

## **Editorial Preface**

This issue of *Sporting Traditions* marks the journal's eighth year of production. In that time it has provided a successful forum for the dissemination of research into sports history and related areas. It has survived during a period when libraries and individuals have been culling their journal subscriptions for obvious economic reasons. In fact the gradual growth of our subscriptions has enabled ASSH to keep subscription costs at the original level.

Nevertheless the continued success of the journal depends entirely on the continued contribution of quality research articles submitted by ASSH members and others. Although we have not suffered from a scarcity of such work we must continue to encourage researchers to submit their articles for consideration. Although it is encouraging to see a steady stream of contributions from younger scholars (perhaps ensuring another eight years) our journal continues to display an apparent gender bias.

Despite some notable exceptions the overwhelming majority of *Sporting Traditions* articles have been contributed by men. This is not a result of editorial policy, although it could reflect the nature of our subject matter to some extent. If so it is probably time that this 'subject matter' was broadened to encourage more discussion of women's roles in sport and of Womens Sport. In this issue Netball is discussed seriously for the first time in our pages. It is to be hoped that this article will encourage debate over the issues it raises and comparative analyses from other sports.

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