

A History of Hornsby Spiders

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- Jason Bourke**
- Glen French**
- Vicki Dean**
- Peter Frame**
- Julie Fitzgerald**
- Alan Gibson**

The Club's Development

The origins of the Hornsby Spiders can be found in the 1970s when an Open Men's competition was first played at Hornsby Police Citizens Youth Club. In the middle of the decade, an Open Women's competition was also introduced followed in 1980 by a Unisex competition which was the first one in Sydney.

As interest in the sport increased, the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Basketball Association was incorporated in 1986. At that time the new club was already running a men's, women's and a junior competition. The local competition continued to grow steadily during the 1990s reaching about 700 players by 1996 and 1300 by 2001. The club received a further boost after 2003 with the opening of the 'Brickpit' sports centre at Dartford Road, Thornleigh. By 2006 the club had more than 2500 registered players and nearly hundred teams competing in a variety of local competitions ranging from miniball to over thirties. Although the 'Brickpit' houses most of the local competitions, the club cannot be completely accommodated in this building. It still has to make use of nearby school facilities to house all of its activities.

In 1989 the Association began to field representative teams. These teams adopted the Spiders emblem and usually wore black shorts with green and black singlets. An alternate singlet of light grey and green was also available since the uniform at the time was similar in colour to that worn by the nearby Hills Hornets. However the club had no single style of uniform for its junior and senior sides. The club was first successful in the Junior Sydney Championships when its Under 14 Men's Team won the Second Division grand final against the City of Sydney Sonics in 1991 while the U18 Men, also second division, were runners-up in the same year. The first side to win a division one premiership in this competition was the Under 18 Men in 2000. The first women's team to win a premiership for the club was in the then Premiers Grade (now State League) in 1993. By the end of 2006 the club's teams had won 22 premierships from Under 12s to State League and been runners up another 16 times. It now fields twenty representative teams and in 2004, entered a men's team in the Waratah ABBA competition followed in 2007 by a women's team. The current uniform which is green with black and white stripes was first adopted in 19 and is now worn by all representative players for all teams.

In 1998, for the first time, four Hornsby players were chosen to represent NSW in the Under 16 Metropolitan team and this has been the start of the selection of many players, boys and girls, who have represented the state. The first Hornsby girls were selected for NSW in 2004 and by 2007 twenty Hornsby juniors had been selected as state players. Some of these players have gone onto to play College basketball in the United States, gained places at the AIS, represented Australia in university and Under 20 teams and played professionally for the NBL. Several have also continued to play for the Spiders particularly in its ABBA teams.

Coaches...

Referees have long been an important part of the club.

The club has been fortunate to have long serving administrative staff in its development. Mark Pitman ran the office single-handedly from until. In turn he was replaced by Julie Fitzgerald until the end of 2005 when Vicki Dean took over the main administrative duties while Julie continued to look after the representative aspects of the club.