

The **Port Hunter Basketball Club** started life as a part of the Stockton Nation Fitness organisation. The following are extracts from the early Committee minutes.

STOCKTON NATIONAL FITNESS.

On July 23rd 1945 the Stockton National Fitness Committee was formed and a proposal was submitted to the Greater Newcastle Council that a National Fitness Trust be formed to control the parkland known as Corroba Reserve. The Council agreed, subject to the Corroba Hall Committee agreeing, as they were responsible for the hall and tennis courts.

On the 27 August 1948 the Stockton N F District Committee was reformed with three aldermen (Breen, Wade and Jones) nominated to represent the Council.

The following are extracts from Minute books which are still in existence.

President Clarie Reynolds.

2/7/1950 North Stockton and Corroba Hockey Club successfully raffled two ton of coal Housie conducted regularly one night a week.

16/7/50 Basketball players practising on Sundays. Ropes for boxing ring to be finished by sail maker. A gym class is being held weekly.

17/9/50 Donation of a trophy for a Junior Surf Race at North Stockton Carnival, Children's party left in hands of ladies committee.

5/11/50 National Fitness Headquarters grant of £100 towards basketball court.

A window in the hall was broken by a lady and a disturbance between the lady and another member.

The member was suspended from all NF activities for three months and the matter to be reviewed in three months with regard to his conduct and the lady is not to be seen in the precincts of the hall during this time.

3/12/50 Boxing class underway. Boxing instructor on a retainer of £1 per week. 1951

President Clarie Reynolds Secretary John Hartigan Treasurer Fred Petrie.

3/3/51 Mention is made of Boxing, Gym, Swimming instructors, a Tennis and Housie Committees. 18/3/51 Report of the formation of a Hockey Club.

1/4/51 A girls gym class to be conducted on Friday nights.

President C Reynolds Secretary J Hartigan Treasurer F Petrie

2/9/52 Girls gym class to be cancelled and Girl Guides to use hall.

7/4/52 Request from Marching Girls to be affiliates with National Fitness.

6/7/52 Sunday School Classes to be held in hall 2.00pm to 3.00pm Sundays.

Uniforms for Marching Girls were purchased. A request from National Fitness Officials in Canberra that SNF sponsor the visit of the New Zealand Marching Girls to Newcastle in November. Mr. Dobson authorised to make arrangements for visit.

20/7/52 Account for basketball backboards and rings passed for payment £25.

1953/54 President C Reynolds Secretary J Hartigan Treasurer F Petrie.

7/6/53 Registration fees for Marching teams sent to Tamworth.

Letting of basketball court left in hands of Mr Sheriff.

25/10/53 A report was presented on arrangements for the coming regatta. Six boats for rowing events, ladies to handle cake stall, chocolate wheel to be arranged, Marching Girls to march from the ferry wharf to the Boatrowers and a dance at night be advertised on the programme.

1954 President C Reynolds Secretary J Hartigan Treasurer F Petrie.

7/12/54 Gym and Boxing instructors in doubt, Housie and Tennis Committees, Swimming, Marching Girls and Arts and Craft Class. .

Hire of basketball court 10/- per night.

2/5/54 Now four Marching Girls Teams.

3/4/61 No records are available from 1954 until 1961

1961/62 Housie, Tennis, Soccer five teams junior boys. Plans for second soccer field.

Annual Meeting

President Doyme Lanham Secretary Clyde Sheriff Treasurer Wal Smith.

Housie, Tennis, Marching Girls, Soccer and Cricket under 12 years. 2 junior cricket teams

18/2/62 Trophy donated for Marching Girls Teams Championships.

15/4/62 Grant from National Fitness council of £85 for oval improvements.

19/8/62 Annual Meeting

President D Lanham Secretary Clyde Sheriff Treasurer Wal Smith.

Housie, Soccer, Tennis and Cricket 1 U/12 team. U/9 and U/12 soccer teams won competitions.

21/10/62 Post, and rail fence being erected around oval.

1963/64

17/3/63 Cricket U/12, Soccer 7 teams U/S to U/14. 19/8/63 Annual Meeting
President Doyne Lanham Secretary Ben Franklin Treasurer Wal Smith.

A tractor received from City Council.

Boxing ring sold. Senior soccer to be organised U/18 and U/12 soccer teams won competitions.

25/4/64 Ross Craig requested permission to enter teams in Junior Boys Competition. SNF Committee to repair basketball court and provide ball.

