

THE 1967 WORLD LACROSSE TOUR

The backbone of this history was written by the late Horrie Webber and published in 2018 with invaluable contributions provided in 2020 by many members of the tour with editing and additions by John Nolan

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Negotiations had been underway and consideration given to further international tours for some time prior to 1966. The Canadian Lacrosse Association had sent an invitation to the Australian Lacrosse Council (A.L.C.) to send a team to play in Canada in 1967. It was hoped that a 4 nation series (Australia, Canada, England and the United States) could be arranged. It was hoped that the Australian team would play matches on the Pacific seaboard of the United States followed by Vancouver, Baltimore, Toronto, England and Hong Kong. If such a concept could be carried out it would be a great step in the development of lacrosse and such a project involved complicated preparations, and the approval of each association in each country must be won. The tour was a follow up to the successful 1962 tour which was organized and managed by Laurie Turnbull from W.A.

The basis upon which a national team would be selected, having been decided financial problems would need to be resolved, and once the practical difficulties have been overcome, a decision must be reached as to the rules under which the games must be played. It is worth noting that 1966 was the first season in Australia where all states had observed the same rules. The task of formulating a code acceptable to four different national bodies, each with a different code, was formidable, particularly as there was no efficient or effective international body in place at that time.

There was indeed the I.A.L.A., which seemed to be the sort of authority that was needed to control the game at international levels, but little seemed to be known about it. The A.L.C. at its meeting in South Australia in 1966 directed its secretary to write to the secretary of the I.A.L.A. seeking details of memberships and a copy of its constitution and rules. It was some time before a reply was received.

Nevertheless, the A.L.C. decided that, subject to an official invitation, it would take part in an international championship, and forthwith set in train the tour arrangements.

Mr Laurie Turnbull (W.A.), the Manager of the 1962 Australian team estimated that the cost for each player for a 6 week tour, during which 11 matches would be played, would be about \$1,200 and the team would need to leave at the end of April 1967.

The A.L.C. decided that immediately on receipt of the invitation they would select a team of 18 players, a manager and a coach. Each state was invited to submit a list of all relevant senior players who would be prepared to make the trip having regard to the cost of the venture and the time involved.

The lists of nominated players were required by 16 August 1966. State delegates would then scrutinise the lists and telephone their selected overseas team by August 21 to each other and A.L.C. Differences between the respective selections by delegates would be resolved by a committee consisting of the Secretary of the A.L.C., the International Liaison Officer (Noel Jeffrey) and the Victorian delegate. The A.L.C. Secretary would then inform the state delegates by telephone as soon as possible the names of the final Australian team selected. It seems all very laborious, but the A.L.C. was anxious to avoid arousing any differences between the states. Clearly there would not be selection trials and given there wasn't a carnival in 1966 the only competition that could assist selection would have been the annual Symonds Cup match between S.A. and Victoria.

While it seems an unusual process to select a team, clearly nominations had not been sought in the first place for a coach and a manager, thus the states had to put forward their team based on what was available, and each state must have 6 players nominated unless of course they didn't have enough candidates. It would appear that S.A. did not put forward 6

candidates as in the first team of 18 selected there were 5 from S.A., 7 from Victoria and 6 from W.A. There is no mention of nominees for coach and manager?

It had been considered an unwise economy to combine the positions of coach and manager and that they would go on the same conditions as the players. That is, there would be no assistance in paying fares or accommodation. The manager would be allowed an expense account of \$300, the money to be levied equally from the state associations. Applications for the positions of coach and manager were required by 17 August, the day after the respective states had provided their chosen team.

Two players originally chosen in the team of 18 had been forced to withdraw. Alec Inglis, a goalkeeper from Williamstown and Ross Griffin, younger brother of Brian, a defender also from Nedlands Subiaco, who withdrew due to a knee injury. Alec Inglis had been selected along with his team mate and business partner Michael Orr, and having married late in 1966 and having a plumbing business with 2 apprentices that required oversight and administration, they agreed it was not feasible for both to go on the tour, so Alec fell on the sword and withdrew on the basis "I will go on the next tour"! As Alec recently stated "Unfortunately there wasn't another tour"! Their places were taken by Trevor Rimmer and Robert Taylor from Western Australia.

There does not seem to be any record of the process for nominations to be received for the manager and coach although nominations seem to have been requested to be received by A.L.C. a day after each state nominated its proposed team. In hindsight we would think that surely the coach and manager would be appointed prior to the team being selected, and that the coach would have quite a bit of say and sway in selections given his ultimate role to coordinate training and develop the best players available into a unified team. We may never know, we do not seem to know who the candidates for coach and manager were. Weren't there any candidates with senior coaching experience available? Given Terry Allington was a recognized coach and did travel with the team effectively as a statistician, why he wasn't considered, or didn't he apply?

We may assume Laurie Turnbull didn't apply to be manager again as he was in 1962 was because he was now A.L.C. president and heavily focused on unifying the I.A.L.A. into a united body, which clearly it was not at the start of 1967?

What is not clear is given that the 1962 team took 21 and probably needed more, and the fact that this team would be playing in a World Series, why only 18 were originally selected rather than say 24 – 8 from each state, and why was it only increased to 23? Is it possible that this is all that was available or was that the limit set by the I.A.L.A.? There apparently was some conjecture between elements of A.L.C. and state bodies as to the size of the proposed team. It would appear that the I.A.L.A. resolved the issue by dictating that the maximum team size was 23 players and 2 officials.

