

# History of ice skating rinks

## Ice & refrigeration systems

<http://homepage.mac.com/carpenter.architects/icelife46/future/dpoole.html>



### **DUNBAR POOLE (1877-1954)**

*Member — Adelaide, Melbourne & Sydney Glaciarium Syndicates*

*Player— 1st Australian Ice Hockey Team, 1906, Melbourne*

*Patron — Sydney Glaciarium Ice Hockey Club, 1920*

*President — Sydney Glaciarium Ice Hockey Club, 1921*

Credited with introducing figure and speed skating to Australia during the Grand Era for Ice Rinks (1890-1920). [1] He was born in 1877, some say in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to Scottish parents, James and Elizabeth. He was probably the child of James Poole and Elizabeth Simpson who married on 26 Feb 1869 at Edinburgh, Scotland. [31]

△  
*Dunbar Poole (1877-1954), in 1934 at Streatham, London, aged 53, a member of Reid's syndicates and later Manager of the Sydney Glaciarium. Poole was Manger of the Streathem Redskins ice hockey team 1934-5 and 1935-6. The coach in 1934-5 was 'Babe' Donnelly (player-coach) and in 1935-6, George Bourner (coach) and Bobby Giddens (player-coach). Image from a team photo at the Streatham Ice Hockey Club ENIHL website.*

At the age of 22, Poole sailed from Glasgow, Scotland, to Melbourne on 'Loch Garry' in 1899. [1, 4, 11, 18] Poole's parents, James and Elizabeth, may have immigrated in February 1901 on 'Oruba' with Miss B Poole, aged 17. [18] He learnt speed and figure skating in Britain before he emigrated, and one or more of five different ball games on ice — most likely bandy — a form of which was played at the Adelaide and Melbourne rinks with which he was later associated, between 1904-6. Some writers incorrectly date his immigration 4 years later which has a significant bearing on his British ice experience. [1] One writer claims Poole also introduced ice hockey to Australia [1] but that can well be disputed.

Poole probably lived in Scotland as a boy with access to ample natural ice surfaces and skating clubs. The first skating club in the world was formed in Edinburgh in 1642. Many others followed but the influence of the weather meant that whole seasons could go by without a good skatable surface and they were the reason why inventors tried for many years to produce artificial ice surfaces. However, aside from the experimental "Real Ice Skating Palace", 1896, at Glasgow, which was just a



*Image above:*  
Gustav V of Sweden  
(1858-1950); Reign  
1907-50

*A devoted tennis player, appearing under the pseudonym Mr G. As a player and promotor of the sport, Gustav was elected in to the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1980. Gustav learned the sport during a visit in Britain in 1876 (before Poole was born) and founded Sweden's first tennis club on his return home. In 1936 he founded the King's Club. During his reign, Gustav was often seen playing on the Riviera. During a visit in Berlin, Gustav went straight from a meeting with Hitler to a tennis match with the Jewish player Daniel Prenn. During World War II he interceded to obtain*

short-lived novelty, the first skatable Scottish rink did not open until 1907, at Crossmyloof, near Glasgow, courtesy of *Scottish Ice Rink Co*, long after Poole had emigrated. His indoor ice experience, including organised ice hockey, could only have been acquired in England or Europe, between the mid-1880s, when he was old enough to learn, and mid-1899 when he emigrated.

The earliest rinks in Britain between 1841-44, used an ice substitute of hog's lard and a mixture of salts to provide year-round 'ice' skating. The craze had run its course by 1844, as rinkers tired of the smelly 'ice' in the *Glaciarium*, as the venue was often called, and it was not until the 1870s that skating caught on again. Although official histories don't always agree, Pearson [15] writes: the first rink opened at Brighton's Corn Exchange in February 1874, and rinkomania was at its height by spring 1876, when Brighton had six rinks and London around 50. In 1876, 29 rink companies were floated and 21 collapsed as the boom deflated. The physical evidence of the mania is sparse, since many rinks were conversions of halls, circuses and other suitable spaces. The *British Architect* despaired of skating rink design, preferring breweries or factories to the many miserably plain and inartistic rinks thrown together by clumsy hands; it felt that skating rinks would continue to be much like railway stations — mere roofs, more or less elegant in design, for the purpose of protecting rinkers from the rain. [15]

Official historical antecedents of the first Australian *Glaciariums* were probably four English *Glaciariums* built between 1876-9 along an axis from London, through Manchester to Southport, north of Liverpool. The world's first mechanically frozen ice rink — *The London Glaciarium* — was opened in Chelsea in 1876 by John Gamgee. It was experimental and only 12m by 7m (40 by 24 feet); of no use for actual skating. However, it did attract attention, and Gamgee opened two further rinks later in the year: at Rusholme in Manchester (really the first skatable artificial rink) and the "*Floating Glaciarium*" at Charing Cross in London (much longer; 35m by 7.6m). The refrigeration process was expensive, and mists rising from the ice deterred customers, forcing Gamgee to close the *Glaciarium* by the end of the year. All his rinks had shut by mid-1878, about the time Poole was born.

However, the *Southport Glaciarium*, 16 miles from Liverpool, opened in 1879 using Gamgee's method. It was 50m by 20m

better treatment for the Davis Cup stars, Jean Borotra of France and Gottfried von Cramm of Germany, who had been imprisoned by the German government. (Wikipedia)



Image above:  
Gustav VI Adolf of Sweden  
(1882-1973); Reign  
1950-73

*Crown Prince and King at age 67 upon the death of his father, King Gustav V (above). He enjoyed tennis and golf, and fly fishing for char. He married, firstly, Princess Margaret of Connaught on 15 June 1905. Princess Margaret was the daughter of HRH Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, third son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert of Great*

(164 by 64 feet), built and supported mainly by local businessmen. It was billed: *'The Only Real Ice Skating Hall in the World! The Figure Skaters' Paradise! Open in all Seasons! Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter! Admission 6d.'* Curling Clubs were also common at Southport. It struggled for 10 years until it closed at a financial loss in 1889, when Poole was about age 12. The family of Scotsman George Dunbar Poole [31] lived at Omskirk, only a short distance south-east of Southport during the later years of the *Southport Glaciarium*. George died there in 1890, the year after it closed. Dunbar Poole may have had relatives 7 miles from one of the few, if not 'only', indoor rinks in Great Britain, from sometime after the age of 4 or 5 until the age of 12.

