

## It only happens ONCE a Century! Sisters at Wimbledon!

In the 1800's, it was the Watson sisters, Maud and Lillian, in the first Women's Singles in 1884. In 2000 – Venus and Serena, but more importantly for Seniors, in the 1900's, 1966 to be exact, it was none other than Carol and Gail Sherriff! They are known to us now as Carol Campling and Gail Benedetti.

The two girls would sometimes be drawn to play one another, which they avoided by tossing a coin, or taking turns, except on one occasion in the Final of Champion of Champions at Marrickville Hardcourt in 1963, where they played a night match – Gail won 13/11 in the third set! They decided not to play each other in future.

In 1966 at Wimbledon, on seeing the draw, they realised that they had a very good chance of meeting in the second round – a forfeit by either of them was not an option. This was Wimbledon! Amid much publicity the girls took the court (with an Umpire from Western Australia), who was just as nervous as they were – confusing the two even though he knew them both and calling the score incorrectly from time to time, “game to Carol, no, I mean Gail” – which increased the difficulty with



concentration for both of them. It was a shocking match which went to Gail - 8-10, 6-3, 6-3, memorable, but very difficult. Gail has lived in Paris for over 30 years, and Carol travels each year to be with her sister and play in a few different tournaments, visiting Roland Garros for the French Open as guests. They reached the semi-finals there in 1965, and Gail has won the French Open Doubles in three different names – Gail Sherriff, Gail Chanfreau and Gail Lovera! Carol and Gail lost to Francoise Durr and Janine Lieffrig. They also played a Centre Court Doubles match in 1965 at Wimbledon, going down to Justina Bricka and Mary Anne

Eisel 5-7 2-6. In 1966 they reached the quarters of the Italian Open, going down to Margaret Court and Virginia Wade after leading 4-1 in the Final set!

In 1967 the pair played together in Nice and Monte Carlo, (which were huge events) winning both, where they have their names etched in the columns that surround the Centre Courts. In 1968, they lost the quarter final of the French to Francoise Durr and Ann Jones 5-7, 4-6. Again (in 1969), at

Wimbledon, they got to the quarter finals, going down 7-9, 1-6, to a pair from USA.

Carol has had significant results in Mixed – reaching the last 16 at Wimbledon in 1965 with Col Zeeman, and the Semi final of the Italian with Colin Stubbs in the same year. With Dick Crealy she won the Beirut Open, defeating sister Gail and Nicky Kalogaropoulos in 1967.

Carol's winning streak began when she was 7. One memorable win was the Under 12 Mixed at Rockdale, with Rodger Waugh, father of the famous cricketers.

In 1991, Carol was a member of the winning Vets' "Young Cup" team, and has been a member of two winning "Maria Bueno Cup" teams, in 1996 and 1997. In 1996 they also won the Masters Games "Australian Team of the Year" award.

Her Vets' career headed for the stars when she and Liz Craig (Allan) began winning World Doubles titles, in 1993. Together they won eight doubles titles, from 40s to 45s and 50s, in World Veterans'



Championships in many parts of the world, competing on different surfaces and in different atmospheres. She has continued winning since then with different partners, to amass a grand total of 17 World Doubles.

In 1996, Carol achieved the "NSW Veteran of the Year" status, and in the same year, she led her team to a thrilling Final in the NutraSweet Women's State League, needing just one of the two Doubles rubbers to retain the title they won convincingly the year before. Carol partnered Cindy Dock, against the talented pair of Amanda Tobin and Brooke Leavens going down 6-4, 0-6, 3-6, while on an adjacent court her junior team mates lost in the competition's tightest-ever finish in a third set Tie Breaker.

In 2001, Carol represented Australia in the Maureen Connolly Cup, where (after 35 years) she was able to avenge her loss to Gail, by winning 6-4, 6-0 in Perth. She was Runner-Up to Trish Faulkner in the Individual Singles the same year.

In 2002, she was in the Maureen Connolly Cup team again, which was placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the same year, her team came 5<sup>th</sup> (beating the Hungarian team which beat them the previous year.) Also in 2002, Carol was successful in taking out the World 55+ Singles, playing 5 matches, with wins over: Ellie Krocke (NED) 7/6 6/1; Frances Taylor (GB) 7/6 5/7 6/2, and in the final defeating Marie Pinterova (Hun) 6/1 7/6. In the Doubles, Carol and Frances Taylor defeated Heidi Orth and D Williams-Horne in the Semi-final and Jackie Boothman and Ellie Krocke in the final with an impressive 6/2 6/3 win. 2003 saw her victorious against Inge Kubina (Ger) 6/1 6/0; Mariana Karolyi, (Hun) 6/0 6/2, and finally Marie Pinterova (Hun) (again) 6/2 5/7 6/1. In the Doubles, Carol and Frances (Taylor) took out Pinterova and Karolyi in the Semi-final 7/6 6/3, only to win the Final with a walkover against the South Africans Petro Kruger and Mariette Viljoen.

Carol played in Europe from June 2011, and was a Finalist in the 65+ WS in the European Championships in Portschach. She won the 65+Doubles with Heidi Orth. In September, she was a

winner in the European Club Championships, playing with Lagardere, France at La Manga, Spain. After this, Carol won the 65WS in Beaulieu and the 65WD with Michele Bichon. At Marseille, she was successful in winning the 65WS. It was from here that Carol travelled to Turkey to play in the ITF World titles in October, where she won her 16<sup>th</sup> World Doubles title.

In 2013 she won European doubles 65+. Also this same year, in Klagenfurt Austria she was a winner of the World Doubles once again, with Petro Kruger (RSA) which gives her the magnificent tally of 17 titles. Carol has won 6 World Team events, 2 World Singles and her wins in World Doubles have been with 5 different partners plus, she won a Mixed World title in 2012, the first year Mixed was introduced.

Carol's involvement with tennis extends to North Western Tennis Association where she has been on the executive for 17 years, (last 7 as Vice President), on Committee for Longueville Tennis Club for 14 years, on Committee of Tennis Seniors New South Wales about 10 years and served as a National Selector for Tennis Seniors Australia 11 years at different times.

Carol has been successful in winning 19 Australian Women's Doubles Championships as well as 14 Singles titles and 16 Mixed Doubles, (15 with Don McIndoe, 1 with Wayne Deer). Carol has been undefeated in Australian Teams' competition 19 times, playing in the 35+ and 50+ age divisions.

Carol has represented New South Wales in teams from 1991 for the past 23 years in a row, during which time she has served as selector for 10 years.

Having played six years on the International Pro Circuit, from 1965 – 1969 plus 1976, Carol meets many of those same players in the Senior World Championships and Teams' events. Carol has now



won a total of seventeen World Doubles and 2 World Singles titles, winning the Singles AND Doubles in successive years, and was the leading lady World Seniors player in 2003.

*Gail and Carol  
pictured with brother  
Fred Sherriff*