



THE BROWN BUGLE

Volume 7 Issue 2
May 2008

Welcome to the Bugle, unofficial and opinionated rag of the UQ soccer club. Our motto for this edition is: Winning isn't everything, or so the losers tell me.

Editors in Chief – Messrs Jones and Smith

Team Standings (at the 26th of May)

Men

Premier Division 1	5th from 12
Premier Division 1 Reserves	3rd from 12
Premier Youth	4th from 12
Metro 1	8th from 12
Metro 1 Reserves	3rd from 12
Metro 2	6th from 12
Metro 4	1st from 12
UQ Wolves (BCL Premier)	8th from 9
UQ Dingoes (BCL Div 1)	4th from 9
UQ Fifts (BCL Div 1)	3rd from 9

Women

Premier League	9th from 9
Prem Res.	4th from 9
Division 1	8th from 9
Division 4	2nd from 10
Division 7	5th from 8

Message from the president!

Well we are almost mid-way through the season and we are off to a great start in 2008! Some exciting developments for UQSC include renovations on oval 3 with a new covered grandstand and relocation of the visitors' bench to satisfy FIFA requirements (thanks Belly). UQSC is finally a licensed venue and we can legally sell alcohol (thanks Otter). Please help us out by buying a lot of drinks and consuming them within the red roping. If security rolls by, make sure you give them a wave; surely they will be sad they can't stop and yell at us. Thanks to our sponsorship girls, Jac and Sirrah, we have secured a 2 year sponsorship deal with Weatherford, a local engineering company, and of course the tried and trusted Pig & Whistle, Indroo, which are always happy to have us, no matter what state we turn up in! By 2009 we hope to have completed the facelift of the website, along with a direct debit user-friendly registration/payment system (thanks Sally). Huge thanks to all the volunteers, coaches and the exec for all their hard work and please don't forget to head down to Oval 3 to cheer on your club!

All teams were asked for a round up of their season since the last Bugle. Some teams were rather apathetic about the whole thing, but hey, this is Uni.

Mens

Premier Division 1 and Reserves

Coach: Glen Volker

Asst: Scott King

The top side reached a turning point recently when they failed to take a single point from 6 (two games) played over just a few days. First Beenleigh at home on the Sunday, then a replay of an abandoned game against Ipswich (lights went out, thanks UQ Sport duds, Uni were leading 2-0). Had they taken two wins, they would have been equal top, but it was not to be. A win and a draw since then has seen them bounce back and still be well in touch with the four, although the top two are beginning to pull away. Rochedale, leaders in Premier League are next up in the cup, so that will be interesting too. Reserve grade were undefeated until Beenleigh a few weeks ago, and have since slipped a couple of ladder rungs. The form slump coincided with the absence of one Bushcat with bleeding into his eye (a real man would have kept playing). Read into that what you will. Still easy contenders for finals and a decent shot at the premiership so long as Toowoomba drop some points. UQ old boy Dean Hargest recently refereed a ressie match even pulling out the odd yellow, although not enough of them b the sounds of it.

Premier Youth

Coach: Jim Reilly

The premier youth team of 2008 captained by Stewart Croll has played 11 games this season, won 7 lost 4 and is currently in 4th position behind Rochdale Rovers, Brisbane Wolves and Brisbane Farce. With 4 college boys playing this season a strong team has been modelled and looks to be set for a successful year.

Metro 1 and Reserves

Coaches: Julian Chan and Carlo Mezzina

The metro 1 squad is probably the youngest and strongest it has been for many years, on paper at least. The results for the Metro 1 side continue to be mixed, the side having beaten just one of the sides above them in the table (the Pirates of Acacia Ridge, argggggh). The Metro cup is still alive, having drawn fellow Metro 1 opposition in both round 2 (beating Brisbane Athletic (formerly Wilston) and next Oxley). Ying scoring a truckload of goals, but more consistent results will be needed

on the run home if the 5 point gap to the top four is to be bridged.

