

Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 1958. Presented at the Annual Meeting held at the Amateur Sports Club, Melbourne on Friday 27th June 1958.

Officers for 1957

President	Mr. J.L. Carden.
Vice President	Messrs. H.R. Balmer and A.H. Taylor,
Hon. Secretary	Mr. I.J. Taylor,
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. A.E. Gordon Webb,
Hon. Auditor	Mr. K.H. Boykett.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit for your approval the Twenty Seventh Report covering activities for the year 1957.

Registered Players

The following table sets out the number of teams and players, including schools in each State for the season under review and also those for the previous year. The figures relating to the post war year of 1939 is retained in the table as the target to be achieved. It will be noted that the figures over the past three years are static, no progress worth recording having been made in any State.

	1957		1956		1955		1939	
	Teams	Players	Teams	Players	Teams	Players	Teams	Players
Victoria	36	584	44	625	39	583	65	1139
Sth. Aust.	38	578	39	553	40	584	55	809
West Aust.	25	300	28	359	25	336	24	417
Total	99	1462	111	1528	104	1503	144	2265

The lack of advance by the various Associations in formation of new clubs is disquieting particularly in view of the opening up of new residential and industrial areas in the three capital cities in recent years and which should provide a wide scope for the introduction of Lacrosse.

The Brady Trophy

Our game is greatly indebted to the support rendered by Messrs. P.J. Brady as manufacturers of an Australian racquet which in recent years has enabled member Associations to stabilise and arrest somewhat the decline in adherants of Lacrosse owing to the inability of Clubs to secure sticks of quality obtained prior to the last war from overseas.

Not content with this aid Mr. Brady donated a Trophy for competition during the season, embracing players in all States and has generously intimated that he will repeat the donation each season. With this in mind a method of adjudicating on the best player was evolved and approved by the States, and it is indeed pleasing to record the success of Mr. Roy Dickson of the Surrey Park Club, Victoria as the winner for 1957 of the first Trophy donated. The warmest congratulations are conveyed to the winner and runner up Mr. D.L. Gorman - East Torrens - South Australia, and also our grateful thanks to the donor for his generous action and continued support to our game.

The leading four competitors for the Trophy were:-

R. Dickson	Surrey Park, Victoria	32 points
D. Gorman	East Torrens, Sth. Aust.	24 "
R. Reddway	Malvern, Victoria	24 "
A. Melbourne	<i>Brighton</i> South Aust.	19 "

The financial Statement which will be presented to-night shows a credit balance at the Commonwealth Bank of £25.2.7

Queensland Association

There is still no satisfactory information from Queensland which would lead to any degree of confidence in a revival of Lacrosse in Queensland.

International Visit

Following on the intimation from the Washington and Lee University Virginia U.S.A. that they would welcome an invitation to visit Australia the subject was discussed at the last Annual Meeting and referred with various details of anticipated expense; for the consideration of member States. Despite the fact that State Associations were asked to submit replies by October 1957 it was not until March 1958 that answers were received from Victoria and Western Australia. The Council was fortunate to have a comprehensive report submitted from South Australia Mr, Carl Shultz, which was also forwarded to various States for consideration. No further action has been taken by the Council on the topic of the proposed visit, but the matter is an item for discussion at the Annual Meeting. It is regretted that a Member State Victoria should of its own volition ignore the fact that the A.L.C. is in the course of negotiating with the Washington and Lee University re a visit and extended its own invitation to the University such action taking place in May. The haste of Victoria in this matter is difficult to reconcile in view of its tardy response to the Councils request for attention to the proposals discussed at the last Annual Meeting, as the reply from Victoria was 5 months late. The action of the Victorian Association in view of the Constitution and rules of the A.L.C. must be discussed by the Council at the Annual Meeting to discuss the appropriate action necessary in relation to the issuing of an invitation to the Washington and Lee University U.S.A.

Personal

Owing to illhealth the Secretary of the Council Mr. I.J. Taylor after 24 years service as chief Executive officer was forced to solicit the assistance of an Acting Hon. Secretary to complete the season. It is to be regretted that our revered Hon. Sec. should have the misfortune to have suffered several heart attacks which have necessitated him taking such action and Lacrosseurs of the Commonwealth would be failing in respect if it was not recorded in this report the great debt which Lacrosse owes to the grand work and unstinted attention to the interests of the game which Mr. Ike Taylor has given during his long association of over 50 years with Australian Lacrosse. Regardless of his successor as Hon. Secretary that person will have a high level of achievement to equal and all associated with the game must wish for the future welfare and restoration to good health of our beloved Hon. Secretary.

State of the Game

As in Annual Reports of recent years mention must be made to the lack of progress the game is making throughout the Country and the urgent need for State Associations to recognize this fact and try and increase its popularity.

It has been suggested that the game has lost its spectator appeal and should be altered as regards style and play and type of ground.

These items are again submitted for the consideration of associations. Another item touched on earlier in this Report it is the desire to utilise the newly developed areas in the Capital cities of the various States and organization of new clubs in these locations.

With the assistance rendered by Mr. P.J. Brady by making adequate supplies of equipment available the need is for loyal and ardent supporters of Lacrosse to get behind State Executives and found and develop new clubs by wise administration and coaching so that in a few years time such centres can become self supporting.

The lack of creation of New Clubs in all States since 1945 is the outstanding feature of our Game and this factor is the one which must be given earnest thought for Lacrosse to again arise in popularity amongst the youth of the Nation and recapture the strength that existed in 1939.