

# Kimberley Ex-Pats Newsletter #46

## Sporting Prowess of the Kimberley Jewish Community

Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London, January 2022

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When I asked you about the sporting prowess amongst our Kimberley folk, I expected to hear about a **golf** trophy or **cricketing** runs and wickets. Maybe there would be some bowling glories as I know many of the Kimberley Jews played **bowls**. I did hear about all of those, but the arena widened – as did my eyes – to see such an array of sports in which Kimberley Jewish men (mainly men) and women had excelled – playing, coaching and umpiring for their **schools, universities**, provinces as **Griquas**, and even for the whole country as **Springboks**!



The sporting imagination and talent of Kimberley's sons and daughters from early childhood through to four score and over years, has known no bounds and ranged from diving in the deepest oceans to flying high in the sky.

There was **rugby, hockey** and **swimming**, but who would have guessed, our community produced such amazing sporting expertise as **Cyril Salkinder** achieving Griqua colours for no less than four sports: **Badminton, Archery, Weightlifting**, and **Practical Pistol Shooting**. Cyril also competed in six Argus **Cycle Tours** and participated in **Clay Pigeon Shooting** and **Bow Hunting** – and he really enjoys hiking on the mountains in the Cape. **Bernard Benjamin** and his son **Darryl Benjamin** also excelled at weightlifting. **Hilton Toubé** was a dab hand at **Karate, diving** and **flying microlights**. **Jonty Sandler** and **Jeff Sussman** excelled in **equestrian** events.

They started at an early age. In the pictures above and right we see two outstanding Kimberley boys – the Schrire brothers – Louis right 10 and his younger brother Velva 8. They are in their cricket togs in the 1920s. Both boys went on to be the Dux Medallists for all-round achievements at Boys High School, Louis in 1931 and Velva in 1933. They also both received a medal from the City Council (pictured) as the best matriculants. Louis later played cricket for UCT. He became a noted ophthalmologist in Kimberley and then Cape Town and Velva set up the cardiology unit at UCT/Groote Schuur that enabled Chris Barnard to undertake the first human heart transplants. Read his story here [Schrire, Velva \(Vaal\)](#) and Louis' story on his daughter, Gwynne Robins family page [Schrire, Louis](#)



So here is the story of Kimberley Jews and their sports as far as I could find out.

## Cricket and Golf:

### Gus Haberfeld – cricket umpire



Did you know that Mayor of Kimberley and President of the Griqualand West Hebrew Congregation, **Gus Haberfeld**, born in Kimberley in 1904 was also a respected provincial cricket umpire?



He made history by lodging a query to

Wisden's about a rule, which they agreed to change. His daughter-in-law June Haberfeld has a 'special' inscribed cricket ball (above right) that was presented to Gus, to prove it. Gus's brother **Cyril Haberfeld** was a Griqualand West team **wicket keeper** who apparently, had several broken fingers to show for his efforts.

Read about the Haberfelds here: [Haberfeld, Gus & Family](#)

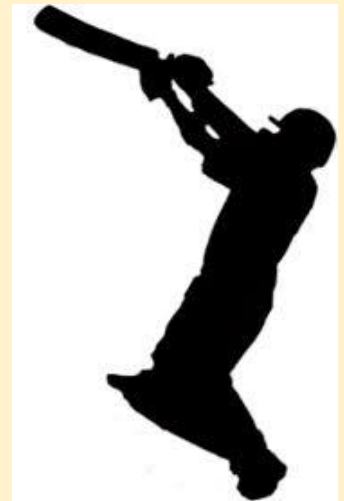
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### Jack Frank – Cricket and Golf



#### Jack's proudest achievement

was to have played **first class cricket from 1925 to 1930**. He represented Griqualand West as part of the Currie Cup team. In those



days it was a powerhouse and included Springboks, Ken Viljoen and Ballie



Balaskas. Born in Kimberley 1905, Jack Frank was also a champion golfer. He was appointed captain of the Northern Cape Senior Golfers Association in 1965 and President in 67. From 1972 to 73 he was president of the Kimberley Golf Club. (He is pictured left in December 1939 with his new wife Hannah née Bergman).

**Hannah Frank** herself was a good golfer and she was also a ballet dancer and ballet teacher – no mean sport that. ~~~~~

## Noel Kretzmar – Golf



Talking of **Golf**, my father **Noel Kretzmar** (born in Lithuania 1899) clearly did well at golf in the 1930s. I have a newspaper cutting from the DFA (the local paper, the Diamond Fields Advertiser) of 10 August 1933, that has a headline under GOLF BATTLES: '**Dr N Kretzmar's net score of 64**'. With a subheading: 'Best Returned in Rhodes Competition.' It goes on to say: The weather conditions were ideal after many weekends of cold winds. **Dr N Kretzmar**, whose play has vastly improved during the past few weeks, returned a phenomenal net score of 64, probably the best net score ever returned in a Rhodes Competition.' Wow, I knew he had played a bit of golf – but not with such aplomb! With partner Dr A Hill, Noel went on to take the Thal prize as well.

Further down that same article in the women's section, I noticed that a certain **Miss A Kretzmar** (his younger sister) and **Miss B Bergman**, (soon to be his wife) tied for first place with another couple – who beat them in the playoff. All this shows a lot of activity on the links. He also used to go for early morning horse rides in his younger days and later early morning swims. He built the first home swimming pool in his back yard in Kimberley in 1950 or so. Read his story here [Kretzmar, Noel](#)

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## Hockey Rugby and Bowls

### Abe and Violet Toube



Both Abe and Violet Toube (née Blumenthal) excelled at sport. Their daughter, **Daphne Gillis**, née Toube (born in Kimberley in 1932) wrote: 'My Mom **Violet**, born in Kimberley in c1910, played in a Griqua **hockey** team (I think as goalie) when she was still at school, playing against a visiting team from England. She also ran two South African Women's Hockey Tournaments in Kimberley, one in 1947 and the other in about 1962. She was a registered South African Women's hockey C Grade umpire. I also was a C Grade umpire. I won my accreditation in Rhodesia in 1953. (Read the Violet and Abe Toube family story here [Gillis \(nee Toube\), Daphne Rose](#) )

At the Kimberley reunion Zoom session in September 2021, someone mentioned that my dad **Abe Toube** had boarded with his mother in a house Transvaal Road. Also living there was **Norman Weinberg**, a recently qualified doctor. They played **rugby** together at that time, and also started courting the girls (Violet Blumenthal and Stella Davis) who became their wives. They remained lifelong friends.