The reserves were going swimmingly until a few games ago. Undefeated and looking to beat top of the table Park Ridge to close the gap to just a point they instead earned a valuable but frustrating draw. Since then it has been two straight losses, and the cup campaign ended earlier by Met 1 Park Ridge after a spirited display. Interestingly, only once this season has either team in a reserves match been scoreless, and sadly it was Uni against Ridge Hills in their last fixture. Still if the boys kick back into gear, there will be finals football, and assuming someone can beat Park Ridge, they can still win this thing, certainly there is the side there to do it.

Metro 4 (Shaggy Dogs)

Coach: Dan Tindall

Manager: Ben Wilson

At the halfway mark of the season the Shaggies find themselves in unfamiliar surrounds atop the Metro 4 table. Nine wins and two losses have the Shaggies three points clear of second placed Easts and looking good for a finals appearance at least. In typical Uni style, the lads have taken apart teams with a combination of good teamwork, a simple passing game and stubborn defence against the dull long-ball tactics most opponents attempt. Results haven't all gone in the Shaggies' favour with the now customary Cup defeat against a Metro 6 team ruining the Labour Day long weekend

Looking ahead, the draw hasn't been kind. The Shaggies face eight away trips and only three more home matches in 2008. The biggest tests will come away to Easts in late June and when we host third placed Grange two weeks later. Wins against both these teams, coupled with solid showings in our other fixtures, and we should be in line for a maiden minor premiership.

UQ Wolves

Coach: Andy Swindells

Manager: Josh Bell

The Wolves decided to play in the top BCL division this year. BCL now fields five divisions and the top division is Friday Premier. It is equivalent to the higher grades of metro and is very competitive. Many teams have full corporate sponsorship and take it all very seriously. The Wolves started this year's fixtures with a pretty tough draw. They had the three top teams from last year in their first three fixtures and all games were away. The team was largely new from last year and they had limited time to get ready and form a team unit.

Needless to say in BCL Premier Division the opposition are usually based somewhere between Melbourne and Tasmania or so it seems after 1.5 hours travelling in peak hour on country roads just to arrive at some toxic waste dump the opposition call home. Anyway spirits were high with this squad. It was a new team from last year with a new coach, new manager and flash fancy team shirts with a picture of a rabid snarling wolf blazoned across their backs. We stopped short of having the words '2008 Champions' printed on the shirts and it was just as well.

Tragically the mighty Wolves have lost every game they have played and are now competing with those pathetic sad sack losers the QLD Reds for QLD's worst team. Where did

all that potential go? What went wrong? Are they really that worthless as soccer players? Do they really enjoy bringing Vaseline to every game? Maybe it's the coach - no that could not be. Maybe it's those four or five NSW players who are underperforming chokers like their cockroach counterparts? Maybe none of them are as good as they thought they were? What is the truth of the matter? Why are they failing so badly?

Well the first odd statistic I will throw at you is that they have won every first half against every team they have played all year. They also won every preseason match they played. Another statistic is that they average two goals per game. Often enough to draw a match if not win it. The next statistic is that they have never been kept scoreless in any game all year. Even more frustrating is that all three of the losses against the top sides were by one goal and that goal was only scored late in the game. Despite these stats the other side of the coin is that they have lost every second half they have played. But the final stat and the only one that counts is that they have lost every fixture since they started this year and that they are outright bottom. Above all, the worst fact is that their most recent loss was against another equal bottom team who got thrashed by teams that the Wolves had been beating in the first half and had only lost to by one goal.

The question now remains are the Wolves going to be the worst team in the club or are they better than that because right now they sit at outright bottom of the BCL Premier Division? The only ones with the answers are the players and they should be the ones doing the talking and that talking should be done on the field through their soccer. They need to toughen up and get hungry. They need to fire up and play with some heart and good old fashioned aggression. They have to want the ball more than the other team and be prepared to fight to get it. The alternative is that they can meekly settle into wearing their new skirts and bending over to enjoy their weekly whipping by lesser teams. What is it going to be fellers? Heroes or zeros? Are you going to stand up or lie down? Do you want the girls' teams giggling and pointing at you and asking you to do their ironing or help them put their make up on or do you want to be proud strong winners? It's all up to you guys and it's time to win some god damn matches.

