

BRIARS AT GREENLEES LTD



4th Annual Report and Balance Sheet 2008 – 2009

Presented to Members at the Club Rooms
Cnr Ian Parade & Wellbank Street, Concord 2137
on Sunday 28th February 2010

Briars at Greenlees Ltd
ABN 710 010 295 45

BRIARS AT GREENLEES LTD

Patrons

D A Walker
K Free OAM

Life Members

T Cribb
P Doherty

President

B Huttly

Vice Presidents

Mayor of Canada Bay
Member for Drummoyne

Board of Directors

I Blair	T Cribb	B Howle	C Hickey
B Huttly	K Norris	J Slender	R Tregeagle

General Manager

G Taylor

Treasurer

I Blair

Auditor

Harley, Russell and Day

Solicitors

P Mattick LLB
Turner Freeman

Management Committee

G Price	Cricket
M Denniss	Hockey
A Walsh	Rugby
G McManus	Squash
T Cribb	Mens Bowls
H Burton	Women's Bowls
E McPhee	Netball



THE BRIARS SPORTING CLUB

Founded 1918

PATRONS

H W Whiddon	1935-1956
E J Siddeley	1956-1965
H G Whiddon	1969-1972
R B Clark BEM	1972-1994
H C Ford	1995-2000
D V Prowse	2000-2005
D A Walker	2005

PAST PRESIDENTS

J H Stone	1918-1919
H W Whiddon	1919-1920
J C Meeks	1920-1921
H W Whiddon	1921-1924
E J Siddeley	1924-1925
E Love	1925-1926
H W Whiddon	1926-1928
E J Siddeley	1928-1929
R W May	1929-1931
E J Siddeley	1931-1932
H W Whiddon	1932-1933
R G Hereford	1933-1935
J E Holmes	1935-1936
R W May	1936-1939
E J Siddeley	1939-1942
R W May	1942-1943
H G Whiddon	1943-1948
E E Watt	1948-1953
R S Jones AOM	1953-1957
A J Land	1957-1960
R J Thomson	1960-1962
W A Elder	1962-1965
B U Williams	1965-1967
H G Whiddon	1967-1969
H C Ford	1969-1972
R D Vanderfield	1972-1973
D A Walker	1973-1976
C K Dennis	1976-1980
J H Edmonds	1980-1983
I G S Blair	1983-1985
P D Richardson	1985-1988
R I G Richard	1988-1991
C R Hickey	1991-1996
J F Threlfo	1996-1999
P G Mattick	1999-2002
M Weber	2002-2005

PAST LIFE MEMBERS

1947	H W Whiddon
	E J Siddeley
	R W May
1958	R B Clark BEM
	H G Whiddon
1968	E G Stockdale
1985	H C Ford
1993	P C Murray CBE
1994	R S Jones AOM
1995	D V Prowse
1995	I R Vanderfield AO OBE
1996	P D Richardson
2002	J Balmforth BEM

LIFE MEMBERS

J Alford
I G S Blair
C K E Dennis
C R Hickey
S Hipwell
W F Hooker
C G Jones
R I G Richard
J F Threlfo
C D Walker
D A Walker

VICE-PRESIDENTS

R Anstey
J F Crockett
P England
J H Edmonds
G Heggarty
M Howell
G Ireland
C J Jones
K R Kable
H W Lennartz
P Mansford
P G Mattick
R Pontifex
G Price
J Price
A C Reid
G Rolleston
S Schomberg
J Staniforth
R Streeter
K E Wearne

GREENLEES PARK BOWLING CLUB



PAST PRESIDENTS

B Fumberger 1988-1990
K Skehan 1991-1992
R Buchanan 1993-1996
R Crew 1997-2000
R Skehan 2001-2002
B Huttly 2003-2005

LIFE MEMBERS

J C Jackson
R Riley OAM
L Coleman
A Fleeton
R Buchanan
K Free OAM
R Skehan
B Huttly

PAST LIFE MEMBERS

C J House
R Wiggins
L Barry
A McLeod
J Arantz
A Lee
N Tozer
H C Wicks
M Davis
J Vale
E Knight

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is again with pleasure as Chairman of Briars at Greenlees Ltd that I submit my Annual Report for 2008/2009.

The club has traded exceptionally well with an audited profit of \$211,123. I sincerely congratulate the Board, Management, Sporting Chairmen and Presidents, and Staff for this result.

Club membership continues to grow for both sporting and social members. Congratulations to all sports for their tremendous efforts over the last twelve months. All sports results are included in this document. Our sporting groups appreciate supporters so let's make a bigger effort this year.

Club social functions have continued to grow with Bare Foot Bowls becoming extremely popular with all age groups. Congratulations to Melissa Simonetta for this organisation.

I would dearly like to see a big push for more in house functions such as Sporting Update Luncheons, Patrons Luncheons, Sports Presentation evenings, Sports AGM's, and the list goes on. I urge you to organise and participate in these events.

Probably the best news for everyone is that you don't need an umbrella in the clubhouse anymore. Without the need to borrow funds, the roof has been replaced. In addition the Board has agreed to proceed with the replacement of floor to ceiling aluminium windows and automatic door on the northern face of the building.

Your Building Committee and Club Treasurer are working tirelessly to secure funding for further building works and our application is receiving consideration from finance brokers. The Board and Management wish to convey their appreciation to all members and guests for your understanding and patience with the delays to the building project. There is light at the end of the tunnel.

Members are reminded of our Code of Conduct and Dress Rules. Patrons / Members and their invited guests socialising at the club appreciate others being neatly attired. Please remember, the facilities of the club are there to be shared and enjoyed by all.

To all of the clubs sponsors, we thank you sincerely. Your support to all the various sports is received with gratitude, and I trust you are rewarded accordingly.

To the General Manager, Glen Taylor, and Sports Administrator, Melissa Simonetta, thanks very much for your tremendous efforts over the last twelve months.

Congratulations to Peter Neary and his staff for the best bowling greens and surrounds in NSW and probably Australia.

To all the staff, thank you very much for all of your hard work.

To all of our contractors, a big thank you for your services over the year.

To all of the volunteers, your commitment is greatly appreciated.

A big thank you to my fellow Directors, this has been a very productive year with our Business Plan slowly coming to fruition with George Street fully occupied and leased.

To those members whom lost loved ones during the year, the Board of Directors, Management and Staff offer our sincere condolences.

Brian Huttly - Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

A most pleasing year with profit of \$211,123 (2008 - \$41,233). The increase was due to poker machine clearances and bar sales well above CPI percentages and a reduction in expenses which have been well controlled.

Depreciation increased \$188,437 (2008 - \$160,199)

The major capital expenditure for the year was the replacement of the roof \$308,000 which will not have to be touched once the major renovation goes ahead. By the time of the Annual General Meeting is held, further upgrade of the club premises will have taken place further enhancing the appearance of the club premises.

George Street has now been fully tenanted which will increase rental income in 2010 by \$40,000.

The cash flow was extremely positive and allowed the club to fund all capital items internally.

Glen and his team have done an excellent job during the year to produce this very positive result especially after all the doom and gloom from the global financial crisis.

Negotiations are still taking place with bank and financial advisors re a loan for upgrading the club premises. The Board have taken a conservative view by not putting the club into excessive debt but have carried out capital works which will enhance the club and can be funded internally.

The first three months of 2010 financial year are slightly below last year but with strategies in place, the Club should produce a result close to this year.

Ian Blair - Treasurer

THE BRIARS FOUNDATION LIMITED

Directors: Paul Price (President), Ian Blair, Peter Dunlop, John Price, Richard Treggale, Warwick Williams, Phil England.

The past year for the Foundation has seen just the one change. Phil England stepped into the vacancy left by John Edmonds.

The Statement of Financial Position for The Foundation to the year ended 30 June 2009, shows net assets of \$241,786.89 compared with \$233,772 for the 2008 year.

Two years ago negotiations were finalised with the Australian Sports Foundation which created an opportunity for donations to be tax deductible. This outcome has been responsible for the significant increase in membership and donations and a number of existing members have taken the opportunity to upgrade their membership status through additional donations. Members have continued to be very creative in the way they have pledged their support. Some have pledged a monthly amount, others an annual donation, a few one-off payments and some bequests.

The Foundation donated over \$10,000 to Hockey for a new electronic scoreboard at their home ground at Cintra Park and the official opening will take place at the start of this season. A number of projects still on our list include the planned upgrade and renovation of the dressing rooms at Rothwell Park, the eventual major changes to the clubrooms which will include a home for The Briars history and memorabilia, and a contribution to developing juniors amongst the various sports.

A big thank you to our treasurer Bill Hooker who did a fabulous job on the administration and finance side this year - thanks Billy! Thanks also to the Directors for their support and constructive advice.

Ray Ackerman (deceased)	Bill Hooker	John Randle	Matthew Waddington
Ross Anstey	Ken Kable	Col Rankin	Chris Walker
Jim Barrett	Steve Keir	Ian Richard	Warwick Williams
Ken Bell	Bob Kersey	John Richards	Tony Wozniak
Ian Blair	Peter Mansford	Laurie Routley	George Wright
Andy Clifford	Bill Marshall	John Singleton	Doug Prowse (deceased)
Richard Crookes	Mike Mathews	Cec Stevens	Don Walker (deceased)
Colin Dennis	John Metcalf	Kerry Trollope	Don Way (deceased)
John Edmonds	John Mortlock	F Tsang	Roger Vanderfield AO OBE
Mal Goldsmith	Greg McPhee	Geoffrey Tweeddale	(deceased)
Garnett Green	John Price	Peter Unwin	Jack Balmforth (deceased)

Paul Price – President

VALE

RAY ACKERMAN - Ray Ackerman aged 91 passed away in April. Ray was Briars' Hockey Captain in its inaugural year in 1948. Ray was considered one of the best centre halves in the competition and played with the likes of Aud Land, Ron Thomson, Hammy Lennartz, Col (Hockey) Jones, Spencer Hipwell, Dick Atwill and Maurie Hill. Ray joined Briars in 1947 to play cricket mainly in the B Shires. The following year Ray left Wests Hockey to play for Briars Hockey. After his playing days Ray moved to Batemans Bay but still maintained a keen interest in Briars. Ray was also a member of The Briars Foundation.

PETER RICHARDSON - Peter (Richo) joined the Briars in 1960 as a 17 year old. He was Honorary Treasurer, Director and President in his time at Briars. He won the Cricket Memorial Trophy four times, the J H Stone Trophy twice and the A J Robinson Shield for Hockey twice. Peter was also on many committees over all

these years including the amalgamation committee of Briars and Greenlees Park Bowling Club. In 1996 Peter was made a Life Member of the Briars for his enormous contribution to Briars both on and off the field.

Peter played Cricket and Hockey for Briars After retiring from Shire Cricket, Peter played Masters Cricket and represented NSW in the over 60's competition. Peter holds the Club record for the most number of catches by a fieldsman. Briars and Epping District Cricket Club play for a trophy that started 17 years ago named the Turnbull Richardson Trophy. Richo took great pride in being named in this trophy and that it has never been won by Epping.

CRICKET CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

29 Premierships in the past 29 years! That's a record that will be very difficult to emulate and it doesn't include the ten Club Championships in the past 15 years or so. What another wonderful season for the cricketers and congratulations to all of you. The off season began with a lot of hard work as we tried to make up for a disappointing previous season and fortunately there were plenty of guys keen to help out. The pre season training was good and there were plenty of new guys as well. We welcomed back Simon Watson and Max Squire from their time in Grade cricket as well as many lads under the age of 18.

As well as the two Premierships in 2nd and 4th grades we also made the semi finals in 3rd grade and the Under 24's so it was another incredible season for all.

The teams this year were very well led by the skippers being Andrew Jalalaty (1st), Cameron Beames (2nd), Jason Harris (3rd), Will Hood (4th), Vaughn Gourlie (5th), and Simon Watson (24's). This can be a very difficult task with the teams usually not able to be selected until Wednesday at the earliest and many times being finalised late on a Friday, however their patience was constantly tested and their goals were to ensure all grades were selected fairly. Well done guys for your time and effort throughout the season.

The club is fortunate to be able to play on some of the best turf wickets in Shires being Rothwell Park, Ron Routley Oval, and St Lukes Oval. The groundsmen do a wonderful job each week with Adam, Ryan and Jeff in charge at the respective grounds. Rothwell Park was once again voted in the top two grounds and was constantly praised by opposition teams who enjoyed playing on such a good ground and wicket.

Off the field there are many guys who assist in the cricket administration throughout the year and in no particular order I will mention them. Anthony Clarke, who played his last games of cricket before undergoing his hip replacement, served on the Shires Rep Committee, assisted in fees collection, covers, repairs etc. and was deservedly awarded the David Walker Trophy for his many years of 'Service to Cricket'; Jason Harris with his help each week with covers; Paul Price for his regular 'advice' and feedback on all issues; Terry Murphy for his representation of the Club at the various SCA meetings in town; to Scott Brennan for his time and effort compiling/updating the cricket stats on the website which we all take such an interest in each week and for his assistance in managing the Under 24's team during the season; Mark Smyck for his general assistance when needed, and finally to Rose at the bistro for the provision of the weekly afternoon teas. They were very much enjoyed. To anyone I have failed to mention I apologise but your efforts are much appreciated.

To be able to effectively operate a successful club you must also have your finances organised and managed efficiently. For the last decade or so we have been very fortunate to be associated with a wonderful company Venus Packaging who have provided us with valuable financial support during this period. Their involvement with our Club has coincided with the incredible success we as cricketers have enjoyed and I believe their association with us has helped us concentrate on our cricket and ensure sensational results. On behalf of all the cricketers I would like to thank Ian Venus for his generous support and assure him we are very pleased to have his company name emblazoned across the back of our playing shirts.

Throughout the season there seems to be plenty of occasions when we are in need of a fill in player to assist us in one or more of the grades. To this end we are very fortunate that we have many former players who are prepared to help out from time to time and so I thank you all for this. There were plenty who helped throughout the season.

Each season the club competes with Epping the Turnbull/Richardson Trophy awarded to the club that receives the most Club Championship points in that round. For the past 17 years we have won this trophy and I know how much it meant to Peter Richardson to be honoured on the trophy in this way. As we all know Peter tragically passed away in July of this year and I know all the cricketers will be keener than ever to win next season's trophy for him.

On behalf of all the cricketers I would like to thank the staff and management of Briars at Greenlees for their assistance and service to all the cricketers during the season.

At the end of the season we held our Annual Presentation evening at the club and with over 100 past and present players including some partners we had a very enjoyable evening. Amongst some of the ex players included David Walker and his wife Elaine and Ted Watt and his wife Ruby. We are very thankful that these two Briars legends have allowed their names to be used for the two main awards on this evening.

The various award winners were:

- David Walker Trophy - Services to Cricket - Anthony Clarke
- Ted Watt Trophy - Best New Talent - Franco Rocca/Jordan Millar
- 1st Grade Players Player - Andrew Jalalaty
- 2nd Grade Players Player - Gerard Price
- 3rd Grade Players Player - Jason Harris
- 4th Grade Players Player - Muhammed Yahya
- 5th Grade Players Player - Nick Pandousis
- Under 24's Players Player - Steve Davis
- Masters Players Player - Greg Matchett

To all these award winners we congratulate you and thanks to Paul Price and Scott Brennan for their assistance with the evening. If there is anyone else I have forgotten to thank I apologise but I thank you as well.

Gerard Price - Cricket Chairman

CRICKET FIRST GRADE

At the start of the year, I was asked to captain 1st grade, I took some time to think about it before giving my answer, because of the territory that comes with captaining a Briars team. After a few conversations with senior players, I decided to accept the challenge of the captaincy based on two main points. The first was that I had support of the leadership group which included Slats, Cam Beams, Will and Gerard and secondly, it was the potential of the playing group. I was excited at the prospect of leading a young quality bunch of cricketers out every Saturday. The season started brightly for us, by beating one of our many nemesis Strathfield in the first round, we won a game, which we usually lost, and in the process saw immediate rewards with Will bowling quick, Tommy Dap's resiliency and the attacking prowess of Scotty Brennan. This was the beginning of an up and down season which saw us better our point's position than in the previous year.

As a unit our overall fielding was at a high level, As well as our bowling we conceded 2927 runs and took 137 wickets. This was the third highest aggregate in the first grade competition. Key performers were Derek Welsh with 30 wickets, Scotty Castle with 20, Will Service with 15, Marty Oxley with 11, Simon Watson and Tommy Liversedge both took 11, Tommy Dap took a masterful 6, and George Wendell Saleh, Glenn Lowe and Stevie Davis taking 2 wickets between them. Unfortunately our batting side could not compliment our bowlers as well as we would have liked, we scored 2520 runs, with key performers Scotty Brennan 257, Tom Dap 22, and Watto with 175. Overall it was a season where we gained some big game attitudes and experiences, with plenty to look forward to in the coming years.

Season highlights:

Derek, who in his first full season of first grade snapped up 30 wickets including a hat trick against Georges River (and 4 wickets in an over) and scored 85 runs. Due to injuries his season was cut short, but achieved incredible results when available.

Max Squire continued his development, and showed glimpses of his quality at every opportunity. A work in progress who will feature heavily in the coming years, Max scored 91 runs in 6 innings.

Tommy Dap had a massive breakthrough year where he cemented his role as the lynchpin in our batting line up not to mention his gully fielding and bowling ability. Tom scored 225 runs and 6 wickets.

Will Service who especially before Xmas bowled very sharp, was rewarded with a match winning 5-20 against Southern Districts. Will is a highly rated cricketer and will continue to terrorize batsman. Will took 15 wickets and scored 78 runs.

Marty Oxley is a much underrated cricketer who continues to do the job we ask of him, at times opening the bowling and batting anywhere in the order. He is a delight to captain and a gem of a guy. The ox took 11 wickets scoring 111 runs.

Scotty Castle who leads the bowling is as tough a Briar that I have come across. His commitment to the cause is never questioned and we would win the comp if we had 11 Scotty Castles in our team. Scott took 20 wickets at 23.

Scotty Brennan enjoyed a successful year and thrived at leading with the bat every time he walked out. Scotty values his wicket and if more of us put the same price on our wicket as he did, we would be rewarded with winning more games. Scott scored 257 runs at 21.42.

At the start of the season, I was and perhaps of the most guys were looking forward to walking out on the field with Simon Watson, and he certainly didn't disappoint. When available Watto could turn the game on its head. He is as damaging batsman as he is bowler. Watto plays the game one way and that's at 1000 miles an hour. He is a captain's dream, at times being able to bowl 25 overs straight and always being in the game, he made the tough catches look easy and offered sound advice to myself. Watto scored 183 and took 10 wickets.

Tom Liversedge, our English import, played a crucial role in the end of season run in taking 10 wickets at 13 and scored 112 runs at 28. Tom is a great addition to the club and a pleasure to be around.

Chris Hart played 4 games scoring 78. Chris is developing into a quality cricketer and his best years are not far away from him.

Aravind Srinivas is also a guy you wish was available more often and who has the ability to turn the game on its head. Aravind scored 44 runs and took 6 wickets.

Steve "Junior" Hudson is probably the most talented cricketer that one will get the chance to play with. In only a handful of games Junior took 5 wickets and scored 72, often standing on his ear to take a catch.

David Cox is the guy everyone wants in his team. At his best Coxy is impossible to bowl at. Coxy also played a handful of games scoring 83 runs and taking 2 catches.

Ben Chapman was only able to play three games due to work commitments and scored 83 runs at 27. Chappo has the ability to devastate bowling attacks and we look forward to seeing him out on the field more regularly next season.

Season 2008-2009 saw Pascal Wallace and Glenn Lowe make their 1st grade debuts and I am sure they will continue to play plenty more games in the top grade in the coming years. In all we used 26 players and each played their part when called upon.

To Cam and Will, you couldn't write a better script. I was totally blown away by your efforts this year, especially after the GF wins. I was fully in awe of your achievements and to lead a team to premiership in your first year as captain is a testament to you both as mates and as cricketers.

Lastly I would like to congratulate each Briar on their roles within the club. It doesn't matter if you are a 5th or 1st grader, each one of our roles holds the same value.

