

dribbling balls

Melbourne University Basketball Club Newsletter

Issue 21, Number 1, August 1994

A word from the new "Dribbling Balls" team ...

Hello. Welcome to first issue of "Dribbling Balls" for 1994. It's been a rarely sighted species recently, and those who are new to the club might never have seen one before. It's the club's newsletter, and it's meant to keep members in the know about how our various teams are doing, what's going on socially, what's gossip, that sort of thing really crucial stuff.

For "Dribbling Balls" to work, we need your input. We're as interested in what's happening in the D grade as we are in how our firsts' teams are doing, but we can't be at every match and we need you to provide us with match reports.

Because this is the first issue for a while, we've just provided a status report on how our various teams are going this season. Usually, we'll put in specific match reports. They don't have to be long, just a summary of the highlights (or lowlights, as the case may be!), and they're a great opportunity to get your name in print (especially if you scored a few points in a game, and want everyone else to know about it!).

"Dribbling Balls" has been around for years, and has had plenty of changes in terms of who is responsible for putting it together. This year it went through another metamorphosis and emerged with 3 new "editors"-Carolyn Pickburn, Cathy De Nino and Ellen Scott.

This is our first issue-we hope that you read it, like it, find it interesting, enjoyable, informative etc. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue, and to Michael Scales for his help in laying it out.

If you have ideas or suggestions about how "Dribbling Balls" could be improved, or just want to let us know you like it, please let us know. If you don't know who we are, ask someone-most people around the club do.

Carolyn, Cathy and Ellen

TEAM UPDATES - WINTER '94

Monday Men

Old basketballers never die, they just play Monday nights. This A grade team is a bit of a quiet achiever team comprising Scott Blair-West, Henry, Cooper, Geoff Bowles, Michael Scales, Mark Carroll, Alistair Elliott, Gavin

Rogers & Richard Burnett. Currently sitting 4th or 5th on the ladder, this team is probably the biggest in the club, if not the fastest.

Wednesday - Women's Firsts

This year, the women's 1sts have played in the Championship Qualifying division of the VWBC, which comprises teams from associations such as Dandenong, Nunawading, Werribee, Sunbury/Keilor, LaTrobe Uni and Ballarat, many of which also have teams playing at Championship or national level.

The competition consists of a full home and away fixture. Our home games are played at the Uni on Wednesday nights. Games are fully timed with a 30 second shot clock, and played in 4 quarters of 10 minutes each.

Whilst it would be stretching the truth to say that we've had a successful season, our performances have generally been good enough to get us close to most teams, with only a lack of consistency and concentration preventing better results. Hopefully, we can build on this over the summer and be competitive in whatever format the competition takes next season.

The team is Karen Burgess, Martelle Cowan, Nola Hodgson, Anna Jaman, Janine Lewis, Gillian Payne, Sally McMahon, Natalie Johnston, Trish Mahoney, Rebecca Stockdale and Lana Wong and coach David Morosoli.

Now I know I said we weren't putting match reports in this issue, but David was so excited the girls won their last match, we decided to let one in ...!

WVBC Championship Qualifying - 10/8

Melb Uni 63 d. Keilor/Sunbury 50

It was all happening-the last game of the season. We were there, resplendent in our new tracksuits. The scorebench was there (with special guest court announcer Coops). The refs were there, the WVBC Games Commissioner was there, even the opposition was there. Everything was set for an 8.30 tip off, except that we were wearing black tops and so were they. We had uniform priority. They didn't. Fortunately, Howie came to the rescue, with "Look, I've got the men's white tops in the boot of my car!" Pretty ugly, but it solved the problem. On to the game....

Sunbury used to have a reputation for being a bit erratic, not afraid of voicing their colourful opinions of refereeing decisions, willing to give away the odd tech foul and generally losing the plot. We thought maybe the merger with Keilor would have mellowed them a little, but it appeared not. The final total was 32 team fouls including 3 techs, 3 foul outs, a sprained ankle, a twisted knee, a fractured cheekbone and copious tears. At least you can't say they weren't putting in.

As far as the game went, we played the way we should (and could) have all season. Good solid defence, particularly on their centre, and positive transition into offence led to many fast break baskets, combined with a much better movement of the ball in set offences. The most important thing, however, was that we played for a whole 40 minutes and never gave the opposition a look in.

We started the season with a win and ended it with a win. Now, about those 16 games in between ...!

