

## WOMENS SPORT AT BRIARS---HOCKEY AND NETBALL



One must never forget that the clubs' origins were at the end of WWI, in 1918, which was a quite different Australian society to today.

Briars club moved with changes in society, however one could never say that it was at the forefront of change.

A male dominant sporting club from inception, Briars members and administrators were overall a conservative lot and resisted change.

The most obvious case was that of Women in the club, forbid talking of Women's Sport or Women sporting members.

The baby boomers shocked the established Briars ways when they joined..." just look at the length of their hair", he's a "red ragger", not mirroring the accepted Briars conservative views, certainly created waves.

In the late 60's women were allowed in the club premises on certain occasions, but not past the lounge area and beyond a hump in the floor that delineated more than the two joined building that formed the club premises.

**Please see the following focus entries.**

*Focus Newsletter, November 1973*

The decision to allow females into the Club Rooms at all times has been deferred until September 1974, which means until that time the girls are permitted into the Club at any time"

*Focus Newsletter, November 1974*

"Following a report from the Members A' Representative of complaints about the use of the Club by women at any time, it was decided that they will only be allowed in after organised sport or for any special function. However, this has not been implemented because the President at the Annual Meeting last year said that the members would decide the issue. The Club Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, 13th December."

*Focus Newsletter, April 1975*

## **THE GREAT DEBATE**

"The great debate of the moment is: "Should women be allowed into the Club at any time?" This important issue will be put before the members at the Annual General Meeting. The present situation, governed by the Articles of Association of the Club, is that female guests are permitted into the Club on Thursday and Saturday nights. This rule however, has been relaxed experimentally for six months prior to the Annual General Meeting.

A decision to permit female guests into the Club at any time, would involve a change in the Articles of Association of the Club, as well as a review by the Licencing Commission. So, there it is:

Should a member be able to bring a female guest to the Club at any time or should the Briars remain as was originally intended, a sporting club for men?

This important issue will be put before the members at the Annual General Meeting.

*Focus Newsletter, September 2000*

"Whilst the Female Membership Information Night on 7 July was not overly patronized, there was a lively discussion and a number of points were brought up which have been considered by the Information Steering Group. A further paper should be distributed for the information of members and, concurrently, each sport has been asked to provide details of the possible development of women 's teams within their sport."

*Focus Newsletter, December 2000*

"The issue of female membership has been the subject of discussion at an Information Night held in July. There were several additional points arising out of that meeting and a final issues paper will be issued shortly. Board will be discussing this matter at the December meeting and a recommendation will be made to members, probably with the distribution of the issues paper. The AGM will be held on Friday, 16 February 2001 followed by an EGM to vote on the amendment of the club's articles to allow female membership. The meeting has been brought forward one week due to the club's commitment to the ANZ International Golf Tournament. Please diarise as your attendance will ensure a representative vote of club members."

*Focus Newsletter, April 2001*

"Female membership - at the EGM held after the AGM on 16 February 2001 a change of articles to allow females to apply for membership of the club was put to those attending the meeting. The vote to amend the articles was carried unanimously after an opportunity was given to discuss the issue. This was a historic moment in the club's history and the input of members into the information process leading up to the EGM is appreciated."

The early days of Briars female sport began in the 1970 in Hockey and later in the 1990's in Netball.

Nevertheless, Briars did support women's sporting teams as far back as 1977. The Rosebuds women's hockey teams were made up of girlfriends and wives of Briars members and were somewhat supported by the club in an unofficial manner.

*Focus Oct 1977*

### **SPRING IS HERE, AND THE ROSEBUDS ARE BLOOMING ...**

The Rosebuds Women's Hockey team have distinguished themselves by playing in the Grand Final in their inaugural year. During 1976, the wives and girlfriends of Briars sportsmen decided that anything the men can do, the women can do better. Thus in 1977 saw a women's hockey team formed under the direction of Jenny Guille. Legend has it that Personnel Chairman Greg McPhee suggested the name - Rosebuds. Maroon and Gold were adopted as the team's colours. The team entered the 4th Grade of the Ryde-Eastwood competition. During the season, the Rosebuds won nine out of twelve games played. This is an excellent record for their first season, especially when it is considered that only eight players were available for the first competition game. The Rosebuds had convincing wins over the Panthers and the Wanderers but close games with the Ryde Rebels, the eventual Premiers. Bob Streeter, Briars A Grade Hockey Captain, coached the team towards a successful season. Jill Kennedy and Leah Walker were voted by their peers as the team's most useful players.

