

AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE COUNCIL

(CONSTITUTED 1931)



ANNUAL REPORT -- SEASON 1977

Presented to the 46th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Lacrosse Council held in Adelaide, South Australia, on 7th and 8th April 1978.

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE REFEREES ASSOCIATION
QUEENSLAND LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
VICTORIAN AMATEUR LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
TASMANIAN AMATEUR LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

OFFICE BEARERS 1977

| | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------|------|
| <u>PRESIDENT</u> | Mr. G. GRIFFIN | (W.A.L.A.) | 1977 |
| <u>VICE PRESIDENTS</u> | Mr. P. HUMPHREYS | (V.A.L.A.) | 1977 |
| | Mr. O. C. ISAACHSEN | (S.A.L.A.) | 1962 |
| | Mr. L. S. TURNBULL | (W.A.L.A.) | 1962 |
| | Mr. H. VOLK | (V.A.L.A.) | 1970 |
| | Mr. I. W. WILES | (S.A.L.A.) | 1971 |
| <u>SECRETARY</u> | Mr. C. R. CARR | (S.A.L.A.) | 1971 |
| <u>TREASURER</u> | Mr. B. I. GREENHALGH | (S.A.L.A.) | 1977 |
| <u>INTERNATIONAL LIAISON OFFICER</u> | | | |
| | Mr. W. G. HOBBS | (S.A.L.A.) | 1972 |
| <u>PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER</u> | | | |
| | Mr. A. F. CHIRON | (V.A.L.A.) | 1973 |
| <u>HISTORIAN & RECORDS SECRETARY</u> | | | |
| | Mr. T. ALLINGTON | (V.A.L.A.) | 1973 |
| <u>PROPERTY OFFICER</u> | Mr. A. J. CARR | (S.A.L.A.) | 1974 |
| <u>REFEREE IN CHIEF</u> | Mr. D. REYMENT | (V.A.L.A.) | 1975 |
| <u>AUDITOR</u> | Mr. G. L. DUFFIELD | (S.A.L.A.) | 1968 |

DELEGATES

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|----------------|------|
| <u>A. L. A. A.</u> | Mr. P. R. STRATTON | - | Mr. J. R. GUNN | |
| <u>Q. L. A.</u> | Mr. H. P. EVANS | | | 1967 |
| <u>S. A. L. A.</u> | Mr. P. KUSHNITSKY | | | 1976 |
| <u>V. A. L. A.</u> | Mr. G. F. TILLOTSON | | | 1973 |
| <u>W. A. L. A.</u> | Mr. G. HILL | | | 1975 |
| <u>T. A. L. A.</u> | Mr. P. LANE | | | 1977 |

Mr. President and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration and approval the 46th Annual Report of the Australian Lacrosse Council in which the activities of 1977 are reviewed, and the future explored.

It seems that each year nowadays is full of activity and this past year has been no exception, despite the absence of "Internationals" from the direct scene. But two overseas tours are being established for 1978, one to the World Lacrosse Championships to be held in Manchester, England, in July of this year, and the other, a new innovation, a Box Lacrosse Team to participate in a demonstration match at the Commonwealth Games to be held in Edmonton, Canada, in August.

In addition, we have had Senior National Championships held in Perth and Colts National Championships held in Melbourne during 1977.

World Championships

In fact this event is rapidly approaching, and our team is training steadily under Coach John Carter. Some twelve months ago John Forrester was appointed Coach, but due to family reasons, he resigned in August to be ultimately replaced by John Carter. To some extent this did upset proceedings as a squad was selected immediately following the Senior Championships but then became somewhat in limbo, whilst waiting on the appointment of a new Coach. However after an exhaustive period of training over several months, the final team was selected and announced early in March. It was a delight to witness the effort that was put in by all concerned, be they coach, manager or player, and in many respects it was a pity that all squad members could not have been selected. But we do warmly congratulate those who have achieved the honor of being in the team to represent Australia in Manchester, and we await with deep interest the final results.

Your Council saw fit on this occasion to adopt a far more professional approach to training and final selection. The squad was selected on the basis of ability rather than availability as has been forced upon us in the past, the selectors were the coaches, and funds were made available to enable a reasonable movement of selector and player away from their home state. This cannot but make for a far more prepared team than we have previously witnessed.

Box Lacrosse - Commonwealth Games

Box Lacrosse, being the national sport of Canada, and the selected demonstration sport of the Commonwealth Games for 1978, has now appeared on our scene. Following upon an invitation from Canada to participate in the actual demonstration match, which was only received late in 1977, it was decided to accept the challenge and provide a team for this purpose. Whilst Box Lacrosse in Australia is still in relative infancy, it was considered imperative that we return the goodwill engendered when the Canadians came to Australia in 1974 to compete in Field Lacrosse despite their main game being Box Lacrosse.

