

THE 1962 AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE TOURING TEAM

*The backbone of this history was written by the late Horrie Webber and published in 2018 with invaluable contributions provided in 2020 by several members of the tour, in particular Peter Hogg, Graham Hill, Brian Griffin, Denis Trainor and others with editing and additions by John Nolan
April 2020*

The Australian entry into world lacrosse seemed imminent in 1961. At the 1960 annual general meeting the President of the Victorian Amateur Lacrosse Association (V.A.L.A.) stated that an invitation had been received from the United States Amateur Lacrosse Association for an Australian team to visit America. The game was strong in America, Canada and England.

Funding of many V.A.L.A. projects was made possible largely by the success of the "Monster Efforts" organised and conducted by Noel Jeffrey. Originally, the proposition had been adopted by the V.A.L.A. as a "one off" venture, and had been begrudgingly supported by the members of most clubs. The first "Effort" having achieved a success beyond the imagination of all but a few of Mr Jeffrey's supporters, was followed by a number of similar efforts. In 1960, the year before the proposal to send a team to America had been implemented, Mr Jeffrey embarked on another effort. At the committee meeting of August 1960 Mr Jeffrey proposed to invest the funds generated by the Monster Effort at £1000 at 6% for 3 years and £500 at 5.5% for eighteen months. The Monster Effort would conclude when the winning tickets would be drawn at an evening to be held in the pavilion at Caulfield Park on the 13 August 1960. At that function it was revealed that the net profit to the association was £1,851-1-0 (\$3,702). Among the expenses was the payment of £981 as a distribution to clubs. A vote of thanks was passed to Noel and Sheila Jeffrey for their work in connection with the "Monster Effort" and it was clear that this was a great method of raising funds.

The biggest preoccupation in Australia during 1961 was the proposed visit to the United States by an Australian team, which presented difficulties at many levels. The first of these was convincing state associations and club members that effort and expenditure on such a venture was justified. There were members of lacrosse clubs in all states, and especially in Victoria, who disapproved of the already considerable proportion of club funds which was absorbed by interstate games and carnivals. Added to this was the expenditure every three years on the Australian Lacrosse Council's (A.L.C.) championships. Sending a team to the United States would require a lot of money, even if players of sufficient quality could be found who were prepared to pay their own way. This money must be raised over and above the cost of participation in interstate games and carnivals.

State associations knew from experience the health of the association depended on willing co-operation with member clubs. The team to visit America was to be an Australian team. It therefore came under the jurisdiction of the A.L.C., and information filtered rather slowly through to state associations. At the committee meeting of March 1961 some concern is evident, for it is stated that the Secretary had written to the A.L.C. for the latest report and details of the proposed American visit. The state associations were anxious to enlist the support of clubs from the beginning by keeping them informed of developments.

A meeting took place in Victoria in April 1961 with the express business of ascertaining the views of clubs concerning the visit, and to prepare recommendations to the annual meeting of the A.L.C. on 8 May 1961.

The views of the South Australian association were read to the meeting, where they recommended the following:-

- The team should be the strongest available;
- Twenty-four players should be selected, 8 from each of the active states - Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria.
- A coach and a manager should be additional;
- The possibility of attracting sponsorship should be explored;

- The American association should be asked for the number of men they expected to form the party;
- Projects for raising funds should be actively supported;
- The question was raised whether the tickets should be return tickets to America or a round trip going through England;
- All selected players should be active in fundraising
- All selected players were expected to remain active in the game for at least three years after their return from the United States

They further suggested that the selection of players should be based on:

- Equality between the states;
- At least 2 university men should be included;
- Ability and availability
- Officials accompanying the team should be selected by the A.L.C.
- Each state should be equally represented on the selection committee
- the trip be subsidised and were of the opinion that both the trip and the national carnival should be held in 1962.

The Victorian association concurred with most of these views, but differed as follows:-

- The number of players selected from the states should be in proportion to the amount of money raised by each state.
- The coach should be non-playing
- A baggage master should be selected by the manager from among the players;
- Team secretary and treasurer should be similarly appointed;
- Recommended that American host clubs be asked to provide a masseur or a first aid man for the Australian team. They did not support the inclusion in the party of a trainer.
- Recommended the payment of a full fare subsidy to members of the party, but if the funds available proved insufficient, players may be required to pay a portion of their own fare;
- Taking out personal accident insurance for players should be investigated;
- A.L.C. should obtain as soon as possible the details of the rules of the game as played in America.
- The United States association should be asked to arrange as soon as possible discussions to bring about uniformity in the rules as they were interpreted in America, Canada and Britain.
- A.L.C. should investigate the advisability of protective equipment as might be required in games played under American rules and should provide the players with uniform sweaters, socks and track suits.

There was only one really controversial matter arising from these additional recommendations, and that was the basis on which the representatives for the international team should be selected. We do not know exactly what brought this contentious note into discussions. We do know from the annual report of the Western Australian association that the American trip received only lukewarm support from their registered players. Probably a similar coolness existed in South Australia. If this was the case, the attitude would have been well known to Victorians through their official and unofficial contacts. Victorian registered players no doubt felt that they were disinclined to subsidize other states which were reluctant to bear their share of the financial load.

The counter-argument would be that, as the team would be an Australian team, the financial responsibility should be between all Australian lacrosse players. One view was Victoria was the state with much the highest number of registered players it was reasonable that the Victorian association should supply a greater share of money than the other states.