(If you want to listen to the Zoom sessions, On 29 August 2021 at <https://youtu.be/1Z4MKyB1x0M> **Natalie Sussman** spoke about the early days of Zionism in Kimberley. There was passion and controversy, and it is interesting to know the story from someone who lived through it. (You can already read on our website about [Jabotinsky's Visit](#) to Kimberley in 1938.) **Daphne Gillis** – with her brother **Trevor Toube** kibitzing – spoke about the families who lived in Miner Crescent and Milner Street. **Joy Capon** showed us the little book she wrote about her parents, and spoke about her grandparents, specially interesting, because they came from the Greek Island of **Salonica**. On 5 September 2021 at <https://youtu.be/463T7s9az84> we heard from **David Levinsohn** and **David Friedman** both born in 1935. You can read about David (Judge Friedman) and his family here: [Friedman, Joe & Kate \(nee Bergman\) & son David.](#))



**Daphne's brother, Trevor Toubé** wrote: 'I have a photo of my mother in a **swimming** team. I don't recall ever seeing her in a bathing costume, so I guess she gave it up before I was born, (1939). It looks as if it might even have been a school team.

She also played **hockey** as Daph has said. She was certainly a hockey referee for most of my childhood, which means most weekends were taken. She pretty much ran Griqua women's hockey most of her life. When she wasn't the president or the treasurer or whatever, the holders of those offices used to come to Central Jewellers and say, 'Mrs Toubé, how do we ...'

She, almost singlehandedly, ran the world women's hockey tournament held in Kimberley 1947 or 1948. I remember her being much amused by some of the English players who came to tea at our house and complimented her on 'the charming bungalow'. In Kimberley almost all houses were 'bungalows'!

My father **Abe Toubé** (born in Kimberley in 1896) played **rugby** when he was younger (and had a damaged cartilage in one knee to prove it). He told me that he'd played his last game in his 50's, in an 'old crocks' match – from which three players ended up in hospital with injuries. He was also a South African **athletics** track judge,

In later years he took up **golf**. He used to pick up **Phil Price** on Sunday mornings to go to the golf course. When he found



that game too strenuous, he switched to **bowls**. He won several trophies as well as, for some competitions, a chicken!.

Normally, the prize-winner would be given a chicken from the butcher, but because of kashrut they knew they had to give him a live chicken, which he then took to the shochet.

Though Daphne was a hockey umpire, neither she nor I inherited the sporting gene! Nor did either of my children nor any of my grandchildren.' Trevor [Toubé, Trevor Philip](#)



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## **Louis Toubé and son Hilton Toubé**

Abe Toubé's brother **Louis Toubé** (born in Hopetown in 1901) was an outstanding sportsman excelling in a number of sports. He held the 100-yard dash record at Kimberley Boys High School as well as representing the first team at rugby and tennis. Louis remained a keen lawn bowler and was a member of the Beaconsfield Park Bowling club for many years.

## Louis' son Hilton Toubé



Hilton (born in Kimberley in 1949) excelled at **cricket** at Kimberley Boys High School. He was selected to play for the first XI from the age of about 14, he also became very involved in martial arts particularly **Karate**.

During his military service – in which he served in the navy, he represented the South African Defence Force Karate Team. He was based in Simonstown where he trained and spent the balance of his service in the SA Navy as a **diver**. He has been a keen **motorcyclist** since getting his motorcycle license in Kimberley in 1968 and has been riding motorcycles continuously since wherever he has lived in Kimberley, Bloemfontein, Israel, Johannesburg and Vancouver.

His most recent venture was in Microlighting. An intrepid engineer and adventurer Hilton gained his pilot's license and built his own microlight aircraft which he flew all over South Africa. (He shipped his microlight to Canada and had to complete ten hours flight time to maintain his pilot's license in Canada.) In Vancouver he was approached to manage the Musco Sports Lighting



Hilton flying over Bronkhorstspuit Dam on my way to Witbank

Company for the province of British Columbia – which he did for ten years until the end of 2017.

You can read more about [Toubé, Louis, Gerty & Family](#) and sons Mervyn and Hilton as compiled by Leon Chonin on the link above.

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## Pony Club and Polo

### Jonty Sandler and Jeff Sussman

Quite a few children in the community went horse riding. They competed in Gymkhanas and other equestrian events. One was Jonty Sandler who won many rosettes at horse jumping.

When he was in the army, he spent his time with horses as a member of the South African Army Polo Team. Read Jonty's profile here: [Sandler, Jonty](#)



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## Bernard Benjamin and son Darryl Benjamin