A postal ballot supporting the proposition that 5 additional players be selected to bring the playing strength up to 23 was adopted and the 5 players were advised in writing in early February 1967 - Messrs David Spreadborough (Vic), Fergus Stewart (Vic), Eric Nicholls (Vic, but currently overseas), Neville Waite (S.A. but currently overseas) and Bill Willcock (W.A) were duly selected. Bill Willcock was advised verbally by Laurie Turnbull of his inclusion, Eric Nicholls, who had arrived in England early 1967, received a letter from A.L.C. (He was residing and working in London at the time).

The final Australian team selected under the authority of the A.L.C. was:-

1. Brian Griffin	W.A. - Capt	Forward
2. Graham Hill	W.A. - Vice Capt	Midfield defence
3. Peter Collett	S.A.	Defence
4. Allan Jennings	S.A.	Forward
5. John Keen	W.A.	Midfield defence
6. Angus Neill	S.A.	Forward
7. Bruce Neill	S.A.	Goalkeeper
8. Eric Nicholls	Vic	Midfield defence

9. John O'Keefe	Vic	Midfield
10. Michael Orr	Vic	Midfield
11. Lex Piper	W.A.	Midfield centre
12. Graeme Reddaway	Vic	Midfield forward
13. Don Riddington	Vic	Defence
14. Trevor Rimmer	W.A.	Goalkeeper/midfielder
15. Alan Rolley	Vic	Forward
16. Gary Rowe	S.A.	Midfield defence
17. Don Rudderham	W.A.	Defence
18. David Spreadborough	Vic	Midfield - centre
19. Fergus Stewart	Vic	Forward
20. Robert Taylor	W.A.	Midfield defence
21. Geoff Treloar	Vic	Midfield
22. Neville Waite	S.A.	Midfield defence
23. Bill Willcock	W.A.	Forward
Fred Durham	Vic	Team manager
Ian Jewitt	Vic	Coach

By 27 January 1967 matters had reached some finality, the team had been selected and the proposed itinerary was accepted, with Qantas chosen as the round-the-world carrier, the around the world fare ex Sydney being \$853.10 and the uniform (Consisting of blazer, pocket, slacks, tie, socks, belt, sweater, badge, tracksuit and nylon coat) cost only \$84. Accommodation was provided at all destinations, whether it be billeted, university or hotels, by the host bodies, including Hong Kong, except for the touring section in Niagara Falls, Paris and Rome.

An immense amount of detailed organisation followed, the respective spheres of authority were defined, with the manager being placed in full control of the party and responsible to the A.L.C. His powers included expulsion from the party if such a step was necessary. The coach had full control of all training, playing programmes and physical fitness. The selection committee while on tour would consist of the coach (Ian Jewitt), the captain (Brian Griffin) and the vice-captain (Graham Hill).

It was stressed to all members of the party, including a strong supporter contingent that the obligations of all members of the party did not cease until disembarkation in Australia. The A.L.C. undertook the responsibility for booking and paying the international fares, the international legs starting in Sydney, where they travelled to San Francisco via Fiji and Hawaii. Given the players had not trained as a team and the fact that two members of the team were already overseas, the meeting in Sydney was a first for many members of the party. Graeme Reddaway had relocated to Brisbane in mid 1966 for business purposes and he and his wife Dorothy drove from Brisbane the day before they departed from Sydney along with long time Queensland lacrosse legend Harold Evans, who also was travelling with the team as a supporter.

International tournament rules indicate that an official touring party should number 25 persons, with 23 players, a coach and a manager, and for each match 17 players must be available.

It was decided that the official walking-out dress (Blazer and tie) and uniform (Woollen jumpers and socks) should be the same as that of the 1962 team, and an additional 200 ties in the Australian colours were purchased at a cost of \$2.50 each, to be presented to the billets and opponents during the tour. The supporters group, which augmented the number travelling and thus provided the economy of bulk-booking, were permitted to wear an identifying badge for that purpose.

Rules under which games might be played were a major issue and it was decided that the A.L.C.'s I.L.O. (Noel Jeffrey) should correspond with overseas hosts concerning rules. The A.L.C. suggested that he use those submitted to the I.A.L.F. Should total agreement not be reached, the Council conceded that it would have to abide by local interpretation of rules or

perhaps more bluntly put, the American interpretation given that Canada up until that time was only playing box lacrosse. Why this was not sorted out is probably due to the weight of numbers of players – The U.S. dominated in terms of lacrosse numbers worldwide, Canada's box lacrosse style would have been more conducive to the American rules and interpretations, leaving the two smallest nations, Australia and England, to have to concede, as Australia did in 1962, that they would be playing the American game with its interpretations.

While this was not the first Australian team to make an overseas visit, it was the first to play in an international championship or World Series. Australia had the advantage of experience with the organization and conduct of the 1962 international tour as well as what to expect in terms of rules interpretation, checking, etc. Accordingly if the players didn't already have the superior gloves and helmets that the Americans used, as well as the shoulder and rib and kidney pads, they bought them upon arrival in the U.S.

In 1966 there seemed little doubt that Australia was the driving force in trying to unify international lacrosse, and in trying to unify the approach to the game as a truly international sport.