Seagulls basketball (netball) to be allowed to practice on court at 7.00am on Sunday mornings.

Brick garage to house tractor completed.

During the year Mr Ben Franklin was transferred to Whyalla and Doyne Lanham to on the job as Secretary and Roy Dawson became acting President.

From 1963 onwards there are no minute books available but some annual reports to provide some records so from here on there will be extracts from the Presidents and Secretary reports.

1963/64.

A tractor and mower on permanent loan from the Greater Newcastle Council. Erection of a brick garage to house tractor.

Formation of a basketball Club with three teams competing in the YMCA competition on Saturday afternoons and three in the Biddy Ball competition at the Wickham Basketball Stadium.

One basketball team was invited to play an early game prior to the visiting Lithuanian team and Newcastle.

A start has been made to provide equipment to allow these teams to train on their own court.

The tennis club has had an increase in members and the resurfacing of the tennis courts should be completed in a few weeks.

The soccer club has had another successful season with three teams in current semi-finals and finals. Housie is still well attended and is providing a large portion of the finances for our juniors'

At the present time we have approximately 200 children engaged in sporting activities of various kinds.

1964/65.

During the year a new cricket pitch was laid and the tennis courts were further improved. A start was made erecting poles for the installation of lights on the oval.

The housie night was changed from Corroba Hall to the Parish Hall and is now held on Saturday nights and this move has proved a financial success.

The tennis club has made further progress during the year and the soccer club with eight teams, six in first division, with the U/13 winning the minor premiership and the U/12 in the semi-finals. The cricket club with two teams had only moderate success while the newest of our junior teams, the 12 years teams opposing each other in the final.

1965/66.

Improvements are still being made to our facilities with floodlights erected on two poles on the oval, a start made on renewing the fence around the tennis courts and removing the fence around the basketball court.

A women's basketball club (netball) has been formed.

Generally the increase in numbers is confined to the basketball clubs and it is most gratifying that the children joining the basketball clubs have not previously been associated with the movement.

I would like to personally thank Ross Craig for his efforts in organizing the basketball in the district and to wish every success to the recently elected ladies committee formed to cater for the interest of the girl basketball teams in the coming season.

Once again the soccer club has reached the semi-finals with three of the nine teams entered in the U/8 to U/15 age groups. The soccer club with an eye to the future are planning the completion of the oval lighting and considering the services of a professional coach for the coming season.

Cricket and tennis are limited by the availability of coaches and in the coming season an approach is to be made to the Stockton Cricket Club to supply suitable coaches as some of our juniors have passed from N. F. teams to either District or City and Suburban teams.

1966/67.

Mr. Norm Redman is to be congratulated for the time and effort they have devoted to the coaching of our junior tennis players and the two courts are used full time.

Junior soccer entered eight teams with the U/8 and U/12 teams successful in the winning of the minor premierships and the U/10 unlucky to be defeated in the semi-finals.

Basketball has continued to flourish with over 120 boys and girls registered in the two clubs.

Over sixty girls were registered in our (netball) club and a number of other girls have participated in club activities. The U/9 and U/15 teams are doing well and could be in the finals.

The boys in particular, have been very successful during the year winning several district competitions.

Mr. Ross Craig, our basketball coach, also arranged entry of a Stockton Public School team in the Namish Shield. This team was successful in winning the shield and went on to win the Primary schools

Championships at Wollongong in November. It hoped to duplicate the fine performance again this year.

Mark Gledsen was selected in the Newcastle U/14 rep. team, While Geoff Mayo, Paul Shearman, Garry Craig, Kim Kadden and Phillip Mathews in the U/13 team with Ross Craig as coach.

The basketball club is limited in the number of boys as they only have two coaches, Ross Craig and Martin Craig.

Once again the Committee has depended heavily on the money raised by our Saturday house to provide facilities for our juniors.

1967/68

The Secretary Doyne Lanham in his annual report states that this report is the 23rd presented by the Stockton National Fitness and Citizens Committee, and not only is this a record of which we are proud but it says a lot for the foresight of the original committee members who worked so hard to obtain the material advantages we enjoy today.

Over the years since the formation of the branch the measure of success is not or should not be judged by our visible gains but by things that cannot be measured but are evident all the same. In this regard I refer to the hundreds of juniors who have passed through this branch and who have benefited from the experience.

