

Morley Pecker

According to the introduction to his contribution to the Peter Savage Oral History Collection maintained by the Hockey Museum, Morley Pecker is a man who, in his own words, has "worn many hats" within hockey.

He is a former international umpire, judge, technical director, appeal jury member, administrator and photographer. He officiated at the 1972, 1976, 1980 and 1984 Olympic Games in Munich, Montreal, Moscow and Los Angeles, and was the European Hockey Federation's (EHF) Honorary Treasurer for 16 years as well as sitting on FIH Committees over a lengthy period.

Instead of going into retirement after all this, he helped in 2002 at the age of 65 to create the World Grand Masters Association (WGMA), to run the international tournaments for the over-60s and umpired at these during a further ten years. Not forgotten by the FIH, he was appointed as a member of the Appeal Jury at the November 2018 Men's World Cup in India.



Morley first encountered hockey at his preparatory school in Bognor, where his football goalkeeping led him to the same position in hockey. He went on to Epsom College and played in goal for the 1st XI. When he left school in 1954, he applied to Hampstead Hockey Club (which had re-formed after the hiatus of World War 2) as it was the closest club to where he lived when he began his accountancy career as an Articled Clerk.

He played for the Club's teams until the end of the decade. He did not take long to be critical of the lack of publicity for the Club and he raised the issue at the AGM on 1 April 1955. He was thanked for doing so and, in time honoured fashion, it was agreed to refer the matter to the Committee!

He frequently played in goal for the Sunday Spaniards team that travelled to venues away from London, such as Middleton on Sea, where he was photographed with the team, which that day

included Jimmy Deegan, soon to be representing Great Britain at the Rome Olympic Games as a Hampstead player¹.



He recalled that the game that gave him the most pleasure was when playing for Hampstead's 2nd XI at Hounslow (then England hockey's top club, with a 1st XI containing all international players and the 2nd XI that day having four others) when Hampstead pulled off an amazing 2-1 victory. This was despite having only two shots at goal, a penalty corner and a penalty bully², both of which were scored from. The defence, too, was in great form. Not only did Hampstead's 2nd XI win that day, their 1st XI also thrilled the whole Club by drawing 1-1. This was the first occasion since the Club's post War re-formation that Hounslow had not beaten Hampstead's 1st XI.

In 1957, despite his young age, Morley agreed to manage the Spaniards XI and was appointed its captain at the Club's AGM held on 5 April 1957. It did not prove as easy as he might have thought. On 7 October 1957, he reported to the Committee his difficulty in raising a side and it was decided that a certain number of fixtures should be dropped. A notice inviting players to join the Spaniards team had been sent to *Hockey News*, but it was embargoed by the Committee. Instead, it was agreed that the number of fixtures should be strictly curtailed and that match managers should be appointed.

Having qualified as a Chartered Accountant, Morley started his military national service in December 1960. He played in goal for the Royal Artillery until, in his words, "they discovered how bad I really was" and later for the British Army of the Rhine, having by then become commissioned at Mons Officer Cadet School in Aldershot and posted to Minden in Germany.

It was then that he decided to go on an Army umpiring course and enjoyed travelling to umpire Army Cup matches all over Germany. His time in Germany coincided with the building of the Berlin Wall and the laying of minefields between East and West Germany. He was given the command of his Regiment's border patrols (made on behalf of the Brigade) on the mined border near Helmstedt³ and also in the Hertz Mountains, where he took a patrol on skis.

¹ Seen standing directly behind Morley, in his goalkeeping pads in the photograph.

² Introduced in 1908, it was a bully between the offending player and any player from the attacking team. Other players could not take part until the penalty bully was complete and had to remain outside the penalty circle, later the 25-yard line. In 1963, it was replaced by the penalty stroke.

³ From the late 1940s to 1990, the town was the site of a major border crossing between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. The main rail and autobahn route between West Germany and Berlin, across the GDR, began at the Helmstedt–Marienborn border crossing, also known as Checkpoint Alpha. Official military traffic from NATO countries to West Berlin was only allowed to use this route.

Equally challenging during his period in Germany, he recollects having to umpire a hockey match between the Cameronians and the South Wales Borderers, which he regarded as a war of its own, especially between the two Regimental Sergeant Majors, who he had to order from the pitch before the end of the game.

