



HISTORY OF
THE
BRIDGMAN TROPHY



The late M. A. W. Bridgman



Mrs. M. A. W. Bridgman

FOREWORD

This booklet has been written for the purpose of marking the 25th anniversary of the Bridgman Cup Tournament, and to pay honour to Mrs. M. A. W. Bridgman and her husband, the late Lt.-Commander M. A. W. Bridgman, who between them have done so much to promote the interests of Grass Hockey for girls on Vancouver Island.

Year after year Mrs. Bridgman has been the guiding light in the organization of the games, ably helped by a team of friends of the sport and supported by the principals and games teachers of the various schools.

In a day when professional sport take precedence in the public eye over world shattering events—when newspapers can give an eight column head to note the result of the World Series, and 50,000 people will pay large sums to see a boxer laid flat on his back in less than two minutes, it is not surprising that history of the Bridgman Cup is hard to come by from public records. Had this been professional sport, a 300-page book could have been written easily. Pictures of every player would have been readily available.

As it is this booklet is small because it is about people who played a big part in a little game; people who did what they did because they loved it, not because they gained from it. It is about people who played the game because they enjoyed it, not because there was a bonus if they won. If they were lucky enough to win a Bridgman Cup pin, they prized it above most of their other pins, but mainly they were proud to have helped their team hold the trophy for a year, and they were sincerely grateful to the Bridgmans for giving them the opportunity to have played at all.

A Bridgman Cup Tournament day is quite a day. The games are played in November—generally in inclement weather—and any team will play three games during the day, while the semi-finalists will play four and the finalists five. This calls for physical fitness of a high order.

To those girls who have a Bridgman Cup Pin let it be said that you were in wonderful condition and were good players. To those who have not succeeded in winning a pin, let it be said that if you hadn't played, and so provided the competition there could have been no Tournament. To you go the honour and glory of Bridgman Cup day.

To Mrs. Bridgman and her late husband go the thanks of hundreds of girls and their parents for the work they have done and the generosity they have shown in organizing the "Day" and giving the cup.



The Bridgman Trophy

THE EARLY YEARS

1937 . . . the world was at peace. People went about their daily affairs on Vancouver Island in their usual unhurried fashion. They read about their favourite sports in their daily newspaper or heard a commentary on their radio. Some packed their football boots or tennis racquets and went off to play for their local club where no crowd would be there to cheer them on and at best a couple of lines in Sunday's paper might record the result for posterity if any one was interested enough to read it.

In some of the girls' schools, Grass Hockey sticks were taken from lockers after school, and if they were lucky there might even be 11 girls sufficiently interested to turn out to practice.

At the Victoria Women's Grass Hockey Club interest was sustained by a small coterie of keen enthusiasts but there were few teams against which they could pit their skills. Among this small group was Euphemia S. W. Bridgman, wife of Montague A. W. Bridgman, R.C.N.V.R.

Perhaps Commander Bridgman didn't realize just how far reaching would be his decision to give a Silver Trophy to be played for each year among the few teams in the district. As a member of the family describes it, "it was just put up more or less for the fun of it, and it continued that way for several years."

Regardless of the reason for the donation, the effect has been to create an enormously increased interest in the game, and what may have started out as "for the fun of it", after 25 years has become the most important annual sports event among a large number of teams on Vancouver Island. At many schools, training starts in earnest from the day the students return. Every effort is aimed at Bridgman Cup Tournament day.

It's a big day to prepare for—it's a big day to take part in—it's a big enough day to shut down the TV set for many an evening afterwards while every game is analysed.

In the first Bridgman Cup the following teams entered: Victoria Ladies, Norfolk House School, Victoria High School, Queen Margaret's School (Duncan), Oak Bay High School, Duncan Ladies and Saanich Ladies. The last two named teams scratched.

Mrs. Bridgman records that the games were "played in exceptionally cold weather" at Victoria High School. The result was a win for Victoria Ladies with 8 points. Oak Bay High School were runners up with 6 points.