Almost immediately, rinks sprang up in other countries, and many more opened in Britain [6, 7]. England became quite active in ice skating during the 1890s as a result. In July 1892, at Scheveningen, Holland, international skaters, including the NSA of Great Britain, set up the International Skating Union (ISU) to control speed and figure skating world-wide. In 1896, the Swedish skater, Henning Grenander (1874-1958) demonstrated the International-style at the *National Skating Palace* in London; stirring interest in it. The style is largely attributed to the American Jackson Haynes (1840-1876), regarded as the father of figure skating. In the same year, *Prince's Skating Club* opened in Knightsbridge and was very popular with London's aristocratic society. In 1898, the ISU allocated the World Championships to London and it was held at the *National Skating Palace*; again, won by Grenander. The year after, in 1899, the NSA held its first International-style competition at the *Hippodrome* in Brighton (pictured below left) and Edgar Syers (1863-1946) finished 3rd in the World Championships in Davos. [5]

In Australia, at least, Poole was reputedly *'the most experienced rink manager in Great Britain'*. It's only puzzling that he then emigrated to the other side of the world to live in a dry country that did not have a single ice rink. Whatever his achievements, they had been attained by the age of 22, perhaps a working life of 8 years, at a time when English rinks were used almost exclusively for ice shows and speed and figure skating. The main British rink during these years was the *National Skating Palace* (1885-1899), at Hengler's Circus in London. The building is now better known as the *London Palladium*. Similarly, the Brighton

Britain.  
 He married, secondly,  
 Lady Louise  
 Mountbatten, formerly  
 HSH Princess Louise of  
 Battenberg. She was the  
 sister of Lord  
 Mountbatten and aunt of  
 Prince Philip, Duke of  
 Edinburgh. It was Lady  
 Louise who became  
 Queen of Sweden.  
 Interestingly, both Queen  
 Louise and her step-  
 children were great  
 grandchildren of Queen  
 Victoria of Great Britain.  
 (Wikipedia)



Image above:  
 George as Duke of York,  
 1893  
 (1865-1936);  
 King George V  
 King 1910-1936

Father of Prince Edward  
 (below). One of two  
 future kings who iced for

*Hippodrome* in Middle Street (pictured left), started life as  
*Brighton Ice-Rink* in 1897 and was converted into a circus and  
 renamed the *Hippodrome* in 1901.

England was purportedly a training hub for many international  
 skaters at the turn of the century, and produced most of the ice  
 shows in Europe at the time. The best skaters in the world were  
 from Russia, Sweden and Canada but they did not have indoor,  
 year-round ice, so London began to attract the world champions  
 such as Ulrich Salchow, Panin and Axel Paulsen. English  
 standards and styles became world standards. By 1900, London  
 had 11 rinks, some really lavish like *The Great Hall* at The  
 Grosvenor House Hotel in Park Lane, others just big like  
 Hammersmith. However, that was about the same time that  
 Poole had emigrated from Glasgow to Melbourne in 1899, raising  
 doubt that Poole could have accumulated any significant  
 expertise in ice hockey from England or, for that matter, from  
 Scotland.

Sons of the British Governor-General of Canada (Lord Stanley of  
 Preston) were all keen exponents of this new sport, and  
 persuaded their father to lend his name to the first ice hockey  
 cup competition — the Stanley Cup. The Stanley family  
 continued to encourage the spread of ice hockey upon their  
 return to Britain from Canada in 1895. During the winter of that  
 year, they played ice hockey on the frozen lakes of Buckingham  
 Palace with the Prince of Wales (1841-1910), aged 55, and his  
 son the Duke of York, aged 20 (Prince George, pictured left). As it  
 happened, two future kings iced for the Palace side against a  
 House of Commons' team led by Francis Bingham Mildmay, MP,  
 (1861-1947) assisted by A.J. Balfour (1848-1930), earl and  
 future prime minister of England. [24] One writer says another  
 player, Sir Edward George Villiers Stanley (1865-1948) (pictured  
 left), the eldest of Lord Stanley's seven sons, captained the House  
 of Commons' team. There were eight players each side and the  
 Prince of Wales acted as 'back' and the Duke of York as  
 'forward'. This is the first mention of the game being played in  
 Britain, 3 or 4 years before Poole emigrated from Glasgow. [22]

Interestingly, the Stanley earls originated in the Lancashire area  
 around Ormskirk where the family of George Dunbar Poole lived,  
 not far from *Southport Glaciarium*. The Stanleys were one of the  
 great families of England whose main houses were at Knowsley

*the Palace side in 1895 against a team led by Lord Stanley (not the donor of the NHL's Stanley Cup but the eldest of his 7 sons). This is the first mention of the game being played in Britain, 3 or 4 years before Dunbar Poole emigrated from Glasgow. The first organised ice hockey game in Britain took place that same year, between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.*

*Image above:*

Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor;  
(1894-1972);  
King Jan 1936- Dec 1936

*Eldest son of King George (above), heir to the throne. Before his accession to the throne, Edward VIII held the titles of Prince Edward of York, Prince Edward of York and Cornwall, Duke of Cornwall, Duke*

and Lathom in south-west Lancashire, between Liverpool and Ormskirk. On his return from Canada, Lord Stanley soon became mayor of Liverpool, 1895-6, but the Poole family of Ormskirk had probably relocated by then. The Southport rink had closed 6 years earlier and George Dunbar Poole had died in 1890. Dunbar Poole was about age 13, but his exact whereabouts at the time is unknown.

Until recently, the first organised ice hockey game in Britain was generally accepted as having taken place later in the same year as the Buckingham Palace match, between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. [22] Tradition places the origin of the *Oxford University IHC* in 1885, when it supposedly played against *Cambridge University IHC* at St Moritz, Switzerland. [22] This date is recognised by the *Hockey Hall of Fame*, and prior to the 1985 Varsity Match 100 years later, the IIHF formally recognised the St Moritz game as the first-ever ice hockey match played in Europe. However, there was never any contemporary evidence that the match took place, and both the 1885 and 1895 games are now identified on Oxford's historic leader board as a bandy matches. [26] University and club histories now say the first official hockey Varsity Match took place in 1900 and continued, sporadically, until the outbreak of war in 1914. [27] Poole could not have learned ice hockey from Varsity matches in the UK because he had emigrated the year before the first Varsity ice hockey game on record. The few Varsity matches played prior to then are now officially known to have been bandy.

