

Western Australian Lacrosse Association (Inc.)



Annual Report for Season 1956

To be presented at the Annual Meeting to be held in McNess Hall, Peir Street, Perth, on Tuesday, March 5th, 1957, at 7.30 p.m.

OFFICIALS 1956

Patron:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER, K.C.M.G.,
C.B., C.B.E.

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Deputy Chairman of Committees:

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R. HART

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Hon. Publicity Officer:

W. BROWN

Physical Training Adviser:

E. BIDDLE

Carnival Committee:

J. L. CARDEN (Chairman), R. HART (Secretary-Treasurer), R. STRATTON, B. BLIGHT, V. ELLIS, W. O'LEARY, J. COWLING, W. BROWN (Publicity)

Secretary's Report

The Sixtieth Report of the West Australian Lacrosse Association being based on the 1956 season is submitted for your approval.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

In each of my previous reports I have been careful to draw attention to what I regarded as points of weakness within the Association. The annual reports on the 1954 and 1955 seasons stressed the desirability of attracting more junior players to the game. To a great extent the various Club Committees have since directed energies to foster the game amongst the school age groups and with some success.

Although this weakness within our ranks appears to have been remedied somewhat a new threat to the future of Lacrosse in Western Australia has arisen. This new danger is reflected in the apathy of members to Association matters in general.

As an instance the support accorded the 1956 Annual Wind-up was disappointing, particularly in view of the enthusiastic reports received about the previous two Wind-ups. The attendances at each of the Interstate Carnival matches were not commensurate with the numbers registered. It was obvious that although many old players attended, the present day players were in many instances conspicuous by their absence.

Despite my urgent requests that the Carnival Ball be enthusiastically supported some clubs did not respond in the manner required.

This apathy has been most noticeable and has been a matter of considerable concern to the executive of the Association. Various reasons have been suggested as the cause of the lack of drive amongst Association members.

Amongst the most interesting theories, and one to which I partly subscribe with some sense of guilt, is the suggestion that too much has been left to too few. For example as Secretary this year it has been necessary for me to fulfil the additional roles of Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Organiser of the Interstate Carnivals and all Social Functions and also draw up the original set of Club Fixtures.

Although repeated calls were made to members for nominations to fill the vacant positions none were forthcoming. It has been suggested that members were content to allow matters to drift into the hands of the few of the executive. Having allowed this to happen the natural sequence of events was that a lazy feeling permeated through the Association body.

Fortunately within this Association there are no signs of any power hungry group anxious to seek control for the satisfaction of personal vanities detrimental to the Association itself. Therefore the reason alluded to above as being the one possible for the apathy existing was submitted without fear of arousing resentment. It was received with the utmost consideration and after long and thoughtful deliberation I am convinced that there is much logic in it.

Consequently during the coming season we must endeavour to more widely decentralise our organising activities by using more sub-committees drawn from Club members.

It would be unwise to too freely accept the reason already described as being the only cause of the wrongful complacency existing.

For my own part I claim that I have worked for four years exceedingly hard and at great inconveni-

ence to further the interests of the Western Australian Lacrosse Association. But I have always been aware of my limitations.

It has always been my deeply considered opinion that administration officials of any game should be drawn from the players and ex-players of that particular sport. In the formative years of my sporting life my interests were in games other than lacrosse. As a result although I am deeply interested in the game of lacrosse and am extremely happy with the friendships I have made whilst connected with the game, it is of little use to deny that I am not an ex-player. Hence I have not brought to the various official positions I have occupied that intimate understanding and anticipation of an ex-Lacrosseur. Nor can I bring to the West Australian Lacrosse Association that verve and fire so essential in a Secretary and normally found only in a person who has grown up in the sport to which he has finally been elected as an official.

The third possible reason for the decline in energy amongst the members is one which is naturally controversial. The strength of the mighty Wembley Club ironically could also be the greatest weakness of the Association.

