

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN



LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

(Incorporated)

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1953 SEASON

TO BE PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN McNESS HALL,
PIER STREET, PERTH, ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1954, at 7.30 p.m.

OFFICIALS 1953

Patron:

His Excellency the Governor, Lieutenant-General Sir CHARLES GAIRDNER, K.C.M.G., C.B., C.B.E.

President: C. M. HICKEY, Esq.

Life Members: I. J. TAYLOR, Esq., C. E. M. HICKEY, Esq., R. W. ELLIOTT, Esq.,
H. J. CARMICHAEL, Esq., A. R. V. PAGE, Esq., W. H. WHITEMAN, Esq.

Hon. Associate Members: R. H. ANGUS, Esq., L. O. BURLINSON, Esq., J. L. CARDEN, Esq., F. HORNER, Esq.,
P. W. BYERS, Esq., E. F. JOHNSON, Esq., E. JEWELS, Esq., H. V. HORNER, Esq.

Vice-Presidents:

L. F. BANYARD, Esq.
C. F. PALMER, Esq.
A. BOXHORN, Esq.

A. SWAN, Esq.
F. MACKENZIE, Esq.
L. PITSIKAS, Esq.

H. RUDDERHAM, Esq.
J. FERGUSON, Esq.
J. MARTIN, Esq.

A. WEAVER, Esq.
L. V. BANYARD, Esq.
E. L. BERRY, Esq.

Chairmen of Committees: L. F. BANYARD, Esq.

Honorary Secretary: R. WHEATLEY, Esq.

Honorary Treasurer: R. HART, Esq.

Assistant Hon. Secretary: V. HORNER, Esq.

Honorary Record Secretary: W. O'LEARY, Esq.

Rough Play and Disputes Board: A. R. PAGE, Esq., L.
O. BURLINSON, Esq., A. BOXHORN, Esq.

State Selectors: C. E. M. HICKEY, Esq., A. SWAN, Esq.,
A. R. BOXHORN, Esq.

Honorary Auditors: J. CRAIG, Esq., H. RUDDERHAM,
Esq.

Honorary Solicitor: W. M. NAIRN, Esq.

Delegate to Australian Lacrosse Council: I. J. TAYLOR,
Esq.

Honorary Historian: J. L. CARDEN, Esq.

Deputy Chairman: I. CAMPBELL, Esq.

*Requested players 300
teams 26*

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit for approval a report on the activities of this Association during the season of 1953.

Following a very successful 1952 in which the reduction of team size played a major part, a complete readjustment had to be made for the advent of the return to 12-men teams. Although this was viewed with grave concern by the officials of the Association, machinery was set in motion to cope with the problem of finding two extra players for each team. Taking into consideration the shortage of really first-class lacrosse equipment and the loss of many players to the armed forces, it was felt that it would only be necessary to provide ten men for the lower grade teams as long as the A grade continued under A.L.C. ruling of twelve. This decision enabled the nine clubs to field a maximum of teams and so keep the competition on a competitive basis. Results of the premierships competition were most gratifying to the Permit and Grading Committee, which dispensed with the usual round of trial matches in order to commence the season with the least possible delay.

Generally speaking, 1953 will be looked upon as a season of experiments on and off the field. Wide and varying methods of play were adopted which showed up the apparent weaknesses and highlighted the finer points to give club officials a host of new ideas to utilise. Some were orthodox, some were not, but in the matter of rallying to the parent Association on the determination of policy, etc., they had but one idea and that was towards the progress of the Association as a whole. Provided that we can boast committeemen as eager and enthusiastic as those at present holding office, no fears need be felt for the future of West Australian lacrosse.

Sticks

As anticipated, Pakistan sticks became available early in the season. Purchased freely by all clubs, the reports have been most encouraging, with the emphasis on the necessity to oil thoroughly before use. Although much lighter in weight than the Canadian counterpart, they have helped avert a complete famine and should find a ready market provided that the landed cost can be kept at a minimum.

Late advice was received from the P. J. Brady Co. in connection with the hickory product they hoped to turn out for use in the coming 1954 season. Stocks of wood were not a problem, but it appears that only a limited time is available during the summer months in which to shape the frames. Yet to be tried in match games, the advent of this new product will be looked for in the new year. It is understood that the approximate cost of the frames only will be in the region of 66/-. This, of course, is open for cost of production fluctuations.

Junior Teams

With advent of the Pakistan stick and the Association policy of fostering junior teams, particularly from the high schools and colleges, several clubs accepted the offer of the Association of free equipment, provided that a new team was entered in the lower grade competition. Mt. Lawley, South Perth, Wembley and Perth accepted under these conditions, increasing the number of teams in the grade to seven. The progress of these young players surpassed even the most enthusiastic hopes, and has formed a sound basis on which the future of the W.A.L.A. will progress. Grateful encouragement has been given by many old players who feel that they owe the sport a duty for the many

hours of pleasure derived from the game in the past years. It is indeed gratifying to see this grand response for coaches to our budding champions when it is needed most.