Again, an intensive training period was put under way, and a team has just been selected for final preparation.

Because of the impact on A. L. C. officers with the World Championships, a sub-committee was formed in Melbourne to set up the Box Lacrosse tour and most of the work has been done by this committee, to whom we are grateful.

National Championships

South Australia again took the honors in both the National Senior and Colts Championships, with Victoria being runners-up on both occasions. It is unfortunate that distance precludes Western Australia from participating in more Interstate Lacrosse, but no doubt the time is rapidly approaching when present difficulties are overcome.

Evan Jones (S.A.) won the Senior Fairest & Best player award with an almost perfect voting score, and Wayne Little (also S. A.) won that trophy for his display in the Colts Championships. Our warm congratulations are offered to both of these fine players.

Isaachsen Trophy for Fairest & Best player 1977

The winner of this trophy for 1977 was Ross Turnbull of Nedlands Subiaco Club, Eastern Australia, who polled a vote of 50%. This is the third time that Ross has won the trophy, and is the only player to have ever achieved this distinction. Surely a magnificent effort.

State of the Game

There is an old saying that statistics can be dangerous, and conclusions can be drawn that will suit the observer. And on first glance at numbers of registered players we find that the numbers have slipped a little overall, with decreases in Victoria being more than the increases shown in S. A. and W. A.

But Associations are reticent in showing their full strength and capacity, and it was only after pressures were applied that it was found that apart from the registered players, there are another 1300 participants who are not registered because of the competition in which they are involved - local school areas, peewee groups, and singular schools to mention some. This figure of 1300 is very new to Lacrosse and has only developed over the past two years, so in effect we have almost a 50% increase in participation.

State Associations have already been urged to take steps to formalise the registration of all participants, but whether action has been taken in this area I am not too sure. But I again urge all concerned to act in an area that is of real importance. Not only can we judge our own progress, but others can too, and in the days of sponsorship, and other forms of finance, surely this matters.

Another point that must be made under the heading of "State of the Game" is that it is a source of amazement to me that the S. A. L. A. can dominate the Championship scene to the extent that it has in recent years, with an administration that from my observation has been almost non-existent. I am aware that steps have been taken to put their administrative house in order and I know we are all anxious that this should be successful.

We are aware of a steady growth in interest in the sport in Tasmania, and we should all work towards bringing a competitive side from Tasmania, firstly at the Junior level, so that they may participate in National Championships and thus become a fully fledged member of Council.

It is pleasing to note that again there has been a spread of premierships in State competitions, with some new names appearing amongst the pennant winners.

Council meetings

A meeting of Council was held in Perth to co-incide with the Senior Championships, with a further meeting held in Adelaide early in December.

Referees - A. L. R. A.

Over the years this body has been overlooked in the preparation of annual reports although they are a member of Council. So to rectify this matter I set out for information, but found it difficult to obtain. It would seem that communication within A. L. R. A. does not exist as the National Executive have no idea of the strengths of their State branches, nor of their operations for that matter. I do not know where the breakdown occurs but if A. L. R. A. is to be a cohesive force, then they must truly unite and work as a team.

It does appear that the number of available referees is on the increase and this must make for better refereeing. But I believe there is much to be done in having uniform grading systems for each State branch with a resultant raising of standards in a group of people who are so necessary to Lacrosse. Their services are more than appreciated.

Obituary

We regretfully record the death of Mr. A. E. Harvey during the past year. Mr. Harvey served Council as a Vice President for many years, and during his lifetime served the S. A. L. A. in many capacities as a top administrator and player.

Forward planning

At the outset of this report I commented that it would have a look at the future. I do not intend to be a prophet that is for the sport to determine for itself. But Council took the step at its December meeting to devise and develop a five year plan for the betterment of the sport. State Associations as a result have been examining particular areas and will be reporting to this meeting where it is intended that the examinations will lead to crystallisation of a five year plan.

If one can express an unbiased biased view, then it is that Lacrosse has all of the potential for development both as a player and as a spectator sport. The modern confined ground brings all concerned close to the "action" - the game is fast, is full of action, and is colorful. What more can you want.

And the recent development of Soft Lacrosse and Box Lacrosse has also enormous potential.

So forward planning is vital if we are to survive, let alone progress. The days of our forefathers are gone, and we must advance with the times in development, expansion, coaching and administration. The results of the plan are eagerly awaited.

Personalia

The last Annual meeting of Council saw the retirement from office of two long serving members, Mr. Frank Hogarth and Mr. Bob Alexander. Mr. Hogarth had been a Vice President of Council for eleven years, and was always willing to contribute towards the betterment of the game. Mr. Alexander had served as Treasurer for ten years. To both of these gentlemen we offer our sincere thanks for the roles that they took over their long years of office.

