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THE AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE COUNCIL

Annual Report Year ending 31st March, 1937

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' CLUB,
MELBOURNE, ON FRIDAY, 28th MAY, 1937.

Mr. President and Gentlemen, —

In presenting for your approval the Sixth Annual Report of the Australian Lacrosse Council, covering the year, 1936, I do so with very great pleasure, as the year under review was a most successful one from every viewpoint.

MEETINGS. — Two Meetings of the Council were held during the year under review. The assembly in Adelaide during the currency of the Carnival was of special interest as all the States were represented by delegates directly in touch with their Association, thereby enabling them to obtain a more intimate idea of the work of the Council than is possible when represented by proxy. The one exception to this being the New South Wales Lacrosse Association, who had Mr. C. H. Gibbs as its representative.

THE AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE CARNIVAL. — The outstanding event of the year was the Eighth Australian Lacrosse Carnival, which was held in Adelaide during the month of August, as part of the Centenary programme arranged in honour of the foundation of the State.

A word of congratulation is due to the officials of the South Australian Lacrosse Association for the very efficient manner in which the carnival was organized, nothing being left undone for the comfort and pleasure of the visitors. The hospitality shown to the visitors was overwhelming, the highlights being a Civic Reception, the Lacrosse Ball, and the Dinner tendered to the visiting teams by the South Australian Lacrosse Association, while the visit to Chateau Tanunda and Seppeltsfield will long be remembered by those fortunate enough to make the trip.

The delegates to the Australian Lacrosse Council were also the guests of our President, Mr. C. Lempriere Abbott, at a delightful dinner party prior to the Council Meeting.

Referring to the matches, all States with the exception of New South Wales were represented by strong sides. The absence of the Mother State was deeply regretted, and the hope was expressed that the time would not be far distant when New South Wales would again be in a position to participate in these contests.

The matches were played in the true spirit of amateur sportsmanship that is characteristic of Lacrosse.

Victoria was successful in all its matches, and thus retain the Garland-McHarg Cup, and with it the Championship of Australia for a further period of three years. The match between South Australia and Western Australia was the most exciting of the series, there being very little to choose between the two sides, the single goal margin, however, enabled South Australia to regain the second position wrested from it in 1932 by the Westerners. Queensland was unfortunate in not winning a match.

The games resulted as follows:—

South Australia	19 goals	v.	Queensland	9 goals
Victoria	15 goals	v.	Western Australia	6 goals
Victoria	13 goals	v.	Queensland	7 goals
South Australia	8 goals	v.	Western Australia	7 goals
Western Australia	12 goals	v.	Queensland	4 goals
Victoria	15 goals	v.	South Australia	8 goals

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE. —

	Won	Lost	Goals For	Goals Against
Victoria	3	—	43	21
South Australia	2	1	35	31
Western Australia	1	2	25	27
Queensland	—	3	20	44

The trophy presented by the South Australian Lacrosse Association for the Best and Fairest Player of the Carnival was won by S. McCorkell, Captain of the Victorian Team.

GARLAND-McHARG CUP. — After the Canadian visit of 1907, Mr. Garland, a Canadian enthusiast, and Mr. McHarg, who were both residents of Melbourne, presented to the Victorian Lacrosse Association a handsome trophy which is known as the Garland-McHarg Cup, for competition between the various States. The Cup was first competed for at the inaugural Carnival, which was held in Adelaide in 1910. Since that date it has been the symbol of the Lacrosse Championship of Australia. From this it will be seen that the Garland-McHarg Cup was originally vested in the Victorian Lacrosse Association. As this cup is essentially an all Australian Trophy the Victorian Lacrosse Association has now relinquished whatever claims it had to the legal ownership of the Cup and has presented same to the Australian Lacrosse Council.

At the Annual Meeting of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, the President, Mr. R. O. Moore presented the Cup to me and asked me to accept same on behalf of the Council. I feel sure all States will greatly appreciate Victoria's gesture in this matter and tonight you will be asked to confirm my action and if thought fit to appoint trustees and draw up conditions relating to the competition.

STANDARDISED BALL. — Last December I was advised by the South Australian Lacrosse Association that there were two types of lacrosse balls being marketed by the Dunlop Rubber Coy., the bounce of one being nearly fifty per cent. greater than that of the other. I immediately took this matter up with the makers and was informed that the composition of the standard ball was altered some years ago at the instigation of one of the State Associations. At the same time I checked the dimensions of the ball in general use and it was somewhat surprising to find that it did not come up to our own specifications as regards measurement. As it is very desirable that a ball suitable to All States should be adopted, I have had a new sample manufactured of white rubber throughout, and a bounce that corresponds with the English rule.

