

## = Canberra Roller Derby League =

The Canberra Roller Derby League ( CRDL ) is a Canberra @-@ based all @-@ women 's roller derby league . It was created in 2008 , with the first bouts occurring in 2009 . Skaters joined the league during " Fresh Meat " and " Boot Camp " intakes , where they learn skating and derby skills before appearing in bouts nine to twelve months later .

Originally there were two teams : the Black N Blue Belles and the Surly Griffins . In 2010 , the league expanded to four teams with the addition of the Red Bellied Black Hearts and the Brindabelters . In addition , there is an all @-@ star team called the Vice City Rollers that competes in interstate bouts against teams from Sydney , Brisbane , Melbourne and Adelaide .

At home bouts , the league has attendances as high as 5 @, @ 000 , and has its own stable of male referees who officiate the league and interstate bouts . The 2009 season was won by Surly Griffins and the 2010 season by the Black N Blue Belles . The 2011 season had six bouts scheduled , with the league championship to occur in October 2011 . The league 's bouts are aired on ChannelVision , and they have had media coverage from 666 ABC Canberra .

## = = History = =

The Canberra Roller Derby League ( CRDL ) was established in 2008 as a volunteer organisation intended to promote roller derby , women 's health and sport in the Australian Capital Territory ( ACT ) . The league was created by Bullseye Betty ( Kate Murphy ) and Dr Hell ( Helen Doyle ) . Other early members include Roulette Rouge ( Lucy Quinn ) and Peachy Keen . The league was intended to resemble the burlesque , and was the first roller derby league in the ACT .

The league 's first practices took place in parking lots around the Territory . Dr Hell and Bullseye Betty helped get a screening of the Roller Derby Dolls on 28 July 2008 at The Front Cafe and Gallery in Lyneham in order to generate membership in the new league . At the start of its first season , the league had 26 skaters . The first public bout in 2009 took place at Southern Cross Stadium , Tuggeranong , before a sell out crowd . At the end of the 2009 season , additional information nights were held at The Front Cafe and Gallery on 25 August 2009 and The Hush Lounge in Phillip on 30 August 2009 , and the league held a demonstration at the 2009 UCI Mountain Bike & Trials World Championships . On 21 November 2009 , it held a roller derby rodeo at the Southern Cross Stadium with tickets being sold at Smith 's Bookshop . By 2011 , tickets for the league 's events would be sold through Ticketek .

The presence of the league in Canberra has helped change the perception of the sport in the capital from an entertaining sideshow to a mainstream women 's participation sport . The popularity of roller derby in Canberra has meant that the CRDL cannot accommodate all the women in Canberra who want to participate . To address this issue , in 2011 , some roller derby enthusiasts worked on starting a new league as a student organisation at Australian National University .

The CRDL stepped up to help other leagues in the country . In 2009 , members of the Canberra Roller Derby League competed as substitutes for the Sydney Roller Derby League 's Screaming Assault Sirens in its grand final , after one member of the Sirens was quarantined with swine flu , and several other skaters were out injured .

The Canberra Roller Derby League was featured in the 2012 documentary film This is Roller Derby ( 2012 film ) .

## = = Organisation and structure = =

Bullseye Bettie was the league president from 2008 to 2009 , followed by Cherry Axe @-@ Wound from 2010 onwards . The league only allows female skaters to participate , Members of the league are drawn from many backgrounds , and include women who are medical doctors , mothers , finance works , electricians and tradies . The CRDL is considered the most professional league in the country .

The league is structured to protect the safety of its skaters . New roller derby competitors advance

through tiers . At each level , they learn and perfect specific derby skills , experience and general fitness . This helps to avoid injury and improve the quality of the competition . The time between joining and getting to compete in a bout is generally nine to twelve months . Skaters practice for roughly eight total hours a week , mostly during two weekly practices that last around three hours .

In April 2013 , Canberra was accepted as a member of the Women 's Flat Track Derby Association Apprentice Program .

= = Squads = =

= = = Vice City Rollers = = =

The 2011 all star @-@ squad is composed of members of the teams of the Canberra Roller Derby League , who compete as a team in interstate bouts as the " Vice City Rollers " The name is a play on the fact that Canberra has a legal ' adult ' industry . The 2011 squad was composed of :

The Vice City Rollers competed in their first interstate bout in June 2010 in the Great Southern Slam hosted by the Adelaide Roller Derby . They lost to Adelaide in the pool stage , but beat the Van Diemen Rollers ; their record was insufficient for the team to advance to the quarter finals .