UQ Dingoes

Manager: Ben Gordon

Firstly, just to set the record straight - the preseason friendly with the Fifths saw them win 7-2, not 10-1 as previously advised by the Fifths. After this initial touch up, we returned all powerful in a Commercial Cup round, leading by three goals into the second half only to crumple in the dying minutes of the game (in true Dingo fashion) to give them a 6-4 victory. The Fifths were indeed lucky that Gordon was not unleashed. Fortunately for them, he had a pub to be at that night.

Secondly, it was the Dingoes, not the Fifths (they would have lost) who drew with the Wolves 2-2 in their first friendly of the 2008 season. The Dingoes were unlucky not to come away with a win that night with Rylan Hayes producing a masterful goal from an 18 yd free kick. Sadly, Dan Bogard did not put a sitter away late in the second half to give us the victory. Not a bad result for only our second game together with so many new players.

Now that's settled, the 2008 Dingo pack is looking more lethal than ever, with fifteen new players joining eight Dingoes from last year in the Friday night Div 1 competition. One burden we managed to shrug off this year was the Fox - thanks for all the good times Liam, we will never forget your time in goal... So far this season we have already suffered a bye and another game being postponed so we have only played three matches. We lost the first match 3-0 to Brisbane Celtic who are currently undefeated at number 1 after 5 rounds, drew the second against Logan Lightning who are second on the ladder (only because they drew with us!) and won the last game 4-0 against Greenbank.

I would also like to thank Kimmers and Kellie S for their assistance so far this season - the Dingoes have never been so well equipped!

In the idiom of team manager's everywhere - our season is shaping up very nicely. The Dingoes are becoming settled in their positions and are playing better with each passing round. I love the Fifts, but I am looking forward to reporting their defeat after our round 7 clash in the next Bugle. If only we could play the Wolves again too..."

UQ Fifts

Manager: Brad Barker

A good start to the season proper, with 3 wins, 1 draw and 1 unlucky loss so far. The comp looks very lopsided, with a couple of teams on the receiving end of constant 6-goal drubbings. The team we lost to, however, was the sharpest squad we've played against for some time, including our time in Premier Div last year. Thus it was pleasing that for long periods of time in the game we matched them, and the 2 goal deficit was due to an oggie and a penalty.

Mention must be made of Chris Frisch's magnificent lob of the keeper back from just over the halfway line in round 1, which was quickly followed by a less-than-magnificent attempt at a celebratory cartwheel. Not to be outdone Dan "Pinky" Caley lobbed the keeper last Friday from just over the halfway line with his left foot. We would be celebrating this one in earnest, save for his contributions at the other end to the score line...

The team is now eagerly awaiting the first official 5ths/Dingos grudge match of the season, especially after Gordo disputed the reported score line from our trial game.

Womens

Premier League and Reserves

Coach: Paul Crouch

Asst: Sarah Weller

The Premier team has been working hard throughout the first half of the season and are looking at getting some results in the second half of the season. The girls had a great win over Souths, who unfortunately later withdrew from the competition and consequently we were stripped of the only points we had.....It is definitely not over. Uni have been extremely competitive throughout most of their games and have shown a fierce fighting spirit that is bound to get results. With 10 games to go, uni are confident they will get many wins on the board as the girls are fit and strong, and are now beginning to get some goals. It is just a matter of time before we cause an upset.

After a slow start to the season, the reserves found their feet in round 3 against lions and received their first win. Since then,

they have won most of their games, are playing well as a team, and most importantly are finishing off chances in front of the goals. Ann Carroll and Rachel Castro have both clocked hatricks already this year and are Jac Fitzgerald has been a consistent goal scorer. The girls are currently sitting in 4th place and will be strong contenders for the cup this year.

