sob

Yes, this issue brings some rather sad tidings. Two of our favourite people, Kylie McLean and Lesley Woodhead, have announced their intentions to leave us - Lesley for the quiet life and Kylie for the bright lights of Sydney.

While we’ve reserved a special place in this edition for Bernie Curran and Adrian Lakin to say goodbye to them on our behalf, I’d like to add my own personal message of thanks and farewell. The bottom line is, I could never have got through Uni without Lesley or established **Back Page** without Kylie.

I’ll miss you both.

Lindy Burns

**judo master off to japan**

Congratulations to Martin Kelly who has been selected in the Australian team for the World Student Summer Games to be held in Fukuoka in Japan from August 23 to September 3, 1995.

Martin’s selection caps off a great 12 months for him, after winning gold and silver medals in judo at the Australian University Games in Wollongong last year.

**touch footie victim**

I know we try and ignore it at times, but let’s face it; sport is really all about injuries. After all, what else do Club members have to talk about except for whose reconstruction went wrong and how many times the ankle has gone this season? So hearty congratulations are due to Rob Hoogwerf from Uni Stores who completed a dislocated left shoulder manoeuvre during the first round of the inter-departmental Touch Footie comp earlier this month. While Rob will be off work for a little time yet, he can be comforted in the knowledge that the team has progressed strongly despite his departure and a full descriptive recount of the injury has been part of many a drinking session ever since. Oh, and take heart; Tim Horan sends his regards ...

**women & water**

Thought that title would get you in, fellas. But the topic is water polo and the great efforts of our women’s team at the recent Eastern Conference Games held at the University of Western Sydney’s Hawkesbury campus over Easter. During the two day competition, the team played five games, winning all of them and only conceding six goals throughout. They played old rivals, Sydney Uni in the semis, winning 3-2 and cruised past the University of Technology, Sydney in the final, 6-2.

Not surprisingly, five of the team were selected in the State Universities Women’s Team: Roslyn Eyers (Capt), Amanda Osmond, Nikki Searle, Megan Cross, Tammy Bayley and Alicia Collins. The team will now take on the best in Australia at the Australian University Games to be held in Darwin from 24th to 30th September.

**inter-departmental sport**

As we predicted in April’s **Back Page**, Architecture and PE were the two teams to beat in the inter-departmental tennis comp. - they finished 1st and 2nd respectively with Nursing 3rd, Engineering 4th and Aviation 5th on the court but first in enthusiasm.

Golf also went to Architecture with Commerce 2nd, Engineering 3rd, Wollotuka 4th and Pathology 5th.

Fortunately the architects rested their bowling arms for the cricket comp, leaving PE to take the points, with Finance 2nd, Wollotuka 3rd, Behavioural Science 4th and Aviation 5th.

To complete this semester’s round are the Touch Footie and Volleyball comps which both got underway early this month. But beware, those bloody architects are looking good.
club news

The Rugby Club is progressing well, particularly considering the decimation the 1st and 2nd grade sides underwent during the off-season. Between them the two teams lost 22 players, some to Sydney Clubs and retirement, as well as both coaches. Former 1st grade coach, Ray Nelson, is now coaching the new Newcastle Wildfires’ U/20 Colts side, while 2nd grade coach, Lawrie Hogg, was selected as Assistant Coach with the Wildfires’ Reserves. In addition, six of Uni’s most senior players were called up into the Wildfires, now competing in the Sydney competition - Tony Hogg, Jonathan Clifton, Chris Williams, Paul Hurcus, Trent Larcomb and Angus Elliott (who is now also a part of the NSW U/21 side). As a result, many believed that Uni would struggle this season particularly at the top level, but the teams have rallied around new coaches Greg Pearson (1st grade) and David Balcombe (2nd grade). Indeed, the 1sts have won two out of their first four games, only losing to both Wanderers and Merewether Carlton by three points each.

A further highlight was the selection of halfback, Damien Scheaffer and winger, Chris Henderson, in the NSW U/21 B side competing in the U/21 Australian Championships held in Canberra from 1st to 5th May.