Natalie 16, Sally 14, Janine 9, Anna, Nola 6, Bec, Gill 5, Booma 2, Martelle 5 fouls!

Wednesday women's seconds and thirds

Both the women's 2nds and 3rds were promoted to 3rd division this season after the 2nds won the 4th division final last season and the 3rds were runners up in 5th division. The 2nds have done well in the stronger competition and are 3rd with only a few games to go before the finals. The team is coached by Greg Scholes and consists of Kim Jachno, Tammy Walsh, Tracy Nero, Leanne Bingham, Heather Watson, Ellen Scott and Michelle Worland.

The 3rds-Julie Randall, Alisa McLachlan, Kylie Arthur, Janet Nicolson, Brenda Fox, Susan Pickering; Kate Bingeman and Tash Sullivan-have had a much tougher time, but have gained valuable experience from playing at the higher level and also from having a regular coach in Tania Luders.

Wednesday Men's Firsts

Welcome to the all inspiring, all encapsulating men's 1sts report. I'd like to say that it had been a barnstorming season, but I guess I'd better stick to realities!

After our first 4 games we were 2 and 2 and things were looking bright. 5 straight losses after that and things weren't looking so good. "We're still a chance for finals," I stated after this and we won the next one comfortably. What I said must have finally sunk in, however, and we proceeded to lose the next 2. Two more wins saw us 5 and 9 and in reasonable shape. The next few weeks were disastrous for our season's chances, however, and 7 straight losses saw the season end for us even before the official finish.

Despite an unsuccessful season, we have had our moments, and a high turnover of players and a number of injuries have not helped.

Enough doom and gloom. I can see you're wondering who the men's firsts are, so here goes. The men's firsts play second division in the VBA's Wednesday night competition, the highest grade the club plays at.

The team has included Matt & Greg Scholes, Marc Howard, Nick Wade, Patrick Lawrence, Bill Bohun, Andrew Connolly, Stuart Verrier, James Gorton, Hugh De Kretser, Jordan Griffiths, James Hutton, and Adrian Frankling.

If you're interested in playing in either the men's 1sts or 2nds, come along to Monday or Friday training. Summer season is approaching - this is traditionally the "silly season" in this competition, at least until the end of the year. It's a good chance to play at a higher level while things are a bit more relaxed.

David Liddle (coach)

Thursday Men

A grade is 9th or 10th on the ladder with 5 wins & a draw. Dragan Antokos, Mark Bromley, Gavin Rogerd, Alistair Elliott, Adrian Frankling, Nigel Gilligan & Matt Roach have been the core players with occasional cameos from B grade.

B grade is 3rd despite having used 14 different players this season. Michael Scales, Andrew Rubeli, David Elvins, Ed Luk, Olly Merits, Ashley Martin and Lonnie Bossi have been the nucleus. Hopefully we can settle the team for the last few weeks before finals.

C grade has had a revamp this season. Sitting in position 4 or 5 on the ladder, the team has had some ups and downs. Gary Fendlebury & Alex Grant have added some strength & 'experience' along with Adam Raghdo, Andrew Larkin, Andrew Richards, Stuart Williams, Ben McGillp, Daniel Wong & Frank Bubica.

Thursday women

The A grade - Gillian Payne, Nola Hodgson, Heather Watson, Katie Barter, Paula

Hosford, Bec Stockdale, Carolyn Pickburn, Lea Waters and coach Stuart Verrier - has fallen to a disappointingly low spot on the ladder, despite a promising start to the season.

In a reverse performance, the B grade started poorly (with an almost completely new team and no coach) but has recently found its form and is making a finals run. The team is Julie Randall, Sue Randall, Anke Wurzbacher, Mai Yanangawa, Ellen Scott, Philippa Mason, Lisa Milne and Beck Kluppels, coached by Karen (Booma) Burgess.

The D grade - Vivien Cucevic, Sam Sterling, Cathy De Nino, Michelle Hansen, Mamere Takoa, Claire Hooper, coached by Carolyn Pickburn - have only lost two games to date. Currently 3rd, and having beaten both of the two top teams, we're hoping to get this team back into C grade for the summer season.

Sunday Men

Tall experienced players please apply (plus solid 3 point shot)! The night with the greatest number of club teams playing is tough going.