Division 1

Coaches: Jim Wordsworth and Mick Jenvey

Despite "running with Jim" sessions and juggling competitions, the Div 1 team's game results are not reflecting their efforts at training - an unfortunate losing streak has meant they haven't won a game since the grading rounds. Coach Otter has eternal (bordering on delusional) optimism in the team's abilities, and in an attempt to increase shots on target, introduced the high back lift kick with dodgy 80's porn (no wait, that was just the background music of the coaching video). However, a unlucky run of injuries (including a knee injury from shark wrestling) has kept the score line in favour of the opposition, and has made Otter a regular bedside visitor at the hospital. On the up side, possession and passing have improved and at times the team has played, in Davo's words, "real football"... and at least we have material for Lizzie's next major birthday, who said, after a hit of the happy gas in the ambulance: "I cannot feel anything. Aliens could be performing wicked experiments on me and I would not notice, bring on those aliens."

Coaches Davo and Otter had lengthy discussions over an appropriate number of ales on FA Cup final night about how to turn the fortunes around for the Div 1 girls.

In their usual supercoach way they came up with the ultimate solution - score more goals than the opposition. With this tactic in mind, training resumed in full swing on Monday night, with focus on ball skills and fitness (innovative ideas from the supercoaches again).

(Editor's note: Try the "diagonal coaching method" as pioneered by R.Bell and T.Kelly in 1999 when coaching the girls. Just look at all good book stores for : "When 2 brilliant coaching minds collide - think along the diagonal"

Coaching strategies aside, the Div 1 girls have been struggling in the first matches of the season, with many girls being unavailable for play due to either illness or injury. Otter has made himself known to many hospitals' staff in Brisbane when he has accompanied various members of the team on more than 5 occasions to hospital this year. Hopefully he has seen the last of this, however, and everyone will be fit and well through to the end of the season.

The girls are currently 5 games in with 5 games won by the opposition. Some of the score lines haven't been fantastic looking on paper, which is starting to affect the confidence of the team a bit, however in all games Uni has remained competitive through until the end, and has during a few of the games dominated in the most part. Getting the correct result is the difficulty, and both coaches believe that once the goal scoring floodgates are open there will be no stopping the team - they just need to post a few.

Opportunities in front of goal have been numerous, which has highlighted the hard work put in by the whole team to get the ball there - the team has been let down a little by the finishing, and this has remained a large area of focus for training sessions, with many of the girls' shooting skills improving

markedly in recent weeks after some innovative drills from the Otter.

With most injured and ill people expected to be back to 100% soon, this will allow a more traditional line up to be played (defenders in defence, strikers in attack etc), with fully fit and enthused players back in the action and (hopefully) scoring goals willy-nilly. With the general standard of play exhibited by the whole team, it is only a matter of time before they gain the ascendancy in this league.



Division 4 – The Toreras
Coach: Colin "Carlos" Darcy
Manager: Hannah Telford

With the grading rounds finished, the Division 4 team were eager to begin the regular season. Unfortunately they did not get off to such a great start. Mooroondu came out with all guns blazing and as a result Uni was on the end of a disappointing score line going down 5-7.

The following weekend against Pine Rivers United the team lifted considerably and with the introduction of a few new players the result was positive, winning 4-0. It was also the beginnings of a new structure for the team, which allowed for a fast-paced, free-flowing style of football.

Next up was Mt Gravatt and Uni wanted to keep the pressure on the league leaders. The team started strongly and by the 20 minute mark were dominating the opposition. It was a physically tough game, but again Uni showed that scoring goals will not be much of an issue this year with the final result being 4-0.

The team then travelled down to Bethania to face the Rams. The team was particularly energised for the game and it showed with some great passing plays. It was also the game when the team decided on a team name: The Toreras.

Translated from Spanish it means women bullfighters! The Toreras went on to win the game 7-0 with five players contributing to the goals.

The introduction of an Open Women's Cup saw the Toreras drawn against the Division 2 Annerley team, which had a particular outstanding record in their league. The Toreras went down 0-8, but as the average win for the opposition in their league was 7-0 the team managed take the loss well.

