

Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club: Honouring Women in Sport

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Background

Throughout the history of the Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club's membership, there have been several influential and remarkable women who have contributed greatly to the legacy of the Club. Whether it be in the form of winning, or simply just being a committed volunteer, women no doubt have been at the core of the success of the organization.

Women In The PLBC

1. Women have held positions in the Club's Committees and Offices since roughly 1930, and there was a significant influx of women becoming shareholders in the Club in 1938.
2. The first piece of evidence of a women's-based league was in 1934, as women had their own separate fee for participation in the Club.
3. The 90's were a huge year for women's involvement not only in the sport but also the Club itself. Some years show more women membership higher than that of the men's, specifically 1997 and 1998.

Purpose

By highlighting women who have stood out but gone unrecognized, the Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club is seeking to bring forth and highlight the equality and importance of gender. Lawn bowling as a sport is heavily focused on the social aspects of the game, and the community in which it builds.

Research Aims

1. Through analysis of the archival collections of the Club, identify significant trends and accomplishments that have made individuals stand out.
2. Using the criteria generated from the initial analysis, identify ten outstanding women who either suit the criteria, or helped foster the meaning behind outstanding.
2. Using the findings from the first two steps, creating nominations for the Peterborough Sports Hall of Fame to highlight these outstanding individuals.

Methods

Analysis of the Trent Valley Archive Collections archival collections to find information supporting athlete nomination for the Peterborough Sports Hall of Fame

Preliminary Findings

There are some women who have come up a significant amount of times within the archival documents. These women have had important impacts on the Club's organization and function as they have served on both Committees and Boards.

Pauline Siddall- Tournament Contact and Chair of the PLBC Committee in the 1994 and 1995 seasons, Head of the Women's Tournaments and Secretary in 2002

Peggy Hawthorn- President of the Ladies Executive in 1974, Treasurer in 1975 and 1977

Merle Richardson- Along with her husband Ed, ran demonstrations for newcomers in 1995, then led training for members to become coaches in 2002

Ethel Cochrane- Vice President in 1978, which was the first year the women's and men's Committees combined and again in the 1979 season, Provincial Rep from 1978-1984

The positions which these women held within the Club speaks to the characteristics of their leadership as well as personality. The Club is run solely on a volunteer basis. These women, through their commitment to the sport and the Club, were able to retain their positions for multiple years, which demonstrates their drive, passion, and excellence.

Looking Ahead

A continuation of the archival analysis will continue in hopes of discovering new names of individuals who we have not yet encountered. Following, a type of criteria will be formulated from the data in order to narrow down the already significant list of potential women for the top ten. Conclusions from the material will be recorded and be used to determine what the Lawn Bowling Club meant for women in sports, and how these influential women made their mark on the Club and community.



Postcard of the Club from 1929 of the old Clubhouse after it's construction in the pre-depression era. (Source: Peterborough Lawn Bowling Club)

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TRENT VALLEY ARCHIVES
"Without archives, there is no history."