We should be under no illusion the money for the trip had to be raised by comparatively few people. From the report of the V.A.L.A. Record Secretary, presented to the annual meeting in 1961 we learn that there were a total of 824 registered players in the Victorian association,

427 of which were juniors. The situation in Western Australia was a total of 488 players. There is no information as to the proportion of senior to juniors, but it is probably similar to that in Victoria. The Western Australians also had an active association of past players. The figures for South Australia were no doubt similar to those of Western Australia. This means that Victoria had about the same number of registered players as Western Australia and South Australia combined. It was considered by some that it was not unreasonable for Victoria to be expected to raise more money than the other two states towards the expenses of an Australian team. What might have been more pertinent was the number of players representing each state in the composite team. It is probable that the Victorian association would have been happy to contribute its share, but it was not so pleased with the attitude of players in other states. The annual report of the Western Australian association for 1961 states "Despite early apathy among the clubs, it is most gratifying to report that this state will be represented in the first Australian lacrosse team to tour overseas."

Not every state had a member on its executive with the plans and energy of Noel Jeffrey. Without his efforts the Victorian finances would have been more modest. Through his Special Efforts he raised £5000 towards the American tour. Since 1955 he had raised over £10,000 for the Victorian association.

The reaction in Victoria was immediate. They had supported the proposal to send a team to America from the beginning. At a general committee meeting in November 1961 they passed the motion "That this meeting resolves that a team should be sent to the U.S.A, in March 1962, opportunity to be given to S.A.L.A and W.A.L.A players of suitable calibre to join the team at their own expense. Application is to be made to the A.L.C to grant the team recognition as an Australian team.

A V.A.L.A. sub-committee, consisting of Messrs Noel Jeffrey, Frank Hogarth and Cleve Weatherill, was appointed to take care of all matters appertaining to the successful implementation of the committee's decision to send a team to the U. S. A.

It was also moved that Laurie Turnbull, the original W.A.L.A nominee for manager, be appointed manager of the team, travelling at his own expense as already suggested by himself.

Further information regarding the withdrawal of support for the trip to U.S.A appears in the minutes of the Australian Lacrosse Council. In the record of the A.L.C. meeting held in Melbourne 28/29 July 1961 it appears that South Australia supported the project, at least at official levels. Keith Roennfeldt was named by the South Australian delegate as the selector for South Australia on the selection committee for the team to visit the U.S.A. The S.A.L.A also presented the name of a South Australian candidate for the position of manager. The South Australian delegate, Don Hobbs, stated that his association had just started a fundraising effort aimed at raising a net £4000, that is, £500 per player.

He stated that the S.A.L.A had 17 players available, provided that the bulk of the fares were found by the association. It was possible that the number might be increased to 20 or 30. He was confident that, irrespective of the result of the South Australian association's appeal, his state would fill its quota of eight players.

The situation in Western Australia was different. Their delegate, Mr Robinson stated that only three players had stated that they would be available. Despite several meetings and the efforts of several officers, no progress had been made towards raising funds, and Western Australia had no money in hand. There was a general feeling of apathy among members as a whole, who considered that the visit would not be in the best interests of the game in Australia. This view was not shared by senior officials of the W.A. association. The apathy amongst members was possibly the result of the intense interest in the forthcoming Empire (Commonwealth) Games.

At the A.L.C. meeting held in Melbourne in November 1961 the clouds began to appear on the horizon. Mr Keith Roennfeldt, the South Australian nominee for Australian coach, withdrew his nomination. He did so with reluctance, wished the team every success, and expressed his hope that the visit would do much for the game in Australia and as an

International sport. A letter from the South Australian association stated that they expected to provide 8 players, and wished to reserve the right to take up any additional allocations of players from Western Australia.

The Western Australian association was more guarded. They would have one player, perhaps more. The state delegates were asked if they had anything to add to the information contained in these letters.

The South Australian delegate, Mr Holloway, said that he had been instructed by his association to withdraw South Australia's entire support for the American visit. With one exception, the players were unwilling or unable to provide their own funding. The officials of the South Australian association deeply regretted their decision, but player support had been negligible, and it had been necessary to employ a professional fund raiser who could only raise £600, the net proceeds of which were £55.

The position in Western Australia had changed little. There were two more possibilities of candidates for the team. They had several promises of support from business people which they would follow up.

The Victorian delegate, Reg Ponton, stated that, although the V.A.L.A was in a position to send more than its quota of players, he could not commit his association to supporting a manager, a coach, and between 21 to 24 players.

A motion was carried that a letter be sent the American lacrosse authorities advising them that the A.L.C. was unable to carry out plans made for a team to visit them in 1962, although it appears that the letter was never sent. It is not minuted among the correspondence at the next meeting of the A.L.C., which was held on 11 December 1961.

At this meeting a letter was received from the V.A.L.A. asking for A.L.C. approval for a team to visit the U.S.A in 1962, and that such a team be recognized as an Australian team. A list of names of players from Victoria was submitted for ratification, and requesting permission to add such other selected players of suitable calibre as may be available from member associations to the number of 24.

A letter had been received from the South Australian Lacrosse Association, dated 24 November 1961, advising that no players from South Australia wished to be included in the Australian team for the American tour.

The President of the A.L.C. stated that he had received information that players in South Australia had not been notified of the opportunity offered to them by the Victorian association. Though he sympathised with the difficulties of the South Australian association, he considered it a serious matter if players willing and able to make the trip were not kept fully informed of the opportunity presented by the invitation of the V.A.L.A.

Mr Turnbull, from Western Australia, the manager designate, supported the allegation. He had asked a S.A.L.A official to arrange for him to meet potential players from South Australia on his way across to Victoria but on reaching Adelaide he found it impossible to do this. He had obtained the addresses of two, possibly three players who might join the team, but he found that the players did not know that efforts to continue the trip were still being made. The general feeling was that if the visit was arranged, South Australia would be represented.