Logically Wembley members and supporters are adamant that the Club started from small beginnings and reached its present high standard of success only after years of unremitting toil. Wembley justifiably points out that what has been done by the Wembley Club could be done by each of the other Clubs. Indeed Wembley claims that the standard set should be that striven for by the remaining Clubs. There is much merit in the claims made.

Presenting the other side of the picture it is correct to state that other Clubs feel that the task is beyond their capabilities. Lacking in both finance and driving enthusiastic officials and claiming to be not blessed with the prolific junior district of Wembley these Clubs do not feel encouraged to attempt the tremendous task of attaining Wembley's standards.

It may be argued that such Clubs do not possess the love of the game necessary to build in the manner of Wembley. Frankly it is my opinion that there are too many Lacrosse players in Western Australia who lack the fanatical fire necessary to lift their individual games and resultantly the performances of their respective Clubs. Their lot will be to drift out of the game itself or be content to treat it as merely a casual Saturday afternoon exercise.

Too many present day players unconsciously have this outlook to the game. It was obvious that with their release from Club games due to the Carnival Series many players seized the opportunity to view other sports rather than to attend their own Lacrosse Interstate Carnival matches. There is little use in condemning this attitude if we do not seek to understand it and also seek a means of combating it.

On the brighter side are my commentaries on the various clubs:—

WEMBLEY

The performances of this club over such a long post-war period has earned it the right to be ranked with those other mighty clubs of the past viz, Midland Junction (Iroquois), Fremantle and Mt. Lawley. Each has had its rise and fall. Wembley is enjoying a terrific run of successes.

Should it sacrifice its strength by creating a new daughter club or should it force the weaker clubs from their own lethargy?

Wembley won the title of Champions in both the A and C grades being undefeated throughout the 1956 season. It was runner up in the B grade competition to Mt. Lawley. The D grade team was forced out of the competition in a semi-final by Fremantle.

Few Clubs have enjoyed such sweeping successes in the one season. The Club's A Grade captain, Val Ellis, also captained the State Carnival side to which side the Club contributed 9 members.

Socially the Club was strong and was always prepared with a strong quota of officials to help out in Association matters.

NEDLANDS-SUBIACO

This Club attained second place in the preliminary rounds of the A Grade fixtures winning 14 of its 18 games. However the improving Fremantle side defeated the Club in the Final by 9 goals to 7.

The Club was unsuccessful in the B Grade competition being defeated in a Semi-Final by Wembley, but enjoyed success when it won the D Grade Premiership.

The Victory Cup was awarded to the Club for its able administration — a trophy which had only just eluded it in two previous years.

Much of the success of this Club is due to that capable player, Captain and Secretary, Bob Stratton, who narrowly missed selection in the State 1956 Carnival team.

FREMANTLE

Complete success floated just out of the grasp of Jack Brewer and his Fremantle band. The Club was runner-up in three grades, A, B, and C, and was third in the D grade competition.

Appears to one of the Clubs building up as a threat to Wembley's dominance.

EAST FREMANTLE

Was able to reach the A grade final four and enjoyed moderate successes in the B and D grades.

Previously led, and very ably, by the Gay brothers new figure in K. Paull appeared as their successor.

PERTH

Fielded teams in the A, B and D grades. The club appears to be enjoying only moderate success, but leaves the impression that only a little would be required to lift its performances.

MIDLAND JUNCTION

Once a power this Club now fields a team only in the A and D grades. It is to be hoped that this once strong Club is experiencing only a temporary slump.

SOUTH PERTH

In 1955 full of promise, in 1956 full of disappointments. The talent is there as evidenced by the Club's performances in the C and D grade competitions. Possibly a victim of the theory that all Club's should be represented in the A grade.

BAYSWATER

Although it won only 2 games in the A grade this club showed signs of being much stronger. In the throes of re-establishing, the Club enjoyed moderate success in the D grade but was not over successful in the B grade. A lot of credit goes to the Harwood brothers for this Club's work during the year.