His national service ended in February 1963, having served a little longer than usual owing to poor levels of recruitment for the regular army. Having had a taste of serious umpiring in Germany, he decided that his goalkeeping career was over and he applied to join the Southern Counties Hockey Umpires' Association. After umpiring a few games for some of the lower Hampstead XIs, he went through a period as an SCHUA probationer before being elected as a full member. That was the start of his serious umpiring career.

On 3 April 1967, Morley accepted honorary membership of the Club. In June 1968, following the offer made by Morley and V Wood (both goalkeepers) to donate their 200 Draw winnings to the Club, the Committee agreed that the sum might be invested and the interest earned would be used to award a tankard for the Club member of the year or be set against the cost of buying a spiker to assist the drainage of the pitches. Following soundings and, in particular, after conversations with the two donors, it was agreed to adopt the former suggestion. Accordingly, at the Club's AGM on 27 March 1969, the Woodpecker Trophy for *member of the year* was awarded to Richard Clarke, for his very special efforts as captain of the 1st XI and an officer of the Club⁴.

Morley umpired, mainly in London League matches for the remainder of the 1960s and early 1970s. During that time, he officiated with Nevill Miroy in the Club's 75th Club Anniversary game at Hornsey, when the 1st XI took on the Hockey Association representative side. It ended in a 2-2 draw.

However, having started to work in Brussels, at a time when travel backwards and forwards was not as easy or speedy as it is now, his contacts with the Club and also English hockey dried up for some years, despite his attempting to get back to London once a month to umpire London League matches. He then began a long period of umpiring Division 1 (the name then for the Premier Division) or Division 2 matches in the Belgian League. He even umpired an International Match in Brussels between Belgium and Zimbabwe, their first-ever international under the country's new name. His other international matches around then included four in Caracas in Venezuela, involving also Trinidad & Tobago⁵ and Cuba.

On attending an umpiring congress in London at the time of the 1967 Pre-Olympic Tournament at Lord's and the Oval, Morley came to the notice of the then FIH General Secretary Etienne Glichitch. His fluency in French meant that his skills were needed as an interpreter and translator. He was encouraged to become involved at this level by the General Secretary, and this was the start of many years of voluntary work for the FIH.

His first official FIH position was as a member of the Public Relations and Press Committee, and later he was appointed the Secretary of the newly-formed Rules Research Committee, which had the task of studying and putting forward proposals for changes to the Rules of the Game. He later had an even greater involvement, translating the FIH General Secretary's minutes of the FIH Council Meetings from French into English and helping with their drafting, meaning that he had to attend all FIH Council Meetings.

⁴ The semi-eponymous Tankard was later presented to Morley himself on 2 December 1978 on a visit to London to umpire a London League match, for services rendered to the Club.

⁵ in games enthusiastically recollected by the Club's current coach, Kwan Browne, who first played for Trinidad & Tobago at the age of 15.

His translating was not confined to this and included working on and translating the FIH Statutes and Regulations from the French, conscious that the translations needed to reflect the true hockey intentions and written in a way that translations into other languages could clearly reflect them. He reckoned that these tasks, carried out gratuitously, took a lot more of his free time than he ought to have given them!

He was also very interested in photography, having initially photographed at cricket matches. At that time there was no specialised professional or even amateur hockey photographer. His contact with the FIH in 1967 resulted in Morley being appointed the FIH's official photographer at the 1968 Mexico Olympic Games and then the 1st World Cup in Barcelona in 1971.



First World Cup 1971 Barcelona; Photo Morley Pecker



First World Cup 1971 Barcelona: 3rd place play off; Kenya v India: Photo Morley Pecker



Kulbir Bhaura in action: Photo Morley Pecker

Photography also led to Morley's election in March 1973 to the committee of The British Hockey Writers' Club. The formation of the Club was originally discussed at a meeting at the Trent Bridge Cricket Ground on 16 December 1972. Its aim was to generate greater publicity for the sport. After discussion, its formation was proposed by Dick Hollands of the *Daily Telegraph* (who was to become its first Chairman) and seconded by Pat Rowley.