Uni next played Samford Rangers, which was a nerve-racking game for both the coach and manager. Uni scored early, but the opposition had many chances to draw level throughout the game. It was not until the last three minutes that Uni secured the win by scoring another goal and going on to win 2-0.

With second place secured on the table, Uni was looking for another win against Redlands United to place even further pressure on the league leaders Peninsula Power. Unfortunately, it was not to be the case as the Toreras were placed under considerable pressure by the Redlands forwards. The team managed to draw 1-1 but were extremely unlucky in not winning the game. It was also the first goal conceded in their division since the first game of the regular season.

The reality check of the previous weekend's draw, saw the team eager to win against Souths United. Unfortunately the early wake up (9am game) almost caused an upset. However, Uni battled well to come out with a win even if it did take until the last ten minutes of the game to secure. The final result was 4-2 to the Toreras!

Coming up is another super soccer Saturday with the Toreras taking on Peninsula Power in a top of the table clash. Hopefully the team can step up to the challenge and come away with a win. But the season is looking particularly good for Division 4.



Division 7

Coach: Rick Wiley

Division 7 lead by debut coach for Uni, Rick Wiley aka Papa Fox stepped up to the challenge to coach a bunch of girls who are quite impressed with his coaching style and character. As this team always have a mixture of beginners/back from injury/crippled contingent, this was not at all evident on the field.

This team started off strong in the grading rounds and is continuing to be stronger through the season. The calibre of this team is one to watch out this year as come finals, they might just knock off Narangba United, who are currently undefeated in the competition.

Uni 's first win against North Pine on home soil was impressive followed by a loss against Narangba United. Game 3 saw The Gap proved to be the stronger team on the day but Uni's motto "never say die" was obvious as the girls were digging hard to pull off a win however, the final score was 2-4. Uni had another great win against Virginia and it was quite evident from this game onwards, the team was starting to gel. Home game against Brisbane Strikers proved Uni to be too strong that day and won 3-0. A trip out to Deception Bay was not only deceptive, but an enormous come back in the second half by Uni, unfortunately, a 3-4 loss did not reflect the girls performance on the day. Toowong had the same sort of skills and calibre as Uni and as a final result, a draw. It is the first draw in the competition for now. Finally, our latest game against North Pine saw Uni stepped up even further with some great quality football so far this season. A great win 10-1 on the visitors pitch.

Sheree is currently our leading goal scorer for the team with 9 goals so far. Our results are quite evident in what this team can do as they remain the underdogs of the competition. The composition of this team is quite unique as we have various players versatile in every position. Obviously, when requested by P. Fox to play out of position, the girls ask no questions and give it their all, excelling in their position. The team in general are a cohesive bunch with different personalities which make training and game day interesting. The girls will be playing Narangba United this weekend and are hoping to chase another win up their sleeves.

Match reports

Apart from the high quality, accurate summaries that appear in the Bugle, weekly match reports of most games appear on the club website. Surf away. www.uqsoccer.org.au

Results – A full list of tables and results can be found at: www.footballbrisbane.com.au

Except the commercial league (BCL) teams, they are at: <http://www.commercialsoccer.com.au>

Great new sponsorship deals for UQSC

Two new sponsors have come on board for the 2008-2009 season. As well as providing funding for new equipment and facilities, both sponsors offer club members some great benefits:

The Pig and Whistle Indooroopilly

Imagine if every time you went to the bar and bought a pint or a spirit at the Pig and Whistle Indooroopilly you would also be giving your club \$1 towards some great new equipment or facilities. Well imagine no longer, because now you can, **as long as you remember to mention that you are from UQSC when you pay.** Plus, we will also be receiving two new sets of Pig and Whistle kit this year, and two more sets next year! In addition they will be giving us lots of great stuff such as \$50 bar tabs for "man of the match" at selected games throughout the season and will be hosting UQSC's favourite functions.