Over \$1100 have been spent on relighting the tennis courts and improving the oval lighting and plans are under way to repaint the tennis shed and replace the fencing.

The girls basketball (netball) club has had a successful season with nine teams entered in the winter competition. The junior soccer club whilst unsuccessful for the first time in eight seasons in taking out a premiership generally enjoyed a successful season.

For the first time a girls tennis team and also a boys team entered in the winter competition with both team winning their way to the semi-finals.

The club is again indebted to Norm Redman and his band of helpers for their tireless effort in coaching these juniors on Friday evenings.

The U/13 and U/14 boys basketball teams were successful in winning the winter competition.

1968/69 No reports available.

1969/70.

From. Secretary Doyne Lanham's annual report:

Concrete paving has been constructed in front of the new canteen and a new timber floor has been laid on the Corroba Hall verandah and other improvements will be completed as soon as possible.

The boys basketball team again won the State Primary Schools Championships for the third time in five years and two of our older boys gained places in the U/16 and U/18 State Teams.

Again apart from a regular donation from the Stockton RSL the Saturday night house has been the main source of income.

The North Stockton Surf Club has made an approach to enlist some of our junior boys to form a branch of the Little Nippers.

With the completion of the bridge imminent plans are being prepared to improve the area with tree planting, upgrading of the children's playground and improvement to car parking facilities.

1970/71.

Only balance sheet available.

From the financial report it can be seen that the Soccer, Tennis and men's and women's Basketball (netball) apparently had a successful year. **Wayne Hicks and Mark Gledsen again being selected in State Basketball teams.** The main source of income as usual came from a Stockton RSL annual donation and the housie.

1971/72.

The only annual report available is the Men's Basketball club and some of our passed juniors are now entered in the senior competitions, with 24,players in A, AR and CR grades with some 50 boys in age competitions from U/12 to U/16 years.

Bob McGugan coaching our senior team won the Autumn competition and were runners up in the Winter and Summer competitions and Bob Martins was Manager Coach of the CR team. Bob McGugan was also coach of the Newcastle No 2 team and the State U/16 team and manager of the Newcastle U/18 team which toured New Zealand.

John Walmsley, Ross Craig, Martin Craig, Paul Shearman and Graham Baker were our junior coaches. John coached the Newcastle U/14 team which won the State Championships and went on to represent NSW at the Australian Championships played in the Tasmania, while Graham was coach of Newcastle U/16. team.

The Primary School team, who are all members of our club won the NSW Primary Schools Championships for the third time in a row giving them five wins in seven years.

The junior teams won the under 12, 13, 14 and 15 years summer competitions and the under15 years autumn competition.

Stockton players were well represented in all Newcastle teams with 30 in local representative teams and 5 in State teams.

From the financial statement Soccer, Tennis and Women's Basketball (netball) were apparently still active and the income mainly from the RSL and housie nights.

1972/73.

Only the basketball club annual report available. Tennis and soccer clubs were known to have a good number of youngsters playing and also the SNF Committee completed a number of improvements to the grounds one of which was picnic tables near the hall.

The basketball club had a successful year with teams entered in the men's, worsens, junior boys and girls competitions with a total of twenty teams. With the success of the club we now have players from-the other side of the river and some of these senior players are coaching our juniors. The teams were very successful in all grades with the senior men's team qualifying for the NSW Open Men's Division men's Championships.

Mark Gledsen and Maris Jaunalsknis were selected in the NSW Open team for the USA tour.

Gary Logan was selected in the State U/18 team while, Bob McGugan was coach for the NSW U/16 team Four members of the men's a grade team toured the South Pacific with the Newcastle team. In the women's division three teams were entered with the A and AR teams winning their competitions. Five club members were selected in the Newcastle team with the club also supplying the coach and manageress. Eight junior boys teams were entered with several teams being successful in their divisions and the others all reaching the semi-finals.

Our 12 years team entered in the State Championships were defeated in the semi-finals by the eventual winners and the Primary School team finished third in the NSW Primary Schools KO Championships and second in the Primary Schools Championships. Norm Cook, Geof. Pyke, Kelvin Russell, Stewart Cutcher and G. Hanks represented Newcastle in the U/14 Australian Championships with Bob McGugan as coach of the team. The U/15 team toured the Victorian Country during the September school vacation and the club played host to teams from Parramatta, Tamworth, and The Kings School , while several of our teams journeyed to Manly, Illawarra, Tamworth and The Kings School.

