



# PWRFC News



**Philadelphia Women's Rugby Football Club, Inc.**

**Spring Preseason 2002**

## Spring 2002 Schedule

March 23<sup>rd</sup> - Morris (H)  
 March 30<sup>th</sup> - Boston (A)  
 April 6-7 - MARFU's (A)  
 April 13<sup>th</sup> - OFF  
 April 20<sup>th</sup> - Ruggerfest (A)  
 April 27<sup>th</sup> - OFF  
 May 4<sup>th</sup> - DC Furies (H)  
 May 11-12 - Sweet 16's

## Season Opener vs. Doylestown

By Mac

On March 16th, the team unofficially opened their season with a scrimmage against a brand new team, Doylestown. Doylestown - whose successful creation is largely credited to the efforts of Althea Thomlinson (a Philly alum) - even opted to break in their brand new (and very spiffy) jerseys for the occasion. Although the scrimmage was primarily dominated by the more veteran Philly Team, Doylestown showed not only a great deal of potential, but a great deal of poise and positive team unity. No one could say their performance was one where anyone could have walked off the field with their heads down. For a brand new club, they more than did themselves proud.

The scrimmage provided the Philly crew a nice opportunity to get back into the competitive spirit, and it was great to see people take full advantage of that. A particularly spirited performance came from Angie Fick - who was confronted by more than one person after the match asking "have you always been that fast?" Yes, Fick was tearing up the sides of the field like a woman possessed! Why did it take us this long to realize why she was called "Wheels?"

Another highlight was the "who needs to pass the ball - just kick it down field to yourself to score" play that Janet Howson was all over. Janet decided to call herself "Pele" and show us some fancy footwork, as she got to a ball in the open field, grub it further down the field into the try-zone to score. Can you say "look Ma, no hands!?"



The forwards were the machines that they always are. Patti showcased her ball fielding capabilities by grabbing everything out of the air that was kicked to her (which was often!). Vicky decided to be a back for the day and tore down the field on numerous occasions for a score. Huff and Cuz did a great job sucking in the defense to give us HUGE holes on the sides.

After the match - Doylestown showed themselves to be phenomenal hosts - feeding us homemade pastas and yummy sandwiches all washed down with refreshing adult beverages!! What a great way to kick off the season!



## First Annual Collegiate Clinic a Success!

By Mac

On Sunday February 10th, approximately 160 women's collegiate rugby players from 13 different colleges converged on the Armory on Drexel's campus. The reason they came was because the Philadelphia Women's Rugby team was holding a free 3-hour clinic to teach them new group skills like the long-body rucking style and the new tackling techniques, give them new drills to bring back to their teams, and provide them with an opportunity to work on small-group or individual type skills that are normally overlooked at practice (like kicking, drop kicks,

spin passes, etc.). Although brand new rookies were welcome, the clinic was geared to more experienced players.

With a great slate of guest coaches, the clinic was able to work despite the mass turnout. "We had a higher turn-out than expected," commented Philly Captain, Melissa Wagamon, "but with all the help we got from the guest coaches, I think we were able to manage the numbers quite well." Guest coaches included former Women's Eagle Coach - Joe Kelly, Former Women's Eagle (and 3-time Women's World Cup Player) MA Sorensen, Philly Women Head Coach - Rachel Kenyon, Lehigh Valley Women Head Coach - Susan Martinko, Brandywine Women Head Coach - Rob Sanderson, Drexel Women's Head Coach - Kristin "Mac" McCarthy, and Chris Bailey from Schuylkill River.

Players from Brandywine and Lehigh Valley joined Philly players in acting the part of assistant coaches or demonstrators.

The format was a simple one; new group skills for the first half; small-group and individual skills for the second half. "We thought it might nice to give the players a chance to pick and chose those skills that

they personally wanted to work on," said clinic co-organizer Meredith Hegg (Philly), "so we thought having the second half be geared toward individual elective stations would be fun."

So why host a free clinic? According to Philly President (and Drexel Head Coach) Mac, the answer was simple. "We really wanted to provide a service to the college sides. Just to show them 'hey we want to do this for you.' We wanted to teach



them the new skills, and at the same time, let them meet some of the women's sides in the area. So many college players feel that they aren't good enough to come out and play at the club level. We thought this way we could have the college players get to meet the members of the one women's team who's been representing the EPRU at National sweet 16's for the last 5 years, and the two teams who will be eligible to do so in 2003, so they can see that they have nothing to worry about, and that they would be welcome to any team they want to join - even the competitive ones. We all just want them to continue playing after they graduate."

The feedback received from some of the participants seems to indicate that they were successful in doing just that.

## Lola goes to Belgium!

As of February, 2002, Lola has found a new look and a new home in Belgium. I'm not sure if she will keep her name, or get a new Flemish one, but in either case, we're happy to have Lola travel the world and help this new team get started. Hopefully, she'll keep us (and you!) updated on how our Belgian sisters are doing!