Lacrosse Amateur Referees and Old Players Association

Sterling work was put in by this tireless body of men who steered our matches through rain and shine, without the loss of one "Ref." Only an enthusiasm such as theirs ultimately keeps the game on an upward improvement.

As usual their annual dinner was again a great success and full credit must be given to the organising committee for a really enjoyable evening. Don't forget, players, that this Association is still desperately in need of new members.

A Grade

Semi-Finals: Fremantle defeated Midland Junction after a thrilling game, which culminated in a draw at the siren. A period of extra time did not produce a result, and the second period had almost finished when Fremantle crashed through a tightly packed back-line to score the vital point. Wembley easily disposed of Perth in a rather lopsided contest. However, Perth acquitted themselves with a never-say-die spirit which won praise from the opposing team.

Final: Wembley unexpectedly defeated Midland with a copy-book show of lacrosse, striking form at the outset of the game Wembley soon had four goals to their credit before an answering double came from the opposition. Maintaining a constant pressure in the attack and combining well Wembley forged ahead and increased the lead by the end of every quarter.

Grand Final: An impressive line-up of teams had the spectators on tenterhooks and they were not disappointed throughout this gruelling game. Fremantle on general impression were proving too much for Wembley in the initial stages, but it was not long before answering combinations evened the play. Many thrilling passages of play were witnessed and also several dull spots where neither team took the initiative. Bad patches of scrambling marred the match in what was otherwise termed as hard and fast. Wembley did not at any stage have a really commanding lead but showed without a doubt that they were a team. After striving hard for the last five years, Wembley defeated Fremantle to win their first premiership for fifteen years. Congratulations go to their skipper, Val Ellis, on his brilliant effort.

Premiership Table and Final Placings

First, Midland Junction, Minor Premiers.
Second, Fremantle.
Third, Wembley, Premiers.
Fourth, Perth.

A Reserve Grade

Semi-Finals: Bayswater competently dealt with Mt. Lawley with a polished display of stick work, which earned them a week's rest and the advantage of being able to study the future opponents. Fremantle played well against Midland Junction, but were not well enough equipped to stave off defeat. A lot more training seemed necessary for them to reach the standard necessary in this hard and speedy grade.

Final: Although beaten in their last encounter, Mt. Lawley again proved that they were the logical contenders for the premierships honours. The easy follow-through game adopted had Midland floundering for most of the match. However, much experience was gained by this team which will show to advantage next year.

Grand Final: Jumping in the breach from the first bell, Bayswater started the match rolling with two quick goals. to be followed closely with a similar reply from Mt. Lawley. Fortunes seesawed for most of the first half, with a slight advantage in favour of the minor premiers. Third quarter saw little change, and no hope of forecasting the winners. The last term produced a lively burst from Bayswater which put the opponents a little off balance. However, with ten minutes to go, Mt. Lawley made a desperate effort to break through defences with a negative result. Bayswater were outright winners, 14 goals to 9 goals.

Premiership Table and Final Placings

First, Bayswater, Minor and Senior Premiers.
 Second, Mt. Lawley.
 Third, Fremantle.
 Fourth, Midland Junction.

B Grade

Semi-Finals: As in the A grade the minor premiers were dethroned by a well-planned game by East Fremantle. On the other hand, Perth hustled through an uneventful match to defeat the not strong Fremantle lads.

Finals: Wembley again had to stand another defeat after a grand effort, which showed to advantage the fine standard of B grade lacrosse in this State. With this win Perth appeared set for an attempt to win its first B grade premiership for many years.

Grand Final: From the outset the spectators noticed that no holds were barred in this match between East Fremantle and Perth. Neither team were able to get a firm grip on the game—striving from every position to strike a commanding lead, each found the defences showing excellent form. As experience was available in both teams, stamina and stickwork paid dividends to Perth, as they steadily gained the upper hand. Unfortunately towards the close of the match injuries marred the play, but not the spirits of the remaining players. Easts went down fighting, acknowledging the superior efforts of Perth, who were exulted with their victory.

Premiership Table and Final Placings

First, Wembley, Minor Premiers.
 Second, East Fremantle.
 Third, Perth, Premiers.
 Fourth, Fremantle.

Junior Grade

Semi-Finals: Giving a grand exhibition of junior lacrosse, Midland had no difficulty in disposing of Wembley's No. 2 team, while Perth were able to account for its No. 1 team.

Final: In this game both teams were more evenly matched, thrilling the followers with some excellent rallies worthy of a higher grade. Showing the marks of future champions, Wembley No. 2 followed through its attacks and so maintained possession of the play and forced Perth well out of the picture.