In 2010 , the team also played in bouts in Wollongong , Sydney and Melbourne . The October 2010 match in Sydney against the SydneyCity Assassins featured a Star Wars theme . On 11 December 2010 , the Vice City Rollers competed against the Sydney Roller Derby League 's all @-@ star team , the Assassins , in a bout at AIS Arena billed as the " Lord of the Rink : The Two Towers " , in their first home interstate bout . In the previous meeting in Sydney between the two teams , Canberra lost by four points . The 2010 squad members were managed by Anne Thrax and Belly Up . The captain was Bambi Von Smash 'er , and the vice @-@ captain was Dr Hell . Squad members included Amykazee , Faunacat , King Cam , Melicious Damage , Ova Bearing , Auntie Aggro , Cassatrophic , Dee Nature , The Dutachass , Pink Mist , Roulette Rouge and Short Stop .

The Vice City Rollers competed in several bouts in 2011 , including a 19 March 2011 bout against the Victorian Roller Derby League All Stars , a 9 July bout against the NBR Brawl Stars of the Brisbane Roller Derby League in Brisbane , and a 9 August bout against the SSRG Fancy Pants at AIS Arena . They competed at the Eastern Region Roller Derby Tournament Finals on 1 and 2 October in Penrith , New South Wales , where they came in first place . When the Vice City Rollers competed against the Victorian Roller Derby League team , Canberra was competing against the current national champions . The Canberrans lost to the Victorian squad in front of a crowd of 3 @,@ 500 spectators . In August the Vice City Rollers lost to the Sun State Roller Girls ' Fancy Pants . At half time , the Fancy Pants were leading by fifty @-@ five points . Queensland had the advantage of player size going into the bout , and were the number two ranked team in the nation at the time . Shaggle Frock was Canberra 's leading jammer , scoring twenty of Canberra 's forty @-@ eight points . The Vice City Rollers are scheduled to have a 5 November 2011 bout in Geelong , Victoria against the Bloody Marys of the Geelong Roller Derby League .

Blood and Thunder Roller Derby World Cup is the major international roller derby event , with nations sending representative teams , and Vice City Rollers Amykazee , Bambi von Smash 'er , King Cam , and Short Stop were chosen for Team Australia .

= = = Black N Blue Belles = = =

The Black N Blue Belles were created in 2009 . The team 's name is a play on the ACT floral emblem , the Canberra Bluebell . The team is known inside the league for its fast skating and hard hits , and were the 2010 season champions . The team had eight new skaters in the 2011 squad , which was captained by ShortStop and Melicious Damage . The squad 's 2011 sponsors include Allsports Mouthguards , and Cactus ? Tattoo Artist North Lyneham .

= = = Brindabelters = = =

The Brindabelters were formed at the start of 2010 season . The team 's name is a play on Brindabella Ranges , located in the ACT . The team had a number of new skaters join the competition squad for the 2011 season .

= = = Red Bellied Black Hearts = = =

The Red Bellied Black Hearts were formed at the start of 2010 season . The name is a play on the name of a local snake , the Red @-@ bellied Black Snake . The squad is known for their good looks and their willingness to pick fights . The 2011 squad was captained by Roulette Rouge . The Vice Captain was Bambi von Smash 'er . The team had a number of new skaters join the competition squad for the 2011 bout season . The Red Bellied Black Hearts lost the opening bout of the 2011 season when they were defeated by the Surly Griffins .

= = = Surly Griffins = = =

The Surly Griffins were the 2009 season champions , and 2010 runners up in 2010 . The team 's name is a play on Walter Burley Griffin , who designed Canberra . Seven new skaters joined the 2011 squad , which was captained by Dr. Hell ; the vice captains were Annethrax and Rainbow Spite . The team 's sponsors for 2011 include Jake 's Performance and CJ 's Style . The Surly Griffins won their first bout in the 2011 season when they defeated the Red Bellied Black Hearts .

= = Referees = =

The Canberra Roller Derby League has its own referee squad known as Team Zulu . For the 2011 season , the referees were Magic Strat , Refucious , J Ref . K , Fair @-@ as Bueller , Sin Bin Laden , and Major Dyck . Canberra Roller Derby League referees have been involved with interstate bouts , and Refucious , John Ref Kennedy and Magic Strat were part of the squad that refereed the Sydney City Assassins versus Vice City Rollers bout on 12 December 2010 . John Ref Kennedy , Fair @-@ as Bueller and Major Dyck were part of the referee squad for the Vice City Rollers bout against the Sunstate Roller Girls Fancy Pants on 6 August 2011 .