Name	Mt	Inn	NO	HS	50	100	Avg	Runs	Ovrs	Mdn	Runs	Bowl	Avg	Wkt
S Brennan	11	12	-	45	-	-	21.42	257						
S Castle	12	8	6	11*	-	-	14.00	28	148.3	26	470	4-52	23.50	20
T D'Apice	11	12	1	74	1	-	20.45	225	56.0	6	222	2-18	37.00	6
A Jalalaty	12	14	1	78	3	-	23.00	299						
M Oxley	9	10	1	31	-	-	12.44	112	73.0	9	243	3-66	22.09	11
W Service	9	7	-	27	-	-	11.14	78	120.0	22	393	5-20	26.20	15
S Watson	7	8	1	68	1	-	26.14	183	69.2	9	241	3-26	24.10	10
D Welsh	10	8	3	22*	-	-	17.00	85	117.1	23	434	6-27	14.47	30

Also Batted: B Chapman 3-83, D Cox 5-82, S Davis 2-0, C French 2-37, C Hart 4-78, S Harvey 2-24, S Hudson 5-72, B Hurford 1-1, G Lowe 6-73, P Pannuti 3-28, P Price 1-10, G Saleh 1-2, M Squire 7-91, A Srinivas 5-44, P Tregeagle 2-46, P Wallace 1-33.

Also Bowled: S Davis 2-78, C French 5-57, S Harvey 3-69, S Hudson 5-105, G Lowe 2-71, P Pannuti 3-89, G Saleh 2-48, M Squire 0-41, A Srinivas 6-98.

Andrew Jalalaty

CRICKET SECOND GRADE

After a disappointing finish to the 2007/08 season, second grade had a new captain, some old stagers, fresh faces, lots of enthusiasm and a big opportunity to make amends and win back the premiership. The goals for the season were to play hard and in the right spirit whilst always enjoying ourselves – noting that winning always makes it that little more enjoyable.

Round 1 ended disappointingly after a typical early season washout. After a wonderful return to the Briars by Max Squire with a lone handed 87, Briars were dismissed for 213 in week 1. Fortunately our bowlers had been to pre-season training and had Strathfield in trouble at 6 for 78 at the end of the day only to see the first chance of a win washed away with rain.

In the first one-day game for the season Round 2 was possibly the most eagerly anticipated round for the season against Lane Cove. The boys stuck to the plan of playing hard, tough and enjoyable cricket and after a frantic start by David Cox and Andre Berenger, new skipper Cameron Beames and Max Squire put on the first 100+ partnership for the season scoring 109 with Beames out for 83 and Squire going on to make 101 and press his claims for a promotion to first grade. All bowlers contributed to bowl out Lane Cove for 176 and earn a bonus point, Gerard Price and Steve Davis continuing their bright start to the season.

Round 3 was the first real scorcher of the summer and when players start to think why they aren't at the beach for the afternoon. A welcome addition for his first game in second grade was the Pom – Tom Liversedge. Hailing from Bolton, United Kingdom, Pom was a welcome addition to both second grade and the Burwood Briars, although a scratchy 15 wasn't his best start. This game would be remembered for another reason, and repetitively brought up throughout the rest of season – Scott Brennan's last second grade innings for the season. Brennan batted at no.4 and after a disastrous start we were 2 for 2 as he strode to the crease. He batted for the next 76 overs and compiled an amazing 208 from 209 deliveries with 26 fours and 3 sixes, finally the second last wicket to fall with the score on 371. An amazing feat that ensured we would win the game, particularly with the next best score off 33 by Brett Howle. Week 2 was another long hot day, this time in the field as Gerard Price shined with 5 wickets, Pom got his first wicket (and first of many nicknames – Derek Pringle) with the final wicket falling after taking the new ball in the second last over – this would not be the last time a game would finish this close to the end this season.

Round 4 was a trip down the highway to Southern Districts and another strong win. Steve Davis was the pick of the bowlers taking 5 for 12 from 12 overs and after bowling out Southern Districts for a meagre 69 Briars could only respond with a small but winning total of 85, Ben Hurford holding the team together with 35. In going for the outright win Steve Harvey, Gerard Price and again Steve Davis took 3 wickets each but time ran out to make the runs and game finished early.

Round 5 was another bowler dominated game. After losing the first toss of the season we bowled first and Steve Harvey (5 for 41) and Pom (3 for 11) were the wicket takers in the Georges River total of 171. Apart from Phil Tregeagle, who was the last man out after opening the batting for 36, and Pete Tsitouras (35) Briars were bowled out for 118. Steve Davis (3 for 22), Paul Pannuti (2 for 17) and Pom (2 for 4) made sure we were still a chance of winning outright however again time intervened and needing 130 from 12 overs was too big a task and we suffered our first loss of the season.

Round 6 was a wash out in basically every other game in Sydney, except for Rothwell which is a credit to the ground staff. The Briars spirit was on show with majority of the club leaving their own rain soaked ground to support second grade. After an early wicket Phil Tregeagle (47) and Cameron Beames put on 134 for the second wicket, the highest partnership of the season. This was then followed by another 91 run partnership with Glen Lowe and Beames, who was out for his first century for the club on 128. Lowe made 69 and the Briars declared 8 for 293. Another dominant team bowling performance ended in an easy win, bowling out last season's premiers Roseville for 109. Steve Davis again in the wickets with 4 for 23 well supported by Paul Pannuti 4 for 22, one of the few games Gerard Price was unable to take a wicket even with the miserly figures of 0 for 14 from 9 overs.

Round 7 was another rain affected week after week 1 was washed in all grades and the game turned into a one-dayer. After losing opener David Cox without facing a ball, Phil Tregeagle again batted for the team with a hard fought 51 being the 8th wicket to fall. A late flurry of big hitting from Adam O'Keefe (25) helped the Briars get to a competitive 9 for 160. Wayne Grimson and Tom Dapice both took 3 wickets, Dapice providing a particularly strong bowling effort at the death as Briars were reduced to 10 for the final 10 overs after Pom dropped a sitter at mid wicket and went to hospital (with the aid of the Warringah players) for stitches, eventually bowling out Warringah for 154 with 10 balls remaining. A very satisfying win prior to the Christmas break meaning 5 wins, 1 loss and a washout leaving us in 3rd place on the table and the first three games after Christmas against all other top four teams.

Post Christmas and round 8 pitted us against top of the table Lindfield. In one of the strangest yet most satisfying, games of the season Briars batted first on a wonderful looking pitch only to be 6 for 10 and staring down a big defeat. Only for 29 not out from Paul Simpson and 13 from Gerard Price helped get some sort of score of 76. Another superb team bowling and fielding effort saw us take 9 wickets in the afternoon of day one, and although Lindfield passed the score we bowled them out early in week 2 for 98, a deficit of only 22. Pom was the star with the ball taking 5 for 20. Quick runs and wickets were in order to try and force an outright win after a first innings loss and although another poor batting performance saw the Briars bowled out for 145 we did have a lead of 123 with nearly half a day of cricket remaining. So it was up to the bowlers again, Sarchis Achmar leading the way with 5 for 25 and we bowled out Lindfield for 99 to take 6 points with an outright win.

Round 9 was a one dayer against second on the table Pennant Hills. A very different team assembled and the emergence of young Daniel Smith with an impressive 40 was well supported by Pasqual Wallace (32), Matt

Dwyer (28) and Ben Hurford (24) to post a competitive total of 222. Some long and high scoring batting partnerships always had Pennant Hills in front of the run rate, and even strong bowling performances from Pom (4 for 32) and a 10 over straight spell from Adam O’Keeffe (1 for 45) couldn’t prevent the second loss for the season.

Round 10 was the third game in a row against a top four side and the first day was the hottest day of cricket for the season – until the second week. A long day in the field for the Briars finally ended after bowling out Auburn for 156 from 72 long and hot overs. Phil Tregeagle and Pascal Wallace saw out 8 overs at the end of the day and that was the best part of our batting. Week 2 was a disaster after being bowled out for 51 and being sent back in to follow on. A savage 45 not out from Chris Hart avoided the outright loss but a disappointing game nonetheless.

After 2 losses in a row and some very hot weather we needed to get our season back on track but would have to wait an extra week as the round 11 game against Macquarie University was washed out in the 13th over with Briars well on top having taken 4 for 32, Gerard Price with 3 for 13.

Round 12 and with two games remaining before finals we set about playing positive cricket towards the end of the season. Batting first against North West Sydney a fine opening stand between Pasqual Wallace (25) and David Cox (57) got us away to a good start. Only minor contributions from the rest of the team only helped in managing 198 from 66 overs and the afternoon’s bowling session not yielding any wickets. A big turnaround in week 2 saw wickets fall just in time, and with just enough runs on the board to allow the follow on to be enforced. Gerard Price again the main wicket taker with 5 for 22 from 15.2 overs. The second innings started slowly again with first wicket not falling until 36 were on the board. Tight bowling and fielding put plenty of pressure on NWS and after Steve Harvey ripped through the middle order with 4 for 34 and the final wicket fell with a lead of still 2 providing the first outright win for the Briars, a much needed 10 points and some momentum heading into round 13 and the finals.

Round 13 was against rival Epping, with the Turnbull-Richardson trophy back up for grabs. After a fine opening innings of 61 from Pasqual Wallace a big total was looking probable only for the middle order to not take the opportunity and at 9 for 157 we needed a big finish. Enter Steve Davis (25 not out including 1 big six) and Sarkis Achmar (24), together posting a tenth wicket partnership of 46 and a competitive total of 203. Another team bowling effort with wickets shared around, and most importantly 2 run-outs, meant the win was close until a seventh wicket partnership put the pressure back on the Briars. Word had got around that Epping had two wins and one hand on the trophy for the first time, only for Pasqual Wallace to take 2 for 9 from 3 overs at the death to bowl out Epping for 179 and we retained the trophy.

The finish of the regular season left us in fourth position on the ladder with 8 wins, 3 losses and 2 wash-outs, good momentum coming into the finals, and a burning desire to reconcile the disappointment of the previous season. Week 1 of the finals had us away to third placed Auburn. The wet weather during the week played a big part in the game as although it was bright sunshine no play was possible until 5pm after jet burners, sawdust, grass clippings, wind and the sunshine allowed some areas of concern to the umpires to finally dry out. Losing only the third toss of the year The Briars were sent in for a tricky 40 minute session which was masterfully negotiated by Phil Tregeagle and Chris Hart to be 0 for 20 overnight. Day two and bright sunshine meant a start on time and we needed to post a competitive score to be able to declare and win the game in a day. Chris Hart went early and after another wicket we were off to a shaky start at 2 for 22. Phil Tregeagle and Max Squire batted perfectly until the lunch break setting us up for a late innings dash. Both were out soon after lunch going for runs, Max Squire top scoring with 57. Runs and wickets continued as The Briars increased the tempo, finally declaring at 9 for 150, and leaving Auburn a competitive 48 overs to score the runs. Tight and fast bowling early from Steve Harvey (4 for 38) had Auburn on the back foot straight away and at 3 for 27 The Briars were in control. A great display of team spirit in the field and with the ball for the rest of the day and Auburn were bowled out with only 3 overs to spare for 134 and our passage to the semi finals was secured.

The semi final was transferred to Whalan reserve and we faced the red hot Pennant Hills. After a late finish in week 1 this game would turn out to be no different and was easily the most amazing game of cricket played for the year. On a good batting wicket The Briars won the toss and elected to bat with a view to posting a 300+ score, knowing that we had to win to progress to the grand final. After a blistering start by Chris Hart (37), his first scoring shot going for 6 over cover, and the ever cautious and determined Phil Tregeagle put on 53 for the first wicket. A middle order collapse followed with only Matt Dwyer (19) providing some resistance and we went to tea at 6 for 137. Matt Dwyer was then out straight after tea to be 7 for 137 and we were in trouble – enter Gerard Price and Sarkis Achmar. Putting on a partnership of 58, and batting for the next 2 hours until stumps showed the batsmen how it should have been done and in doing so gave us some chance of winning the game. We batted on into day two with only 186 on the board, Gerard Price finally falling for 36 and Sarkis Achmar the last man out in the over prior to the declaration for 24 as we posted 209. We had given ourselves a chance but needed to bowl and field well to pull off the victory. Constant wickets throughout the first half of

the Pennant Hills innings was brought on by tight bowling, great catching and a run out with score at tea 6 for 80 and The Briars on top. A mid order partnership of 71 was finally ended by the return of Steve Harvey. At 7 for 143 the game was becoming very tense and it was clear Pennant Hills were looking to survive rather than score the runs and force a draw which would see them progress. Tight bowling, different fields and plenty of pressure followed and all but the last wicket fell. The new ball was taken and The Briars had 4 overs to claim the last wicket which would see them through to the grand final. After a tough catch was put down behind the stumps it came down to the last over. The no. 11 was on strike, Gerard Price with the ball and a field of 3 slips, 2 gullys, 2 short legs and 2 silly points would apply all the pressure. Sweaty hands, butterflies and the first ball was played and missed - a sigh from everyone, including the batsmen. Ball 2 was pushed past Pasqual Wallace at short leg and the batsmen looked up for a run, no call was made and the striker watched the ball as the non striker (49 not out) was striding down the crease. Pasqual Wallace calmly chased the ball all five metres away to the cries of 10 fielders screaming "bowler bowler". The delicate throw allowed Gerard Price to take the ball and the bails and we would win the game in 192nd (and last) over of the game with 4 balls remaining. The resulting celebrations were amazing.

So into the grand final we went against Auburn and as the higher ranked team after our qualifying final win. A week of wet weather prevented any preparation of the wicket or outfield and the field resembled more of a swimming pool than a cricket field. With no pitch prepared the entire first day's play was lost. Day two started much the same as day one as the first session was lost to unsuitable conditions. Finally a start after lunch was scheduled and we won the toss and had no hesitation in taking a positive step and batting first, much to the surprise of the opposition. Another bright start from Chris Hart was countered by the early loss of Phil Tregagle. Pasqual Wallace then joined Chris Hart and the pair batted positively before Chris Hart (30) was run out and the quick wicket of Max Squire followed had The Briars 3 down for 49. Cameron Beames (27) and Pasqual Wallace (44) then batted almost to the tea break for a partnership of 58. David Cox went quickly and 3 wickets in the final overs before the break saw the game evenly poised with The Briars 6 for 120 with 1 session of the season remaining. Another steadying partnership guided by Gerard Price (28) and Ben Hurford (16) took the score to 150 and some late hitting by the bowlers got us to 170 all out just after drinks with one hour to play and Auburn needing to score at almost 10 an over to win from 18 overs. Steven Harvey ripped through the top order claiming a match winning 6 for 42 from seven overs and Sarchis Achmar kept runs tight at the other end to keep the scoring well below the required rate. More tight bowling from Gerard Price (0 for 3 from 2 overs) and Steve Davis (1 for 7 from 2 overs) and the game was all over, and the premiership back in The Briars cabinet for another winter. Truly a great team effort over the course of the season, particularly the last 2 games and the finals series made the premiership a satisfying and rewarding experience for all involved. Thank you to 12th man Adam O'Keeffe, scorer Scott Brennan and congratulations to man of the match Pasqual Wallace for his steady innings of 44 setting up the win.

Congratulations to Will Hood, Dan Haiken and the 4th grade team for their premiership. Also thank you to all 34 players who played in second grade during the season, 1st grade captain Andrew Jalalaty, 3rd grade captain Jason Harris, 4th grade captain Will Hood and of course president, chairman of selectors and manager of all things cricket Gerard Price, the final team could not have done it without the support of each of you. Another special mention to players player for the season Gerard Price who along with selections and managing the entire club, also scored 249 runs at 24.90, took a team high 42 wickets at 9.64 going at only 2 runs per over in 202 overs for the season, and took 12 catches.

Name	Mt	Inn	NO	HS	50	100	Avg	Runs	Ovrs	Mdn	Runs	Bowl	Avg	Wkt
S Achmar	9	9	2	24	-	-	7.43	52	109.2	25	244	5-25	17.43	14
C Beames	16	16	-	128	1	1	26.38	422						
S Davis	13	10	6	25*	-	-	13.00	52	148.5	31	406	5-12	14.50	28
M Dwyer	7	8	1	28	-	-	14.29	100						
S Harvey	12	13	2	12	-	-	3.36	37	159.4	26	495	6-42	14.14	35
A O'Keeffe	5	5	1	31	-	-	14.75	59	69.0	21	177	3-15	22.12	8
G Price	16	16	6	36	-	-	24.90	249	202.4	74	405	5-22	9.64	42
M Squire	9	9	-	101	2	1	31.11	280	24.0	5	109	2-18	27.25	4
P Tregagle	10	12	1	51	1	-	20.55	226						
P Wallace	7	7	-	61	1	-	25.29	177	24.0	3	83	2-9	13.83	6

Also Batted: A Berenger 4-45, S Brennan 1-208, P Burkhardt 1-0, P Catalovski 1-0, B Chapman 1-1, D Cox 7-103, T D'Apice 1-14, W Grimson 4-0, C Hart 7-137, B Howle 5-58, B Hurford 8-103, J Jardim 1-6, G Lowe 2-69, M Oxley 1-17, P Pannuti 2-10, P Price 2-28, G Saleh 1-0, V Sharma 2-19, P Simpson 4-69, D Smith 1-40, B Taylor 1-14, M Towells 1-21, P Tsitouris 6-99.

Also Bowled: C Beames 0-28, P Catalovski 0-4, B Chapman 1-0, T D'Apice 3-26, W Grimson 7-100, B Hurford 0-9, G Lowe 1-11, M Oxley 1-1, P Pannuti 7-111, G Saleh 0-1, P Simpson 0-2, D Smith 0-37, B Taylor 1-34, M Towells 1-14.

Cameron Beames

CRICKET THIRD GRADE

Well another promising season came and went but this time disappointment was the emotion for the first time in a while. There is no doubt that all the players involved will feel that this was a premiership for us to win but some below par batting and catching at vital stages of the season cost us dearly and we were bundled out in the first week of the semi finals. On the other hand though, the youth that the club blooded this season is very exciting and will only benefit us in the future. For myself again I cannot express enough how much of an honour it is to lead the Briars week in week out and even though this was my third season as captain the pride was still there. A big congratulation to Cameron Beams and Will Hood who become the newest Briars captains to hold a premiership trophy over their heads, a very proud day for all. To Andrew Jalalaty who took control of the 1st and as well was named in the Shires 11 as captain, I can't speak highly enough of your attitude and commitment put into the job, and I guarantee success will come your way. To the chairman Gerard Price who without a doubt is the best club administrator going as well as a good mate. Thanks for your support and giving me the honour of the position. As well to Scotty Brennan for all his time he spent on the stats - great job mate.

(Please go to the web site for all of this year's 3rd grade statistics).

I would like to thank all players who played under me this year. It is a great day of the week Saturday when you get to catch up with your mates, have a laugh and enjoy each other's company.

Jason Harris - Tried hard all year disappointed with the way the season panned out.

Peter Tsitoras - 1st season at the club, scored a fantastic century against Souths and is always great fun to have around.

Franco Rocca - What a great asset to our team. Frankie at 14 became one of the youngest players to play for the club and behind the stumps was fantastic. I wish him all the best in his endeavours to play higher level cricket.

Paul Simpson - Paul is always an asset to any team and while I'm captain will always be one of the first picked players - didn't get the big scores we know he can this season.

Adam Hudson - Played some good knocks at times. Needs to train more if his glory days are to return.

Brett Howle - Not Charlies' best season but his experience is value to any team he plays in.

Vijay Sharma - Always gave 110% again though didn't quite reward himself at times with the bat as well as the ball. Terrific man to have around.

Adam O'Keefe - This season for Adam was all about his come back from his serious shoulder injury two season ago. All seems good and looking forward there is no doubt that glory will come Ads way. Just a fantastic bloke.

Michael Towells - Mickey toiled away all season and was a bit up and down at times and with a bit more fitness will become one of the frontline bowlers in the club.

Paul Pannuti - Injury plagued Paul all year and was really at only 50% for most of the year, still did a great job though with both bat and ball and, as we all know, he keeps the dressing room on its toes.

Simon Watson - Simon got an opportunity this year to play up the grades and he didn't disappoint as Pick of the Bowlers for the season. Very handy player to have around and will definitely benefit from the one million overs he bowled this season.