This year saw the commencement of the junior girls section with five teams entered and two of the teams reached the grand finals.

The teams were coached by Denise Quinlan, Sue Ferrer, L. Fitzpatrick, Owen Craig and Martin Craig.

At the annual meeting John Walmsley and Ross Craig elect Life Members of the Stockton National Fitness Basketball Club.

1973/74

While there are no annual reports or minutes other than the basketball club a copy of a letter to Charles Jones M.P. Minister of Transport states that there are approximately 400 juniors in the area engaged in playing basketball, netball, soccer, cricket and tennis.

Listed below are the highlights of the basketball club for the year.

1. 1st Division Mens.-10th in the Australian Club Championships out of 24 teams. 2nd in NSW State Championships. 2nd in Newcastle Championships.

2. 1st Division Women's- 1st Newcastle Championships(undefeated)

3. Nine members represented NSW at the Australian Championships.

4. Five players representing Newcastle on the US tour.

5. The recruitment of an American player-Dave Moore

6. The commencement of Mini Ball

The club had 19 teams playing in the Newcastle competitions, four men's, three women's, seven junior boys and five junior girls. with two firsts and a second in the men's , a first and second in the women's ,three firsts and a second in junior boys.

A mini Ball competition conducted by the club had fifty boys taking part each Saturday afternoon at Wickham Stadium.

1973/74.

Again there are no minutes or annual reports available other than the annual financial statement.

the soccer club appears to be quite healthy from the figures on the financial statement, but the netball and basketball clubs were now self supporting and there are no entries against these clubs.

1974/75

President Norm Bassan Secretary William Willcox. Treasures Doyne Lanham.

An approach was made to State Government for information on the construction of Binishell and Leon Punch Minister for Works replied on the 10/12/1974 with details.

A small committee Norm Bassan, Bob McGugan and Ross Craig were appointed to investigate the possibility obtaining a new Recreation Centre. This committee approached architects Maxwell Hoskings & William R.N. Benson explaining our requirements and on 25/2/1975 the preliminary sketch plans and estimate of cost were received . Estimated cost \$296,876.

It would appear that the tennis club had ceased to function and the courts were in a state of disrepair by the middle of 1975 as an application for a grant to build a indoor recreation hall on the site of the condemned Corroba Hall and disused tennis courts located next to the sports oval. **The plans were drawn up for a building to contain two basketball courts, squash court, table tennis room, canteen. The hall would be used by the Soccer Club, Basketball Club, Junior Cricketers and would be available for letting for community activities.**

Unfortunately the application was submitted too late to be included in the budget estimates but it was recommended that the it be submitted again with some information notes for the 1976/77 scheme, unfortunately there was a change of Federal Government when the defeat of the Labour Government and the Commonwealth Financial, Assistance for Leisure Facilities Scheme was discontinued.

1975/76.

President Norm. Bassan Secretary William. Willcox Treasurer. D. Lanham.

A letter dated 1/8/1975 to the Minister for Labour and Immigration Senator J. Me Clelland making application for consideration for assistance under the Regional Employment Development Scheme (R.E.D.).

The letter went on to state" that after thirty years of continuous operation throughout which period we have looked after thousands of youngsters, providing sporting areas and maintaining the only Community Hall for the use of the Stockton public.

At this stage we have \$5000 of our own in the bank, the Community Hall has reached the stage where we cannot let it or carry out repairs due to its age.

Stockton National Fitness Teams are well known especially in basketball circles where for the last two seasons we have had the second best Senior Basketball Team in the State as well as many State Championship Schoolboy Teams.

The drawings attached represent the minimum requirements to meet the growing needs of the Community."

A letter from the Chief Secretary's Department dated 23/3/1976 advised that the License for the Hall issued under

the Theatres and Public Halls Act had been cancelled.

At a meeting of the Stockton National Fitness Citizens Committee held on 17/11/1976 a decision was to be made on the demolishing of the old tennis shed and the soccer club was to be advised that the Committee would cover expenditure up to \$1000 for the purchase of material required to restore and maintain the Corroba Hall in a serviceable condition.

1976/77.

President N. Bassan Secretary W. Willcox Treasurer D. Lanham.

From the financial statement Soccer Clubs and Netball Clubs were very active and the **Basketball Club was still one of the largest Clubs playing in the Newcastle Association** and Housie and Stockton RSL are main source of income other than players registration fees.