The A.L.C. pressed its international counterparts for an efficient federation of international lacrosse. While there was such a body, it seemed to have little standing or effectiveness, and a uniform set of rules and interpretations did not exist. Noel Jeffrey, the Australian I.L.O. was requested to represent Australia at any meetings the I.A.L.A. might hold and report back to the A.L.C. The Secretary of the A.L.C. was directed to write to Mr C. L. Coppard (England), the Secretary of the International Amateur Lacrosse Association (I.A.L.A.), indicating that there appeared to be no copy in existence of the original constitution. Australia therefore proposed that the federation of international lacrosse take steps to formulate a constitution, set of rules along with the objects of the federation. The A.L.C. offered to draft a constitution, rules and objects as a basis for comment and consideration.

The A.L.C. suggested that the secretary of the I.A.L.A. notify constituent members that a meeting would be held in Toronto prior to the World Series so that a constitution might be considered. One item for discussion proposed by the A.L.C. was that three years notice should be given to the Council of any future overseas, international or World Series events.

While great things were planned in 1966 for the following year there was a note of anxiety in the annual report of the V.A.L.A. The Executive Committee had authorised the conducting of a special effort to raise funds for the various ambitious projects being carried out, as it had done in 1962. The Green Ball club undertook the task but the support given to the effort by the clubs had been at best lukewarm. The Executive Committee saw, as would any long-term thinking man, that progress such as they envisaged would require money. The annual report for 1966 contained these words "Unless all clubs take serious stock of the situation and positive action at once, the future of our game is far from healthy. Five years from now could well see lacrosse reduced to a few groups of enthusiasts playing occasional social matches. It behoves all clubs and lacrosseurs to forget petty club interests, and even the winning of premierships, and devote, here and now, and for the next few years, all their planning, energy and time, to lifting our game to a standard of which it is truly worthy".

The future of the game depends not only on the vision and drive of its executive, but also on the understanding, loyalty and support of every individual club player. This even goes so far as unbuttoning the hip pocket. It was to be hoped that the trend towards improvement in numbers would continue in 1967 and that with the additional numbers would come a generosity towards the provision of money to carry out great projects like a World Series.

The world tournament to be held in Toronto in May 1967, subsequently dubbed "The first World Series of lacrosse", where lacrosse would become a world sport. There had been international matches before this, but on this occasion four national teams and their official representatives were to gather together, and at least begin to devise rules and conditions which would apply universally. It was fitting that this historic first world championship should be held in Canada in 1967 as on 1 July 1867 the federation of four provinces gave rise to the

Dominion of Canada. This date was an important centenary for all Canadians, and it was right that this time should be observed with the world gathering of the Canadian game.

Now, it is one thing to name an Australian team and control it through an Australian organisation, but it is quite a different matter to meld 23 players from 3 states into a single team. Interstate jealousy has been the continual plague of federation. It must have been a difficult task to overcome state and personal differences. The players from the different states had previously met only as adversaries. Now they had to live together in confined circumstances. Even harmless personal mannerisms become irritating. It is said that the best way to lose a friend is to share a long trip with him.

These difficulties are not mere conjecture. The players themselves were aware of them and among the first suggestions for conducting future international trips emanating from the players were:-

1. Players from different states should be mixed together as much as possible in billets, on transport, and in other accommodation.
2. State officials should impress on players that it is important for team spirit to forget state (and club) loyalties when players are members of an Australian team.
3. Team officials should not come from one state.
4. All players should be under one roof.
5. Players should practice together prior to departure.

The Manager's Report points out the same problem. He suggested that the team should assemble in Melbourne at least two days before the time of departure, and arrive at their destination four days before the first match. Why the team didn't assemble in Melbourne is unknown, perhaps it was a financial constraint.

Notwithstanding this the team never practised together before heading overseas and the fact that the Australian team developed into such a happy, cohesive and relatively successful combination is a great tribute to the wisdom, leadership, tact and patience of the manager and the coach.

It is unlikely that a team chosen to represent an amateur organisation will be the best team available. Not all amateurs enjoy the same degree of independence. The touring team must be away from home for a considerable time. Many younger men cannot take leave of absence from their work for granted. Many others, perhaps at the beginning of, or preparing for, family life cannot find the money to pay for their fares and expenses. The around the world airfare alone cost \$853.10 from Melbourne and the total tour cost was \$1,200. To put this into context, the average wage at that time would have been \$50-70/week, thus the fare alone represented over 16 weeks pay. Only those sufficiently well to do or able to raise funds and able to be absent from their occupations for the length of time required can offer their names as candidates for selection. The success achieved on the field was therefore creditable.

While we are not aware of what fundraising if any took place in S.A. it would appear that this time the fundraising in Victoria was not significant and limited to a very few functions that did not raise much badly needed funding, which clearly would impact on many potential candidates who did not have the sort of money needed to go on tour for 5-6 weeks and pay for international travel, daily sustenance and some accommodation.

Fund raising was vital according to Brian Griffin who was back in Perth and raised \$1,500 through various functions. Brian also pointed out that the media in Perth was very supportive before and after the tour. Bill Willcock recalled that the most lucrative fundraising for the W.A. contingent was an around the bridges walk-a-thon from Perth to Fremantle and back with sponsorship/km.

