

Extract from the 1884 New South Wales Sporting Annual – Lacrosse Started 1883

LACROSSE.

(By GEO. BEECH, Hon. Sec. of the Sydney Lacrosse Club).

LACROSSE, the national game of Canada, is played with long-netted sticks and a sponge rubber ball, the object being, as in football, to get the ball through a goal. Twelve players constitute a lacrosse team, and these are all assigned places in various parts of the field. In play the ball is propelled by means of the netted sticks or "Crosse," the player carrying it as far as he can on his crosse, and then, by means of a sling, sending it forward towards his opponents' goal. While a player is carrying the ball on his crosse any of the opposing team are at liberty to stay his career by knocking the ball out. This is termed "checking." The goals are eight feet high by six feet wide, and the ball must pass through this remarkably limited space to count. The fastness of lacrosse is one of its leading features, the rapidity with which the ball travels making the pace very hot, while the fact that almost every muscle of the body is brought into play in the game, is one of its best recommendations as an exhilarating winter sport for the colonies.

In New South Wales the game is only in its infancy there only being one club at present—the Sydney—which was started in June, 1883, by Messrs. Beech and Millett, two old Victorian players. Very little was done last year, most of the time being taken up in teaching the new hands the rudiments of the game. This year, however, the club has managed to get together sufficient proficient players to form two teams. In order to make the game known these teams, under the names of Reds and Blues, are playing exhibition matches on the various suburban grounds—Waverley, Randwick and St. Leonards being the three already visited, where exciting contests have taken place, the on-lookers, especially at the last mentioned place, taking great interest in the game. Gentlemen wishing to join the club or requiring information in reference to the game, will kindly apply to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Geo. Beech, 87, Clarence-street, Sydney.

