

DRIBBLING BALLS

Vol. 7, No. 5

17th July, 1979

1. Don't forget Drew & Jeans "Amazing Journey to Adventure" (!) on July 29th. It's going to be a big club outing, comprising a BBQ and all sorts of surprises. See Drew or Jean or any committee member for further details.
2. What with all the excitement over the Portland result in the last issue, the I.V. teams were inadvertently omitted. The 1979 Mens I.V. team is:
Jamie Keck (if available), Chris Macpherson, Andrew Bett, John Campbell, Henry Cooper, Graeme Clarke, Graeme Bennie, Stephen Bennie, Les Walker (if available), Paul Orton, Simon Brown-Greaves, Andrew Fithall (subject to fitness). The coach is Ian Bett and the manager is yet to be announced.

The Womens I.V. team as selected (subject to fitness and acts of God) is:

Barb Robertson, Lois Ceredig, Sue Gravenall, Jean Prior, Robyn Anderson, Ann Compton, Lynda Bonning, Cathy Macneill, Jacqui Marshall, Mary Bourke, Kerry Evans, Lyn Byrne. Coach is Mal Short.

J.C. has promised that the all-new "1979 I.V. Preview" is coming. Also incorporated (hopefully) will be the all-new "How to arrive at I.V. guide" Don't miss them!!

3. Has anyone noticed that Dribbling Balls consistently reports on only four teams? Please, will some of the forgotten teams out there hand in reports! J.C. hands me at least two pages each week, and I have to print it! So, if you want to get your name in print, write a report (please?).

In the interests of public decency, and to preserve the reputations of certain refined gentlewomen of the club (but mainly because of a bad case of writers cramp), in the previous issue I omitted J.C.'s description of the "festivities" following that amazing game at Portland. A massive public outcry (i.e. J.C. complained) ensued, so I have no option but to print it. So, the story so far: ...

The Uni II team at Portland consisted of only five players, rejects and derelicts who had gone primarily for the drinking. Somehow finding themselves in the Mens "A" semi-finals, they were shocked to find that their opponents were the full squad of the Monash University first team. Undaunted, and inspired by a magnificent cheer squad, they overwhelmed Monash, 41-40. Now read on ...

... it was back to Jacqui's for a party to end all parties as game highlights were relived time and wine again. It was "damn the grand-final, lets have fun" as the rage progressed into the early hours of Monday morning. Kerry Lewarse and J.C. were found having a tete-tete out the back while Steve and Cati were having a head-to-head of a different sort in the lounge. Mal sculled a raw egg again but skipped the midnight weeties. Other party games soon commenced, one of

the more popular being "get Carol drunk". It was completed with the aid of three mugs of wine and a similar number of choruses of "She's a piker". That soon took Neville out of the game, and one wonders if the smell of vanilla essence will ever depart the little room. While all this continued, those two refined gentlewomen, Misses Loosearse and Priwhore were having a competition to see who could make the rankest insult to the other. After an hour or twenty-four this was abandoned and declared a draw. Shortly after this, much to the amusement of all onlookers, and most participants, Mary tipped a glass of water over J.C.'s head and inspired by this J.D. threw a glass of reisling in his face. Mal ran out of eggs so he shot a tinnie. This fun and revelry continued until 4.32 when the 10 or so survivors had the traditional scull. Kerry had more trouble than most, as while she was drinking she fell on her behind (large target) but still managed not to spill a drop. We all retired after this, except for some who returned at 5.00 to find the party.

Mens firsts (VABA div. 2)

Wed. 27th June Uni 62 Latrobe 57

In the absence of the Waspp (Lards told me there are two p's but I'm not saying what the second stands for), Henry took over the coaching reins and did it well, convincing the Trobers to start the game with only four players. Taking advantage of this we cruised to an 8-0 lead as Drew hit 3 baskets in a row, much to the surprise/shock/incredulity of the (minimal) crowd. Thus having the game well and truly in our grasp we decided that since they were friends of ours we'd let them catch up a little. Their fifth player arrived and they caught up enough to lead 23-18 at half-time. At this stage we seemed to be suffering from mental tiredness and were looking pretty awful. The second half began with a scoring spree at both ends of the court and we trailed by 7 or so early on. Then J.C. thought he was H.C. and hit some decidedly Cooperian baskets from the top and the scores were back to about level. The "coops de grace" came half-way through the half when we got a "Hot Pooh" (Donna Summer's new single?) Haggis proceeded to bomb in 18 points and the game was ours. Our almost freeze worked (almost) and the result was never in doubt from the moment the final buzzer sounded. This very important win gave us no chance of making the four.