Poole apparently counted Prince Edward, the Duke of Windsor (*pictured left*), among his friends. [1] Edward was the eldest son of Prince George, one of the players in the first recorded ice hockey game in England, there at the palace, 15 years before he ascended to the throne. Poole was aged 18 at the time and he could not have been involved with the match through Prince Edward who was only one year old; born the year prior, in 1894. Had Poole been a friend of one of Lord Stanley's sons, or the Duke of York, as different to his son, the Duke of Windsor, he would have had access to knowledge of the first game in Britain, and how to go about it in Australia. Poole would not have left that off the record.

Edward's title was created in the Peerage of the UK in 1937,

of Rothesay, and Prince of Wales (all with the style Royal Highness). As a young man he served in World War I, undertook several foreign tours on behalf of his father, and was associated with a succession of older married women. Only months into his reign, Edward forced a constitutional crisis by proposing marriage to the American divorcée Wallis Simpson. The title 'Duke of Windsor' was devised as both a royal and political expediency born of controversy surrounding Edward's abdication as King in order to marry Wallis Simpson.



Image above:  
Toronto Marlboros with "Mic Mac" sticks, 1905. Founded in 1904 as the Marlborough Seniors, from *The Toronto Marlborough Athletic*

without precedent and specially for Prince Edward. Edward was heir to the throne and he ascended when his father died in 1936. Only months into his reign, Edward forced a constitutional crisis by proposing marriage to the American divorcée Wallis Simpson. Although legally Edward could have married Mrs. Simpson and remained king, his various prime ministers opposed the marriage, arguing that the people would never accept her as queen. The title was created as a political expediency when Edward abdicated and his younger brother took the throne. Poole was 60 years old by then. After the World War II effort, Edward and Wallis were widely regarded as minor celebrities; a fairly tragic result for a man who was, for a few months at least, King of the United Kingdom and all its realm, including Australia.

*Princes Ice Hockey Club* in London was one of the most influential early European ice hockey teams and is now generally considered the first ice hockey club in Britain. The Club was based at *Princes Skating Club* which replaced a roller skating rink near the famed department store, *Harrods*, in London's Knightsbridge district. In 1897, Admiral Maxe, founder of the Club gave Major B.M. 'Peter' Patton permission to form an ice hockey team at the rink. Patton was 21 years old at the time and he continued to play for 34 years, including captaincy of the British team that won the first-ever European Championship in 1910 at Les Avants, Switzerland. Under Royal and aristocratic patronage, ice hockey and skating began to grow in popularity and new rinks began to appear around London. Initially, *Princes* played only three other teams founded about the same time: *Niagara*, *Brighton* and *Royal Engineers*. [20] *Niagara* were the first English Club Champions in 1898, just 6 months before Poole left Glasgow for Australia. This team played out of the *Niagara Hall Ice Rink*, situated close to St James Park Station in London. It was small — a diameter of only 34m or about 10 percent bigger than the first Australian rink in Adelaide.

The first English ice hockey league was not formed until 1903-4. It started with 5 teams: *Princes*, *Cambridge University*, *London Canadians* and two teams from the Henglers ice rink (*Henglers* and *Argylls*), all located within the confines of London. [14] It lasted only two seasons, but it was the crucial first step for establishing competitive hockey in Britain. [28] However, Poole had long since left Britain and was in Adelaide, planning its first *Glaciarium* and any association he may have had with *Prince's*

*Club*, founded in 1903. Named after the Duke of Marlborough who gave his permission, to club secretary Fred Waghorne, to use the name and family crest. Later affiliated with the *Toronto Maple Leafs*. Source: [Birthplace of Hockey](#) website, Nova Scotia.



*Image above:*

Mic-Mac stick detail. Source: [Birthplace of Hockey](#) website, Nova Scotia.



*Image above:*

*Hippodrome*, Middle St, Brighton, East Sussex, England, originally

*Skating Club* or its first opponents was short-lived. *Princes* opened in 1896; the first ice hockey club formed in December 1896; and Poole emigrated in May or June, 1899. His window of opportunity to see the *Princes IHC* in action was 18 months and he was quite possibly living in Scotland at the time, preparing to emigrate. Like the early Varsity games, the rules of these first few games were not well-documented, so they too may have started as bandy. Even so, if Poole did learn ice hockey in Britain, *Princes* and the London rinks of its time were the only known venues on record except, occasionally, the frozen lake in St James Park.

Ice hockey wasn't played in Scotland until much later — about 1908 in Glasgow, Poole's port of departure 9 years earlier — on a rink that had a bandstand erected on pillars in the middle of the ice surface, similar to the rink he helped establish in Adelaide 4 or 5 years earlier. Poole first revisited the UK sometime after 1907, returning to Sydney from Liverpool in 1909. [4] England and Scotland's first-ever National (home International) wasn't held until 1910, when England defeated Scotland 11-1 at Princes Ice Rink, London. England won the first ever European Championship that same year, marking the official beginning for the UK Hockey Hall of Fame. [7]

Although Poole reportedly learnt hockey in Britain, it is doubtful he could have learnt the modern game anywhere else in the European Federation before he emigrated, with the possible exception of France. In 1892, Paris opened its first ice rink - the *Pole Nord*, at the Porte de Clichy. A year later, a second rink was opened; the famous *Rond Point des Champs Elysees*, a circular rink that still exists as an indoor theatre. Though the French had played an organized form of hockey for two years, the modern game was not introduced until 1894, when Canadian [George Meagher](#) (1866-1930) (*pictured below left*), arrived with an updated rulebook and detailed coaching instructions. Meagher's efforts led to the formation of the first official club in the capital, *Le Hockey Club du Paris*, followed a short time later by *Le Club de Patineurs de Paris*. The first hockey club outside of Paris was not formed until 1904, in Lyon. Hockey historians have never been able to verify the Meagher-Paris story but if it's true, the Club Meagher helped form played the first ice hockey in Europe. [28, 29]