The question then arose as to whether such a composite team should be styled as "an Australian" team. There was opposition from the South Australian delegate, Bruce Church. As it was uncertain if any South Australian players would be included, he felt that the style "Australian" was inappropriate. Any such team should contain representatives from the three states where lacrosse was played. The best players from every state, he insisted should be included in an Australian team, otherwise Australia was represented by inferior players. The motion granting permission that the team to America to be called an Australian team was put and carried by two votes to one, Mr Church dissenting.

The situation concerning the expenses of sending the team to the U.S.A were made clear.

Each member shall go on condition that he is responsible for his own fare and personal expenses. Players would deal directly with their state associations as to what proportion of their fare and expense should come from their own pockets. No association would be responsible for the fare and expenses of players of another association, or of the managers and coach.

By the end of 1961 a firm commitment had been made to arrange for the visit of the Australian team to the United States. The tour was to begin in March, 1962. Much work had still to be done, and the difficulties facing the A.L.C. were still great.

The season of 1961 concluded with a visit to the United States of America and possibly Great Britain having been sanctioned by the A.L.C. The assent was given grudgingly, and then only because the V.A.L.A. intimated that they were prepared to organise the tour themselves, if the A.L.C. could not see its way to carrying it out. The South Australian association had failed lamentably in its attempts to raise funds for the international tour, and Western Australia had done little better. There seemed to be a sharp divergence between the views of the administrators and those of the rank and file players and supporters in those states. A possible explanation was the imputed difference in the numbers of registered players in those states compared to Victoria, however, figures given at the A.L.C.'s annual general meeting in August 1962 do not support this view. The figures given were that South Australian association numbered 713 registered players, The Western Australian association was believed to have about 500, and the figures for Victoria were 879. Discrepancies in strength do not appear to be a sufficient explanation for the limited support given by South Australia and Western Australia. It seems clear that the majority of players could not see the benefits conferred on the game by such an ambitious undertaking.

Following upon this apathy serious friction arose in the A.L.C. itself. Even while the arrangements were at their most critical stage, Secretary, Mr Goslin, who had given outstanding service to the V.A.L.A., showed a contumacious spirit. He had resigned from the V.A.L.A. executive on the grounds of pressure of business, but he had retained his position as Hon. Secretary of the A.L.C. His apology for his absence from the council meeting, held in Melbourne in March 1962, was accepted, but he failed to provide the minutes of the previous meeting. The meeting accepted, as a basis for discussion, the record kept by the South Australian delegate. The meeting transacted much important business concerning the overseas tour, business was not concluded, and the meeting was adjourned, to resume 11.30am at the office of the A.L.C. President in Melbourne. Mr R. Goslin was directed to attend, and state delegates addressed several questions to Mr Goslin concerning events in his capacity as A.L.C. Secretary. The nature of the questions is not specified in the minutes. The meeting was again adjourned, to be resumed later that day. Present were Mr R. Coldstream (President), Mr Allan Vial (SALA delegate), Mr Laurie Turnbull (WALA delegate) and Mr Reg Ponton (VALA delegate). The WALA delegate reported the details of an interview between the three state delegates and Mr Brewer, of Stewart Moffat Travel P/L. The SALA delegate also tabled a letter he received from Mr Moffat, Managing Director of Stewart Moffat Travel. As a result of the information, the meeting decided that Mr Goslin be asked to tender his resignation as Secretary of the A.L.C.

The meeting went into recess, during which time the Victorian and the Western Australian delegates called at Mr Goslin's home to collect, on behalf of the council, the Brady Trophy, touring team momentos, and the airways ticket issued in Mr Goslin's name. They also gave him the opportunity to tender his resignation as A.L.C. Secretary. He relinquished the Brady Trophy and the team momentos, but would not commit himself to co-operation with A.L.C. in respect of the airways ticket and he refused to tender his resignation.

The Council therefore relieved Mr Goslin of his duties as Secretary, to take effect forthwith, and directed that all records and property of the A.L.C. in his possession should be in the hands of the acting Secretary no later than 6.00p.m on Friday 16 March (i.e one week later). Mr R. Ponton, the Victorian delegate, was then formally appointed Secretary of the A.L.C.

Mr Goslin was apparently obdurate. At the next meeting of the A.L.C on 10 April 1962 the Council decided to place the matter in the hands of a solicitor, the first step being that a solicitor's letter be sent to Mr Goslin requesting the immediate handing over of all A.L.C. property in his possession. By the A.L.C. meeting of 29 June 1962, two months later, Mr Goslin had not complied with the directions.

Whatever the substance of the charges may have been, it seems a sordid business, at a time when the A.L.C. was engaged in all the complications of launching the first international Australian lacrosse team tour, which it could well have done without.

While the team selection was to be 8 from each state, very late in the day word came through from S.A and W.A that they could only send 2 & 3 respectively, and possibly they paid their own way. The Victorian selection was from the 1961 state training squad, and much of the money needed by the Victorian contingent was raised by Noel Jeffrey, which was based on funding for 8 players. With that news coming through it was a bitter disappointment as the Victorian squad had started training together half way through 1961 and continued right through the summer months with the help from volunteers from all clubs to make up a second team. As a result of the lack of fundraising in S.A. and W.A. and the fact that some members could not get more than 2 weeks annual leave, no doubt some valuable players could not make the tour. Peter Hogg recalls "My firm would only give me the mandatory 2 weeks leave, so I resigned!" Phil Humphreys, who had played for Caulfield and Victoria, had been working and travelling in Canada since July 1960, was selected and joined the team upon arrival in the U.S.A. Given the shortage of players, particularly from S.A. and W.A., Laurie Turnbull approached the S.A. champion, Allan Gandy, who had not been playing due to his transfer to the N.T. on business in 1962, and offered him a spot in the team and possibly a vice-captaincy, but apparently Allan was not in a position to join the tour given his recent relocation in employment and declined the offer. Gandy had in fact been offered a scholarship at Washington & Lee or UVA by the 1959 American coach, George Corrigan.

