

1978-AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S LACROSSE TEAM - 1978



BACK ROW: Colleen McVeigh, Wendy Promnitz, Penny Foy, Wendy Moran, Lyn Johnson, Christine Johnson, Vicki Ingham, Judy Bachelor, Wendy Higginson.

FRONT ROW: Lucy Gastaldo, Barb Mattsson (COACH), Geri Bowden (VICE CAPT), VAL ORR (CAPT), Di Hoban, Bue Mellis.

1978 - BRITISH WOMEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

1978

BRITISH W.L.
TOURING

TEAM TO:-
AUSTRALIA

- ① • WA-STATE TEAM
- WA-ASSOCIATED TEAM
- * • 1ST TEST - AUST V BR
- ② • SA-STATE TEAM
- * • 2ND TEST - AUST V BR
- ③ • VIC-STATE TEAM
- * • 3RD TEST - AUST V BR
- * • 4TH TEST - AUST V BR
CANBERRA - ACT
- ⑤ • 5TH TEST - AUST V BR
* HOBART - TASMANIA



THE visiting Great Britain lacrosse team is: Back row (from left), Celia Brockenridge (capt.), Maira Williams, Coral Alcock, Alison Saunders, Fiona Hardy, Julie Clark, Mary McCosh. Centre, Barbara Dootson, Jenny John, Judy Harding (coach), Chris Coombs, Pam Johnson (umpire), Jane Gregory. Back, Anne Palmer (manager), Sandra Proctor (vice-capt.), Laney Campbell, Barbara Cheetham, Angie Glanville-Smith and Jane Liversedge.

The Great Britain women's lacrosse team arrived in Adelaide yesterday to play SA on Thursday and Australia on Sunday.

The world champion visitors last week beat West Australia and Australia in Perth.

They meet SA at West Parklands at 1 p.m. on Thursday, with the international match at the same ground at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

The local teams are very fit and should match the British in

British to play in Test

slickwork and team play.

International contests are becoming much closer, with both Australia and the United States challenging the British supremacy. — KATHY BENDER

From American Indians hurling heads to this!



© British team captain, Cella Brackenridge (27) — "I call it a full-time hobby." To say she is involved in the game is an understatement. Cella once kept a tab on her travelling to games and committee meetings during one lacrosse season and she logged up 9,660 kilometres. Cella used to make plans for her private life but now she doesn't bother, lacrosse dominates her time.

At home they are students, teachers, and one woman is a solicitor. In Australia, they are superbly fit athletes playing what is said to be a tough and bloody game.

With primitive-looking, hand-carved wooden lacrosse sticks the women look formidable.

The Great Britain women's lacrosse team have "slaughtered" their Australian opponents in two tests of strength.

Ten years ago when they made a similar coaching tour, the British team was described as "graceful". This time they are here to win — that means playing hard, sometimes rough and putting 12 weeks of solid training to work.

Their sport is an unusual one, still fairly young in England at 66 years.

It originated with the North American Indians. One story says the tribes that beheaded enemy warriors would toss the bloody prize to and fro, catching them in the nets to harass their rivals.

And it became a deadly game of warfare when rocks replaced heads and were fatally aimed at human targets on the open prairies.

By the time the French put a name to it, the rocks had been bound in leather and the game became ritualised for tribal celebrations.

It is called "lacrosse" after the hooked staff of a bishop.

The Great Britain team, will be looking to win their third Test against Australia tomorrow at the Domain Athletic Ground at 10.30 am.

The 16 British women are aged from 19 to 30 years and most have known and played with and against each other and travelled together on similar tours in the past.

The team has been in Australia for three weeks now and some women are beginning to feel the pangs of separation from husbands and boyfriends.

But success comes before emotion. They trained for three months, worked towards selection for years and are representing their country. As team captain, Cella Brackenridge says, "we are here to win".

Cella (27), lacrosse player for 15 years, Great Britain representative for 10 and in her first year as team captain, said the strong team spirit was probably its biggest advantage.

The Australian team was chosen only weeks before the tour, but even so, the British women knew they had to be well prepared to dominate the play.

"I don't know if all countries feel this way, but in England we regard Australians as sort of bionic when it comes to sport.

"But we're fitter than any British women's lacrosse team, and I don't mind saying, we're fitter than the Australians," she said.

Cella, a physical education lecturer in education subjects at a college in South Yorkshire, Sheffield, had to knuckle down and lose weight and increase her stamina for the lacrosse tour.