(The launch party on Sunday 4 May made just over \$400 for the club – keep up the good work)

Weatherford

Calling all engineers, geologists, geophysicists, scientists....

If you are studying, graduating or working in any of these areas, our new sponsor Weatherford wants to talk to you. This huge company offers great benefits, training and pay and is a fantastic company to start or advance your career (just ask our women's Div 1 coach Davo). Not only that, they are sponsoring the shirts sported by our top men's team for the 2008-2009 seasons.

Here is a quick word from our sponsor:

Weatherford is one of the world's largest and most dynamic oilfield services companies. Employing more than 38,000 people worldwide and operating in more than 730 locations in more than 100 countries. We play a major role in the quest for new hydrocarbon reserves that are essential in powering the world's economies.

We offer extensive training and development for recent graduates that will help you map a dynamic career path and provide you some of the industry's best training facilities and instructors.

For further information on opportunities that exist within Weatherford, please go to our website. www.weatherford.jobs

To discuss your Weatherford career please give Heath Bonney a call on 07 3482 9900.

Profile

Each edition we profile a club identity (of sorts), and this time it is...**David Kerruish**

Nickname: DK, Waco

Years at the Club: about 8

Grades played: Pretty much all of them (currently Shaggy Dogs).

Many people suspected that when David first came to the club he was in fact hiding out after the FBI raided and burnt down his cult compound in Texas. He tried to point out that he was not David Koresh, cult leader, and had never been to Waco Texas. In fact he claimed not to have ever heard of the Branch Davidians, but the name Waco stuck regardless.

Little known Fact

DK went to the races to look at horses, but came home with a Pony. Actually we all know that. He used to be a keeper, who like so many at UQ decided to shed the gloves to run around and kick people instead.

Alumni Day

Held on the 11th of May for the top side's clash with Beenleigh, there was a fair turn out, considering it was Mother's Day. The results didn't follow script either, with Beenleigh taking the spoils. Next gathering of past players is the oldies vs youngies match, see later in the Bugle for more.

Launch Party

Held at the Pig n Whistle because they just became sponsors again (like we needed a reason). Great turnout from the whole club, there are probably more pictures, but this will have to do.

As previously mentioned the night also raised \$400 for the club (\$1 from each pint/spirit goes to the club).



Life in the Top Squad (a screen play)

Act 1 Scene 1 - CHIPS LOVE FOR PMOO

Chip, ELJ and Bushy had ventured down to the big smoke of Sydney to visit former player Mark Yenkins, aka thumbs aka fastest main in the club ...

While sitting in Thumbs' local 'The Cricketers Arms' Chipper feeling safe and secure amongst his closest friends and people he just met at the bar opened his heart and soul and declared that 'if I was going to turn gay for anyone, it would be have to be with Pmoo'.. he's a pretty attractive fella, with his blond hair and what not ..

An anonymous 'source' has described training in the top squad has been a little bit 'awkward' since chips omission of his desires for pmoo.

Act 1, scene 4 - HOW NOT TO FLY WINGMAN

After some cards, beers n pizza it was decided that kicking on for Blueberry's 30th was on the agenda Fox who was trying to line up some action with an American girl he met off the internet, decided that 'The Fox' of all places was a good enough venue to satisfy all requirements. The drinks get served, the girl arrives, conversation is flowing nicely and ELJ god bless him is trying to fly wingman for his roomie Fox ... Everything was going swimmingly until we noticed Mr. Cricket and ELJ's brain went missing ..

ELJ - That's Mr. Cricket... He's like Derek Jetter of the Yankies

Seppo - Really

ELJ - Yeah he's kind of a big deal .. Go say g'day
(Seppo departs with rum in hand, leaving the lads to mind her belongings)

ELJ to Fox - Mate this will be hilarious

Fox - What are you doing you stooge.

ELJ - Relax . this will be awesome. Watch and learn..

45 minutes later and closing time, Seppo is still engrossed in Mr. Cricket and his antics. Their laughter is drowning out the traffic below ..