Grand Final: Superior in every department, the more experienced team from Midland gave the Wembley players little chance of settling down to any type of routine play. Terrific attacking moves and passing shots gained high praise from officials of the Association, who were unanimous that this team would go far in lacrosse. Completely unsettled and being forced into serious errors, Wembley strived hard but naturally enough had to give way to the strongest junior team to face off in any grand final.

Premiership Table and Final Placings

First, Midland Junction, Minor Premiers and Premiers.
 Second, Wembley No. 2.
 Third, Perth.
 Fourth, Wembley No. 1.

Trophy Winners

1. J. Taylor Shield and Pennant to Wembley, Premiers A Grade.
 Jubilee Cup to Midland Junction, Minor Premiers, A Grade.
 Lapsley Cup and Pennant to Bayswater, Premiers, A Reserve Grade.
 Association Cup to Bayswater, Minor Premiers, A Reserve Grade.
 Clark Cup and Pennant to Perth, Premiers B Grade.
 Clark Cup to Wembley, Minor Premiers B Grade.
 Fearon Cup and Pennant to Midland Junction, Premiers Junior Grade.
 Carmody Cup to Midland Junction, Minor Premiers Junior Grade.
 Victory Cup to Wembley Club.
 Gala Efficiency Cup to Midland Junction Club.

Fairest and Best Players

A Grade: M. Sims (Midland) 13 points; R. Hayes and F. French (Fremantle) 7 points each; E. Brown (Wembley) and I. Ely (N. Subi) 6 points each; J. Gay (East Fremantle) and R. Cornish (Wembley) 5 points each.

A Reserve: K. Price (South Perth) 7 points; B. Bridge (Wembley), N. Palmer (Bayswater), D. Taylor (South Perth), K. McGregor (South Perth) 5 points each; R. Priestman (Bayswater), R. Fletcher (Mt. Lawley), D. Hosken (Mt. Lawley), V. Horner (Mt. Lawley), B. Noone (Fremantle) 4 points each.

B Grade: G. Fist (Mt. Lawley) 6 points..... D. Killjick (Wembley) and P. Doyle (Wembley) 5 points each; K. Sugar (Bayswater), S. Lander (Mt. Lawley), K. Hutchins (Bayswater) 4 points each; B. Chilman (East Fremantle) and A. Mitchell (Fremantle) 3 points each.

Junior Grade: R. Refeld (South Perth) 13 points; G. Dewar (Wembley) 12 points; D. Scott (Perth) 11 points; V. Ellis (Wembley) 8 points; D. Whisson (Mt. Lawley) 7 points; S. Clark (Midland Junction) 5 points.

The following junior players were awarded a lacrosse stick trophy presented by the Association from voting handed in by the respective club officials. The winners were adjudged as the most enthusiastic and club-minded member from the lower grade, with the idea of giving each player something to strive for irrespective of his prowess in the handling of a lacrosse stick:

K. Ellis, Wembley No. 1,
 G. Dewar, Wembley, No. 2,
 M. Dalton, South Perth,
 J. Lind, Mt. Lawley,
 I. Woods, Perth,
 S. Clark, Midland Junction.
 D. Raffaele, East Fremantle.

Fairest and Best Voting

Although I was one of the prime movers to have the system of voting simplified and so make the job easier for the umpires, it is evident that the recording of votes on the two and one system is not sufficient to give the competition a flavour of excitement. I would urge that future committees revert to the old method of recording votes three, two and one, which will be allotted by the central umpire only. This does not necessarily mean that a member from each team must record a vote. It could be that the umpire would see fit to give all votes to one team only.

Going back to this method will, I feel sure, overcome the deadlock at present experienced of several players polling an equal number of votes without the advantage of a count-back to decide a clear-cut winner.

Australian Carnival, Adelaide

Although the State team was beaten in both the contests against Victoria and South Australia, it is to their credit that the matches were closely contested and with a little more time to settle down the result could easily have been in their favour. Perhaps the most important feature of this carnival is the fact that three of our players were outstanding enough to earn selection in the All-Australian team. They were F. French, C. Mounse and J. Pitsikas, who have been leading State players for a number of years. To them I offer on behalf of the Association hearty congratulations.

Mr. K. Forsyth is also to be congratulated on the masterly way he managed the team during the visit to Adelaide, and to be thanked for the very comprehensive report tabled by him on his return.

The State team members were as follows: F. French, C. Mounse, J. Cowling, E. Brown, A. Weaver, E. Powell, R. Turnbull, J. Pitsikas, A. Forsyth, M. Sims, V. Ellis, W. Whiteman, W. Brown, R. Cornish.

Match results: South Australia defeated Western Australia, 20-12; Victoria defeated Western Australia, 7-6.