Brighton Ice-Rink (1897-1901)

About 1903, Poole joined the Adelaide syndicate headed by Henry Newman Reid, to open the first Australian ice rink. He is also credited as a key player in the formation of Henry Reid's *Melbourne Ice Skating and Refrigeration Co.* The opening of the Adelaide rink in 1904 must have been a huge relief for Poole because he had not skated on ice for 6 years. In 1904, a notice appeared at the Adelaide *Glaciarium*, convening a meeting of skaters interested in the introduction of a game similar to field hockey on ice. [1, 25] Bandy or field hockey rules and equipment were adopted. IHA history says: "*three men who more than anybody else deserve the honour of "Founders of Ice Hockey in Australia" were present at that meeting which marked the birth of the sport in this country; they were Mr. H. Newman Reid, himself, and his two sons Andy and Hal.* [25] This record establishes Henry Newman Reid and Poole introduced Bandy or field hockey on ice, not ice hockey, although the rules had been published 27 years earlier in 1877. Reid's son and 'Andy' was aged 15, Hal was aged 13 and Les was aged 10.

*Image above:*

Sir Edward George Villiers Stanley (1865-1948); *Eldest of Lord Stanley's 7 surviving sons who, at the age of 30, played in the first ice hockey match on record in Britain at Buckingham Palace in 1895. The match took place soon after Lord Stanley and his family returned to England from his post as Governor-General of Canada. He presented the Canadian Ice Hockey League with the Stanley Cup, encouraged by Edward and his other brothers who continued to foster the game on*

The Adelaide rink closed after just one year and both Reid and Poole returned to Melbourne to build its *Glaciarium*. In 1906, Poole played on the first Melbourne ice hockey team against *USS Baltimore*, at the age of 29. Tange [1] and IHA recognise the 1906 Melbourne game, not the earlier Adelaide game, as the first organised game of ice hockey in Australia. The Adelaide game was not played by organised Clubs so the introduction of ice hockey to Australia cannot be attributed to either Reid or Poole, as a result of the 1904 game. Moreover, it was simply bandy or field hockey on ice, utilising those rules and equipment. Neither Pool or Reid had knowledge and experience of organised ice hockey from Scotland, or even Great Britain, because the sport had not been established there by the time Pool left and Reid had arrived in 1864 at the age of two. There is no record that either traveled overseas prior to the first officially-recognised Australian game in 1906.

The type of equipment and rules used in the 1906 Melbourne game is not yet confirmed, but the first Melbourne teams of 1908-9 reportedly used a type of ice hockey stick that rink management (H N Reid) had imported from Canada. At the same time, the tennis ball (or hockey ball) gave way to soft rubber disc pucks imported along with the sticks. The sticks were the old MicMac brand [10], heavy as lead, with a straight faced blade,

their return to England.



Image above:  
George Alfred Meagher,  
c.1892  
(1866-1930);

Born in Kingston,  
Ontario, but later moved  
to Toronto and Montreal.

three inches wide (*images left*). With the new sticks and pucks came the new rules and the true start of the modern game in Australia, sometime between 1906-8. The new rules were based on English "Bandy" and Canadian Ice Hockey, taking what Reid and his co-sponsors hoped were the best from each. Seven men made up the team positioned: Forward, Left, Centre, Right, Rover, Defence, Cover Point, Cover and Goal. [1]

Poole relocated to Sydney soon after he played in the first official game of ice hockey in Australia. There is no evidence suggesting he was involved with the Sydney rink syndicate, other than he was chosen to manage its *Glaciarium* [*image below*]. He apparently remained there for the next 25 years, returning on and off to Britain. [1] Poole played in no officially recorded Australian hockey team, other than the first 1906 game, in either Victoria or NSW. He was not in Melbourne in 1908-9 when Canadian ice hockey equipment and rules are known to have first been used. He revisited Britain returning to Sydney in 1909. He had moved on just before the Canadian game caught up with him, just as he had done when he first left Scotland. So, two questions remain unanswered: when and from whom did Henry Newman Reid obtain his knowledge and links to the Canadian game?

Reid organised both the rules and equipment and since he didn't use them in the Adelaide game of 1904, he must have gained the knowledge from someone, sometime between the Adelaide game of 1904, and the Melbourne games of 1908. The most likely candidates were Canadian, Herbert John Blatchley, the captain of the 1906 Melbourne team, and/or members of the *USS Baltimore* team. The Toronto Marlboros used MicMac sticks in 1905 in Blatchley's home-town (*image left*). The one-piece, hand-carved sticks had been had been made by Canada's native Mi'kmaq population for quite some time and shipped across Canada for decades; ever since the 1870s, when Montreal athletes first took up ice hockey. [10]

Tange [1] wrote that Poole was a close friend of the Swedish royal family who taught Crown Prince Adolf (*pictured left*) skating and ice hockey. Poole had become a registered member of the Stockholm Figure Skating Club at some point; "*Stockholms Allmänna Skridskoklubb*". It was through the Club that the Swedish government invited Poole to represent Sweden at the

*Generally credited as being the person who introduced ice hockey to Europe. He was a champion figure skater and was said to be the Amateur Champion of the World in Ottawa, 1891, and Professional Champion of the World in Vienna, Austria, 1898. Like many Canadians he was extremely fond of ice hockey. When Meagher arrived in Paris, France 1894 he came there to give exhibitions of his fancy figure skating but soon found out that the Frenchmen had never heard about ice hockey. It is said that he stayed in Paris for seven months and that he formed a league, which played four times a week. Hockey historians have never been able to verify this story but if it's true, that would be the first ice hockey games played in Europe. The Prince of Sagan was the president of Meagher's own club. "Club de Cercle de Patineurs de Paris". It is said he then went on to London and Niagara Hall where he also formed a league, which has never been verified either. He continued farther and*

World Figure Skating Championships in Berlin, Germany, in 1911. He did so again for the Swedes in 1912 in Manchester, England. Some Australian writers are quick to announce Poole finished 7th in Berlin and 6th in Manchester but, officially, he finished 6th of 6 in Manchester and 7th of 7 in Berlin. In other words, he finished last in both events and, strangely, representing Sweden, not Australia, where he had lived for 12 years. [3]