ELJ - Well this isn't going to plan

Fox - What Plan .. You stooged me ..

ELJ - Sorry rooms .. Fvck this has turned out sh!thouse ..

Fox - What were you even thinking

ELJ - Fvck that's right. This has happened before at the Lennox Head pub and Matt King from the Storm. Me 'n' Chop ended up getting stooged.

Fox - You're an idiot ..

ELJ - Acknowledged ..*(Left holding onto her possessions whilst she gets his number) ...*

Old People/Alumni/Barracudas

Given that this Newsletter was re-birthed for old people, it seems only reasonable to have a section dedicated to them.

Calling lost contacts!!!!

Anyone else you know of who may not be on the list they can email too, currently 120, but surely that can be doubled by the year's end.

Basically we have hardly anyone from the 60's 70's or 80's, so if you know them, let them know we exist, send an email to uqsoccer@gmail.com

Births, Deaths and Marriages

Ingrid Franke-Whittle (94 - 01) has just had her first baby, a girl called Emily Carolina on March 17. She is doing well, and we are slowly adjusting to the new life.

Andy Findlay (86 - 96) is teaching in Kenmore and his kids go to school with Gavin Elphinstone's (?).

B is for Beer

(reprinted from News.com)



CLUB, n, a group of persons organised for a social, literary, sporting, political or other purpose, regulated by rules agreed by its members. (Macquarie Dictionary).

I just thought I would check the meaning of the word before I attended a meeting of the St Mungo's Tuesday Night Beer Club, suspecting that when later writing of the encounter I would be describing not a club but a beer-swilling rabble. Not that there is anything wrong with that.

The fact the meeting was being held on a Friday night and not a Tuesday first got me thinking the institution was being less than strictly managed. There were only six members and they only met once a month. Can't have been much of a club, I thought, if there's only a handful of them and they can't even get their days right.

But checking out St Mungo's in the name of research allowed me to avoid a school function without guilt. More importantly, I discovered not a rabble but a group of dedicated beer acolytes whose rituals deserve to be emulated across the land.

I had been invited to attend by Nick Clarke, whose back deck at his inner northern suburbs Brisbane home was the venue for the March meeting.

Nick told me the theme for the night was pale ales, and everyone was required to bring a six-pack plus one (with me there were going to be seven of us) of a nominated brew. I said I would front with some Alpha Pale Ale, one of the Matilda Bay Brewer's Reserve limited edition beers.

The first thing that happened when I arrived at Nick's place was that someone shoved a bottle of James Squire Pilsener in my hand with the declaration that it was the club's overall champion beer from 2007. An excellent start.

Then I was introduced to the other members: Ian Fuller, Craig Apps, Mark Kenney and Mark Dacey, all married with young children and careers in law, accounting, marketing and IT. There was one member missing, and they said her name was Noelene Niddrie and she had to mind the children that night. I suspect Noelene was really a Noel judging by the sniggers that greeted this info.

The beers up for tasting were pale ales from Gage Roads, Barons, Mountain Goat, Cascade, Coopers, the Alpha and a Kiwi brew called Tui India Pale Ale. Even though Mr/Mrs Niddrie wasn't there he/she was still required by the club's rules to send a six-pack.

Speaking of rules, what are they?

"We rotate between the six of us to host each night," Nick said. "The host gets to choose the theme, but it's typically a democratic process.

"Everyone drinks a bottle of the beer brought along for tasting, the beers' merits are discussed and then participants are required to rank the brews in order of preference."

If a beer is the No.1 choice it gets a point, 2nd choice gets two points and so on. When all members' preferences are tallied, the beer with the least points wins the night and is crowned beer of the month.

"We had a beer of the year event in January this year, where we all tested the best from last year," Nick said.

"James Squire Pilsner won the night and was crowned (somewhat controversially) Beer of the Year 2007."

When it came time to vote on the pale ales I had to resist the urge to feel disappointed if someone didn't rave about the Alpha, as if it somehow reflected on me personally. It was evident others felt the same, which was fertile ground for much mirth.