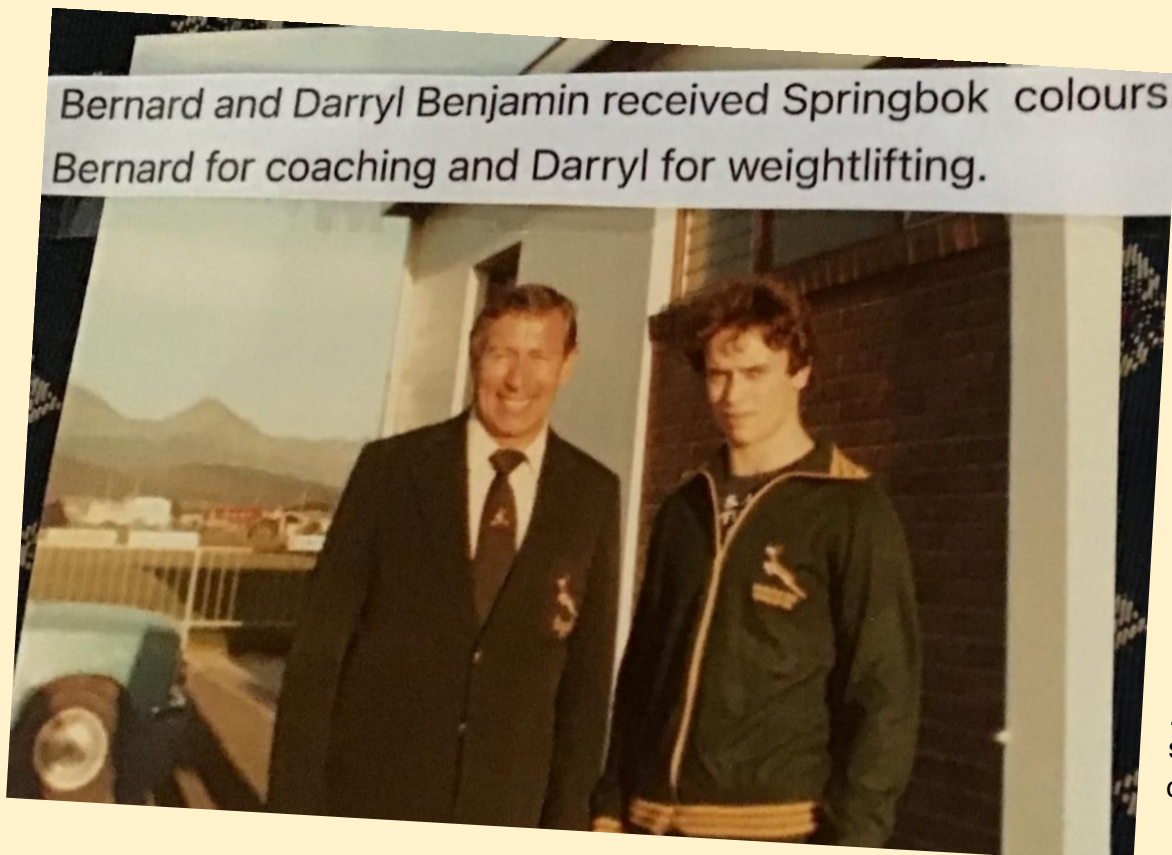
Hellen Benjamin wrote: My husband, **Bernard** (b Kimberley 1938) and son **Darryl** (b Kimberley c1965) were too modest to write in, so I thought that I would pass on a bit of old sports news on their behalf.

Bernard was a **weightlifting** coach for many years in Kimberley and also coached Darryl, who got **Griqua colours** in 1978 at the age of 14. Bernard also got

**Griqua colours** for weightlifting and pistol shooting.

Darryl got **Western Province colours** when he was at university in Cape Town and got **Springbok** colours when he competed against Taiwan. Bernard got Springbok colours as a weightlifting coach and received the State President's award.

Hellen says: We always look forward to your newsletters and Zoom meeting when possible.



I commend you on your excellent work in keeping the Kimberley people and history alive.