The first general meeting took place at Lord's on 25 March 1973. In 1974, the name of the Club was changed to The Hockey Writers' Club, to enable membership to include overseas journalists. Morley contributed to periodicals such as *Hockey Digest*, where he was able to offer a European perspective⁶ and he supplied most of the photographs for the FIH's *World Hockey* magazine over many years.

In December 1973, Morley moved to Brussels to take a post as a Principal Administrator at the European Commission. Nonetheless, he expressed the wish still to be connected to Hampstead Hockey Club. He anticipated taking up umpiring in Belgium but did his best to return to the UK from time to time to keep his umpiring eye in at London League matches.

In the meantime, Morley's participation as an official continued. He was appointed to the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972, where he acted as an Umpire and a Judge. He continued

⁶ For example, his 1976 article on Southgate as the new EEC, the English European Champions, following their success in the 8th European Cup for Club Champions held in Amsterdam, written with Jean Noel (and which includes a photograph by him of Mike Corby on the attack).

there as photographer as well. The Games were overshadowed by the taking hostage of 11 Israeli athletes in the Olympic Village by the Palestinian Black September group, demanding the release of 234 Palestinian prisoners and the leaders of the Red Army Faction. This tragically ended with 17 deaths, including a West German police officer shot in crossfire and five of the eight perpetrators.

There was a marked lack of news at that time in comparison with what there would have been in later years. The day in question was the sole rest day in the hockey programme and when the FIH Congress was being held. News of the atrocity began to emerge at the mid-morning coffee break. Morley and others went to the Olympic Village and he recollects that they made an attempt to enter the Village but access was barred.

There was a lack of armed security personnel at the Games. The hosts wanted a relaxed atmosphere, in contrast to the Nazi dominated Games of 1936 in Berlin. Consequently, there was a general absence of officialdom and the police were in civilian clothing. Morley concluded that the Games, that had been brilliantly organised and run, then in his words lost their vitality once the full news emerged. The Games were only suspended 12 hours after the first Israeli athlete was murdered and then for just one day (on 6 September 1972) when a memorial service was held in the Olympic Stadium.

The final of the hockey tournament took place between West Germany and Pakistan⁷. West Germany won 1-0, becoming the first European winners since 1920. Their opponents were furious. Their team and officials invaded the pitch at the end of the match and assaulted police and stadium security staff. A bucket of water was emptied over the head of the FIH President, René Frank. The players refused to wear the silver medals awarded to them (some players dangled them inside their flip-flops, which they were holding in their hands) and to face the flag of the winning nation. They later damaged their changing room. 11 players were subsequently banned for life but this was reduced to two years, following a high-level apology.

Morley admitted that his umpiring was not good enough at the highest levels of the game and he increasingly concentrated on being a Judge. He officiated again at the Montreal Games four years later, once more combining this with photography. These Games were affected by a boycott by 29 largely African countries, following the IOC's refusal to ban New Zealand after its rugby team had toured South Africa in 1976 in defiance of a United Nations' call for a sporting embargo of South Africa⁸.

To qualify for the hockey tournament at the Games, Great Britain had taken part in a three-match play off in Amsterdam with Belgium, which the latter won 2-1 against expectations. As a result of the boycott, the Kenyan team withdrew. There was insufficient time for Great Britain, as first reserve, to fill the vacancy. Kenya's first scheduled game should have been against Germany and witnessed the German team take to the pitch with no opponent, to be awarded the match. This left five teams in the Pool. New Zealand and Spain ended the pool matches on equal points. This led to a play-off that the New Zealanders won 1-0 after extra time. They then went on to surprise the hockey world by beating Australia, most unexpectedly, in the final 1-0, to take the gold medals.

This coincided with one of Morley's more treasured photographs, taken from behind the goal at the winning short corner and through the netting, that featured the defenders, the ball and New

⁷ Earlier Great Britain had been placed sixth, after a 2-1 loss to Australia.

⁸ South Africa was banned from participation in the Olympic Games from 1964 until 1992 for its refusal to condemn Apartheid. New Zealand claimed that the NZRU was an autonomous body and not connected with the Olympic movement.