International Lacrosse Federation

During the past year there was a change of major Officers, when Mr. J. Wilkinson and Mr. R. Balls assumed the offices of President and Secretary of I. L. F. Both of these gentlemen are members of the English Lacrosse Union who as we all know are charged with the responsibility of organising the 1978 World Championships.

But how delighted we are that we at last have an International Rule Book, and we must congratulate those E. L. U. officers who were responsible for its production.

Clive R. Carr
Secretary

IN ALL CASES 1976 FIGURES ARE SHOWN IN BRACKETS

1. Number of affiliated Clubs

| | <u>S. A. L. A.</u> | <u>V. A. L. A.</u> | <u>W. A. L. A.</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | 10 | 18 | 10 | 38 |
| | (10) | (18) | (8) | (36) |

2. Teams entered in Domestic Premiership matches

| | | | | |
|------------------------|------|------|------|-------|
| Open age | 25 | 35 | 19 | 79 |
| | (24) | (32) | (16) | (74) |
| Junior (Under 16 yrs) | 38 | 50 | 28 | 116 |
| | (43) | (44) | (33) | (120) |
| Totals | 63 | 85 | 47 | 195 |
| | (67) | (76) | (51) | (194) |

3. Registered Players

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Open age | 417 | 531 | 314 | 1262 |
| | (351) | (545) | (296) | (1192) |
| Junior (Under 16 yrs) | 628 | 656 | 392 | 1676 |
| | (531) | (675) | (338) | (1544) |
| Totals | 1045 | 1187 | 706 | 2938 |
| 1976 | 862 | 1220 | 634 | 2716 |
| 1975 | 867 | 1309 | 617 | 2813 |
| 1970 | 717 | 934 | 505 | 2156 |
| 1966 | 611 | 869 | 533 | 2013 |

4. Non-registerable participants (school competitions, area competitions etc etc.)

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Victoria | 640 |
| South Australia | 360 |
| Western Australia | 300 |
| Tasmania | 100 |

5. Grade Premiers

| <u>O/Age</u> | <u>S.A.L.A.</u> | <u>V.A.L.A.</u> | <u>W.A.L.A.</u> |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| "A" | Brighton | Williamstown | Bayswater |
| "A" Res. | | Camberwell G.Iris | Bayswater |
| "B" | Glenelg | Malvern | Fremantle |
| "B" Res. | | Coburg | |
| "C" | Brighton | | |
| Under 19 yrs | | Williamstown | |
| <u>Junior</u> | | | |
| U/16 | Brighton | Williamstown | C. Nedlands/Subiaco |
| | | U/16/2 Coburg | |
| U/14 | Sturt | Caulfield | D. Esat Fremantle |
| | | U/14/2 Mitcham | |
| U/12 | Woodville | Malvern | E. Nedlands/Subiaco |
| | | U/12/2 Altona | |
| U/10 | Burside | | F. Esat Fremantle |

6. State Association "A" Grade Fairest & Best player

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------------|----------|
| S. A. L. A. | I. Williams | Brighton | 20 votes |
| V. A. L. A. | K. Cheail | Glenroy | 17 votes |
| W. A. L. A. | R. Turnbull | Nedlands Subiaco | 24 votes |

7. State Association Top Goal scorers "A" Grade

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------------|-----------|
| S. A. L. A. | M. Raggatt | Brighton | 98 goals |
| V. A. L. A. | R. Freeman | Chadstone | 122 goals |
| W. A. L. A. | P. Cann | East Fremantle | 98 goals |

8. Senior National Championships

| | | | | |
|-------|----|---|----------|----|
| S. A. | 17 | d | Victoria | 15 |
| Vic. | 22 | d | W. A. | 14 |
| S. A. | 20 | d | W. A. | 7 |

9. Colts National Championships

| | | | | |
|-------|----|---|-------|----|
| S. A. | 15 | d | W. A. | 9 |
| Vic. | 19 | d | W. A. | 10 |
| S. A. | 12 | d | Vic. | 9 |

10. Fairest & Best player in Championships

| | | |
|--------|-----------|-------|
| Senior | E. Jones | S. A. |
| Colts | W. Little | S. A. |

11. Senior "All Stars" selected at conclusion of Championships

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| A. Bower | Vic. | G. Johnson | S. A. |
| J. Butkiewicz | Vic. | E. Jones | S. A. |
| J. Carter | S. A. | J. Kennedy | W. A. |
| R. Cordell | Vic. | L. Morley | W. A. |
| K. Daly | Vic. | P. Morley | Vic. |
| G. Delfs | W. A. | M. Reggatt | S. A. |
| R. Duthy | S. A. | B. Smith | Vic. |
| T. Hardy | Vic. | B. Thompson | S. A. |
| G. Hobbs | S. A. | D. Wright | S. A. |
| W. Hobbs | S. A. | | |
| <u>Coach</u> | R. Attenborough | S. A. | |