

# Southern California Women's Rugby Football Association

NOVEMBER, 1979

17739 Tribune Street — Granada Hills, California 91344

VOL. 1 — NO. 1



NATIONAL UPDATES

LOCAL EVENTS

CALENDAR

HOT FLASHES

## COMMITTEE FORMED

On May 27, 1979 the annual meeting of the USA Rugby Football Union was held. In a move of support for women ruggers a Women's Committee was formed. Elissa Augello, President of the Midwest Women's Rugby Football Union, was named as chairperson.

## FIRST MEETING HELD

The first USARFU Women's Committee meeting was held September 1, 1979 in Arlington Heights, Ill. Representatives were present from California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin.

# HISTORIC FIRST: USARFU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The purpose of the committee is threefold:

- 1.) To improve national communication through contact lists, tournament lists, and a national newsletter - IN SUPPORT.
- 2.) To develop higher skill levels in women's rugby through shared clinics, films, and intra-territorial competition.
- 3.) To develop a working relationship between men's and women's rugby organizations at every level.

The women rugby leaders discussed the relationship between women's rugby and rugby football unions. In Pennsylvania, Mississippi, Alabama, S. Carolina, and Florida, women's status is either vague or not acknowledged at all. In the Midwest, women have been refused membership in the union. As a result the Midwest Women's RFU was formed.

The situation is more positive in other locations. In California women receive full membership upon payment of dues. In Georgia, women (continued on page 4)

Women's rugby in California is five years old. With each additional year we accumulate the knowledge of the rules and the skill necessary to increase play quality.

## NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

As we learn more about the game on the field it becomes imperative to be responsible for learning more about rugby "off the field". Behind every team, every association, every union, is the network of people that make the machine run. As our association grows so must the behind-the-scenes network, in order for administrative quality to grow alongside playing quality.

To facilitate this expansion, the SCWRFA Newsletter has been launched. Communication among association members and between other clubs state and nationwide is an important priority.

## \$ EARN MONEY \$

### Women's Sports Foundation Membership Drive

In 1974 Billie Jean King founded the Women's Sports Foundation. Its purpose is to encourage women and girls to participate in sports for their health and personal development.

The Foundation is also a lobbying force for equal opportunities in women's athletics. In addition, they are a vehicle for developing skills through films, scholarships, and educational material.

At the beginning of the rugby season each club must contend with finances. Even for those few clubs lucky enough to find sponsors, the sponsorship rarely covers little more than half of the expenses, if that.

The Women's Sports Foundation is offering SCWRFA \$5.00 for every \$12.50 membership sold. SCWRFA has agreed to share the profit with each individual club. \$2.50 per membership goes to the club and the remaining \$2.50 goes to the league.

This is a unique opportunity to benefit your club and your Association at the same time. A club cannot function without funds. Southern California Women's Rugby Football Association cannot function without funds.

Money is needed by SCWRFA to cover expenses for our Rep. Side team. Perhaps this year our Rep. Side will be able to take quality California rugby to a neighboring state. Money is also needed to continue the Newsletter and cover various administrative costs.

#### \* NIKON CAMERA \*

Membership includes a twelve month subscription to the quality magazine WOMEN'S SPORTS. As added incentive, the Foundation is offering a new Nikon camera to the club who sells the most. If your club needs information packets to start this great fundraiser contact Lorraine Seal.

NOTE: In order to receive credit, each club must return the YELLOW copy of the order blank to SCWRFA. The deadline to receive all orders is December 31st. Send the YELLOW copy with your club's name on it to:

Lorraine Seal  
18432 Steep Lane #4  
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

HELP!!!

THE SCWRFA NEWSLETTER NEEDS  
WRITERS, ARTISTS, CARTOONISTS,  
AND GOOD IDEAS. IF YOU CAN  
HELP CONTACT...