In 1938 Victoria Ladies again won and this is the last time their name appears on the trophy at the time of writing, prior to the 1963 tournament. The games were played at Oak Bay High School. Teams competing were as follows. Point gained in parenthesis. Victoria Ladies (8), Duncan Ladies (7), Queen Margaret's School (7), Victoria High School (4), Norfolk House School (3), Oak Bay High School (1).

THE WAR YEARS

By now the world was no longer at peace. Not quite so many pairs of football boots were packed up and taken to play for local clubs, and even fewer voices were available to cheer them on. Perhaps even less space was free in Sunday's paper to record the results. But despite all handicaps, the Bridgman Cup Tournament was kept alive. For information on the games during the war years, we must turn to Queen Margaret's School Annual, where Hockey has always been the paramount sport.



An Early Bidgman Tournament—1939

- 1939/40 The Tournament was contested by the same teams as in the previous year. Oak Bay High captured the Trophy, but we have no record of the points gained.
- 1940/41 Q.M.S. Annual records "The Bridgman Cup Matches were played at Oak Bay High School at the beginning of the Summer term". Oak Bay were the winners with Q.M.S. runners up.
- 1941/42 Q.M.S. Annual: "Gas rationing made transport almost impossible. However, we did manage to take a team to the Bridgman Cup Tournament, and what is more, succeeded in winning the Cup. The games as usual were keenly contested. Teams competing were Norfolk House, Oak Bay High, St. Margaret's, Victoria High and Victoria College." Victoria Ladies did not play this year.

Most of the members were in uniform, some were away from the district with their husbands who were in the Services. Mrs. Scott-Moncrieff was in the Okanagan.

- 1942/43 Q.M.S. Annual: "Once more the Bridgman Cup Tournament was the exciting climax of the season. Teams competed from Norfolk House, Oak Bay High, Victoria High and Victoria College. Although the only out of town competitor, Q.M.S. had the most numerous, and certainly the most enthusiastic supporters on the touch line. The games were fast and some really good Hockey was seen." Q.M.S. again won the cup.
- 1943/44 Q.M.S. Annual: "Teams taking part were Norfolk House, Oak Bay High, Victoria High, Esquimalt High, Victoria College, Strathcona Lodge, Q.M.S." Once again Q.M.S. took the cup back to Duncan.
- 1944/45 Details are lacking except that Q.M.S. won.
- 1945/46 By the end of the day, it must have seemed to the Cup itself, that it spent its life coming down to Victoria in the morning and returning in the afternoon for another year's sojourn in Duncan. For the fifth year in succession Q.M.S. were the winners.

AFTER THE WAR

Beyond the bald facts of who won the Cup, details were not readily available concerning the next several years, and we must be content with a simple list of winners.

- 1946/47 Oak Bay High.
- 1947/48 Q.M.S.
- 1948/49 Q.M.S.
- 1949/50 Q.M.S.
- 1950/51 For the first time there was a drawn result with Victoria High School and Norfolk House sharing the honours.
- 1951/52 This season there was no Bridgman Cup Tournament. After a few weeks in Hospital Lt.-Commander Montague Bridgman, R.C.N.V.R., passed away and local Grass Hockey lost one of its greatest benefactors.
- 1952/53 Oak Bay High and Q.M.S. shared the Cup. Gillian Bridgman was Captain of Q.M.S. team.
- 1953/54 Matches were played on November 28. Finalists were Oak Bay High and Q.M.S. with the latter winning 1-0. The game was closely contested, the only goal being scored by Q.M.S. centre forward in the last minute.
- 1954/55 Oak Bay High defeated Victoria Ladies in the final. Games were played November 27.
- 1955/56 Tournament held on December 3 after being postponed previously due to bad weather. The final was played between Q.M.S. and Victoria Ladies. This was an exciting game according to Q.M.S. Annual where it is recorded that at half time the Ladies were leading 3-1. However, in the second half the girls reversed the trend and finished up 4-3 to win the Cup.
- 1956/57 Played November 17. Once again Q.M.S. were the victors.
- 1957/58 Won by Oak Bay High. Owing to a severe epidemic of 'flu Q.M.S. were unable to send a team.



Watching Hockey at Cambridge, England

AFTER THE WAR (cont'd.)

