Western Australian Lacrosse Association (Imc.)



Annual Report for Season 1954

To be presented at the Annual General Meeting to be held in McNess Hall, Pier Street, Perth, on Wednesday, March 16, 1955, at 7.30 p.m.

OFFICIALS 1954

PATRON:

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

PRESIDENT:

J. L. CARDEN, 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. A. WHITEMAN, ESQ.

HON. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

L. O. BURLINSON, ESQ.; J. L. CARDEN, ESQ.; F. HORNER, ESQ.; P. W. BYERS, ESQ.; E. F. JOHNSON, ESQ.; E. E. JEWELS, ESQ.; H. V. HORNER, ESQ.

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HONORARY SECRETARY: R. HART, ESO.

HONORARY TREASURER: L. F. BANYARD, ESO.

ASSISTANT HON, SECRETARY: V. HORN'ER, ESO.

HON. RECORD SECRETARY: V. ELLIS, ESQ.

ROUGH PLAY AND DISPUTES BOARD: A. R. V. PAGE, ESQ.; L. O. BURLINSON, ESQ.; A. R. BOXHORN, ESQ.

STATE SELECTORS:

C. E. M. HICKEY, ESQ.; A. SWAN, ESQ.; R. DRAFFEN,

HONORARY AUDITORS:

J. CRAIG, ESO.: W. RUDDERHAM, ESO.

HONORARY SOLICITOR:

W. M. NAIRN, ESO.

DELEGATE TO AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE COUNCILS: I. J. TAYLOR, ESQ.

HONORARY HISTORIAN: J. L. CARDEN, ESQ.

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:

R. W. WHEATLEY, ESQ.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

I submit the following 58th report on the 1954 season for your approval.

The season the subject of this report, although successful and progressive in many ways was notable for the decline in the junior ranks of some clubs. It is imperative that the various clubs realise that only by the encouragement of the juniors will the game of lacrosse continue to flourish. Well established sporting associations with wealthy associations and impressive facilities make vast inroads amongst those of school age. It is only by being aware of the constant drain that these organisations make on the available youth that we can hope to recruit sufficient of the right type to strengthen our own ranks.

That the importance of this matter is recognised by the Australian Lacrosse Council is evidenced by the suggestion that the Australian Carnivals, normally held every three years, now be held bi-ennially. Our own Association has pressed with gratifying success for more interstate matches, both Colts and Seniors. It is felt that the constant incentive to reach interstate standards, with all the attendant credit and privileges, will do much to attract the juniors required.

GRADES: The competitions were divided into four grades, viz.,

A Grade: Perth, Midland Junction, Fremantle, Nedlands,-Subiaco, East Fremantle, Bayswater., Wembley.

A Reserve Grade: Mt. Lawley, Fremantle, Wembley, Midland Junction, South, Perth, Perth.

B Grade: Nedlands-Subiaco, Mt. Lawley, Wembley, East Fremantle, Bayswater, Perth, Midland Junction.

D Grade: Mt. Lawley, Wembley No. 1 and No. 2, Perth, Nedlands-Subiaco, East Fremantle, Fremantle, South Perth.

Some difficulty was experienced in the conducting of the B and D Grade fixtures. Midland Junction started the season with a B Grade team, the nucleous of which was that brilliant band of youngsters who had swept all before them in the D Grade the previous season. Insufficient reserves and the extreme youth of this team pitted against the older players were amongst the factors which made it difficult for Midland to field a B Grade team towards the end of the season.

A falling away in some teams in the D Grade was also noticeable towards the end of the season.

PREMIERSHIP MATCHES

A GRADE-

The strong Wembley side, prominent throughout the season proved far too formidable for the Midland Junction side in the Grand Final. The game was played at Richardson Park, South Perth, and the scores were: Wembley 13, Midland Junction 6. Midland weakened by the absence of at least one regular through National Service, was outplayed by the very strong Wembley side. It seemed obvious that Wembley, judging by the team's performances during the year which gained it the Minor Premiership, was the logical Premier side.

A RESERVE GRADE-

South Perth determined to prove that the Club was entitled to A Grade ranking, pressed its claims throughout the season. In the Grand Final the strong South Perth side scored 20 goals to Midland Junction's 9. The latter club was thus unlucky to be runners-up in the two top grades. Not so unlucky, however, as Mount Lawley, which team went through the preliminary rounds

undefeated to win the Minor Premiership only to be defeated in the Semi-Final and Final.

B GRADE-

The Grand Final was played between Bayswater and Wembley. The former scored 14 goals to its opponent's 11. Bayswater was the steadier of the two teams and ran out worthy winners of the Premiership. The minor Premiership was also won by Bayswater.

D GRADE-

The semi-finals and finals of the D Grade competitions resulted in confusing results, but from the welter Perth and Mt. Lawley emerged to contest the Grand Final. The scores were close and the game resulted in a Premiership win for Perth, 14 goals, to Mt. Lawley, 11 goals.