(we will add the sporting prowess to the [Benjamin, Bernard](#) story in due course.)



~~~~~And then there was **Cyril Salkinder!**

Cyril, born in Kimberley 1945 wrote: In response to your request regarding the sporting achievements of the Kimberley community, I would like to make mention of my sporting life in Kimberley, as follows

I was awarded provincial colours in the following sports.

1. **Badminton**
2. **Weightlifting**
3. **Practical pistol shooting**
4. **Archery**

I also competed in six **Argus Cycle Tours** (105km) and participated in **Clay Pigeon Shooting** and **Bow Hunting** – and I really enjoy **hiking on the mountains in the Cape**.

Cyril shares his most memorable highlights in his sporting career:

### **Badminton**



In 1969 I competed in the **South African Games**, as a member of the Griqualand West badminton team.

In 1981 I represented South Africa for badminton at the **Maccabi games** in Israel. (In 1985 I was chosen again to play in the SA Maccabi veteran team, but due to business commitments I could not go.)



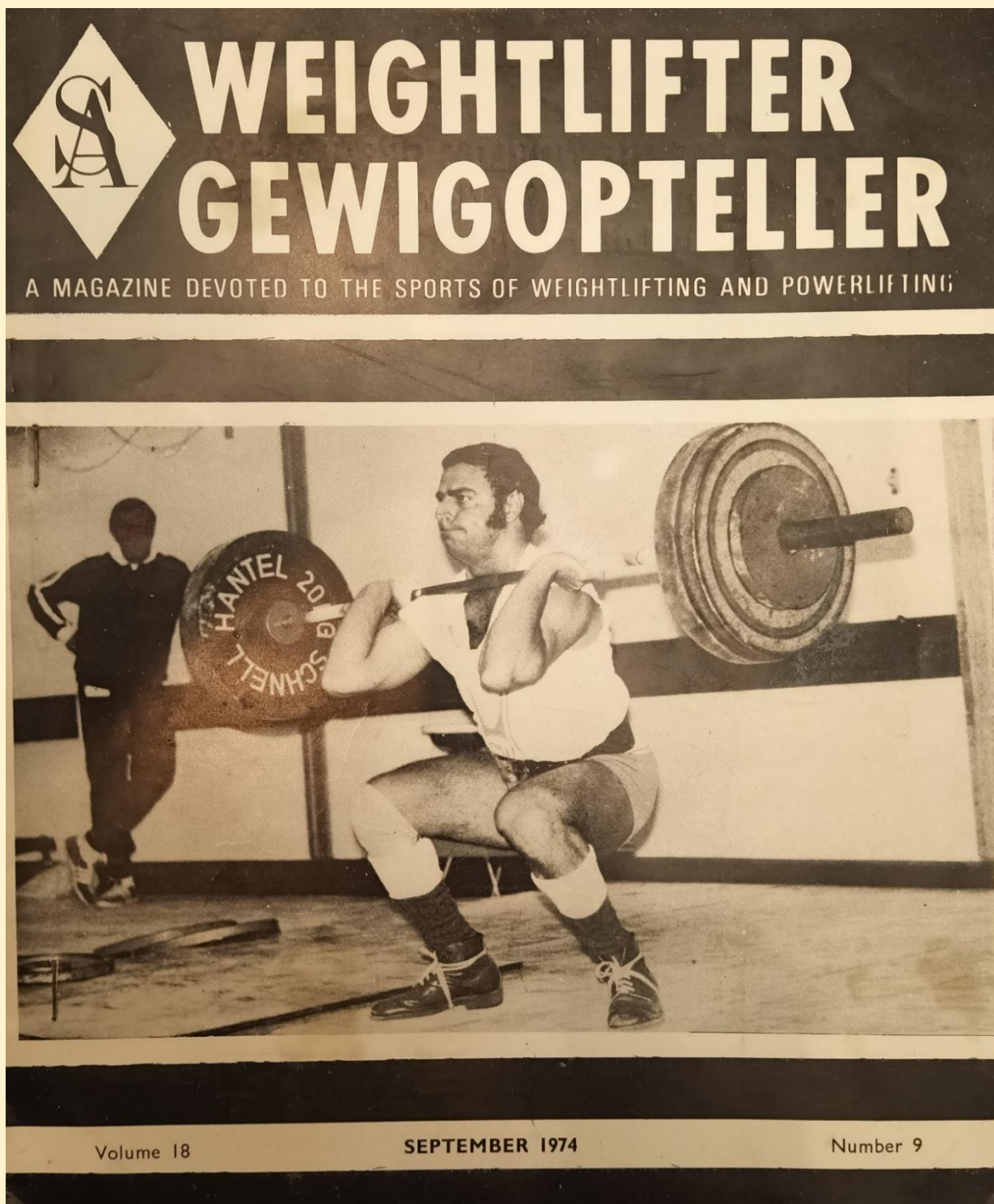
### **Archery**

I was placed fifth in the SA championships held in Kimberley. In the World field archery championships held in Johannesburg, I was placed fifth in the amateur B class competition. (See me in my bow hunting gear - right)



## Weightlifting

In 1973 I was placed third in the light-heavy weight division, at the South African Games held in Pretoria.



In the picture above, I am lifting for Griquas against the Orange Free State. I am glad to say that we won! You will soon be able to read Cyril Salkinder's story including his sporting career, his arms and ammunition business and his hikes in the mountains of the Cape on the website under families.

Cyril says: You have done an absolutely, superb and outstanding article on my family and my sporting achievements. I have improved my knowledge of our family, which is greatly appreciated, once again toda rabba. Thank you so, so much, Kindest regards, Cyril

Read it here: [Salkinder, Cyril](#)

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## **Bobby Benn – Hockey, Badminton and table tennis plus bowls and golf**

Delia Benn wrote: My husband Bobby was also very involved in sport. He had Griqua colours for **hockey** and **badminton** and in 1960 won Griqualand West men's singles open **table tennis** championships.

He was also a keen bowler and golfer. See their story here [Benn \(nee Brown\), Delia](#) and also Delia's account of the family involvement in 'Fiddler on the Roof' at the Kimberley theatre in March 1883 [Fiddler on the Roof](#)

## **Ivor Brown cricket and rugby - cricket and rugby member of the yacht club, hockey club and tennis club**

At school Ivor played cricket and rugby with great determination. He also played tennis regularly, as well as squash. He continued to play sports after he returned to Kimberley, becoming a regular member of the yacht club, hockey club and tennis club.

He was also an enthusiastic bowler in his later years, both in Kimberley and Cape Town and became a regular member of the daily Sea Point beachfront walking scene.

## **Barney Cohen – Bowls**

Brian Cohen <brianbcohen@icloud.com> wrote: I have my grandfather Barney Cohen's bowls, for some obscure reason. They are in a beautiful leather case with a silver monogram. I will take a photo and send on.

My older brother Raymond Cohen was a weightlifter too , Bernard Benjamin and Raymond were very close friends . Ray was an expert shooter too at the highest level. Ray was selected for the Maccabi games but for some reason did not go, this could have been weights or shooting. Read family stories [Cohen, Barnerd \(Barney\)](#) - Mayor 1931-32 and [Cohen, Cecil and Jean](#)