= = Seasons = =

= = = 2009 = = =

There were only two teams in the league in 2009 , the Black N Blue Belles and the Surly Griffins . At the start of the season , there were 20 skaters . The first public bout of the league 's history had over 1 @, @ 000 spectators in attendance and sold out within twenty @-@ four hours of tickets going on sale . Including the finale , the season featured three bouts , the second of which were sold out within days . The Surly Griffins were the inaugural season Champions . The season 's finale was played at the Southern Cross Stadium with tickets selling for A \$ 10 .

= = = 2010 = = =

The Canberra Roller Derby League had an intake more than 90 skaters at the start of the 2010 season during the Fresh Meat and Boot Camp intakes . The 2010 season saw the creation of two new teams , the Red Bellied Black Hearts and the Brindabelters . Canberra became only the second city and league in Australia to have four or more teams in their league when the teams were added at the start of the season , which kicked off on 11 September , with Brindabelters competing against The Black ? n ? Blue Belles . The championship was held on 13 November 2010 . The Black N Blue Belles were season champions in 2010 , with the Surly Griffins as runners up . At bouts in 2010 and

2011 , attendance was as high as 5 @, @ 000 people per bout and the league had its own training venue . Tickets continued to sell out within 24 hours of going on sale during the 2010 season .

== 2011 ==

Four hundred women signed up for the 2011 Fresh Meat intake , and many potential derby players were wait listed . The 2011 season had six scheduled bouts , all of which were held at the Southern Cross Stadium . The first was on 2 April when the Surly Griffins competed against the Black N Blue Belles ( Griffins win ) . The second was on 20 April when the Red Bellied Black Hearts competed against the Brindabelters ( Black Hearts win ) . The third was on 28 May when the Surly Griffins competed against the Brindabelters ( Brindabelters win ) . The fourth was on 18 June when the Black Bellied Black Hearts competed against the Black N Blue Belles ( Belles win ) . The fifth was on 27 August when the Red Bellied Black Hearts competed against the Surly Griffins ( Black Hearts win ) . The sixth was on 24 September when the Brindabelters competed against the Black N Blue Belles . The 2011 Derby Darby Cup , dubbed Skate @-@ Icus , was held on 22 October , and was a double header at AIS Arena featuring all four all teams . The Canberra Weekly Magazine ran a contest with prizes incling entrance to the bouts and league related merchandise . The opening bout saw Surly Griffins compete against the Brindabelters for third place , the Griffins winning 142 to 130 . The grand final bout pitted the Black n Blues and the Red Bellied Black Hearts . Teamwork , tactics and effective blocking eventually won a close bout for the Black Hearts , 138 to 134 .

The major sponsors for the 2011 season were Allsports Mouthguards , CJ 's Style , Can Print , Jake 's Performance , Bridges Canberra , Tattoo artist ? North Lyneham , Impact Comics , Atlas Sports Physiotherapy , Stryking Signs , GXO , SkaterHQ , Elite Physique , Scope ? Mount Stromlo , The Blue Olive , Fitsistas , and Jordo 's Chop Shop . Bouts included live music being played during the half time intermission . Musical acts that performed during the season included Knight @-@ Hammer , a medieval @-@ Viking @-@ lyrical themed @-@ fusion 80s metal progressive parody band that wears Viking costumes while performing , and Mudpie Princess , a Canberra @-@ based indie rock band . In 2011 , the CDRL hosted official after parties after each league and interstate bout , which were held at the Hellenic Club in Tuggeranong .

== 2012 ==

The round on 8 September 2012 was won by the Surly Griffins over the Red Bellied Black Hearts . Half @-@ time entertainment was by local rock group , " The London Circuit " .

= = Media = =

Bouts are filmed and are aired on television on Channelvision at a later date . ChannelVision also creates highlight films that appear on the network . 666 ABC Canberra sent journalists to a practice to cover and report on the league . In 2009 , Bullseye Betty and Roulette Rouge joined Greg Bayliss in 666 ABC 's studio to teach him how to block . The pair also discussed the Canberra Roller Derby League on his show . The league was one of several Australian based teams to appear in the movie , " This is Roller Derby . "