Not every state had a member on its executive with the plans and energy of Noel Jeffrey. Without his efforts the Victorian finances would have been very modest and through his Special Efforts he raised £5000 towards the American tour to cover 16 players, just over £300/ Victorian player. On top of this Victorian clubs also raised money for their players, so instead of needing over £900/player it was probably around £550/player. For most players the cost of the trip was equivalent to 4-6 months of their annual gross wages or salary.

Clearly without the involvement of Noel Jeffrey and his fundraising ability and organizational skills the tour may never have happened.

While it is not clear who the final selectors were it became somewhat irrelevant given the shortfall of players available from S.A. and W.A. and thus the shortfall was filled by Victorians, although it needs to be noted that the playing numbers were now 22, not 24 as envisaged. The team was selected and announced by A.L.C. in mid February 1962, a matter of weeks before they departed, with much to do including organizing uniforms, etc.

The final team selected and officials by club (In order shown in the team photo) were Denis Trainor (Caulfield), Graeme Minniece (Malvern), Trevor Campbell (Malvern), Keith Atkins (Malvern), John Stammers (East Fremantle), Eddie Toomey (Williamstown), Clem Eddy (Malvern), Phil Humphreys (Caulfield).

Bert Sterk (Malvern), John Martin (Malvern), Ivan Bryning (Caulfield), Ian Jewitt (Williamstown), Bob Ramsay (Wembley), Noel Melville (Melbourne High School O.B.), Noel Jeffrey (Malvern), Fred Neill (Brighton), Brian Griffin (Caulfield), Cleve Weatherill (Caulfield). Fred Durham (Coburg), Graham Hill (Williamstown), Les Goding (Williamstown), Don Miller (Caulfield), Laurie Turnbull (Fremantle), Alan Pearce (Brighton), Frank Poat (East Fremantle), Peter Hogg (Williamstown) & Bob Coldstream (Malvern).

While Brian Griffin was originally from Nedlands-Subiaco in Perth he was playing in Victoria for Caulfield throughout 1960-1962, which resulted in Caulfield having 5 players and the coach, Malvern had 6 players plus the A.L.C. President and the touring secretary,

Williamstown had 5 players, M.H.S.O.B. had one, Brighton (S.A.) had two, and W.A. had 3 players (1 from Wembley, 2 from East Fremantle) and the manager.



The above photo was taken at Sydney airport immediately prior to departure to the U.S. The two ladies on the tour (Not shown here) were Sheila Jeffrey, Noel's wife, and Jean Turnbull, Laurie's wife.

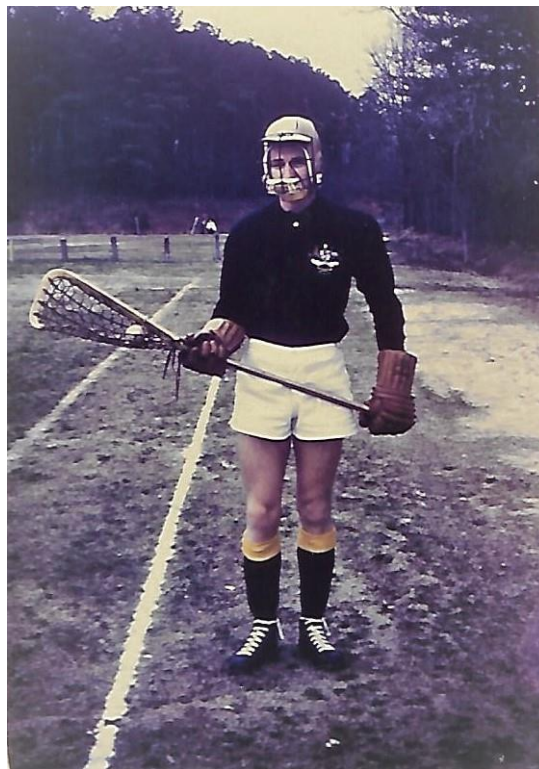
Thus in spite of apathy and/or a lack of fundraising capability from two states, disturbances within the A.L.C., and details of the English section of the tour still incomplete, the touring party assembled in Melbourne and on 11 March 1962 flew to Sydney where they were greeted by two stewards of lacrosse, Alan Bamford and Allan Vial. They caught the Pan American Boeing jet 707 to Honolulu via Fiji, but due to engine issues left Honolulu 5 hours late for Los Angeles, where they arrived at 2a.m, and having missed their connecting flight. They took a bus trip around Hollywood at 4am and took their next flight that morning, to Washington D. C., where they were welcomed by members of the American tour committee, Messrs George Corrigan, Bob McHenry, Tom Swindell and Deely "Booty" Nice (All of whom were members of the 1959 Washington & Lee/UVA tour of Australia), and other supporters. A reception was held at the airport lounge, with speeches of welcome and suitable replies. The newspapers gave their arrival publicity, as did television stations. After the formalities they were driven to the University of Virginia, Charlottesville for a warm reception followed by a well earned sleep.

Australian Lacrosse Team - 1962 International Tour



Back Row: D. Trainor, G. Minniece, T. Campbell, K. Atkins, J. Stammers, E. Toomey, C. Eddy, P. Humphreys
Centre Row: H.E. Sterck, (Secretary), J. Martin, I. Bryning, I. Jewitt, R. Ramsay, N. Melville, N. Jeffrey, F. Neill, B. Griffin, C. Weatherill (Coach)
Front Row: F.F. Durham (Ass. Mngr), G. Hill, L. Goding, D. Miller (Capt), L.S. Turnbull (Manager), A. Pearce (V. Capt), F. Poat, P. Hogg, R. Coldstream (President)

On arrival over half the team did not have a helmet, most wore 1 glove. Fortunately the NCAA provided helmets which could be purchased for \$20 at the end of the tour, as well as gloves, and even some padding and arm guards.



Above is Peter Hogg showing off the new uniform, woollen top, and the recently acquired helmet and second glove.

Peter Hogg's impressions were the Americans were well drilled but had poor stick work. "I remember at Rutgers before the game and Brian Griffin, Johnny Martin, Eddie Toomey and myself were having a warm up throw and around us would have been at least 70 spectators fascinated by our dexterity. Not so these days. There were no awards of any type for best

player or best team man. We were treated like royalty where ever we went in America. Every university put on a function of some sort for us. Graham Hill and Brian Griffin said that they received nothing like this treatment in comparison on the 1967 tour". 21 players but only one goalkeeper!! Captain Don Miller became the second string goalkeeper when Keith Atkins was injured.

They soon found that the game of lacrosse as played in America was very different from that played in Australia. "After a study of the rules and actually playing in the U.S.A our Australian touring party agreed light-heartedly that the only similarities between our game and theirs' were the ball, the racquet and the goals. The rules were so far apart that basically the games are entirely different" according to the Coach's Report. According to Peter Hogg "Take women's 12 a side rules of a few years back and compare that with the 10 a side men's rules, that will give you an idea of the changes we had to make. We had one rule book sent to us and we could not fathom the off side rule. Our first game against Duke seemed to be in perpetual stoppage as we kept going off side chasing the ball handler".

The stick checking was also far more aggressive and helmets were essential. As Peter Hogg recalls "It was like a brain beating. Every time the ball came near you there was a great rattle as the goalie called check and all defenders just slammed their sticks on top of the helmet irrespective of where the ball was. When we got to America we found out very quickly if you checked straight down they would poke their head out, take the check on the helmet which incurred a minute penalty. What upset us the most was the poke check aimed at the middle of your stomach, but mostly higher that would ricochet up under your chin. This check was carried out from about 1 1/2 metres away, stopping roll dodging which was one of our weapons to set up a spare man. When running with the ball they would whack furiously at your bottom hand, We at home had to play with both hands on the stick as a free hand caused a turn over. The American rule was you couldn't hit the free hand and they ran around with only the top hand holding. Up checking was a no-no at home, legal in America. They also got away with slashing at the body because it was usually deemed to be aiming at the target areas.

To compensate they wore body armour, we didn't. Thankfully we were also supplied with shoulder and arm padding, moulded Bakelite, an early hard plastic with a strip of felt on the inside for padding and they were as stiff as a board and gave no freedom of movement and they had to be worn under our already tight jumpers, which needed a team mate to help put your gear on. Then after the third game against W & L and the shrinkage episode it was a case of trying to stretch the jumper before putting it on and then sometimes 2 team mates to stretch it over the padding.

With compulsory wearing of helmets, body armour and gloves on both hands it took some getting used to. Some of our members at home only wore a glove on their top hand, nothing else, others would have a cloth cap. A few had helmets, made from war surplus tank helmets that were modified by adding a face mask. They protested about having to wear all this new gear but eventually got the hang of it".

Denis Trainor noted "We were totally unprepared for their checks on the helmet, poke checks into the body, up-checks and slashing on the arms". "The helmets were difficult to see through initially and we would even wear them on the bus to get used to them". "I found some half inch rubber material which I fashioned into a rib protector and fastened with duct tape, the announcer said I looked like a teddy bear, but it worked". "The generosity of the American spectators was amazing, little kids wanted to carry your gear, the families we stayed with became life-long friends".

The refereeing was reasonably consistent, not to our liking because of the severity of the checking. We were used to a lot of body checking, their long distance stick checking stopped us from using our body to advantage. In attack once the ball was passed the goalie would call check and every defence man just did that! As Brian Griffin recalls "By the end of the tour our defenders were giving as good as their defenders gave but it was a whole new world".

The American rules and style of play were vastly different from our game and becoming accustomed to both of these factors was by far the number one stumbling block. While the Australian stick work, dexterity, speed and aggressive style was something new to the

Americans, their game was considered more spectacular than our game but not as skilful on an individual basis. The skill in the American game came from their tactical manoeuvres and they were regimented and well drilled.

The differences in the rules were not the only conditions with which the Australians had to contend. Many of the rules were deemed beneficial to the game and worth incorporating in the Australian code. The American teams were much bigger than the Australians. As the team secretary, Mr Bert Sterck wrote in his report: "It was not unusual to find several American footballers playing lacrosse. Compared with Australian lacrosse player (average height 5'8" and 10 stone) they appeared giants (6 to 7 feet tall and weighing 16 stone)." This discrepancy in size must be considered together with the greater degree of physical contact permitted in the American rules. The American commentator Doug Gould, of the Diamond Back Sports, Maryland University, wrote: "The Australians are small as lacrosse teams go but make up for their lack of size with speed and aggression such as is little seen in American lacrosse." The cumulative effects of physical weight began to tell on the touring team with a heavy schedule of matches.

Another situation new to Australians was the deployment of substitutes as practised in America. This no doubt reflected the conditions of American football, but it seems that substitutes could be introduced at any time, for any reason and in any number. This may be seen from statistics given in results given by the team manager, Mr Bert Sterck.

"In the match against Duke Australia used 20 players, Duke used 24, in the match against UVA Australia used 21 players, UVA used 25, in the match against Maryland Uni, Australia used 19, Maryland used 34".

The details of matches played, commencing on 15 March and concluding in the U.S. on 16 April were:-

Match 1	v	Duke University	5	Aust	14
2	v	University of Virginia	19	Aust	15
3	v	Washington & Lee	8	Aust	10
4	v	Maryland	19	Aust	4
5	v	Naval Academy, Annapolis	17	Aust	8
6	v	Baltimore Lacrosse Club	17	Aust	10
7	v	Johns Hopkins University	16	Aust	9
8	v	Rutgers	18	Aust	11
9	v	Princeton	11	Aust	11
10	v	Philadelphia Lacrosse Club	12	Aust	8
11	v	West Point Army Academy	15	Aust	3

Overall the reception the Australian team received was overwhelming with large crowds everywhere they went with good crowds at all games.

Two matches were played at Baltimore where the team was billeted for seven days. The match for the Australian-American Brady Cup was played against the prior year's national champion, Baltimore Lacrosse Club, on Sunday 1 April before a small crowd in wet and muddy conditions. The hospitality in Baltimore was overwhelming and arrangements and tours organized by Tommy Swindell and Butch McCleary were excellent and included a tour of Bethlehem Steel Works, a boat trip and lunch on Baltimore Harbour, tour by bus of Washington D.C. and official dinner after the Baltimore Lacrosse Club match, dances and numerous cocktail parties, including a reception after the Hopkins match, where pennants and beer mugs were presented to players.

During their brief stay at the West Point Military Academy the team toured the academy and the following day the team departed for New York where they stayed at the Y.M.C.A. for four days before most of the team departed for London. During the stay in New York they had a tour of the U.N. building and had drinks in the delegates lounge with the Australian delegate.

The team was accommodation at the various universities, which was paid for by the NCAA and in Baltimore and Philadelphia the players were billeted. According to Graham Hill "the Mayor of Baltimore (Baltimore about the size of Melbourne) declared it lacrosse week when the Australians arrived and a young Brian Griffin, who was written up as a SUPERSTAR in

the Baltimore Times, also celebrated his 21st birthday while they were at the West Point Army Academy. It also snowed lightly during the match there”.

To put the size, importance and prestige of lacrosse in the U.S., Graham Hill recalls “While in Baltimore Johns Hopkins had their homecoming match against West Point Army. We were special guests at the stadium which held 40-50,000 and was packed out to the extent that a huge TV screen had been erected in the adjacent park where an overflow crowd of 5-6,000 watched it. To us this was an amazing almost AFL grand final atmosphere. We were overwhelmed with the crowd and atmosphere, but recall the game was very defensive and final scores were 6 goals to 5”.

Apparently the players only had one uniform set, the jumper being woollen, and during the third game there was heavy rainfall. The local team were very helpful after the game and washed the uniforms, albeit in hot water, and apparently they shrunk but given they only had the one uniform, they had to be worn for the duration of the tour and usually required assistance to put the jumper and protective gear on!

Following the tour of the U.S. Frank Poat and John Stammers remained in the U.S. to undertake a study tour on supermarkets and Noel Jeffrey and Clem Eddy remained for personal reasons. The remainder of the team then flew to England. The details of the England leg of the tour were only finalised and known to the team halfway through the U.S. leg but they knew they were flying to London to play some more lacrosse and then home to Australia by various means. The team flew from New York to London.

12	Cambridge/Oxford Universities	2	Australia	21
13	North of England L. Association (Manchester)	4	Australia	13
14	England	7	Australia	5

The first game in England was on Wednesday 25 April at Cambridge University, followed the next day with an all day trip by bus to Manchester with a game against North of England, starting at 7.00pm, finishing around 8.45pm. The following day the team had an early start and an all day bus trip back to London, a quick change at Australia House, then dinner at the House of Commons followed by a tour of the House of Lords and Commons hosted by the Centurions Lacrosse Club, which was the first of many Australian teams to be hosted at such a prestigious venue.

As Peter Hogg noted on the 58th anniversary of the dinner hosted by the Centurions “One person you never asked about was Bob Coldstream, the A.L.C. President. He was a magnificent man and we never saw enough of him. The climax of our tour was his final speech which was at the House of Commons dinner. I really don’t know how many people were in attendance but in the main there was one Australian to each table of at least 8 Englishmen. I really don’t know if all tables had only one Aussie on it but the attendance was huge. At the end of Bob Coldstream’s speech, everyone stood and clapped, looking around I have never been prouder”.



On Saturday 28 April the team played its third and final game in England against England at Hurlingham Park, London before a crowd of approximately 1,000 in a fairly rough and ready game, which was on from the start and fairly boisterous home crowd. After the final game the team went to a small restaurant in London for its last meal as a team and the team was disbanded on Saturday 28 April 1962. It would be fair to say that the team would have been very weary by the last game and after a month of lacrosse matches and the lengthy bus travel in England with 3 games in the last four days, it would not come as a surprise that they were defeated by a fresh English team.

The team was accommodated for 3 days at Cambridge University and billeted in Manchester and London, the only major cost was the bus trips. English rules were similar to Australian rules, and the Australian team felt more at home on English soil than they did in America.

One thing that does come out strongly talking with many of the players in the team is the high regard they had for their coach and management. It was little things like Bert Sterk encouraging players to write home to their families, and even providing stamps and posting the letters to make it happen. Under the circumstances the organization was exceptional and ground breaking and we were blessed to have managers like Laurie Turnbull and Fred Durham, the man on the ground Bert Sterk, the very supportive A.L.C. President, Bob Coldstream and the team building coach, Cleve Weatherill.

Most of the team returned directly to Australia, which in those days required quite a few transit stops due to smaller planes and lower fuel capacity compared to Jumbo jets and other long haul airliners to follow. Graham Hill and Peter Hogg spent some time in Scotland before returning to Australia with some sightseeing in Europe and then the arduous legs home to Melbourne via Rome, Cairo, New Delhi, Singapore, Darwin, Sydney and then home to Essendon, which in those days was the domestic and international airport in Melbourne. To complete their various airline bookings required going to the Pan Am office for 2 hours where the airline staff made numerous calls to connecting airlines (Air France, Swiss Air, Alitalia, QANTAS & BOAC), something that today could be done online in minutes! As we should appreciate there were no online bookings back in those days, no internet or websites, everything had to be done face to face, and planes had limited flight duration capacity as the Jumbo had not been invented yet.

From an International point of view the 1962 tour of the Australian team was timely. The rules of the game in the various countries playing it had diverged widely; and the population from which lacrosse drew its followers had widely diverged.

Australia still adhered to the principles of amateurism. The Victorian association included "amateur" in its title. But it was in a world where the amateur concept was being rapidly eroded. Its main supporters came from professional men and executives in business. Its main recruiting grounds were the state high and technical schools. This almost certainly would lead to a change in the social structure of the lacrosse population. It was certainly a game played for recreation rather than profit. Amateurism was genuine enough for all the

members of the Australian team to have paid their own fares, which for Western Australia and South Australian players amounted to £871 each, and for Victorians £850 each.

The English approach to the game was similar to the Australian. The Coach's report states "The English approach to lacrosse seems to be one of a pleasant Saturday afternoon sport". "From enquiries made I would say that lacrosse in universities and schools is much more popular than in Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia. There seems to be about the same number of district clubs as in our three states".

Nevertheless, the interpretation of the rules varied from what would have been accepted in Australia. "Our forwards were confused with the umpire's interpretation of the rules, as he did not give them the protection that the rules obviously allowed, with the result that a few nasty incidents occurred" (Coach's report).

Though the discrepancies seem to have been minor, it becomes clear that, before lacrosse could be played internationally, unified specification and application of the rules was not just necessary but essential and that protective equipment varied widely based on the application of the various rule interpretations.

A summary of the American rules is provided in the coach's report. Its main points are:

Marking of the field - This includes an area of 15 yards behind the goals, a distance of 80 yards between the goals, restraining lines 20 yards from each goal, and an off-side line a further 20 yards, dividing the playing field into two equal halves

Officials - The game is controlled by two officials, the referee and the umpire. Their duties are equal, except that in disputes the referee's decision is final.

Ten – a – side - The positions are 3 straight defence, equivalent to the Australian point, cover -point and third man; there are three straight attacks, equivalent to the Australian 1st, 2nd, and 3rd homes; and the midfielders who play both attack and defence, similar to the Australian centre player and the goalkeeper makes 10. At this time in Australia we were playing 12/side.

The face off at centre - The game is started and after each goal by the referee placing the ball between the players in the centre and resting on the wooden walls of the racquets which rest on the ground. When the referee sounds his whistle to start play, each player may attempt to direct the course of the ball by a movement of his racquet in any manner he desires.

At the face-off the goal-keeper and the three other players are confined in the defence area (20 yards from the centre), three players in the attack area (20 yards from the centre), and one player in each of the wing areas, also lines 20 yards from the centre. On the whistle, the players in the wing areas are released for play. All other players are confined to their areas until any player of either team has gained possession of the ball, the ball gone out of bounds or the ball crosses either goal area line.

Ball out of bounds - A ball out of bounds is a penalty against the team who touched it last, except:

1. When a loose ball goes over the boundary as a result of a shot or deflected shot at the goal the nearest man as the ball goes over the line gets possession:
2. When the ball goes out of bounds as the result of a face-off, it shall be faced-off again at the same place the face-off took place

Offside - The off-side line is drawn through the centre of the playing area from one side of the ground to the other. A team is not "off side" when it has at least three men in the attacking half of the field and at least four men in the defending half of the field.

Bodychecking - Bodychecking of an opponent in possession of a ball or within 15 feet of a loose ball, from the front or side, initial contact being above the knee. (You are allowed to run at a man to execute a bodycheck, which in the Australian game constitutes a charge).

Checking with racquet - A player may check his opponent's racquet with his own racquet when the opponent has possession of the ball or when the ball is within 15 feet either in flight or loose. Up-checks are legal.

Offensive screening - A player whose team mate has the ball may screen off his mate's opponent provided he himself is stationary. That is, the player with the ball can manoeuvre so that an opponent in pursuit runs into a stationary player.

Free throw - When a player has been awarded the ball for any reason no player may take up a position closer to him than 10 yards.

Goal crease and goal keeper - The goal crease, a circle, is marked by using the mid-point of the goal line as the centre and drawing a circle round this line with a radius of 9 feet. No opposing player may interfere with the goal keeper while he is within the goal crease whether he has the ball in his possession or not, although an attacking player may reach within the crease area to play a loose ball so long as he does not interfere with the goal keeper.

An attacking player shall not go within the opponent's goal crease area at any time when the ball is within the attacking half of the field.

A defending player with the ball in his possession may not enter the goal crease area.

The goalkeeper with the ball in his possession may not re-enter the goal crease area. Nor may he remain in the area longer than is necessary to step out of the crease.

Personal fouls - For personal fouls the penalty is suspension from the game for one to three minutes. Personal fouls include:

Illegal bodychecks - A bodycheck of an opponent who is not in possession of the ball or within 5 yards of a loose ball is illegal. A bodycheck from the rear is illegal.

Slashing - A player must not swing his racquet with vindictiveness or reckless abandon. Nor shall a player strike an opponent in an attempt to dislodge the ball from his racquet. However, an opponent is not permitted to place any part of his body except his head to prevent an opponent from hitting his racquet. Any strike on the head by a racquet of an opponent is illegal.

Tripping - A player is not permitted to trip an opponent with any part of his body or racquet.

Unnecessary Roughness

Unsportsmanlike Conduct e.g. Argue with officials, using profane or obscene language during a game.

Expulsion Fouls - Penalty is expulsion for the remainder of the game. A player may be substituted for the expelled man after three minutes. An expulsion foul consists of striking or attempting to strike an opponent, non-playing member, coach or anyone officially connected with an opponent's squad, or anyone controlling the game with the hand, racquet, ball or otherwise.

Technical fouls - For technical fouls the penalty is either suspension from the game for 30 seconds if the offending team does not have the ball at the time of the offence, or simply loss of the ball if it does have possession. Technical fouls include:

Illegal offensive blocking - An offensive player must not move into and make contact with a defensive player who is in pursuit of an opponent with the ball.

Holding - A player shall not hold a player or his racquet in any manner.

Pushing - A player shall not push an opponent with his hands, arm or other part of his body unless the opponent has possession of the ball or is within 5 yards of the ball. A player must never push an opponent with his racquet.

Touching the ball

Withholding the ball from play - A player must not lie on a loose ball or trap it in the stick longer than is necessary to pick it up.

Illegal action with the racquet

A player must not throw his racquet or take part in the game without it.

Slow whistle technique - This is a technique similar to the "advantage rule" as it is known in Australian Rules football. The referee indicates a breach of the rules, but, if the attacking player is to be disadvantaged by the penalty, play is allowed to go on. Should the movement be foiled, the player may then be granted the penalty.

After experiencing the American rules, the touring party decided that the Australian game would benefit if some of the American rules were adopted.

The majority of players favoured most of the rule changes currently adopted in the U.S. A: As the coach of the touring team pointed out, it was one thing to see the rules on paper and another to experience them in action. To fulfil this need an organisation came into being in Victoria under the title of the "Green Ball" Club. This consisted of a group of players, most of whom had had experience of the American game, who staged exhibition matches to demonstrate the game as it would be under the revised rules. It was decided to play an exhibition match which the "Green Ball" Club would stage at Caulfield on 9 September. At a special Executive Committee meeting (17 September 1962) twelve members of the overseas team were present by invitation.

The "Green Ball" club considered that certain aspects of the American game should not be incorporated in the Australian code of rules. Among these were the "Poke check", the "Lip-check", charging or "Free Arm" rules and the V.A.L.A. supported their proposals.

It was suggested that the "Green Ball" club should hold a round table conference in Adelaide at the conclusion of the exhibition match to be staged there in the near future, so that a second member association of the A.L.C. should understand the possible new rules to be presented for the consideration of the Council. The "Green Ball" club considered it essential that the standard of lacrosse in Australia must improve, particularly in refereeing, if Australia was to compete successfully in international matches, and if the game was to grow locally.

In conclusion, it is to be noted that Australia was in a peculiarly effective position to influence the formulation of the international rules of lacrosse. It must be remembered that there were thousands of American service men who had visited Australia during World War II. Though there are happier occasions for making international acquaintances, the Australian team was received everywhere with the greatest cordiality. Their discussions of lacrosse with American administrators had been frank, full, and harmonious. The Australians on the 1962 international tour knew what the Americans were ready to concede in the interests of establishing an International code, and what they would retain with stubborn determination. The Australian members of the overseas tour appreciated that many of the divergences evident in American lacrosse improved the game.

As a result of this rather hastily improvised international tour in 1962 it was clear that an international code was necessary. The Australian contingent had had the opportunity of playing the game according to American, English and Australian rules. Their representatives were in an excellent situation to arbitrate between the various points of view. What would be the outcome of international deliberations that lay concealed in the future, yet Australia by its international contacts, and by its internationally acclaimed prowess, was in a favourable position to exert leadership.

No doubt the constituent states of the A.L.C. needed to analyse the benefits against the difficulties of international competition. The states which had supported the 1962 tour with reluctance now had the opportunity to reconsider their views. The conclusion of the 1962 season opened the way for Australia to become a leader in an old and traditional game. Whether the men actually involved would rise to their opportunity remained to be seen.

The questions to be asked "Was it worth it, what did we learn and what could we take on board for the future domestic and international lacrosse, what do we need to do better, what changes are necessary in our domestic game"? Overall, was it a successful tour?

Given what was learnt and the positive experiences from international lacrosse, the goodwill generated from the tour, and the fact that it paved the way for the inaugural World Series in 1967 in Canada, it was clearly a successful and well organized and managed tour, at a time when money was not readily available as it is today, when the internet and email did not exist, when international travel was expensive and not readily coordinated, when rules were clearly played in a local or tribal manner, and protective equipment in Australia before the trip was effectively unheard of. Well done players, coach and administrators, well done Australia.