- 1953/59 Played at Oak Bay November 15. Ten teams entered. Finalists were Q.M.S. and Norfolk House. The latter's score of 2-0 put their names on the Trophy for the second time.
- 1959/60 Played at Oak Bay High November 17. Ten teams entered. The result was a draw between Q.M.S. and Victoria College.
- 1960/61 Played November 19. In this year for the first time, Crofton House School sent over a team from Vancouver — and a large group of supporters. Games were played at Central Junior High on 3 wet and muddy fields. "The Cardinal", magazine of St. Margaret's School, records "this year a great ambition has at last been realized, as for the first time since it was given, the coveted Bridgman Cup rests in St. Margaret's School. The Tournament was held at Central Junior High School in the midst of depressing drizzle, but the rain failed to dampen the determination and fighting spirit which carried the team through to victory." Just before the day, the sports writer of the Daily Colonist went out on a limb and forecast that Victoria College — the Pacific Northwest Champions—would "cut another notch in their hockey sticks tomorrow". After a weekend to recover, he reported that S.M.S. had won the cup with a score of 2-1. The late William Dunbar, a keen enthusiast, had given the winning team a great deal of advice and assistance. Teams competing were: Q.M.S., Crofton House, St. Margaret's, Norfolk House, Mt. View, Victoria College, North Saanich High, Mount Newton High, Esquimalt High, Mount Douglas High, Oak Bay High, Strathcona Lodge, Victoria High, Victoria Ladies.
- 1961/62 Played at Lansdowne Junior High November 11. Victoria Daily Times reported 14 teams entered for the games "pausing only for lunch and a 2-minute period of silence in memory of fallen servicemen". The day was overcast and showery. "Norfolk Lore" records: "Although the fields were like swamps, the wind blew, and the rain

drenched everyone, we all had a good time and looked back on it as an exciting experience to remember." Finalists were Victoria College and Q.M.S. Q.M.S. suffered most severe handicaps from the start of the final. Sickness overtook a key player and the centre forward was injured in addition. Despite great pain she continued to play to the best of her ability. The match went to Victoria College who played an excellent game, and were particularly strong in the defence.

- 1962/63 November 10. For the first time, 16 teams took part in the Tournament played at Lansdowne. Drizzle turning to occasional heavy showers dampened the players, but not their enthusiasm. Norfolk House entered 2 teams. "The Cardinal", Magazine of St. Margaret's School, records that "a large number of spectators in their respective school colours lined the fields to cheer their teams". "Norfolk Lore", Magazine of Norfolk House, records "the day dawned grey, and by the end of the scheduled matches it was raining hard". Semi-finalists were Norfolk House vs Mariners and Q.M.S. vs Victoria University. Victoria Daily Times reported: "Queen Margaret's School, Duncan, won the Bridgman Trophy Girls' Grass Hockey Tournament at Lansdowne Junior High School Saturday, defeating Norfolk House No. 1 team 4-0 in the final. Mrs. Montague Bridgman, donor of the Trophy, presented it to Queen Margaret's captain, B. Graham, and it was a fitting honour as Miss Graham scored two goals in the final victory. Miss R. Coleman and Miss S. Bradford scored the other goals. Norfolk House defeated Mariners No. 1, 3-0, and Queen Margaret's defeated Victoria University, the defending champions, 4-0, in the semi-final games."

Teams competing were: Q.M.S., Norfolk House No. 1, Mariners No 1, St Margaret's, Victoria University, Crofton House, Mariners No 2, North Saanich High, Victoria High, Norfolk House No. 2, Oak Bay High, Mount Douglas High, Strathcona Lodge, Esquimalt High, Mount Newton High, Mount View High.