MT. LAWLEY

Withdrew from the A grade prior to commencement of season and concentrated on the B grade where it was successful in the Minor Premiership and also in the Grand Final.

It is pleasing to note that this Club has shown such firm improvement in view of its near disbandment two seasons ago.

PREMIERSHIP TABLES

Appended hereunder are the 1956 Premiership Tables for all grades and also the results of the Final games.

A Grade:

	P	W	L	D	For	Ag.	Pts.
Wembley	18	18	—	—	389	98	36
Nedlands Subiaco	18	14	4	—	224	125	28
Fremantle	18	13	4	1	264	122	27
East Fremantle	18	8	8	2	175	173	18
Perth	18	6	11	1	171	224	11
Midland Junction	18	5	12	1	181	274	11
South Perth	17	3	14	—	103	320	6
Bayswater	17	2	14	1	132	284	5

B Grade:

	P	W	L	D	For	Ag.	Pts.
Mt. Lawley	15	14	1	—	195	53	28
Fremantle	16	12	4	—	194	69	24
Wembley	16	10	6	—	178	147	20
Nedlands Subiaco	16	8	8	—	201	155	16
Perth	15	6	9	—	141	111	12
East Fremantle	16	4	12	—	61	223	8
Bayswater	16	2	14	—	56	160	4

C Grade:

	P	W	L	D	For	Ag.	Pts.
Wembley	12	12	—	—	155	21	24
Fremantle	12	8	4	—	102	56	16
South Perth	12	3	9	—	36	83	6
Mt. Lawley	12	1	11	—	24	158	2

D Grade:

	P	W	L	D	For	Ag.	Pts.
Nedlands-Subiaco	16	14	2	—	354	50	28
South Perth	16	14	2	—	172	45	28
Fremantle	16	11	4	1	171	57	23
Wembley	16	9	7	—	119	185	18
Bayswater	16	5	9	2	74	172	12
East Fremantle	16	6	10	—	53	173	12
Perth	16	5	10	1	110	130	11
Mt. Lawley	8	1	7	—	12	93	2
Midland Junction	14	1	13	—	27	189	2

SCORES IN FINAL GAMES

A Grade:

Semi Finals:

Wembley 12 d. Nedlands-Subiaco 3.

Fremantle 9 d. East Fremantle 2.

Final:

Fremantle 9 d. Nedlands-Subiaco 7.

Grand Final:

Wembley 17 d. Fremantle 6.

B Grade:

Semi Finals:

Wembley 24 d. Nedlands Subiaco 13

Fremantle 13 d. Mt. Lawley 7.

Final:

Mt. Lawley 13 d. Wembley 3.

Grand Final:

Mt. Lawley 10 d. Fremantle 5.

C Grade:

Semi Finals:

Wembley 20 d. Fremantle 1.
South Perth 6 d. Mt. Lawley 3.

Final:

Fremantle 9 d. South Perth 6.

Grand Final:

Wembley 4 d. Fremantle 2.

D Grade:

Semi Finals:

South Perth 20 d. Nedlands-Subiaco 14.
Fremantle 20 d. Wembley 2.

Final:

Nedlands-Subiaco 24 d. Fremantle 4.

Grand Final:

Nedlands-Subiaco 15 d. South Perth 14.

1956 TRI-ENNIAL INTERSTATE CARNIVAL

This carnival was held in Perth from 4th August 1956 to 11th August, 1956, inclusive. The competing States were Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. The latter State fielded two teams, but the second team enjoyed no official status and had no influence on the Carnival proper. Its function was purely to provide match practice for the visiting teams and to eliminate the bye.

Western Australia's performances were disappointing. The team selected lacked nothing on the score of physical fitness, but fitness alone was not sufficient to offset the brilliance of the speedy South Australian side which team we met first on Saturday the 4th August at Leederville Oval.

South Australia ran out easy winners scoring 21 goals to our 8. Despite the difference in the scores the match was an extremely interesting one. However at no time during the match did it appear to me that any effort was made by Western Australia to infuse any vigour into the game. As a result South Australia's free flowing game never appeared in danger of being upset.