V. Bennett  
7241 Hyatt St.  
San Diego, Ca.  
92111  
(714) 278-6298

It is not that I am shocked by the sight of women playing Rugby Football. I could bear to see them wrestling in mud, but I would not be much amused by it. Neither am I so old fashioned that I believe women should be entirely decorative and gentle, although I personally prefer them that way. One must realize that women should have other activities besides reproducing the species, and within reason should be realized. Why they should want to play Rugby though, is baffling.

... If that happens in Brittain what will be the consequences? Who is going to make the sandwiches and the tea? Who is going to keep our kit clean? ... Who is going to admire our bruised faces and black eyes? Who will wait at home for us far into the night...?

Rupert Cherry  
Rugby World - "Women's Realm?"  
Sept. 1979 pg. 55

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Once again the eternal question, "What do women want"? Or more specifically, why would some women rather play rugby than make sandwiches and tea?

The answer is as varied as the women who play. Part of the answer can be found in an article written by Linda C. Bishop, found in the Midwest Women's Tour of Brittain Program. It is reprinted in part below...

#### RUGBY

#### Not Masculine, Not Feminine

#### Just Human!

What are the reasons for this phenomenal growth in a sport many people thought would be abandoned by women after their first tackle? Realization of one's own ability and potential. Frequently that first tackle, rather than send women running back home, dismissed many myths that women had been taught. They discovered a new dimension of life - the use and power of their own body and mind. They didn't break when tackled; they enjoyed the contact of tackling; they realized the potential of their muscles and lungs to perform; they found they actually enjoyed the company of these free-spirited women who formed a team of which they were an integral part. In short, they enjoyed rugby for the same reasons as men. Except now the myth has exploded.

Certainly women's rugby contains great fervor; it is not, however a religion. (con't. on page 8)

## ★ MIDWEST WOMEN ★ TOUR BRITAIN

In April of last year an article appeared in Rugby - "Wanted: Women Ruggers for Tour". Pam Tittes, President of the Minnesota Women's RFC, was trying to organize an exhibition tour of the British Isles. She succeeded.

During August the thirty-five women, representing 12 Midwest clubs, toured from Glasgow to London. They played five games in ten days, sight-seeing in between.

Newspaper coverage was extensive although often sarcastic. The tour also received coverage on BBC TV National News.

According to Ms. Tittes the newspaper articles were the least acceptable part of the tour. They received a warm reception in all of their game locations: Elgin, Scotland; Newport, Wales; Fleetwood, Bristol, and London, England. The host clubs also provided lodging.

"People on the sidelines heckled us at first. Then something interesting happened. The rude comments stopped as the spectators became involved in the game. Soon they were just watching us play rugby."

Overall, the women agreed it was an exhausting but tremendous experience. Even the tone of the newspaper articles became more positive as the tour progressed.

The Women plan a reunion in Jan. They hope to be able to come to the So. Calif. Women's Tournament scheduled for San Diego this year.

serve on the board of directors in addition to membership rights.

In terms of the status of women within the USARFU structure, the committee concluded the following:

- 1.) Women, as rugby players, are disturbed that a distinction exists between men's and women's rugby. We all play rugby.
- 2.) In as much as rugby players should not belong to separate unions based on sex or any other factor, it is of paramount importance to work towards a solution of the union exclusion experienced by Midwest clubs and others.
- 3.) A proposal should be introduced to USARFU to recommend that all unions integrate women's teams on the local and territorial level.

Other topics of discussion included territorial divisions, select side competition at the local and regional level, and club championships - sighted for 1981. In the championships each territory would send their best team to compete against the other three territories.

#### PLEDGE OF SUPPORT REQUESTED

In order to accomplish the work ahead the Committee is offering a supportive membership to all clubs in the USA and Canada. For a subscription rate of \$12.00 per year a club will receive bi-monthly issues of IN SUPPORT and a comprehensive mailing list of all women's clubs in North America.

