

HALL OF FAME

James Ashton

James Ashton (1941–2010) was one of Australia's most influential polo administrators, remembered for his leadership, international vision, and lifelong commitment to developing the sport at every level. Born in January 1941, he was the eldest son of Irene and Jim Ashton, the latter being captain of the famous Ashton Brothers polo team that dominated Australian polo in the 1930s. Ashton was educated at Tudor House and The King's School, where he excelled academically and athletically, later completing a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Sydney.

He began playing polo at 21 and showed early promise, but his playing career was disrupted for many years by undiagnosed brucellosis. Despite this setback, Ashton became a central figure in polo administration. He served as **President of the New South Wales Polo Association (1994–1996)** and later as **President of the Australian Polo Council (1999–2002)**, where he worked to modernise governance and strengthen national competition structures.

Internationally, Ashton represented Australia as a delegate to the **Federation of International Polo (FIP)**, eventually becoming its **Treasurer** and later **President-elect**, the highest global administrative honour in the sport.

He died in 2010 following a fall during a match in Thailand, leaving a legacy as one of the most respected and visionary administrators in Australian polo history.