Zealand's captain, Tony Ineson, scoring that winning goal. It emerged later that the New Zealand goalkeeper, Trevor Manning had played most of the second half of that match with a seriously broken kneecap.

The amateur status of hockey in most countries at that time is reflected in the fact that Manning had had to give up his job prior to the Games to enable him to take part. He found on his return home that not only did he need a big operation on his knee but that there was then no job kept for him. Sadly, the New Zealand Hockey Association failed to capitalise on the country's unexpected success, in the same way that Great Britain failed following their gold medal win in Seoul in 1988.

At the next Olympics in Moscow in 1980, Morley was again lined up for participation as a Judge. The Games were subject to a US-led boycott in response to the Soviet-Afghan War. 65 nations withdrew and 16 provided altered participation. While Australia, Great Britain, the Netherlands, and New Zealand competed in some sports, their hockey governing bodies pulled out.

Great Britain's Hockey Board voted against participation on the casting vote of the acting Chairman. This was England's Hon Treasurer, who happened to be Margaret Thatcher's tax accountant, replacing the President, who was abroad in Japan on a sabbatical. Argentina, Kenya, Pakistan, Malaysia and West Germany boycotted the Games completely. When nine of the originally invited 12 teams withdrew, the IOC reduced the hockey competition to six teams. Cuba and Tanzania represented the Americas and Africa, in place of Argentina and Kenya respectively and Poland was also drafted in as the next best team from the 1978 World Cup.

Despite receiving direct British political pressure, Morley nonetheless believed it proper to fulfil his appointment as a Judge. He determined that he should attend the Games, particularly because women's hockey was on the agenda for the first time and support was necessary. He pointed out that his appointment was from the FIH and not Great Britain Hockey. Umpire Chris Todd did not go.

The Men's tournament was won by India, who defeated Spain by 4-3 in the final. Morley was appointed to judge the final, meaning that he was unable to take photographs. There were significant losses in earlier games by the lesser teams, including India's 18-0 defeat of Tanzania and its 13-0 win against Cuba, as well as the 13-0 defeat of Tanzania by Spain and its 11-0 win against Cuba. Tanzania finished with a goal difference of -57 and Cuba -35. Another replacement team, the middle-aged Zimbabwe women (jocularly referred to as the team of grandmothers) surprised the world by becoming the first-ever Women's Olympic gold medal winners.

For the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984, Morley was again appointed by the FIH both as a Judge and as Photographer. He was therefore allowed access to the pitch even when not judging. He had the distinction there of being the first man to act as a Judge in an Olympic Women's match⁹.

In 1987 Morley was elected the Honorary Treasurer of the EHF, the governing body of hockey in Europe. It was founded in 1969. Currently its Executive Board is composed of a Director General and 11 elected members from all over Europe. The EHF is the continental federation representing Europe and one of the five federations affiliated to the FIH.

⁹ The games in Moscow four years earlier had witnessed the first time when women's hockey was played in the Olympics, but only women Judges officiated there. From Los Angeles onwards the team of judges covered all the matches.

In addition to the general wide-ranging duties of Treasurer, Morley personally maintained the accounts of the EHF and collaborated directly with the office, first in Dublin and, subsequently, in The Hague. This involved the financial relations with the FIH and the member associations, involving many meetings and being in constant collaboration with the EHF's General Secretary. Meetings were frequently combined with hockey events around the continent and committee meetings were spread around the member associations, particularly to assist the smaller countries with relationships with their national sporting bodies.

All this had to be done whilst also carrying out his work for the European Commission, which involved negotiating with the Treasuries and Ministries of Finance of the EU's Member States on their contributions to the EU budget.

The biggest responsibility of his 16 years with the EHF came about with the end of the Soviet Union at the end of the 1980s. Rapidly, ten new European nations came into being and in hockey matters each needed assistance with the formation of its own Association. It led to considerable activity within the EHF. A large-scale meeting was called in Vilnius to meet the new Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers of the new nation Associations.

The EHF was represented by its French President, Alain Danet, along with Morley and David Balbirnie from Ireland, who was then the EHF's General Secretary. The trio sat in the very front of the Lithuanian plane and received very special attention on arrival in Vilnius, where an official car was waiting at the airport to meet them at the foot of the aircraft's steps ready to take them away swiftly. However, Morley remembered that he had a suitcase in the hold and their departure was held up (as was the exit from the plane of all the other passengers) until his luggage had been retrieved and loaded into the car, which was then whisked away through gates that suddenly opened.

