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AUSTRALIAN LACROSSE COUNCIL

Annual Report Year Ending 31st March, 1940

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT THE COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' CLUB, MELBOURNE, ON FRIDAY, 31st MAY, 1940.

Mr. President and Gentlemen.

In presenting for your approval the Ninth Annual Report of the Australian Lacrosse Council covering the year 1939, I do so with great pleasure, as the season under review was without doubt one of the best in the annals of the game throughout the Commonwealth. The drift of the previous year was definitely arrested and progress noted in most of the States. The number of registered players increased from 2,430 to 2,604, an increase of 174 for the year, which must be considered very satisfactory.

MEETINGS.—Two meetings of the Council were held during the year, the Annual Meeting in Melbourne, at which the retiring President, Mr. C. Lempiere Abbott, presided, and a special meeting at Brisbane during the currency of the Carnival, under the chairmanship of our newly-elected President, Mr. J. S. Hutcheon. We deeply appreciate the great interest these gentlemen take in the workings of the Council, and I am sure I am expressing the sincere regret of all members at Mr. Hutcheon's inability to attend to-night's meeting.

ALL STATES CARNIVAL.—The ninth Australian Lacrosse Carnival, which was held at Brisbane during July, was the outstanding feature of the year. The Carnival was officially opened by the Governor of Queensland, Sir Leslie Wilson, on July 22nd, and was continued throughout the following week. It is pleasing to record that all States were represented and that the play in most of the games reached a very high standard. Unfortunately New South Wales were unable to put their full strength into the field, but the experience obtained by their younger players will no doubt be very beneficial.

Victoria was once again successful in all its matches, and thus retained the Garland-McHarg Cup and with it the Championship of Australia. Western Australia and South Australia filled second and third places respectively.

The games resulted as follows:—

July 21st—	South Australia	40 goals	v.	New South Wales	3 goals
	Victoria	24 ..	v.	Queensland	10 ..
July 24th—	Queensland	31 ..	v.	New South Wales	6 ..
	Victoria	10 ..	v.	Western Australia	6 ..
July 26th—	Western Australia	20 ..	v.	New South Wales	8 ..
	South Australia	11 ..	v.	Queensland	4 ..
July 27th—	Victoria	29 ..	v.	New South Wales	4 ..
	Western Australia	17 ..	v.	South Australia	9 ..
July 29th—	Western Australia	15 ..	v.	Queensland	10 ..
	Victoria	15 ..	v.	South Australia	6 ..

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE—

	Won	Lost	For	Goals Against	Points
Victoria	4	—	77	26	8
Western Australia	3	1	58	37	6
South Australia	2	2	66	39	4
Queensland	1	3	55	56	2
New South Wales	—	4	21	119	—

The fairest and best trophy presented by the Queensland Lacrosse Association was won by L. C. Holmes of New South Wales.

TABLE A.
REGISTERED PLAYERS.

Year	Q'sland	N.S.W.	Vict.	S.A.	W.A.	C/with.
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	520	341	2300
1938	185	76	1032	512	357	2162
1939	180	63	1020	534	407	2204

TABLE B.
NUMBER OF TEAMS.

Year	Q'sland	N.S.W.	Vict.	S.A.	W.A.	C/with.
A Section						
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
1938	4	4	9	9	7	33
1939	4	4	9	8	6	31
B Section						
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
1938	4	—	9	14	7	34
1939	5	—	9	15	8	37
C Section						
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
1938	4	—	10	8	4	26
1939	3	—	8	11	4	26
D Section						
1933	—	—	8	5	—	13
1934	—	—	9	6	—	15
1935	—	—	13	4	—	17
1936	—	—	13	—	—	13
1937	—	—	10	7	—	17
1938	—	—	10	5	5	20
1939	—	—	8	5	6	19
E & F Section						
1933	—	—	23	—	—	23
1934	—	—	21	—	—	21
1935	—	—	21	—	—	21
1936	—	—	26	—	—	26
1937	—	—	30	—	—	30
1938	—	—	29	—	—	29
1939	—	—	22	—	—	22
Schoolboy						
1935	10	—	17	—	—	27
1936	4	—	11	—	—	15
1937	—	—	11	6	—	17
1938	—	—	5	9	—	14
1939	—	—	8	12	—	20

TABLE C.

ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED WITH PARENT BODIES.

	1938		1939	
	Teams.	Players.	Teams.	Players.
Ballarat Lacrosse Association, Victoria	6	90	4	60
Port Pirie Lacrosse Association, South Australia . .	3	45	6	94
Eastern Goldfields Association, Western Australia	—	—	—	—
Total	9	135	10	154

TABLE D.