On the Wednesday at Fremantle Oval on the 8th August, the South Australians were defeated by a Victorian side playing with the obvious intent of bustling their opponents off their natural and stylish game. This was correct Lacrosse tactics and Victoria narrowly won by 13 goals to 11.

The following Saturday at Subiaco Oval Western Australia met Victoria in a very exciting match and our players showed much improved form to go down narrowly by but one goal. The scores were Victoria 6 Western Australia 5 with the winning goal being scored only in the closing minutes of play. This match was a mixture of speed and vigour and was an exciting spectacle as evidenced from a neutral source—opinions voiced by a group of visitors viewing the game for the first time.

The West Australian second team comprised in the main those who narrowly missed selection in the Carnival side. Each of these players had undergone the same intensive physical training as the Carnival team. Accordingly it was feared that their fitness might lead to over enthusiasm in their scheduled games and injuries to competing Carnival teams were feared.

A personal appeal was made to this second team to do its utmost to protect opposing players from injury. It is a happy occasion to report that the players played in the most conservative fashion and most creditably for all concerned.

The results of the games held during the series are as follows:

August 4th: South Australia 21 d. Western Australia 8; Victoria 6 d. Combined Western Australian Clubs, 4.

August 8th: Victoria 13 d. South Australia 11; Western Australia 12 d. Combined Western Australian Clubs, 5.

August 11th: Victoria 6 d. Western Australia 5; South Australia 21 d. Combined Western Australian Clubs, 4.

The Garland-McHarg Shield, awarded to the winners of each of the Tri-ennial Carnival was presented to the Captain of the Victorian side, J. Heathcote, by Mr. C. E. M. Hickey, at a representative gathering at the Subiaco Football Clubrooms after the decisive matches on the 11th August, 1956.

The Fairest and Best Trophy being a handsome silver tray presented by P. J. Brady and Co. was won by A. Gandy of South Australia and presented on the same occasion.

The respective managers of the various State contingents were Messrs Ern Selth (Victoria), Alan Vial (South Australia), and Don King (Western Australia). These gentlemen performed their duties capably and efficiently and did much to promote the good relations which existed between all attending the Carnival. Other familiar faces especially welcomed in Western Australia were those of Messrs. Algy Taylor (South Australia) and Jack Hodges (Victoria) of whom we do not see nearly enough.

Listed hereunder are the personnel of each of the Carnival State teams and of the Combined Western Australian Clubs.

Western Australia:

V. Ellis (Capt.-Coach)	R. Hawkins
E. Brown	R. Cornish
J. Cowling (V.-Capt.)	D. Long
B. Bridge	R. Marshall
C. Mounsey	A. Weaver
I. Ely	W. Whiteman
R. Turnbull	D. Noack
A. Moore	D. F. King Esq (Manager)
R. Woods	

Combined Clubs Team:

J. Brewer (Capt. Coach)	P. Reid
D. Hoskens (V.-Capt.)	J. Smith
E. Powell	A. Keen
J. Murphy	M. Vinnicombe
W. McColl	K. Stenhouse
I. Brown	G. Fist
R. Brown	A. Paul
H. Harwood	B. Noone
G. Summers	

South Australia:

R. Alexander (Capt.)	J. Church (V.-Capt.)
K. Forrest	R. Keen
A. Pearce	A. Gandy
R. Johnston	D. Goscombe
B. Gomer	G. Higgs
B. Nottage	K. Bemold
G. Ward	W. Watts
D. Gomer	A. Vial, Esq (Manager)
G. Lines	

Victoria:

M. Kinderman	T. Campbell
J. Heathcote (Capt.)	I. Mountford
R. Sloggett	N. O'Brien
D. Imlach	N. Jeffrey (V.-Capt.)
I. Jewett	D. Orr
A. Picton	D. Trainor
S. Jessup	A. Woodbridge
D. Stapleton	E. B. Selth Esq. Manager
D. Deagon	

It was regretted that due to ill-health, Mr. I. J. Taylor, Honorary Secretary of the Australian Lacrosse Association was unable to be present.

