



I might have told you that I come from a long standing proud Gold Coast family. In fact I was born in Southport Hospital. I have also had a very long and strong association with Gold Coast Hockey having my first game at the ripe age of 7 (some 40 years ago). I'm also proud of the fact that my father Ken McGuire was instrumental in founding the game way back when - around 1963 I believe. Dad went on to serve as a volunteer for the association for 30 + years in the roles of player and coach of multiple club and representative teams, being carnival convener for many local and state carnivals that were held on the Gold Coast as well as President of the association for many years. I have followed on Dad's footsteps with my personal involvement having been coaching and playing in club teams and Gold Coast representative teams and am currently the President of Mudgeeraba Hockey Club.

The point of all the above is to demonstrate that I have had a long association and love of the game of hockey on the Gold Coast. I have enjoyed playing and volunteering my time to support the game for many years. It is from this basis that I write to you as I wanted to make sure that you were aware of the views of the silent majority in relation to the issue of who will run the Gold Coast Hockey Complex post the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

You may be aware that one Gold Coast club - Labrador Hockey Club - is looking to obtain a stranglehold on part of the complex for their own benefit. I have been told that Labrador have been canvassing Gold Coast City Councillors and members of State Parliament for support for their preferred leasing arrangements and was concerned enough to prompt me to write to you and express my views which I can confidently state is consistent with the majority of the hockey community and in particular all other 5 Gold Coast Hockey club presidents and executive members. Ie – the silent Majority.

Whilst it is true that Labrador have invested funds into their current complex and it is unfortunate that these facilities need to be demolished to make way for the magnificent facility that will he'll have to enjoy post the games, it must be remembered that a number of other clubs have had to endure similar experiences when the Association moved to the current facility around 1990. In effect, with the exclusion of Labrador, all other clubs had to give up and leave behind their club houses and fields at Mallowa Drive Palm Beach, Isle of Capri and Salk oval Currumbin.

The biggest issue that the game simply has been unable to cope with for decades is the current leasing arrangements whereby one club has leasing rights over part of the centre and the GCHA having an adjacent lease over the remainder. This flawed model has splintered the game and fostered a 'them and us' mentality which has not been conducive to a well functioning association. Labrador have benefitted financially for many years by having the patronage of the entire association spending money in their bar and canteen and paying turf hire fees etc - a luxury no other club has had for over 25 years.

Put simply, this model is fundamentally flawed as it benefits one club over the other five and has resulted in a dysfunctional model that has simply held the game back from developing to it's full potential.

In my opinion, without doubt the most beneficial legacy that can come from the Commonwealth Games is not the facilities (albeit that they will be absolutely fantastic) but for the game of hockey on the Gold Coast to finally be united under the one 'banner' that of the Gold Coast Hockey Association (GCHA). If this is to occur and I must say the only way for this to occur is for the entire facility to be leased to GCHA. This way the GCHA can manage the facility, organise the competition and financially manage the game to equitably benefit all participants. In other words the game needs a 'One Lease' for all approach rather than any other.

I'm seeking your support of this 'One Lease' for all approach and as such would welcome a meeting with you to further discuss this issue if you have the time. However, I'm also happy to have a chat over the phone if you'd prefer.

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