We had many other players pass through this season and I thank them all with a special mention to Jack Thomas and Jordan Millar who at their young age show great potential for the future, and if don't play at a higher level will definitely be 1st grade Briars within 5 years. Thanks lads.

In summing up yes a very disappointing season but always proud to be a Briar.

Name	Mt	Inn	NO	HS	50	100	Avg	Runs	Ovrs	Mdn	Runs	Bowl	Avg	Wkt
D Haikin	4	3	1	86	1	-	61.50	123	48.0	9	154	2-17	25.67	6
J Harris	13	13	1	103	2	1	41.00	492						
B Howle	8	8	-	36	-	-	15.12	121						
A O'Keeffe	7	5	-	72	2	-	33.40	167	94.1	21	251	4-33	25.10	10
P Pannuti	6	3	2	52*	1	-	85.00	85	86.0	24	240	5-14	10.91	22
F Rocca	14	12	3	56*	1	-	18.00	162						
V Sharma	12	12	2	46	-	-	20.30	203	85.3	10	320	5-27	21.33	15
M Smyck	7	7	2	31	-	-	14.00	70	28.0	4	93	3-28	18.60	5

M Towells	10	7	2	32*	-	-	13.40	67	118.2	22	366	5-39	18.30	20
P Tsitouris	8	7	-	134	-	1	25.29	177						
T Watson	9	6	1	15	-	-	4.00	20	119.2	32	360	5-114	18.00	20
B Whitfield	5	4	1	19	-	-	11.33	34	45.0	7	166	2-29	41.50	4

Also Batted: S Achmar 1-26, L Andrews 1-0, A Berenger 4-59, P Catalovski 1-0, B Chapman 1-110, D Dykes 1-18, A Evison 2-13, W Grimson 1-9, C Hart 1-66, A Hudson 6-140, B Hurford 2-49, R Jalalaty 1-2, G Lowe 3-138, J Millar 3-11, G Saleh 1-15, P Simpson 5-73, D Smith 1-0, B Taylor 0-0, J Thomas 3-64.

Also Bowled: S Achmar 5-150, P Catalovski 8-60, A Evison 7-128, W Grimson 4-29, J Harris 0-33, A Hudson 0-24, J Millar 8-126, G Saleh 1-57, P Simpson 0-3, D Smith 2-61, B Taylor 3-34.

Jason Harris

CRICKET FOURTH GRADE - PREMIERS

After nearly 10 years and many close calls it was time for Briars fourth grade to follow in the footsteps of the higher grades and bring home a premiership in 08/09. We finished the regular season on 70 points with 11 wins (1 outright, 10 1st inns) and 2 draws. Even though we managed an undefeated season, Macquarie Uni scored a few more outright wins which meant we finished the season proper in second place.

Going through the season undefeated was a fine achievement, but what makes it even more remarkable is the fact we used over 40 players in fourth grade throughout the season. Many of the players we used were casual players and the fact that we can call on these guys is a great credit to Gerard and the club in general. There are many retired and semi-retired players willing to help out when needed and these players deserve as much credit as the 11 that took the field in the grand final.

The finals series is one that all players involved will cherish. The three matches contained some of the most exciting cricket most of us have ever played. I'll go through each match to give some idea of the series we had:

Qualifying Final vs Warringah - This match was 2nd vs 5th played at Ron Routley Oval. Even considering Warringah's lower place on the ladder and the fact we beat them by over 30 points on the table this was always going to be a tough game. In fact one of our closer games through the season was the 1-dayer against Warringah before Christmas. Warringah won the toss and batted on a typically hard and flat Ron Routley wicket and proceeded to be 1-50 at lunch on day 1. After lunch the Briars started to take charge with Sergeant Dan Haikin (3-37) and Yahya (3-30) working together and nabbing 5-18 after the break to bring us right back into it with them reeling at 6-74. Some lower order resilience got them to a score of 135, not a big one but never easy to chase under finals pressure. We ended day 1 at 0-11 and feeling good about our chances. These feelings turned to nerves as we collapsed to 6-47 before lunch on day 1. At this point we just had to preserve our wickets and get ourselves back into the game, the skipper and young Jordan Millar did just that batting together for 35 overs for a partnership of 55 before Hood was dismissed just after drinks in the 2nd session. A globe from Thomakos left us 8-102, still requiring 34 for what was starting to seem like an unlikely win. With plenty of support from our 3rd grade and other club legends a pumped up George Saleh completely stole the game by smashing 28 off 12 balls to not only win but send the boys into a frenzy with some terrific hitting. Jordan finished up on 34* to show what great potential he has at just 15 years of age. One down two to go.

Semi Final vs Macquarie Uni - Macquarie had lost their first final against Georges River so that setup a 1st vs 2nd semi-final clash at Rothwell Park. Unfortunately the Rothwell pitch was sabotaged on Friday night so no cricket could be played on Saturday. It was agreed to play a 60-over match at Mona 2 on the Sunday. The ridiculous events of Saturday seemed to fluster the Briars as we batted first and were bowled out for just 93 in 37 overs. The only resilience from Burwood was provided by the experienced Greg Wallace who made 37 and nearly batted the entire innings. After this debacle with the bat the message to the boys was to just play hard and if this is going to be the end of our season let's make sure we were proud of our effort. We got off to a flyer with the ball, having Macquarie 3-24 with 2 strikes from Jordan Millar (2-14) and 1 from Saleh (2-29). The uni boys recovered slightly and with the score 3-49 at drinks they would have been confident of knocking off our score. What happened next was truly inspirational, George Thomakos (3-10) had definitely eaten his weetbix that morning as he clean bowled one of Unis' best batsmen, beating him with pure pace and swing and then sending the captain back almost straight afterwards with a vicious short delivery at the body. Meanwhile at the other end Yahya (3-10) was weaving his magic and managed to nab the set batsmen with a good length ball outside off that was cut to Smyck at gully who took a fine catch. At this stage they were 8-70 and there was no stopping us, we finished them off for 77 and had rightly earned our spot in the grand final.

Grand Final vs Lindfield - This match didn't contain any of the drama like the previous two, but was just as satisfying for all involved. We had a late start on day 1 due to plenty of rain falling in Sydney during that week. As the higher placed team the goal was to bat first and bat them out of the game. We lost the toss but got our wish and were sent in, we proceeded nicely to 0-47 before Smyck (22) lost his wicket. This bought Trewin to

the crease who played as well as he had all season to produce a fine 30 before falling late in the day. Hood and Yahya also fell late in the day and the match was evenly placed overnight at 4-109 with Greg Wallace and Rob Jalalaty the not out batsmen. The next morning Rob got bowled early and this bought Jordan to the crease, Jordan looked at ease from the beginning and with the experienced Wallace supporting at the other end the 2 of them put on 83 to bring the total above 200. Greg Wallace was the next to fall. He had batted with great skill and determination to make 71 in nearly 100 overs, this innings being the grittiest I'd seen Greg play and the catalyst for our large 1st innings score. The next 4 partnerships all yielded runs with contributions of 24 from Long and 23 from Whitfield at 11. We were bowled out for 329 with just 33 overs remaining in the match. Greg's innings was a gem, but the one that we will all remember is from the boy less than a third of his age. Jordan Millar strode to the crease at 5-124, he remained there until the very end finishing with 91* and played magnificently along the way. The bowling innings was a mere formality and we had won the premiership undefeated. What made it better was all the blokes in the team were a pleasure to play with and I was very proud to share the success with them.

Mark Smyck – Smycka typifies what being a Briar is all about, always supporting the teams and assisting with covers etc wherever he can. On the field Smyck continued in his opening role scoring 160 runs at 17.78, he was consistent all year and could always be relied upon to see out the first few overs. Bowling wise Smyck wasn't used as much as in previous seasons. Despite this he still managed 12 wickets at 7.83 which included some match winning spells during the season.

Greg Wallace – Greg played a bit more of a part time role this season after captaining fourth grade for many years and been extremely unlucky not to win a comp. Greg scored 159 runs at 22.71 but what the stats don't tell us is he probably won us the semi and grand final with his determination. Greg also managed 5 wickets which is surprising considering he wasn't captain so how could he have got a bowl?

Carl Trewin – A 2nd generation Briar, Carl played well all year with great spirit and managed 160 runs at 20. This included a match winning 56 vs North-West and a good 30 in the grand final. Carl is improving every season and is destined to play higher grades at the club.

Muhammed Yahya – Yahya is a match winner. Countless times throughout the year he won us a match with a brilliant innings or tidy bowling spell. Yahya is my favourite batsmen at the club due to his natural aggressive style and brilliant off-side play. His stats of 300 runs at 33.16 don't do his ability justice yet most of us would be pleased to finish the season with those numbers. His 18 wickets at 10.39 were also crucial for us and it is no wonder he won the players player award.

Dan Haikin – The unheralded co-captain, Sergeant Dan did so much work behind the scenes and on each Saturday that he deserved a lot more of the accolades than he receives. Dan's 131 runs and 14 wickets all came at crucial times and his consistency is a real attribute that can be hard to find. Dan would have much better stats had he not been stolen by third grade so often.

Jordan Millar – Jordan had a superb regular season with the ball, taking 13 wickets at 13.46. Then all of a sudden he showed us what all-round talent he had with 2 brilliant innings in the finals series ending the year with 91* in the GF. Jordan scored 208 runs at 41.6 and at 15 years of age is certainly a talent we'd love to see in Briars colours for years to come.

Greg Long – Another new player at the club, Greg was in and out of the team early on but his infectious personality had me calling on him for the GF and he didn't disappoint making 24 down the order. Greg will hopefully be a long term Briar and we haven't seen the best of his ability yet.

George Thomakos – George also made his debut for Briars this year, he played the back half of the season and became a crucial and well liked member of the side. His 11 wickets at 11.45 in just a handful of matches shows his value. Unfortunately he couldn't play the GF due to a uni exam, but he deserves his wine and new cap as much as anybody.

Rob Jalalaty – RJ is an outstanding cricketer. Rob didn't play many games through the 08/09 season but it was very comforting to be able to call on him when required.

Brad Whitfield – Another 15 year old, Bradley is your typical aggressive fast bowler who loves putting it to the batsmen. His 13 wickets at 15 was a great return and I'm sure glad he plays for our club as he seems to get faster every season. More importantly though Brad is a terrific kid and hopefully he will play on for us for many more years.

George Saleh – Wendell was the heart of the side and one of the friendliest guys I've had the pleasure of playing with. It's no surprise the teams he plays in are often winning ones. His cricket is not bad either as he took 13 wickets at 13 and scored 91 runs at 30.33 including 28 off 12 balls in the QF to get us home.

Matt Counsell – Unfortunately Matt didn't take part in the finals but his 13 wickets at 14.85 came at crucial times and he played a large role in many of our wins.

Will Hood – Scoring 263 runs at 20.23 with 14 catches mostly in the slips was a handy contribution from the captain. The real highlight was leading my teammates to a premierships win and sharing the success with them. It was a true honour to captain at the club and thanks must go to Gerard for giving me the opportunity.

Name	Mt	Inn	NO	HS	50	100	Avg	Runs	Ovrs	Mdn	Runs	Bowl	Avg	Wkt
N Bhuiyan	6	4	-	19	-	-	10.75	43	61.0	20	116	4-6	11.60	10
M Counsell	10	6	5	15*	-	-	43.00	43	63.3	9	193	4-11	14.85	13
D Haikin	10	9	-	58	1	-	14.56	131	83.0	20	227	5-29	16.21	14
W Hood	15	13	-	55	1	-	20.23	263	22.0	3	52	3-20	13.00	4
J Millar	10	8	3	91*	1	-	41.60	208	85.0	29	175	3-20	13.46	13
G Saleh	8	7	4	28*	-	-	30.33	91	86.3	26	171	3-26	13.15	13
M Smyck	9	9	-	44	-	-	17.78	160	33.0	6	94	4-16	7.83	12
G Thomakos	7	6	3	27*	-	-	17.33	52	63.4	15	126	3-10	11.45	11
G Wallace	8	8	1	74	1	-	22.71	159	31.0	10	60	2-9	12.00	5
B Whitfield	9	6	1	23	-	-	9.40	47	69.3	11	196	3-15	15.08	13
M Yahya	10	10	1	71	2	-	33.33	300	93.0	39	187	4-7	10.39	18

Also Batted: D Abood 1-0, L Andrews 1-1, A Berenger 4-38, P Catalovski 1-17, A Clarke 2-56, M Dwyer 1-111, A Evison 1-4, J Hevey 2-15, A Hudson 2-95, R Jalalaty 5-36, J Jardim 1-24, R Kapoor 5-90, D Kennedy 1-17, G Long 9-137, G Lowe 1-70, J McKay 3-46, A Nielson 6-71, M Oxley 1-4, P Price 1-17, D Smith 1-6, M Squire 1-1, M Taberner 3-28, J Thomas 2-25, C Trewin 8-160, D Trewin 1-9, P Wallace 2-131, T Watson 1-0.

Also Bowled: P Catalovski 2-33, A Clarke 9-79, A Evison 2-71, A Hudson 1-19, J Jardim 4-23, M Oxley 1-21, D Smith 0-8, M Taberner 1-8, C Trewin 0-8, P Wallace 5-40, T Watson 2-9.

Will Hood

CRICKET FIFTH GRADE

Name	Mt	Inn	NO	HS	50	100	Avg	Runs	Ovrs	Mdn	Runs	Bowl	Avg	Wkt
B Gersbach	14	13	1	16	-	-	5.75	69	32.3	2	143	3-19	28.60	5
V Gourlie	10	10	3	28*	-	-	17.14	120						
J Kovacic	11	9	2	18	-	-	7.29	51	74.0	13	187	3-11	26.71	7
R Morshed	14	14	2	34*	-	-	13.25	159	93.0	8	327	4-21	21.80	15
N Pandousis	9	8	1	40	-	-	27.71	194	71.0	11	233	8-53	12.94	18
M Taberner	10	10	1	33	-	-	20.44	184	55.2	7	184	4-19	23.00	8
M Variana	11	10	2	15	-	-	10.75	86						
P Variana	12	12	2	55*	1	-	14.70	147	27.0	3	104	3-10	14.86	7
R Welcome	13	10	2	16*	-	-	2.88	23						

Also Batted: S Achmar 1-14, L Andrews 1-20, A Berenger 1-10, N Bhuiyan 5-52, M Counsell 1-6, J Hevey 4-121, W Hood 1-23, A Hudson 2-48, R Kapoor 4-17, D Kennedy 4-62, B Kim 1-0, G Long 4-75, J McKay 2-30, J Millar 1-0, A Nielsen 1-0, J Sussman 1-0, J Thomas 5-84, B Warburton 3-10, T Watson 1-13, C Welcome 1-0, B Whitfield 1-39.

Also Bowled: S Achmar 0-4, L Andrews 0-34, N Bhuiyan 3-89, M Counsell 1-22, V Gourlie 0-12, J Hevey 3-58, W Hood 1-5, A Hudson 3-30, R Kapoor 0-29, G Long 1-59, J Millar 0-21, J Sussman 4-22, B Warburton 3-74, T Watson 2-27, R Welcome 0-10, B Whitfield 4-20.

CRICKET UNDER 24'S

The Under 24'S after a number of seasons rebuilding saw the team develop into a side that will be a force to be reckoned with in the coming years and establish the club once more in the upper echelon of this competition and in the grades the players fill in the various club teams. The team was led superbly by Simon Watson who through his efforts with the bat and ball and inspirational fielding provided the team with leadership qualities throughout. The side saw an influx of a number of new eligible players to the club and at the end of the season only two of them would not be available to play the next season which augurs well for the future. The greatest task is being able to get all of the players available and playing at the same time together. During the season, player unavailability due to work, exam, school and grade commitments tested the players performances but all players who played a game contributed to a good season.

The team got off to a slow start to the season losing the first game narrowly to Southern Districts with Simon Watson and Max Squire both scoring 50's and having the second game against Epping washed out soon after commencing. The winning started in round 3 with the side bowling well to dismiss South Sydney for a competitive total of 156 which was achieved with only the loss of 4 wickets, Pascal Wallace and Daniel Smith

putting a hundred run partnership together. Round 4 versus Warringah saw the side put together the best batting display for the season with the team chasing down a total of 241 with 3 overs to spare. Max Squire top scored in this game with 84 and was well supported by Chris Hart who scored 48. What was really noteworthy about this performance was the average age of the side being just over 18 years old. After the Christmas break the team showed the sort of ruthlessness and ability to finish off a team that would become vital in the lead up to the finals. In the fifth game, the Roseville side was travelling comfortably at 1/81 before being dismissed for 102. The bowling was led by Ben Taylor and Tom Liversedge who each picked up 4 wickets. The batting then proceeded to make the runs in the 21st over with Chris Hart once more dispatching the bowling for 52 runs and 2 bonus points. Round 6 versus Lindfield saw the bowling once again restrict the opposition batting to a total that would be chased down successfully within 40 overs with an additional bonus point, contributions being by all the batsmen. The last round of the minor round against Lane Cove finished within 3 hours (including a lunch break) with the side bowling out the opposition for just 38. Steve Davis taking 6 wickets for 19 runs. The additional bonus points gained from the games proving to be vital for the side as it finished in 3rd spot at the end of the minor games. This was extremely important with qualifying finals being rained out and the higher placed sides advancing to the semi finals. The semi final was played against a strong Auburn outfit and we were sent in to bat on a softish deck and a slow outfield that improved as the day wore with the side scoring 164 runs, Tom D'Apice making a valuable 41. Although this was a competitive total it proved to be not quite enough with the opposition getting the runs 6 wickets down in the 48th over. A close effort but in the end the batting and bowling didn't click together on the same day. The positives out of the game being The Semi final side having an average age of just 19.

Top performers through the season with the bat were Max Squire who scored 208 runs and Chris Hart 195. All the other batsmen contributed at times but with the scores chased not being substantial they were not required as frequently. Outstanding efforts by the bowlers as they continued to restrict the teams by bowling economically and putting pressure onto the run rate saw Steve Davis taking 14 wickets, Tom Liversedge 10 and Pascal Wallace 8. Special mention to Tom Watson, Simon Watson and Ben Taylor whose tight bowling and economy rates put plenty of pressure on the batsmen at all times. The keeping duties were shared by Greg Long and Franco Rocca and were able to set the standard for the rest of the team. Pascal Wallace put himself into the all rounder category with 85 runs and 8 wickets which was a fine effort.

Name	Mt	Inn	NO	HS	50	100	Avg	Runs	Ovrs	Mdn	Runs	Bowl	Avg	Wkt
T D'Apice	7	5	1	41	-	-	26.50	106	20.0	-	79	3-48	15.80	5
S Davis	6	1	1	0*	-	-	-	-	52.4	8	165	6-19	11.79	14
C Hart	7	7	-	52	1	-	27.86	195						
G Long	7	3	1	15*	-	-	18.00	36						
W Service	4	1	-	5	-	-	5.00	5	29.0	3	121	2-39	30.25	4
D Smith	4	3	2	42*	-	-	56.00	56	18.3	1	70	1-13	35.00	2
M Squire	8	7	1	84	2	-	34.67	208						
G Thomakos	3	1	1	11*	-	-	-	11	10.0	1	54	1-24	54.00	1
P Wallace	7	3	2	47*	-	-	85.00	85	16.4	-	89	4-24	11.12	8
T Watson	5	2	1	3*	-	-	3.00	3	27.0	3	70	1-17	35.00	2
S Watson	8	6	2	53	1	-	26.00	104	51.4	4	194	2-14	32.33	6

Also Batted: N Bhuiyan 1-0, D Kennedy 1-20, F Rocca 2-15, M Taberner 1-1, B Taylor 0-0, J Thomas 1-4.

Also Bowled: M Squire 1-6, B Taylor 5-46.

Scott Brennan

MASTERS CRICKET

The 2008/09 season was a disappointing one for the Burwood Masters. After our excellent finish to the previous season, we started off well with a hard fought win against Epping in our first game. We then came up against two of the strongest teams in the Masters comp - Mac Uni and Doyalson - and despite competitive performances lost both games. This unfortunately set the tone for the season, whereby we played well but inconsistently at times and, coupled with the captain's inability to win a toss, resulted in a season where we had too many close losses and not enough wins!