To make sure that the Rosebuds don't wilt, plans are in action to enter two teams in the 1978 competition. The girls have demonstrated their enthusiasm by six of them qualifying for C Grade Umpire Theory Badges.

*Focus Dec 1977*

### **THE ROSEBUDS - AN EXTENSION OF WOMEN'S NEW EGO INTO AMATEUR SPORT**

After their glorious success last season, the Rosebuds have decided to continue their meteoric rise by entering two teams next season (as reported in the last FOCUS). Strained relations between husbands and wives, engaged couples and boyfriends and girlfriends have resulted from these ladies bragging about their sporting achievements and their males lack of \*\*\*\*\*. Bar talk is never easy when one of these steroid fed, aggressive, boasting sports girls arrive and literally dominate the room with their constant cracks about Rugby, Cricket, Hockey and even Squash's failures.

Conversations are interrupted, and subjects changed as these winners (as they religiously refer to themselves) chatter for hours about some phase of a past game or who will coach next year, or what colour panties they should wear when they collect their next trophy. The present writer wishes to remain anonymous for the obvious reasons. Not only is it plain that he has been exposed to these ladies - no females' cruelty - but also his identity, if revealed, would mean more serious repercussions. Quotes from well known, but disguised identities prove the seriousness of this problem:

C. S. "If he played as well as me, his only win for the year wouldn't be by a stomach."

L. B. "The L ..... S ... would make a ruck once in a while if he ran as straight as I hit the ball to score goals."

T. G. "He's taken up professional punting now. He can't bear to be compared unfavourably to me."

T.A. "If B .... of C ... ..P ... tackled as well as I do, he wouldn't be so quiet after the game."

L. W. "It looks like I'll have to coach him in physical fitness, he always breaks down."

R. R. "He follows me now and he even cooks the tea."

SO, any male who wants to join the winners, please contact Renee Richards of the California Tennis Club. Any wife or girlfriend who wants to have the upper hand and enjoy a good game of hockey ring:

Linda "Basher" Barnwell

Carol "Clobber" Smith

Jenny "Captain" Guille

Editor's note: There is one sure fire way to stop others talking about the failures in the Men's sports).

Women's Hockey became an official Briars sport many years later.

Netball only became an official Briars sport following the amalgamation with Greenlees Park



Bowling Club. At that time Tess Havrlant who worked for the club started the sport with one team, which won in its first year. A slow and sometimes disrupted era of growth followed and as the number of teams grew, so did the growing pains. Netball Administrators, like Ellie

McPhee and Shontal Reynolds kept the sport going until the arrival of Anne Burt who started a junior netball team. The rest is history as Netball is soon to be the largest sport at Briars.

Like Women's Hockey, women did play Netball with the support of Briars from the 1990's...please see the focus reports below.

*Focus Nov 1990*

## **1990 NETBALL REPORT**

There were three netball teams representing Briars during 1990, two indoor teams and one outdoor side.

The indoor Winter Competition netball side, that played at Five Dock Indoor Sports Centre, are to have their photo framed and hung on the wall along side all the other victorious Briars teams. They defeated RP A 21-16 in the Grand Final and are playing one grade higher in the Spring Competition.

The team players were: Christine Rippard, Rachel Kelly (the greatest shooters Five Dock's ever seen), Kim Kelly, Jody Swift (superb defenders and rebounders), Suzanne Lewis, Christine Atchinson (the most improved players) and their captain Sandra Fisher. Each player a great asset, continually improving with each game.

The other indoor team, the Briars Boozers, played in the C grade competition at the State Sports Centre, were not so victorious. After making it through a tough and successful season they made the regional finals (which consists of all the top C grade teams from the surrounding areas between Homebush and Liverpool) just losing two games 8-7 and 7-7, drawing one 6-6 and winning the last game 9-6. However, this was only good enough to make 3rd place.