PEOPLE WHO PLAYED A PART

Apart from the Bridgman family, many friends of Grass Hockey have given their time and talents to the organization of the Tournaments. These include:

Mrs. Cynthia Child	Mr. Mead Robbins
Mr. Adrian Stone	Mr. Burnell, Oak Bay Janitor (for years took nothing for his time)
Mrs. Lois Scott-Moncrieff	Mrs. Sheila Moffatt
Mr. Arthur Privett	Mrs. Mona Tomalin
Mrs. Ethne Gibson	Miss Burrige
Mrs. Joyce Lort	Miss H. Rea
Mr. L. A. Yeomans	Mrs. Coralie Lomas
Mr. Derek Warren	Mr. G. C. Grant, (died)
Mrs. Jill Kelly	Dr. Neville Grant
Miss I. Greenwood	Mr. Carey Creek
Mrs. Cyril Jones (died 1956)	Mr. Bill Dunbar (died 1961)

and many others.



Mrs. Bridgman

Vivian Sanguenetti, CAPT. OAK BAY
1952

Gillian Bridgman, CAPT. Q.M.S.

ODDS and ENDS

Mrs. Bridgman played in the first three Tournaments for Victoria Ladies.

The greatest number of Bridgman Cup Pins is held by Mrs. Gillian Young, a daughter of Mrs. Bridgman. She holds 4 pins.

There is no Constitution in connection with the Cup. The Tournaments were started for sheer sport, but several rules have of necessity been made as the years passed. For example, games mistresses are debarred from playing for any teams, 3 substitutes are permitted during the day, but none during a game.

Queen Margaret's School have won the Cup the most number of times—14.

Oak Bay High School has held the Trophy more often than any other public school. Their name appears 6 times.

The Cup has been tied on 3 occasions, in 1950/51, 1952/53 and 1959/60.

Pins were introduced after the war.

Miss Pam Eden (now Mrs. Huggard), a member of Victoria Ladies Team, was selected in 1956 to play on the All Canada team and went to Australia for the International Conference.

Miss Gillian Scott-Moncrieff, who has frequently played in Bridgman Cup games and whose mother had played in early Tournaments, was picked for the 1963 All Canada team and went to the eastern U.S.A. for the International Conference. She also played for the same team in an exhibition game against Australia in Vancouver, October 1963.

A Bridgman Cup day is a gruelling one. Each game consists of 2 ten-minute halves with no break at half time. Finals consist of 2 fifteen-minute halves.

On account of the large number of teams now entering, they are divided into 2 divisions for the initial draw.

In the earlier years of the Tournaments, matches were generally played in the Easter Term, but this was changed because most schools stop playing hockey at Christmas.

In 1955 Mrs. Bridgman offered a Trophy for Junior Hockey. Players are confined to those in Grade 9 and under. Norfolk House School won it for the first three years. At first only Norfolk House, St. Margaret's and Q.M.S. entered but it has now increased its scope considerably. It is played in the Easter term.

The Board of School Trustees—District 61—recorded their appreciation of the Tournaments in a letter to Mrs. Bridgman a few years ago.

WINNERS OF THE BRIDGMAN CUP

1937	VICTORIA LADIES
1938-1939	VICTORIA LADIES
1939-1940	OAK BAY HIGH SCHOOL
1940-1941	OAK BAY HIGH SCHOOL
1941-1942	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1942-1943	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1943-1944	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1944-1945	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1945-1946	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1946-1947	OAK BAY HIGH SCHOOL
1947-1948	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1948-1949	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1949-1950	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1950-1951	VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL
-	NORFOLK HOUSE SCHOOL
1951	December 24th, Lt.-Cmdr. Montague Bridgman died.
1952-1953	OAK BAY HIGH SCHOOL
-	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1953-1954	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1954-1955	OAK BAY HIGH SCHOOL
1955-1956	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1956-1957	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1957-1958	OAK BAY HIGH SCHOOL
1958-1959	NORFOLK HOUSE SCHOOL
1959-1960	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL VICTORIA COLLEGE
1960-1961	ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL
1961-1962	VICTORIA COLLEGE
1962-1963	QUEEN MARGARET'S SCHOOL

This booklet is not for sale. It has been written, and 400 copies published by an admirer of the work Mrs. Bridgman and her late husband have done for Grass Hockey, in the hope that a few girls who took part in this 25th Tournament will get some pleasure from reading a little of the past.

There will be a few copies retained which will be given to Schools, Grass Hockey Clubs or Institutions which have a sound reason for requesting them.