Despite the results, all players put in a great effort during the season and unlike previous seasons we never struggled for numbers. There were also some fantastic individual performances with bat and ball. Of the batsmen, Greg Matchett was outstanding scoring 260 runs in 7 innings, retiring on 3 occasions after reaching 40 including a top score of 50. For his efforts Greg was the unanimous Masters Player of the Year. David Jebb, Andy Macky, Scott Brennan and Jeff Matchett all reached 40 at some stage during the season, but our batsmen were unable to provide consistent support to Greg.

Our bowling lacked a bit of penetration at times, but generally was tight and opposing sides had to earn their runs. Jeff Matchett had another sensational year, taking 13 wickets and always bowling teasing spells. Dave Trewin bowled very tidily before injuring himself, while Paul Alice also bowled well but without much luck. Matt Welfare, Jebby and Stu Lind all picked up handy wickets throughout the season.

I'd like to thank all players for their efforts during the season. We had a lot of fun, and everyone was happy to give a helping hand when needed. I'm sure with a new coin tosser the team will get some better results! A special thanks also to Stu for all his behind the scenes work.

Name	Mt	Inn	NO	HS	50	100	Avg	Runs	Ovrs	Mdn	Runs	Bowl	Avg	Wkt
P Alice	5	4	2	23*	-	-	27.00	54	29.1	5	130	3-40	18.57	7
A Cantori	6	6	1	15	-	-	6.40	32	24.0	-	156	2-47	39.00	4
W Erickson	5	5	1	34	-	-	11.00	44						
W Giblin	5	5	-	21	-	-	14.00	70						
R Ingui	4	4	-	34	-	-	14.75	59						
D Jebb	9	9	1	40*	-	-	18.88	151	30.0	2	118	2-13	23.60	5
G Kandakumar	4	4	-	36	-	-	15.25	61						
S Lind	8	7	3	11*	-	-	4.75	19	36.0	4	168	1-12	33.60	5
S Lucas	5	5	-	20	-	-	5.60	28	25.0	2	134	2-15	33.50	4
A Macky	9	8	1	42*	-	-	17.00	119						
J Matchett	10	9	2	52*	1	-	18.14	127	60.3	6	237	4-28	18.23	13
G Matchett	7	7	2	50	1	-	52.00	260						
D Trewin	5	5	2	16*	-	-	18.00	54	27.0	6	78	1-9	19.50	4
M Welfare	6	4	-	20	-	-	6.25	25	47.1	5	201	3-33	33.50	6

Also Batted: D Abood 2-23, C Blair 1-16, S Brennan 2-65, R Horwood 1-1, R Ingui 1-39, S Karmakonda 3-11, C Medd 2-0, G Miller 2-0, P Simpson 1-7, D Wright 1-10.

Also Bowled: C Blair 1-57, S Brennan 1-32, R Ingui 0-18, S Karmakonda 3-73, A Macky 0-12, G Matchett 0-27, C Medd 1-47, G Millar 3-79.

Andy Macky

RUGBY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2009 has been a very difficult year for the Briars Rugby Club. Results on the field have not been what we wished however great steps have been made in restoring the lost Spirit of Briars Rugby.

Due to a decision to hold the Rugby Annual General Meeting very late in 2008 the newly elected Committee faced many challengers for the season. As a result the on field performances suffered with the sides going into the season underprepared. We were able to slowly build moment throughout the early parts of the competition and at the halfway point in the all teams bar the Colts were in a position to make the finals. One memorable day was the game in the mud at Rothwell against one of Briars new rivals the Barker Old Boys Rugby Club. In scenes reminiscent of the 1963 Rugby League Grand Final made famous by the photograph of Norm Proven and Arthur Summons, Briars would win 1st Grade, 2nd Grade and 4th a very good result considering Barker would go on from this point be to the undefeated 1st Grade Premiers.

Efforts in round 10 of an 18 round season would not equate to a successful year and it was downhill from here for all teams with the exception of the 4th XV. The player drain from the past two seasons took its toll and the depth of Briars Rugby was tested. The shining light of the season was that of the 4th Grade side finishing the regular season in 4th position with 11 wins from 18 games. They were narrowly defeated in the Minor Semi Final however congratulations should go to the side and their captain coach Damien Johnson for ensuring once again Briars Rugby were represented in the post season. Other results included 1st grade finishing 7th, second grade 8th, third grade 7th, and our colts side 9th. Briars Rugby finished 8th in the Club Championships. What we need to do is take the positives out of this season, identify our areas requiring improvement and get Briars Rugby back where it belongs.

Off the field Rugby was able to re-establish some of camaraderie which was once considered the foundation of the Club. The Annual Dinner was reintroduced after a three year absence the first since its introduction in 1964. A crowd of 80 mostly present day players enjoyed what was a great night and a special mention needs to go to the guest speakers ex-Wallaby Scott Fava and Chris O'Young for proving such amusing entertainment for the evening. The 2010 Annual Dinner is destined to be another great night however we would call upon Briars old members and members of the other sports to support the night to ensure this great tradition is not lost. Rugby were able to rekindle another Briar tradition which dates back to the 1930's in the form of a Club dance. The modern take on the Club dance was held on our Ladies Day and despite the inclement weather the night attracted over 70 people who were entertained by some excellent live music.

2010 will again see Briars compete in the NSW Suburban Rugby Division Two Competition, with 1st grade competing for the Barraclough Cup. The 2009 division 2 club champions taking out the Reliance Cup were Lindfield Rugby earning them promotion to the divisions 1 competition. The Kings Old Boys late season charge which saw them win 7 out of their last 9 1st grade games was not enough for them to avoid relegation and they will again be in the division 2 competition. Highlighting the difficulties for sides the year following divisional promotion Blue Mountains will once again be in the division 3 competition after a tough year in division 2. Briars look forward to the promotion of one of their long standing rivals with the Hunters Hill Rugby Club winning the Doc Harris Shield and earning promotion to division 2.

Success in Rugby requires a Club effort. If you were able to see one game last season please come to two or more next year. If you have supported the club from afar get to Rothwell and show the current group of players your passion for Briars. If you wish to have input into the running of the Club come and speak with me. Success in Rugby requires positive contributions from all if you are unhappy with the current direction of Rugby speak with the committee or myself as we are the people who are able to bring about change. Underground politics is unproductive and destructive to a group that is working extremely hard to bring about what we all want, getting Rugby where it belongs in the division one sub-district competition.

Ashley Walsh - Rugby Chairman

HOCKEY CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2009 saw the second year of the joint Briars Hockey Club (Men's, Women's and Juniors operating as a single club). I believe this continues to prove to be a great step forward for Briars' Hockey. We are now starting to see the benefit of the structures in place, including greater continuity from year to year, with a significant amount of the preparatory work for season 2010 to have already commenced. One of the major changes going into 2010 is the appointment of Anthony Thornton as Men's First Grade Coach, with Ivan Boulton now concentrating on coaching and junior development in his role of Coaching Director. Anthony, welcome to Briars and Bolty, thanks and congratulation for the contribution you have made to Briars over the last three years.

While the results on the field weren't as good as we would probably have liked (more detail on the performance of individual teams will be provided in the coaches reports below), we had some successes, notably:

- Women's 4th grade (ML5) winning the premiership and going through the season undefeated
- Women's 3rd grade (ED2) winning the premiership
- Women's 6th grade (ED3) who were promoted to a higher grade this year (for the second year in a row) and made it the preliminary final and going down narrowly in a very competitive match
- Under 15Cs reached the preliminary final after a strong year
- Women's 5th grade (ED3) making the semi-finals and losing narrowly to Briars 6th grade in tropical heat.

Congratulations to Ebony Barber on winning the Loretta Dorman Medal for Best and Fairest in SWHL first grade competition; this award is voted on by all players across the clubs in SWHL first grade. Congratulations also to Tori Scanlon who represented NSW in the Under 13s state team at the Australian Invitational Championships in October. The team had a successful tournament and brought home the premiership trophy.

It takes a significant amount of work by a number of people to run a club the size of Briars Hockey and I would like to thank everyone who gave of their own time in any number of ways. Specifically I'd like to thank the hard working Committee:

- Kylie Norris - Vice President
- Janet Adams - Administration
- Jo Sikkens - Finance
- Ivan Boulton - Coaching and Development
- Nicola Firth - Social
- Blake Durance and Alana Tagg - Club Captains
- Gary Fuller - Junior Liaison

Again AJ and Wal did a sterling job in the canteen - I'd hate to think where we'd be without these guys. This year they put in a particularly sterling effort as Cintra hosted some of the World Master Games and both of them spent a minimum ten hours each day (and more often than not significantly more) in the Canteen.

There are a number of other people who assisted on the various sub-committees, or as coaches, managers and umpires, and I'd like to thank them on behalf of the club.

Looking forward to 2010 and beyond, there are several areas in which we as a club must improve to achieve the "world class hockey club" status to which we aspire:

- Improved recruitment and development of Juniors - With Ivan now having this as one of his major focusses and other members like Ratty and Shaz getting involved, this is an area I believe will see significant advancement in 2010.
- Team Managers - we need the formal appointment of a manager for every team and preferably not a member of the team.
- More participation at Briars events - Our club captains, managers and committee members need to be more forceful in promoting these events, Also, the core group of regular attendees need to use peer pressure to get greater involvement (unfortunately I seem to be saying this every year).

In 2010, let's aim for improved success on the field and increased participation in club activities by our players and loyal supporters.

Mike Denniss - Chairman

HOCKEY MEN'S FIRST GRADE

Award Winners

- Players Player: Josh Miller
- Best & Fairest: Josh Miller
- Coaches Award: Blake Durance

The 2009 season was disappointing. The position on the championship table indicates a bottom half finish, however in many of the games the team was holding a position of strength and winning vital games with less than five minutes to go. On most of these occasions through lack of experience we made poor decisions both with and without the ball and had counter attack goals scored against us. Or we made very basic errors in defence and let in simple goals that should have not have happened at premier level. These factors eroded the player's confidence and to most of the player's credit they gave their best week after week.

We suffered again this year with having players committed to representative duties and injuries. It is promising to see the likes of Jake Imer, Taylor Di Val, Zac McCowage and Zeke Newman developing and I am sure will make significant contributions to the 2010 season and beyond.

Also it was pleasing to see Adam Imer develop very strongly this year. Josh Miller and Josh White lead by example both on and off the field. Congratulations go to Josh White for making the Australian U21 WC team, and to Josh Miller, Adam Imer, Rhys Gray and Dane McIlveen in making respective state teams. Kishan Patel developed his hockey at Briars and after two seasons it was pleasing to see his selection in the Auckland NHL team. Darren Pike, Paul Sharpe, Andrew Borg, Troy Prescott, Chris Coombes and Blake Durance gave of their best throughout the year on and off the field and are key members of the team to keep the true Briars spirit alive within the team.

Again this year, the players overall did not achieve the level of personal fitness that is required to play premier hockey and this must be addressed for the 2010 pre-season. The club has embraced some major changes over the past few years and results on the field have been disappointing. I am confident that if the club remains committed to growing their own juniors and focusing on skills development and fitness it will not be very long before the senior teams of the club are at the top of the championship tables again.

Thanks to Michael Imer and John Price in sharing the management duties. I have truly appreciated the professional organisational skills and efforts made for the team. My thanks to all the players this year and to the Briars Hockey Club for their support.

Ivan Boulton - Coach

HOCKEY MEN'S SECOND GRADE PL2

2009 was a challenging year with a number of key players either not available or being promoted to the first grade. The results were disappointing in the competition, however I am confident that the growth in the number of younger players augers well for 2010 and beyond.

The season preparation was not as good as hoped with the preseason fitness sessions being poorly attended. This resulted in players starting the season not in the physical condition expected. This again is a major concern going forward not only for second grade but generally across the club. Due to the impact of injuries, representative duties and lack of depth in first grade, the continuity for team selections for second grade was always going to be a challenge. This year the structure for the training sessions on Monday and Wednesday nights worked well with the benefits of the squad of players working together on common styles and tactical hockey and therefore playing across the two grades was generally seamless.

The most significant success factor for the season was the improvement in skill and overall development of a number of the younger players. Jake Imer, Taylor Di Val, Zac McCowage and Zeke Newman all improved significantly in 2009 and will play a major role in the club's future successes. I believe that if the club continues to focus on the Junior Development sessions, support the work that Sammy Everest is doing we will start to generate a regular supply of home grown talented young players.

The tireless efforts and leadership of Chris Coombes was superb throughout the year. I appreciated the contributions made to the team by the experienced players in the squad, James Fordham, Oliver Bailey, Gareth Murray, Andrew Kilazoglou, David Ratcliff, and Troy Prescott, Darren Pike (when they weren't playing first grade). These guys formed the basis of the team culture and kept things on track when the pressure was on and we weren't getting the results we wanted. I must also mention the commitment and efforts of Lewis Mike and Derryn Allsop. Each year they get better and better and I expect both these players to seriously put their hands up for first grade in 2010.

I found the year very challenging and I must admit that being a player / coach is harder than I expected. It must be my Northern Irish background that let's my emotions get the better of me when the real pressure is on. I appreciated the support and guidance from Ivan Boulton, who managed on many occasions to get back to focusing on coaching rather than playing. My thanks to Bolty for his support and the confidence he has shown in me over the years. Also my thanks to Michael Imer who was always there as manager for both grades making sure all the important things were done behind the scenes. My thanks to the Briars Hockey Club for the opportunity to coach over the past two years. I am returning to Ireland in 2010 and wish the club success for the future.

Jonny Caren - Coach

HOCKEY MEN'S THIRD GRADE (DIV 1.1)

Having lost some senior players from last year's side and with the implementation of a junior development program by the club, we welcomed some young, new and old players respectively into 3rd grade this year. With a few players left over from last year we headed into the season with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm. However, by the end of the season we were not in the position on the table where we hoped and expected to be. That being said this was not a true indication of the hard work and effort put in by the players. Well done guys.

The implementation of our development program saw us play some of our younger players in 3rd grade this year. The pleasing thing about this was that they embraced the challenge and showed that they could more than hold their own against players with far more experience than them. Congratulations to Andrew, Ellison, Zac and Nic. Well done to Zac who ended up only playing two games with us before he was taken up to 2nd grade and didn't come back. These young players among others are the future of our club and it is great to see them coming through the grades. It was also pleasing to see the older guys in our team helping and advising the younger guys in the team.

This year was particularly frustrating given the fact we used so many players (thirty five to be exact). This was through a variety of reasons be it injury, unavailability and also player movement between the grades. Using this amount of players impacted on us being able to develop some understanding and cohesion in our hockey. This needs to be addressed if we are to finish higher up the ladder next year. One of the differences between us and a lot of teams was our fitness. This was evident in some games where we were competing really well until the last 20 minutes. The fatigue set in and we were not able to finish the game out as we should expect to. Given that we don't get much time on the field it is imperative that the playing group accepts some of the responsibility for their fitness by doing some extra work by themselves away from hockey. Improving our consistency and just doing the basics right were a couple of areas we concentrated on this year. When we got this right and played very simple hockey we looked fantastic and the results spoke for themselves. Then at other times we were totally the opposite. These are two areas where we can improve. If we can improve in these few areas we will become a lot more competitive throughout the season, thus achieving the results we would all like to achieve.

It was also good to see the mateship between 3rd and 4th grade and hopefully next year this can be developed further. A special thanks to those guys who backed up from 4th grade throughout the year without a great deal of notice. Given that this year was a particularly difficult year and we as a club made some hard decisions in relation to player development. I feel that we have set the tone to develop into a stronger playing group across the club as a whole. This will also see some more junior players coming through as we progress. Thanks to Bolty, Jonny and Preso, your assistance was much appreciated. Also thanks to Bulldog (3rd grade Captain) for your assistance and leadership on the field. Thanks finally to James Fordham for your help this year it certainly made the job a lot easier.

Lachie Boa - Coach

HOCKEY MEN'S FOURTH GRADE (DIV 1.2)

This year was the start of Briars Junior Development Program for generally speaking, last years' Under 17 players being introduced into senior grade hockey. To this end, we welcomed Richard Sahajdak, Andrew Maxwell, Josh Finnegan, Ellison Furneaux-Bate and Ben Tudman to the team and also had many other players participating in our training as well as the coaches from 3 – 5 regularly checking in with 5th grade youngsters to ensure they were being trained appropriately ready for future upward movements. The mixture of youth and experience worked predominantly well and some good wins came from this integration. Unfortunately mostly due to injured and/or unavailable players, we were unable to capture and build momentum to get a top 4 spot – which for the first half, was on offer. Even though, we only finished middle of the table, I believe the foundation was essentially laid for 2010 and beyond. There were some lessons learned by all 2009 in respect to player management which no doubt will be carried into 2010 by the coaches whoever they may be – which I am certain will begin to yield strong and ongoing results for Briars and more importantly, start bleeding our future talent for the higher grades.

One clear positive for 2009 was an obvious improvement by all our young players taken on board under the name of the development program.

I would like to thank Lachie Boa (3rd Grade coach) and Ivan Boulton for their assistance. Thank you also to Troy Prescott (5th Grade coach) who was always happy to help with player movements in both directions with very little notice. In conclusion, I feel 2009 should be looked upon as a building block for 2010 and beyond. It is rarely the case you get things right the first time, but we must start somewhere, and I believe we at least achieved that.

Gilbert (Gilby) Fuller (GK) - Gilby has made some large steps in his ability and career as GK. Briars should take pride in having him in their fold. He was missed for part of the season due to representative and HSC commitments and hopefully can commit to his team in 2010 for the whole season.

Troy Juillerat (FB) - Troy came in midway from 3s on request by myself to work with Andrew Maxwell (mentoring program) and was a rock for the team. Troy was rock solid game after game and is the sort of player who gives 100% every week. Troy was also one of the few who had close to 100% attendance all year for training. An asset to the club. Thanks mate.

Lachie (LB) Boa (FB) - LB is easily one of the most passionate players I know. On a good day, he plays brilliantly (and won players' player to show) and on a not so good day, can share his frustration with all concerned. He had a particularly good rapport with the umpires this year which from where I was sitting, was warranted.

Ian Hristoforidis (CH) - Ian was rock solid for us this year also and was groomed for centre half. I believe he grew in his confidence, which helped him improve consistently throughout the year. Ian will only get better in years to come and a likely promotion should be on the cards for him.

Josh Finnegan (H) - Josh was one our development squad members this year starting a little timid but after hard work at training showed real prowess on the field towards the end of the season. Should Josh remain committed to his hockey in 2010, I believe he has a bright future and is yet to achieve his real potential, however, the signs are very positive.

Al O'Connell (H, Captain) - Al (Capt) was not able to commit to training this year due to work commitments, however, as always put 100% into his weekend games. He was great to prop the team up when called on and showed great leadership on the field. Thanks for your help this year Al.

Nathan (Naps) Napper - Naps is arguably the most consistent performer on the park. One of the clubs fittest players, you can call on this guy to put 70 minutes of 100% effort in, and then ask him to double up again. Great player, great guy and another true asset to the Briars fold.

Sammy Everist (anywhere) - Sammy was great to have around. Apart from his obvious ability, he was always positive, led by example and showed the way for the younger players. It was like having a coach on field in terms of achieving team objectives and I think any team would be better for it. Thanks Sammy for your on and off field assistance – especially with the young players. Very much appreciated – and I hope you stick around for another crack in 2010.

Richard Sahajdak (FW) - Richard turned out to be quite a strong striker. He started (like all the younger players) a little quiet, but fairly quickly established himself as a goal scoring striker. I felt he got better as the season progressed, and if he can commit himself to the training, fitness and general improvement – could easily promote to higher grade hockey in a fairly short timeframe.

Dion Jones (FW) - I felt Dion had his best year for some time. He scored some nice goals this year (and missed a few), but on the whole showed strong commitment to the team and for one of the more senior players in the team, performed consistently well. He also showed good commitment to training even though his work commitments were heavy this year.

Nigel Francisco (FW) - Nigel had a great year. He could have played 3s all year, but due to personal circumstances requested to play in 4s. His general play (leading and scoring) improved from last year and Nigel always brought a positive attitude into the team week in, week out. I am a big fan of what Nigel could do under better circumstances and hope he is able to realise his potential in the next couple of seasons (before he gets too old like his coach).