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## **Jeff Sussman – Hockey and Horse Jumping [jeff@sussman.com](mailto:jeff@sussman.com) b 1950s wrote from Australia:**

The Jewish boys were always prominent in sport at both school level and representing their province. I have attached pictures of GW Schools hockey in 1969. Robin Apter and Phillip Kretzmar and myself. I also attach National Show Jumping with Jonty and myself. I am also aware of David Klein excelling in Athletics and Rugby – but sadly don't have any documentation on this.

Hope this is of value, Jeff Sussman (Read Jeff's parents story [Sussman Cecil and Natalie](#))

See Jeff's articles and pictures below:



# National junior show

## jumping in city



SHOW jumping teams, complete with horses, arrived in Kimberley this week for the junior inter-provincial show jumping championships to be held at the De Beers Stadium tomorrow.

The five teams competing in the event are Transvaal, Natal, Western Province, Eastern Cape and combined Orange Free State and Northern Cape. The competition, which is being held for the first time in Kimberley, was introduced five years ago.

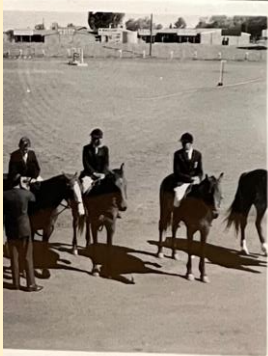
Hosts of the championships are the Orange Free State and Northern Cape team, whose members, all from the Kimberley Pony Club, were selected during trials last December.

Mr. H. A. Nussey, secretary of the Kimberley Pony Club, has been busy organizing the programme since February to ensure that the competitions will run smoothly.

The inter-provincial team championships will commence tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Each team will be represented by four riders and the winners will carry away the Smith-Hillcoat Trophy. Western Province, the present holders of the trophy, have won the championships three times.

### PRELIMINARIES

The preliminary events, being held today and tomorrow morning, are individual entry competitions. These include the Kimberley Pony Club's 1966 children's show which has drawn 42 entries from all over South Africa. Many members of the provincial teams will be competing in these events. All entrants are under 16 years of age and cash prizes have been sponsored for the competitions. The horses are divided into three categories governed by the height of the jumping obstacles. Maximum heights of the barriers are 3½ft. for the J.C. group and 4ft. for the J.B. and J.A. groups.



These five young men, all members of the Kimberley Pony Club, have been selected to represent the Northern Cape and O.F.S. in the inter-provincial junior show jumping championships which will take place at De Beers Stadium tomorrow afternoon. From 8 a.m. today there will be a full programme of events for individual competitors. The team was selected at trials held last December and only tonight will the four riders and the reserve member of the team be nominated. They are: back row (from left to right), Jonathan Sandler (captain), Peter Blanckenberg, John Bosman; front, Charles Croft and Jeffrey Sussman.







The Griqua Schoolboys hockey side which left for Cape Town yesterday to compete in the South African Inter-Provincial Schools hockey tournament. They will play 10 matches. Back row from the left: C. Jonker, J. Sussman, G. Rose (captain), P. Kretzmar, D. Weyer, Mr. R. van Rensburg (assistant manager), F. Oberholster, and R. Apter. Front: Mr. J. Fernandes (manager), K. Fairweather, P. van Holdt, J. Fernandes, I. Zondagh, L. Napier and A. Johnson.



SATURDAY, APRIL

Local team

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**Marvin Cohen [loisandmarvin@gmail.com](mailto:loisandmarvin@gmail.com) writes about KHS schoolboy sports:**

He says: I have been in two minds whether to write about myself but after considering the fact that I only started playing any sort of organised sport when I started boarding school at KHS, I owe my interest and participation to the fact that I was at KHS, though I was from Upington.