Cella missed the last two games through an ankle injury, one of the hazards of training, which the team has minimised by restricting the types of sports they play in between lacrosse matches.

Lacrosse test for WA girls

Western Australia, the national senior women's lacrosse champions, will tackle the polished British touring side in a match at Langley Park today, starting at 1pm.

WA won the national title for the first time last week and are keen to do well against Britain, who are just as keen to remain unbeaten on their tour.

WA have five all-Australian players in their line-up. The inclusion of point player Wendy Moran to strengthen the backline is designed to counter Britain's formidable attackers, Sandy Proctor, Laney Campbell and Celia Brackenridge.

It will be the British team's farewell appearance in WA.

Lacrosse win to Britain

The touring British women's lacrosse team was successful in their second match in Australia when they beat the WA associates side 20-3 at Langley Park yesterday.

Great Britain 20 (scorers: L Campbell 7, S Proctor 5, C Cheetham 4; C Brackenridge, Coombe 2) b WA 3 (J. Dana, N. Lalley, E. Reid).

Aust. lose to Great Britain

Great Britain's women's lacrosse team made a good start to their Australian tour with a 12-4 win in the first Test at Perry Lakes yesterday.

Play was fast and Australia matched Great Britain early in the first half before the visitors took a 6-3 lead at half-time.

Great Britain were continually put into attack by Fiona Hardy and Sue Willson.

In the second-half captain Celia Brackenridge gave Great Britain the initiative with two quick goals from underarm shots directly in front of goal.

She was the top scorer in the game with four goals.

Much tighter defence by Great Britain created problems for Australia, who were playing together for the first time as a team.

Most of the Australian girls were leg weary after competing in eight matches in wet conditions during the national championship last week.

Great Britain b Australia 12-4.
Goalscorers - GREAT BRITAIN: C. Brackenridge 4, S. Proctor 5, Wilson 3; B. Cheetham 2. AUSTRALIA: J. Johnson, S. Mellis, V. Ingham, J. Batchelor. Best players - GREAT BRITAIN: C. Brackenridge, B. Dootson, S. Proctor, S. Wilson. AUSTRALIA: J. Johnson, S. Mellis, P. Foy, J. Batchelor.

SA thrashing in lacrosse

By STEPHEN HUNTER

The Great Britain women's lacrosse team defeated SA 13-3 in the West Parklands yesterday.

The visitors stunned the local girls with pace, individual skill and teamwork.

SA initially lacked confidence, allowing the British to pour through gaps to build an ominous 8-1 half-time lead.

A pleasing crowd — mostly schoolchildren — called support to its team, but its only joy came when Australian representative Vicki Ingham netted the first of her three goals.

The British were obviously fitter, and SA faced the prospect of annihilation in the second period.

But the locals came out with renewed fight, managed a commendable two goals to five, and finished with their self-respect intact.

Although SA held far more possession as the game progressed, it often squandered this with pointless shots.

The tightly co-ordinated British defence repeatedly blocked scrambling SA offensives, then counter-attacked to score.

Physical Education teacher Laney Campbell, 25, was main destroyer for the tourists, scoring seven goals.

Lacrosse to Britain

By STEPHEN HUNTER
The Great Britain women's lacrosse team again proved too strong for Australia by winning 5-1 in the mud at the West Parklands yesterday.

Britain beat Australia 12-4 in Perth last month.

Australia looked a chance when Vicki Ingham goalied to equal at 1-1 after a few minutes.

But it could do nothing effective after that, muddling around in front of goal and making 10 useless shots.

The British relied on a strong defensive formation, keeping only one girl in the forward line while Australia was attacking.

Laney Campbell scored the tourists' three first-half goals. Sandy Proctor and

Chris Coombs scored in the second half.

Proctor's goal was the individual highlight of the game.

She gained possession deep in defence, then ran 60 metres, dodging and pivoting past most of the Australians before hurling the ball into the net.

The British made only four ineffective shots.

British captain Celia Brackenridge, who did not play because of a leg injury, said she was absolutely delighted with the entire 12.

"Our first three goals were as good as any we could have scored in dry conditions," she said.

Wendy Moran (WA), Sue Mellis (Vic.) and Colleen McVey (Vic.) were the pick of the Australians.

Lacrosse test for Australia

The Australian women's lacrosse team will play Great Britain in the West Parklands at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday.

The British must be super-confident after a convincing 12-4 win in the first international in Perth only days after their arrival in Australia.

Since then, they have dealt with the first and second teams of WA, the Australian champion, and SA, all at a trot.