The Conference took place at the very end of September and before heating was traditionally switched on in Lithuania on 1st October. Morley recalls the severity of the cold in the hotel and that during the various meetings they all wore their overcoats to keep warm.

Through the 1980s Morley continued to act as a Judge in international tournaments, including Champions Trophies in Karachi in 1980 and 1981 and in 1982 in Amsterdam. His experience came into sharp focus three years later at the Champions Trophy in Perth, Western Australia where he was one of the Technical Officers.

On 19 November 1985, Germany faced India, at the end of the first-round matches, with a place in the semi-finals at stake for Germany. Morley was appointed the Technical Officer for this match. Alongside on the official table was a young Australian umpire, who, at the request of the hosts, was the tournament's official timekeeper (and proved to be extremely conscientious and efficient at it).

Germany took an early second half lead and went 5-1 up, when Carsten Fischer scored his third from a short corner in the 51st minute. Germany then substituted two key players, Ekkhard Schmidt-Opper and Stefan Blöcher (in the days when rolling substitution was not permitted). India fought back and scored in the 62nd, 65th and 68th minutes, to bring it to 5-4.

Morley sensed the important possibilities in the final minute as India attacked. He asked his timekeeper to concentrate solely on the clock, whilst he would watch the play. In the last five seconds, the India forward drove into the circle and with just two seconds left to play, his stick was chopped. The umpire, Don Prior, blew his whistle to award a penalty stroke, followed virtually immediately by the stadium hooter to mark the end of play. Everything stopped. Morley managed to leap across the ditch at the side of the pitch and walk forcibly towards Don

Prior to confirm clearly that the whistle had indeed sounded a second or two before the end of play hooter and that the award of a penalty stroke should stand. The stroke was converted by Joaquim Martin Carvahó for a 5-5 draw. As a result of Germany not winning, Australia advanced to the later stages – and subsequently went on to win the tournament¹⁰.

The 1988 Olympic Games were held in Seoul in Korea, and it saw Great Britain win the Men's gold medals. Morley was not a judge this time but was still the honorary FIH-accredited photographer and he produced most of the photographs for *World Hockey*.

Morley also officiated in the World Cup in 1990 in Lahore as a Technical Officer and Judge. His appointments included the semi-final between the Netherlands and Germany, which was won by the Dutch in the 78th minute, with a golden goal scored by Floris Jan Bovelanders, and then at the Bronze Medal match between Germany and Australia that the latter won 2-1.

In that match, with Australia leading 2-0, lumps of concrete were thrown on to the playing surface by some in the crowd of 60,000 who had placed wagers, expecting a German victory. The match was stopped and Morley had to ask the Pakistani official at the table to telephone the stadium announcer to broadcast that the game would be suspended if any further objects were launched on to the pitch. Fortunately, the police stepped in and there was no further occurrence.

Over his long period of officiating at international events, Morley has had his fair share of excitement. One instance that he remembers well was when he was involved in the first-ever international tournaments where a substantial monetary prize was awarded to the winning team. The Pakistan Federation organised two four-nations round-robin tournaments in Dubai and then immediately afterwards in Kuwait, the main aim being to provide entertainment for the thousands of Pakistani and Indian workers in those countries. Morley was appointed by the FIH as a Judge in Dubai and as the Technical Official in Kuwait.

In the latter event that involved Pakistan, India, Great Britain and Germany, the final match was Pakistan against India. When the game started, Great Britain were in the top position: only a victory by Pakistan with them scoring at least five goals would result in Pakistan claiming the trophy and the monetary prize. It is important to know that there was a large stadium clock which started at zero at the beginning of each half. It was not stopped when the umpires stopped time, so that the half would tend to finish with the clock showing more than the 35 elapsed minutes (the time for a half in those days).

This match between Pakistan and India turned out to be very ill-disciplined, especially in the second half, with time stopped continually. At one stage, India were leading 4-1 but as the second half progressed, the score became 4-4 with very little time left. With about ten seconds to go, Netherlands umpire, Robby Lathouwers awarded a penalty corner to Pakistan that generated immense excitement among the 65,000 crowd.

