

THE AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE COUNCIL.

Annual Report for the year ending 31st March, 1949, presented at the Annual Meeting held at the Commercial Travellers Club, Melbourne, on Friday May 20th, 1949.

OFFICERS 1948

President	Mr. C.E.M. Hickey
Vice Presidents	Messrs. T.F. Fulton and J.M. Craig
Hon. Secretary	Mr. I.J. Taylor
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. A.E. Gordon-Webb
Hon. Auditor	Mr. K.H. Boykett

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Australian Lacrosse Council covering the operations for the year 1948. It will be seen from the table set out below that the number of teams and registered players are to all intents and purposes the same as the previous year. Western Australia, is to be congratulated on its splendid achievement in fielding 30 teams and 464 registered players; an all time record for the West. There was a slight decrease in the number of players in South Australia, while the other State remained stationary.

REGISTERED PLAYERS The following table sets out the number of players and teams in each State compared with the previous season and the pre-war year of 1939.

	<u>1948</u>		<u>1947</u>		<u>1939</u>	
	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Players</u>
Victoria	42	702	42	710	68	1,139
South Australia	38	535	39	603	55	809
Western "	30	464	26	414	24	417
Queensland	4	61	4	50	12	186
New South Wales	4	40	2	30	4	63
	<u>118</u>	<u>1,802</u>	<u>113</u>	<u>1,807</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>2,614</u>

FINANCIAL The finances of the Council are in a satisfactory position, the Treasurer when presenting the financial statement will report a credit balance of £39 8 11 at the Commonwealth Bank.

OLYMPIC LACROSSE The English and American Lacrosse Associations staged a demonstration match at the XIVth Olympiad held in London last August. On the eve of the match I cabled greetings and best wishes from Australia. The following cable was received from Mr. G.H. Bark in reply.

"GREETING OF AUSTRALIA CONVEYED TO AMERICAN AND ENGLISH TEAMS AT DINNER FOLLOWING OLYMPIC MATCH GREAT ENTHUSIASM MANY THANKS HEARTILY RECIPROCATED RESULT FIVE ALL".

The match was played before 60,000 spectators and by all accounts was a splendid exhibition and has already done much to revive the game in England.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AMATEUR LACROSSE As a result of preliminary talks between the officials of the English and American Lacrosse Associations in London, it was considered desirable that an attempt should be made to revive interest in the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse which was formed in 1928 and of which Australia is a member. We were advised by the English Lacrosse Union that to further this objective Mr. G.H. Bark would be visiting Canada and America this year and also enquiring whether it would be possible for Australia to be represented. As this could not be arranged we have asked Mr. Bark to act as an "Observer" on our behalf at any meeting held. My latest advice is that a meeting of representatives of England, America and Canada will be held in New York on June 11th and I hope to receive the agenda in time to place same before members at the Annual Meeting.

EQUIPMENT The acute shortage of lacrosse sticks, owing to the dollar exchange is a matter of grave concern. I have had numerous interviews and a deal of correspondence with the Customs Authorities in an endeavour to obtain a licence for a small parcel of sticks, but so far all of our efforts have failed. Negotiations are still proceeding. The most encouraging news in this respect comes from Queensland, who reports the discovery of a local wood equal to Hickory. Sample Sticks are being made and should be available for inspection very soon. The thanks and congratulations of all lacrosseurs are due to the Queensland Association for its efforts in this direction and we trust that ere long it will be rewarded by the production of the first satisfactory "Australian Stick".

Owing to labour troubles the position as regards lacrosse balls is far from satisfactory and the limited quantity being manufactured is being distributed under instructions from the Council, on a per capita basis throughout the Commonwealth. The position is being closely watched and ~~xxx~~ an improvement in supply is anticipated later in the year.

OBITUARY It is with profound regret that we record the passing of Messrs. H.B. Wood, G. Clarke and L.B. Bolton M.L.C. who have rendered yeoman service to the Western Australian Lacrosse Association.

Mr. Wood was a former Secretary of the Association and a Life Member

Mr. Clarke, was also a former Secretary of the Association and an interstate and international player, he captained many West Australian teams.

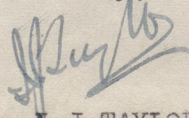
Mr. Bolton, was a member of the first West Australian team to visit Adelaide and a Vice President of the Association.

The South Australian Association has also suffered a great loss in the passing of Mr. J. Talbot Smith who was associated with the game in Adelaide for over 60 years.

The Council's sympathy is extended to their sorrowing relatives.

CONCLUSION While the present acute shortage of sticks continues, it is impossible to look forward to any great expansion of the game, but the revival of the game in Sydney, Brisbane and Port Perie and the fostering of lacrosse in the schools, particularly in South Australia, augers well for the future.

Yours faithfully,



I. J. TAYLOR  
HON. SECRETARY A. L. C.