



1997 Premiership

Grand Final Blitz as Dons Annihilate Kew

In their 6-1 annihilation of Kew in the 1997 State League One men's hockey grand final, Doncaster not only buried Kew but also the disappointment of the last minute loss to Altona in the 1996 grand final.

After a 3-0 loss to Kew in the second semi-final, in which Doncaster's competition best forward line was held scoreless for the first time this season, the transformation was remarkable.

To get to the grand final, Doncaster had to overcome old foe, Camberwell in a tough preliminary final encounter in which Doncaster finally wore down the Camberwell defence to win 3-1.

Doncaster went into the grand final at better than full-strength when coach, Craig Fairbrother, was able to call on the services of 1993 premiership player, Jason Manos who is currently attached to the Australian Institute of Sport in Perth. The silken skilled Manos agreed to fly home for the game even though he is currently vying for a place in the national squad where he hopes to join Doncaster teammates James Elmer and Jeremy Hiskins.

Both sides opened confidently and Fairbrother's tactics soon became obvious, assigned Stuart Campbell to a tagging role on the ex-Doncaster and now Kew playing coach, Tim Reid and gave Stuart Todero the job on national player, Daniel Sproule. James Elmer appeared to have a high centre half role with Andrew Hodder taking the deep central mid-field position and Manos roaming the inside right position.

After about ten minutes of the usual finals "arm wrestle" Doncaster's intensity all over the field began to force Kew into basic skill errors, particularly in defence where the Doncaster forward line continually denied Kew easy outlets.

At the nineteen-minute mark and after a couple of promising attacks had broken down in front of goal, Manos carried the ball through a forest of Kew sticks, pushed the ball through to Elmer whose shot finished under the Kew keeper. With striker Daniel Clancy desperately trying to get the ball the umpire correctly ruled that the keeper was not attempting to free the ball and a penalty stroke was awarded.

The golden-haired one, Andrew Smith stepped up and just as he had done to Australian Keeper Lachlan Dreher in the preliminary final, he unleashed an unstoppable shot just under the crossbar.



DONCASTER HOCKEY CLUB

Doncaster was now clearly getting on top and Reid left the field and the attentions of "Libba" Campbell, no doubt to consult the whiteboard.

Just on the 26 min mark, Manos cut through the mid-field and found a curiously unattended James Elmer in enough space to build a suburban house. Elmer collected the centimetre perfect pass and from the edge of the circle ripped the ball into the net. The noisy Kew hill fell strangely silent as they contemplated the 2-0 lit up on the scoreboard.

Their silence deepened even further two minutes later when skipper, Mathew Woolsey chased down a deflection from a blocked penalty corner shot and crashed the ball into the net from an acute angle with some claimed but unproven help from Stuart Campbell.

Leading 3-0 with 5 min of the half to play it was important to deny Kew any rebound but they pressed forward and goal scorer Woolsey became goal saver Woolsey when he stopped and cleared a Kew shot from the line. However, Kew would not be denied and a poor clearance from another attack saw Kew's Andrew Wingrove score a brilliant goal from mid circle.

Although they trailed 3-1 at half time Kew must have believed they had some hope of getting back into the game and a tough second half was in prospect.

The first fifteen minutes of the second half was a tight struggle with Doncaster appearing to have the edge but with the Kew counter attacking style still capable of scoring against the run of play, the first to score was going to be important.

However, Doncaster's back four Hodder, Woolsey, Mathew Warner at full back and Keiran Whelan in goals proved equal to anything Kew could throw at them and as it transpired, they did not concede a single second half penalty corner. They thus blunted one of Kew's attacking strengths, the penalty corner hitting power of Todd Williams.

Kew's final hopes were dashed at the sixteen-minute mark when the hard-working David Shaw collected a ball on the left, carried it deep into the circle and then reverse-sticked it to an unmarked James Elmer on the top right side of the circle from where he gleefully cracked the ball into the back of the net.

At this point everyone realised the game was over and when the Doncaster crowd stole the Kew song they had very little to show for what must have started from a day of great promise.



However, Doncaster was not done yet and seven minutes later Clancy collected a long ball from deep in the Doncaster defence and was met at the top of the circle by the Kew keeper but somehow he managed to get a shot away which was helped into the net by a Kew defender scurrying back to defend the open goal.

Five to one up with 10 min to go, Doncaster refused to let up and 5 min from full time Andrew Smith, who had run himself ragged, managed another piece of magic, left two defenders stranded as he raced down the left wing. Smith entered the circle and with a perfect pass across the path of the oncoming keeper, he found Clancy who coolly deflected the ball into the net from close range. A gem!

The 6-1 scoreline was the biggest SL1 victory for 20 years and the celebrations began as the Doncaster crowd counted down the clock.

The Kew skipper Todd Williams was very gracious in defeat and said he knew Doncaster would be hard to beat but he hadn't realised how hard. A hard day at the office indeed!

Mathew Woolsey in accepting the trophies for both minor and major premierships paid tribute not only to the magnificent efforts of the team, the coach, team manager, Arthur McCartney and Chairmen of Selectors, Bruce Doig but to the quality of the Club's off-field efforts.