TOTAL NUMBER OF TEAMS AND PLAYERS.

(Including Schoolboys and Affiliated Associations.)

	1938		1939	
	Teams.	Players.	Teams.	Players.
Victoria	79	1132	68	1139
South Australia	48	700	55	809
Western Australia	23	357	24	407
Queensland	12	185	12	186
New South Wales	4	56	4	63
Commonwealth	166	2430	163	2604



A word of congratulation is due to the Carnival Committee of the Queensland Lacrosse Association for the very efficient manner in which the Carnival was staged, nothing being left undone to ensure the comfort and pleasure of the visitors. The hospitality shown was typical of Brisbane and included a civic reception by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, a grand Lacrosse Ball and a Smoke Social, including the presentation of the Garland-McHarg Cup. The delegates to the Australian Lacrosse Council were the guests of our President, Mr. J. S. Hutcheon at a very delightful dinner party prior to the Council Meeting.

NEW RULE.—At its meeting last year the Council amended Law V, referring to the Centre Circle, by increasing the radius of the circle to 25 yards. The alteration is undoubtedly an improvement on the old rule and relieves the crowding at the face off. Some States, however, are of the opinion that the circle as it now stands is too large and you will be asked to give further consideration to this matter to-night.

INTERSTATE MATCHES.—It will be recalled that at the Brisbane meeting a lengthy discussion took place regarding interstate visits during non-carnival years, and that it was decided to set up a sub-committee to thoroughly investigate this important matter. Subsequently your Sub-Committee met and gave lengthy consideration to this extremely involved subject. Before any finality could be reached the war had intervened and it was ultimately decided to recommend to the Council that consideration of the question be deferred until the cessation of hostilities.

YELLOW BALL.—In its quest to endeavour to improve the game, the Council decided to experiment with a yellow ball, the idea being that a coloured ball would be more easily followed by both players and spectators. As instructed, I have had a ball of this description manufactured and distributed to the State Associations for trial and report.

INSTRUCTIONAL FILM.—The Sub-Committee appointed last year to investigate the possibility of producing an instructional film on lacrosse has encountered initial difficulties which it is hoped to surmount and that shortly the film should be taking shape. An interesting film of the Carnival was taken by Mr. Hugh Wood for the Council which will serve to preserve a permanent record of the Carnival for future generations.

LACROSSE STICKS.—It is pleasing to note that a Brisbane company has been experimenting with the manufacture of lacrosse sticks from local material. The samples so far produced are not quite up to the standard of the imported article. I have made several suggestions which I think would be beneficial and if these can be carried out a satisfactory stick should be produced.

FINANCIAL.—The finances of the Council are in a very satisfactory position and the Hon. Treasurer when presenting his Statement to-night, will be able to announce a credit balance of £38/11/2 at the Commonwealth Bank. The total assets amount to £44/17/2.

STATE OF GAME.—The great recovery the game made during the season under review is most gratifying, and indicates that the long years of faithful service rendered by many enthusiastic officials throughout the Commonwealth were reaping a reward. Since the close of the 1939 season, however, as you are aware, our Empire has become involved in war and while the ultimate result of this terrible conflict can be looked forward to with confidence, its immediate result upon all amateur sport must be severe. Many of our members throughout the Commonwealth are now serving in the forces and many clubs are experiencing difficulties in fielding full sides. I would strongly urge the necessity of encouraging more than ever, juniors and school teams in order to keep the game alive and not on any condition to suspend operations entirely as was the case in most States during the War of 1914-18. If during these unhappy days, attention is devoted to our younger players we will have a splendid nucleus to work upon when peace once again reigns upon this earth.

I would greatly appreciate if the State Associations would forward, from time to time, a list of the names of lacrosseurs who have enlisted in the service of the A.I.F., so that a complete record may be obtained.

FOR KING AND COUNTRY.—Followers of lacrosse will regret to hear of the games first war loss by the untimely death of Lieutenant Herbert L. Loughton, who represented Western Australia in the 1929 Carnival. "Herbie" as he was affectionately known to us all, enlisted soon after the outbreak of war and completed his training in the Eastern States, and had returned to Perth on pre-embarkation leave when he unfortunately met his death in a motor-car accident. To his sorrowing relations the Council extends its deepest sympathy.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr. G. Flood for acting for me in Brisbane, and to the State Lacrosse Association Secretaries for the continued assistance they have afforded me in carrying out my duties.

Yours faithfully,

I. J. TAYLOR.

Hon. Secretary, A.L.C.