Joe Smith (FW) - Joe was another one of the really fit guys who would run all day. Joe is new to the club this year and played a little 3rd grade hockey as well. Joe showed 100% commitment to his game and can improve further in 2010 to allow him room to step up a grade or two.

Elison Furneaux-Bate (FW) - Elison was solid in the inside forward position and played a fair bit of 3rd grade hockey towards the backend of the season as a reward for his work rate and playing some good hockey. He still has much to learn, however is definitely one with a bright future once he makes 1 or 2 small adjustments (which I am confident he will do and achieve in 2010). Sorry I couldn't get your surname spelling right all year.

Ben Tudman (H) - Unfortunately Ben tore his hamstring early in the season so didn't get many games under his belt. The games he did play, he was able to demonstrate his ability and potential. I would love to see him get a full 2010 in next year to improve and show what he can do.

I would also like to thank players such as Sarbjit (Jeet) Singh, Corry Allsop and Craig McLaughlin who played between the grades, for their valued contribution. We also need to acknowledge Vinnie Malone and Jason Lindgren who played partial season with us and were called away on military duties.

Jimmy Fordham - Coach

HOCKEY MEN'S SIXTH GRADE (DIV 2.2)

The season of 2009 for 6th grade started off slow with a novice coach at the reins. The majority of players from last season continuing on, we had a good platform and with a mix of young players coming into seniors from juniors or new to the club. Co-captains Mike Dennis and Jesse Borthwick provided leadership throughout the season. The most memorable moment was midway through the season, pulling off a heroic victory against a very strong Macquarie Uni. They later on went on to win the premiership. After that game the team started to gel together and enjoyed their hockey. With a string of wins under our belt, players started to gain confidence and improve immensely. Jack Kelleher and Keith Lemon showed the most improvement by far. Jack, a Briars junior in his first year of senior hockey, started a little bit timid but ended the season a highly confident player. Keith was one of the few players that played every game and almost every minute of the season, vast improvement in his positional awareness and tackling ability.

I'd also like to thank everyone else from 5th and 7th that helped us through the season when we needed players, especially Tom Harkin and Daniel Strout who played the majority of the season in both 5th and 6th grade and also Mike Dennis and Ian Brown for managing. The team finished 8th on the ladder out of 12 teams. I would like to say a special thanks to the boys for making it an enjoyable season to coach and I hope to see everyone back out on the pitch in 2010.

Steven "Chief" Graham – Coach

Managers - Ian Brown and Mike Dennis

HOCKEY MEN'S SEVENTH GRADE (DIV 4.1)

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals For	Goals Against	Points	Position
18	4	12	2	23	64	14	9th/10

This season was disappointing in that we lost a number of games through poor ball retention. We gave the opposition too much ball and suffered the consequences. It did not help that player numbers varied and we did not necessarily have the same players on the field each week.

Clay Scanlon: A speedy forward who does not give up.

David Paul: A good fullback from the old school; goes in hard for the ball

Geoff Atkins: Very dependable halfback who can more than hold his own against wingers half his age.

Hugh McGlone: Young and improving player.

Joe Lyons: Plays well at the back and wants to be a forward.

John Le Marquand: A strong forward with a knack of scoring goals.

Mark Rodgers: Good in goals for 7ths and on the field for 8ths.

Sergio Calcaro: Skilful player at either half or forward.

Simon Bergfield: Chief organizer and utility player who played most positions on the field.

Viv Paul: Returned from overseas and started late but did not wait long for the skills and timing to return.

Thanks also to the other guys who played and umpired throughout the season; a number of players from the 6ths and the other half of the 7ths/8ths pool.

Simon Bergfield - Manager

HOCKEY MEN'S EIGHTH GRADE (DIV 4.2)

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals For	Goals Against	Points	Position
18	8	8	2	36	33	26	5th /10

The mighty 8ths tripped at the last hurdle - by losing the last game they just missed out on the semis. The team consisted of players with a broad range of experience from first-timers through to veterans but the mix worked well. Improvement in a couple of areas may well see the team go further next season.

Alan "AJ" Jones - Crafty left wing who loves the game and loves to score goals.

Adam Palmer - The low cal beer is still working – Palmer is playing well and scoring goals.

Carlo Pangilinan - Missed a number of games through injury. Played mostly in the half line and was consistently solid.

Daryl Baihn - Unorthodox but effective inside forward. Hat-trick a season highlight!

David Osmond - Ossie filled in anywhere and everywhere including umpiring a number of games.

Grant Wood - DJ goal-keeper. Is cool, is good.

Jamie Pottie - Missed a number of games but was strong and skilful in the back line.

Joe Ferrer - A steady hand at the back and anywhere else on the field.

Joel Osmond - Skills on the field a bit rusty after so long in goals but improved consistently through the season.

Martin Campbell - Strong half-back – takes no prisoners.

Paul Monaro - A new player on the improve.

Peter Duignan - A very good player at half or forward.

Shane Murray - Shane's skills continue to improve; he scored a number of goals and always positive.

Trent Hillier - A backline organizer with good positional play and improving skills.

Thanks also to the various 7th graders and others who played throughout the season.

Simon Bergfield - Manager

HOCKEY UNDER 17A'S

After winning B division last season the team was promoted to A division and with a number of new faces and a loss of experience we knew as a team that it would be a challenging year ahead. This year was never about wins vs losses. Our focus was on development, improving the boys' game to a level where they were able to compete against the best young players in Sydney, from the strongest clubs. This in turn will allow for our young guys coming through to translate this experience when they enter the senior ranks at Briars. Unfortunately a draw that consisted of 12 games over 5 months created a lack of any continuity, which was also combined with the frustrating task of getting our full squad available each week (this happened once for half a game before the match was washed out!). It was a year of mixed performances mainly due to missing players to injury, but also a lack of commitment and communication from individuals to the coach. With such a shallow

squad it was important that players relayed their availability for training and games, however this proved to be a constant problem throughout the season.

Our inability to field a team with players in their best positions meant that we were constantly shuffling and disrupting our structure, and not being very advanced in our systems of play. This often exposed us to the quality of the opposition, who were for the most part, ruthless when given an opportunity. However, there were some real positives to come out of a really tough year. For the majority of the season we were competitive in periods, but lacked overall experience to sustain our pressure for the entirety of a match. We made large improvements to our defensive set plays/ structure and positional play. Individually each player learnt a number of skills and was exposed to different positions in varied styles of play. At times toward the end of the season the boys showed the belief and desire that is expected when playing in the top division, pushing a number of the better teams right to the final whistle.

A few players were able to really develop their games against some quality opposition. Our young goalkeeper Phil Stapleton (who could have easily been overshadowed by our U17 state squad keeper Gilbert Fuller) played each game on its merit, and has shown that with some extra work, can be a valuable asset as a keeper. He was helped by the experience of Gilbert who had a break out year with rep selection and sharing his hockey knowledge constantly throughout the season. If Gilbert can really focus on further development he will find himself a much sought after keeper in the higher grades in the not too distant future.

Jack Kelleher grabbed every opportunity this year to take his game to a higher and very consistent level. Jack played the frustrating role of left half on most occasions for us, but also showed versatility in moving up into the midfield / striker (at times on his own accord!). Jack showed that a willingness to learn and having 100% commitment goes a long way in developing as a hockey player, and if he can keep this up, more individual success will soon follow.

Luke Dassaklis finished the year with a rush and proved to the team and both coaches that there is some untapped talent waiting to be released. In the matches that Luke got stuck in, he polled more than 70% of player's votes for that game. Luke showed that when given a task he can produce amazing results, and with commitment and discipline to bolster his natural ability, will be a real game breaker in any team.

Jake Imer had a few hiccups at the beginning of the year but proved to everyone that he is maturing as a hockey player, but most importantly as a person. Jake was our natural leader having more experience against our opposition, and really played with determination and leadership. The team stepped up a cog when Jake's input increased on the field, but also when he had input off it too. This was the year that Jake needed to have, to prove to himself and to all that know him, that he has good attributes that need to be harnessed and utilised into the future.

Finally as coaches we think that recruitment is essential for this club, because at this stage there looks to be not enough players to create a 17s team in 2010. Recruitment especially at the Minkey/U11 age level will be our base of players, which over time will be vital for our U17 teams to be successful in future years. Getting the kids through with quality coaching and playing in the top division of each age group is the only way continued success as a club is achievable. School visits / presentations / gala days need to be held regularly to ensure we constantly gather new talent each year. The bringing back of Briars inductions to all new members (players and parents) needs to be compulsory in order to educate people on our club's history and where we wish our club to be heading. This will ensure we build and develop our club culture within the junior ranks, and allow it to flow throughout a person's hockey life.

Sam Everist and Ben Hurford – Coaches

HOCKEY JUNIORS UNDER 15CS

A team that wasn't supposed to go far in 2009 - broke that mould and got to the Preliminary Final and drew, sadly knocking them out of a Grand Final spot. This team improved greatly over the season, with those that were shy coming out of their shells and becoming great play makers. This team was also able to win at least one game against every team in the competition after losing nearly every game last year. As Coach I found it a great season with the team showing great enthusiasm to learn new things, and always want to improve. At the start of the season the team wrote down personal goals that they would like to achieve with the whole team reaching these goals throughout the season. The U15s C team included: Harriet Allan, Allison Bermingham, Sarah Bermingham, Nayan Bhatela, Milly Cheetham, Luke Cremen, Lachlan Foster, Daniel Graham, Emilia Keating, Matt Lourey, Piers Lourey, James Monaro, Ziggy Rowell, Robbie Staker, Sarah Thomas-Broome, Amelia White, Louisa Wilson and Michelle Yu.

Mark Holman - Coach

HOCKEY MEN'S VETS DIVISION C

Results: 7th out of 9 teams with 2 wins, 5 draws and 7 losses

Representative players: Mike Denniss (Tasmania Over 45s, Sydney Over 50s)

Briars entered two teams in the veterans' competition this year with one team joining Division A for the first time and the other joining Division C. It was pleasing that we were able to build player numbers to such an extent that we had a squad of 19 players and were regularly able to field a team with 15 to 16 players. As veterans, the ability to interchange frequently is invaluable!

Welcome to players new to Briars veterans (Daryl Baihn, Andrew Boutchard, Jon Cable, Mick De La Motte, Andrew Matthews, Alex Sahajdak) and those returning to Briars veterans (Joe Lyons, Chris Baldwin). Thank you to those players who backed up for another veterans season (Geoff Atkins, Sean Birmingham, Ian Brown, Mike Denniss, Joe Ferrer, Mike Imer, Allan Jones, John Montgomery, David Osmond, Dave Paul, Clay Scanlon). Of particular note is that Alex Sahajdak, in his first ever season of hockey, took over most of the goalkeeping duties from David Osmond and showed considerable improvement over the year. This gave Ozzie the opportunity to score his first goal in many years.

We had a slow start to the season with a couple of losses and then a nil all draw. Finally a point, but still no goals. We then had a couple of one-all draws (well done Jon Cable to score our first goal of the season) and then our first win of the season. The season continued in much the same way with another win, a couple more draws and several losses. With the most experienced players moving up to the Division A team, the team struggled initially to develop the right structure (especially in the half line) and teamwork to compete effectively. However, we tried a few different approaches and eventually were able to string some good results together. Well done to Mike Imer for taking on the centre half position. Whilst the overall results for the season were somewhat disappointing, the team developed over the season and, if tight games can be converted from draws to wins in future, participating in the semi-finals is achievable.

Thank you to Joe Ferrer who ran the bench for us after he moved up to the Division A team part-way through the season. Thank you to all players for your contribution during 2009 and we will see you in the pre-season.

Ian Brown and Mike Denniss - Co-managers

HOCKEY WOMEN'S FIRST GRADE (ML1)

2009 was a season that started full of expectations; with new coaches, new younger players and new team rules. Pre-season training started early with the expectation of an early beginning to the season and was then delayed after a few setbacks. All players were at high fitness levels and looked set for a great season. The AHL representative players, Stephanie Purdy, Alysha Borg and Ebony Barber, finished their competition early and we were at full strength from the start. The team finished 5th after the regular season with 8 wins, 1 draw and 9 losses. In the first game of the season team co-captain and AHL player, Alysha Borg, was injured and would miss half of the season. Trying to find the right structure with Alysha away led to some inconsistency and some disappointing losses. Throughout the season the team played very well against the tough teams with good structure and the toughness Briars is renowned for but unfortunately failed to convert it into wins. Conversely, they struggled against teams they should have beaten easily with lacklustre performances and had some poor results. This led to them having a lot of pressure to win in the back end of the season, which proved to be too tough for this young group of players. A major highlight though was an emphatic win over top of the table Moorebank who had only dropped one game all season. Briars dominated from the word go and chances were countless at both ends of the park. Briars though were able to convert two of theirs and showed that they were definitely one of the teams to beat when they were on their game. Again though, inconsistency proved the killer for this team.

NSW Under 16 All Schools representative Hayley De La Motte found her confidence toward the end of the season and was instrumental in the forward line for the team. Other outstanding players were Ellyce Loudon, who was consistently solid all year, Jess Esslemont, who always gave her all and was very consistent and Ash Cocking and Kate Cook who travelled down from Newcastle each week for training and games. Kasey Cocking, Alysha and Ebony were outstanding all year and were voted into the finals for the Loretta Dorman Medal by the umpires. Ebony and Kasey fought it out to the end where Ebony became the eventual winner. To have 3 players in the final group and eventually the top two was an outstanding achievement for these girls and for Briars.

I enjoyed this year very much and it was a massive learning experience for me as it was my first full season coaching. Team dynamics, a loss of players and at some stages a lack of commitment provided a massive challenge and is something I will learn immensely from. Coaches and Manager, Dane McIlveen, Paul Sharp

and Gill Burns would like to thank and commend all of the girls for their efforts and 5th was definitely not justice for how good they actually were.

Dane McIlveen and Paul Sharp – Coaches

Manager – Gill Burns

HOCKEY WOMEN'S SECOND GRADE (ML2)

2009 began with the majority of the 2008 team returning for another crack at the ML2 premiership. With the addition of some new players from the grades below and some familiar faces returning from OS and producing future Briar champions, things looked promising. The Briars ML2 team ended up just missing out on the semi finals, relying on results to go our way in the last round. This was disappointing for the team as they exhibited some of the best play in the competition during the season. ML2 coped admirably with an extensive amount of injuries, with many carrying them throughout the season, whilst giving everything, which highlights the determination of the team. We would like to thank all the girls who filled in for us this year. It is pleasing to see what talented players we have coming through the ranks as everyone who filled in did their job if not more. Last of all we would like to thank Nicola for managing the team. She was very professional running things smoothly no matter how hard we made her job.

2010 will be an interesting season where the Briars ML2 team will need to prove their capabilities and quality by making the semi finals. This will be an absolute must, after having come agonizingly close in the past two years. This team is too good not to achieve this goal in 2010 with the players already on board and the development shown in 2009. Staying clear of injuries and developing consistency across the season, we are sure they can do it.

Katrina Badiola: Kat is a quality goalkeeper who pulled off many great saves this season, keeping us in matches. Suffered from a serious back injury mid season but bounced back to recover some of her best form. Not afraid of the ball at all.

Kylie Norris: One of the rocks at the back for ML2, Kylie's ability to read play and generate momentum from the back was a major strength for the team. Her ability to score from penalty corners was also an asset to the team. A composed leader of the team.

Cindy Goodridge: Cindy returned to the team after the birth of her second child. What a return too! Cindy formed the other rock of the partnership at the back for ML2. Her ability to dispossess strikers and hit through the line to the midfield and forwards is a key strength.

Julie Prolov: Jules is a key player for ML2 and the left half position. No fear attitude allows her to dominate opponents. Jules was always there to back the fullbacks up in cover defence and make it back to her position to assist in moving the ball through the midfield.

Kate Henschell: New addition to the team this year and gave the coaches reason to select her providing a goal threat from the half line. She contributed with some handy goals throughout the year, adding to her defensive capabilities.

Sonya Finlayson: "Mad Dog" also returned to Briars in 2009. Dominant right half always keen to attack whilst determined not to let her opponent get past her. Very good technical skills allowed her to move into midfield and forward line throughout the season with ease.

Kate Cook: Cookie returned for her second year with Briars in 2009. Very good technical skills and versatility gave the coaches options across the half line, in deep defence and high attack, one of the best shots on goal in the team. Looking forward to a big season from her in 2010.

Tina Done: Once again a workhorse who guided the girls around the park. "T" pushed herself to the limit every game and was the voice in the centre. Tina would always be the first to get things set up and moving forward.

Shelley George: Shelley started the season cautious and afraid to back herself. But once she gained in confidence, she gained in dominance. Shelley possessed great skill, which would always leave defenders turned inside out.

Lauren Candido: Loz is a talented young striker who possesses great ball control, which proved to be very handy when we were on a counter attack. Loz could also drop back into the half line, which was great when we had the run of injuries.

Skye Halliday: Skye was a true high striker. Anytime the ball was in our attacking circle Skye would be ready to pounce. A strong shot proved vital as whenever Skye got onto one of those loose balls the Goalkeeper would know about it.

Airlie Halliday: Airlie was another player to rejoin us after a few years off. Airlie became one of our main outlets coming out of defence and she quickly turned those chances into attack. A quick skilful player who always made the opposition respect her.

Alison Jones: Ally was a talented up and coming attacker who could play all over the forward line. A big danger to goalkeepers she has the knack of getting deflections anywhere inside the circle.

Cath Harland: Cath again this year never left anything out on the field. With her leadership and game knowledge she always kept our forwards moving in the right direction. A move from high striker to inside forward towards the end of the season gave us more solidarity in the midfield.

Blake Durance and Darren Pike – Coaches **Manager – Nicola Firth**

HOCKEY WOMEN’S THIRD GRADE (ED2)

Last season the team was knocked out in the first semi by Dolphins, taking away their chance at a finals berth. One year later the girls knew they would have to step up if they were to take what was rightfully theirs. With a heavy pre-season and a trip to the central coast it saw the team ready to take on anyone. Aided by two new inclusions to our forward and back line and with a new style of play, the girls were undefeated in the first round. Now being the hunted, the team would be tested. The girls shaky start to the second round saw a draw with Easts and a heavy loss to arch rivals Dolphins. Yes, the team was tested but not beaten yet. The girls dug deep and won their two remaining games convincingly. This proved that these girls were a team because together they picked each other up and pushed forward into the finals.

Janet Adams: Strong half line player that not only can organise her troops in front of her in a game but off the field as well. A big thank you has to be given from the coach for taking the management position this year.

Charlotte Allan: injuries wouldn’t hold her down, and her trade mark short corner hit dubbed “the floater” scored on demand when the team needed it.

Shannon Barlow: You can always count on Shannon to stir things up in a match always pushing herself to get that one more inch and never backing down from a challenge.

Steph Black: Strong and determined, never taking a step backward in her quest to become a great hockey player. Her efforts this year gave her team the drive it needed when the game was on the line.

Sam Bray: A strong competitor and sometimes too outspoken, but all members of her team know that she will give everything when it count to protect them mates. Her strong defensive skill proved vital in this teams success.

Steph Di Val : Typical goal keep - outspoken and proud, just the way her coach likes them. Her quick reflexes and tough attitude saw her come up with the big saves when her team needed them.

Grace Fowler: This young lady has skills to burn. She controlled the centre with a fearsome style never letting her opponent get the better of her. We look forward to seeing how far Grace’s talents will take her.

Maddie Hall: One word sums up Maddie - speed! Her opponent couldn’t catch her once she had the ball, being so fast she sometimes had trouble stopping! But we can work on that next session. Maddie did well to juggle all of her other commitments and still be a valuable part of the team.

Zoe Hart : Zoe stepped up this year from the lower grades and at first wondered if she would fit in. The first round proved this was where she was supposed to be. Zoe’s skill allowed her to move through many positions this year to become a really good utility player for the team.

Carol Pearson: Mumma Cas’ cool head under pressure gave the defense their edge in tough situation. The team could always count on Carol to come up with the big play in defense no matter how many players she was up against.