The around the world airfare alone for the Western Australians was \$1,033.10 although they received a \$63 credit for the flight from Perth to Adelaide as they had decided to take the train from Perth to Adelaide. While the train was clearly a lot longer at that time the flight to Adelaide added too much travel time along with the risk of missing the connecting flights,

then to Sydney and then an overseas flight to the U.S. with quite a few stopovers. It was also cheaper!

Australian Lacrosse Team - 1967 International Tour



Back Row (l to r): T. Rimmer, (WA), B. Taylor (WA), G. Hill -Capt (VIC), I. Jewitt - Coach (WA), B. Griffin (WA), B. Neill (SA), J. O'Keefe (VIC), D. Riddington (VIC), F. Durham -Mgr
Centre Row: G. Reddaway (VIC), D. Spreadborough (VIC), G. Rowe (SA), A. Jennings (SA), F. Stewart (VIC), F. Neill (SA), A. Rolley (VIC)
Front Row: G. Treloar (VIC), L. Piper (WA), M. Orr (VIC), J. Kean (WA), B. Willcock (WA), D. Rudderham (WA), P. Collett (SA)
Absent: E. Nicholls

The playing team included 6 South Australians 9 Victorians and 8 Western Australians.

Many team photos have errors or omissions, the above is no different! In the second row, second player from the right is in fact Angus (Gus) Neill, not Fred Neill, and John Keen's surname is incorrectly spelt as Kean. Neville Waite was also absent from the photo as was Eric Nicholls, which was taken prior to the first game against the N.C.L.A. All Stars team at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. We also note that Graham Hill is shown as Captain from Victoria, he was in fact Vice-Captain and had been in W.A. for 5 years.

The W.A. contingent travelled by train to Adelaide, departing on 16 April, arriving 18 April, where they were billeted overnight and flew to Sydney the next day joining up with the Victorian contingent. Our airfare package commenced and concluded in Adelaide although the final Perth -Adelaide flight was unused.

The party left Sydney at 7p.m. on 19 April 1967 headed for San Francisco via Fiji and Hawaii. They had a heavy programme of matches, and this together with the social demands of American hospitality, exacted a certain toll.

The Australian team arrived in San Francisco the same day and was well hosted and totally spoilt by the Northern California Lacrosse Association which consisted mostly of east coast ex pats. Many players were accommodated at the Sub Officers Quarters and it was in San Francisco that the team was "Loaned" helmets, gloves and armguards for their upcoming matches. The match against the N.C.L.A. All Stars was played at Golden Gate Park on 22 April.

The team departed San Francisco on the evening of 23 April for Vancouver following sightseeing during the day, taking in Fisherman's Wharf. The team stayed at the Royal Towers Motor Hotel in New Westminster from 23-26 April, with a game against a B.C.L.A. All-stars box lacrosse team at Queens Park Oval. As David Spreadborough recalled "One of the highlights was playing the box lacrosse players in Vancouver under lights using modified rules and playing on grass. Their stick skills were sensational but they had many limitations, in particular picking the ball up off the soft ground".

From Vancouver the team flew to Columbus, Ohio (Via Seattle and Chicago) to Denison University where the players were billeted with lacrosse families in the University town. Neville Waite joined the team at Columbus and Eric Nicholls joined the team a few days later in Baltimore. Queens Park Stadium newspaper reported the 'Aussies going down by an eye brow lifting score of 21-17. From Columbus the team flew to Baltimore on 28 April Eight amazing days followed in the lacrosse heartland of Baltimore with games against John Hopkins University, the Annapolis Naval Academy (Where the team dined in the mess hall) and the University Club at the Mt Washington ground. Off field activities were many and included attending the Baltimore Orioles baseball game and the team being 'chaired' around the Navy Mess Hall after they were narrowly defeated in a last minute naval blitz which brought out their 'brass band' belting out traditional 'American 'gee up' tunes.

David Spreadborough recalled "We used borrowed or loaned equipment we received in San Francisco until we reached Baltimore and were let loose in the huge Bacharach Rasin lacrosse shop in Baltimore. We all bought equipment for ourselves and spent hundreds of dollars more sending boxes of equipment back to Australia for our club team mates for the newly emerging rules we were transitioning to in Australia. Good equipment was in short supply in those days".

Apparently a match had not been organized upon arrival in New York on 6 May and when the Long Island Lacrosse Club heard the team was looking for a match they not only organized a match under lights on the icy fields of Long Island but also billeted the team. . "We realised then why the Americans were playing in longer shorts"!

On 10 May the team flew to Boston and then bussed to University of Massachusetts for a match, followed by the last warm up game against Boston Lacrosse Club, including practice on the hallowed Harvard University grounds with many players enjoying class accommodation at the nearby Lincoln.

From Boston the team flew to Buffalo and Niagara Falls for sightseeing, then flew across Lake Ontario to Toronto. The team stayed at the Lord Simcoe Hotel in Toronto (\$7/night, which seems quite inexpensive for a hotel only built in 1956) and were paid C\$15/day expense allowance by the Canadian Lacrosse Association.

Bill Willcock notes "One of the welcome messages in the championship program was from the Ontario Minor Lacrosse Association which read "Thirty thousand minor lacrosse players in Ontario are happy to welcome Australia, England and the United states to Canada's World Tournament." We thought at the time (as we still would) that this number was significant."