The Minor Premiership was won by Mt. Lawley which Club went through the preliminary rounds undefeated until finally beaten by Perth in the Grand Final.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

There were nine meetings of the general committee held throughout the season.

Club delegates responded well by regularly attending all meetings and their co-operation was appreciated on the various sub-committees such as those appointed for Gala Day and Grading, etc.

SEASON'S TROPHIES

The following A, A Reserve and B Grade trophies were presented at the Annual Wind-Up Ball held at the Pagoda. The D Grade trophies were presented at the Junior Wind-up evening held at the Social Rooms of the Rural and Industries Bank.

- (1) I. J. Taylor Shield and Pennant to Wembley, Premiers A Grade.
- (2) Jubilee Cup to Wembley, Minor Premiers A Grade.
- (3) Lapsley Cup and Pennant to South Perth, Premiers A Reserve Grade.
- (4) Association Cup to Mt. Lawley, Minor Premiers A Reserve Grade.
- (5) Clark Cup and Pennant to Bayswater, Premiers B Grade.
 - (6) Clark Cup to Bayswater, Minor Premiers B Grade.
- (7) Fearon Cup and Pennant to Perth, Premiers D Grade.
- (8) Carmody Cup to Mt. Lawley, Minor Premiers D Grade.
 - (9) The Victory Cup to South Perth.

FAIREST AND BEST PLAYERS

Major scorers for the Fairest and Best Trophies in each Grade were as follows:

A GRADE-

Tie for first place between R. Stratton (Nedlands-Subiaco), and K. Gay (East Fremantle), each with 13 points; K. Bailey (Midland Junction), 10 points; I. Ely (Nedlands-Subiaco), 8 points; C. Mounsey (Perth), G. Davies (Midland Junction), D. King (Perth), each with 7 points.

A RESERVE GRADE-

D. Hosken (Mt. Lawley), 13 points; R. Jackson, (South Perth), 13 points; M. Vinicombe (South Perth),

9 points; A. Mitchell (Fremantle), 8 points; F. Ban-yard (Perth), 8 points; R. Tucker (Midland Junction), 8 points.

B GRADE-

C. Liddelow, 9 points.

D GRADE-

R. Refeld (South Perth), 17 points; T. Tracy (Wembley), 15½ points; N. Ladhams (Nedlands-Subiaco), 11 points; D. Whisson (Midland Junction), 10 points; E. Dewar, 8 points.

The two players who tied for the A Grade trophy were each awarded a shield and shared the right to hold the perpetual trophy for twelve months.

The A Reserve winner received a similar appropriate trophy.

Each of the above awards were presented at the Annual Wind-up Ball at the Pagoda.

The B and D Grade Fairest and Best Trophies were presented at the Junior "Sports" evening when the winners were each presented with a cup for their outstanding play during the season.

FINANCIAL

Mr. Frank Banyard combined the duties of Treasurer with the enthusiasm of the player. His interest in the administration of the game did not lessen his ability as a player, for he polled exceedingly well for the Fairest and Best Award in the A Reserve Grade competition. He brings to his duties as Treasurer the same efficiency.

LACROSSE AMATEUR REFEREES AND OLD PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION

This is a unique body being practically an association within an association. Led by Mr. Frank McKenzie, it has done much for the game. From its ranks and, or, through its efforts a supply of referees has been maintained, but only under extreme difficulty. In the ensuing season much more support from old players will be needed to ensure that sufficient referees are always available.

The wind-up dinner held at the close of the season was a signal success and a credit to the organisers.

STICKS

These are still expensive items and the Association is not unmindful of this aspect.

New sticks manufactured by Brady, of South Australia, were purchased during the season and favourably commented upon. The manufacturers are most co-operative and have agreed to produce more sticks of the same wood, but with a less pointed end as suggested by W.A. players.

AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE COUNCIL

No immediate success has been obtained in the effort to change the Australian Carnivals to a bi-ennial nature, but the matter is still under consideration by the Council.

To Mr. I. J. Taylor (Hon. Secretary of the Council) this Association extends sincere thanks for his willing assistance and also for his representation as delegate for Western Australia to the Council.

JUBILEE GALA DAY

On Saturday, 31st July, 1955, at Leederville Oval, the Annual Gala Day was opened by the Acting Lieut-Governor, Sir John Dwyer.

The day was a great success, although in view of the

brilliant weather it might have been possible to have lured a few more old lacrosse players and supporters along. The absence of the Colts team in Adelaide and consequently some of the supporters interested in those players probably contributed to a reduced attendance.

An innovation was the music and marching of a youthful Highland Pipe Band. The stirring march music certainly helped the players participating in the Efficiency Parade to march with swing and zest. The pennants, club uniforms and the Highland kilts and pipes combined to present a very colourful and pleasing spectacle.

The ladies who provided afternoon teas are to be congratulated on their efforts.

The "Gala Champion" Club was Mt. Lawley and the Efficiency Parade was won by Perth.

ANNUAL WIND-UPS

The Annual Wind-Up was celebrated in the form of a Ball at the Pagoda Ballroom, South Perth. Trophies as previously listed were presented and this and other appropriate entertainment helped to make an enjoyable evening.