Bandy had long been the big winter sport in Sweden; the game that Poole was first associated with in Adelaide in 1904. Even in the 1908 games in Melbourne, when Canadian rules in Australia were first recorded, some Bandy rules were retained. It was not until 1919 that Canadian ice hockey was mooted in Sweden, when Raoul Le Mat, a US movie director, visited with his friends, Thomas Cahill and Ernest Viberg. They met with Anton Johanson, chairman of the Swedish Football Association and a member of the Swedish Olympic Committee. Viberg, a Swedish-American, explained how he had played ice hockey at Columbia University and how fast the popular sport was spreading through North America. Cahill, an American football chief, suggested Viberg put a team together and introduce ice hockey in Sweden. They attracted several bandy players interested in learning about the new sport. From there, Swedish ice hockey was administered by the Swedish Football Association from 1920 until it was founded in 1922. [14] Poole could have taught Crown Prince Adolf ice hockey sometime after the 1906-8 Melbourne games, when Poole himself had learned it but, anything prior would probably have been Bandy or similar.

Poole returned to Melbourne from a British port in May 1910 and April 1912, the latter just *before* the summer Olympics in Stockholm opened by Crown Prince Adolf. [18] He returned to Sydney from Liverpool in 1909, 1910 and 1912. [4] His first overseas visit was about 10 years after he arrived and he had not traveled overseas prior to the 1908 Melbourne games where Canadian rules were first recorded in use. However, Poole was often out of the country thereafter, for reasons associated with his figure skating, each year between 1909 and 1912. In August 1911, the same year Poole competed in Berlin, Ernest D Poole, aged 38, the same age as Dunbar and the eldest son of George Dunbar Poole, [32] arrived in Melbourne from London aboard the ship 'Commonwealth'. [4, 18] Those were the formative years of

showed ice hockey in the Scottish capital of Glasgow. [29]

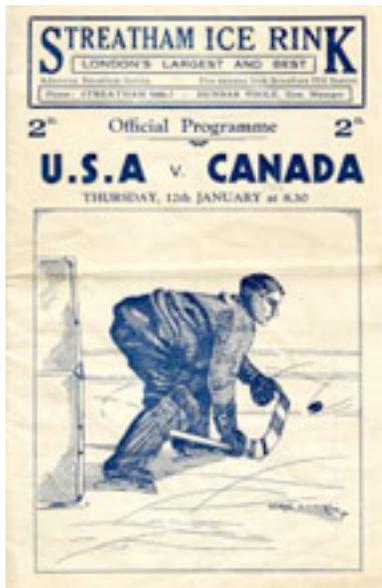


Image above:

Streatham Ice Rink Programme Cover 1932-33, with Dunbar Poole named General Manager in the masterhead (click image for larger copy).

Thursday 12th January 1933 - International Ice Hockey Match at Streatham Ice Rink.

Warm-up game for the teams representing the USA (Massachusetts Rangers) and Canada (Toronto Nationals) prior to the 1933 World Championships held in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

ice hockey in Australia but Poole was not in Australia for most of it. Round-the-world trips still required months of absence and contrary to what some say, Poole was away from Australia in those early years a lot longer than just a few of her summers.

By 1920, Poole was Patron of the Sydney Glaciarium Ice Hockey Club when Jim Pike was both Captain and President. The following year, James Charles Bendrodt (1891-1973) replaced Poole as Patron and Poole had replaced Jim Pike as President. Bendrodt was a well-known restaurateur who also owned *Princes*, in Martin Place, Sydney's most exclusive dining place at the time. He was also a roller skater, racehorse owner and ballroom dance teacher. When he later opened the second rink in the State in 1938, Poole became it's manager. [17] Bendroft and Jim Pike may have shared racehorses in common. Pike was quite possibly James Edward (Jim) Pike (1892-1969) who will always be remembered for his connection with the legendary *Phar Lap* which began about 8 years later in 1929. Poole traveled to England at least twice more, returning in 1923 and 1925. [4] In 1927, at the age of 50, he married Gladys S Waugh, aged 38, at Sydney. Gladys was born in 1889, the daughter of Joseph Waugh and Mary E Pickavance who married in 1913 at Waratah, apparently 24 years after Gladys' birth. [30]

By 1932, Poole had become General Manager of Streatham Ice Rink, London, [34] which opened on February 26th, 1931; one of a spate of government-funded rinks in England at the time (see programme cover pictured left). The building was designed by Robert Cromie, a renowned designer of cinemas in the 1930s. The ice surface was originally 64m by 30m, 4m longer than the current international standard, but it was reduced in 1951 to make way for more seating, taking the total to 1200. *Streatham* is still operating and is now England's second oldest rink after Queens, built the year before in 1930. [32] During his time at Streatham, Poole was team manager of the Streatham Redskins in 1934-5, when it won the British National League Championship, and 1935-6. [36]

Some also believe that Poole was involved in the construction of *Edinburgh Eagles Ice Rink*, [1] one of several constructed during Scotland's ice hockey boom of the late 1930s following the remarkable gold medal win by the British team at the Winter Olympics in 1936. It is not known for certain, but Poole's

association with the Duke of Windsor was likely formed around this time, when Poole was in his 50s. The Scottish National League had been founded in 1935. In addition to the league competition during the 1930s, there was also a Scottish National League knock-out cup contested for the President's Puck. There is no known record of an Edinburgh Eagles in the League. Teams during the 30s were Kelvingrove, Bridge of Weir, Glasgow Mohawks, Perth Panthers and Dundee Tigers.