This season has seen Marc Howard take charge with support from several new coaches, including Brian Duggan and Jason But. A grade is 12th of 14 teams in the toughest comp outside of Div. 1 & 2. This side features many of the club firsts players. Herman's AR1 team is 8th of 11 whilst Marc's AR2 boys are 11th. Both these teams are competitive but need just an extra boost to turn a lot of close results our way. Both the C grade sides have struggled for wins, sitting 9th and 10th on the ladder, despite the veteran influence of Dave Liddle and Dave Morosoli in one and a number of new players in the other. The D grade also has many new faces, and getting a consistent side from week to week has been tough for coach Brian Duggan. They are currently 15th from 15 teams.

Sunday Women

For the first time in a while, we have an A grade side - Gillian Payne, Karen Burgess, Nola Hodgson, Kim Jachno, Tammy Walsh, Tracy Nero, Heather Watson and Martelle Cowan, coached by Greg Scholes. Having won the A Reserve final last season, the going is much tougher in A grade and the side has had few wins. Despite this, it's great for Uni to have an A grade side again, and it has provided an opportunity for some of our non-firsts players to play at a higher level of competition.

The A Reserve - Julie Randall, Sue Randall, Carolyn Pickburn, Tania Luders, Ellen Scott, Brenda Fox and Tash Sullivan and first time coach Simon Gaymer -- were promoted from B grade last season,

and have had a disappointing season with only 2 wins (against, typically, 2 of the top sides!). Currently trying to claw its way off the bottom of the ladder so as to avoid going back to B grade.

The C grade are 2nd, looking like a strong finals contender. Coached by Tammy Walsh, the team is Maria Sapunar, Lana, Phillips, Margaret Young, Vivien Cucevic, Emma Forbes, Ruth Smith, Sally Francis and Claire Hooper.

The D grade is doing brilliantly, being in the number 1 spot at the moment. With another first time coach, Viv Cucevic, the girls - Sam Sterling, Cathy De Nino, Tessa Nye, Michelle Hansen, Georgie Thomas, Megan Gilmour and Claire Jordan - have barely dropped a game and are well on track for a premiership.

TOURNAMENTS

By the way, belated congratulations to the guys who took out the Grand Finals in the A grade at Mount Gambier over Easter and the C grade in Portland over the Queens Birthday long weekend.

Moe report - July 16th, 17th

Moe was one of our most successful for a while, both in terms of the number of Uni people there and success in games - about 45 people in 6 teams (3 men's and 3 women's), and 2 Grand Final wins.

A separate report on the B grade men's performance follows. The A men - Stu Verrier, James Hutton, Nick Wade, Matt Scholes, Marc Howard, Adrian Frankling, Geoff Bowles, coached by David Liddle - won their final against Churchill by a point thanks to some cool foul shooting by James Hutton with only seconds to go (James also won the MVP for the match).

The women's sides and the C men weren't as successful. The C men lost their 1st game and despite winning the next two missed out on finals. The B women played disappointingly, dropping too many games to make the finals. The C1 women were decidedly short from the start (both in height and in numbers), lost their 1st two games narrowly and were completely overrun by a much better side in the third. The C2 women looked promising, taking out their first 2 games but lost to the Moe Under 16s, some appalling reffing and some very ordinary play on Sunday morning and also failed to make finals.

We did our usual take-over-a-local-Chinese-restaurant on Saturday night - and make as much noise as possible on Saturday night - ate lots, drank lots, sang silly songs lots. Some drank lots more than others, with particular mention to Claire Hooper and Bec Stockdale, who both formed intimate relationships with various gutters and car park surfaces that night.

On the subject of intimate relationships, tournaments have provided the launching place for countless numbers of these over the years. Moe was pretty quiet on this front this year, but Simon Gaymer and Tash Sullivan have been singled out for special mention by those who were the Astradome in Traralgon on Saturday night.

It was great to see so people at Moe, and especially so many new faces. Tournaments are a fantastic way to meet other club members you wouldn't normally see much of, play some basketball with people you normally don't play with, and generally have a pretty good time.

Moe B Men

Game 1. The stadium is its usual minus 5 degrees for our annual Saturday morning game vs Mustangs. We pressed full court, they didn't handle it well. They pressured full court, we didn't handle it well. A minute to go, we're down 5. Worth mentioning at this point that the time clock doesn't stop in Moe for anything. A bit of a scramble, scores back level and MUBC ball from the sideline. 20 seconds left, they call a sub to waste time. It takes the referee 19 seconds to work out that they can't have a sub and they are really just being naughty and shouldn't do that and oh dear has the time run out? 1 second left, nothing happens, a draw.