Kim Moodie: Another strong player all over the park. Kim would never say die and gave back as good as she got crushing her opponent spirits and stamping her authority on the game.

Helen Sahajdak: Don’t let age fool you. Helen proves with a big heart and a full tank of steam you can do anything. Helen’s strength in the D gave the forward line the strength needed to out play their opponents. A premiership medal on her 15th birthday!

Hannah White: Melon returned from a year abroad but you would think she never left. Her skill only improved through the year ripping up teams defences as she drove toward the goal. Melon never lets anything get her down and always find a positive which then rubs off on her fellow team mates.

Alice Wilson: This season her coach pushed Alice hard but let me just say that there is nobody like her. From first glance she looks like the laziest player on the park, but the more you watch the more you see just how much she does for her team. Dubbed the Rock, Alice lived up to her name never letting a ball get through her providing a strong foundation that the forwards can work off.

Amanda Dawe: Amanda's strength in the forward line proved vital through the year as she would always put everything on the line to score that goal. Complemented by her hitting power that could knock a goalkeeper's cage clean off we hope she returns in 2010 for bigger and better things.

The team finished the season with 15 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss, which was the highest amount of games won by a Briars team in 2009. Our final tally was 55 goals for and 14 goals against. The finals saw mixed results with a loss in the first semi against Dolphins. The girls again dug deep to defeat Pohogs in the preliminary final putting them back up against their nemesis Dolphins for the grand final. The coach's speech at the start of the game talked about inches and that it would all come down to who wanted to give their all for that extra inch, how right that comment would be! The game started well with the Briars scoring first and by half time the score was 2-0 Briars. The second half saw the Dolphins team get a roll on and score two unanswered goals in quick succession. With the play all going Dolphins way and the Briars girls' backs against the wall, this was the moment they proved that they were the better team. The Briars girls would not go quietly and lay down against a strong Dolphins attack. They fought back driving the Dolphins lines back into their half together as one force. The memory of their defeat against this team in last year's semi cemented in their heads only strengthened this drive forward and finally with eight minutes on the clock Briars earned a short corner which they scored, taking the score to 3-2 with 6 minutes to play. The Dolphins angered by the goal threw everything against the girls and in the dying minutes the Dolphins lead striker somehow beat our keeper and took an open goal shot that was going straight in. All players and spectators thought it was a certain goal until defender Sam Bray out of nowhere made a last ditch effort diving towards the ball somehow stopping it inches from the line, knocking the ball back into play where second defender Grace Fowler dived in front of the awaiting Dolphins strikers' clearing it out to the side lines.

One year earlier this Dolphins team took this Briars team's chance to be in a grand final, one year later and on the same field these very girls stood united as one team and took the grand final trophy away from the Dolphins. The final whistle blew the Briars had done it, winning 3-2 in what all spectators would agree to be one of the most entertaining games of the year, and finally putting a smile on their coach's face.

To the girls of ED2, thank you for letting me share in something special. You have proven yourself to be one hell of a team and I know that for many of you the sky's the limit. All through the year I ask that you only give me your best on the field and I know at time it seemed I was pushing too hard but I know how good you all really are and what you will become. Never forget that glory no matter how big or how small stays with a person forever. It cannot be taken from you nor shall it be forgotten. This year you all earned that piece of glory so cherish it, have a well earned break and remember pre-season starts in two months.

David "Ratty" Ratcliffe – Coach

Manager – Janet Adams

HOCKEY WOMEN'S FOURTH GRADE (ML5)

For the girls of 4th grade, 2009 was the perfect season, unbeaten in the pre-season competition, Minor Premiers and Undefeated Premiers! Only two seasons ago 4th grade were relegated to ML5 and showed little confidence in their own ability. After a very promising season in 2008 the girls made a great deal of progress and pushed their way up the ladder to finish the season in 3rd place. The majority of this team returned for 2009 and prior to the start of the season we identified a number of goals for the year. The main pre-season goal was to finish as minor premiers which would allow us to be promoted back to ML4. However along the way the girls soon needed to reassess this goal as finishing the season undefeated became the new goal we were working towards. This team built its game on a rock-solid defence having only conceded 9 goals all season (and only 1 goal in 4 games to eventual runners up UNSW). The strong defence laid the platform that allowed us to score 40 goals, many of them absolutely unbelievable. The midfield build up allowed our quick forward line to get in behind opposition defences and create countless scoring opportunities. We won 14 games with 6 draws and 0 losses.

The girls desire to win was evident by nearly every member of the team turning up to non-compulsory fitness sessions every week and training extremely hard at all sessions whilst having a great deal of fun, sometimes too much fun. As a playing unit the girls showed a great deal of grit and guile throughout the season winning and drawing many games that looked like going against us, yet were able to pull off a result most times.

The grand final vs. UNSW was no exception. After a first half which had us camped in our own end, the team weathered the storm, scored a great goal and went onto hold out a very strong UNSW, ensuring the final chapter of the perfect season was written.

Coaching this group of girls was an absolute pleasure for us, they worked hard and listened to our bizarre playing theories, over complicated set plays and training drills, yelling, nagging and whinging but to their credit stuck to it, showed faith in the direction we were steering them in and worked extremely hard, listening most of the time. A great number of the team also contributed to the club off the field by volunteering their time on both the club and social committees. Coping with injuries including the loss of our fullback Sarah, goalkeeper Liz and inner Rach at different points in the season really highlighted the depth and quality of this team. In regards to player development each player has improved out of sight for 2009, which is probably the most satisfying thing to see as coaches. The blend of young players and established club members really contributed to the success of the team in 2009 and made it a pleasure to pass on what limited and sometimes absurd ideas we had/have! Congratulations to the girls and we look forward to the challenge of competing in ML4 in 2010.

Alana Tagg (CH): Our captain and centre half, what a fantastic leader! Worked in partnership with both coaches to ensure the team were heading in the intended direction. Has fantastic leadership skills and control of the game, also took over the fitness with her Billy Blanks style fitness sessions towards the end of the season. A Briars member for over 10 years was invaluable to the team.

Nicola Firth (FB): An absolute rock. Worked perfectly in tandem with K.A at the back to ensure neither the ball or the player got through, very seldom did both, took it upon herself to lead the defensive side of the team and is a player that shows a great deal of passion. How she gets away with some tackles continues to amaze us.

Kerri Anne Gudmunson (FB): “KA” is another rock that went from not even wanting to play fullback to being one of the most consistently strong defenders in the competition. KA is a player that everyone involved in the team has a great deal of confidence in. Very composed on the ball.

Kate Sullivan (LH): The best left half in the competition by a country mile. When Kate was on fire Briars were on fire, lucky for us she is also one of the most consistent in the comp as well. Her ability to link defence into our attack was strength for our team. Established member of the team and a great role model for our younger players.

Monique Imer (RH): Natural hockey talent. Monique is an extremely confident and skilful young lady, a very good inclusion to the team and will only get better with more experience. Fantastic back stick goal early in the season, showing what can happen when you back yourself and take a chance. Bright future with the Briars.

Rachael Stephenson (I): One of our hardest working players, will run herself into the ground quite literally and as the season went on became a player capable of setting up goals though her raw pace and skill. Rach’s season ended in heartbreaking fashion missing the Grand Final with an illness after what was a fantastic season.

Briony Tyree (I): “Super Mum” worked hard all year and did absolutely everything asked of her. Whether she played at half of inside forward Bri never took a backwards step and regularly outmuscled the opposition’s biggest players. Always reliable in any position she found herself in, absolute pleasure to coach and a great leader of the team.

Jo Bradshaw: Another great inclusion into 4th grade. Had a great season and with a bit of self belief could realise just how much ability she has. Played strong in many positions, a very hard worker, extremely competitive and offered something different with her aerial skills. Jo is an absolute pleasure to coach.

Jo Wells: Without a doubt the most improved player in 2009. Jo became one of our best attacking weapons, with her jink and turn of pace there wasn’t a defender in the comp who could go with her. She also scored some freakish goals along the way. Congratulations on a great season!

Anna French: “Freaky Frenchy” scores goals that leave oppositions dumbfounded, left herself with a wry smile and her coaches scratching their heads. Anna is an un-orthodox hockey player who is a natural goal scorer. She is one of the most competitive people in the team and scored the winner in the Grand Final and managed to score many goals through determination and grit.

Helen Sahajdak: “Punky” had the season of her young life. She regularly made the most experienced players in the comp look like foolish with her skill, speed and tenacity. 2 senior premierships in 2 weeks is the perfect reward for a very hard working talented young lady. She has a very bright future with the Briars.

Kylie Beckhouse: Kylie has untapped leadership skills and is another speedy member of our blistering forward line. Kylie was equally effective in the inside forward channel and did absolutely everything asked of her throughout the year. Her hustle on the ball was invaluable and showed other team members just how to impose themselves on the opposition.

Ellie-Liz Moran: Joined us this season and is an extremely capable goal keeper, surgery however cut her season short, but her contribution both on and off the field was extremely valuable. Having a keeper of her quality ensured the defence was extremely hard to penetrate.

Sarah Sullivan: Again had a season cut short due to surgery. Sarah was having the season of her life and is a very valued member of the team. She is another player who has great leadership skills and desire to lead the team from the back.

A special thanks also to **Jo Sikkens** who was a star in goals for us in the Grand final. **Sarah Seaman** who also helped us out by playing up from ML6 in the final 3 games worked hard and has a premiership winning medal to show for it. And to **Josie Nicol** who also played a very limited role (due to her being overseas) this season but gave her all whilst available, her enthusiasm is infectious. Thank you also to **Alana** for her great job as manager, keeping detailed records and organising the team each week. Congratulations to all team members and good luck in 4th division.

Andrew Borg and Blake Durance – Coaches **Manager – Alana Tagg**

HOCKEY WOMEN'S FIFTH GRADE (ED3)

2009 was a successful year for 5th grade, with the girls making their way into their first semi final as ED3. Building on last year's results, the team was able to cement themselves as a top 4 side. Finishing the year in 4th place with 7 wins and 4 draws from 15 games was a credit to the consistent performances shown throughout the year. The season started with some new rules and some new players, as well as a change to competition structure which resulted in us having to take on a fellow Briars side. This resulted in some friendly rivalry and some closely fought battles, unfortunately we were unable to come away with the win when we met then in the minor semi final.

Elizabeth Brazier – New to the team and club this year, she improved with each game played and was always committed and ready to learn at training. Lizzy was always prepared to put her body on the line, which often resulted in a few good bruises.

Isabel Brazier – Also a new addition this year, after recovering from injury setbacks at the beginning of the season proved to be a highly valuable member of the team. With exceptional speed and determination Izzy created many attacking opportunities, was an essential part of the team's success.

Jean Brazier – Another new addition to the team and club, she played across the forward line, showing great determination and aggression in each of the roles she played. Jean was also required to play in defence towards the end of season and happily took on the challenge.

Sophie Green – A lethal option on short corners and ending the year as the team's leading goal scorer. Sophie is always a consistent performer at right inner and continuously proved to be an essential link in converting defence into attack.

Jodie Lam - Worked extremely hard and was consistent at left inner. Jodie was always chasing back into defence and provided many attacking options going forward. Jodie also provides plenty of light hearted humour, which helps to get the team into a good frame of mind at training and games.

Jessica Martyn - Jess always positions herself well in attack from left wing, working well with players around her to produce some excellent play down the left hand side of the field.

Belinda Merrick – Another good year for Bel, excellent in defence at right half and showed great strength in carrying the ball into attack. She is continually developing her game and has become one of our most consistent players.

Georgie Nicol - An extremely valuable asset in both attack and defence. Georgie shared the captaincy this season and was an excellent leader on and off the field. As manager of the team was a great help to myself making sure the girls were always prepared for each game.

Jennifer Prosser - As always solid as a rock in defence, a consistent performer, provides great composure at the back. The type of player everybody wants in their team, the girls gain great confidence in knowing Jen is behind them.

Naomi Scouller - Red was a dominant player for us this year, providing great composure and direction from centre half as well as that little bit of aggression, which she is well known for. She was awarded the teams "Player's Player", which was a credit to the impact she had within the team.

Jo Sikkens - As goal keeper saved the team many times as the last line of defence. Always reliable in the goals and Jo was an essential part of the team's success.

Natalie Shiel – Once again a consistent performer at left half. Nat shared the captaincy and was an excellent leader, had a lot of respect from the other players.

Stephanie Wise – Another much improved player this year, gaining more and more confidence with each game she played. Steph was labelled “The Little Terrier” by Bolty as she was forever chasing down the loose ball with great determination and commitment. She received the team’s “Best & Fairest” award.

Hayley Wong - Consistent performer all year. Showed plenty of composure at full back defusing many of the opposition’s attacking options. Hayls pulled off some of the most amazing goal line saves, even if her eyes were closed.

Michaela Vincent - Was a late addition to the team and struggled to adapt at the beginning of the season, becoming more and more comfortable as the year progressed, unfortunately missed the last few games through injury.

A big thank you to all the girls for such an enjoyable and rewarding season. Let’s hope we can all stick together next year and continue to extend on the improvements made as team and individually over the previous two years. I would also like to thank all the girls who filled in on occasions throughout the season, it’s very much appreciated. Looking forward to 2010 and our chase for the ED3 title.

Chris Coombes – Coach

Manager – Georgie Nicol

HOCKEY WOMEN’S SIXTH GRADE (ED3)

The team’s promotion up two grades from the previous year came as a challenge for the girls. Being in the same pool as our other higher Briars team it was clear that the girls would have a strong fight on their hands to make the finals. First looks indicated the individual skill level of this grade was greater than any other previous grades. At first the girls lost a few games but learnt from their mistakes, then they started to draw games and keep up with some of the front runners. Then they started winning games and by the second round were looking good for a finals berth. The biggest victory came when the girls beat the undefeated Dolphins, who had only had 2 goals scored against them all year. Against all odds away from Fortress Cintra the girls stood up, outscoring the dolphins 4-3 in what was called the game of the round. You see this is their gift, the girls didn’t beat this team because of one or two individuals, they beat them as one team. This is a team that draws its strength from one another, stepping up to any challenge put in front of them together as one mighty force.

Cassie Allsop: Cassie shares a gene that all hockey players refer to as the Allsop gene, this allows her the ability to be at any position but it was Cassie’s strength in the backline that gave the team its strong defence.

Amanda Balis: Her skills on the ball are beyond her age and will only improve in the future with experience. We look forward to seeing how good she becomes in the future.

Lee Best: Every year we turn to Lee as our rock at the back. Unfortunately an injury in the first couple of rounds put her out but did not stop her from pushing her team each and every week from the side lines.

Beth Edwards: With Lee gone this proud woman stood up and became the crucial link that kept the team’s defence as strong as it was always putting everything behind the ball.

Julie Hetherington: Julie was informed early in the pre-season that she would have to improve if she was to stand a chance in goals this year and that’s exactly what she did. Her rapid improvement had strikers standing on their heads to try and get that ball past her.

Whitney Lane: If ever there was an award for courage then it would go to this young lady. Fighting an illness that takes everything out of you, she still would give that extra piece for her team, scoring goals out of nothing - What a player!

Caryn Maxwell: Every team needs a leader and Caryn became that leader. Her strength on the ball was mirrored by her strength off it as she pushed her team around her to become better.

Belinda Murray: New to the team she didn’t know what hit her. Then through determination and heavy skills training she pushed herself to become a very strong striker.

Alicia Nucifora: Alicia’s skills grow every year and this year she moved into a more defensive role which showed her strength on the ball and showed her what she was capable of.

Emma Smith: The slugger, Emma has left her mark against all defences she has played against and this year was no different. She may not have scored the most goals this year but would have the most assists on the board. Although teams would mark her out the game her quick passing allowed the younger girls to score.

Rowena Stewart: Although the coach hates Rowena using her back stick, she has made it part of her arsenal of skill that she uses in every game well always stopping her opponents in their tracks.

Zoe Streeter: Another new player to the team Zoe moved from the forward line to the inners. Her skills only keep improving and hopefully with more experience will move into the centre soon.

Kristen Thompson: The mix of aggression and skill allows this young lady to be one of our up and coming future stars, just got to work on her passing game though. But all jokes aside her skills have come through the roof and we look forward to seeing her in higher grades next year.

Amy Wilson: When you see her you think she's a push over, just don't have the ball! Amy's hard tackling and quick thinking in the back line this year proved that she is a force to be reckoned with.

Jessica Eichorn: Jess' skill in attack gave us the upper hand on many occasions through the season as she cemented her spot in the inner channel and we look forward to seeing her next year.

The rounds finished with the girls placed in third spot with 9 wins, 7 draws and 2 losses which was higher than anyone could have imagined. With a hard fought semi against our own Briars 5th grade team the girls won and advanced to the second semi. In extreme 40 plus heat the girls were unlucky and lost by one goal in the dying minutes of the game but all spectators present admitted that the amount of heart shown by all players outweighed the result.

Over the last few years as coach of the girls I have seen them stand up to everything that has been thrown at them. They have made the finals in three different grades and won two grand finals together. I am proud to have been the coach of such a special bunch of players and wish the girls all the best in the future. Play hard and leave nothing left undone on the field.

David Ratcliffe - Coach

Manager - Emma Smith

HOCKEY WOMEN'S SEVENTH GRADE (ML6)

ML6 had a shaky start to the season this year with most of last year's team taking a break from hockey - only 5 of the original players from the 2008 team stayed on for another season. We started with a core of 8-10 players, some of which had not played hockey for a few years so ML6 really started from scratch this year. We were lucky enough to have subs from other teams to make up our numbers and some of these players became regulars for the team, playing whenever there wasn't a clash with their own team's games. Although we were always grateful for the extra help, the constant subbing of players caused some disruption to our game as the players who trained weren't always the ones who participated in games. The girls did well and learned to adjust to this week after week. There was a noticeable change in the team's attitude and performance towards the end of the season after a few players left the team and some position changes were made. The late addition of Tori Scanlon as centre forward invigorated the team and the players really started to reach their potential in the games following. As a result, we started to win more and more games. As Chae (the captain) said - if only we had a few more rounds we could have made the finals! ML6 were in 9th place half way through the season but finished up in 6th place, narrowly missing a shot at the semi finals. To sum up how the team finished the season our last round game was against Wentworthville (2nd on the table and season runners-up) was a nil all draw. Their coach and manager were stunned with the difference in play and commitment by the Briars girls. I would like to add my thanks to Head Coach Ivan Boulton for his input into the team this year. Ivan helped our team regain direction in the first few rounds of the season when we were going through a rough patch.

Chaelene Phillips: Captain of the team and the ever reliable workhorse. Chae started the season playing fullback then moved into centre half, Chae is a player that you know will give it everything when she takes the field. She had a great season and provided strong leadership for the team. Chae always had something positive to give in team talks and always encouraged the girls. Her work rate throughout the whole season was amazing, Chae hardly ever missed a game and very rarely needed to sub off. Chae is a solid dependable and skilled player and truly is an asset to any team.

Kristyn "Wednesday" Fowler: Kristyn was manager of the team and had a lot of off-field duties to deal with as well as play hockey this year. Due to the low number of regular players we had for most of the season, Kristyn spent a lot of time trying to arrange subs from other teams. She was a solid, dependable half most of the year, occasionally helping as a back or inside forward. Kristyn rarely missed a game or training session and always had the best interests of the team in mind. Great effort Wednesday - on and off the field.

Jo Sikkens: Jo played forward this year and really stepped up to help keep the team settled throughout a difficult first half season. Her skills as a goalkeeper were utilised by other teams in Briars, meaning that she was not always available for our team. Jo played solidly all year and it was to her credit that she could move in and out of the team with minimum disruption. Jo knew what was needed of her and just did it. Her support of the younger players was an asset to the team. Big thanks Jo.

Harriet Boyle: Harriet started the season on the wing. Harriet's season was strengthened as she undertook umpiring and coaching duties and this new awareness of the game gave her greater confidence as a player. With more maturity and confidence added to her game Harriet was utilised more, moving from half to forward within games to strengthen the team as needed. Harriet will be a force to be reckoned with on any team and at any position. Harriet could be another star of the future as she shows some great skill and determination. Keep it up Harriet great season.

