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AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE COUNCIL

Annual Report Year ending 31st March, 1938

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' CLUB, MELBOURNE ON FRIDAY, MAY 20th, 1938.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

In submitting for your approval the 7th Annual Report of the Australian Lacrosse Council covering the year 1937, I do so with very great pleasure, as the progress made throughout the Commonwealth during the period under review is such as to merit the congratulations of all concerned.

MEETINGS.—Two meetings of the Council were held during the year—the Annual Meeting in May last and a special meeting in March to pass regulations in reference to the manufacture of lacrosse balls. For the Annual Meeting the President, Mr. C. Lempriere Abbott, made a special journey from Adelaide to preside and I feel sure that I am expressing the thoughts of all delegates of this Council and lacrosseurs in general, in recording our appreciation of Mr. Abbott's work for lacrosse and his enthusiasm for the well being of the Council.

STANDARDISED LACROSSE BALL.—Towards the end of last season a most unsatisfactory lacrosse ball made its appearance; in addition to being manufactured from a very hard substance it was over-weight and in the opinion of many positively dangerous. Immediate steps were taken by the Council to rectify this and obtain a satisfactory ball for use this year. Samples were obtained from every lacrosse country in the world and after all available sources of supply had been exploited, authority has been given to Messrs. Dunlop Perdriau & Co., to manufacture a ball embossed "Approved by the Australian Lacrosse Council." It is confidently anticipated that this article will prove satisfactory, but the position, however, will be reviewed at the end of the year in the light of experience.

LACROSSE STICKS.—Consideration has been given to the serious shortage and late arrival of lacrosse sticks in previous years and to overcome this, strong representations were made by this Council to the Australian Agents of Lally's to have this remedied. The State Associations were circularised and requested to co-operate with local Sports Depots in this matter with the result that a considerable improvement was reported at the opening of the present season. If lacrosse is to progress it is essential that an adequate supply of sticks should be available at the opening of the season, and to achieve this closer co-operation between the State Associations and the Sport's Depots is essential.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.—On a world tour, Mr. C. O. Lee, Hon. Secretary of the International Federation of Amateur Lacrosse and President of the South of England Lacrosse Association, made a brief visit to Australia last December. Mr. Lee was met on arrival at the various ports by officials of the State Associations, with the exception of Queensland, which State unfortunately was not included in his itinerary. During Mr. Lee's sojourn in Melbourne, the members of the Australian Lacrosse Council tendered him an official welcome at a dinner party which was held at the Commercial Travellers' Club. Mr. Lee intimated his intention of re-visiting the Commonwealth in the near future; we hope that on his next trip he will be able to spend more time with us and that it will be in the lacrosse season.

TOKIO OLYMPIAD.—The prospects of lacrosse being included in the Tokio Olympiad appears to have vanished, as Budo and Baseball have been selected for the two demonstration games allowed by the Olympic Council. From advice received from England it would appear that finance and the problem of players obtaining the necessary leave of absence would preclude most countries from being represented.

GARLAND McHARG CUP.—The sub-committee appointed to draft rules and regulations for the competition of the Garland McHarg Cup and Australian Lacrosse Carnivals have submitted a comprehensive report which will come before the Council tonight for ratification.

INTERPRETATION OF LAWS OF LACROSSE.—Several meetings were held by the sub-committee appointed to report on interpretations of the Laws requested by various Associations. The report of this committee, which has been circulated to the State Associations, will come before the Council tonight for its consideration.

FINANCIAL.—The financial Statement to be submitted by the Hon. Treasurer tonight will disclose a credit balance at the Commonwealth Bank of £38/18/3, while the Assets of the Council are set down at £44/17/9.

AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE CARNIVAL.—The ninth Australian Lacrosse Carnival will be held in Brisbane next year. The Queensland Lacrosse Association have appointed a carnival committee with Mr. Arnold Littledike as Secretary to carry out the necessary arrangements, the tentative date being 29th July.

INTERNATIONAL VISIT.—The question of an international visit will come up for discussion at tonight's meeting. From advice we have received it would appear that the United States Inter-Collegiate Lacrosse Association is very keen on visiting Australia and, provided satisfactory means can be devised to finance the tour, there is no doubt that a visit from our American Cousins would be very popular and much good should accrue to the game.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Permission was granted to the New South Wales Lacrosse Association last year, in order to assist the game in that State, to field teams of not less than eight players and to shorten the playing ground to 75 yards. The Secretary of this Association reports that the experiment was most satisfactory. Six clubs were formed at the commencement of the season, the sides consisting in the early part of the year of eight players, which were subsequently increased to ten. The smaller sides were generally welcomed by the players and the opinion was expressed that the game was more attractive.