Game 2. Only 3 teams in our pool means that the round robin matches just decide playoff position in finals. If we win by less than 4 points we have to play quarter then semi finals. If we win by more than 4 we go straight into semi final. We win by 35 points and even those with arts degrees can work out the results. We press full court just for a change. Herman has recovered from the flu or the plague or whatever he had and shoots a few, Matt and Michael grab some boards, Jason throws some assists. Simon shows them the 'steal and full court break' play lots of times. Henry complains that its a 'bit quiet' playing 3rd row. That's all for Saturday, next game Sunday afternoon.

Semi final, Sunday. Matt, Simon, Herman and Jason look like they got to bed early (alone) and didn't drink themselves stupid at 'the Dome'. Not! Opposition from Syndal has one giant and a few of his mates. Henry sinks jump shots, Matt turns board monster. Defence was tough all match and kept us ahead. Scores level with only 30 seconds left. Simon took a huge board over the pack and threw up a shot with his back to the basket. They fouled. He missed the 1st, nails the 2nd. We're in the final. They're not.

Grand final. The A grade team was playing their final at the same time, however our crowd of two still made some

noise (the wave could perhaps do with some work though!). The opposition were an older, larger, presumably wlier team. We were 15 zip up before they worked out that a 'run n gun' game didn't suit them as much as it did us. They slowed the game down and caught up a bit. Youth prevailed, the final margin was 8 or 9 points. Just in time to watch James make 2 foul shots to win the A grade final.

Team: Henry (the Wiz) Cooper, Michael (Coach and Tin Man) Scales, Matthew (Scarecrow) Roach, Herman (the Cowardly Lion) Tokatidis, Simon (Toto) Gaymer and Jason (who else but Dorothy in those red boots?) Lourenz.

Next Tournament

The next tournament is usually Norwell, in mid-September, but for financial reasons it is not being held this year. Stay tuned.

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just wear it!

1994 INTERVARSITY (SOUTHERN CONFERENCE)

July 4-6, Mill Park Stadium

Men's Team Report

The heading is actually a bit of a misnomer (I used to know a misnomer but she went to Adelaide), as IV is now officially the Australian Universities Championships, but who gives a ... because we ain't going anyway! Once again, we failed to qualify at the Southern Conference so we'll be stuck in Melbourne instead of competing for glory in Wollongong in September.

I'd go to the highlights now, but I'm not sure there were any. We won our 1st game comfortably against Deakin Warrnambool. The 2nd was the danger game against Swinburne, who had put us out last year. We played tough D all game, and had it won except for that prayer they hit on the buzzer. We draw.

The 3rd game against Tassie was easy. All we had to do was win against St

Albans something-or-other-campus and we were through to the next round. They didn't look too tough, so of course we went out and made them look better than they were and lost and that was the end of IV'94 for us. We only lost one game, but it was enough to see us out. The girls also failed to make it to the 2nd round, so there was nothing left to do except go out and get spastic. So we did.

There were definitely highlights that night, but my memory gets a bit hazy on some points, especially after the 10th jug in the drinking games. Apparently the count was 5 spews, 3 lost memories, the youngest member of the team walking the oldest home and a partridge in pear tree (maybe not!). Highlights included:

- Howie buying 2 jugs when coming back to find his wallet
- Everyone drinking the jugs, except Howie
- James walking Greg home when Greg wasn't sure where he lived
- Heather's reception when Greg got home
- James ordering pizza and everyone else eating it
- Alisa ending up in the wrong bed!
- The drinking games
- The waiter at the Chinese restaurant offering Stu his youngest daughter
- The same waiter offering us the keys to lock up
- Collective dummy spitting by the men after our last game
- Another shit year of IV and everyone saying "maybe next year?"

David Liddle (Coach)

Women's Team Report

Looking cool in our "Blackers" t-shirts and equipped with our customary song books, what could possibly go wrong this year? Things looked a bit shaky after the welcoming drinks at LaTrobe, the host campus, were cancelled, but we were still confident! Misguidedly so.

Down by 7 at half time in our 1st game against Deakin Burwood, we fought our way back and were unlucky to go down by 1 on the buzzer. We hit the Mill Park Club that night, for a dinner that left a lot to be desired before moving on to the poor tables, where Michelle Worland displayed her expertise with a cue!