All the balls mentioned in this report have been inspected by all States, and the matter will be before you tonight for consideration.

PAMPHLET FOR BEGINNERS. — Acting under instructions from the Adelaide Meeting, I duly conferred with Mr. H. Renfree, Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Lacrosse Association, in the production of a pamphlet suitable for beginners. The original draft has been re-written and circulated to the various States and was found to be acceptable to all concerned. Tonight you will be asked to give consideration to a proposal that the Council should make a contribution towards the cost of printing, the Victorian Lacrosse Association having very generously agreed to bear the entire cost of making the necessary blocks.

BRITISH EMPIRE GAMES. — I have been in communication with the New South Wales Lacrosse Association regarding the suggestion that Lacrosse should be staged as an exhibition game in Sydney during the currency of the British Empire Games in 1938.

Although two suggestions have been submitted to the Sesqui-Centenary Committee by the New South Wales Lacrosse Association, I regret to report that both proposals have been rejected. My latest advice is that another attempt will be made shortly to re-open negotiations with the Centenary Committee with the object of endeavouring to have an interstate game arranged.

TOKIO OLYMPIAD. — As you are doubtless aware, the XII Olympiad will be held in Tokio in 1940. In the event of Lacrosse being included in the programme or staged as an exhibition, the Victorian Lacrosse Association has suggested that consideration should be given to Australia being represented. This matter has been placed on the agenda for consideration tonight.

FINANCIAL. — The Financial Statement to be submitted by the Hon. Treasurer will reveal a credit balance at the Bank of £35/15/6, while the Assets of the Council are set down at £48/3/-.

INTERNATIONAL LACROSSE. — There is very little to report under this heading; I regularly correspond with the authorities in Canada, England and America, and anything of interest is immediately circularised to the State Associations.

OBITUARY. — It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Mr. C. U. B. Gurnett, a former President of the New South Wales Lacrosse Association, and also past Vice-President of the Australian Lacrosse Council.

The Queensland Association suffered a severe loss by the death of Mr. A. E. (Nip) Thorpe, a former official and an international player. To their sorrowing families we extend our sympathy.

STATE OF GAME — In my report presented at the Annual Meeting of the Council in 1935, I called attention to the alarming state of the game throughout the Commonwealth and pointed out how lacrosse had drifted during the past few years. At the same time I made a few suggestions which I hoped would be for the betterment of the game, the principal objective being a twenty per cent. increase in players and teams for 1936.

It is pleasing to record that all States took immediate steps to rectify this very serious state of affairs, and although the twenty per cent. objective has not been achieved, a study of the appended tables will show that the drift has definitely been stopped. It will be noted that the total number of players throughout the Commonwealth increased by 12.55% during the year under review.

New South Wales is having a particularly hard struggle, and the experiment being tried this year of playing smaller sides in order to spread the interest is being eagerly watched, and the hope is expressed that the move will bring beneficial results and that this year will witness a very big forward movement in Sydney.

The present season has opened very auspiciously, new teams have been formed and increased interest taken in the game generally, with the result that lacrosse is getting more publicity and there is every indication that the year 1937 will be a record one throughout Australia.

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

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

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
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
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
D Section						
1929	—	—	12	—	—	12
1933	—	—	8	5	—	13
1934	—	—	9	6	—	15
1935	—	—	13	4	—	17
1936	—	—	13	—	—	13
E & F Section						
1929	—	—	20	—	—	20
1933	—	—	23	—	—	23
1934	—	—	21	—	—	21
1935	—	—	21	—	—	21
1936	—	—	26	—	—	26
Schoolboy						
1935	10	—	17	—	—	27
1936	4	—	11	—	—	15

TABLE C.
ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED WITH PARENT BODIES.

	Teams.	Players.
Ballarat Lacrosse Association, Vict.	6	90
*Port Pirie Lacrosse Association, S.A.	3	46
Eastern Goldfield Association, W.A.	2	30
Total	11	166

* Unaffiliated with S.A.

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

	Teams.	Players.
Victoria	81	1333
South Australia	29	423
Western Australia	19	313
Queensland	17	296
New South Wales	4	79
Commonwealth	150	2444