In my final year I represented GW schools at **Hockey**, Nuffield **Cricket** and under18 **Soccer**. It was really hockey that I continued with, after school and while at UCT went on to represent UCT and Western Province. Strangely the Nuffield Cricket week that I played in was in Kimberley in January 1965 and one of the hockey inter provincial tournaments played in was also in Kimberley in 1973 .

Below are the team announcements and I have photos of the teams - not sure whether any of this is of interest to the newsletter readers. Please don't in anyway feel obliged to include any of this as I understand I was not really part of the Kimberley community.



## G. West junior soccer teams

The undermentioned have been selected to represent Griqualand West in the under-18 and under-16 divisions against Western Transvaal on Saturday, as curtain-raisers to the Mackie Cup game.

All players are to attend a practice session at the Technical College grounds on Thursday at 4.30 p.m.

Under-18: T. Menzies, J. Almandro, K. Hubbard, E. Millar, J. Dunn (v.-capt.), E. Smith, R. Norval, J. Cook, E. Jackson, M. Cohen, L. Dixon (capt.).

Reserves: H. van Dyk, P. Visser, D. Sales.

Under-16: A. Hoffman, W. Nowell, A. Verwey, L. Sales (capt.), D. Wilson, D. Seeley, R. Weyer, D. van den Bergh, H. Damon (v.-capt.), J. Billett, G. van Rensburg.

## GRIQUA NUFFIELD TEAM

THE team to represent Griqualand West in the Nuffield Week of cricket in Kimberley from January 11 to 16 includes, for the first time, a player from Diamantveld High School — W. Wilson.

There are seven new caps, names marked with an asterisk, in the team of 13 which will be captained by Michael Doherty of Christian Brothers' College.

The team is:

J. Briscoe (C.B.C.), \*M. Cohen (K.H.S.), B. Coquelle (K.H.S.), \*L. Dixon (C.B.C.), M. Doherty (C.B.C. — captain), \*J. Dunn (K.H.S.), \*R. Gibson (C.B.C.), B. McNamara (C.B.C.), P. Morris (K.H.S. — vice-captain), \*B. Passmore (C.B.C.), \*A. Siopis (C.B.C.), P. Visser (Technical College), \*W. Wilson (Diamantveld.).

Marvin, we are pleased to include your sporting prowess in Kimberley. Read our story of the Jewish Community of [Upington](#)



# G.W. SCHOOLS HOCKEY TEAM

THE Griqualand West school-boys' hockey team to play in the annual schoolboys' inter-provincial hockey tournament in Johannesburg from July 6 to 11 is: J. van der Walt (Tech.), S. Townsend (K.H.S.), W. Adams (K.H.S.), L. Jubber (Tech., vice-capt), B. McNamara (C.B.C., capt.), D. Freeme (K.H.S.), P. Joubert (Tech.), C. Helfrich (K.H.S.), G. Vivian (C.B.C.), M. Cohen (K.H.S.), J. Dirksen (Industries), S. Swanepoel (Industries), Drier (C.B.C.), D. Johnson (Elcon).

The manager is Mr. L. Venter.

# WP hockey sides named

The following are the Western Province men's A and B hockey teams to take part in the South African interprovincial championships in Kimberley from August 6 to April 11.

## A TEAM

M. Mars (UCT), W. Orton (Fish Hoek), J. Nel (Paarl), S. Wood (UCT), D. Welham (UCT), A. Madsen (UCT), J. Gouws (Paarl), J. Plimsoll (WPHC), M. Cohen (UCT), E. Liebenberg, (captain Paarl), H. Nel (Paarl), R. Denne (Fish Hoek), S. McIntosh (Fish Hoek), K. Palmer (UCT), H. Koen (Paarl).

## B TEAM

N. Small (WPHC), A. Mac-Lauren (United), R. Norton (captain WP), G. Alexander (Fish Hoek), A. Haigue (Fish Hoek), P. Maree (WP), K. Lawless (UCT), H. Lloyd (Pinelands), J. Botha (Paarl), G. Thompson (Bergvliet), J. Trott (Bergvliet), R. Clark (Bergvliet) J. Thorpe (Stellenbosch), B. Eadie (Fish Hoek), C. Hatt (Fish Hoek).

From: **Arnold Bayer**

<arnoldbayer@telkomsa.net>

Re the sports news I recall that **Norman Weinberg** was president of **Griqualand West Rugby Union** for many years. I remember that he was highly regarded