TO SUPPORT THE USARFU WOMEN'S COMMITTEE SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE OF \$12.00 to:

USARFU Women's Committee  
c/o Kathie Rosie  
17739 Tribune St.  
Granada Hills, CA. 91344

## A TRIBUTE TO OUR BEGINNINGS

In 1975, with a total of five teams, the Southern California Women's Rugby Association was formed. In four years that original number has more than tripled, with sixteen member clubs and two affiliates. At this time SCWRFA would like to pay tribute to those individuals and teams who were instrumental in the beginning stages of the organization.

The Eleanors, UCSD, Belmont Shore, Ombush, and SDSU were our initial members. Susie Stiers of the Eleanors served as the Association's first President. She was followed by Julie Woodruff of Belmont Shore and Jeannie Salisbury of the Eleanors. Our returning President is Kathie Rosie, playing this year for the KIWI's.

A special tribute goes to Jeannie Salisbury. Through her foresight and persistence the Association was admitted to the Southern California Rugby Football Union, making SCWRFA The first women's association to be admitted to a union in the U.S. This was no small task considering the climate at that time. The resistance of male clubs towards women ruggers was intense. We appreciate her successful representation.

The Union is an arm of the Pacific Coast RFU, belonging to the USARFU. Our Association is entitled to one vote representing all sixteen clubs.

To the individuals who were the backbone of our growth, at a time when there was little support, thank you! We would not be here were it not for your willingness to get the job done.



Don't be left out. Support  
USARFU Women's Committee !

## LAW CHANGES for '79 - '80

The changes in the Laws, which are summarized below, went into effect August 1, 1979. They are reprinted here with the permission of Jennie Redner - editor of IN SUPPORT.

- Law 1. Ground The term "playing area" refers to the field and the in goal-area.
- Law 6B Touch Judges In certain matches, the Union may appoint referees as touch judges who will assist the on-field referee in spotting instances of foul play.
- Law 8. Advantage The advantage law now applies to the 22 meter drop out and the kick-off. An improper kick or one not taken from the proper place (kick-off) will not automatically be called back as in previous years.
- Law 16 Fair Catch (Mark) The fair catch will now be awarded only to a player standing behind her own 22-meter line.
- Law 17 Knock-on A knock-on occurs when the ball travels forward toward the direction of the opponent's dead ball line after a player loses possession of it. A knock-on occurring in the field of play and traveling into the in-goal area and was there grounded, previously resulted in a 22-meter drop-out. From now, on a scrum will be awarded at the point of the knock-on.
- Law 19 Lying On or Near the Ball Players of either team must not wilfully fall on or over a player who is lying on the ground with ball possession, or on players lying on the ground with the ball between them.
- Law 23 Line-Out The ball must now be thrown into the line-out without delay once all the players, who are not loitering, have lined up.
- Law 24B Wheeling Scrums If a scrummage has wheeled 180°, the number 8, provided she has continued to bind throughout the wheel, is permitted to detach and immediately play the ball as it emerges from the second row.
- Law 26 Foul Play Law 26 is now entitled "Foul Play", defined as any action by a player which is contrary to the spirit of the game, and includes: obstruction, unfair play, misconduct, dangerous play, unsporting behavior, retaliation and repeated infringements. IMPORTANT... new Note 6 states: A player shall not take the Laws into their own hands, nor wilfully do anything that is dangerous to an opponent, even if the latter is infringing on the Laws. It is illegal to wilfully hack, kick, trip or trample an opponent.
- Law 28 Free Kick A goal shall not be scored by a kicker from a free kick unless the ball has first been played by another player.

### NEW CLUBS

Southern California has two brand new teams this season - the Santa Monica RFC and Esprit de San Diego.

Many of the Santa Monica women played for UCLA last year and have now graduated. Ellen Cunningham is their new President. The team is still currently looking for a coach.

Esprit de San Diego is being coached by Nadine Erickson, formerly of Colorado State and Indiana U. WRF Clubs, and Angie Ludi, formerly of Ombush. V. Bennett is their new President.

SCWRFA welcomes you! We wish both clubs a successful first season.