The matches played were:-

1.	Northern California Lacrosse Club	N.C.L.A All Stars	13	Australia	11
2.	British Columbia L.A	B. C. L.A	21	Australia	17
3.	Denison University	Denison	12	Australia	5
4.	John Hopkins University	JHU	16	Australia	10
5.	University Club	University Club	16	Australia	6
6.	Naval Academy	Naval Academy	17	Australia	9
7.	Hofsbra Club, New York	Washed out by rain			
8.	Long Island Lacrosse Club	Long Island L. C.	18	Australia	4
9.	University of Massachusetts	U Mass	10	Australia	12
10.	Boston Lacrosse Club	Boston	6	Australia	16
11.	1st World Series Match	England	9	Australia	11

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|-----|------------------------|--------|----|-----------|----|
| 12. | 2nd World Series Match | Canada | 10 | Australia | 18 |
| 13. | 3rd World Series Match | U.S.A | 25 | Australia | 11 |
- All World Championship games were played at East York Stadium in Toronto.

Terry Allington, who was providing statistics for the tour wrote the following on the World Series matches.

17 May – Australia 11 defeated England 9 - In the first World Series match England led 3-1 at the first break, Griffin throwing the only goal. England was using the man behind goal to effect to maintain the lead at half time 6-5. The Australian defence then closed the gaps and started to check hard, with quick goals by Jennings, Griffin and Rolley helped Australia to a 9-6 lead at ¾ time. Hill to Griffin who scored early in the last quarter and Australia seemed to have the game under control but England fought back and tension mounted with O’Keefe and Rolley in the penalty box. However time ran out and Australian won the opening match.

Goals: Griffin 6, Jennings 3, A. Neill 1 & Rolley 1
 Best: Hill, B.Neill, Griffin, Rolley & Jennings

18 May – U.S.A 15 def England 3

19 May – Canada 11 def England 8

20 May – Australia 18 def Canada 10 – A magnificent team victory with a few changes making all the difference. Rolley moved from midfield to forward where he had a hand in 8 goals and O’Keefe to midfield. Australia ran all over the Canadians in the first half with the midfield providing plenty of drive. Half-time scores 11-4. The third quarter was more even.

Although the Aussie forwards were getting more opportunities the Canadians were applying vigour to the game and several players came off with injuries. Careless defence gave the Canadians several penalties and they threw 4 goals. The Canucks then started to soften up their opponents with Stewart, Reddaway and Treloar being “Dropped”. Australia managed to put another 3 goals on the board before Griffin was “Flattened” and the offending Canadian sent off for the rest of the match.

Goals: Rolley 5, Jennings 4, Griffin 3, A. Neill 3, Stewart 1
 Best: Rolley, Griffin, Hill, Collett & Treloar



Above is Alan Rolley scoring against Canada in Toronto. The chasing defender looks menacing, thankfully Alan got the shot away in time!

21 May – U.S.A. 18 def Canada 7

22 May – U.S.A. (Mount Washington) 25 def Australia 11 – After the first quarter the Americans were superior in every department. Australia tried 6 players in the centre to stop the rot but could not win. The Americans moved the ball to the player behind goal, slowed down the game and then set up their plays. The Australian defence could not hold the Yank forwards.

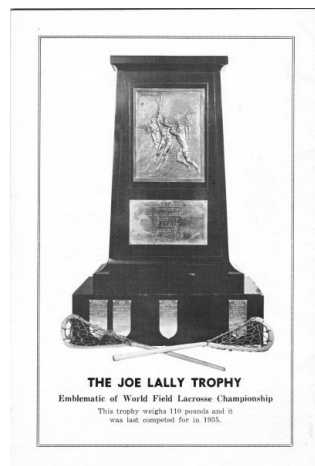
Quarter scores – 5-4, 13-5, 19-8, 25-11. Bruce Neill in goals saved 10 times in the last quarter alone. The Americans had 77 goal shots, Neill saved 22, and 12 players threw their 25 goals.

Goals: Griffin 5, Treloar 3, Orr 1, Jennings 1 & Rolley 1.

Best: B.Neill, Treloar, Griffin, Stewart & Riddington.

For the statistically minded the following shows the standing of the four countries after the Toronto World Series:-

	W	L	For	Agst	%	Pts
U.S.A	3	-	58	21	376.2	12
Australia	2	1	40	44	90.9	8
Canada	1	2	28	44	63.4	4
England	-	3	20	37	54.1	-



The first series for the Lally Trophy in June, 1930, matched the defending Mann Cup champion Oshawa team against an American college all-star squad, with Canada winning the two-game, total-goal series. The trophy was provided by Joe Lally, one of the largest suppliers of hickory lacrosse sticks from the 1900's to the mid 1930's. The Los Angeles Olympics provided the venue for the Lally Trophy in 1932, the Americans capturing the three-game, total goal series. The Lally Trophy was shelved until 1935 when an American rep team journeyed to New Westminster for a three-game box lacrosse meeting, losing to the B.C. All-Stars.

The Lally Trophy hibernated until 1967 when it was resurrected and presented to the U.S.A. as winner of the inaugural World Championship. Sadly the poor old Lally Trophy was subsequently mothballed in favour of the World Cup.