in rugby circles. Stella, his wife, was a first cousin to my late mother and I recall their kindness to both Adele and myself when we were boarders in Kimberley.

Sadly, most of the Weinberg family have passed on and those that are around have no connection to Kimberley. Thanks and regards, Arnold Bayer.

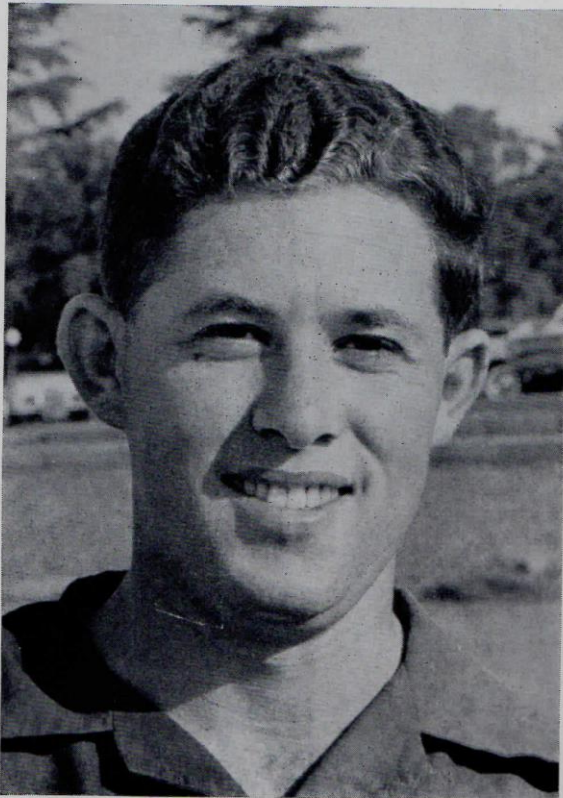
**Marshal Hotz** [rose6@bezeqint.net](mailto:rose6@bezeqint.net) reminded us that **Geoffrey Weinberg** (b Kimberley 1933) middle son of Norman and Stella Weinberg, played cricket for Griquas 1963/64 – right hand batsman and right arm medium bowler. Read the Hotz Story [Hotz, Hilda & Charlie](#)

From: **Clifford Rosenberg** [cliff.rose@mweb.co.za](mailto:cliff.rose@mweb.co.za) Thanks for your mail - Maybe the snippets below might be of interest to you. My roots were in Vryburg – I matriculated in 1958. My two brothers **Derek and Winston**, and I all went to KHS. **Derek was Victor Ludorum** around 1953. **Winston was a hockey Springbok**, after leaving school having played for Western Province and Southern Transvaal during which time he was selected for the Boks.



## K.H.S. SPRINGBOK GALLERY

*In this issue we start a series of photographs and biographical sketches of K.H.S. Springboks. The Editor will appreciate it very much if Old Boys will send him their photographs and life sketches for future issues. All photographs will be returned.*



*Winston Rosenberg*

### WINSTON JOHN ROSENBERG

He attended the Vryburg Junior School from 1945 to 1951 and was at K.H.S. from 1952 to 1956. He played tennis for the first team and captained the first hockey team. He gained the Field Marshal Smuts Award and won a Beit Scholarship.

From 1957 to 1960 he attended the University of Cape Town and obtained B.Sc. — Mathematics and Physics — and B.Sc. (Hons.) — Physics. He played for the first hockey team which he captained for two years. He also represented Western Province in 1959 and 1960.

In the following year he joined an international firm of computer and accounting machines manufacturers in Johannesburg. Here he played for Balfour Park and Southern Transvaal. He was also selected for the S.A. Invitation team to play the Swallows.

From 1962 to 1964 he played for Eastern Province and in 1963 played for a S.A. Invitation XI against De Batavieren.

In 1964 he was selected for the South African team to tour Britain.

He is branch manager of his firm in Port Elizabeth.



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Lines.

After leaving school, I played hockey for Western Province, Free State and Griquas.

If you wish please feel free to call me any time – I currently live in Johannesburg

Kind regards, Cliff Rosenberg, **ctr Solutions, Cel: 082 7777 900**



## Raymond Ellis – Cycling

**Raymond Ellis**, son of Edith and Sam Ellis was born in Kimberley in 1949. He was a brilliant scholar at CBC. He worked in finance in Kimberley, Johannesburg, London and then eventually made his dream come true of making Aliya. He says I didn't feel at home in South Africa or England, but I have always felt at home in Israel. His years in Habonim in Kimberley (under **Leon Chonin** as a madrich) may have played a part). Raymond decided to take a break from the world of Economics and try some other professions. He said: 'I divided my day into three sections for ten years and took a job in Finance in the mornings, Social Work in the afternoons and Lecturing in Business English and General English in the evenings'. Raymond says, my 'curiosity, creativity and my imagination made it possible to have all these experiences'.

His 'sporting prowess' has been in managing the cycling career of his youngest son **Ronen**. In the picture (above right) we see Ronen crowned Israel Men's Mountain bike Marathon Champion in 2017. Before that Ronen was a child and youth champion.