Rough Play and Disputes Board

It was not necessary to call upon the services of this board.

Retirement

During the latter part of the year Mr. Reg Elliott announced his retirement from active participation in Association affairs, expressing his hopes that lacrosse would go forward with greater achievements and once more regain its place as one of the finest of amateur sports.

With more than fifty years of active service to his credit, it will be understood the regret we felt when he made his announcement. During these years he has presided as Chairman of Committees, Association President, controlled the teams during the trying years of the war and generally steered our members with cool and calm judgement through many troubled eras.

I take this opportunity to convey to Reg, on behalf of the committee, officers and members of the Association, thanks for such splendid guidance and companionship afforded so generously to each and every one of us.

Publicity

Gratitude and thanks are extended to members of The Broadcaster, West Australian, Sunday Times and Daily News and also 6WF for their generous assistance with our weekly announcements.

W.A. Sportsmen's Organising Council for Patriotic Funds

Committee room of this council was once more used for our mid-day Permit and Grading Committee meetings for which this Association is indebted for this generous annual offer.

Obituary

It is with misgivings that I report the passing of Mr. R. H. Angus, an Honorary Associate member and holder of the Certificate of Merit. He will live long in our memory for the service and the undying love he held for the game of lacrosse. To his relatives we express our deepest sympathy.

Social Events

With a large amount of money to be found in order to sponsor the Australian Carnival team it was found necessary to go into a solid programme in order to raise the necessary finance. I am glad to report that various functions were highly successful, particularly the Queen Competition, which was the culminating factor which enabled the team to be sponsored with very little personal expense for the members.

A send-off Ball held in the State team's honour was also well attended, only to be exceeded beyond expectations by the well-attended annual wind-up ball also held at the Pagoda Ballroom. This annual feature of festivity had for the first time for many years turned out to be a paying concern and proved a contentious point, that the presentation of trophies and dancing are the only attractions needed to make this evening a huge success.

Australian Lacrosse Council

Nothing but commendation can be given to this central body, which has the task of guiding the destinies of thousands of lacrosseurs to greater efforts. For their help and direction we will for ever be appreciative in this new year of new trials, and we offer our co-operation whenever required.

To Mr. I. J. Taylor, honorary secretary of the Australian Lacrosse Council, who acted as our delegate, we extend our sincere appreciation for his willingness and co-operation.

Retirement

During the past season I have found it increasingly difficult to give my wholehearted attention to matters which vitally concern the control and efficient organisation of this Association. This has been brought about by increased responsibility at my place of employment and also the fact that my studies have been seriously hindered by the time taken up with secretarial duties. I therefore must regretfully tender my resignation as secretary of the Association and, in doing so, would offer my sincere thanks to office-bearers, committeemen and members alike who have extended to me their very helpful co-operation during the past two years. I have an unrelenting faith in this Association and am sure that in the next few years to come that we will surpass South Australia and Victoria in both State honours on and off the field, and to this end I wish the members every success.

R. D. WHEATLEY,

Hon. Secretary.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 17.2.1954

LIABILITIES

SUNDRY CREDITORS:

	£	s.	d.
Bayswater L. C.	5.	1.	4
Midland Jctn L.C.	<u>5.</u>	<u>14.</u>	<u>10</u>
General	30.	8.	3
Stick Fund A/c	102.	2.	5
Carnival A/c	44.	12.	4
Interstate Visit Fund	91.	6.	7
Junior Interstate Visit A/c	<u>30.</u>	<u>7.</u>	<u>4</u>
	166.	6.	3

ACCUMULATION ACCOUNT:

Balance as at 27/2/53	£355.18.7
Plus excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>112.17.7</u>
	468. 16. 2

ASSETS

National Bank

£ 199. 1. 6

SUNDRY DEBTORS:

Fremantle L.C.	15. 1. 0
Mt. Lawley L.C.	8. 7. 0
Nedlands Subiaco L.C.	28. 1. 6
Perth L.C.	<u>18.10.0</u>
South Perth L.C.	<u>25. 8.4</u>

95. 7. 10

Suspense A/c

6. 19. 6

Lacrosse Balls

29. 10. 0

Badges

15. 14. 8

Trophies

11. 15. 0

Rule Books

20. 7. 6

Typewriter

3. 0. 0

Blayer Pocket

-. 15. 0

Goal Equipment

£13.19.2

Less Depreciation

2.15.10

11. 3. 4

STICKS:

Carnival
Junior

£111.1.3
29.16.0

140. 17. 3

COMMONWEALTH SAVINGS BANK A/C:

Carnival A/c	£44.12.4
Junior Interstate Fund	30. 7.4
Interstate Visit Fund	91. 6.7
Stick Fund A/c	<u>77.11.5</u>

243. 17. 8

£778. 9. 3

£778. 9. 3