

From the BIVC Archives

In the 1960's members were classified:

A graduates

B professionally qualified - i.e. teachers and nurses (many female members)

C others

There were then around 300 members, the average age was in the high 20's.

In the committee minutes of 1967 it was clear that they were concerned at the imbalance in the sex ratio – there being more women than men (maybe there were few opportunities in those days for young professional women to socialise).

In April 1967 they noted the ratio was 57% women 43% men and decided that if it reached 60/40 they would take action. (The committee was 8 men, 6 women)

In May 1967 the ratio had reached 60/40 so they had a formal motion to restrict new female members until the ratio was 55/45.

In June 1967 the ratio was reported to have reached the target of 55/45 (there was then a large turnover of members). They maintained the ratio by having a list of women waiting to become full members and accepting only those classified A or B. It was decided to allow one female to join for each male that joined. "Girls" on the waiting list were to be discouraged from attending activities until they were full members.

In Feb 1968 it was reported that there was still a waiting list of females.

In Feb 1969 the waiting list was reported cleared. There were 300 members, the ratio was 56/44, the restrictions on new females were relaxed.

In June 1969 the ratio was reported as 60/40 but I can find no reference to this causing any concern (I suppose it was allowed to find its own level).

Since 1970 the ratio kept within a few % of ballanced until 1998

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