Poole is said to have returned to Australia in 1938 to open Sydney's second rink, the *Ice Palais*. [1] He last returned from London to Sydney in 1931 when *Streatham* opened in England. He had apparently retired from the Sydney *Glaciarium* in 1937 and his place as manager was taken by Reg Leafe. [2] Sydney's second ice rink opened in 1938 in the Hall of Industries at the Sydney Showgrounds, Moore Park. It was named the *Ice Palais* and run by its promoter, Canadian-born Jim C. Bendrodt (1891-1973). [17] The *Ice Palais* had an International standard ice floor of 61m x 30m. [2] Poole returned from retirement at the age of about 64 to manage it until it was forced to close in 1941 when the building was requisitioned for the war effort. Some say he returned to manage the *Ice Palais* when it re-opened in 1948 [1] but he was over 70 years old by then, and McKinght has written that it re-opened with Charlie Fisher as manager. [2]

Dunbar Poole died in 1954, at Eden in NSW, aged 78. [1, 30] Eden, at Twofold Bay on the NSW coast, is known as the 'halfway point between Melbourne and Sydney'. Fifteen years later in 1969, Colin Dunbar Poole, born 1 January 1934, departed UK under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme. [33] It is not known whether Dunbar and Gladys had children but there are no death registrations in NSW to parents by those names. Yet, it is possible that Colin Dunbar Poole was the British born son of Dunbar Poole. He was born during the years that Poole and Gladys were living in or nearby Streatham, England.

Unfortunately, published extracts from Tange's brief profile of him [1] contain no sources and few dates, particularly with regard to his ice hockey experience. They rely mostly on anecdotal information that is very valuable but, at the same time, hard to verify. Compared to the known facts, Tange's account dramatically overstates Poole's role in ice hockey in

Australia and also overseas, by roping-in Poole's uncertain connections with British and Swedish Royal families, along with his very odd participation in International figure skating. It implies Poole's skating achievements were world-class when they weren't, then merges that unreal glory with his Australian ice hockey contributions.

On the available evidence, Poole was a 'proficient' skater, never a National or International champion; the timing and circumstances of his royal connections remain unknown; and the games Poole introduced to Australia were not, according to the record, modern ice hockey. Poole was traveling overseas during the formative years of ice hockey in Australia, starting immediately after Canadian rules were first placed on the Australian record during the 1908 Melbourne games, until just before World War 1 when the sport was interrupted for many years. In fact, Poole never played official ice hockey in Australia, unless the 1906 Melbourne game turns out to have been Canadian rules (a Canadian captained the team). There are no known records of Poole's participation in a single official ice hockey game, either in Australia or overseas, other than the first game in Melbourne in 1906, after which he immediately left for Sydney. Yet, he was willing and able to represent another country in international figure skating championships years later, when he was well into his thirties. [3, 4]

Had Poole lived mainly in Scotland, his chances of learning Canadian ice hockey were remote. He could only have come across the modern game in London in the late 1890s, when Lord Stanley's sons promoted the sport there and the first clubs were formed 18 months before Poole emigrated from Glasgow. That is the only possibility worthy of further investigation, because it was in England that Poole reportedly obtained most of his ice experience and where he reputedly held Royal associations. However, it is very doubtful. There are no known links between the Royal family and Poole during those few years when he was about age 19 and when he emigrated at the age of 22. Moreover, it is likely that he resided in Scotland, his point of departure, for at least some of that time.

The NSW Association maintain Dunbar Poole took an active role as a player, administrator and selector during his years as Manager of the *Sydney Glaciarium* in ice hockey, figure skating

and speed skating. He was made the first Life Member of the NSW Ice Hockey Association Inc in 1933. The NSW Association also acknowledge the part Poole played in forming the NSW Soccer Association. Poole introduced figure and speed skating; helped establish the first three rinks in three different States of Australia; played on the first Australian ice hockey team; and then made a significant contribution to ice hockey and rink management in NSW. That might change with new information but, as far as is known, those are the achievements for which he should be given most credit and remembered.

Sources:

[1] *"Ice Hockey: The NSW Ice Hockey, Association Inc. Australia - Facts and Events 1907-1999"* by Sid Tange (1999). 175pp. unpublished manuscript; Extracts published in 2007 on the [IHNSW website](#) for the 2008 Centenary. This document says Poole emigrated in 1903 on *Loch Garry*, but his immigration records at the Public Record Office Victoria show he immigrated to Melbourne on *Loch Garry* in Sep 1899, at age 22 (Fiche 650 page 002). Captained by James Horne; on arrival at Port Phillip 16 passengers disembarked; mostly 3 families. *Loch Garry* was 1,565-ton iron, 3-masted colonial sailing clipper, built in 1875 by Thomson of Glasgow (his masterpiece) for Loch Line (Aitken, Lilburn & Co., est. Glasgow, 1870). The usual route was to load general cargo and passengers at Glasgow and then sail to Adelaide. They then sailed to Melbourne or Sydney where they loaded wool or grain, generally for London. *Loch Garry* was sold for scrapping in Italy in 1911. Poole re-visited Britain, returning to Melbourne on 2 occasions: May 1910 and April 1912.

*Sydney Tange (1917- ?)*

*First involved with ice hockey at St George Ice Hockey Club in 1937 as player and later Secretary / Treasurer. Playing career finished in 1947 when he became Secretary of the NSW Association, a position he held almost 12 years. He was acting President 1964/65. Awarded Life Membership of the NSW Association in 1960, and Life Membership of the Australian Ice Hockey Federation in 1962. President of the Glebe Lions Ice Hockey Club, and the Easts Monarchs Club; Life Member of the latter. Co-organiser of first interstate Junior Ice Hockey match in 1951 with the late Mr Alwyn Stuart (manager of St Moritz Ice*

*Skating Rink, Melbourne, and President of Pirates IHC). Assistant Manager of Australian Team competing in the 1962 World Championships in Colorado, USA. President of the Australian Federation, from 1970-73. Presented with the H.C. and S.M. Hudson "Sportsman of the Year" Trophy in 1967. The National 17 years and under Tournament was named the Tange Trophy after him in 1969.*

[2] *'History of Skating in Australia: Ice skating rinks in Australia and some of the personalities associated with them'*. Donald McKnight, October 2007 ([Friends of ISQ website](#))

[3] *Ice Skating Australia (ISA) website*. Site includes downloadable PDF files for National and International Skating placings 1911-2007. [Online](#). This is only recorded in one source [35] and it is not known whether the winner of the 1911 National was Henry Newman Reid Senior or Junior. Henry Reid Jr. was about 20 years of age and Henry Sr. was over age 39.