1997 State league One Grand Final

Doncaster 6 defeated Kew 1

Goals: James Elmer 2, Daniel Clancy 2, Andrew Smith, Matthew Woolsey
Best Players in an outstanding team performance were James Elmer who won the trophy for best on ground with a brilliant display of attacking hockey, Jason Manos mesmerised the Kew defence with his ball control and passing, Andrew Smith, not called the freak for nothing and Stuart Todero added another superstar scalp to his belt. However, it was a feature of this performance that Doncaster did not have a weak player in the thirteen that took the field and indeed the entire squad which included another 4 players on the bench is probably the strongest in the club's history.



DONCASTER HOCKEY CLUB



The team: Keiran Whelan (GK), Matthew Woolsey (Capt), Stuart Campbell, Andrew Hodder, Stuart Todero, Jason Manos, James Elmer, Richard Gange, Daniel Clancy, Andrew Smith, David Shaw, and Cameron Muir. Coach – Craig Fairbrother, TM – Arthur McCartney. Emergencies: Torren Henderson, James Esselmont, Jason Tomlinson, Stephen Parris (GK).

SL1 Men's 1993 & 1997 Premiership Re-union





Season 1997

TEAM PROFILE

State League 1

Proudly Sponsored by

NATIONAL CONCRETE

<u>COACH</u>	<u>CAPTAIN</u>
Name : Craig 'Feather' Fairbrother Number : 7 Age : Too old for this caper Position : Full Back "COOL"	Name : Matthew Woolsey Number : 2 Age : 25 Position : Full Back "THE DEBT COLLECTOR"
Name : Lachlan Elmer Number : 1 Age : 27 Position : Half "TERMINATOR"	Name : Dean Todero Number : 4 Age : 28 Position : Full Back "UNCOMPROMISING"
Name : David Shaw Number : 5 Age : 30 Position : Forward "FEARLESS"	Name : Stu Campbell Number : 6 Age : 21 Position : Forward "HAMMERHEAD"
Name : Stuart Todero Number : 9 Age : 26 Position : Half "HARD AS NAILS"	Name : Jason Henry Number : 10 Age : 23 Position : Half "STITCHED & VALIANT"
Name : Andrew Hodder Number : 12 Age : 26 Position : Half "QUICK & BRAVE"	Name : Jimmy Elmer Number : 13 Age : 25 Position : Forward "MAGICIAN"
Name : Tim Reid Number : 15 Age : 26 Position : Forward "COLD COURAGE"	Name : Andrew Smith Number : 25 Age : 17 Position : Forward "THE ICEMAN"
Name : Keiren 'Mad Dog' Whelan Number : 16 Age : 24 Position : Goalkeeper "MAD DOG"	Name : Richard Gange Number : 18 Age : 30 Position : Forward "INCREDIBLE HULKSTER"
Name : Steve Parris Number : 19 Age : 20 Position : Goalkeeper "THE PRINCE"	The team is well supported by Arthur 'Six Bucks' McCartney as Manager and Bruce 'Ned Flanders' Doig playing the role as assistant to whoever needs him.



SL1 1997 GF team



1997 Season Record

- 15 wins
- 4 draws
- 2 losses
- Goals for: 89
- Goals Against: 35
- Final Position: 1st

Grand Final Blitz as Dons Annihilate Kew

In their 6-1 annihilation of Kew in the 1997 State League One men's hockey grand final, Doncaster not only buried Kew but also the disappointment of the last minute loss to Altona in the 1996 grand final.

After a 3-0 loss to Kew in the second semi-final, in which Doncaster's competition best forward line was held scoreless for the first time this season, the transformation was remarkable.

To get to the grand final, Doncaster had to overcome old foe, Camberwell in a tough preliminary final encounter in which Doncaster finally wore down the Camberwell defence to win 3-1.

Doncaster went into the grand final at better than full-strength when coach, Craig Fairbrother, was able to call on the services of 1993 premiership player, Jason Manos who is currently attached to the Australian Institute of Sport in Perth. The silken skilled Manos agreed to fly home for the game even though he is currently vying for a place in the national squad where he hopes to join Doncaster team mates James Elmer and Jeremy Hiskins.

Both sides opened confidently and Fairbrother's tactics soon became obvious assigned Stuart Campbell to a tagging role on the ex-Doncaster and now Kew playing coach, Tim Reid and gave Stuart Todero the job on national player, Daniel Sproule. James Elmer appeared to have a high centre half role with Andrew Hodder taking the deep central mid-field position and Manos roaming the inside right position.

After about ten minutes of the usual finals "arm wrestle". Doncaster's intensity all over the field began force Kew into basic skill errors, particularly in defence where the Doncaster forward line continually denied Kew easy outlets.

At the nineteen minute mark and after a couple of promising attacks had broken down in front of goal. Manos carried the ball through a forest of Kew sticks, pushed the ball through to Elmer whose shot finished under the Kew 'keeper. With striker. Daniel Clancy desperately trying get the ball the umpire correctly ruled that the 'keeper was not attempting to free the ball and a penalty stroke was awarded.

SL1 Premiers 1997



DONCASTER HOCKEY CLUB
STATE LEAGUE 1 PREMIERS 1997