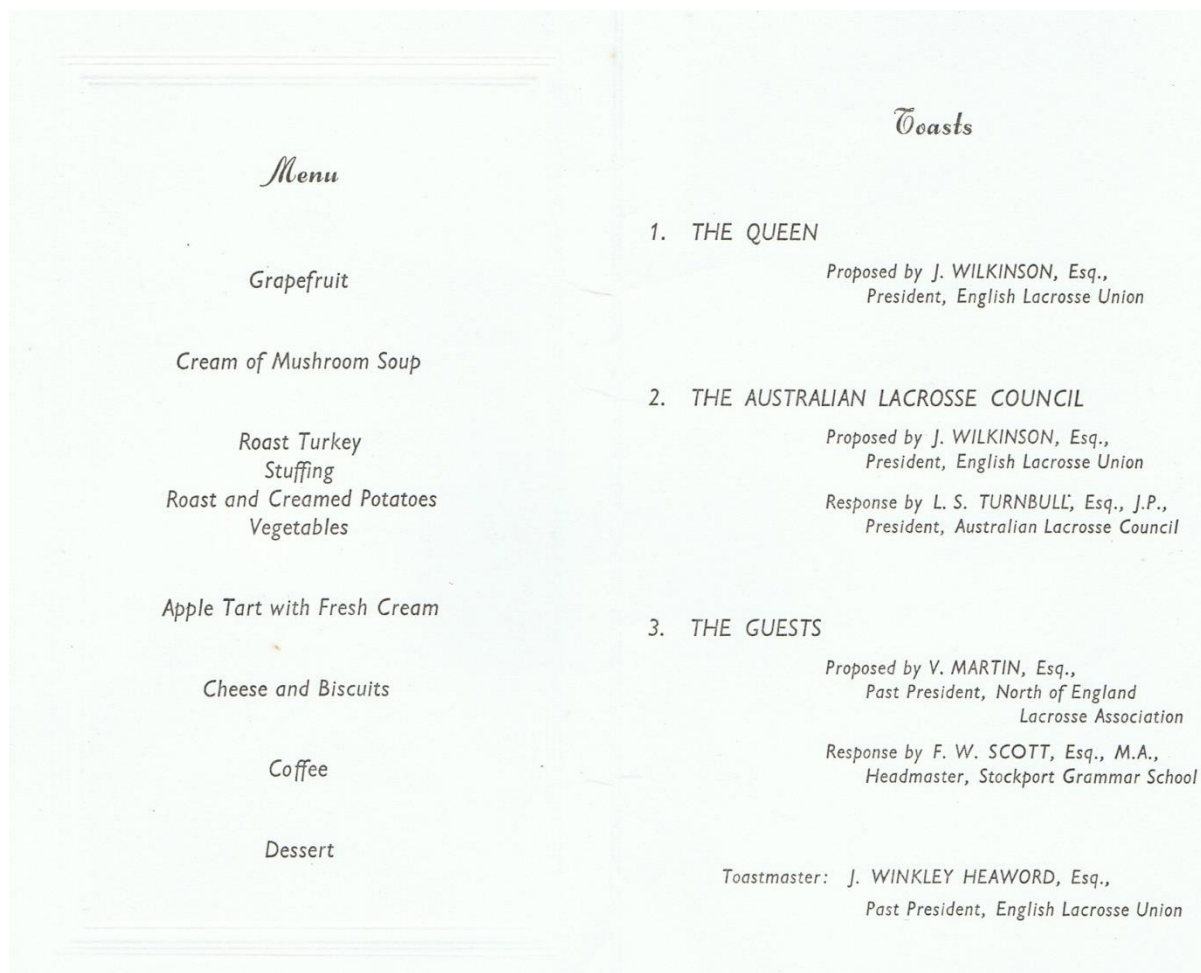
Thus in the first world tournament held in Toronto Australia finished an outstanding second to the U.S. having defeated Canada and England. But statistics like this do not reveal the purpose and value of such ambitions and expensive undertakings.

Following the World Series Brian Griffin was named the best Australian player of the series.

As one supporter particularly recalled "Quite funny in Toronto where the journalists referred to us as the "Rootin' party" (accompanying wives) and it being a "big day for the colonials", and team coach Ian Jewitt being 'jokingly' accused of making fun of the "poms", and the newspapers reflecting on the old story of how Aussies bear the 'heavy Southern Cross' with chips on their shoulders still blaming the death of Phar Lap on the U.S. A."

The team (Excluding Alan Rolley who remained in Canada to work) flew from Toronto via New York to London on 23 May and played twilight matches against Purley (London) and All England at the University of Manchester where Aussie players were fed masses of cream cakes by the locals in their attempt to slow the Australians down. The team took the train to and from Manchester. The trip to London was effectively a homecoming for Eric & Anne Nicholls as Eric had been playing for Purley since they arrived in London in 1966. The team was billeted in East Croydon, Surrey and Manchester.

The English Lacrosse Union hosted a dinner in honour of the Australian World Championship team at Stockport Grammar School on 26 May following the match against the All England team in Manchester. The menu for the dinner is set out below along with the toasts.



On return to London the A.L.C. President, I.L.O. (Noel Jeffrey), manager, coach, captain, vice-captain and Graeme Reddaway were guests of the Centurion Club at a dinner at the House of Commons.