For now, how about a little history about our new friends, straight from their president: "Started in



May 1998 (by I don't know who but will find out) S.H.A.P.E. stands for Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, which is THE North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military

command headquarters. The team consists of players from the different nations that support NATO. At the moment, we have British, Americans, Italians, Germans, Belgians, and French players. The SHAPE Ladies play in the Belgian League, but schedule friendlies in the Dutch League. We are a new team and will continue to be a new team, as we have people coming and going all the time. Since the beginning, we've been playing with the Mons Dragons. They are our "sister" club, and we owe them a lot." You can check out a picture of our "sister" club on Philly's web site, [WWW.PWRFC.ORG](http://WWW.PWRFC.ORG)

## 1st Annual PWRFC President's Day Ski Trip!

By Beast

This President's Day marked an historic occasion. On a crystal clear, very early Monday morning, 6 dedicated members of the PWRFC hauled their asses up to Camelback Mountain for a day of fun on the slopes. Meredith, Travis, Beast, Flower, Marfees, and Cuz braved the holiday crowds to carve their destiny in the snow [or what masqueraded as snow from a distance, but up close revealed itself to be rock-hard ice].

Meredith and Travis decided to surf the ice for the first time on snowboards. Their devastation



at the discovery that their cute instructor Steve did indeed already have a girlfriend did not hinder their progression across the learning curve. They excelled in their group lesson and soon were hitting the challenging double green circle slopes. Their poise and grace were to be commended.

Travis took the gold medal in freestyle downhill wipeout by a mile. No one scored nearly as many points as she did for repeated slope dismount. Her aggressive approach with the board was most effective and served her well, taking her far beyond even the nearest challenger. Beast took the silver with a breathtaking headfirst backslide halfway down one hill, executing a perfect ski-cross in the air. Her fall off the lift was disqualified once the replay showed blatant interference from chair-mate Marfees. The judging was tight, but after the controversial scores of the French judge were thrown out, Meredith and Flower tied for the bronze. It was a close race between quality, quantity, and sound effects, which Meredith perfected early in the program. At the back of the pack, Marfees and late entry Cuz tied for fourth. Although impressive in their consistency, their conservative skiing style kept them on their feet far too often to put them in medal contention.



The day concluded at the Barley Creek Brew Pub at the base of the mountain. We sampled the wares of the local brewers, and imbibed generously. All had a good time, and we expect a far better turnout next year for the second annual event. Mark your calendars now, ladies!

## **Backs vs. Forwards Paintball Battle with Brandywine WRFC**

By Fick

On March 9, 2002, several local ruggers boldly went where others have not gone before: Jim Thorpe, PA for a day of paintball mayhem! Jen (ID), Melissa, Fick, Cuz, Laura, Eileen, Donna, Mac, Marfees, Mancini, Meg, her sister Sue, and Brandywine rugger Jen DeMarr and her sister Becky were among the brave souls who donned camouflage coveralls, which were not boot cut to Mancini's dismay, and armed themselves with guns that shot hot pink balls of paint. These warriors played eight



hard fought games of capture the flag on a damp day in the hills of PA. After a brief round of target practice it was time for the sly, mobile backs to face-off against the crafty, aggressive forwards!

Melissa was the first casualty of the day, which earned her a free pint at the bar afterwards. Donna and Cuz proved to be masters of the sneak attack, heading around the sides and creeping behind defenders. The Temple Twins, Marfees and Mancini, perfected the art of running in pairs with cover fire and advanced deep into enemy territory. Even in the throws of warfare, nothing can separate these two! Mac was a defensive machine and engaged in heavy firefights to defend her flag. Much luck to the forward who got to close to her!



Meg and sister Sue kept the backs honest by unloading tons of ammo at them and tagging a few in the process! Laura showcased her offensive skills by grabbing two flags for the backs. "Kamikaze" runs through the terrain proved inadvisable, just ask Donna who first tested this strategy and got pelted by the opposition. That didn't stop ID and Meg from making a valiant last-ditch effort to secure a victory for the forwards in the last battle, which was unsuccessful. Their bravery was astonishing given the fact that they knew seven people would turn and unload dozens of paintballs at them! It is ID who gets the Sharpshooter Award of the day, for her deadeye shooting, hitting all the backs at least once. Who knew that under that cheery demeanor lay a deadly sniper!!

The question that everyone wants to know is, "Does it hurt?" Hell yeah it hurts!! Just ask Jen DeMarr of Brandywine whom Melissa executed at close range...ouch. Eileen was accidentally hit a few times after she was out which led to some pretty cool bruising patterns on her! Loud, squealing girly noises usually signaled that Fick had become a casualty, followed by the disclaimer, "I suck at war!"

In the end the backs came out on top, winning 5 of 8 games. Our referees remarked on how they would never again piss off a woman after our brutal display completely blew them away! Needless to say, we were awesome! We all look forward to going next season since that will be

how long it takes before the bruising goes away



**Coming in April:** Philly Women start kicking ass and taking names! Summaries of the first games against the unfortunate opposition will be posted. MARFU review included!!

**Happy Birthday!!**

**February**

Janine "Roo" Hawley – 2/12/75 - Player

**March**

Bridget Shea - 3/13 - Alum

**Editorial Disclaimer:** all attempts have been made to verify information, keep this below an R rating, and protect the innocent. Email me at

Erin Brown - 3/16 - Alum

[secretary@pwrfc.org](mailto:secretary@pwrfc.org) with your suggestions, contributions, and news. - Fick