Australia's lacrosse girls have shown less speed, endurance and skill, and will be struggling just to narrow the gap on Sunday.

Injuries are the tourists' main concern and they had only one fit substitute for yesterday's game against SA.

Team captain Celia Brackenridge was among the casualties with tendon troubles.

Aust. crash in second Test

ADELAIDE: The Great Britain women's lacrosse team scored a 5-1 win over Australia in the second Test here yesterday.

In wet, slippery conditions, Great Britain took a 3-1 lead at half-time through Laney Campbell, who scored all three goals. Vicki Ingham scored for Australia.

Goals to Sandy Proctor and Chris Coombs after half-time sealed the game for the visitors.

Clean sweep to Britain

MELBOURNE: Great Britain completed their five-match women's lacrosse Test series against Australia undefeated with a 6-3 win at the Albert ground yesterday.

The match was won in the first 10 minutes when Great Britain poured on five goals to Australia's nil.

Great Britain had almost twice the number of shots as Australia, but most of them were stopped by goalkeeper Wendy Promnitz (WA), who played magnificently after a nervous start.

Details:

Great Britain 6 (best: Barbara Cheatham, Chris Coombs, Sandy Procter, Barbara Dootson, Melira Williams, Laney Campbell, Gail Laney Campbell, Sandy Procter 2, Barbara Cheatham, Moira Williams); Australia 3 (best: Wendy Moran, Sue Mellis, Colleen McVeigh, Val Orr, Di Hoben, Wendy Promnitz. Goals: Sue Mellis, Lyn Johnson, Vicki Ingham).

Lacrosse series

LOCAL lacrosse fans will have the opportunity to see the Australian Women's team meet touring Great Britain next Sunday, August 20.

The Australian lineup includes Sue Mellis (pictured), of the Newport Club and at 17 the youngest member of the team.



Sue was named as one of Australia's best players in the opening game of the international series against Britain in Perth recently and is recognised as a very talented player.

Newport Club captain Val Orr is captain also of Australia. Colleen McVeigh, of Williamstown Club, is likewise in the national team.

The two country's meet at the Albert Ground, off St. Kilda Rd, from 1.30 pm on Sunday. Great Britain then play Victoria on

Boost for Australian lacrosse

By MICHAEL DAVIS

AUSTRALIAN lacrosse is in a very healthy state according to the manageress of the Great Britain team in Melbourne.

"The standard is good although there is a need for more finesse about stick work," Mrs Anne Palmer said yesterday.

"But the enthusiasm and teamwork of the Australia is very impressive.

"And the whole family seems to be involved here. It's not just a case of the women going off by themselves."

The Great Britain side which has already beaten Australia in four internationals will play the fifth

in Melbourne at Albert Park on Sunday.

The British team won 5-1 in Adelaide, 5-0 in Hobart 7-4 in the ACT and 12-4 in Perth.

"Of course the sport is relatively young in Australia," Mrs Palmer said.

"Our girls start playing when they are 11 or 12." Mrs Palmer has 17 players on tour plus coach Judy Harding and umpire Pam Johnson.

Mrs Harding toured Australia in 1969 with the British Pioneers.

The team has one Welsh player — third man Jennifer John 23 — and one Scot, Mary McCosh, 26, who plays left defence.