Because the Indians were delaying things unduly, the umpire did stop the time, with just two or three seconds remaining. However, in those days, apart from time-wasting and other unusual reasons, time was not stopped at a penalty corner. Because of the tremendous noise in the stadium that made it difficult to hear the full-time hooter, Morley had arranged with Robby that when his Spanish judge pressed the hooter, Morley would be half way up the touchline with a whistle and a red flag.

¹⁰ which might explain why the officials were applauded at the end of the game by the Australian fans

Just a second or two after time had started again and with the ball on its way to the receiving Pakistan player, Morley heard the hooter and blew loudly and waved his flag. Robby heard this and blew for time before a shot at goal was possible. The match was therefore drawn 4-4 and Great Britain were the winners of the trophy and the money.

All hell was let loose. Morley was accused of stopping the game early to enable Great Britain to be the winners. This was despite the stadium clock showing not just 35 minutes but 50 minutes, as a result of all the stoppages for red cards and injuries in the second half. It was felt that Morley's safety was not assured. He was whisked out of the stadium and back to the hotel and then on to the airport to catch a late evening British Airways flight to London, rather than fulfil his intention to remain in Kuwait until next morning to catch his scheduled Gulf Air midday flight.

In 1996, Morley was awarded the Diploma of Merit by the FIH in recognition of his long service to the sport and to the FIH. The Diploma is awarded to individuals, whether members or former members of the FIH for periods of distinguished service or more general service than that required for those receiving the highest order, the Order of Merit, which is extended to reward a top person's devotion to hockey (for past senior members of FIH). No more than six awards may be given during each two-year period.

In 2003 Morley retired as the EHF's Treasurer after serving for 16 years. He was rewarded for this long valuable service by being elected a Member of Honour. He continued his benevolence by donating in February 2005 the EuroHockey Photographer of the Year Trophy, the first of its annual presentations being made by Morley at a Euro Hockey League event in Barcelona.

Morley then turned his attention to Veterans (over 60s) hockey. He was involved in the formation of the WGMA in Kuala Lumpur in 2002. Two unofficial international tournaments had been held previously, the first in Utrecht in 1998 (with teams from Germany, the Netherlands, England and Australia), and the second in Darwin in Australia two years later. The decision was taken there to institute a more formal Hockey World Cup, with the first taking place in Kuala Lumpur at the same time as the FIH Men's World Cup there in 2002.

During that tournament at a meeting of the national delegates, it was agreed that the WGMA should be formed to organise officially and encourage the development of international Grand Masters hockey. Morley was not only involved in that formation but also umpired in Kuala Lumpur, being appointed to one of the finals involving the Pakistan national team and Germany.

Morley became a regular WGMA umpire over the following ten years, taking part in World Cups, events to coincide with the Olympic Games, European Cups and 'friendly' international tournaments, such as those held in the attractive town of Bra in northern Italy.

Having umpired at the WGMA World Cup in Cape Town in 2010, he retired in 2011 following the European Cup in Neuss, Germany, where he was made one of the few WGMA's Members of Honour.

Kuala Lumpur also marked the first appearance of Alliance, a side inspired by and formed by the Belgian, Johan Herbert to provide international hockey for players from countries unable to assemble a national veterans' team. As Alliance International HC, they are now regular participants at Masters Hockey events. Morley was also involved in its formation and he became one of its regular umpires and subsequently a Life Member.



Photo; Morley Pecker



Photo; Morley Pecker

These two photographs taken by Morley are featured in John Cadman's Hockey: The Skills of the Game first published in 1985

Having retired both professionally and also as an umpire in 2011 and in spite of still dividing his time between London and Brussels, Morley has in recent years re-associated himself with Hampstead & Westminster. He felt that he had rather lost contact with the Club and the domestic game during much of his time in Belgium.

A member of MCC for over 50 years, Morley still travels widely, predominantly to follow international cricket overseas but also to witness international hockey events around the world. He also ventures on safaris in Africa and India, where his camera comes into its own with the varied wildlife to be tracked and recorded.