Tuesday 9.00am vs. Latrobe Bendigo. This proved to be our easiest game, but was costly in terms of injury-Martelle with an egg under her eye which gradually closed it, Nikki did her ankle (and had to put up with a very sleazy ref who insisted on personally holding the ice on it!) and Kim corked her thigh. We did win, though.

Tuesday 1.00 pm vs. RMIT Coburg-we had to win this game by more than 1 point to go through to the next round. Unfortunately, they had a 6 foot guard

with an attitude! The intention was to get them fouled out (they only had 5), but the plan backfired somewhat and although we did a great job on defence, it wasn't quite enough.

With both teams out of the running, the commiserations began in earnest! From the Clyde to the Golden Orchid for some not-so-quiet Chinese, many bottles of wine and a very friendly waiter (hey, Stu!), back to the Clyde for drinking games, to Wade's for more drinks, some passing out (Kim would never do that!), and a quiet spit or two! Where did Alisa sleep, by the way? Thanks to all the girls in the team, Matt for organising things, Howie for "managing" the girls and all those who came out to watch!

The MUBC Committee

The Committee is responsible for making sure teams get entered, organising social events, training, tournaments, attending meetings etc-all those things that just "happen"! The Committee meets on the first or second Tuesday of each month, and any club member can attend.

If you have a particular matter you would like the Committee to discuss, or have some concern, idea, suggestion, contact one of the Committee members listed below, or come along to a meeting.

- David Morosoli President
- Carolyn Pickburn Vice President
- Gillian Payne Treasurer
- Karen Burgess Secretary
- Cathy De Nino Assistant Secretary
- Adrian Frankling Male General Rep

- Tania Luders Female General Rep
- Brian Duggan Male Social Secretary
- Ellen Scott Female Social Secretary
- Vivien Cucevic Female Junior Rep
- Iain Roy Male Junior Rep
- Michael Scales Coaching Coordinator

Contact Ellen Scott (376 2437), Brian Duggan (386 2825) or Cathy DeNino (387 3614) for tickets/details

And the biggest social event on the MUBC calendar ...

SOCIAL NEWS

On Friday June 24th, the club held an after-exams night and attempted fundraiser at the Down Under Rock Cafe in Lygon Street. The band was great, and about 40 club members attended. Although this wasn't enough to put us in the running for the cash prize on offer, this was still a great turn up. The diehards didn't leave 'til around 5.00am (where did Tania Luders and Matt Roach go to then?), so it must have been a good night!

MUBC Trivia Night

Saturday August 27th at the Clyde Hotel, kicking off at 8.30 pm
Individual or team entry, \$6.00 each
Teams of 6-8 people

Half time nachos, alcohol prizes throughout the night plus a major prize for the winning team provided by the Clyde. Half time joke contest.

Professionally run, with wide range of questions.

The 1994 Annual Dinner

October 15th, 7.30 pm

North Melbourne Football Club Social Club

\$36.00 for students, \$45.00 for graduates, or \$85.00 for a graduate couple

3 course meal, champagne, beer, wine, soft drink and port. Drinks at bar prices after 1.00am

Most Valuable Player awards are given for each team, members of any team which makes a Grand Final receive a trophy (win or lose!), plus other awards including Best First Year and Most Improved for men and women

Listen out at training for announcements over the next few weeks about where you can get tickets. Start saving now-it's a great night ...

THE JOHN BAYLISS AWARD

The John Bayliss Award is the highest award that the Melbourne University Basketball Club can bestow on a member. The award is in memory of John Bayliss, a club member who died in a car accident returning from the Swan Hill tournament many years ago. The award recognises the substantial time, effort and commitment some members put into the Club over a number of years in terms of administration, coaching, taking training sessions and other aspects of club life.

If you would like to nominate a club member for the John Bayliss Award, please fill in the attached nomination form. Nominations close on August 31st, 1994, and should be submitted to the Secretary, Karen Burgess-an envelope placed in the club pigeon-hole at the Sports Union desk will reach her. The Committee will consider nominations at its September meeting and make a final decision. The winner of the Award will be announced at the Annual Dinner on October 15th.

NOMINATION FOR 1994 JOHN BAYLISS AWARD

Person Nominated:.....

Person Nominating:.....

Brief statement in support of nomination:.....

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