

Ten years on court for basketballers

CENTRAL Region has been playing under the team name of FEDPOL in a weekly basketball competition run by the South Australian Police since May 1983.

Over the years many players have come and gone with the team recording mixed success. The early years saw FEDPOL compete in finals, but lately it's been a long time between victory drinks for the team.

This is due mainly to the improvement in the standard of the competition and the fact that none of the AFP team is getting any younger!

The aim of the team these days is to remain competitive and continue the liaison that has been developed through the years.

The competition currently has 11 teams which includes teams from uniform and CIB in six of the districts of Adelaide, covered by the South Australian Police. Other teams include Customs, Transit Police, Metropolitan Fire Service and a team from Crime



Current members of the FEDPOL basketball team (l to r) Graham Burdon, Marty Rosenberg, Peter Barrett, Bruce Nankervis, Dave Allen, Darlene Grech, Mike Velickovic.

Command Headquarters SAPD.

Two of the original FEDPOL members are still playing at present. Peter Barrett and Bruce Nankervis still enjoy a match, although they may be getting a little long in the tooth. Another original team member, Eric Dix,

at 54 years-of-age last season, decided that it was time to hang up the boots.

Over the years some FEDPOL members have competed in the Australasian Police Basketball Championships and the South Australian Police Games.

Welfare officer is on the ball

IF an active social club is any indication, then Central Region's welfare officer, Detective Sergeant Bob Fisher, has been on the ball.

"With staff levels around 110, working here is like being in an extra large family, with many of our members having chosen Adelaide as a place to live and in many cases, retire," he said.

The situation is understandable as Adelaide is a capital city which lacks many capital city problems and there are not many places left in Australia where you can buy a three bedroom house for \$60,000. He said that although some members eventually return to Adelaide because of family ties, many have stayed for the life-style.

Central Region's family atmosphere doesn't necessarily mean that the job of the welfare officer is made any easier, in fact, Detective Sergeant Fisher said that he can recognise the need for a full-time position.

"Currently between myself and my

assistant, Detective Constable Caroline Alde, we put in about two-and-a-half days per week on welfare matters. Being full-time would allow proactive measures to be put in place and would allow regular contact with retired members and members on long-term sick leave.

"As the old saying goes, there's nothing more 'ex' than an ex-copper. Leaving a job and the circle of friends you've had for many years can be quite a shock for some people," he said.

Detective Sergeant Fisher praised the pre-retirement seminars held by Health Services Division and said that they have helped to address the 'retirement shock' problem and have been well received by those who have attended.

With four years welfare experience behind him he said: "Being a welfare officer can wear you down, but the most important thing is that you have to put the needs of the individual first.



D/Sgt. Bob Fisher lines up a shot on the social club's billiard table.

"If necessary, particular welfare problems can be referred to outside agencies and the region is fortunate in having the use of the health services of the South Australia Police."

He said: "The job is something I enjoy doing. Of course, it has its down side, but one positive result will make up for any three negative responses.