Haggis 22, J.C. 12

Wed. 4th July Collingwood 7:6:48 d Hawthorn 4:9:33

Big Fl Martello was unable to play in this game, so Commodore Cup Star goal-sneak Simon Brown-Greaves took his place in the selected side at centre half-forward. We shot the ball forward from the first bounce where Hendrie marked and put us into the lead early on. This didn't last though, as the Collingwood big men took over the game giving their forwards many opportunities, which they converted with ease. Peter Moore dominated in the air, and by half-time the position seemed hopeless. The second half proved this correct. As the play became scambly the umpires had no option but to balls it up many times which marred the game as a spectacle for the 39,000 fans at V.F.L. park, not to mention the players. In one of our better pieces

of play Tuck drove the ball forward where Brown-Greaves marked strongly in front of Pickers then goaled from 45 metres out. This comeback was only temporary as our little men looked lackadaisical against the Magpie rovers and our backmen were helpless as Davis, Shaw and Banks all chipped in with goals in the last quarter as the rain began to fall, making the already greasy conditions even harder to handle. In a fiery finish to the game Don Scott dropped Barry Price with a fist to the face, elbow in the ear and knee in the groin and was reported by 3 umpires (later he explained that it was all a mistake, he meant to get Kay Shaw). Thus the Woods ran out easy winners and consolidated their place in the five.

Lards 8, Haggis, Drew 6.

- It's all very confusing really!!

Wed. 11th July Caulfield 88 Uni. 56

Well, we jumped Caulfield right from the start and soon had an 8 - 0 deficit. Our first five was then subbed out and our second five did much better, they actually scored, and took the score to 4 - 17 before being subbed out. This brilliant tactical tactical ploy of lulling the opposition into a false sense of security was paying dividends by half-time as we trailed 17 - 41. Caulfield had hit about 90% from the floor in the first half and they improved a little in the second half to shoot 47 points. We, too, remembered what the offensive part of the game was all about and managed 39 for the half. Highlights of the game for us were the warm-up before we played and putting on our tracksuits after the game. Also Mal Short told me to mention his name in the reports this time, Mal Short.

Neville 8, Skippy 8.

Womens firsts (VVABA B Grade)

Wed. 27th June Uni. 30 Spartans 26

In the battle of the two top teams, coach said "Go on the ball" and we were down 3-0 after 5 minutes. Things improved with our zone press and man to person to woman to thing to ... defence continually forcing them into errors. Cati took care of torpedo boobs, while Woody fixed up Easy Lay's sister, Bernie stole the ball 30 or 40 times, and Cathy hurdled all obstacles in taking rebounds. This resulted in a 7 pt half-time lead. The second half was an exercise in control as we stayed well ahead. It was only in the last minutes that our 10 pt lead was cut to 4. This puts us one pt clear at the top and looking good despite ankle injuries to two of our posts.

Bernie 11.

Wed. 4th July Uni. 51 Ajax - not very many.

I wasn't going to report on this game but Kerry Lewarse threatened to sit on me if I didn't. Turns out that old F.C. Loosearse had a few drinks before the game and this became apparent when she hit her first four foul shots in a row. She continued to hit baskets from some of the most amazing moves ever seen, and looked dangerous every time she caught the ball (about 50% of the times she tried). Other game highlights included another seconds player twisting an ankle after 5 minutes (yawn).

This time it was Cathy Macneill. She was well looked after by Jean Prior and an old man in a flashers coat who gave her a nice little leg massage. With the score at 0 - 0 after five minutes we recovered fairly well to win by about 40 points.