During the year the SNF and the Stockton Lions purchased a motor mower to be used jointly by both organizations.

1977/78

President N. Bassan Secretary W. Willcox Treasurer.... D. Lanham.

Soccer and Basketball again receive mention in the annual financial report and their expenditure is up on previous year so apparently both Clubs are in a healthy state.

Housie and Donation from Stockton RSL are the main source of income during the year.

1978/79.

President N. Bassan Secretary W. Willcox Treasurer.... D. Lanham.

Girls and Boys Basketball ... 140. Girls Netball ... 54. Soccer ... 135 TOTAL 329

17/4/1979 A letter from the Newcastle Council stated " The building at Corroba Park, with the exception of the Kiosk Section, be removed by the most expedient means at the discretion of the City Engineer at the Councils cost."

The treasurer D. Lanham in reply to this letter advised that the oval allocations were as follows:

February to September Junior Soccer Saturday mornings, Senior Soccer Saturday afternoons and Sunday September to February Junior Cricket Saturday mornings and Church Cricket Competition on Saturday afternoons.

Cricket practice is carried out on two afternoons per week in summer while soccer practice is on a five day week basis in winter the basketball court is used by juniors in the area.

On the 19/3/1979 a letter was sent to the Minister for Sport and Recreation Hon. Ken Booth inquiring about financial assistance available by way of Government Grants to assist with the replacement of Corroba Hall. and on the 11/4/1979 he replied with information providing details of schemes by his Department of the State Government, but pointing out that applications for the next year closed on the 1st March.

1979/80.

President N. Bassan Secretary W. Willcox Treasurer D. Lanham.

A total 310 young people in various sporting codes.

1980/81.

President N. Bassan Secretary W. Willcox Treasurer D. Lanham.

A total 320 young people in various sporting codes.

As there were more members of the Stockton National Fitness Basketball teams living on the other side of the harbour in was moved and seconded at a Basket Ball Club annual meeting that the Club name be changed to the Port Hunter Basketball Club.

PORT HUNTER BASKETBALL CLUB HALL OF FAME

MARK GLEDSEN

1969 CAPTAIN OF N.S.W. U/16 TEAM
1970 CAPTAIN OF N.S.W. U/18 TEAM
1971 N.S.W. SENIOR TEAM
1972 N.S.W. SENIOR TEAM TOUR OF USA
1973 N.S.W. SENIOR TEAM
1974
1975 N.S.W. SENIOR TEAM

WAYNE HICKS

1969 N.S.W. U/16 TEAM
1970 N.S.W. U/18 TEAM
1971 N.S.W. U/18 TEAM

PHILLIP MATTHEWS

1969 N.S.W. U/14 TEAM
1970 N.S.W. U/14 TEAM
1971 N.S.W. U/16 TEAM
1972 N.S.W. U/16 TEAM
1974 N.S.W. U/20 TEAM
1980 N.S.W. SENIOR TEAM

PETER BLAND

1974 N.S.W SENIOR TEAM

(ELLIOTT FRAZER

(GEOF MATTHEWS 1971 N.S.W. U/ 14 TEAM

(DOUG TERRY

(GRAHAM WALMSLEY

JOHN WALMSIEY COACH

(NORM COOK

(GEOF PYKE 1972 N.S.W U/ 14 TEAM

(KELVIN RUSSELL

(BRETT CARROL

(STEWART MACKAWAY

(MARK TOBIN 1975 N.S.W. U/14 TEAM

(GEOF PYKE MARTIN CRAIG COACH

(BRET CARROL

PAUL BEAL

INTERNATIONAL REFEREE, 1981 TO 1991

NUMEROUS AUSTRALIAN OVERSEAS APPOINTMENTS

1974 USA/CANADA
1978 FIJI
1980 USA ON EXCHANGE
1985 JAPAN. WORLD STUDENT GAMES
1985 SINGAPORE. MERLIN CUP
1987 YUGOSLAVIA. WORLD STUDENT GAMES
1988 NEW ZEALAND TEST SERIES

STOCKTON PRIMARY SCHOOL Coach 1966-1972 Ross Craig

1966 N.S.W. PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS
1967 N.S.W. PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS
1970 N.S.W. PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS
1971 N.S.W. PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS
1972 N.S.W. PRIMARY SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS

2002

N.S.W BOYS PRIMARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS
N.S.W GIRLS PRIMARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS