

BASKETBALL: men's & women's

The club was set up in 1971, by John Lynch, and two courts (men's and women's) were quickly constructed near where the CRC sits now with lights for Friday night games.

The first season ran from 15 October to Xmas, and from 14 January to March. Men's and women's games were at staggered times. An annual wind-up was usually held. Singlets with numbers were used as a uniform. They affiliated early with the WA Basketball Association but did not play competitively outside the club in rounds except for ad hoc invitation games with Newdegate, Kulin, Kondinin, Narembeen, Narrogin, and Merredin. They also played in Country Week carnivals.

The club fielded four or five teams of 6-8 players over the years, and three women's teams.

Numbers seemed not to be a problem. The club was more for recreation and social than competitive: an hours of play on a week night (Friday then Wednesday), which suited couples and many played into their 40s, some for over 20 years.

Constant issues in the early years were collecting subs (points penalties for non-payers), teams composition, sourcing timekeepers, scorers and umpires, and fund raising for improvements to fencing and lights, singlets, balls and trophies. Public risk cover and insurance came via the Shire and Association links.

BASKETBALL 2, over 1971-94, for women and men, ring and backboard, court different to netball

Carol Mouritz: If you were a sporty person, you played it. Many learned it in Hyden, and it could be a husband/wife sport, an advantage. Hyden and Karlgarin played together.

Key people were Garry and Wendy Whitwell, the Mayfields, Di and Horrie Graham, the Haslams.

It started up in 1971, all people in their late 30s, many played for about 20 years, over summer. There was no training or fitness preparation, it was exercise and social, a home game, not competition... we went to the pub afterwards. We did not even have a pool then. Don't remember any team photos, but had fairest and best, and highest goal scorer but no cabinet trophies etc. But a lot of people played.

When they moved to the new Netball site, they added 2 more courts, and re-surfaced. There was a break 80 to 81, for the new courts, no competition then. The lack of people in the 90s and a change of generation thinking, meant while we played everything, now with more choice, go to Perth easily, the numbers are not there. It stopped about '94.

I started to play in '78, and it was a casual competition, no proper training or umpires. I played in Narrogin at High School, then came home. There were 2 courts plus lights on the telecentre site, with fenced ends and sprayed. Men and Women played on separate courts, women (Gold, Red, Blue) usually 3 teams, and men (Black, Blue, Gold, Red) usually 4 or 5. There were enough people to play then. Initially it was Friday night, then Wednesday night, and no training, so you could play other sports as well!

Seemed steady numbers through the '70s and 80s. We never played anywhere else on a regular association circuit like other sports. We moved to the Netball court area in the early 80s, about 84 or 85.

MINUTES, STORY

The inaugural meeting of 30 people in the CWA early in 1971, resolved to form a club, to collect subs and open an account. There was a need to construct 2 courts, as the Tennis courts could not be used. Informal games were held on Friday nights. Courts were built with sprayed tarmac by Ben Mouritz. Fixtures started from 15 October to Xmas, and again from 14 January on. Games began at 7.45 pm, alternating men and women games, and 10 singlets were arranged. They affiliated with the WA Amateur Basketball Union in November, and were invited to send teams to play in Newdegate.

In '72, they invited Newdegate for 2 men's' and 2 women's teams to play. Inadequate lighting was an ongoing problem. They also played Kondinin, and Ravensthorpe, scratch matches. Without belonging to an Association circuit, constant club issues were still subs, teams, fixtures, umpires/scorers, balls, trophies and rules...all the machinery of running a sporting club.

In '73, they gained a Patron (Bob Clayton) and kept widening their connections to Karlgarin, junior teams, and Varley, even a local Association with Kulin and Kondinin. Play was changed to Wednesday night. Public risk and insurance had to be arranged.

In '74, a fence was put around the court, and bigger kids games were put on before the adults. Each now had their own singlets with numbers, and they were able to use the Netball courts. They played in a Narrogin carnival.

Hay carting in '76, helped raise club funds to buy timers, nets, balls and yard brooms. A repeat attempt was made in '77, to affiliate with the WABA. And busy bees were used to clean up and fix the court area. About 40 men were playing, 5 men's teams of 8.

In '78, they declined to attend carnivals in Narrogin and Geraldton, affiliated with the Australian Basketball association, and attended Country Week.