F.C. 23, Bernie 12.

Wed. 12th July Uni. 34 Diamond Valley 32.

In yet another vital game we faced the only team in the competition we hadn't yet beaten. This seemed to inspire us a little as our zone press stole the ball four times in a row for four layups. After that we controlled the first half well, restricting the opposition to 3 baskets only. At half time their scorer had a whinge to the referees who made an on the spot, out of the blue, down the spout and up the creek (!) decision to award the opposition 5 pts extra for some piddling little reason, making the half-time score 20 - 11. Bernie and Lynda had dominated in offence during the first half while Cati and Jacqui (making the traditional auspicious debut for new seconds players) dominated the boards and F.C. tried to remember how to catch the ball. In the second half we were worn down by the taller opposition and the offensive part of our game was ragged. We just managed to fall in at the end, after some haggling with the scorers who thought it was a draw. Credit goes especially to Bernie whose offence was great, hitting 3 clutch baskets late in the game, and Jacqui, who, despite a certain lack of confidence in shooting, was a dominant rebounder and defender in her premiere seconds appearance.

Bernie 13.

Collingwood Mens A grade (Sunday night)

1st semifinal, 24th June

Uni. 45 Warriors 38.

The team lined up full of confidence, having beaten our opposition two weeks earlier, and determined to play a serious game. For the first time in weeks we started with our full complement of 6 players, and opened up a handy lead of 7 by half-time. The second half saw Warriors fight back to within 4 pts but they threw away any chance they had of winning with stupid defence and technical fouls. Clarkie and Simon played good controlling games while Steve rebounded strongly, particularly in defence.

S.B-G. 21, Clarkie 11, Dave 8.

Grand Final, 8th July

Uni. 40 C.S.C. 28

We arrived to learn that our coach, who shall remain nameless (S.B-G.), was severely hung-over and unlikely to survive the game. However we still started, confident of a win. Collingwood opened up well with very high percentage outside shooting, but we stayed with them and opened up a 5 pt lead by half-time, due to the strong rebounding of Clarkie and Steve, and the shooting of Davo. In the second half, Clarkie made a real

hit with the crowd by once again attacking an opponents elbow with his chin, and playing his 'silly' defence in front of an opposition fast break. We cruised to a 10 pt lead and maintained it by playing controlled offence (except for a short 10 minute section of the half when we all forgot how to catch the ball). Congratulations to Simon for his premiership as coach, and for setting an excellent standard of fitness for the troops.

Davo 14, Steve 9, S.B-G. 8, G.C. 5, Norm 4.

Womens thirds (VWBA C grade)

Wed. 20th June Uni. 10 Avis 33

Not a particularly together game by Uni with Avis tending to dominate in most respects. (!)

Wed. 27th June Uni. 25 Monash 16.

An excellent effort by the thirds, particularly by Jacqui who made some great drives and scored well in her foul shots. Although Monash were only 4 pts behind with 3 minutes to go, we managed a great last burst and scored 9 pts, giving us an easy win.

Jacqui 12 Mary 6.

Mens C grade Thursday night

29th June Uni. 29 ANZ 28

The first half was an even tussle, thanks mainly to the efforts of rookie Bob Hardt, who sank some beautiful hook shots. However it looked as if all was lost two minutes into the second half when the refs decided Bob was too big and fouled him off. Instead, however, something clicked, and in one of the best displays from the team this season, we came up to snatch a last minute win.

Bob 10 Andy 8

5th July Uni. 32 WSH 22

A scrappy first half, with our offence and defence well below par, saw us 1 pt down at the break. In the second half some people woke up enough to put in some shots and we won comfortably. Highlights were two dominating hook shots from thin Arthur, and "bomber" Graeme Howie hitting from 25 feet.

12th July Uni. 25 Synvic 32

With Pendles missing, we had great trouble under the basket in defence. A 10 pt deficit at half-time was due almost exclusively to the relative ease with which their big men scored. Defence tightened considerably in the second half, but the fight back was hampered when the editor fouled out with 10 minutes to go, leaving only 4 men on the court.

Rob 8, Andy 7, Yassou 5.