[4] *British National Archives UK Outbound Passenger Lists, 1890-1939*; Dunbar Poole, age 22, departed 1899, Glasgow to Melbourne; departed Liverpool to Sydney 1909 aged 31, 1910 aged 32 and 1912 aged 34; departed London, 1923 to Melbourne aged 45, and 1925 London to Sydney aged 49. Ernest Poole aged 38 departed London, 1911 to Melbourne [Ancestors Onboard](#).

[5] *Skating A Brief History of Ice and The National Ice Skating Association of Great Britain*, Denis L. Bird, NISA Archivist and Historian, [NISA Online](#)

[6] *'Homes of British Ice Hockey'*, Martin C. Harris

[7] *UK Hockey Hall of Fame*, Ice Hockey Journalists Association, UK, [IHJUK](#)

[8] *'The Evolution of Ice Rinks'*, Ted Martin, published in ASHRAE Journal, November 2004, American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc.

[9] *"History of ice skating rinks."* Ice and Refrigeration. Carpenter, M.R. 1941. July.

[10] Mic-Mac sticks were hand carved by Canada's native

Mi'kmaq population, originally in Nova Scotia. The [Birthplace of Hockey](#) website in Nova Scotia shows Mi'kmaq carvers making "MicMac" sticks c. 1900, as well as images of the Toronto Marlboros with MicMac sticks, some of which are shown at left.

[11] Poole was apparently an Irish-born Scot but the birth records cited below for Alexander C D Poole (father George Dunbar Poole) are also consistent with the birth year derived from his various other records [12, 13]. Tange [1] says he died in 1954, aged 78, which matches Alexander C Dunbar Poole born 1877, Woodbridge; son of George Dunbar Poole. Poole certainly immigrated to Australia from Glasgow in 1899, aged 22 [4] which also matches, as do two other ship passenger records in 1910 and 1911 [18]. 1881 British Census match and the death registration of George Dunbar Poole locates this family at Ormskirk, 7 miles from the Southport *Glaciarium*; probably the only known indoor ice rink in Britain at the time.

[12] *1881 British Census*, PRO Ref RG11, Piece/ Folio 3072/74 page 2, Census Place: Coventry Holy Trinity, Warwick, England.

[13] '*Civil Registrations, England*', General Register Office. The couple had 2 sons and 2 daughters three of whom carried middle initials of G D, E D and C D. Traditionally, the 'D' probably stood for Dunbar, middle-name of their father; often traditionally given as a namesake after the maiden name of a father's mother or grandmother. Dunbar is of Gaelic origin, and its meaning is "castle headland" from the town of Dunbar, at the mouth of the Firth of Forth, Stirlingshire, Scotland. From there, the name became a Scottish surname and it was not uncommon for it to appear as a middle namesake. However, even in the 19th century, it was a very rare male first name.

[14] '*The A- Z Dictionary of Ice Hockey*', Roberts and Stamp (eds.), 1999. [Online](#)

[15] '*The People's Palaces: Seaside Pleasure Buildings 1870-1914*', 1991, Lyn Pearson, Architectural historian, Newcastle upon Tyne, England, out of print. Chapter 6, [Online](#)

[16] '*North of Ireland Family History Society*', [Online](#)

[17] '*Bendrodt, James Charles (1891 - 1973)*', Australian

Dictionary of Biography, [Online](#)

[18] *'Unassisted Immigration to Victoria: Index of Inward Passenger Lists for British, Foreign and New Zealand Ports 1852-1923'*, Public Record Office Victoria. Dunbar Poole, aged 22, immigrated from a British port in Sep 1899 aboard ship *'Loch Garry'*, Fiche 650, p. 2 and aged 32 from a British port in May 1910 aboard ship *'Medic'*, Fiche 802, p. 2; and aged 35 from a British port in Apr 1912 aboard ship *'Afric'*, Fiche 846, p. 3.

James Poole, aged 42; Mrs Poole, aged 42; and Miss B Poole, aged 17, immigrated from a British port in Feb 1901 aboard ship *'Oruba'*, Fiche 668, p. 4. (Possible parents and sister of Dunbar Poole).

Ernest Poole, age 38, immigrated from a British port on Aug 1911 aboard ship *'Commonwealth'*, Fiche 828 p. 2. Age on immigration record of Ernest Poole matches the birth registration of Ernest G D Poole to George Dunbar Poole and Susannah Stephenson in 1873, Channel Islands. There are no civil BDM records for Ernest Poole in Victoria after 1911.

[19] *Ormskirk & District Family History Society*, [Online](#)

[20] *'Niagara Ice Hockey Club'*, Wikipedia [Online](#)

[21] *'History of Ice Hockey in the United Kingdom'*, *Ice Hockey Journalists UK* [Online](#)

[22] *'Flashing Blades: The Story of British Ice Hockey'*, 1987, Drackett, Phil, (Crowood: London).

[23] *'The Stanleys'*, *Isle of Man Notebook*, Edited by Francis Coakley, 2006 [Online](#)

[24] *'The New York Times'* newspaper, Feb 15, 1895. Article: *'Prince of Wales Plays Hockey; Sandringham Team Beats House of Commons' at Buckingham*, Page 3, 1180 words. Transcript: *'LONDON, Feb. 14. -- A match game of hockey was played on the lake at Buckingham Palace to-day between the Sandringham team and the House of Commons team. The Sandringham team was captained by the Prince of Wales, and the House of Commons' team was directed by Mr. Francis Bingham Mildmay, M.P. assisted*

*by Mr. A.J. Balfour, both of whom were in excellent form. The Prince of Wales acted as 'back' and the 'Duke of York' as 'forward' in the Sandringham team. Both showed good skating powers, and had several heavy falls, but neither was any the worse for his shaking up. Among the eight of the Commons' Team, falls were numerous, but none of the players was injured. The match was won by the Sandringham team by a score of 8 goals to 5. The Princess of Wales with her daughters and the Duchess of York, witnessed the game and enjoyed the spectacle greatly.'*

[25] *"The History of the Goodall Cup"*, author not stated, IHA, IHA website. [Online](#)

[26] *"Oxford Blues, Oxford University Ice Hockey Club Varsity Match Record"*. [Online](#)

[27] *"Oxford Blues, Oxford University Ice Hockey Club Varsity Match History"*. [Online](#)

[28] *"Society of North American Hockey Historians & Researchers" (SONAHHR)*, George Fosty, Stryker-Indigo Publishing Company, Inc., 2004, [Online](#)

[29] *"Swedish Ice Hockey Historical and Statistical Society (SIHSS)"* [Online](#)

[30] *'New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages Historical Index'*, marriage of Dunbar Poole and Gladys M Walsh, 1927, Sydney, Reg No 15255/1927. Birth of Gladys Waugh, 1889, to parents Joseph and Mary E, Woonoona District, Reg No. 24758/1889. Marriage of Joseph Waugh and Elizabeth Pickavance, 1913, Waratah, Reg No: 7485/1913. Death of Dunbar Poole, 1954, Eden. Reg No 22568/1954; parents James and Elizabeth.