PROPOSED REVISION OF RULES.—Upon reference being made to the laws of lacrosse under which the first game was played in Australia in 1876 it will be noted that these are substantially the same as those in existence today. Other countries, notably the United States of America, have experimented with rule revision, and apparently have been successful. Also these innovations have been enthusiastically supported by the English Lacrosse authorities, after a recent tour of that country by an American team. Recently I circularized the State Associations setting out the alterations in the laws of the game as adopted by other countries, and it is highly probable that the States are now waiting for a lead from the Council regarding this very important matter.

Naturally before any drastic alterations are decided upon it is imperative that these should be systematically tried out. As the States have usually very full programmes, I realize their difficulties in allotting dates to experiment with innovations and at the same time retain the interest of their clubs. I suggest that this can be overcome without any hardship to the clubs or interference to competition matches if the State Associations will agree to the following suggestions:—

That towards the end of the present season each State Association agrees to set aside three competition matches, between clubs of a good standard, that are out of the running for premiership honours, to be played under any altered rules suggested by this Council. These games (the results could still count for the premiership honours) would in the ordinary course of events be of very little account, and I confidently expect would assume importance and attract greater interest to both players and spectators alike.

I would suggest that the following proposals be tried out by the State Associations:—

1. Sides to consist of 10 players.
2. Goals to be 90 yards apart.
3. Ten feet radius circle at the centre mark, nobody closer than 20 yards of the circle at the draw.
4. Substitution of players, limited to two for each side, who may be changed at any interval or when the Referee has called time for any reason.
5. Off Side Rule—not less than three players shall be in the attack half of the field and not less than four players in the defence half. Penalty, a free throw.

To implement this suggestion a sub-committee of this Council should be formed and competent observers appointed in each State, who would communicate their views of each match to this sub-committee. The various opinions formed could then be collated and the conclusions arrived at reported to the State Associations and afterwards to this Council for the necessary legislation if thought advisable.

STATE OF GAME.—Including schoolboys, there are now over 2700 registered players in the Commonwealth, the highest for the last ten years and being an increase of 10.55% on the previous season. To the South Australian Lacrosse Association, which showed the wonderful increase of 53%, and Western Australia, 18%, our congratulations are due for bringing about this happy state of affairs. A word of appreciation is also due to the Queensland Lacrosse Association for its splendid efforts over the last two years, during which period it has increased its numbers four fold. New South Wales is still experiencing a lean period; we hope that the steps recently taken will be the means of rehabilitating the game to its former prestige. Our congratulations to its officers for the sterling work they are doing.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Secretaries of the State Lacrosse Associations for the assistance they have given me in carrying out my secretarial duties.

Yours faithfully,

I. J. TAYLOR,
Hon. Secretary.

TABLE A.

REGISTERED PLAYERS.

Year	Q'sland	N.S.W.	Vict.	S.A.	W.A.	C/wlth.
1929	318	180	1100	380	296	2274
1933	165	144	1068	390	327	2094
1934	90	58	1039	425	308	1920
1935	64	72	1004	405	269	1824
1936	236	79	1078	377	283	2053
1937	255	80	1104	608	341	2388

TABLE B.

NUMBER OF TEAMS.

Year	Q'sland	N.S.W.	Vict.	S.A.	W.A.	C/wlth.
A Section						
1929	5	4	10	7	6	32
1933	5	4	9	7	10	35
1934	6	4	9	7	11	37
1935	4	4	7	7	9	31
1936	4	4	7	7	7	29
1937	3	6	9	8	8	34
B Section						
1929	8	8	11	8	8	43
1933	6	8	10	8	6	36
1934	—	—	9	10	6	25
1935	—	—	9	10	4	23
1936	9	—	10	9	7	35
1937	9	—	10	10	8	37
C Section						
1929	4	—	10	9	4	27
1933	—	—	12	7	4	23
1934	—	—	12	6	4	22
1935	—	—	11	6	4	21
1936	—	—	8	10	3	21
1937	5	—	9	10	7	31
D Section						
1929	—	—	12	—	—	12
1933	—	—	8	5	—	13
1934	—	—	9	6	—	15
1935	—	—	13	4	—	17
1936	—	—	13	—	—	13
1937	—	—	10	7	—	17
E & F Section						
1929	—	—	20	—	—	20
1933	—	—	23	—	—	23
1934	—	—	21	—	—	21
1935	—	—	21	—	—	21
1936	—	—	26	—	—	26
1937	—	—	30	—	—	30
Schoolboy						
1935	10	—	17	—	—	27
1936	4	—	11	—	—	15
1937	—	—	11	6	—	17

TABLE C.
ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED WITH PARENT BODIES.

	Teams.	Players.
Ballarat Lacrosse Association, Vict.	6	90
Port Pirie Lacrosse Association, S.A.	3	40
Eastern Goldfields Association, W.A.	2	30
Total	11	160

TABLE D.
TOTAL NUMBER OF TEAMS AND PLAYERS.
(Including Schoolboys and Affiliated Associations.)

	Teams.	Players
Victoria	85	1348
South Australia	44	648
Western Australia	25	371
Queensland	17	255
New South Wales	6	80
Commonwealth	177	2702