The Junior Wind-Up was held at the Social Rooms of the Rural and Industries Bank. In addition to the presentation of trophies and games such as table tennis, a series of films were exhibited. These films, being of a sporting or humorous nature, proved tremendously popular.

OUR PRESIDENT

Mr. J. L. Carden in his first year of office proved to be an energetic and capable personality. His enthusiasm for the game is unsurpassed and his willingness to help in all tasks both actively and with advice has been most helpful and greatly appreciated by all.

W.A. SPORTSMEN'S ORGANISING COUNCIL FOR PATRIOTIC FUNDS

Sincere thanks are again extended to the members of this Council for their ready willingness to allow this Association the use of the Council's office for midday meetings.

ROUGH PLAY AND DISPUTES BOARD

It is with pleasure that it is noted that it was not necessary to call together this body during the 1954 season.

PUBLICITY

At the commencement of the season the appointment of a Publicity Officer was made. No better selection than the appointee, Mr. W. Brown, of the Wembley Club, could poss bly have been made. He applied himself to his task with boundless enthusiasm and efficiency.

The task of gaining publicity, particularly in the newspapers, was regarded as an extremely difficult one and to be entrusted only to a man with an extensive knowledge and love of the game. Previous experience had led most members of the Association to believe that it was well nigh impossible to gain the required newspaper commentaries. Mr. Brown performed the impossible. His efforts resulted in the game of Lacrosse being featured over the air and in the newspapers more than in any other season and in a manner even the most optimistic could not have foreseen.

Appended hereunder is a copy of our Public Relations Officer's report for the 1954 season:

During the Lacrosse season 92 insertions were secured in Perth local papers (not including fixtures), also 17 photo stories, 4 interview broadcasts at 6IX, coverage of the Colts game in Adelaide by 6WF and Senior Grade results every Saturday night by this station.

I have studied the publicity angle from all sides and have found that all papers and radio stations are only interested in "A" Grade results and news which they term "Public Demand." This is unfortunate for our Reserve Grade and Juniors who must persevere with little publicity, as nothing will change their views.

Mr. Frank McKenzie ably supplied the "Sunday Times" reports and was a great help at all times, as was Alec Moore, who secured a good deal of space in the Fremantle edition of the "Daily News."

Many valuable connections were established in the past year, which I believe helped us to establish our publicity right in line with the top minor sports.

Finally, I would like to thank our very able Secretary, Mr. Ron Hart, for his excellent co-operation in supplying information at short notice which was of great help.

VISIT OF COLT'S TEAM TO ADELAIDE

The W.A. Colt's Team under the capable managership of the popular Frank McKenzie, visited Adelaide during the season.

Two matches were played against South Australia, resulting in victories for W.A. on each occasion. The first match played on Saturday, July 31, 1954, resulted as follows: W.A., 16 goals; S.A., 11 goals. All players acquitted themselves creditably and it was with some difficulty that the touring selectors decided on the composition of the team to play the second match.

The final selection of the second team was at variance with the intentions of the State selectors at Perth, but the circumstances were explained to be not as anticipated. It was decided at a subsequent committee meeting that when it was considered necessary, particularly where experience to be gained by players was the over-riding factor, definite instruction must be given to touring selectors.

The second match played on Thursday, August 5, 1954, resulted in another win for W.A., the scores being W.A., 19 goals; S.A., 16 goals.

The manager reported enthusiastically on the S.A. hospitality and sportsmanship. He also stated that he had nothing but good reports on the conduct of those in his charge.

He had umpired one of the interstate matches and had had the opportunity of comparing the methods of umpiring in each of the two States.

Members of the Colt's team were as follows: Manager, F Mackenzie (S.P.), Captain, R. Marshall (E.F.), Vice-Captain, K. McGregor (S.P.), D. Tailor (S.P.), J. Murphy (W.), I. Ely (N.-S.), R. Hawkins (W.), W. McColl (E.F.), D. Hosken (M.J.), R. Owens (N.-S.), D. Long (W.), J. Shenstone (N.-S.), K. Stenhouse (F.), C. Summers (M.J.), D. Shave (N.-S.). The latter won the fairest and best trophy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That early attention before the commencement of the 1955 season, be given to the matter of Junior fixtures. Suggestions noted have been that of the formation of a C Grade and, or, the founding of an age group from 15 to 17 years.
- (2) That some effort be made to promote the social activities of the Association in order to alleviate the burden of finance now so heavily placed on the clubs.
- (3) That consideration be given to coaching. The use of films could be of great advantage if a sound economical scheme could be adopted.

In conclusion I do thank all those officials, delegates, players and supporters who generously gave of their time and experience in helping me so many times during the season. In this, a new field of sport for me, there were undoubtedly many pitfalls for the unwary, but I am happy to say that everybody was most anxious to help and so make the official duties lighter and easier.

R. HART,

Hon. Secretary.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 28/2/1955.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LAGROSSE ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

(SEASON 1954)

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