



Newsletter No. 2 - May '08

Wantirna South Netball Club

Now that the MDNA gradings, re-gradings, and in some cases re-re-gradings have been completed, we have all of our 18 teams in or around where we entered them in the first place! The grading games are a process that we have to have, and while it's frustrating (sometimes a HUGE understatement!) there is no other way for the MDNA to try to sort teams into their sections. Every club has a different philosophy regarding where they initially enter their teams - ours is to place our teams where they can be both challenged and be successful. We have never entered our teams three or four sections below their abilities but we know there are a small number of clubs that do, so we all have to go through the grading process and do what we can to make it work out ok in the end.

If you have been curious, frustrated, or even angry this year about where your team or your daughters' team was placed, then do something about it -

BECOME OUR CLUB GRADING REPRESENTATIVE!!

Spring season gradings start at the end of August, just after the winter Grand Finals, and we need a representative on the MDNA Grading committee. There are no guarantees that our teams will always be placed where we want them, but without a grading rep. it's just that much harder. Contact anyone on committee to ask what this involves if you are interested in helping out in this way.



CONGRATULATIONS to Alysha Bird on the birth of Cobi Rylie on 26th April! Mother, baby and Dad Nathan are all doing well, and Auntie Karina still hasn't stopped smiling.

CONGRATULATIONS too to Linda Wilde, who became a grandmother for the first time a few weeks ago - she also hasn't stopped smiling!!
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But wait, there's more!!! Our very own wedding-planner Penny Vivian, coach of U17-2's, was recently married. Congratulations from everyone at Wantirna South, Penny, and it was great to see you back at netball even when you were officially still on your honeymoon!!! Good to see you have your priorities set right from the start.



Before the start of every season, we need to do a re-stock of our team bags, those giant blue bags that our coaches carry around all day! As we have around 15 of these bags it's a very big job to organise training netballs and match day netballs, sorting these into different sizes for the U11 modified teams and the rest of the teams, position bibs and patches also sorted depending on the teams, ball pumps and needles, and first-aid kits. This is one of those "invisible" jobs that most members don't see but needs to be done so that they can train and play - so thank you **Carmel Tikfesis** for a great job!

DATES FOR YOUR 2008 DIARY

A club calendar follows, but these dates should be noted now:

Saturday 07th June
Saturday 05th July
Saturday 19th July

No games -Queens Birthday Weekend
No games - School holidays
BIN Roster - for teams with games at
8am & 2:00pm



Coaching – do you want the job?

Our coaches are great! These people take on the job, voluntarily, of teaching our girls to play the sport of netball. They encourage the individual to be her best as well as teach teams-manship and sportsmanship; they worry about equal court time; need to find fill-ins when girls are sick, injured, have been to parties and /or sleep overs, been on school camps or have other commitments that come ahead of netball; organise scorers and who will do team votes; make sure they have all the position bibs and patches returned and ready to use the next week. Some coaches have Team managers to help them, some don't. They attend extra club meetings; courses to improve their coaching; and run training in the sun and the rain and stand courtside during the same. They have to consider the opposition strengths and weaknesses as well as worry about what positions they need filled for their game on the day, the positions the girls want to play in, and what positions they play best in (which is not always the same thing).

They do all these things because they want to be involved in netball and usually enjoy the experience, but they **NEED** your support – if you can't make it to training or a game then please RING, and do this yourself, don't rely on a friend/team-mate to pass it on. And give notice as early as possible, not when it's too late for the coach to allow for your absence. If you can't ring then send an email or a text, but please include your name – seems basic but you'd be amazed the number of texts received with no name.

What they **DON'T NEED** is “helpful” advice on how to run the team, nor uninformed criticism on how they do it. Sadly some “side-line coaching” has been happening lately, and it does no one any good at all, least of all the players – our girls whom we all just want to enjoy their game of netball! Encourage yes, offer help definitely! But it is the coach's role to organise the team, they may be aware of things that you are not, and they have to consider 8 or 9 players and the team as a whole. Please just trust them to make the right call. If you do have questions, by all means please do speak with your coach but do this privately, and if you have a complaint do raise it but never in front of the children.

Our coaches also regularly receive requests for girls to play “in goals”. Our club policy at 11's is that all players will play in all positions over the season, and from 13's upwards we have gradings to determine whether girls play their best in attack, mid-court, or defence. Players are asked where they prefer to play#, graded, and then placed into teams taking into account these gradings along with a lot of other factors. While a very few girls have the ability to play just about anywhere, most eventually learn that not everyone has the ability to be a good goaler – just like all on-court positions it requires a particular type of skill. Defenders are essential to the game, as are mid-court players, it's very much a TEAM game and we need parents and players to recognise that and rely on the coach to place the girls where they believe it is best for them as a netballer and the team as a whole, over the course of the season.

WE NEED OUR COACHES AND WANT TO KEEP THEM, SO HELP THEM BY YOUR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT!!!!

#Note – for our 13's for this year we had 27 players grading. THREE girls put defence as their first preferred position!

CLUB JACKETS

Caroline McCormick is now selling our club jacket – she has a variety of sizes in stock, but if your size isn't available she can order it in for you. Our "reverse" colour jacket for club umpires can now be ordered through Caroline too. These are not held in stock as we need so few of them. All jackets can be

ordered with the super warm lining or the lighter micro-fleece, just make sure you order yours soon so you can wear it through the cold weather which has finally arrived! You can contact Caroline on 9887 0787 or 0411 231583.



COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Looking to improve your health & fitness? Integrated Health & Fitness run Group Fitness programmes at Lilydale, including fitness boot camps. Contact Alana Coleman (Super Coach and A Grade player) on 0413 513 110 for more information.

<i>Sat 24 May</i>	<i>Round 8</i>
<i>Sat 31 May</i>	<i>Round 9 - Re-grading after this round for 11 Mod and 11's.</i>
<i>Sat 07 June</i>	<i>No play - Queens Birthday weekend</i>
<i>Sat 14 June</i>	<i>Round 10</i>
<i>Sat 21 June</i>	<i>Round 11</i>
<i>Sat 28 June</i>	<i>Round 12</i>
<i>Tue 1st July</i>	<i>MDNA Umpires Workshops</i>
<i>Tue 1st July</i>	<i>Indoor Night Tournament - 13 & Under</i>
<i>Wed 2nd July</i>	<i>Indoor Night Tournament - 11 & Under</i>
<i>Wed 2nd July</i>	<i>Indoor Night Tournament - 11 & Under Mod</i>
<i>Sat 05 July</i>	<i>No play - School holidays</i>
<i>Sat 12 July</i>	<i>Round 13</i>
<i>Sat 19 July</i>	<i>Round 14 - Wantirna South Bin Duty</i>
<i>Sat 26 July</i>	<i>Round 15</i>
<i>Sat 02 Aug</i>	<i>Round 16 (Final round)</i>
<i>Sat 9th Aug</i>	<i>Semi Finals</i>
<i>Sat 16th Aug</i>	<i>Preliminary Finals</i>
<i>Sat 23rd Aug</i>	<i>Grand Finals and PRESENTATION NIGHT !!</i>
<i>Sat 06th Sept</i>	<i>Round 1 Spring Season</i>