SOCIAL

Due to the pressures of organising the Carnival series and the dates so absorbed the social activities of the Association were centred on the Carnival Week

The visitors were motored through the Hills on the Sunday, 5th August. On the Tuesday a very enjoyable river trip was experienced by the visiting teams, when Messrs Lacey Brothers loaned the Association their motor launch. Luncheon was partaken of at the new Claremont Yacht Club premises and the days outing was considered ideal by both visitors and local officials who attended.

Due to the efforts of the Fremantle and East Fremantle Clubs our visitors had a most enjoyable social evening at the Club Rooms of the South Fremantle Football Club on the evening of Wednesday 8th August. The Nedlands-Subiaco Club and also the Wembley Club had on separate evenings rendered a separate Club welcome to our visitors whose social round had been hectic.

The Carnival Ball was held on the evening of Thursday the 9th August at the Y.A.L. Ballroom. The visitors in particular voted this function a tremendous success and the managers of the Victorian and West Australian teams must surely have envied their South Australian colleague who at this juncture could afford to relax for one evening his rigid control.

Due to the generosity of Mr. W. Hebiton the Association was enabled to take the visitors on an enjoyable bus tour of the metropolitan area.

In addition to Carnival week the Association held its Annual Wind-up at the Pagoda Ballroom on the evening of October 5, 1956. The various trophies won during the season were presented to Club Captains and to individual trophy winners. The attendance was much less than on the previous occasion which had been considered an outstanding success.

The Junior Wind-up was held at the War Widow's Kiosk on the Esplanade during October. It was a most enjoyable evening — mainly due to the exhibition of films hired from the Visual Education Department and also those exhibited by Mr. D. Povey of the Mt. Lawley Club. The appropriate trophies were presented by our President, Mr. J. L. Carden.

THE SEASON'S TROPHIES

Following are the details of the various trophies won during the year.

- (1) I. J. Taylor Shield and Pennant to Wembley — Premiers, A. Grade.
- (2) Jubilee Cup to Wembley, Minor Premiers A
- (3) Clark Cup and Pennant to Mt. Lawley. Premiers B Grade.

- (4) Clark Cup to Mt. Lawley — Minor Premiers B Grade.
- (5) Lapsley Cup and Pennant to Wembley — Premiers C Grade.
- (6) Association Cup to Wembley—Minor Premiers C Grade.
- (7) Fearon Cup and Pennant to Nedlands-Subiaco — Premiers D Grade.
- (8) Carmody Cup to Nedlands-Subiaco — Minor Premiers D Grade.
- (9) The Victory Cup to Nedlands-Subiaco.

FAIREST AND BEST PLAYERS

Winners of the awards in each Grade were as follows:—

A Grade:

W. Whiteman (Midland), 25 points.

Then A. Paul (E. Fremantle), 13; C. Mounsey (Perth), 11; V. Ellis (Wembley), 11; A. Weaver — (Wembley), 9; R. Hayes (Perth), 9; I. Ely (Nedlands-Subiaco), 9 points.

B Grade:

D. Scott (Perth), 18 points.

Then, S. Lauder (Mt. Lawley), 15; Keen (Nedlands Subiaco), 10; S. Fist (Mt. Lawley), 7; Killick (Wembley), 6; Tucker (Nedlands-Subiaco), 6; Munro (Nedlands-Subiaco), 6.

C Grade:

G. Rose (Wembley) and Waddel (Fremantle), 12 points each.

Then, R. Refeld (Sth. Perth), 10; P. Benn (Fremantle), 7; T. Tracey (Wembley), 5 points.

D Grade:

J. Taylor (South Perth), 22 points.

Then R. Malone (Perth), 12; D. Muir (Fremantle) 11; T. Hall (E. Fremantle), 10; J. Brewer (Fremantle) 9; M. Bradstreet (Wembley), 9; R. McNab (Wembley), 8 points.