The majority of the team then toured Europe with nine players and some supporters in a mini bus from Paris to Rome via Mt Blanc – living mostly on chocolates, smelly cheese, bread and salami! Other players and supporters relaxed in Paris sightseeing and then flew to Rome. Eric Nicholls and Neville Waite left the tour at the conclusion of matches in England and the coach, Ian Jewitt, sought permission to leave the team in England to fly back to the U.S.A. for urgent private business, which was granted.

Last stop off on the homeward bound trip was in a very humid Hong Kong (With stop-offs for refuelling at Teheran and New Delhi) staying in Kowloon where games were played at the H.K. Cricket Club against the Uni of Hong Kong team consisting of students and ex pat English players, then several 'mock up' games against recruited students.. There were approximately 2,000 school children at the demonstration matches so there was obviously quite a bit of interest in lacrosse at that time.

The touring party was accommodated at the University of Hong Kong. After sailing around Hong Kong harbour in Chinese 'Junks', the team was treated to an amazing farewell supper dance which was enjoyed immensely prior to their homeward bound journey. The W.A. and S.A. entourage travelled home via Perth (With a one night stopover in Singapore), and upon arrival they were guests at the home of Brian Griffins' parents for final celebrations and sad farewells. The Victorian contingent flew home via Sydney.

There are lessons to be learned from all tours in connection with planning, fundraising, team selection, tactics, rules, etc. New skills and techniques can be learnt. In the manager's report in the section on selection of teams he states "A majority of the players should be big, fast men, as many American and Canadian sides have an average height of 6 feet and more...". This is all well and good but if the game in Australia does not attract players with these physical attributes what do you do? There is also the issue of funding trips which is a major inhibitor to Australian lacrosse players, and unlike the American and Canadian teams, they do not have to fund all or a large part of their trips. They also have a much larger pool of players to choose from.

The wider aspects of giving young Australians the chance to live among people of different nations, to hear their points of view, to exchange opinions, to experience different cultures, to show the world the sort of people Australians are is both a great responsibility and a deep privilege. For an Australian team to be made welcome in four countries - the United States of America, Canada, England and Hong Kong no doubt did much to reinforce the doctrine of "One World" as expressed by President J. F. Kennedy: That is why the public behaviour of representative teams is important. The Australians who have experienced the privilege of representing their country return home wiser and more broad-minded men. They form small centres of tolerance and understanding, which spread in their time to form a tolerable influence in society. There may be occasional departures from what many would deem suitable conduct.

For there were individuals who were not fully aware of their higher calling! In his report on team behaviour the manager wrote: "Most team members conducted themselves in a manner befitting an Australian international team domiciled in a foreign country but unfortunately a few could not raise their standards above that of an end-of-season club visit. In spite of the manager's and coach's instructions too much alcohol was consumed by these people during travelling and on curfew nights. A letter written from Canada from an A.L.C. officer stating that he was ashamed to be an Australian after seeing the state of some rooms at the Lord Simcoe Hotel in Toronto after the team's departure, was brought to the notice of the team in Paris at a special meeting. Unfortunately all the rules-abiding, co-operative members of the group suffer because of the immature drinkers."

The coach made similar but more sympathetic comments. "Although reasonable control was maintained," he wrote, "boisterous behaviour was reported. In this respect I am bound to report that some damage to light fittings and general decor in a room at the Lord Simcoe Hotel in Toronto which was occupied by a few Australian team members. No one team member or group could be mentioned in this connection, for players from other teams were also present and the blame for such behaviour accordingly must be widespread". There was clearly some horse-play and destructiveness of which the majority of players disapproved. One of the suggestions put forward to the A. L. C. concerning the tour and future tours was that "Players should be thoroughly screened before selection concerning behaviour and drinking habits on previous international or interstate tours."

Three other aspects of the tour aroused adverse criticism: One was the presence of the "supporters group", the second was the visit to New York and the third the tourist section between London and Rome.

A number of genuine supporters accompanied the team and gave valuable assistance. So as to gain the advantage of bulk-booking, a number of others were included in the support group whose aim was pure tourism. Many of them had never before seen lacrosse played. The size of this support group left American hosts aghast. As the party all paid the same fares, the "support group" believed their wishes and point of view should carry the same weight. From the players suggestions we may decipher that there was some friction. Point

21 reads: "Supporters must be lacrosse people". Point 22 reads: "Players must be assured that supporters are not getting preference over players" Point 23 states that "a supporters' manager should be appointed". Point 24 states that the assistance offered by supporters justifies their existence on tours, and point 25 suggests that the supporters' manager should confer with the team manager, and should be responsible for collecting fares etc, but not hotel expenses.

It is evident from these comments by players that there was some inconvenience caused by the team being accompanied by a large group of supporters.

It would appear that the visit to New York was not a happy experience. Point 19 of the players comments states unequivocally: "Avoid New York - It is unhospitable and expensive."

The coach's report elaborates on the situation "In New York the players were housed in third-rate conditions at the New York Athletic Centre, and left to their own devices for three days, and during this time most of the players budgets allowed only one or two standard meals. The effect on these players and the team was quite evident in the Long Island game at the end of this period".

