

# OLD AFRICA

STORIES *from* EAST AFRICA'S PAST

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## PATTERSON AND TSAVO MAN-EATER - 1898

**Kibwezi Duka** Mekatilili and Giriama Uprising

Slave Becomes Preacher **British Consulates in Zanzibar**

**1912 East African Diary** Schoolboy Meets British Lions



**QUIRKY MEETS  
KENYATTA**  
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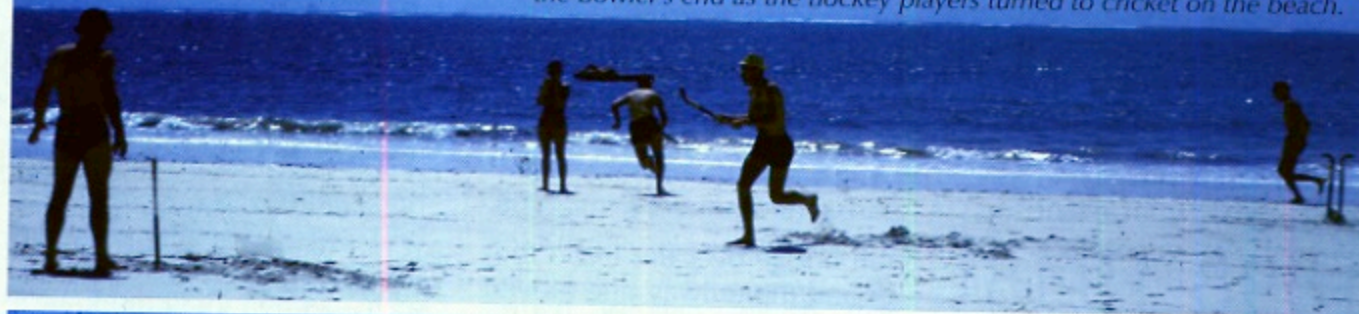
**BOOK ON  
RUMURUTI**  
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**PHOTO ALBUM  
HISTORIC DAR**  
PAGE 44

**WIN!**  
2 Nights for 2 at  
SATAO CAMP  
Quiz on page 40

*Keith Taylor has obviously played a late cut as he takes a scoring run towards Jerry Haigh at the bowler's end as the hockey players turned to cricket on the beach.*



*Keith Taylor, in the white hat, challenging for the ball in our beach hockey match.*



regulation dye on the hair on his head as well as on other parts of his body that showed. But on washing it out, his hair went green! He wore his hat until it had grown out!

*Alicia Webster in The Kenya Police, Volume 3*

### **Hockey and Cricket on the Beach at Nyali**

In 1965, straight from university, I joined the Parklands hockey club. Of course I had to go for a try-out and was incredibly lucky to find out that goalie Jack Simonian, who represented Kenya at the 1964 Olympic Games, had left the club to join Sikh Union. No one else tried out for the position, so I was a shoo-in. This gave me the opportunity to travel to interesting places and watch (from behind) some fine players. Star among these was lanky, thin as a rake, Keith Taylor, who played at inside left. He could dribble the ball

as if it was tied to the end of his stick with a length of elastic. Opponents would move one way, only to find themselves looking over their shoulders as he wafted past on the other side.

The most memorable moment occurred on the platform of Voi station. We were on our way to Mombasa for a couple of games and when the train stopped to take on water somebody brought out a hockey ball. We grabbed our sticks and soon had an impromptu game in the half-light of night. Inevitably Keith wiggled his way around all of us, and then slipped the ball off to someone else (there was no attempt to score goals, we were just having fun and passing the time). Things came to a halt when the ball shot over the platform edge under the train.

On arrival at the coast we went straight to the Nyali Beach Hotel. Naturally the

sticks and ball came out and we had more fun playing hockey on the white sand. After a while we wanted a change, so we used hockey sticks as wickets and played some cricket, hitting with our hockey sticks instead of proper cricket bats.

After 53 years I have zero memory of the real games and I can only remember the full names of two other team members. Ewan Anderson and Lauri Pearse, who, if I am right, were halfbacks. A guy named Wood, whose first name I have forgotten, played left back.

*Jerry Haigh, Saskatoon, Canada*

Send your contributions marked **Only in Africa** to [editorial@oldafricamagazine.com](mailto:editorial@oldafricamagazine.com), or by post to **Old Africa**, Box 2338, Naivasha - 20117 Kenya. Include your name and address in case your story is published. We pay Ksh. 1000/- for each published story.