A Uni-based men’s Volleyball team will take part in the State League comp this year; commencing on 13th May. Uni players, Rodney Smith, Mark Brady, Paul Mounter, Paul Kau and Paul Agnew will team up with four “imports” to contest NSW’s premier home and away season against Sydney teams, state junior sides and the ANU.

The Newcastle District Hockey Competition has been underway a couple of weeks now and once more, the Uni Men’s 1sts (title holders) are showing good early season form. The word up until print date was that they had won all games so far, with the exception of a draw with arch rivals, Wests, in the first round. In fact, Goalkeeper, Grant Robertshaw, is having one of his more boring seasons, with little to do except applaud the efforts of his forwards.

Staying with hockey, the best news from the Club, is that the Women’s 1st are also enjoying success this year. In times past, the women’s competition used to be a two-horse race between Rebels and Novos but with the acquisition, from Novos ironically, of NSW players Alison and Lisa Dalley, Uni are starting to cause a few upsets. Uni Hockey is fielding some seven women’s teams this season, which, in conjunction with the nine men’s sides running around, is the largest number of teams ever entered by the Club in the Newcastle competition.

volleyballers qualify

Despite the fact that the men’s and women’s teams at the Volleyball ECG over Easter finished in similar ladder positions, 4th and 3rd respectively, the results brought different reactions from Club spokesman, Paul Mounter. “The men should have won,” he stated. “But we didn’t play well, our communication was terrible and we definitely have some work to do before the AUG in Darwin.”

The women though, surprised everyone, even themselves. “The first time they even met each other was on the court for the first game” laughed Paul. Lead by outside hitter, Lauren Fischer, the Women’s team played with commitment, eventually qualifying for the AUG behind UWS, ANU and Sydney. Given their standard of play without a training session, an improved performance at the AUG can be expected of the side.

We should note that the men were missing their two outside hitters, who will both be available in September, something that Paul is looking forward to. “We missed their efforts and co-ordination with other players on the court,” he explained. “With their return we should be able to beat the other NSW/ACT teams and even take on Monash, who will be the team to beat once again.”

aerobic changes

Just when you were settling into your old routine, here’s a new aerobic timetable for you to take on board. Don’t worry, the changes are minimal, people! But the most obvious one is the inclusion of a couple of new sessions.

BAT (which stands for Bums, Abs (tummy) and Thighs) is not really an aerobics class at all, just a low intensity workout which is great for toning and shaping. Also new on the menu is Super Step - a more intense step class incorporating challenging choreography and the ultimate cardiovascular workout. And the final addition is Paul Mercuro’s favourite, Cardio Funk, which combines choreographed aerobic and dance moves. The hottest addition to the aerobics instructor’s team is full-time aerobic instructor, Rob Lloyd, who attracted over 30 participants to his first class. So now that the word is out, you’d better get there early, girls.

Prices remain at $3 for students, staff and Associate Members of the Sports Union and $5 for non-members, while the venues are also unchanged - all 12 noon classes in the Hunter Gym, the rest in the Auchmuty Sports Centre.

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The mens and womens hockey teams made their way to Armidale over Easter to contest their respective ECGs. The men enjoyed great success, finishing on top after a torrid round robin series, which saw the following results:

- 3-0 over Nepean
- 1-0 over UNSW
- 0-1 to UNE
- 8-0 over Macquarie
- 2-3 to UTS
- 2-0 over ANU
- 1-1 with Wollongong

In the final, they managed to reverse the earlier UNE result, beating them, 3-1. Goals in the final were scored by Andrew Abbo, David Nyman and Stuart Warbarton, while outside halves, Scott O'Brien and Lauchlin Webb completely shut down UNE's attack.

Of particular note was the performance of David Rollings, Brad Mitchell and Mathew Vagne who contributed solidly in every game but the star performer of the team must have been goalkeeper, Jason Billsborough. Jason touched the ball only 10 times in nine games; the fact that he stayed awake to do so is testimony to his stamina and commitment.