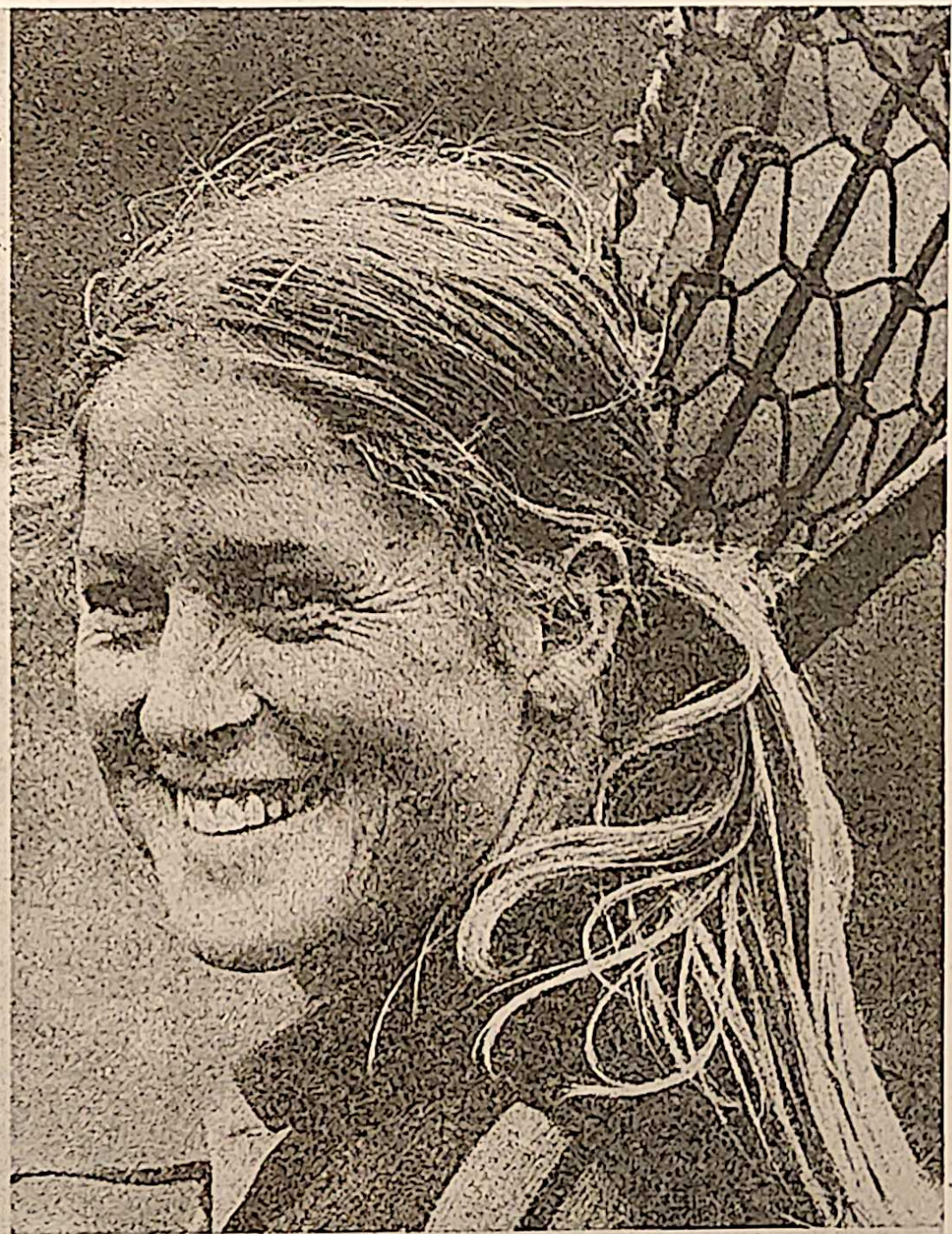
The average age of the British team is 24.

Great Britain is rated second in world lacrosse behind the United States following its 6-8 loss to America in London in 1975.

But the British girls hope to reverse the results when they meet again next year.

Lacrosse is also played in South Africa, Canada and Hongkong.

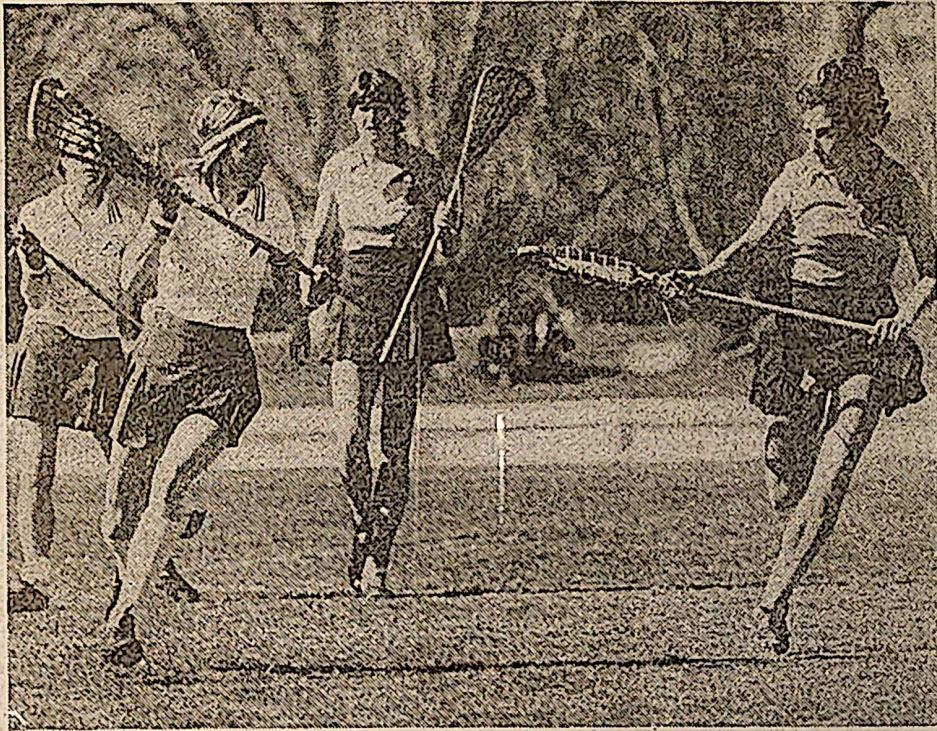
Three-quarters of the British team's air fare was paid with a grant from the Sports Council in England. A number of sponsors have also helped pay for the trip.