[31] *'International Genealogical Index'* Civil Marriage Registration, James Poole and Elizabeth Simpson, 26 Feb 1869, Edinburgh Parish, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland, Batch No.: M116853, Source Call No.: 6035516 REGISTER. Consistent with parents names recorded in Death Registration of Dunbar Poole [30]

Alternatively, Dunbar was the child born to George Dunbar Poole and Susannah Stephenson in 1877 at Woodbridge, near Ipswich

in Suffolk. The birth was registered 'Alexander C D Poole'. The middle initial 'D' was shared among 3 of 4 children — 'D' for 'Dunbar', his father's namesake. [13] However, the parents on the death registration of Dubar Poole were James and Elizabeth. If they were, in fact, Dunbar's natural parents, it is still probable that the two families were related; George may have been James' brother. George was an assistant schoolmaster born in Scotland about 1848. Susannah, his wife, was born at Owsten Ferry in Lincoln, near Nottingham, England, about 1849. They were married late-1872, 18 miles north-west of Lincoln in the parish of Gainsborough. [13] Their first son, Ernest G D Poole, was born about 1873 at St Aubins, Jersey in the Channel Islands. They remained there a year or two before moving to Woodbridge in Suffolk, where Alexander and two daughters, Lucy E D and Winifred Janet, were born. [12, 13]

By 1881, George's family had moved to the Holy Trinity parish of Coventry, Warwick, England. They resided at No. 5 Paynes Lane, with a boarder and domestic servant. [12] George died in 1890 at the age of 41 in Ormskirk in Lancashire, 12 miles north-east of Liverpool. Susannah, died 7 years later in 1897 at neighbouring west Sheffield in Yorkshire. [12] She was only 48 years old. Two years later, Dunbar Poole emigrated to Australia.

[32] '*Streatham Ice Skating Action Group History*', 2007, [Online](#)

[33] '*Colin Dunbar Poole departing UK under the Assisted Passage Migration Scheme*', 1963, National Archives of Australia, Canberra, Series No. A1877 Barcode: 8051183.

[34] '*Streatham Ice Rink Programme Cover 1932-33*', Thursday 12th January 1933 - International Ice Hockey Match at Streatham Ice Rink. Warm-up game for the teams representing the USA (Massachusetts Rangers) and Canada (Toronto Nationals) prior to the 1933 World Championships held in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Dunbar Poole is named General Manager in the rink banner (pictured at left).

[35] '*Australia Celebrates a Centenary*', Susan D. Russell, International Figure Skating Magazine, December 2004, written with reference to files from John Baster (UK), Frank Parsons, Bob Battersby, and Don McKnight (Aus). Note that this brief article contains inaccuracies and much of the information comes

from Tange [2], vice versa, or an unknown third source shared in common. [Online](#)

[36] '*Streatham Redskin ENIHL, Streatham Redskin teams from the past*', website, [online](#)

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*Image below:*

*Home and Away, Sam Hood, (1872-1953)*

Interior of the Sydney *Glaciarium* Ice Rink, 1940, 849 George Street West, Sydney.

State Library of New South Wales, Frame order no. : Home and Away - 10087





*below:*

*Dunbar Poole (in tuxedo), Manager of Streatham Redskins IHC, 1934-5. This team won the National League Championship that year.*

*Back row: J.F.Hearne, Bibo de Marwicz, Pete Halford, Dick von Trauttenberg, Dunbar Poole (manager), George Shaw, Carl Erhardt, Red Stapleford, George Bournier (coach).*

*Front row: Bobby Giddens (player-coach), Billy Bedford, Ralph Couldrey, Gerry Davey, Maurice Gerth, Ernie Ramus.*



*below:*

*Dunbar Poole (in tuxedo on left), Manager of Streatham Redskins IHC, 1935-6.*

*Left to right:- Dunbar Poole (Manager), Gerry Davey, Archie Stinchcombe, Frank Trottier, 'Dickie' von Trauttenberg, George Shaw, Carl Erhardt (Capt.), 'Babe' Donnelly (player-coach), Ernie 'Al' Batson, Bobby Hales, Tommy Durling, 'Red' Stapleford, George Bourner (trainer), R.J. Buck (assistant manager). Kneeling:- Maurice Gerth.*

*Image below:*

*Western Suburbs vs St George at Glaciarium, 1937, Sam Hood, (1872-1953)*

*Sydney Glaciarium Ice Rink, 849 George Street West, Sydney.*

*State Library of New South Wales, Frame order no. : Home and Away - 15151*

*Images below:*

*Western Suburbs vs St George at Glaciarium, 1937,*

Sam Hood, (1872-1953)

Sydney *Glaciarium* Ice Rink, 849 George Street West, Sydney.

State Library of New South Wales, Frame order no. : Home and  
Away - 15150 and 15152

*Image below:*

*Ice Show at the Sydney Glaciarium, source unknown*



Yale Hockey Rink – Archiplanet

[http://www.archiplanet.org/wiki/Yale\\_Hockey\\_Rink](http://www.archiplanet.org/wiki/Yale_Hockey_Rink)

Aug 27, 2010 ... Building Type, hockey rink, ice skating rink, sports stadium ... Twentieth Century Architecture: a Visual History. p225. ... Cost Estimating: Turner Construction Company; Ice Rink Work: Cimco Refrigeration ...