

# White Eagle Sports Club

Although recent times have focused solely on soccer, the Club has over the years participated successfully in a number of other sports namely, volleyball, table tennis and women's basketball. Because these teams had a small number of participants, over time they withdrew from competitive competition as the driving forces of these teams died and or retired.

## Volleyball

Volleyball has lasted the longest as a non-soccer sport played within the Club although it has amalgamated with other Club's over time to continue participating. It's no surprise as volleyball was a popular past time amongst the Polish people who had established themselves in Hobart and was being played as early as 1949, where Frank Wiertek entered a team "Wisla" into competition against other teams in Hobart, Launceston and even Melbourne.

The 60's and 70's were productive in terms of premierships being achieved and a number of players achieving state representation. In the mid 60's White Eagle had four representatives in the State team: P. Degolis, B. Dora, G. Stepik and S. Stepien.

1965-66 - A Grade premiers - S. Stepien (Capt.), B. Dora, J. Laszczak, F. Banasik, B. Pawlak and A. Andrikonis.

1969 - A Grade premiers - S. Stepien (Capt), E. Rosinski, F. Banasik, G. Stepik, S. Chrost, B. Dora



**1969 Premiers**

**L-R:** S. Chrost, F. Banasik, S. Stepien (Capt), G. Stepik, E. Rosinski, B. Dora

In 1971 the Club had two volleyball teams. Bogdan Dora was the coach of the two teams taking part in the Tasmanian Volleyball Association A and B Grade rosters. The A Grade team had a very successful year, taking out the Southern and State Premierships. The most outstanding competitor in the team was vice-captain Henry Rybak who although only 18 years of age, was invited to train with representatives from other states for the selection of the Australian team. He had to decline as it clashed with his work and studies.

1971 A Grade premiers - B. Dora, H. Rybak, E. Kremzer, R. Marszalek. G. Stepik, L. Drelich

1971 B Grade Team: - M. Ziembra, D. Smolenski, R. Rybak, B. Rybak, C. Donnelly

As it had done in 1971, the A Grade volleyball team won the Premiership in 1973.



## 1973 A Grade Team

**Back:** D. Smolenski, J. Blacnicki, R. Marshalek, B. Dora, H. Rybak

**Front:** G. Stepik, E. Kremzer, G. Rosinski, E. Rosinski



In 1977 the Club fielded two teams, however these teams merged in 1978 to form one strong team held together by two excellent players Henry Rybak and Bronek Urban. The team in 1978 consisted of: G. Stepik, E. Kremzer, E. Rosinski, A. Wazny, H. Rybak, B. Urban, R. Marszalek and R. Rybak and in 1979 this team including R. Rybak and C. Witek won the State premiership again.



### **Basketball**

For the first time in 1971 the girls of White Eagle entered the competitive field of Basketball starting their regular training at the Moonah Sports centre.

The founder of the team was Ivonka Pogorzelska and the playing team consisted of the following girls: D. Linton, J. Linton, B. Kremzer, A. Kremzer, B. Dobromilski, K. Dobromilski, H. Kasprzak, S. Rozmaryniewicz, I. Pogorzelski.

The team continued in various formations for a number of years, but as with the other non-soccer sports failed to gather and maintain its original momentum.



**1973 Basketball Team**

**L-R:** B. Kremzer, U. Stanny, I. Pogorzelski, M. Jablonski, S. Rozmaryniewicz

### **Table Tennis**

The driving force behind Table Tennis at the Club was Joseph Komarzynski who was made a life member for his contribution to the game, not only in a playing capacity but a coaching one as well. He died in the mid-70's and his sons Stefan and Paul took over the running of the Club.

In the early 70's three teams would train at the table Tennis Centre on the corner of Campbell and Collins Streets. In the Under 18's competition Stefan Polacik was seeded second, a fine achievement. Members of the team were: J. Komarzynski, S. Komarzynski, P. Komarzynski, S. Polacik, S. Rakowski, P. Paprotny and J. Piontek.



1971 Players – S. Polacik, P. Allie, S. Komarzynski

Over the years, the table tennis teams earned several individual and team premierships but as with the other non-soccer sports the Table Tennis no longer plays under The White Eagle name.

1973 Spring Roster 3's premiers – J. Katonas, J. Komarzynski, P. Komarzynski

1973 Winter Pennant – "A" Grade premiers – P. Allie, A. Andrikonis, B. Jeffrey, P. Morgan

1979 S.T.T.T. – "A" Grade premiers – P. Allie, S. Hannon, C. Stennard, R. Morris



J. Komarzynski receiving his  
Life Membership form P. Polacik



John Piontek receiving an award from  
Mr Komarzynski in the 70's

**Editor's Note:** - Due to a lack of records this is only a very brief and by no means complete history of these sports