Renee De La Motte: Renee is a star of the future. Hockey runs in her veins and at 12 she held down the inside forward position for us. Her youthful enthusiasm infected the team and it was a pleasure to coach her this year. Skills that we worked on throughout the season were: not carrying the ball too much, looking for passes and releasing the ball early. This was Renee's first year of women's hockey and she adapted quickly to the different style of play. Renee worked hard to develop her skills this season, playing the inside forward position meant a great deal of running, most games she played without a break. Renee made shadow player for the NSW Under 13 State team. A player to watch develop in the future.

Tori Scanlon: Tori joined the team late in the season when she was selected for the NSW Under 13 State team. As her junior coach, I asked if she could play with the senior team to give her more experience before nationals. The team was grateful for her inclusion and Tori infected the team with an enthusiasm which continued for the rest of the season. Tori picked-up the position of centre striker with a goal in her first game and worked well with Renee setting up opportunities and adding speed to the forward line. Tori is a rising star for Briars.

Lianne Carter: Goalie extraordinaire, Lianne was always solid and reliable. She had a calming influence on the players and was a great voice of reason for those who lost their temper at times. An experienced goal keeper, she had the ability to organise and work with the defence to maximise the skills of our players and encourage our backs and halves to mark-up. Having young strong strikers on the team and the drills we used in training gave Lianne the practice she needed to stay on top of her game throughout the season.

Sarah Seaman: Sarah played brilliantly this year. No other way to put it. Sarah started the season as a half and moved into inside forward, which she made her own. Sarah spent the year completing two training sessions each week to improve her fitness and skill level. Sarah created passing opportunities with her speed and put pressure on the opposition as they tried to build out of their own half. Sarah is a versatile player with the ability to play both attack and defence competently. She truly is an asset to any team and was asked by ML5 to help out at the end of their season (as they were short due to injury). This gave Sarah the opportunity to play in a Grand Final for Briars and take home the medal - well done. Sarah's commitment and skill-level should see her move up a grade next year.

Danielle Blenkhorn: Dani was rusty at the beginning of the year but her determination was always there. Her stick skills and fitness improved with the season and she proved to be a very reliable back. Dani is anything but flat-footed and she regularly switched into attack-mode, running up the field and moving the ball around opposition players like they were plastic cones. The team depended on her ability to shut down the opposition and turn our defensive play into attack. Well done.

Jo Mathews: Jo came a few weeks into the season and was an asset from the start. Having played at Briars previously, Jo renewed some old friendships and settled into the team immediately. Jo played an effective reliable half most of the year, with a few games as back. In defence her ability to read the play and help organise our defensive line was a positive feature of her game.

Heather Wark: Heather had an outstanding season on the wing. She constantly penetrated the defence with good ball skills and sensible use of support players. The beginning of the season Heather was a little tentative on the ball but as the season developed so did her confidence and ability. Heather was one of the most improved players of the team this year.

Nicole Larkin: Nicole started the season as a striker, her enthusiasm was to be seen-to-be-believed. Nicole's greatest asset is her speed, her ability to sprint away into open space, to gain the ball and penetrate the circle quickly. Nicole worked on improving her stick skills throughout the season and her game awareness.

Mary-Ann Devine: Mary-Ann started the season playing for ED5 but played a lot of games with ML6 and trained with the team as well. Mary-Ann is one of the most enthusiastic players I have ever coached; she gave our 12 year olds a run for their money with youthful enthusiasm. Mary-Ann developed as a player throughout the season, improving her stick skills as well as positional play. Mary-Ann was a versatile player moving from striker to half to back playing all with total commitment.

Adrienne Concepcion: Adrienne started her season mid way through the year and having never played hockey before, her skill and ability level was quite low. As it was so late in the season there were no openings in ED5 so Adrienne was 'thrown in the deep end' playing with a well established team of girls who had all played hockey previously. Adrienne realised that her skill levels were lower than other team members and worked hard

at training to improve, even going to a few ED5 training sessions as well. Adrienne was always asking questions to gain a better understanding of the game and she developed her ability to understand her position on the field as well as develop her trapping and hitting skills. I hope that she comes back next year and has a full season to develop her skills and game knowledge.

Eve Wilson: Another member of the team that played ED5 and helped us whenever she could, Eve trained with us when possible enabling her to understand team set plays and be involved with short corners. Her skills and confidence developed with the season. At the end of the season her skills and game development was equal to any on the team and above some members she is one that should be looked at playing this grade or higher next year.

Naomi “Red” Scouler: Although Red played predominantly for ED3, she always made it to ML6 games as long as they didn’t clash with her other team. When Red was available it was great for the team, Red is a versatile player who strengthened our defensive line-up, moving easily from fullback to half as was required. Strong ball skills, big hits and supportive of all team members - it was wonderful to have her on the team. Big thank you to Naomi for her hard work to get to games for us.

Felicity Stenhower: Another ED5 player that made herself available to play ML6 whenever possible. Felicity is a versatile player that could cover defence as well as attack. Felicity played half, inside forward and striker for ML6. Felicity attended ML6 training often and was considered a regular team member for ML6. Felicity is another player that should be considered to play a higher grade than ED5 next year, she held her own in ML6 and her stick skills and game awareness ensured that she was not the weakest player in ML6.

Michaela Vincent: Micheala made some guest appearances throughout the year and helped the team out a great deal. Mic’s enthusiasm, knowledge of the game and words of wisdom made a big difference to the players on the occasions that she could play for us. Due to ankle problems her running ability was limited but she played a solid back and was an asset in defence. Michaela is a solid reliable player who gives everything to the game.

Emma Lee: Emma played centre half at the start of the season and was a strong player on the field. She has good game knowledge and skill level and was a calm, enthusiastic player. Unfortunately due to work commitments Emma couldn’t finish the season with ML6.

Tiff Blandford: Tiff started the season with injuries and had knee surgery just as the season got under way. Although this limited Tiff’s movement on the field, she still managed to score a few goals for ML6 as centre forward in the first half of the season. Unfortunately due to work commitments, Tiff left Briars with 5 weeks to go at the end of the season.

Jennifer Avery - Coach

Manager - Kristyn Fowler

HOCKEY WOMEN’S EIGHTH GRADE (ED4)

In my second year as coach of Women’s 8th Grade I was excited to again have so many new Briars join our ranks. The team meshed well despite having 10 new team members, and it was not long before the on field structure and off field friendships fell into place. Each week the team as a whole always improved in a particular area, individuals gained more confidence and players leadership skills were developed, and really what more can you ask for as a coach! There were plenty of highs and lows and the girls finished 5th only narrowly missing out on the finals. To all the girls in the team thank you for a great season. You have all made huge individual improvements as well as become a strong and capable team that I had so much fun coaching! I want to thank Cath Harland for coaching with me again. Thank you for stepping in and coaching the girls in my absence throughout the season. I truly appreciate your guidance and advice and am a better coach for it thank you! Hope to see you all in 2010!

Jenny Avery - An asset in the forward line as both a player and a coach. Her guidance on the field assisted greatly with team structure, and keeping the girls pumped! Thanks Jenny.

Lauren Bergey - The quiet achiever who never stopped working. Lauren’s skill as an attacker developed through the season and will continue to do so as she gains confidence and uses her speed.

Sophie Cameron - Sophie has found her place in inner! She was moved into this position late in the season and with her solid ball control, speed and ability to link with the centre made her a natural in this position. Great season Sophie!

Mary-Ann Devine - A truly passionate player who played in almost every position on the field this season. Nothing stopped her, her persistence and drive continued for the full 70 min and she always gave her all.

Deborah Dunn - Deb was a constant support from in goals. Never missed a game pulling off amazing saves every week and for these reasons was my most valuable player. Deb you definitely got a work out this season!

Lauren Hillier - Precise, calm and controlled - exactly what you want in the defensive circle. Solid, consistent and as co-captain lead from the back with plenty of support for her team members.

Colleen McCaw - A solid defender and supportive team player. Despite missing the middle of the season Colleen fitted well with the team.

Beth Osmond - Beth's competitiveness and fun nature made her a lively addition to the team. Her ability to read the game and direct play, were integral to the half line.

Erika Smith - Erika picked up a hockey stick for the first time this season and was thrown into the forward line. She worked hard every week at training and games and improved greatly, her drive and determination were the key.

Katalina Soro - Although quiet on the field Kat made her presence felt through her strength on the ball and by the end of the season became one the toughest players to get through.

Felicity Stenhouwer - Felicity was a key playmaker with great stick skills carving up the opposition's defense to place the team in strong attacking positions. Felicity was always calm and in control, which was key in her success as centre half.

Nikki Stewart - Nikki is always positive both on and off the field, a relative newcomer to the sport she took every opportunity to practice her skills and develop a greater understanding of the game.

Elly Stone - Came into her own this season. Playing predominantly in inner acting as the link the team so desperately needed. Her work rate was always high, making some great attacking runs yet still supporting in defense. Elly - great to see you so confidently lead and encourage your teammates this season!

Tess Williams - What can I say this girl is fast! When Tess got the ball as right inner you could see the opposition defense get ready for the chase. A great addition to the team and your injections of speed were invaluable in our attacking play.

Eve Wilson - Eve's flexibility as a player, knowledge of the game and confidence as co-captain were her strengths. Her strength defensively and ability to control and disperse the ball in attack meant I could place Eve in any position on the field.

Alisha Wormald - A solid defender with confidence and strength. Pulled off some great tackles!

Diarne Zographou - Diarne's positivity on the field and drive to succeed makes her a valued team member. Playing between inner and half Diarne's never give up attitude in defense saved us on several occasions.

Nicola Firth and Cath Harland - Coaches

SQUASH CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We again scraped up the necessary numbers to compete in two grades in both comps this year, despite the loss of Brownie, Micky D, Guy Amedee and both Wally and Glen Tullipan. We can't afford to lose many players, especially of the calibre of these guys who put in both on and off the court. Our division 8/9 team carries themselves very well having run second in both comps competed but our division 5 side seems to have trouble holding on to players, which obviously needs to be rectified if they are to stay together. Playing out of Northmead has been a good move for us, keeping us together on the same night, we've even had a couple of BBQ nights, proudly organised by our own Poppa Smurf Grant Heggarty.

I would also like to thank Steve Wildisen who has filled in for higher teams on many occasions, sometimes with not much notice. Our squash club would also like to congratulate Ken Kable on winning a gold medal in the World Masters Games held in Sydney earlier this year. I know it would have been a tough and competitive event but if you ask KK, the result would never have been in doubt. Well done.

Autumn 2009	Division 9	Win	Loss
	Rob Elliot	7	5
	Glenn Tullipan	6	6
	Steve Wildisen	3	4
	Wally Tullipan	0	4
	Grant Heggarty	2	5
	Ron Marshall	3	8

Finished 2nd on 183 points with 8 wins over the season. Reached the semi finals and had a good win over Bodycourt (Winston Hills) with Glen and Steve registering very good wins and a close loss to Rob (in 5 sets) meant they were up against Werrington who were tear away winners and had troubled us each time we played. The Grand Final was very close, Ron had a good 3 nil win but the rest of the guys suffered losses, both Steve and Rob in 5 sets

We keep losing players due to many varied reasons, Guy Amedee due to a back injury, Wally through heavy work commitments and Glen as he moved to the Shire and hasn't been seen much since.

Division 5	Win	Loss
Steve Strain	7	3
Chris Leung	4	8
Steve Jones	2	5
Mick Jaro	0	8
Darren Peisley	1	7

5th place on 104 points, 2 wins from 12 matches. This was a very strong grade with Steve Strain performing well. Chris showed improvement towards the ends of the season. Greg Mc was out for the season having had his second knee reconstruction. This side really missed Brownie and Micky D who have both succumbed to career ending injuries, Brownie's hip and Mick knee. Both have been regulars during the past 10-15 years and they will be sorely missed.

Spring 2009 The recently completed comp saw a more competitive Briars but with just 2 teams.

Division 9	Win	Loss
Greg McManus	12	0
Rob Elliot	8	4
Steve Wildisen	7	3
Grant Heggarty	6	1
Ron Marshall	4	10

Finished the comp in 2nd position on 201 points, winning 9 from 12. A very good steady comp from all of the team. Greg was this time under graded having a good season, Rob was mainly playing the number 1 seeds did well and Steve Wildisen is reaping the rewards for all that practice. This team's nemesis was Werrington, having lost to them during the season we were expecting a close Grand Final that was until Mrs McManus booked a family holiday in Grand final week. We were one short as Grant has fallen to a recurring knee injury, Ron played twice but we weren't good enough on the night. It is hoped that we can keep this team together for next comp.

Division 4	Win	Loss
Steve Strain	12	1
Chris Leung	6	4
Mick Jaro	8	6
Darren Peisley	2	5

Finished in 4th position on 201 points and just missing the semis. Steve Strain was again was outstanding, only losing 1 match and that was in 5 sets. Chris Leung performed very well. Mick muscled up, winning six 5 set matches. Age shall not weary him. This team needs an injection of player strength.

Greg McManus

NETBALL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This season Briars Netball was in its 4th year and 3 teams entered into the Inner Western Suburbs Netball Association Competition held at Cintra Netball Courts. With the departure of some of our key founding committee members, the Briars at Greenlees Netball administration floundered. However out of the three teams we entered this year, I am happy to announce two of the teams made the final rounds with our newest team going on to win the premiership. This year we had a lot of new players who already had ties with the club join the netball side of Briars at Greenlees. These players made up the B1 side which had a very successful season. The Premiership winning team was ably lead by Amy Want. Congratulations on your phenomenal first season and I hope to see you all back next year. The B2 side also had a very strong season, having high hopes for premiership, after winning most of their games. The team was named minor premiers but unfortunately did not make it to the Grand Final. Lisa Bates stepped up to become team manager and did a great job. Unfortunately the B3 side had to forfeit half of their games due to a lack of players. We hope to rectify this issue for the coming season and turn the club around again.

We wouldn't have made it through the season if it hadn't been for our sole sponsor, McLeish Estate Hunter Wines; a very big thank you to Bob and Maryanne for their ongoing support over the past few years.

Next year is a rebuilding year, in which we hope to re-establish ourselves and grow in years to come. I would like to thank all the girls who played this year for being great sports and for sticking the season out despite this tough transitional period.

Elissa McPhee - Chairman

BOWLS WOMEN - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I cannot believe that the year has gone so quickly and I am about to write my second President's report. As in the first year I have thoroughly enjoyed all challenges that have faced me throughout this year.

We did not hold any of our usual functions this year due to the disrepair of the Club. It was bad enough that each time we had visiting teams in our pennant season, I was forced to apologise for the condition of the Club and our Ladies room. However, the roof has now been fixed and no more need to have umbrellas ready in case of the leaks in the ceiling. The Club Board has promised to paint the Ladies room and possibly replace the carpet, which would improve the facilities greatly. At the time of writing this had not been done. My thanks must go out to some of our Lady Bowlers who gave up a days' bowls to clean the existing carpet of its mould smells and wash down the lockers and our Honour Board in time for our District Presentation Day.

To our new Members this year, Barbara Muir, Judy Coulson and Lorraine Park, your attendance is most welcome and we look forward to seeing more of you in the coming months. If there are any Ladies interested in learning the game of bowls, do not hesitate to ring Gladys Barnes at the Club on a Thursday or Melissa Simonetta throughout the week. We would welcome any new ladies and will happily show you how much fun this game of bowls can be, as well as making new friends.

CLUB AND DISTRICT RESULTS

Major Singles: Won by Patricia Free, runner up was Helen Burton.

Pairs: Won by Enid Openshaw and Rosa Caccavo, runner ups Gladys Barnes and Sylvia Gurewitz.

Triples: Won by Pat Stewart, Denva Barber and Janet Cooper. Runners up were Mary Anderson, Gladys Barnes and Sylvia Gurewitz.

The Fours: Won by Pat Stewart, Gai Shirvington, Enid Openshaw and Rosa Caccavo. Runners up Mary Southan, Gerda Pawlitchko, Denva Barber and Janet Cooper.

Minor Singles: Pat Stewart was successful over Janet Cooper.

James Wall Shield District: Enid Openshaw, Helen Burton, Gladys Barnes and Sylvia Gurewitz.

District Triples: Won by Helen Burton, Gladys Barnes and Sylvia Gurewitz.

District Fours: The Club had great success in this event this year. The side of Enid Openshaw, Helen Burton, Gladys Barnes and Sylvia Gurewitz managed to win not only our District Fours but the Zone Playoffs, which placed us in the last sixteen teams in the State. This was played at St John's Park in early September. We were beaten in the first round, however, we did not disgrace ourselves as we were only down one going into the last end. I believe this is the first time the Greenlees Park Ladies have achieved this feat. Congratulations.

Last but not least I would like to mention the success of our vision impaired bowler, Patricia Seath. Patricia played in the Australia titles in Perth this year and won not only Gold but Silver and Bronze in the Singles, Pairs and Fours. It is hard enough to bowl under normal circumstances but to be totally blind and have the success that Patricia had is outstanding. Congratulations and well done.

This was not a great year for our Pennant side, as we only managed to come third. However in the coming year, hopefully we will show improvement as most of our players will be back on deck.

I wish to thank all committee members for their help and great support. They do a great job and without their tireless work, the Women's Bowling Club would not survive. Again our Social Committee did a great job in raising money with raffles throughout the year. These raffles were presented with much time and effort and without these excellent skills we would not have raised the much needed funds to successfully run our Ladies Bowls Club.

Janet Cooper, our treasurer has excelled herself in keeping our bookwork up to date. It goes without saying, that Gladys Barnes does an excellent job as Secretary, as well as just being around with her knowledge and experience. The Vice Presidents' Patricia Free and Shirley Alford, have done a great job this year. What would I do without you both. I must make a special mention to our Match Committee. These three ladies who knew very little about the position and what was expected of them, proved that they had not only the ability and the stamina to work together but to perform the job in an excellent manner. To Gai Shirvington, many thanks for all

your computer expertise in updating all our Club Competition sheets. To all committees that have worked hard all year. Thank you. Additional thanks must also be given to: Glen Taylor and Melissa Simonetta who are always ready to solve any problems that may arise within the Ladies Club; Ben Williams, our smiling Bar Manager and his staff who always do an excellent job; Peter Neary and his assistants, James and Nathan for keeping our greens in excellent condition, and Neville Day, our Coach. He is here most Friday afternoons should anyone like to see him regarding coaching lessons or even to rectify any faults they may need to correct in their game of bowls.

Best wishes to everyone, Good health and good bowling in the New Year.

Helen Burton - President.

BOWLS MEN - PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Firstly I thank you, the members for heeding our call in regard to making yourselves available for the 09 Pennant season. To see that we can field four pennant sides and be competitive is very heartening. Congratulations.

Also pleasing to report that in 08/09 trading year, our social bowls participation has increased approx 30%, (excludes barefoot), again a very good result. Club finances again this year showed that we as a club can be viable without handouts from the Club Limited. Ray Crew our treasurer has formulated a computer system that will allow us to keep accurate records of income and expenditure, gathered from the last three years information. This information will over time allow us to plan ahead, and endeavour to improve the overall bowling experience at our club. Well done Ray. Tony Cribb, our bowls secretary again showed his organising ability with the State Pennants Playoffs and State Zone Championship going off like clockwork, a truly great feat Tony. To our committee and selectors, thank you for all the time you unselfishly put into the overall running of our club.

Our greens again have impressed those who have played on them, enforcing our view that we have a truly great greenkeeper whose dedication to the greens and surrounds is remarkable. A big thank you Peter Neary and your staff.

Burwood Diggers still continue as a great asset for our club. Their participation in our events as well as those they bring us keeps the union of our clubs harmonious, and of course let's not forget their cheerful friendship.

Our sponsors again have showed how important their contribution is, allowing us to keep putting on quality events. Thanks to - Briars at Greenlees Ltd, Wayne Allan (Quickfill Toners), John Stewart (Attic Ladders), Keith Free (Club Patron) and Burwood RSL Club Ltd.

Tournaments Sponsors - Ray White Realty Concord, P. J. Campbell Funeral Directors, Ken and Carol Millar, Trevor Lee and Son Funeral Directors and Michael Ianniello Dental Prosthetics.