The coach emphasised that the responsibilities of prospective hosts should be clarified. The major points of such responsibilities he stated should be that the hosts are responsible for full accommodation, meals, transport (as required) and suitable training facilities within reasonable reach of player accommodation. Naturally, such conditions would have to be met by Australian hosts when an overseas team visited Australia. There appear to be many instances where agreements were not honoured, which left the team out of pocket.

The sight-seeing section from London to Rome seems to have gone badly. Point 16 of the players comments states: "To reduce costs eliminate the tourist section, Paris to Rome."

The manager in his report gave specific information: "Arrangements made in Australia by Orbit Travel Services for accommodation in England and across Europe were most unsatisfactory:...at all hotels the team paid 15% more for accommodation than the list price displayed on all brochures and bedroom doors. In Rome the party was stationed on the outskirts of the city, necessitating a change of three buses to reach the city terminal and the shopping centre." One wonders why such a section was included - possibly at the request of the supporters group. It is easy to sympathise with the players' views that such a section could well be deleted.

From the point of view of the good of the game the most important development was the first real attempt to get representatives of the lacrosse playing nations together to consider a single, universal set of rules. There can be no doubt that the initiative for this came from Australia. We have already seen how the A.L.C. instigated moves that breathed life into the I.A.L.A. It seemed self-evident that no world lacrosse could be envisaged until there was unanimity over the laws of the game.

We have seen already how widely the American game and rules diverged from those of Australia, and what strenuous efforts were made, first in Victoria through the Green Ball club, and gradually by South Australia and Western Australia, to modify the Australian code sufficiently to make it competitive under the rules of the United States. Some comment needs to be made about the rules in force in Canada and in England.

For many years before 1967 professionalism had taken control of Canadian lacrosse and the predominant game played in Canada was mainly "box lacrosse". The winter climate of Canada is so severe that outdoor lacrosse is very difficult, but a regular competition, such as is needed for a professional game, can be played indoors, thus restricting the playing area, and making a reduction in the number of players inevitable. In spite of efforts to revive it in Australia, box lacrosse was not supported by the better players because of the high risk of injury. Games played against Canadian sides suggested that the undesirable characteristics of box lacrosse were only too evident in the Canadian code. The Australian coach commented as follows:- "The British Columbia team was comprised only of box lacrosse

players, who had not played under rules governing American or Australian field lacrosse. The much heavier Canadians took full advantage of heavy checking against our lighter Australians who were carrying injuries and bruises from the San Francisco match, however the major factor in their large tally of goals was their adept long range goal shots which are a great feature of the indoor lacrosse game, i.e. throwing the ball underarm from 20 yards or more from the goal through the back line. These extremely "fast and screened" goal shots made an extremely difficult task for our goalie, who was playing under lighting, which was, at its best, inadequate for a fast-moving ball game."

His comments on Canadian lacrosse continue in his remarks concerning the World Series "I was concerned for the players against the extremely rough Canadian "box lacrosse players", for we were still carrying injuries to players ribs, with the Canadians violently checking in the British Columbia game, and our main concern was severe injuries during the game. Undoubtedly the Canadians adapted poorly to field lacrosse, and when we were in definite command of the game in the third quarter, the Canadians began checking violently, which was extremely alarming. My players were instructed to play wide and the final quarter of this game found our players attempting this attitude with only the slightest assistance from the umpires who would not apply the rulings nearly as strictly as one must expect and gave the Canadians untold latitude or tolerance in respect of their "Box" checking.

These comments are quoted, not in any sense of recrimination, but merely to prove that the Canadian interpretation of the game differed widely from that of Australia and of the United States. It would be no easy task to form a code of rules acceptable to all the lacrosse playing countries.

Rules in England appear to have been similar to those generally observed in the Australian states before the 1962 tour of America and the English administrators were wary of change. The Australian 1967 touring team made no adverse criticism of rules or refereeing during their tour of England in 1967.

There is little doubt that the Australian tour of 1967 indicated wide divergences, not only in the codes of rules but also in their interpretation. If the Australian influence could bring about an effective international federation, capable of resolving the differences between the various countries, and thus achieving a unanimous code of laws and conduct, the value of the tour would be incalculable.

The manager, Fred Durham made several recommendations in his report to A.L.C. including:-

- Future teams comprise at least 21 players, a manager, 2 coaches and a trainer
- The team be selected in the year prior to the tour
- The manager and coaches to be selected much earlier than the team, forming a committee with the International Liaison Officer to draw up the tour itinerary
- The team to assemble prior to departure overseas and have at least 2 practice matches
- The tour to be no more than 8 weeks with a maximum of 8 games
- Selected coach to have experience as a coach of a senior interstate team

The manager also praised members of the tour outside of the official party including Laurie Turnbull (A.L.C. President), Jim Walker (Trainer), Frank Hogarth (A.L.C. VP who assumed the role of coach in Hong Kong), Noel Jeffrey (I.L.O.) and Terry Allington (Statistician and reporter).

In summary when asked about the success of the tour captain Brian Griffin added "I am sure cost would have been a factor for some potential players but we fielded a side good enough to be runners up to the U.S.A.". On the question of size and weight of players "Size is a factor but there were a lot of short stocky players in the Canadian team". Regarding lessons learnt "The 1962 tour provided valuable input to both players & coaches/managers and lessons were learnt for 1967, and the 1967 tour was again a value added learning experience for our 1972 tour & World Series in 1974".

Well done Australia.