"We generally don't get defensive about beers, with the exception of Mark Dacey who treats the beers that he brings as if they were his own children," Nick said.

"Mark Kenney considers himself the aficionado of the group and has been known to bring a completely unknown beer only to see it come in the bottom rankings for the night.

"Mark tends to take this on the chin, but we make sure he hears about it continuously at future meetings. An example of this is the Tui – we won't allow him to forget this for a long time."

The Tui was truly awful, a very pale imitation of a pale ale which forced me to break another club rule that insists that the whole stubby must be consumed. I was prepared to be expelled as I threw half of mine on the lawn.

It struck me that all of them knew a lot more about beer than your average barfly, particularly in terms of what's available and why they liked or disliked a brew.

"If we didn't get so pissed at each meeting, we'd probably know even more," Nick said. "We don't consider ourselves experts, but do go on taste as the biggest factor in our testings.

"We never would be able to try so many beers if we didn't have the beer club and it allows us to (a) support beers from microbreweries and tell people about them and (b) act like beer snobs at barbecues."

The idea for the beer club grew out of the observation that their wives would attend regular book club gatherings and stagger home after reading too many labels on champagne bottles.

"This is really a book club where we got rid of the books," said one of the Marks.

The club's name comes from Glasgow's patron saint who was reputed to have some brewing skills, and because, said Nick, "I believe some of us have Scottish heritage".

The club has a couple of standby members, but doesn't really want to go beyond six because clearly it is easier for logistics purposes if everyone just has to bring a six-pack.

As for the pale ales, the Gage Roads won handsomely with the Alpha coming in second, although there was probably an element of voting for it to be polite. The Tui was extremely last, and probably only placed that high because a ranking was required.

GRAPHIC ARTISITS WANTED!!!

UQSC is giving its website a facelift and we need your help. Contact Sally (scott.acker@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping.

On the subject of websites...

On the UQSC website (www.uqsoccer.org.au) there is a whole section dedicated to the **history** of the club (details for which are still needed), a large section on **IV/Uni Games**, and of course all the current stuff.

UQ Soccer also has a Facebook presence. If you are on Facebook, be sure to join the University of Queensland Soccer Club (Unofficial UQFC) group or even the UQ Chicken & Champagne Survivors' Club.

And lastly, but many would say most importantly....

Social Calendar

RACE DAY

Date: Saturday 7th June (AAMI Stradbroke Day)

Venue: Eagle Farm

Cost: TBA

Time: 11am

Theme: Brown

WINE AND CHEESE

Date: Saturday 27th June

Venue: TBA

Cost: \$25

Time: 7pm

Theme: TBA

Includes: Wine, Cheese

COCKTAILS

Date: Saturday 25th July

Theme: Cocktail

Cost: \$30

Time: 7pm

EKKA Showday: GOLF DAY (boys)

Venue: Ashgrove Golf Course

EKKA Showday: LARK IN THE PARK (girls)

Venue: Mystery

TRIVIA NIGHT

Date: September

Venue: Pig n Whistle, Cambridge Room

Cost: \$5

Time: 7pm

PRESSO DINNER

Date: Saturday 11th October

Theme: Olympics.

Northern Uni Games: Gold Coast, 6th - 9th July.

Australian Uni Games: Melbourne, 28th Sep - 3rd Oct.

2008 Executive

President	Megan McBreen
Women's VP	Kim Sedgwick
Men's VP	Mick Jenvey
Treasurer	Andy Newman
Men's Secretary	David Kerruish
Women's Secretary	Sarah Weller

Other important people

Equipment Manager	Kelly Stonier
Kanteen Manager	Lance Wilson
Social Convenor	Natalie Castro
Sponsorship	Sirrah Montgomery
	Jac Fitzgerald

The Editors of this fine publication would like to point out that the combined results of three different Uni teams reads like this....games played 17, wins 0, draws 0, losses 17. You are not alone.

That is all.