SANDI PROCTER, vice-captain of the touring Great Britain lacrosse team, is smiling after training at Royal Park yesterday. Picture: TERRY PHELAN.

The Canberra Times

A RUNNING GAME



Britain's Jane Liversedge looks upfield for a teammate as Australia's Judy Batchelor moves across to cover during yesterday's lacrosse international at Manuka Oval. Britain won 7-4.

Not a scalp taken

By IAN WARDEN

Lacrosse, a sport originally played among ferocious and brutal Red Indians, was played between competing teams of civilised young ladies at Manuka Oval yesterday. Not a scalp was taken.

The ladies were the national teams of Australia and Great Britain.

The game is still scintillating but it has obviously lost something as a spectacle since the days when the war-crazed braves used to play it as a form of preparation for war. It could sometimes be played between teams of 500 savages raging back and forth across a territory some miles wide.

Anne Palmer, the British tour manager, told me that the Indians used to sometimes play with a scalp instead of a ball "but things are a little less barbaric now". I suppose it must be well nigh impossible to buy a scalp these days.

They play instead with a fiendishly hard rubber ball. There are 12 players in each team. They try to put the cobblestone ball in the opponents' small goal, using a little basket of gut on the end of the hickory pole to catch the flinty ball and to flick and fling it great distances at great speeds.

The game may not be barbaric but it is certainly not a sport for the frail or for the meek. There is a lot of flailing with the sticks and should the ball hit you in the teeth the resulting fees would permit your orthodontist to Cape Cod his home. There were some spectacular trips and the occa-



Britain's Angela Glanville-Smith, left, watches Australia's Wendy Higginson.

sional goalmouth meloc must have given the small crowd of big, admirable schoolgirls some insights into why the Red Indians thought it such a super form of training for battle. And yet I was told by one of the British team that she has never heard of anyone being sent off in a ladies' lacrosse match.

The laws of the game appear to be very liberal. They do not prescribe boundaries for the pitch. How quaint! It seems the umpire may stop play when she thinks the ball has strayed too far. Liberally interpreted this might have allowed the game to rage across the whole of the

ACT, with perspiring gels ram-paging across the vegetable plots of startled folk in normally sedate suburbs, putting the fear of death into household pets.

It was a high-scoring game, with the British winning 7-4. This was all the more remarkable given that the goals are so small. A really well-nourished girl could block the goal just by standing laconically in front of it.

The match was a keen contest but at the close there was quite a lot of hugging between the rivals. Wounded and limping rivals were especially singled out for affection. Aren't women love-

ly? I shall insist that my son marries one.

There was in fact something sweet, naive and St Triniansesque about the whole event, in spite of the grand skills on display. Lady lacrosse players appear not to have heard of the "professional foul" so beloved of their soccer-playing brothers. Nor have they learnt to feign unspeakable agonies at the slightest touch in the hope of winning a penalty from a gullible umpire. They have no tantrums and they wear no advertising.

Let us all pray that Mr Packer never discovers the sport.

Match report. — Back Page

Britain outclasses Australia

By SEAN McNAMARA

Britain won yesterday's fourth international against Australia by seven goals to four, at Manuka Oval.

It did not take Britain long to notch its first goal. Right attack Celia Brackenridge, left unmarked, shot past Australian keeper Wendy Promonitz to score.

Australia, despite its lack of pace up front, soon replied. Wendy Higgerson drove to the right-hand side and beat the British 'keeper Barbara Dootson.

At the 16-minute mark Australia took the lead for the only time in the game when, after a strong run by Susan Mellis down the right side had drawn the defence it was a simple matter for Gerry Bowden to take the cross-goal pass and hit it home.