### OMBUSH CHANGES NAME

Ombush would like to announce the interest of a new sponsor, Fred Thompson. Owner of the Guadalajara National Philharmonic ( a five piece all women band ), Mr. Thompson sponsors various athletic teams.

Due to the new sponsorship the club will no longer be known as Ombush. Their new name, The Rio Grande Surfers, was the request of their sponsor. No other element of the team will be changed. The organization, as it was last year, will return this season along with coach Don Hatch.

### CANADIAN WOMEN TO ARRIVE IN SAN DIEGO

A touring side comprised of players from the Edmonton Rockers, Saskatoon Happy Hookers, and Calgary RFC, will arrive in San Diego November 9th. Shirly Lord, organizer of the tour, had the opportunity to experience Southern California rugby first hand, as inside center for SDSU last year.

During their week visit the Canadian women will play four games: Esprit de San Diego Nov. 11th, SDSU Nov. 13th, UCSD Nov. 15th and the Rio Grande Surfers Nov. 17th.  
Good Luck Ladies !

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 3 UCLA v. Long Beach  
UCSB v. Eleanors
- TUCSON WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT
- 4 " " "
- 11 Eleanors v. Irvine  
Esprit v. Canadian Women
- 13 SDSU v. " "
- 15 UCSD v. " "
- 17 Surfers v. " "  
SDSU v. Belmont  
Kiwi's v. UCSB
- 18 UCSD v. Esprit
- 25 CSUN v. Kiwi's
- (Home clubs are listed first)

## GAME RESULTS

On Oct. 6th the Univ. of Arizona struggled to victory over Tempe, 3-0. In their first game against Tempe, over a year ago, they were beat badly by more than 40 points. This was their first win against the Tempe Women. Congratulations U. of A. ....

On Oct. 20th, SDSU was victorious over Esprit de San Diego, winning 17-0. San Diego experienced their first winter rain for the occasion, the game being played in a consistent downpour. Both teams rallied though, and played out the three twenty minute periods in full.

Congratulations to SDSU and the spectators on the sidelines who braved the hurricane. A special mention goes to Esprit. For a team with no previous playing experience they played well.

# HOT FLASHES

The SCWRFA Speaker's Bureau needs women interested in talking to community groups and new teams about rugby. Those interested contact KathieRosie.

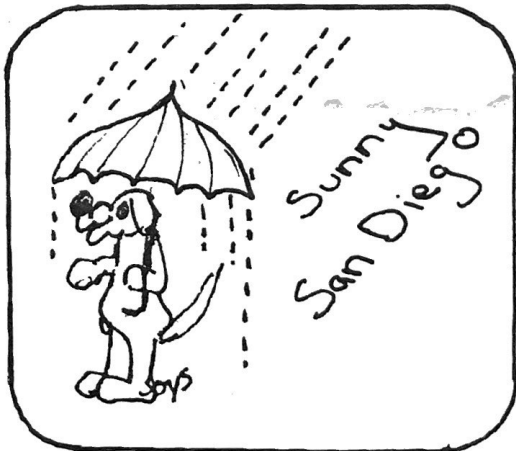
Welcome to our sister clubs from Arizona - Tempe, and Univ. of Ariz. SCWRFA is happy to have you with us.

WE NEED A NAME !! The SCWRFA Newsletter is looking for a name. You will be famous if your suggestion wins ! Well, at least you'll get your name in the paper. Send ideas to V. Bennett, 7241 Hyatt St. S.D. Ca. 92111

The So. Calif. International Women's Rugby Invitational will be hosted by three of San Diego's WRF Clubs; The Rio Grande Surfers, Esprit de San Diego, and SDSU. The date : Feb. 16th and 17th. For more information contact Mikki Robillard (714) 2971901

Sell, Sell, Sell those Women's Sports Foundation Memberships.

Two of our affiliate clubs, the Renegades of Santa Barbara, and Long Beach RFC, have folded. They were not able to find enough interest from the local women.



San Diego Women's Rugby Club has changed their name to Esprit de San Diego.