This team was made up of: Alison Kirby, Kristen Delany, Samantha Morrow, Tricia Etheredge, Nicki Ruckstep, Sherrin Howle, Kirsten Sinuns, Jo Casey and Jo Price. Finally, you may all remember the Briars Beercans who played in the Western Suburbs Winter Competition, losing very consistently.

I can however, assure you that no matter what you may have heard, this was a very talented team. Unfortunately for them they were graded too highly and were not used to playing together, unlike the teams they opposed. They were not lucky enough to win any games, but the spirit within the team was commendable. It was very enjoyable. We played to our best ability never giving up hope, ignoring what the scoresheet said. Many of these girls have returned year after year to play Basketball or Netball for Briars because of the great support from the Club and players. This team was made up of: Alison Kirby, Kristen Delany, Sherrin Howle, Monica Poole, Ellen Rapley, Diane Tape, Caroline Aston, Kylie Duffy, Tamra Bartholomaeus and Jo Price.

All these teams would like to thank Briars for supporting them, both financially and socially up at the Club after the games and at the games on the side lines. Hopefully, this sport will grow within Briars to the same standard as Cricket or Football so if you know anyone interested, tell them to contact myself or anyone of the girls above. Once again, thank you Briars for supporting netball in 1990.

*Jo Price*

*Focus Dec 1991*

## **NETBALL**

Netball within the club is now thriving with the club fielding 3 sides. Jo Price's sides playing at Five Dock Leisure Centre are currently fourth and on writing this report are preparing for next week's semi-finals. The team has won 5 and lost 5 games and consists of: Jo Price, Kristen Delaney, Monica Paole, Sherin Howle, Jo Casey, Rebecca Dowd, Margaret Melany, Samantha Morrow and Allison Kirby.

Rita Lombardo's team, the most recently formed Briars side, is also performing well. The side who play in Division 3 at the Five Dock Indoor Centre have won 5, lost 3 and drawn 1 and can be often spotted at the club on a Friday or Saturday night. The team consists of: Rita Lombardo, Jaimie Trafford, Karen Antram, Karen Watson and Therese Lombardo. The third Briars side headed by Kim Kelly and Sandra Fisher are progressing well in their division 7 at Five Dock Indoor. The side has played 8 won 4 and lost 4 and consists of: Kim Kelly, Sandra Fisher, Rachel Kelly, Christine Rippard, Julie Fisher, Susanne Lewis and Christy Atchinson.

*Jo Price*

*Focus August 1992*

## **NETBALL**

A good night was had by all at the Briars netball night. A special thanks to Col Dayman for all his help in organising the night. Thanks also to Bacchus and Clarkey for their construction skills in making the ring stand upright and to all the guys who worked behind the bar, especially John Golsby. Thanks to Bacchus for cleaning up.

A fantastic night was missed by those who didn't attend, so don't miss the next one as it should become an annual event. The goal shooting competition was won by Jaime Trafford the "Rah Rahs" star goal shooter. Better luck next time Flash! You came close, so keep practising.

The raffle was won by Stuart Brisbane, who still owes Rita a drink, OK! Thanks, for your support and buying the raffle tickets and all. See you at the next netball night.

Rah Rah (Rita's team): Doing really well again and leading the comp. With only four more games to go in this round, we have some tough competition coming up, but we are looking forward to your support in the semis.

Jo Webers team: Jo's team is playing steadily, winning about as many games as they lose. With only four games to go in this comp, the girls are putting in a little extra each week so that a "most consistent" prize can be awarded at the end of the comp. So, keep trying, girls, and good luck.

*Rita Lombardo*

*Focus Dec 1992*

## **NETBALL**

Rita's team "The Rah Rahs" is finding the going tough after being promoted from Division 5 (where they made 2 grand finals) to Division 2.

Only points this competition have come from a forfeit and a bye! Better things are expected next competition where they will be playing on Wednesday nights in Division 3.

Jo Weber's team continues to improve and at this stage appears to be definite semi-final candidates, whilst Carolyn Turner's team has been competitive, without winning many in Thursday's Division-1 comp.

*Greg McPhee - April 2018*