BOWLS REPORT

2009 has been a year of positives for men's bowls on the greens. We this year entered 4 (up 1 from 2008) pennant sides No.1, No.2, No.4 and No.6 Grades. With all grades performing strongly there was a small influx players of top grades status which led to a strengthening of all grades.

No.1 Pennants: In contrast to last year our No.1 pennant grade started the year very strongly and was clear leader at the end of the first round. For reasons unknown the wheels fell off in the second half of the season, where we managed just 1 win, dropping back to finish equal second. The pleasing fact being the strong performances of returning skip John Stewart and good performances by the young brigade who were blooded last and this year, giving us reasons to be optimistic about the future.

No.2 Pennants: Our No.2 pennant grade, playing up a grade after winning the No.3's last year, performed very strongly all year finishing second 5 points behind Matraville RSL who were relegated from the No.1's after last year, but are still basically a No.1 pennant side. A couple of below par performances against Alexandria Erskineville and Bondi proved very costly, and overshadowed some of the very good performances including a 6-0 whitewash of Matraville RSL at Matraville, but overall a very good showing which bears well for 2010.

No.4 Pennants: Our No.4's had a good year, finishing a solid 3rd in a very strong No.4 field, this when you consider the majority of the side were in the No.5's last year, which was the grade we applied for this year, but unfortunately due to the fact we had quite a few players coming back from the 2's, and the rules state that you cannot regress more than 5 players more than 1 grade, we had to accept the No.4 grading or risk having players sitting on the bench and not being able to get a game. The players however performed strongly and were still a chance to win their section right up to the 2nd last round.

No.6 Pennants: What can be said of this bunch of cast downs, bits and pieces rejects, which moulded into a formidable unit of bowlers, making up the extra side we entered in this year's pennants. You could say we received a bit of help along the way when it was realised that Five Dock had fielded 2 unregistered players in the first 2 games. One of these games was against us where they defeated us 6-0, only to be disqualified from those 2 games and the points awarded to their opponents. This seemed to be a catalyst for our boys to lift and they never looked back, going on to win their section comfortably. They then had to face the best side that the Eastern suburbs could throw at us being Bronte who went through the season undefeated in their section, in the Zone play off held at Leichhardt, where the boys performed magnificently defeating Bronte easily 72-38, which saw them heading to Wallsend for the State play offs the first week end August. The same weekend we hosted the No.3 playoffs, which unfortunately reduced the number of supporters going to support them.

At Wallsend our first game was against Canowindra who beat us 68-48. Saturday afternoon we played Glen Innes, the eventual flag winners who beat us 76-53, but we did what no other club managed, in taking a rink off them. Our 3rd game Sunday morning we played Cudgen Leagues, where we played up to our potential beating them 67-46. Finishing 3rd overall in our section. Well done to our No.6's.

Thanks to all the players who made themselves available this year, and a special thanks to those who acted as side managers. To the dummy spitters I hope for their sakes their new club is half as tolerant as we have been.

No.3 State Pennant Playoffs 1-2 August: This year we co-hosted with West's Sports the State No.3 Pennant playoffs. This weekend went off very smoothly thanks to the efforts of the many volunteers, many of whom gave up the opportunity to travel to Wallsend to support our No.6's, to stay at home to give their assistance to the running of this major event. I heard nothing but compliments from competing clubs, praising the quality of the greens, the club and the way the tournament was administered. The weekend was full of vibrancy and good natured fun, where a special bond was formed with the competing clubs, most notably the boys from Walgett. A special thanks to all the volunteers and club staff who worked so tirelessly over the weekend doing a magnificent job.

Inter Zone Sides Championships 11-13 September: This year Zone 11 were for the first time given the opportunity of hosting the Inter Zone Sides Championships, the most prestigious event as far as top line bowlers are concerned, acting as a selection event for the State sides. This task was given to Wests Sports (round robin) and Greenlees (round robin Friday 11 and Saturday 12 plus the Semi Finals and Final Sunday 13 September). This carnival turned out to be a great success with everything running smoothly. The greens were perfect with a lot of the state's best bowlers going out of their way to comment on their excellence.

Zone 11 was the last zone to host this event because there was a conception that there were no clubs in the zone capable of hosting this event in a manner befitting its high profile. Thankfully we along with Wests have laid that conception to bed with State officials, led by State President John Archer who was here the entire weekend having nothing but praise for the manner in which the event was hosted. Hopefully this will open the door for more and even bigger events. Thanks again to all who assisted on this weekend, you were marvellous.

The results of our club championships completed thus far are:

Major Singles: John Sneddon 31 Def Mark Golby 15 - This final provided two very interesting scenarios, John out to make it back to back championships and Mark trying to follow last year's Minor Singles win with the major singles title. Unfortunately for Mark after playing so well throughout the tournament, he did not quite handle the pressure of the final, and was given a bit of a lesson in first class draw bowls by one of the best in the business. This gave John his back to back titles, and the way he is bowling it is going to be hard to stop him making it three in a row next year.

Major Pairs: Mark Golby, Mark Gorlicki 19 Def Will Trapman, John Stewart 16 - The two Marks really came of age during this tournament, with a display of outstanding, patient bowls, to hold out two very good bowlers in Will and John who would not go away and pushed the Marks right to the line. A most entertaining final which held the large number of spectators enthralled right to the very end.

Club Triples: Rob Zrilic, Peppi Monda, Tony Monda 27 Def Mark Golby, Tony Mandato, Guy Mandato 8 - What effects a little bit of rain can have. Guy's side had been blitzing the field on fast greens with some great victories, but a bit of rain came along and slowed the green for the final, and didn't Tony's side love it. They put on a great display of draw bowls on a heavy green, to walk away with the final and what a result for Big Rob and Peppi, both still raw rookies winning a club championship in their 1st full year of bowls. I am sure we will see a lot more of these two guys for many years to come. Congratulations boys on a great tournament win.

Club Fours: Mark Golby, Guy Mandato, Tony Mandato, Tony Monda 23 Def. Jeff Webster, Nick Maresso, Terry Starr, Ray Coombes 21 - The fours were our first championships of the year, and what a way to start. What an amazing game this was, with Ray leading 18-1 and getting ready to shake hands, his front end disappeared, and all of a sudden Tony picked up a 3 and a 4, then flying home on a wet sail, to shock everyone

who witnessed the final. This just shows what an incredible game bowls can be, and stresses the point that you never take for granted that you have won, or never give up hope of winning until it is mathematically impossible to do so.

Minor Singles: Paul Homann 31 Def. Andy Gliddon 24 - This was an intriguing final with Paul given another opportunity to win the minor singles and Andy in his first year at the club having his first real shot at the title, and he managed to give it a real shake, pushing Paul all the way, playing some very good bowls only to see Paul pull off something better. Well done to both players and thank you for a very entertaining final.

Minor Pairs: Jackson Boulden, Robert Goldberg 25 Def Rowan Brown, Raymonde Fuller 12 - This final held many parallels with the Rugby League Grand Final, where crowd favourites and rank outsiders, Waggars and Rowdy came from nowhere to somehow make the final, where Waggars had himself and Rowdy odds on favourites (I don't know that he held much money on them). Unfortunately like the eels their dream was crushed rather early, with Jack and Goldy playing some great bowls, and Waggars and Rowdy suffering a bit of stage fright. Unfortunately for them the game was over before they relaxed and started playing the sort of shots that got them there.

Mixed Pairs: Cancelled due to lack of entries. There must now be grave concerns for the future of this tournament.

Major/Minor Pairs: 1st Dick Knapp, Tony Cribb 3 Wins + 27, 2nd Terry Starr, Bill Goulding 3 Wins + 20 - This tournament now combined with co sponsors Burwood Diggers, drew a good field of 20 pairs, is run on a format of a Major being any eligible member and a Minor being an eligible player who played below No.3 pennants this year, and is run with a preference given to a pairing of one Greenlees and one Diggers player. It is played on a basis of 3 games of 14 ends, with wins plus margins being the means of deciding the winners. This year was a victory for the not so fancied pairings who filled the podium. The winners being represented by a Diggers No.6 and a Greenlees No.2 player, who won the tournament with Tony's last two bowls which were pearlers, behind 11-10 to another two game winning pairs team Alan Gallagher and Mark Golby playing the last end Tony who had last bowl was holding one shot (by a close measure) with two bowls remaining drew what would have probably been 2nd shot (if measured) with his 2nd last bowl, but then made sure of it by drawing the absoluter with his last bowl. The runners up being an all Greenlees affair of a No.6 and No.1 player, with 3rd place going to another all Greenlees combination of a No.6 (Jack Boulden) and a No.2 (Tony Mandato) player. This just goes to show that the best sides on paper will not always be the best sides on the green.

TOURNAMENTS

Patrons Day: 1st Maurie Clifford, Brian Huttly, Stephen Lesslie, Terry Starr 3 Wins +20, 2nd Adrian Zullian, Gino Borg, Bill Goulding, Alan Gallagher 3 Wins +17. Patrons Day was once again held on Australia Day 28 January, and was once again well patronised with 40 bowlers in attendance to honour our very respected and admired patron Keith Free OAM. The day was co sponsored by Keith and Wayne Allan (Quick Fill Toners). Thanks very much gentleman for your support on this most enjoyable day. The winners on the day being well balanced and played the versatile 4's format very well.

Trevor Lee & Son Versatile Fours: 1st Kay Stewart, Dick Knapp, Tony Cribb, John Stewart 3 Wins + 20, 2nd Lois Green, Kevin Green, Jesse Loveridge, Don Coleman 1 Win +9. This tournament unfortunately only attracted a small field this year, with those in attendance having a great day, with teams drawn out of a hat and played under a versatile 4's format. A special thanks to Trevor Lee & Son for your very valued and much appreciated sponsorship of this tournament which is held on Good Friday of each year. Hopefully next year it will get back to being a top drawcard event.

Golden Slipper Day: 1st Maurie Clifford & Paul Homann, 2nd Lou Vella & Mark Gorlicki. This is the first of three tournament days run by and in conjunction with Burwood Diggers each year and is very much treasured as one of the great days on our calendar. This year we had a full field and a most enjoyable day. We now look forward to Melbourne Cup day which we hope will be just as big a success.

Anzac Pairs: 1st Bill McHendry, Tony Cribb 19 Pts, 2nd Joe Demircaya, Phil McAulay, Kevin Brady 17 Pts. This is another tournament run in conjunction with Burwood Diggers and is one of their trophy days. After a brief wreath laying ceremony conducted by the Diggers we had two full greens of players for this day which was a great effort.

Winter Turn Around Triples: 1st P. Chown, G. Barron, S. McGuinness 3 Wins + 54, 2nd Alan Burton, Ben Williams, John Fitzgerald 3 Wins + 41. This tournament is sponsored by Burwood RSL and Greenlees Park Men's Bowling Club and this year attracted a healthy 36 sides, which was up on last year. It was a great day with some very good bowls played under a format which is proving more and more popular. Congratulations to

the winners and all those who participated. A special thanks to Burwood RSL for their greatly appreciated continued support of this tournament.

Greenlees Open Pairs: 1st John Sneddon, John Stewart 3 Wins + 54, 2nd D. Raper, S. McGuinness 3 Wins + 35. It is a great feeling when you completely fill a tournament, which is what happened with our Greenlees Open Pairs for the second year in a row. This year's event proved a huge success held in cold windy conditions, the victors at the end of the day being the very strong Greenlees combination of John Sneddon and John Stewart who, as you can see by their end of day score line, performed very strongly. A special thanks to our major sponsor for this event, Burwood RSL Club. Also thanks to Emanuel from Jackie's Bowls Shop for his support with the raffle.

Quick Fill Toners Black Friday Pairs (March): 1st Col Dawson, Neville Day 2 Wins +29, 2nd Stuart Chapman, Eddie Truesdale 2 Wins +26. 2009 saw three Friday 13ths, falling in February, March and November. This year we skipped the February date and held our first tournament in March. The day once again proved to be a big attraction with 32 pairs participating in a great fun day. A special thanks to Wayne Allan (Quick Fill Toners) for his continued support of this event. This year's March winners had a combined age of over 160 years, and they really showed up the younguns. It is great to see our more senior bowlers out there being still very competitive. The November tournament of course is still to be played.

Quick fill Toners Black Friday Pairs (November): 1st Tom Lagreca, Denis Doherty, 2nd Tony Rowe, John Fitzgerald. The second Black Friday pairs for 2009 saw a good roll up of 24 teams on a day that had promised rain but did not happen and a perfect day was before us. This resulted in some first class bowls played. The day was taken out by Burwood Diggers new recruits Tom Lagreca and Denis Doherty who emerged from a very strong field.

Melbourne Cup Day: 1st Col Sheehan, Jesse Loveridge, 2nd Maurie Clifford, Alan Burton. This is the third tournament run by Burwood Diggers and once again a huge success with 48 bowlers in attendance. The day commenced at 8.30 am with a calcutta on the bowls run extremely well by Mark (Guv nor) Golby, which resulted in a very healthy kitty which was split among the winners. The weather was perfect resulting in a most enjoyable day. The system of choosing 24 skips then 24 leads and pairing them up out of a hat gave us 24 strong pairings which gave us a lot of very close games. A special thanks to Alan Gallagher for the manner in which you ran the bowls day, plus the actual Melbourne Cup Sweep after bowls.

Wednesday Social Bowls are proving to be a success, regularly getting numbers above 30, and occasionally sneaking into the 40's.

Saturday Social Bowls when played have also been successful with good numbers in attendance.

Sunday mornings, when we don't have club championships, picked up a little this year. A special thanks to Dave Eyles, Alan Gallagher and the rest of Burwood Diggers for your great support and assistance in running Sunday mornings.

Thanks to Mark Golby for your tremendous assistance in setting up the annual calendar and seeing that we did not get too far away from it, particularly after having to shuffle the order of events a little. Also for your reports to the zone these have been invaluable and of great assistance.

May you, your families and loved ones enjoy good health and prosperity in the upcoming year. For those who have lost loved ones this year, our deepest sympathy, and to those not enjoying the best of health, a quick recovery.

Don Coleman - President

TROPHIES

J H STONE TROPHY

The J H Stone Trophy named after the first President of The Briars Sporting Club, the late John Stone, was first awarded in 1950. The name of John Stone's home was called "The Briars". This Trophy can only be won by a club member under the age of 25 years who made an outstanding contribution to the club's welfare during the year.

This trophy is not awarded this year.

THE TED STOCKDALE TROPHY

This trophy has been donated by the Board of Directors in recognition of the outstanding contribution made to the Club by Ted Stockdale. It is awarded to a Club member who has made a continuing contribution to the welfare and administration of the Club over a number of years.

This year's winner is Jason Harris. Jason has been a long serving player and administrator with the club captaining teams to Premiership wins in recent years. He has excelled on and off the field including assisting in various administrative roles, being available nearly every week to assist with the laying of the cricket covers, assisting in the daily requests for assistance from the Cricket Chairman whenever needed, as well as being a regular supporter of the club after trainings, games, and the various cricket functions

CRICKET MEMORIAL TROPHY

The trophy is intended as a remembrance of those who lost their lives during service in World War II. The trophy was donated by the late H G Whiddon. The basis of arriving at the winner is as follows:

Value to team as a cricketer	-	35 points		
Conduct	-	15 points		
General keenness	-	15 points		
Value to Club as a member	-	25 points		
Neatness of dress	-	10 points	Total	100 points

This year's winner is Scott Brennan. Scott has been with the club for about 10 years and his work behind the scenes is invaluable. Besides playing regularly in our 1st grade side last season he was responsible for the club's cricket stats on the website as well as managing and scoring for our Under 24 team. He is a familiar figure around the club who always has the club's interests at heart and is a deserving winner of this award.

A J ROBINSON SHIELD

The Shield was donated by the late A J Robinson ("Robbie") in 1958 and is won by the hockey player obtaining the most points in the following manner:

Value of team as a member	-	35 points		
Value in Hockey Administration	-	20 points		
Value to Club other than Hockey	-	20 points		
Conduct on field of play	-	15 points		
Neatness of dress	-	10 points	Total	100 points

This trophy is awarded to the person who has contributed the most to Briars Hockey during the year and has been won by Nicola Firth. Nicola is the Briars Hockey Social Co-Ordinator and is responsible for leading the Social Committee to organise all hockey related functions during the season including Season Launch, Annual Luncheon, Trivia Night, Junior and Senior Presentations and multiple Derby Days against other clubs. This year Nicola has worked tirelessly to ensure all our functions were successful both in a financial sense and club morale sense, and are bigger and better than the year before. Without Nicola's commitment, Briars would not be the success we are today.

GEOFF ARCHIBALD TROPHY

The Geoff Archibald Trophy is awarded to the Rugby player who has made the greatest contribution to the Club in his first year playing rugby for the Club.

Trophy not awarded this year.

GORDON BEVAN SHIELD

The Gordon Bevan Shield is awarded to the player who, in the opinion of the Club, has contributed the most during the year towards Rugby and the Club in general. It is presented in memory of a young "Briar" who was tragically killed in a road accident. The criteria for selection is as follows:

Attendance at training	-	20 points	
Value to the team	-	20 points	
Most improved player	-	20 points	
General keenness	-	15 points	
Value as a Club member	-	15 points	
Neatness of uniform	-	10 points	Total 100 points

This year's winner is Damien Johnson. Damien was on the Rugby Committee and carried out many duties. Damien was captain coach of 4th Grade which made the semi-finals.

R D VANDERFIELD TROPHY

The R D Vanderfield Trophy is awarded to a member of Junior Hockey who has contributed most to the junior teams. This award carries the name of a past President who showed interest in the formation of junior teams.

This trophy goes to the junior player who has contributed the most to the club overall during the season and has been won by Daniel Graham, or sometimes better known as "Mini Chief". Daniel is a field player in the Under 15Bs team under Mark Holman and has regularly put the goal keeping pads on for the Under 15Cs team under Grant Wakefield. Daniel is a strong contributor to the Briars club and will generally spend his entire Saturdays working at Cintra. Daniel works in the canteen under AJ, undertakes ball boy duties for Briars 1st and 2nd grade teams on a regular basis and is often at womens training on a Thursday night helping the coaches run drills, collecting balls or running the ball machine. Daniel is an asset to the Briars club and we hope he continues to be part of the Briars for many years to come.

DOUG VANDERFIELD TROPHY

This Trophy was donated by the late R D Vanderfield who was instrumental in commencing Squash in the Club and having it recognised as a major sport. The Trophy is presented to the squash player who has contributed the most to Squash and the Club in general.

Points are awarded as follows:

Value as a team member	-	20 points	
Value as a member of the Club	-	20 points	
Keeness as a player	-	20 points	
Improvement as a player	-	15 points	
Conduct on the Squash Court	-	15 points	
Neatness of dress	-	10 points	Total 100 points

This trophy is not awarded this year.

BRIAN HUTTLY TROPHY

This trophy was donated by Brian Huttly and is awarded to a lady bowler who has given meritorious service to Women's bowls over the year in a voluntary position. Brian has been involved in bowls at Greenlees Park for many years as an administrator and player. The award can only be won once in a lifetime.

This year's winner is Helen Burton. Helen joined Greenlees Park Women's Bowling Club in December 2000. She has occupied positions on Match Committee and is in her third consecutive year as Club President. Helen is a very caring person and is an outstanding leader of her various committees. Helen always leads by example, welcomes new members, and is always up front working on different committees for various functions including the Kid's Xmas party. Helen is admired for her participation in bowling tournaments and her qualities as an ambassador for our club. Helen is indeed a deserving winner of this award. Congratulations Helen.

PHIL MCAULAY TROPHY

The Phil McAulay Trophy is awarded to a male bowler who over the year has given meritorious services to Men's Bowls in a voluntary role. Donated by Phil McAulay, who has been involved in Bowls at Greenlees for many years as an administrator and player, this award can only be won once in a lifetime.

This year's winner is Mark Golby. Mark plays in our No.1 pennant grade, was chairman of our games committee in 2009 and is a vice president for 2010. Mark has been with us for five years and on committee for three of these years, working tirelessly last year organising our club calendar, club news and championships. He also assists with Friday night raffles and is first to put his hand up if anything needs to be done. Mark is a great club man as well as a thorough gentleman and is a very fitting recipient of the Phil McAulay Trophy.