Do you subscribe to Rugby Magazine? Why not? It's a great publication and they cover ♀ rugby. Write: Rugby - 527 Madison Ave. - NY NY 10022. One year (8 issues) is \$10.00.

Address Corrections: Cathy Hankins/ 210 A 4th St. / Seal Bch. Ca. 90740 (213) 430-6640...  
Cathy Colley/ 809 Forrest Ave./ So. Pasadena, Ca. 91030...  
KathieRosie/ 17739 (not 11739) Tribune St./ Granada Hills, Ca. 91344

Is your team interested in having specialized team t-shirts or shirts they can wear off the field? Contact Cathy Reed of the Riverside ♀ RFC 882-7854. She will make a design on a hi-quality shirt and send it to your team for approval.

Have an event you want on our calendar? Articles? Photos? Artwork? Send all to V. Bennett by the 15th of each month.

NEW WOMEN'S TIMES, a national bi-weekly feminist newspaper, wants manuscripts, photos and drawings for its Sports Section. News items or brief accounts of women's events: up to 600 words. Feminist analysis of ♀ sports, personal experiences, book reviews: up to 1200 words. Please type, double spaced. Enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope. 1357 Monroe Ave. Rochester, NY 14618

How many Women's Sports Foundation memberships have you sold? Win your club a Nikon camera.

## Not Masculine, Not Feminine

(cont. from page 3)

Our goal is not to convert all women to play rugby. Our goal is to enjoy a sport we love despite social opposition.

..... As Jack Scott once stated:

The value of women having the opportunity to participate in competitive sport has a social significance far beyond the world of athletics. When people have the freedom to truly choose what form of human movement best suits them . . . then both society as well as the physical education and athletic profession will be much saner. This will happen only when people abandon their obsession with being "masculine" or "feminine", and concern themselves with being human.

\* \* \* \* \*

### REFEREE CLINIC

For those of you interested in refereeing there will be a clinic, held Friday, December 7th from 7 pm. - 9:30 pm., covering the *introduction of refereeing*. *Practical session on field play* will be Saturday, December 8th from 10 am. - ?. Location:

Edison Community Center  
21377 Magnolia Ave.  
(corner of Magnolia & Hamilton)  
Huntington Beach, room C & D

John Bloomfield will be our guest speaker.

For more information contact Donna Caterina (H) 714 - 556-1132  
(W) 714 - 975-7700 ext. 328

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR ..... V. Bennett

PRINTING &  
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## KIWIS COME FROM BEHIND

In one of the first pre-season scrimmages of the 1979 - 1980 Rugby season, the Orange County based Kiwi Women's Club came back from a 7-0 deficit to eventually defeat Belmont Shore 8-7. It was a fun but typical pre-season match, with both teams committing a fair share of early season mistakes.

At halftime it looked as if a Belmont Shore victory was in sight. Shore fullback, Paula (P2) put the first 3 points on the board with a penalty kick. Late in the first half, Jeir Diple of Belmont Shore made good on an intercepted Kiwi pass and scored.

The Kiwis, however, were not to be stopped. Moving the ball down field with a series of forward plays and kicks, the Kiwi's forward pack pushed the ball over the try line and Kiwi break Barbara Liddy touched it down. In the later moments of the game the Kiwis were on the move again. Melody Burch managed to fight through the Shore defense to score the winning points and insure the victory for the Kiwis.

All in all it was a well-played game with tremendous officiating from former Belmont Shore standoff Jill Goldberg.

### SCWRFA OFFICERS 1980

President	Kathie Rosie 17739 Tribune St. Granada Hills, CA 91344 (213) 363-7240
Vice President	Mikki Robillard 3519 Georgia St. San Diego, CA 92103 (714) 297-1901
Secretary	Cathy Colley 809 Forest Ave. So. Pasadena, CA 91030 (213)
Treasurer	Lorraine Seal 18432 Steep Ln. #4 Huntington Beach, CA 92648 (714) 847-4661

SCWRFA Dues of \$100.00 must be  
in before December 31st.