

Editorial Preface

Postgraduate students have published articles in *Sporting Traditions* on previous occasions but I cannot recall any past volume, when three of the five articles have been written by them. This is an encouraging development for sports history. Clearly there is much progress both in the quantity and quality of postgraduate research.

Another welcome feature is that articles have been written on two sports, snowboarding and squash, which have attracted limited academic interest in the past.

This issue also contains two articles on women's sport which advance opposite conclusions demonstrating again that *Sporting Traditions* is a useful forum for debate. While Nikki Wedgwood argues that patriarchy is alive and well in squash, June Senyard suggests that tennis provided a 'relief from the prevailing patriarchal demands' in the world of a Victorian country woman in the 1930s.

There is an intriguing link posed between academic scholarship and team performance. Two reviewers inform that the supporters of the Scottish Celtic club and North Sydney Rugby League club respectively have outperformed their rivals in the historical stakes though they have enjoyed less success on the field of play. Do sports historians prefer to side with 'underdog' and even losing teams? Is the support of a battling team a beguiling form of political correctness (or political incorrectness)? Are the victors and the prosperous clubs less attractive to academic writers?

The front cover is a picture of a snowboarder provided by Sarah Hefferan. My intention is to select a different picture for each issue, one which relates to one of the articles in the volume. The cover illustration needs to be an effective one which requires no immediate explanation, because any caption will appear on the following page. Potential authors are encouraged to submit a suitable line drawing or photograph along with their respective manuscripts for possible selection on the journal cover.

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