenty five years before, had brought him luck then and although his fellow players protested in respect of the faded colour, it was to bring him luck once again when Weston clinched victory over a much fancied Pembroke Wanderers side with a tremendous goal from Fergal McLoughlin.

(L to R) F. McLoughlin, A. Birnie, S. O'Hanlon, N. van Lonkhuyzen, M. Baldwin, D. Heywood-Jones, A. Flynn, B. Birnie, B. O'Hare (capt), C. McMahon, L. Minihan.



THE MIDDLE YEARS TO PRESENT DAY - LADIES



Ladies Team 1981

Back (L to R): A. Brannigan, M. Maher, M. McDonnell,
A. Jarvis, H. Kavanagh, A. Donlon
Front (L to R): M. Donlon, M. Guidan, V. King,
M. O'Hanlon, C. Losty



Weston Ladies 1992/1993

Back (L to R): S. Place, S. Duke, H. Donovan, L. Jarvis,
B. Wynne, M. Dalton, F. Keane
Front (L to R): E. Jarvis, S. Curran, A.M. Jarvis, E. O'Connor



Weston Ladies 1st Team - 1992/1993 Season

Back (L to R) A. Jarvis, E. Jarvis, L. Jarvis, D. Birnie, A. Jarvis, A. Kelly, S. Place
Front (L to R) D. Larragy, M. Dalton, H. Donovan, T. O'Brien, E. Harris

The ladies section of Weston Hockey Club was reformed in 1976 when they started to play friendly matches in the Sunday league.

They then entered the Leinster Leagues in the 1978/1979 season. In the mid 1980's a second team came on stream, comprising mainly of schoolgirls who had played hockey in the under 16 Community Games team.

Over the years the highlight of the ladies 1st team was reaching the quarter final of the Junior Cup and the semi final of the Middle Cup, where they lost 1-0 to Dalkey after a replay. In their days in Junior hockey they entered teams in the Sunday League and reached the final on two occasions unfortunately ending on the losing side both times.

The ladies second team won promotion to Minor A league two years ago and just barely lost out on promotion again in the 1992/1993 season.

Although success appears to be evading our ladies' teams presently, it does not take from the enthusiasm and enjoyment that can be seen on the pitches during the season.

They are also at the moment endeavouring to attract new members to the club as well as past members who may feel the itch to come back again.

NOMADIC TRAVELS

During the last fifty years, Weston Hockey Club has used numerous pitches as its home grounds, the main ones being Tara Co-op, Irish Hockey Union Grounds in Templeogue, Coolmine Sports Complex and more recently the Dominican Convent in Cabra.

However there were times, in between, when the club had not even the luxury of having a home ground at all. Common occurrences included looking for pitches the Friday night before a match or arriving to play a fixture only to find they were locked out of the pavilions. But none of these problems compared to what the earlier members had to do before playing either a hockey or tennis game on the grounds in Tara Co-op. They used to carry shovels in their kit bags so as to lift the 'cow pats' off the pitches before the matches began.



Weston Ladies Hockey Team 1988/89 Season
Back (L to R) A. Barry, J. Kelly, T. O'Brien, M. Donlon, E. Jarvis,
A. Donlon, A. Jarvis, A. Jarvis (Coach)
Front (L to R) D. Larragy, H. Loughnane, I. O'Toole,
S. Place, D. Birnie, L. Jarvis

It is fair to say that it is not from lack of effort that the club does not have its own pitch in this, its fiftieth year. For the past twelve years a project has been ongoing to raise finance for the building of an all-weather hockey pitch on the site in Esker, Lucan. Members of the club involved in present negotiations with Dublin County Council are hopeful that in this, our Golden Year, the remaining finance required may be arranged in the near future. Fingers crossed.



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WESTONS VICTORIES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>Competition</i>
1954 / 1955	Mens I	Minor Cup
1955 / 1956	Womens I	Minor League
1955 / 1956	Mens I	Minor Cup
1956 / 1957	Womens I	Junior League
1956 / 1957	Mens I	Intermediate Cup
1957 / 1958	Mens I	Intermediate Cup
1957 / 1958	Mens I	Intermediate League
1957 / 1958	Mens II	Minor Cup
1963 / 1964	Mens I	Intermediate League
1974 / 1975	Mens II	Junior League
1979 / 1980	Mens II	Junior Cup

FINAL NOTE

We would like to thank the past and present members who supplied the information and photographs used in the compilation of this booklet and regret that we had not the space to print everything collected.

We feel it necessary to point out that, due to the risk of omitting persons deserving of mention, we have kept to a minimum the names of people who were involved in the running of the club during the past fifty years. We apologise if this has offended anyone and would like to thank you for your contribution to Weston Hockey Club over the years.

Sponsorship from businesses has also been a major factor in the running of the club since its beginning. We express our gratitude to them and hope that their generosity will be returned by our continued support. Here's to the next fifty years

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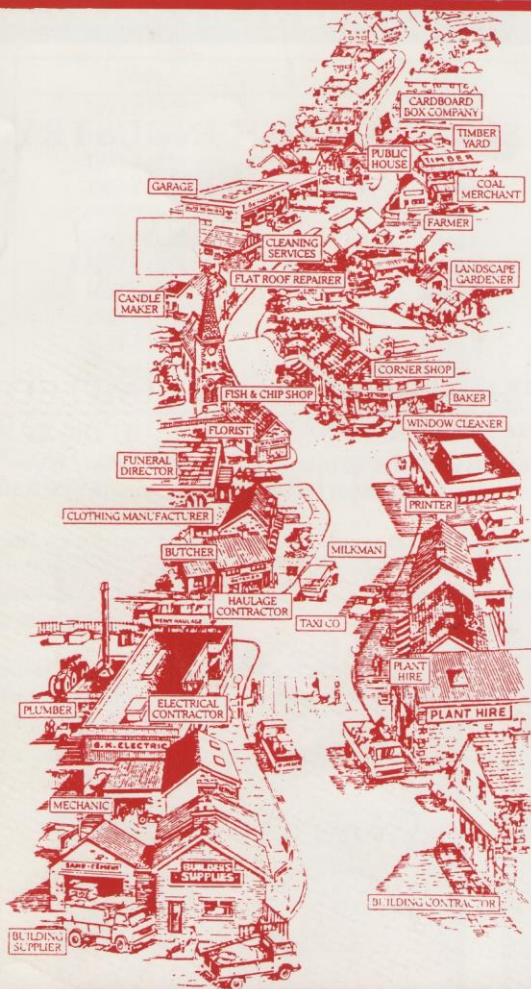
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