GALA DAY

It was regretted that the dates of the Carnival series and club fixtures prevented the hiring of a suitable ground for the annual Gala Day. Accordingly for 1956 only the Gala Day was suspended.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The various meetings were generally well attended but it was felt more out of obligation than with any avowed purpose of advancing Association matters.

FINANCIAL

At the Annual General Meeting our then Treasurer, Mr. L. F. Banyard, advised his inability to carry on in the position. It was agreed that he should be replaced by the first Committee meeting. This was not possible since no appointee was nominated. Accordingly the duties of the position were amalgamated with those of the Secretary pro tem.

The Association did not improve its finances during the year.

Attendances at the Carnival Games and at the Carnival Ball were most unsatisfactory. The foresight of your Committee in taking out a Pluvius Insurance policy gained the Association a most welcome additional £50 on the first day of the Carnival.

A severe loss was made on the Carnival programmes printed due to the aforementioned lack of attendances.

LACROSSE STICKS

Orders lodged at the end of the 1955 season were not able to be fulfilled. However it is expected that

matters will shortly be adjusted. Mr. Jack Cowling was appointed Honorary Property Officer to the Association and it is anticipated that his experience will enable the Association to keep abreast of its requirements.

AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE COUNCIL

A meeting of the Council was held in Perth during the 1956 Carnival series. The Council comprised Chairman, Mr. J. L. Carden (President, Western Australia), Acting Secretary, Mr. C. E. M. Hickey (West Australia), Delegates, Messrs. E. Selth (Victoria) A. Taylor (South Australia), R. Hart (West Australia), and V. Ellis (West Australia) as proxy for R. Hart at adjourned meeting.

LACROSSE AMATEUR REFEREES AND OLD PLAYER'S ASSOCIATION

Despite the efforts of Mr. F. McKenzie the spirit behind this Association within the Association is fast fading. It is essential that a fresh effort be made to re-form this group.

ROUGH PLAYERS AND DISPUTES BOARD

The members of this Board were called upon only once during the season which is quite a reasonable comment upon the sportsmanship displayed during the season.

OUR PRESIDENT

Mr. J. L. Carden is serving his third consecutive year of office and I feel that it is appropriate to say that nobody in Western Australia has the game of Lacrosse more at heart.

It was most fitting that at the 1956 Annual General meeting he was elected a Life Member of the West Australian Lacrosse Association. He was also elected President of the Australian Lacrosse Council for the 1956 year.

PUBLICITY

Without the enthusiasm of our Publicity Officer, Mr. W. (Bill) Brown of the Wembley Club much of the work of the Association would have been wasted.

It is not an easy task to gain publicity for all sports in newspapers. Our Publicity Officer has performed apparently impossible tasks in gaining this Association newspaper space and radio coverage.

Billy Brown as he is popularly known amongst us apparently believes in the adage "Nothing is impossible — it only takes a little longer." Such is the spirit in which he has tackled his tasks so successfully.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That each club:
 - (a) endeavour to hold its Annual General Meeting before that of the Association.
 - (b) instruct its delegates at the Association Annual General Meeting of its intentions to field teams in the respective grades.
- (2) That a more strict attitude to clearances between Clubs be adopted constitutionally. A player should not be permitted to transfer from a weak Club merely to satisfy his desires to play in a stronger Club. Such a policy if allowed must kill your weaker clubs.
- (3) That all officials where possible be recruited from players and, or, ex-players of the Association.

CONCLUSION

It would be unwise of me to attempt to express my appreciation of all those who have helped me, not only during this past year, but also in the previous years. There have been so many who have so willingly supported me that I fear to mention any in case I should inadvertently omit any one person.

Suffice it to say that I am exceedingly grateful and although I must adhere to my notice of twelve months resignation as given at the last Annual General Meeting, I look forward to continuing the many friendships I have made during the last four years.

R. HART,

Hon. Secretary.