Ronen is now a professional Cycling Coach with the Wingate Institute. Recently Ronen coached his father Raymond and entered him in a Mountain Bike Race.

**Raymond Ellis** (left) says: I was terrified to find that I was with two hundred and fifty riders at the start line of the thirty-kilometre race with riders aged 16 to 68. (I was the oldest rider in the race). To my amazement I came 99th out of

250 in the stunning time of one hour and 22 mins. Read more about Raymond's interesting life, compiled by Leon Chonin for the website here: [Ellis, Sam, Edith & son Raymond](#).

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### Talking about cycling, Dennis Hammer writes:

I thought I may as well tell you a bit about my Cycling Achievements! I was never that much of a sportsman. I was pretty average, perhaps less than average, while at Kimberley Boys High.

When I subsequently graduated from UCT in 1969 (Chem Eng), and started working, only later in 1983 at the age of 35, I heard about the Argus Cycle Tour (now the Cape Town

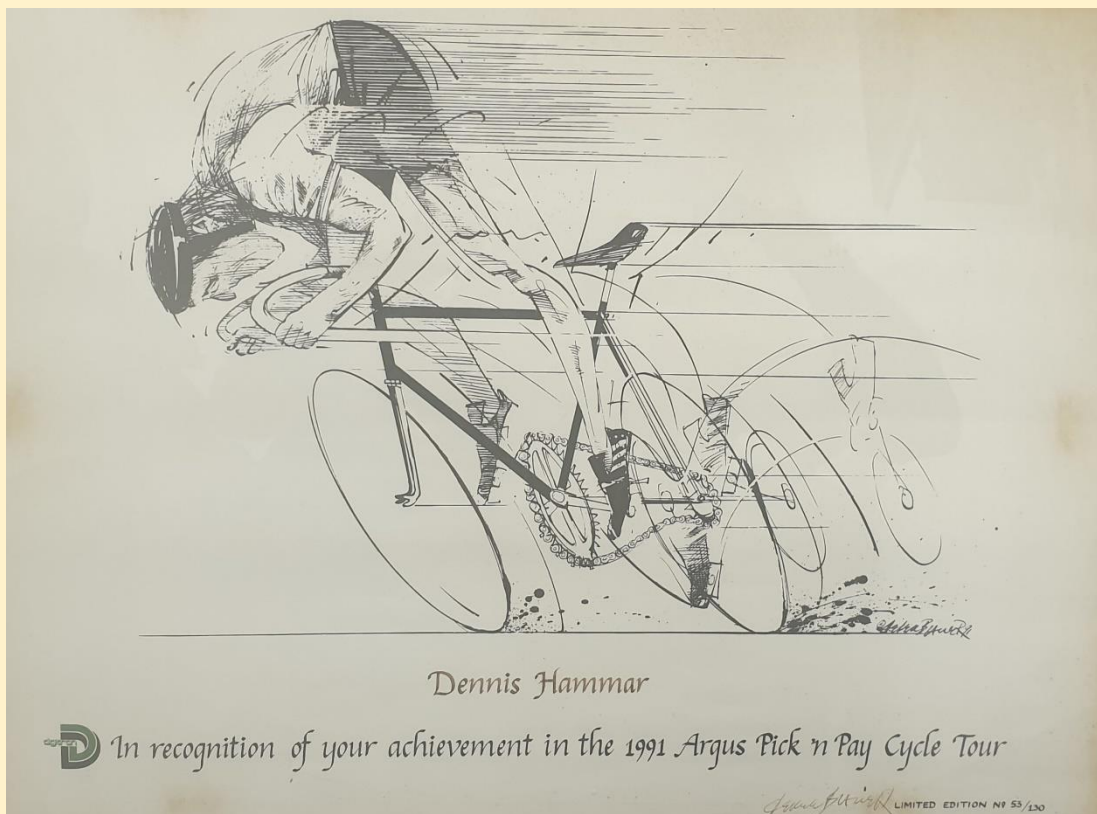
Cycle Tour, or the CTCT, over 109km around the Cape Peninsula, and which attracts up to 35000 participants) and was persuaded by a friend to enter the 1984 event. Riding a heavy Raleigh bike then, I finished in a very creditable time of 3hrs 41min, in a position of 375 out of 2023 finishers. In my third entry in 1986 I "broke" the holy grail time of 3 hours, finishing in 2hrs 52min, in 117th position out of 3086. I have since completed 37 consecutive Cycle Tours, with 10 of them being in 3 hours or less, and most in under 3hrs 20min. In 2013, in my then age category of 65 - 69, I finished 2nd out of 726, and in the latest (2021) event I was placed 7th out of 247 in the 70-74 aged category.

In the CTCT there used to be Team Events, and in 1991, I was in the MIXED TEAM EVENT (two men/two women), which we won as the team with the lowest aggregate time. I have the Certificate to show for it!

I have also completed 9 Double Century (200km) rides, with a best time of 7hrs 9min in 2019. See the photo of our 1999 team, with me third from the right. This is a 12-member team event where we all ride together, and finish together. I have also cycled from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town on two tours. This is over a distance of approx 800km in an organised Group, taking 5 days, but at a reasonable pace, and overnighing at stops along the way.

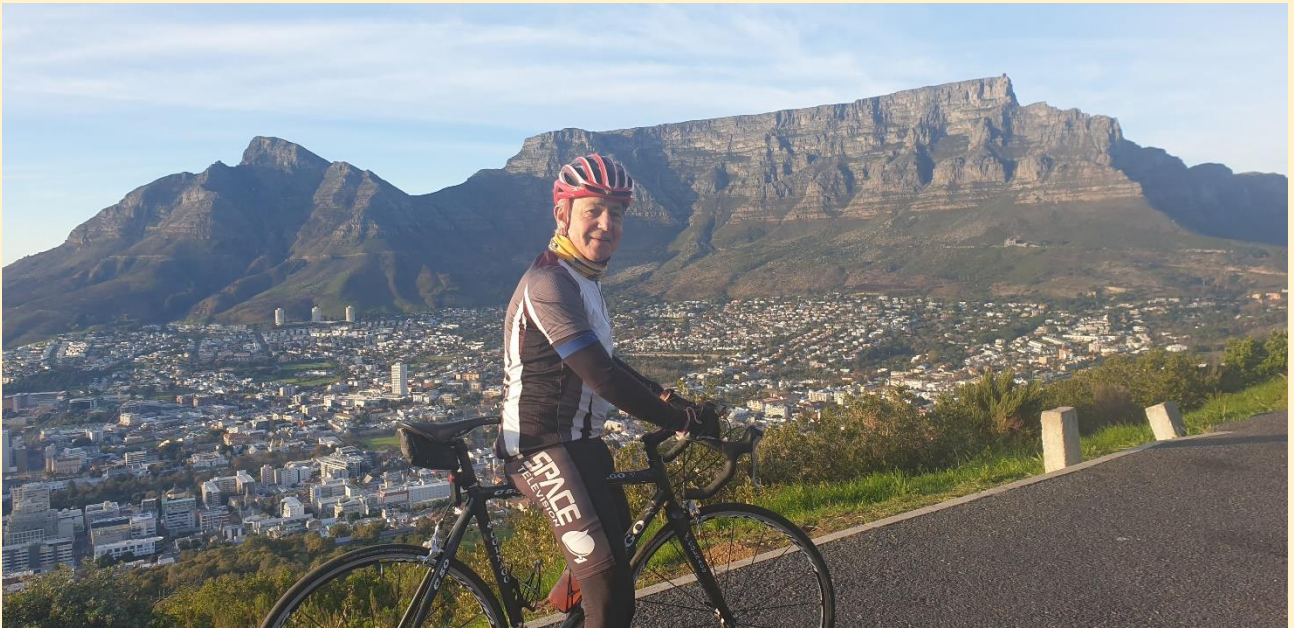
Here are a few photos from my cycling "career"!

I still cycle regularly, averaging around 250 to 300km per week in summer.



This was in the Cape Argus in 1991 recognition of my achievements in the Pick 'n Pay Tour



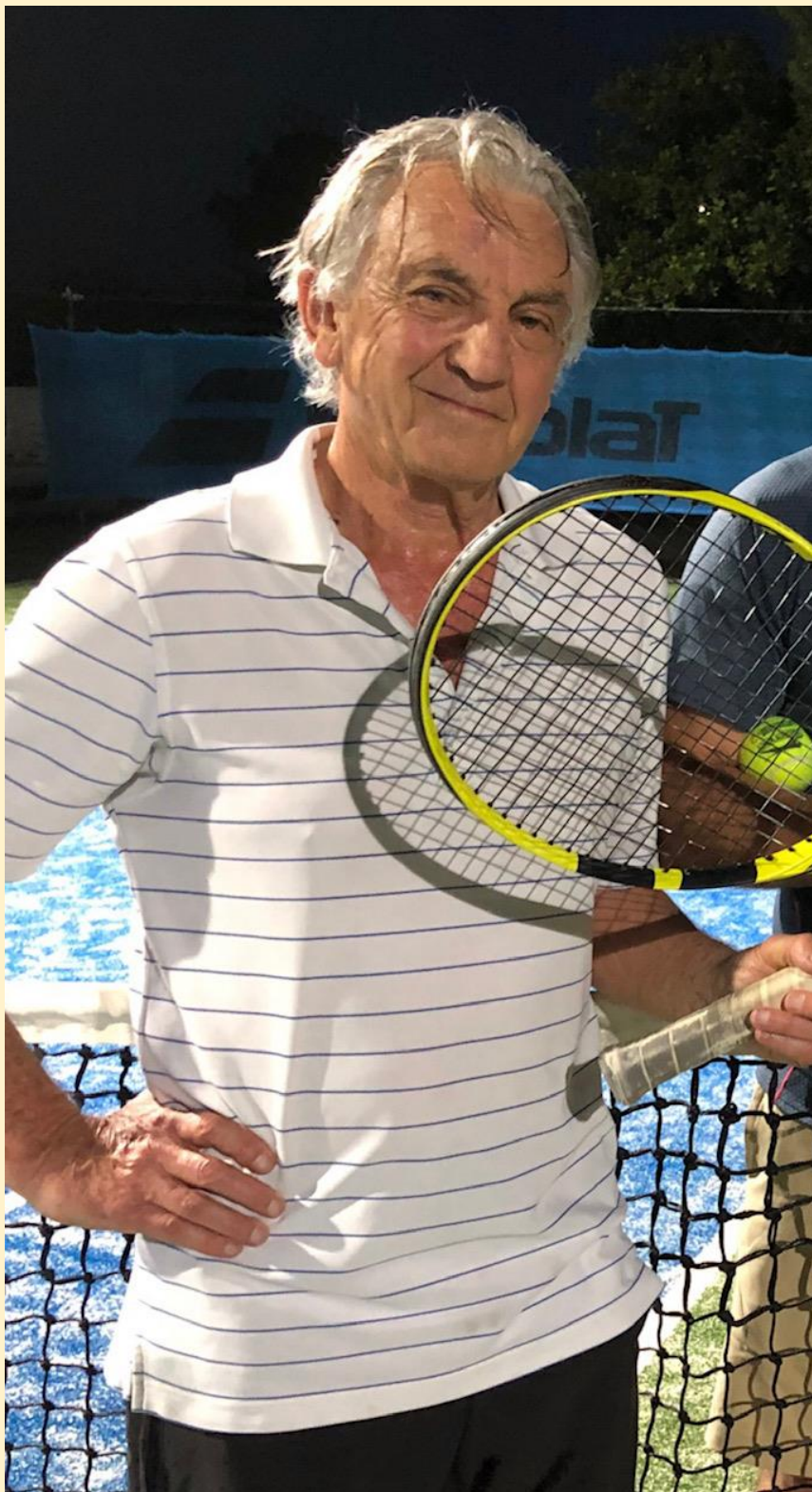


Read the Hammar family story here [Hammar Family](#)



**Michael Sperber – Tennis** [msperber@algologie.com.au](mailto:msperber@algologie.com.au) writes:

Hi Geraldine



I was chosen for the Griqua Nuffield (Schools) cricket team and then the Currie Cup team in 1955. Thereafter also for Rhodes University and Eastern Province.

I was told that I could go much further but I was far more interested in chasing females rather than cricket balls !!

I am happy to say that even now at the ripe old age of 84, I still play tennis for Australia at the Maccabi Games.

Thanks again for all the good work and happy memories that you revive for us old Kimberley folk.

Read Michael's story here [Sperber, Michael](#)

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**Kimberley Ex-Pats Newsletter #46** Sporting Prowess

Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE London, January 2022

With thanks to all those who have sent in their sporting stories.