The women's team, although defending champions, suffered under a demanding schedule which saw them often playing the first and last games of the day. Finishing 2nd in their pool, they then lost several players to study and other commitments but managed a creditable 4th overall. Levina Abbo, Leigh Apps, Alison Dally, Nichole Cumberland and Leah Callinan all had excellent tournaments and formed the backbone of the side. A particular highlight was the 12-0 victory over Nepean in which Leah scored six goals and was subsequently, and fittingly, chaired from the field (see evidence at right).

Overall tournament results were:

- 1-0 over UNSW
- 0-0 with UTS
- 0-3 to Sydney
- 13-0 over Nepean
- 2-0 over Cumberland
- 1-4 to Wollongong (semi)

The good news is that both teams have consequently qualified for the Australian Uni Games in Darwin in September.
When the University of Newcastle Sports Union farewells Lesley Woodhead on May 26, the members will be saying goodbye and thanks, not only to a first-class administrative assistant but also to a sports woman in her own right! When Lesley accepted the position of part-time Housing Officer in 1973 very few people were aware of her own sporting achievements. It was only gradually learnt that she had been awarded school Blues in softball, swimming, and hockey, and that she had participated in and won the Northern District Champs in diving, freestyle, backstroke, and relays and also won the NSW Country Champs Backstroke event. In hockey, she played in the Cessnock District Representative team in NDWHA “A” grade competition for one year and in the following season, was invited to play with NDWHA. From here she went on to higher honours representing the Newcastle district and then the NSW state team of which she became Vice-Captain.

With this record, it is not surprising that in 1976 Lesley was offered a position as Secretary to the then Amenities Officer, Harry Bradford. Her secretarial skills, her efficiency, commitment and her sporting background established the foundations for a wonderful and productive career in the Sports Union. Her warm and friendly nature and her desire to help students and the club endeared her to all those involved in the promotion of University sport and her regard for excellence in sport ensured that the Sports Union was always informed about the achievements of the outstanding athletes on the campus. It was this latter experience that brought Lesley into close contact with the Blues Association; co-ordinating the nominations, the referees, the selection process and finally the organisation of the Blues Dinner, which now stands as the University’s most successful annual dinner.

As a secretary, Lesley has been a loyal, dedicated and highly competent assistant to both Harry Bradford and Adrian Lakin, who both testify to the central role she has played in their efforts to develop sport on campus. She has been equally loyal to the University and is a wonderful example of the University’s own ideal of excellence. It is with regret that we farewell a great lady and a great friend.

Bernie Curran, University Blue, Colour and former Sports Union President

Kylie McLean is leaving for the big smoke as part of a positive career move which will see her thrust in the limelight of NSW Softball as its Chief Executive Officer. And if her achievements in Newcastle are any indication of things to come, we should expect softball to receive a great deal more prominence and media attention than heretofore.

As anyone who has met her knows, Kylie is a dynamo, a ball of fire who is always moving in top gear. Kylie has stamped her mark on this campus and her list of accomplishments is impressive. In the short time she has been here, Kylie has overseen the implementation of the inter-collegiate competition; greatly expanded the range of recreation courses and classes offered to students and staff; introduced lunchtime social sport and introduced, this year, the inter-departmental competition.

As Editor, Kylie has been responsible for the look of the revamped Recreation Handbook. She has also been General Manager of the very successful University of Newcastle teams which competed in the Australian Universities Games in Brisbane in 1993 (Newcastle came 8th against 49 other university teams) and in Wollongong in 1994 (5th out of 52).

While we hate to admit it publicly and we don’t want to have to tell her, we will miss her, her good humour, energy, drive and contribution. So best wishes Kylie, we will be thinking of you from Darwin or while we are floating in our new, heated swimming pool. Oh and one final piece of advice. As a newly appointed senior sports administrator, remember, be very careful when telling jokes!

Adrian Lakin, Executive Officer, University Sports Union