Australia looked like going to the break with a goal advantage but a defensive lapse let Jane Liversedge in.

After half time a surprise behind-the-back shot from Susan Mellis was deflected by Dootson over the bar.

Britain then took the upper hand, with Barbara Cheetham getting the go-ahead goal after a goal-mouth melee.

Australia, despite the goal disadvantage, was beginning to take the game to the Britons and tied the score with a fine shot from centre Bowden.

With 20 minutes to play the Australians looked able to take the match but a gem of a goal put paid to Australia's hopes.

Boxed in

After good lead-up work, the Britons appeared to have boxed themselves in behind the goal, but an over-goal pass from Coombs found Sandi Proctor free in front to shoot home for a 4-3 lead to Britain.

With the goal advantage, Britain went to work. Three goals in four minutes showed the team at its best. Brackenridge got her second after Liversedge drew the cover, Jane Gregory made it 6-3 after Coombs and Brackenridge did the lead-up work, and Gregory scored the

LACROSSE

BRITAIN 7
AUSTRALIA 4

final goal after a solo drive into goal.

Australia's fourth goal was a consolation one, right on full-time, from Lynette Johnston.

The Australians, despite the loss, can take heart that they led the Britons in the first half, something they have failed to do in the first three internationals, and the team's growing knowledge of the Britons' style of play augurs well for the fifth international, in Melbourne on Sunday.

The Britain side can be assured that it has left an impression on the crowd at Manuka.

The team's speed and fitness and excellent technique can only serve to improve the game in Australia.

Australia-UK match today

The fourth lacrosse international in the current series between Britain and Australia will be played at Manuka Oval today from 12.45pm.

The match will be preceded at noon by a demonstration of lacrosse skills by girls from Canberra Church of England Girls Grammar School.

The British team, which arrived in Canberra on Saturday

night had a training session yesterday at La Trobe Park, Deakin and looked impressive with crisp stick work and good finishing in front of goal.

The Australian team trained at CCEGGS and showed that after three hard internationals it is beginning to "click" as a team.

Younger than its British counterpart, the Australian team is

fast and has a good grounding in the basic skills.

Two British players worth watching will be second home Sandi Proctor and right attack Celia Brackenridge.

Both caused the Australian side a great deal of trouble in the third international in Hobart on Saturday and can be expected to do so again.

With Britain winning the first

LACROSSE

three internationals it has now clinched the five-game series. But after Australia's excellent form in the third international, especially, when it held Britain to a single goal in the second half with rugged defence, a good Australian showing can be expected.

Lacrosse team arrives

The British women's lacrosse team arrived in Canberra last night to play its fourth international against Australia tomorrow at Manuka.

Yesterday the tourists won the third game of the series 5-0 in Hobart with a strong display of

team lacrosse, in which its greater all round ability told on the Australian side.

Today at 11am a coaching clinic will be conducted in the skills of lacrosse at Canberra Church of England Girls Grammar School.

Lacrosse

Women's

Britain 7 (Celia Brackenridge 2, Jane Gregory 2, Barbara Chestam, Jane Liveridge, Sandi Proctor) d Australia 4 (Jerry Bowden 2, Lynette Johnson, Wendy Higginson) at Manuka Oval.

UK challengers



British girls unbeatable

HOBART: Great Britain overpowered Australia on Saturday to take a 3-0 lead in the women's lacrosse Test series.

The British girls now have an unbeatable lead in the five-Test series with matches still to be played in Canberra and Melbourne.

Scorers for Britain were: Sandy Proctor (2), Jane Liversedge, Fiona Hardy and Barbara Cheetham.

IT MAY look like an egg and spoon race with bigger, wooden spoons and less fragile eggs, but to members of the British Women's Lacrosse team it is far from a picnic event.

The challenge of defeating Australia's lacrosse team in five Tests is as great as reaching the finishing line without dropping the egg — but the reward is probably greater.

The team of 12 players — four reserves, an umpire, manager and coach — have been training for the Australian tour for three months.

They have won games in both West and South Australia, but instead of "slaughtering" the relatively inexperienced Tasmanian team, will hold clinics for coaches, umpires and players instead.

The team arrived in Hobart on Monday night to wet, blustery weather which continued through their training session at

Claremont High School yesterday.

The Australian team has four Tasmanian members, all reserves, and will use an exhibition match at Oglivie High School on Friday to pick up some of the opposition's decisive moves.

They will play them on Saturday on the Domain Athletic Ground at 10.30 in the Third Test.